



BRASS OF JOHN AND HENRY BUNNY IN RYTON CHURCH.

(From a drawing by Mr. H. F. Clarke of North Shields.)

V.—THE RYTON BRASSES WITH SOME ACCOUNTS OF
ARCHDEACON BUNNEY AND HIS FAMILY.

BY SIDNEY STORY CARR.

[Read on the 26th February, 1908.]

In the sixteenth century Francis, a cadet of the family of Bunny of Newton, or Bunny Hall, in the parish of Wakefield, and of Newland in the parish of Normanton in Yorkshire, became rector of Ryton. Five brasses commemorate him, his son, also called Francis, and other members of the family. To elucidate three of these which bear heraldic insignia is the chief object of this article. All the brasses are affixed to the north wall of the chancel of the Early English church of Holy Cross at Ryton. Two of these, with long inscriptions, are larger than the others, the easternmost measures 19 inches by 16 inches.

Francis Bunny was succeeded at Ryton by William James, nephew of the bishop of Durham, whose arms [*sable*], a *dolphin embowed between three cross crosslets* [*argent*], are on the ends of some of the stalls.

His will, not hitherto published, is dated 20th January, 1616, and was proved the following year. After opening in the usual way it runs in part thus:¹

“My bodie to be buried in the Quyer of the parish church of Ryton at the west ende of my sone Francis grave. I give grant dispose and confirm to my worship^{ll} good Cozin John Calverley of Little Burne in the County of Durham Esquire, to my Worship^{ll} good Brother-in-law Timothe Draper of the towne of Newcastle-upon-Tine Esquire and to my loving Brother-in-law John Horsfall of Studeley in the County of York, Yeoman, and their heirs and assigns. All my land at Newsham in the Countie of Durham with all houses buyldings and appurtenances whatsoever to all such uses limitations and purposes as by my last Will

¹ The abstracts of the wills were supplied by Mr. Howie of the Probate Court, Durham.

and Testament publish limit and declare: As by two Deeds of feoff^{mt} under my hande and seale and both dated the 6th day of September, 1616. Now I give the

FRANCIS BUNNY BORNE MAY THE 8TH A^O 1543
 BEGAN TO PREACH GODS WORD NOVEMB^R THE
 FIRST AN^O 1567 INDVCTED INTO A P^BEND
 AT DVRHAM THE 9TH OF MAY ANNO 1572
 MADE ARCHDEACON OF NORTHVMBERLAND
 A^O 1573 OCT^R Y^E 20 & THE XITH OF SEPT^R A^O
 1578 MADE RECTOR OF RYTON HAVING BVRIE
 HERE HIS 4 SONES & HIS DAUGHTER AT YORKE
 HASTENETH TO HEAVEN AFTER THEM & TRIVM-
 PHING FOR HOPE OF IMORTALITIE SAITH THVS

MY BARKE NOW HAVING WONNE Y^E HAVEN
 I FEARE NO STORMY SEAS
 GOD IS MY HOPE MY HOME IS HEAVEN
 MY LIFE IS HAPPY EASE
 THIS HOPE THIS HOME THIS LIFE MOST SWEET
 WHO SOE WILL SEEKE TO WINNE
 MYST BID ADIEWE TO ALL DELIGHTS
 THE SOWER ROOTS OF SINNE

Obijt. 16 die Aprill. 1617

use of my Manor of Newsham to my wife Jane Bunny for life and afterwards to my nephew George Bunny and his heirs male and failing issue male to Richard

