

# VI.—THE VILLIERS FAMILY AS GOVERNORS OF TYNEMOUTH CASTLE AND OWNERS OF THE LIGHTHOUSE.

Supplementary Paper by HORATIO A. ADAMSON, a Vice-President.

[Read on the 29th July, 1903.]

On the 30th March, 1898, a paper which I had written on the above subject was read at a meeting of the Society.<sup>1</sup>

At the sale of the vast collection of MSS. belonging to the late sir Thomas Phillips, bart., F.R.S., of Middle hill, Worcestershire, and Thirlestane house, Cheltenham, which took place in April and May 1903, at Messrs. Sotheby's sale rooms, in London, lot 848, consisting of 'five original deeds relating to the Villiers family and to their property in the lighthouses at Tynemouth in the reign of Charles II., on vellum,' was purchased by Mr. Thomas Thorne, bookseller, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and it has since passed into my possession. I have examined these deeds. The most important one is the original settlement made on the marriage of sir Edward Villiers, who was afterwards created earl of Jersey. He was born in 1656, and was the eldest son of sir Edward Villiers, knight-marshal, by his wife Frances, youngest daughter of Theophilus Howard, second earl of Suffolk. His mother acted as governess to the princesses Mary and Anne, daughters of James II., who both became afterwards queens of England. He attended princess Mary to Holland after her marriage with the prince of Orange.

On the proclamation of William and Mary as king and queen, Edward Villiers was appointed master of the horse to the queen (February 1688-9), and in June he succeeded his father as knight-marshal. On 20th March, 1690-1, he was raised to the peerage as viscount Villiers of Dartford and baron Villiers of Hoo. After the queen's death (1694) he was, in 1695, sent as envoy extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the States-General. In 1697 he became one of

<sup>1</sup> See *Arch. Ael.*, xx. 15.

the Lords Justices of Ireland, a plenipotentiary for the treaty of Ryswick, and ambassador-extraordinary to the Hague. On the 13th October, in the same year, he was created earl of Jersey.<sup>2</sup> In December, 1681, he was married to Barbara Chiffinch, a daughter of William Chiffinch of St. Martin's in the Fields, in the county of Middlesex, keeper of the closet to the king (Charles II.). The settlement was made by his father, who was also sir Edward Villiers and elder brother of viscount Grandison. It is dated 20th December, 1681. By it an annuity of £200 a year from the tolls of the Tynemouth lighthouse was settled on sir Edward Villiers, the younger, and the heirs male of his body, and subject thereto as his father, sir Edward Villiers, should by writing or will appoint. In the settlement is recited the grant by king Charles II. of the 13th June in the 17th year of his reign, of the lighthouse at Tynemouth and of the tolls to be received from it, as set forth in the extract from the settlement which is appended to this paper.

There is a notice of William Chiffinch, the father of Barbara Chiffinch, in the *Dictionary of National Biography* (vol. x. p. 238). It states he attended the famous loyal feast of the apprentices at Saddler's hall, 4th August, 1681, and continued in favour under James II., whose fall he did not survive, dying at the end of 1688. To his house at Whitehall the duke of Monmouth had been brought after the battle of Sedgemoor on 5th July, 1685, where he was defeated, and continued there with lord Grey until they were taken to the Tower. The duke was executed on Tower hill on 15th July.

The next deed of interest is a release of the annuity of £200 by Edward lord Villiers, baron of Dartford, in consideration of a payment to him of £2,000 by his brother, Henry Villiers, who was afterwards governor of Tynemouth castle. This deed is dated 10th of June, 1695. When Henry Villiers purchased the annuity he was living at Tynemouth castle, and resided there until 1707, when he died and was buried in the priory burial ground. See the inscription upon his tombstone.<sup>3</sup> There is another release under the hand and seal of dame Martha Villiers. It is dated 30th April, 1691.

<sup>2</sup> *Dictionary of National Biography*, vol. lviii, p. 325.

<sup>3</sup> *Arch. Ael.*, vol. xx, p. 22.

It is probable the sum of £4,000 borrowed by sir Edward Villiers and his son in December, 1681, which is referred to in the deeds of 16th and 17th December in that year, may have been for the rebuilding of the lighthouse and for the building of his own house, which adjoined it.

The light in the Tynemouth lighthouse ceased to be lighted on the 31st of August, 1898. The discontinuance has been regretted ever since by the shipping community. The demolition of the lighthouse commenced in November following, and was completed in January in the next year. In taking down the lighthouse, several stones carved with dog-tooth moulding were found among the stones, clearly indicating that they had been taken from the ruins of the priory church. They are now within its walls.<sup>4</sup> The governor's house has also been demolished, the pulling down commencing in November 1902.<sup>5</sup>

For forty years the War department has been building batteries in Tynemouth castle and mounting guns—pulling them down and erecting fresh batteries. New and costly batteries have been erected and 9·2 inch and 6-inch guns have been mounted, and, as in the past, they will probably do more harm to the inhabitants of Tynemouth than they will ever do to an enemy. Why it should be thought necessary to fire these heavy guns in time of peace in a thickly populated neighbourhood when there are other guns of the same calibre in the district from which practice could take place, is very puzzling.

