

The Calthorps of Cockthorp.

COMMUNICATED BY

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In a recent memoir we traced the descent of the Calthorps of Burnham from *Domesday* to the extinction of their line, through failure of male issue, A.D. 1551, and we now revert to a collateral branch, also extinct, which issued from the main stem A.D. 1436, in the first Calthorp of Cockthorp. It will be remembered that Isabel Bacon, wife of Sir Oliver Calthorp, A.D. 1376, had brought into the family her manors of Cockthorp and Blakeney; but she again severed them from the inheritance, in favour of her younger grandchild Richard. In thus turning back to a former page of our history, the sequence of our narrative will remind us of an *Aeneid*, succeeded by an *Eclogue* or a *Georgic*. The memories of Agincourt, and the death struggle of the Roses, will give place to the pastoral obscurity of the lives of country gentlemen, alternating as James and Christopher for eight or ten generations, on the banks of a nameless brook, in a remote corner of the island.

The *Vitis Calthorpiana* says: "This Isabel died 12 Henry IV., and by her will gave Sniterley (Blakeney) to her

CALTHORPS OF COCKTHORP.

(A.)

Sir John Calthorp, = Amy, or Ann, d. of a quo Calthorps of Sir J. Wyth and of Burnham, see p. 1. Sibilla his stepmother.

Ann Calthorp, wife of Henry Braunch — *Norris MS.* Qr. more probably Edmund, who impales Calthorp in Study Church. — *Et. Norf.* v. 960.

Christofer Calthorp, = Alionore, d. of Robt. Mounteney. — *Ob.* 1547. — *Will* Bernard of *Brother's Will.* *Nor. Reg. Wymer.* "Filio Johannis et Alicie duo salsaria, que fuerunt Joh. Hastley patris Alicie." — *Mekylfeld will.*

Jane, wife of . . . Ann, wife of . . . T. Broome. — *Nor. Vis.* *Hart. MS.* *Reymar. . . .* *Norris Fed.*

Margaret, wife of . . . Symonds. — *Ob.* 1537. *Will Nor. Reg.* *Brother's will.* *Reymar. . . .* *Norris Fed.*

Richard Calthorp, = Ann, d. of Edmund Hastings, Bocton and widow of Robt. Reyens of Overstrand. — *Nor. Vis.* *She ob.* 1562. (B.)

John Calthorp, = Alice, d. of John Astley of Melton Constable. — *Ob.* 1503. — *Will Nor. Reg.* *Oliver C.* = Agnes, d. of . . . "uxor ejus," living 1480. — *Mekylfeld will.* *William,* living 1480. — *Mother's will.*

Richard Calthorp, = Ann, d. of Edmund Hastings, Bocton and widow of Robt. Reyens of Overstrand. — *Nor. Vis.* *She ob.* 1562. (B.)

James Calthroppe of Cockthorp, = Elizabeth, d. of Robt. Garneys of Kenton. — *Sackling's Suffolk.*

James Calthorp, = Jane, d. & coh. of Roger Rookwood of Fishley, remar. Sir J. Bowes. — *Nor. Vis.* p. 141.

Christopher Calthorp, = Barbara, d. of John Bacon of Hasset, ob. Nov. 5, 1639. — *Mon. insc. at Cockth.* *and Reg.*

Sir James Calthorp, = Barbara, d. of John Bacon of Hasset, ob. Nov. 5, 1639. — *Mon. insc. at Cockth.* *and Reg.*

John = Alice Lyon. — *Stiffkey Reg.* *Stiffkey Reg.* 1564.

Thomas Calthorp de Stiffkey, mar. Ann Holditch. — *Nor. Vis.*

Mary, "ednes sones dowter." — *Grandfather's will.* Wife of T. Mordaunt.