Bunny now eldest sone of my nephew Francis Bunny and the heirs male of his family and failing issue male to the second sone of my nephew Francis Bunny and failing &c to the third sone of my nephew Francis and failing &c to every other son or sons of the said Francis. To the University of Oxford wherein I reaped to the church or commonwealth 100 marks towards the finishing or furnishing of their buildings. To Magdalene College in Oxford 33*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* Also to the Cathedral Church of Durham 30*l.* towards making a librarie. I give 20*l.* by the discretion of the Mayor or other elect officer and two or three of his Brethern (in Durham) to be lent to some poore men decayed. To the parish of Ryton where I have laboured neer forty yeers I give 50*l.* To my wives neice Mary Priestley for good service for 21 yeers 100*l.* and if she die before receiving the same I give 50*l.* to my neice Priscilla Bunny besydes the legacy hereafter mentioned, and the other 50*l.* to Joseph Priestley her Brother. To my nephew Francis Bunny 100*l.* To my nephew Henry Bunny 100 markes. To my neice Wortley 100 markes. To my neice Priscilla 100 markes. To my neice Heth (for whom God hath already provided) for a token 40*l.*, and to her Daughter Tomasonheth my god daughter 10*l.* To the parish of Winston wherein Newsham is situated 10*l.* To my cozine George Wortley the best horse or Mayer young or olde that I have at the tyme of my death. To the parish of Ryton I bequeath the two livery cans which I bought and used only to bring wine to the Communion table. To my cozin John Piggott of Ovingham one piece of golde of 22*s.* To George Pickering 40*s.* and to my men servants 40*s.* each, the maid servants I leave to the consideration of my wife. I appoint my wife Jane Bunny sole Executor.

The other large brass is to the west of that just described, it measures 16½ inches by 19½ inches, and is in memory of his son Francis Bunny (II); on it is enumerated the rector's family, the alliances of those of his children who reached maturity, in addition to which his mother's family is also proudly alluded to. She was the daughter of Edward Restwold, and died 1547.

The relationships of twelve persons are given the words 'whose monument it is,' rendered necessary by the way the phraseology apparently commemorates the father rather than his son.

The Vach mentioned above was the birthplace of Francis Bunny, the rector, when a boy he proceeded to Oxford, at fifteen years of age, graduated, became perpetual fellow of Magdalene college. When nineteen he is said to have been appointed chap-

lain to the earl of Bedford on account of his good preaching.
His coming north and being installed as a canon of Carlisle in
1572, was followed by his appointment as archdeacon on the

FRANCIS THE THIRD SONNE OF RICHARD BVNNY OF NEWLAND TEERE
WAKEFEILD ESQVIER & OF BRIDGET RESTWOULD OF Y VACH IN
BVCKINGHAMSHIRE OF VERY WOR^{LD} PARENTAGE WIFE TO THE SAIDE
RICHARD BVNNY: WAS INDVCTED INTO THIS PSONAGE OF RYTON
A^O 1578 SEPT 13 AND HAD FIVE CHILDREN ELIZABETH THE
ELDEST BEING MARIED TO WILLM FENAY OF FENAY KEERE ALMON
BVRY IN YORKSHIRE, DIED W^{IT}H ISSVE & LYETH BVRIED IN YORK
IN Y^E QVYER OF ALL HALLOWES CHVRCH JOHN THE ELDEST SONNE
HENRY THE THIRD SONNE MATHEW THE FOVRTH SONNE DIED VERY
YOUNG & WERE ALL BVRIED IN THIS QVIER OF RYTON CHVRCH
WHER ALSO LYETH FRANCIS Y^E SECOND SONE OF FRACIS AFORESAID
WHOSE MONVMENT THIS IS: HE MARIED MARY DAUGHTER & SOLE
HEIRE OF JOHN WORTLEY SECOND BROTHER OF S^R RICHARD
WORTLEY OF WORTLEY KNIGHT: HE DIED W^{IT}H ISSVE FEB 20 A^O
1610 BEING MORE THEN 26 YEARES OLD HE WAS BORN A^O 1684 NOVEM 9

I WAS SOMETIME BVT NOW I AM
AND SHALL LIVE THVS FOR AYE
I AM I SAY IN IOY THAT LASTS
AND NEVER SHALL DECAY
I WAS: BVT THEN I DID BVT DREAM
MY PLEASVRES WERE BVT PAIN
MY IOYES WERE SHORT & MIXT W^{IT}H GREIF
A DEW THEN LIFE SO VAINE

resignation of Ralph Lever.² Amongst his works were *Survey
and Tryal of the Pope's Supremacy*, London, 1590, written
against Cardinal Bellarmine; *Comparison between the antient*