I append extracts from the two more important deeds, and I submit the original deeds for inspection by the members. In the extracts I have retained the old spelling.

EXTRACTS FROM THE SETTLEMENT MADE ON THE MARRIAGE OF  
SIR EDWARD VILLIERS, THE YOUNGER, KNT., WITH BARBARA  
CHIFFINCH, DATED 19TH AND 20TH DECEMBER, 1681.

The parties to the Settlement are the Honble Sir Edward Villiers the Elder Brother of the Right Honble George Viscount Grandison of the first part William

<sup>4</sup> In *Arch. Ael.*, vol. xx. p. 17 is a representation of the governor's house and the lighthouse in 1784.

<sup>5</sup> It is understood a member of the society has purchased the oak panelling from one of the rooms in the Governor's house.

Chiffinch of the Parish of S<sup>t</sup> Martins in the ffields in the County of Middlesex Esquire Keeper of the Clossett to the King's Maj<sup>ty</sup> and Martin ffolles of Gray's Inn in the s<sup>d</sup> County of Middle<sup>x</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> part Sir Edward Villiers the Younger Kn<sup>t</sup> Sonn and heir Apparent of the said S<sup>r</sup> Edward Villiers the Elder of the third part and Barbara Chiffinch only Daughter and Child of the said William Chiffinch of the 4<sup>th</sup> part

It states that his Majesty (King Charles the II) in and by his Letters Pattents under the great seale of England beareing date the 13<sup>th</sup> <sup>6</sup> day of June in the 17<sup>th</sup> year of his reign of his especial Grace certain knowledge and meere mot<sup>o</sup>n did give and grant unto the said Sir Edward Villiers the Elder his heirs and assigns the custody of the Lighthouse then lately rebuilt by the said Edward Villiers the Elder att Tynmouth in the County of Northumberland and the ground and soyle whereon the same was scituated And also the usual accustomed wayes and passages to and from the same together with full power and free liberty Lycence and Authority that he they and every of them should and might continue renew and maintaine the said Lighthouse with lights to be continually Burneing therein in the Night season whereby the Ships passing by night might the better come to their harbours and Ports without Perill And his said Maj<sup>ty</sup> in and by his said Letters Patents for the defraying of the necessary charges and continuall maintenance of the said Lighthouse did further declare and grant that forever after there should and might be Collected and taken And that the said S<sup>r</sup> Edward Villiers and his heirs should and might demand collect have and take the sum of twelve pence<sup>s</sup> of and for every shipp of or belonging to any of his said Maj<sup>ties</sup> subjects passing by the said Lighthouse or belonging or trading to the ports of Newcastle or Sunderland or either of them or the creeks or members of the same and three shillings for every shipp of or belonging to any fforeigner or stranger coming or passing by the said Lighthouse To hold the same unto the said S<sup>r</sup> Edward Villiers the Elder his heirs and assigns for ever att and under the yearly rent or sum of Twenty Markes to be paid in the manner as therein expressed.

It states that a Marriage by the Grace of God was intended shortly to be had and solemnized between the said S<sup>r</sup> Edward Villiers the Younger and the said Barbara Chiffinch and that upon the treaty of the said marriage it had been agreed that the said S<sup>r</sup> Edward Villiers the Elder should upon the said Marriage settle on the said S<sup>r</sup> Edward Villiers the Younger his Son and Issues Male of that Marriage the yearly sum of Two hundred pounds out of the said Lighthouse Grounds and houses

It is witnessed that in pursuance of the said Agreement and in consideration of the said marriage and of the great advantages that the said Barbara Chiffinch had and brought to the said S<sup>r</sup> Edward Villiers the Younger in money and lands and Jewells and of the great love and Affection which the said S<sup>r</sup> Edward Villiers the Elder had and bore to the said S<sup>r</sup> Edward Villiers the Younger his Sonn and in consideration of Ten shillings to the said S<sup>r</sup> Edward Villiers the Elder paid by the said William Chiffinch and Martin ffolles (the Trustees of the Settlement) the said Edward Villiers granted unto the Trustees and to their

<sup>6</sup> In the former paper on the lighthouse the date of the patent is given as the 30th June. It is the 13th in the present deed.

heirs and assigns All that the said Lighthouse soe lately rebuilt by him as aforesaid and all the ground and soyle whereon the same is situated and being and every part thereof with the appurtenances And also the custody of the same Lighthouse and also all ways passages liberties &c granted by the said Recited Letters Pattents And also the said Tolls and duties of twelve pence a ship to be received off and from his Maj<sup>ties</sup> subjects and Three shillings a Shipp to be received from all foreigners and Strangers and all other Tolls Duties and Contributions in and by the same Letters Patents granted or otherwise of and belonging to the said Lighthouse and premises or otherwise Injoyed