Ann, wife of John Pennington. — *Nor. Vis.*

James, Elizabeth, John, born bn. 1570. 1571, ob. 1634, leaving issue. — *Stiffkey Reg.*

Thomas Calthorp de Stiffkey, mar. Ann Holditch. — *Nor. Vis.*

Marie, bn. 1565. Ann, born 1566. — *Stiffkey Reg.* *Maple Durham.* *Will Cant.* *Reg.*

Ann, wife of S. Bell, son of Judge Bell. — *Nor. Vis.*

James, Elizabeth, John, born bn. 1570. 1571, ob. 1634, leaving issue. — *Stiffkey Reg.*

Richard Calthorp, = Margaret, sister and heir of John Irmingland, remar. . . . Mekylfeld, and ob. 1480. *Will prov.* Dec. 12. — *Nor. Reg.*

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(b)

Christopher Calthorp, bn. 1581.—*Cock. Reg. Mar.* 1602, ob. 1625.—*Ing. p. m.*

Eleanor, wife of Thos. Cotton, 1598.—*Cock. Reg.* Mary, bn. 1582, wife of Hamond Ward of Letheringset. bn. 1583.—*C. R.* Ann, bn. 1583, ob. 1692, w. of Sir W de Grey.—*Merton Reg.*

James, bn. 1585.—*C. R.* Ob. 1639, at Dunchiddock.—*Will Cant. Reg. Harvey.* Francis, Recorder of London, & Att. of C. of Wards.—*Will Cant. Reg. Goare.* Nathaniel, bn. 1599.—*Cock. Reg.*

Sir Henry Cal. Kant. of Ampton, bn. 1586, ob. 1637, Queen's Sol. Gen. Recorder of London, & Att. of C. of Wards.—*Will Cant. Reg. Goare.*

Elizabeth, bn. 1587.—*Cock. R.* Jane, bn. 1589, Wife of (1) E. Thimblethorpe, (2) Sir E. Peyton. Barbara, bn. 1592, Wife of Thos. Pell.—*Le Neve.*

John, = Eliz. Walker, 1627.—*Staffney R. Reg.*

Philip C. = of Gresham, ob. 1652, relict admind.—*Cant. Reg.*

Thomas = Grace, "Colturon", d. of of Fincham, m. 1658, and left issue.—*Finch. Reg.*

Mary, 1st w. of Wm. Fernor of E. Barsham, bn. 1612, mar. 1628, ob. 1640.—*Mon. inser. & Reg.*

Jas. Calthorp, b. Ap. 12, 1604. *Ing. p. m. patris.* ob. intestate, & widow adminis. Mar. 6, 1652. Sold Cookthorp to Sir Henry.

Robert, ob. 1616. St. Luke's, Norwich. Matilda, bn. 1613, Chapel, Norw. —*Cock. R.*

Barbara, bn. 1608. —*Cock. Reg.* Wife of Henry, 2nd son of Sir Barbara. —*Mon. ins. E. Barsham.*

Catharine, 2 w. d. of Sir Edw. d. of Sir Edw. Lewknor of Denham, ob. 1671. —*Will Nor. Reg.* Mar. 1641, at St. Luke's Chapel, Norw.

Dorothy, d. & h. E. Humphrey.

Grace, wife of Robt. Strutt of Hadley, left a dau. Barbara. —*Mon. ins. E. Barsham.*

Edward = Bridget Devs, d. of Thos. Devs of West Scoulton, bur. at Blakeney.

Fernor C. senior, ob. 1635, æt. 5 days. Fernor C. junior, ob. inf. 1637.

Dorothy, d. of Sir thorp, K.B. at Corona. of Chas. II. bn. 1643, mar. 1664, ob. 1713.

James Calthorp, ob. 1665, cœlebs, in partibus transmarinis. Admin. granted Edwardo patri.—*Cant. Reg.*

Charles, bn. 1650, ob. 1677. —*Mon. E. B.*

James, bn. 1645, ob. 1717. —*Mon. E. B.* Spring of Fakenham, bn. 1648, mar. 1664, ob. 1713.

Dorothy, d. of Sir William at Corona. of Chas. II. bn. 1643, mar. 1664, ob. 1713.