² Bishop White Kennet's Collection, vol. 49. Original MSS. at the B.M.

faith of the Romans and the new Romish religion, London, 1595, known as truth and falsehood; *Answer to a popish libel*, Oxon, 1607; *Exposition on the 28th verse of the third chapter of the Epistle to the Romans*, London, 1616; *Plain and Familiar Exposition of the Ten Commandments*, London, 1617.³ He was a great admirer of John Calvin, had married Jane, daughter of Henry Priestly, and died at Ryton, aged 74, described as a stiff enemy of popery. His elder brother, Edmund, was also born at the 'antient house called the Vache,' which is in the parish of Chalfont St. Giles, in Buckinghamshire, from college he proceeded to Staple and Gray's Inns, 'his father intended him for the common law, being his eldest son, but he resolving for divinity, was cast off.'⁴ Dr. Barten Hodliday said, 'this, our author, Bunny, who had a bulky Body and broad Face, did several times come to Oxford, accompanied with two men with black liveries and horses . . . whatsoever he had given to him by way of gratuity, he would bestow on his men, he was the most fluid preacher in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Many were pleased to say he was troubled with the divinity squirt.' A Fellow of Magdalene and Merton colleges, at later periods he became canon and sub-dean of York, canon of Carlisle, rector of Bolton Percy and St. Peter's, York. He died on the 26 Feb., 1617/8, and was buried in York minster. From the last brass referred to, Tonge's *Visitation*,⁵ Richard St. George, Norroy king at arms' visitation of the palatinate of Durham in 1615,⁶ and the parish registers of Ryton,⁷ the writer

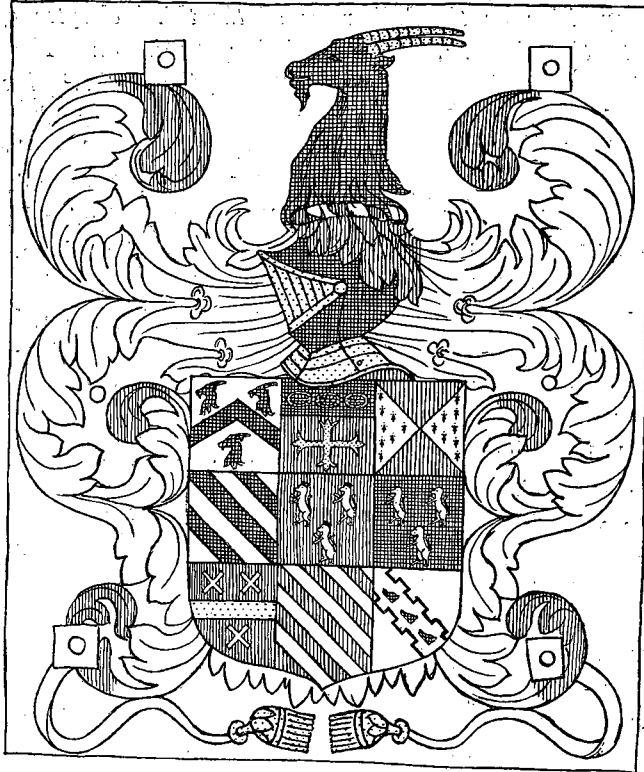
³ Wood, *Athenae Oxonienses*.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Cf. *Heraldic Visitation of the Northern Counties*, by Thomas Tonge, 41 Surt. Soc. Publ.

⁶ *Pedigrees recorded at the Visitation of the County Palatine of Durham*, by James Foster, 1887.

⁷ Cf. *The Registers of Ryton*, ed. by Canon Johnson Baily, M.A. (Durham and Northumberland Parish Register Society).



ACHIEVEMENT OF FRANCIS BUNNEY (1).

(From a drawing by Mr. H. F. Clarke).

has compiled a pedigree. It partly confirms the blazonry of the arms on the group of smaller brasses as given herewith. These latter are three in number, two were on that part of the north wall of the chancel which was removed when the organ chamber was constructed, they are slightly incised, the tinctures being represented in gold and colours.