To hold the Lighthouse and premises unto and to the use of the Trustees their heirs and Assigns Upon the Trusts thereafter mentioned

And stating that his said now Maj<sup>tie</sup> King Charles the second by his Letters Pattent under the Great seale of England bearing date the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June in the Six and Twentieth Yeare of his Raigne for the consideration therein mentioned of his Especial Grace &c granted demised and to ffarme lett unto the said S<sup>r</sup> Edward Villiers the Elder All that piece or parcell of Ground containing three roods or thereabouts adjoining to the said Lighthouse then walled in by the said S<sup>r</sup> Edward Villiers the Elder And the Messuage or Tenement thereupon erected and built together with the soyle and wast ground in the Castle there To hold the same unto the said Sir Edward Villiers the Elder his Executors administrators and assigns from the feast of St Michael the Archangel then last past before the date of the same Letters Pattents for the term of 99 years from thenceforth next ensueinge att and under the yearly rent of Five shillings to be paid in manner therein expressed

It is further Witnessed that in further pursuance of the said Marriage Treaty &c the said Edward Villiers the Elder assigned to the Trustees the said piece of ground Messuage or Tenement and soyle To hold the same unto the Trustees for the residue of 99 years Upon and under the Trusts thereafter mentioned

And it was thereby agreed that all the premises should be held by the Trustees in Trust for the said S<sup>r</sup> Edward Villiers the Elder for life and after his death Upon Trust that the Trustees should receive and take the yearly and other rents and thereout pay to the said Edward Villiers the Younger and the heires male of his body lawfully issueing the yearly sum of Two hundred pounds at the feasts of S<sup>t</sup> Michael the Archangell and the Annunciation of the Blessed Lady Virgin Mary by equall portions And to pay the residue or the said yearly rents during the life of the said S<sup>r</sup> Edward Villiers the Younger and while there should be issue male of the body and also the whole rents after his decease without issue male as the said S<sup>r</sup> Edward Villiers the Elder should by writing or Will appoint and in default to the right heires of the said S<sup>r</sup> Edward Villiers the Elder for ever

Then follow covenants for title and against incumbrances (one mortgage made of the premises by the said sir Edward Villiers, the elder, and sir Edward Villiers, the Younger, or one of them, to the right honourable George viscount Grandison, the honourable Henry Howard, esquire, and Richard Brett, esquire, by indentures of lease

and release, 'bearing date the 16th<sup>7</sup> and 17th dayes of December, 1681,' for securing the sum of £4,000 and interest in such manner as in the same indenture of release is expressed only excepted).

NOTE.—The settlement bears the signatures of sir Edward Villiers, the elder, sir Edward Villiers, the younger, William Chiffinch, Martin Ffolles, and Barbara Chiffinch, of these the signatures of Villiers, father and son, and Barbara Chiffinch are here reproduced. The seals have all been cut off.

*Edward Villiers*

*Edward Villiers son*

*B Chiffinch*

SOME SIGNATURES TO MARRIAGE SETTLEMENT.

EXTRACT FROM THE DEED OF RELEASE DATED 10TH JUNE, 1695.

It is made between the Right Honble Edward Villiers Baron of Dartford in the County of Kent Eldest Sonne and heire of S<sup>r</sup> Edward Villiers late Kn<sup>t</sup> Marshall of His Majesties most Honble household deced of the one part and Henry Villiers of the parish of S<sup>t</sup> Martins in the fields in the County of Middlesex Esq<sup>re</sup> Sonne of the said Edward Villiers of the other part

It recites the will of the said Edward Villiers dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 1685 whereby he devised unto his Sonne Henry Villiers and to his Assignes all that the said Edward Villiers estate and interest of and in his Lighthouse Messuages lands and appurtenances situate in or near Timmouth upon Speciall Trust and Confidence that the said Henry Villiers should during the continuance and remainder of the term of 99 years which the said Edward Villiers had then to come of and in the said estate pay out of the rents unto the said Edward Lord

<sup>7</sup> The lease of 16th December, 1681, is with the papers but not the release. It bears the signatures of sir Edward Villiers and his son.

Villiers (by the name of Sr Edward Villiers) the sum of £200 per ann; as therein mentioned and it states the said Will was proved in the prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 1689

It is Witnessed that the said Edward Lord Villiers in consideration of £2,000 paid to him by the said Henry Villiers released the said Annuity of £200 payable out of the said lighthouse and premises

*Henry Villiers*

SIGNATURE TO RELEASE.

NOTE.—The deed is executed by the said Henry Villiers alone and his seal is affixed to it. The signature is here reproduced. It was sealed and delivered in the presence of three witnesses, and is impressed with a sixpenny stamp. As it is not executed by Edward lord Villiers there must have been a duplicate of the deed under his hand and seal.



THE GOVERNOR'S HOUSE, TYNEMOUTH CASTLE, NOW DEMOLISHED.