James Calthorp, ob. 1674, inf. ob. inf. —*Mon. Fakenham Churchyard.*

Elizabeth, bn. 1666. —*E. Barsham Reg. Ob.* 1747.—*Will Nor. Reg.*

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grandchild Richard of Cockthorp. The will with Mr. Bacon of Norwich." A copy of this will, which is written in Norman French, is now with Lord Calthorpe; but while it gives to "Richard Fitz a Sir William Calthorpe a aver et tener a luy et a sez heirs de son corps issuant" large estates in Essex and elsewhere, it is altogether silent on the subject of the Sniterley gift, which may have formed a nuncupative codicil. However that might have been, the intention of the testatrix was fully recognized twenty-six years afterwards by the male heir of Burnham and his trustees, who, in the following terms conveyed the manors: "Sciant presentes et futuri quod nos Simon Felbrigg, mil., Brianus Stapleton, mil., Will^s Paston, Nich^s Atchurch, ex assensu et spontanea voluntate Will^{mi} Calthorpe, arm., consanguinei et heredis Will^{mi} Calthorpe, mil., defuncti, viz., filii et hered. Johis Calthorpe, mil., defuncti, filii et heredis prædicti Will^{mi} Calthorpe, mil., et juxta effectum ultimæ voluntatis Isabellæ quæ fuit uxor Oliveri Calthorpe, mil., sororis et heredis Barth. Bacon, mil., dimisimus libere, &c. Ricardo Calthorpe, arm^o, filio prædicti Willⁱ Calthorpe, mil., et Margarette uxoris prædicti manerⁱ nost^r de Sniterley, &c. Tho. Astley testis. Dated 14 Hen. VI. (1436.) The deed with Hen. Calthorpe, Esq., at Ampton." And the above further enables us to correct an error of Blomefield, who makes Richard to be the son, and not (as he really was) the grandson of Isabel (late Bacon).¹

¹ The descent in the fifteenth century would seem hopelessly confused if we had not the clear evidence of the Mekylfeld will to guide us. The *Norf. Vis.* for Cockthorp (*Harl. MS.*, 1154), *e.g.*, commences thus:—

"John Cal. of Cockthorp, 2^d son of John Cal. aforesayde and 2 brother to Sir Will.

"John Cal. of Cockthorp, Esq., mar. y^e d. of Erming . . . and had issue Christopher and Oliver.

"Christopher Cal. of Cockthorp, Esq., mar. y^e d. of . . . & had issue John, sonn & h.

"John Cal. of Cock., Esq., mar. Alice d. of John Astley, &c."

With this compare the opening of the will of Marg^t. Mekylfeld, proved at Norwich, December 12, 1480, on opposite page.

For more than one reason the estate, which thus passed, merits a particular description. It occupies an elevated plateau on the belt of high ground which extends from Hunstanton to Cromer, on the verge of the German Ocean; but never runs inland beyond a few miles. The watershed thereby formed has a drainage of brooks or rivulets, which, like the Stiffkey river, have cut their way northwards, through the chalks and gravels, occasionally in dells or gorges of picturesque character, before they lose themselves in the salt marsh or sandy beach. Cockthorp, as its name indicates, is a village perched on an eminence, although the dead level of the table land, at this particular spot, prevents an extensive outlook. The ground floor of the manor house, contiguous to a public road, could never have commanded more than two objects: the village cross, whose base is still *in situ*, and the little parish church, a plain and unpretending structure, standing on as bleak a spot as any within the county. But in a few hundred paces the scene gradually changes. A very slight elevation would look out on old ocean for many a league; and southward the eye ranges over the Walsingham Deanery, with many of its dependent churches, around the celebrated shrine of the Parathalassian Virgin. The grand Norman pile of the abbey church of Binham lies in the adjoining parish, and forms a middle distance.