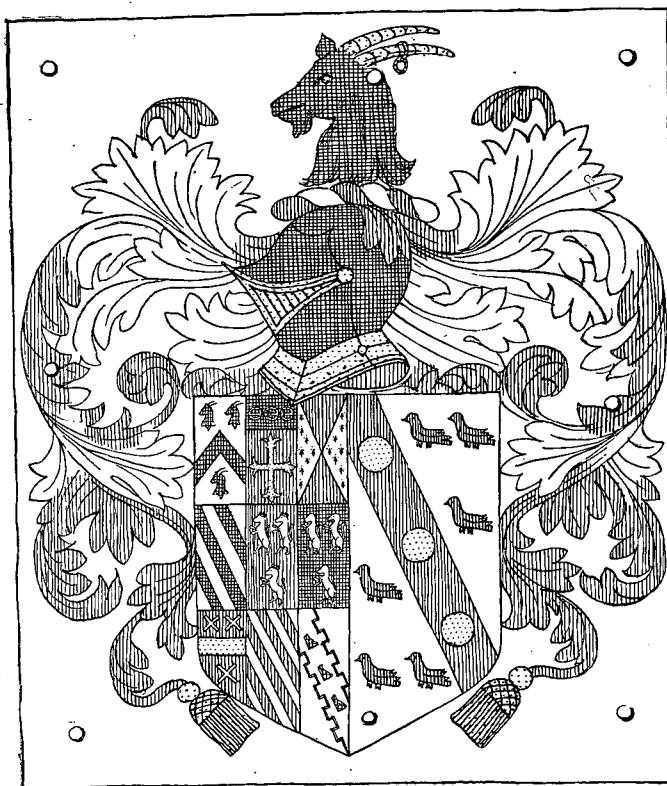
The first brass of this set, measuring $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches, is in memory of the eldest and third sons of the rector and Jane, his wife, they died in infancy, their names are inscribed under the arms as 'Henry ye sone of' and John \ddagger sonne of' the name of the younger thus being given on the dexter. 'Henry lived 1585-1588. John 1582-15. . .' They bear quarterly of nine. (1) *Argent, a chevron between three goats' heads erased sable.* BUNNY of Ryton. These arms are first mentioned in Glover's *Ordinary*, being described as 'Bunny of Yorkshire.'⁸ (2) *Gules, a cross fleurie or, on a chief sable three fermaux of the second HASLEDEN.*⁹ For marriage with the Hasleden family, see pedigree in Tonge's *Visitation*; (3) *Party per saltire ermine and gules.* RESTWOLD;¹⁰ (4) *Argent, three bends sable.* RESTWOLD;¹¹ (5) *Gules, three lions rampant argent crowned or,* DE LA VACHE. Their grandmother, through whom the property of the Vach was said to have been brought to the family, being as the large western brass states, Bridget Restwold. It is, however, necessary to point out that though the olden writers give the Restwolds, who were a family of importance and undoubted ancestry, 'as of the Vach,' that a pedigree of Fleetwood shows that family to have been in possession of the estate.¹² Though the Restwolds may

⁸ Blazoned also in Tonge's *Visitation*, 1530; *A Visitation of Northumberland*, 1615; *Of Yorkshire*, 1665 and 1666; and Guillim, fourth edition, 1660.

⁹ These arms were also borne by the family of Carter. ¹⁰ Guillim, 1660.

¹¹ Papworth gives these arms for 1716. Cf. Cotton MS., Tiberius, D.10; Harl. MSS., 1392, 1459.

¹² Liscomb, *History of Buckinghamshire*, vol. III, p. 227.



ACHIEVEMENT OF FRANCIS BUNNY (II).