From the village a steep descent of several hundred yards leads down the chalk escarpment to the bottom of the gorge, where the church of St. Mary, Stiffkey,—formerly accompanied by a twin sister,—nestles on the river's bank, on which the gray towers of the Lord Keeper, Sir Nicholas Bacon,

“Imprimis lego animam, &c., corpus que meum sepeliendum infra Eccliam omn' scor' de Cokethorp juxta Rem. Calthorp quondam maritum meum.”

She further names her sons John, Oliver, and William.

The will of her first husband, Richard Calthorp, was proved Feb. 25, 1438, and he appoints “Margaretam uxorem meam et Johannem Irmynghland, Rectorem ecclie parochialis sci. Johannis de Styffkey” his executors.

preserve his memory and his name.—*Norf. Archaeol.*, vol. viii, p. 143. Higher up, the rounded hill of Warborough retains in its name and aspect a recollection of the troublous times when the beacon fire on its summit flashed signals of invasion to the so-called “Danish” camp at Warham, an earthwork which dates probably from earlier British days. Such were the surroundings of Richard entering on his new abode. He counted his sheep by thousands, whether they roamed on the commons and inhaled the “croceos odores” of the golden furze, which is still the weed of the district, or whether, under careful shepherds, they were tended on the salt marsh,² as they followed the receding tides. The wool of the black-faced Norfolk (a breed now extinct) was fairly long in the staple, although dark and scanty; but such of it as was not left on the bushes where they rambled was convertible into clothing and blankets, which, in most of the wills of the period, occur as a usual legacy to favoured sons or cousins. The surplus—readily disposed of at the staple of Norwich, or spun in the looms of Worstead, or perhaps shipped at Blakeney in a contraband runner to Belgium—was a valuable source of income; and accordingly the wills are evidence that it was frequently so considered. Thus, John Calthorp (1503): “To Alys my wiffe all my shepe pastured in Cokethorp, and all my weders pastured in the field of Morston.” Thus again, Christopher (1547): “To my sone James all my purchased lands, and residue of plate and moveables in full satisfaction for 1000 shepe, which that I the said Christofer Calthorp standeth bound to deliver to said James by a pryer Ind^{re} of Coy^t of marriage made between Robert Garneys and John Garneys, Esq., and me the said Christofer.”

² An inq. p. m. taken on the death of Christopher Calthorp, 1 Car. I., specifies, *inter alia*, “Quadráginta acras marisci salsi in Blakeney, et ducentas acras marisci salsi et chingle in Cley.”

It may probably admit of question whether Richard Calthorp, on succeeding to his Cockthorp inheritance, found there a mansion suited to his advanced position. He bequeaths his messagium in Cokethorp to his wife Margaret, in contradistinction to a certain "tenementum vocatum Bures in Wretill," a manor, which he had in Essex, by his grandmother's will. We presume, therefore, that he lived there; although the extensive foundations, and the mere fragment of a doorway, preserved in a farm stable, would indicate a later date. But here at least he died, leaving sons and daughters, and providing for his sepulture, "coram curiam sanctam in Ecclesiã Omnium S̄corum in Cokthorp." He died comparatively early; and his widow, who remarried, was left by him in full possession, and (if we may judge by her will) had occasion to play the part of a peacemaker among her children, who seem to have lived around her, but whose relations among themselves were not the most amicable.³ To Alice, her son's wife, she bequeaths "duo salsaria argent^ū una cum cooptor^ū ac etiam unam crateram argent^ū quæ nuper fuerunt Johis Hastley p̄tris dictæ Aliciæ ad termin^ū vitæ suæ, et quod post mortem suam illa salsaria et cratera remaneant Christofero filio dictorum Johis et Aliciæ." She bequeaths to Margaret, the daughter of Robert Braunch, "zonam