(From a drawing by Mr. H. F. Clarke).

have held the house of the Vach under them; (6) *Sable, three lions rampant argent*. These are borne by many families, amongst them being AIGLES and ENGLISHÉ; (7) *Gules, a fesse or between three saltires argent*. BOYVILL; (8) *Bendy of ten argent and gules*. Papworth gives TALBOT and BETELER. Foster blazons *bendy of nine argent and gules*, BOYVILL. Dugdale blazons *argent three bendlets gules*. ALBING. No doubt this quarter like the seventh is for BOYVILL. (9) *Argent in bend cotised counter embattled, three boars' heads coupled sable*. It is difficult to appropriate these arms to any family. The first Richard Bunny on Tonge's visitation whom we may style Richard Bunny (i) must have borne BUNNY, and HASLEDEN. Then on account of the marriage or marriage assumed by his descendants of Richard Bunny (iv) with Bridget Restwold, the family would take the two quarterings of Restwold, two of de la Vatch, and the other quarter as inherited by her.

A second heraldic brass measuring 12 inches by 10½ inches is the achievement of Francis Bunny (ii) second son of the archdeacon and rector, he bears his father's nine quarterings impaling, *argent, on a bend between six martlets gules three besants*, these impaled arms are those of his wife, Mary, whom he married in 1606.¹³ She was 'dau. and sole heire of John Wortley of Langley in the parish of Brencpeth in co. pal,'¹⁴ her father bearing these arms differenced with a crescent in 1615, certified himself to the herald Richard St. George, as son of 'Francis Wortley of Wortley in Co. York, Esq.' husband of 'Bridget, dau. of Edward Lynsey of Selby in co. Norfolk' recording his son-in-law as 'sonne and heire to one of the prebends.' This is an example of the arms of an heiress being impaled and not quartered or borne in pretence. Dying

¹³ Ryton Registers record 'Nov. 17 Fra. Bunny Junr' and M^{ris} Mary Wortley.

¹⁴ See Langley in 1615 Visitation.

intestate, the administration of his goods and chattels was granted to his father, 3rd August, 1612, amounting in value to £342. His wife, Mary, was paid for widow-right and thirds and other sums by law due to her £170. The remaining payments with this sum exceeded the £342.

Restwold Bunny, who also died intestate, from his christian name, was evidently also a relative, he is described as of the parish of St. Nicholas, Newcastle. The administration was granted to 'Sara Proctor (alias Bunny) wife of Geoffrey Proctor; but late wife of the said Restwold Bunny.' One of those who praised his goods was Tymothe Draper, gentleman, whose relationship to the Bunnys is given in the will of Francis Bunny (1).

The third heraldic brass bears the nine quarterings only, with crest but without motto, and measures 12 inches by 10 inches. It appears strange that when Francis Bunny is commemorated by the westernmost inscribed brass, that No. 2 heraldic brass should by its bearing his wife's arms appear to be a memorial to him also. It cannot be her monument as it bears a crest, and he left no heir. The writer suggests they once formed one memorial—and that in the same way the easternmost inscribed brass and No. 2 heraldic brass also formed one composition.

No. 1 heraldic brass, that of the two boys, was, as late as 1820, fastened to the chancel floor, presumably to the stone which formed the entrance to the family vault.

The writer compared the achievements on the brasses with the Harleian Manuscripts of the visitation Nos. 1,153, 1,397, 1,540, when at the British Museum. They are the same except that the chief in the second quarter is blue, not black as at Ryton. The writer thinks as blue was wanted for this charge only, black was probably substituted. Foster's published copy of this visitation also agrees with those he saw in the British

Museum, except that Foster blazons the goats' heads in the first quarter *or* instead of *sable*, which is obviously a slip.

These brasses forming this second group, though so much later than the finest period of heraldic treatment and sentiment, are superior to much with which they are contemporary. Quarterly of nine has a much better effect than repeating the first quarter as a tenth. As related above, the monuments and registers of Ryton record the death of the whole of the archdeacon's family prior to his own. Fifty years later a visitation of the palatinate of Durham was made by William Dugdale, when neither the family of Bunny nor that of Wortley was recorded. The nine quarterings continued to be borne, however, by the senior branch at Newlands, being certified at Pomfret, 7 April, 1666.¹⁵ The then head of the family being a Francis Bunny, 'aet. 83 ann.,' whose only surviving 'son and heire' was an Edmund Bunny, the issue of whose three wives had 'dyed young.'¹⁶

¹⁵ Cf. 36 Surt Soc. Publ., *Visitation of the County of York*,

¹⁶ *Ibid.*