³ "Item volo qd. cum Oliverus Calthorp filius meus per diversa scripta sua obligatoria michi ac Will^mo Calthorp filio meo ad usum meum obligat^r in div'sorum denar' summâ michi ad div'sa, festa in iisdem scriptis conten . . . qd. si idem Oliverus aut Agnes uxor ejus implicent molestent, seu perturbent Johannem Calthorp heredes seu assignat' suos de (ser.) pro uno messagio et certis terris et ten'tis in Cokethorp quæ iidem Oliverus et Agnes nuper de licentiâ meâ occupaverint q^d tunc dicta scripta obligatoria cedant. ad usum meum et pecuniæ inde provenientes disponentur ad executionem præsentis test. mei et si non relaxent totum eorum in prædict' terr' ita quod ipsum Johann' non inquietent ut pridem, et tunc volo q^d dicta scripta obligatoria eidem Olivero deliberent, et volo et requiro quoad prædictum Willm. filium meum q^d ipse non relaxet eidem Olivero nec aliquod faciat in barra obligator' prædict', &c."

blodii coloris harnessatam cum argento deaurato." This Robert was apparently a son of Edmond Braunch, whose arms were impaled with Calthorp in the chancel of Stody Church.—Blom. *Norf.*, v. 960. She finally provides for her interment by the side of her first husband, and constitutes her son John her sole executor.

The will of this John is dated June 6th, 1503, and is one of the first in English of the series of Calthorp wills in the Norwich Registers. His monumental brass is coarsely executed, and is now read with difficulty; but it informs us, by comparison with his will, that the "Whyte Fryres of Snetyrles" (the Carmelites of Blakeney) claimed his body as that of a deceased benefactor. It reads:—

Hic jacent corpora Johannis Calthorp Armig̃i unib̃s
 f̃ndator̃m cōvent & Alicie h̃ris ei' q̃bi obiit
 xiii^o die Augustri a dni m̃biii—āiāb̃ ppiciet.

A mutilated escutcheon preserves only a trace of the engrailed border of the Astley coat, and a circular cavity in the centre of its impalement is the only remaining evidence of the cinquefoil ermine, originally in enamel, which it once contained.

From him⁴ the stock proceeds, giving out a fruitful offshoot in the person of Richard of Antingham, who, had he lived to see it, would have been proud of the civic honours conferred on his boy Martin, Lord Mayor of London, in the thirtieth year of Elizabeth. This Antingham memorial is most conveniently studied among the *Brasses* of Cotman. Worn and mutilated as the monument now is, and even in

⁴ Extract from his will, dated March 12, 1547:—

"If it chaunceth that I dye at Cokethorp, to be buried in the chauncell there before the ymage of all Saints, and if it chaunceth that I dye and departe at Blakeney, my body for to be buried in the P'ish Church at Blakeney aforesayde next to my ffather's grave."

part transposed, it is so complete a record as to deserve more careful notice than any that has yet been given it. Eleven sons and five daughters, represented in effigy, with their names inscribed in order, enable us to give to each his proper place in the pedigree; and beside them a smaller group of two grandsons, and a granddaughter, remains to be accounted for. These are apparently the children of Antony, the mercer, of London, who, dying at his country house, Mason's Hill, Bromley, was there buried; but left a legacy to the poor of Antingham. A little plate with his name existed in Cotman's time, but has since been abstracted by the chisel of some collector. Blomefield's hasty conclusion, more than once repeated, arose from his counting the heads, but ignoring the names of the children. The inscription runs thus; and we give it at full length in order to correct Blomefield's errors and interpolations:—

"HERE UNDER LYETH BURIED RYCHARD CALTHORP ESQUYER
 YE SONE OF JHON CALTHORP OF COKTHORP ESQUYER
 AND ANNE HIS WIFE
 LATE YE WIFE OF ROBERT RAYNNES ESQ'ER
 THE DAUGHTER OF EDMOND HASTYNGS ESQUER
 WYCHE SAYDE RICHARD DEPARTYD THYS LYFE
 THE XX DAYE OF JANUARY AN° D'NI 1554
 AND IN THE FFYRST AND SECONDE YERES OF KYNG PHYLYPPE AND QUENE MARY
 AND THE SAYDE ANNE
 DECEASED THE XXX DAYE OF MARCHE AN° D'NI 1562.
 GOD BE PRAYSED."

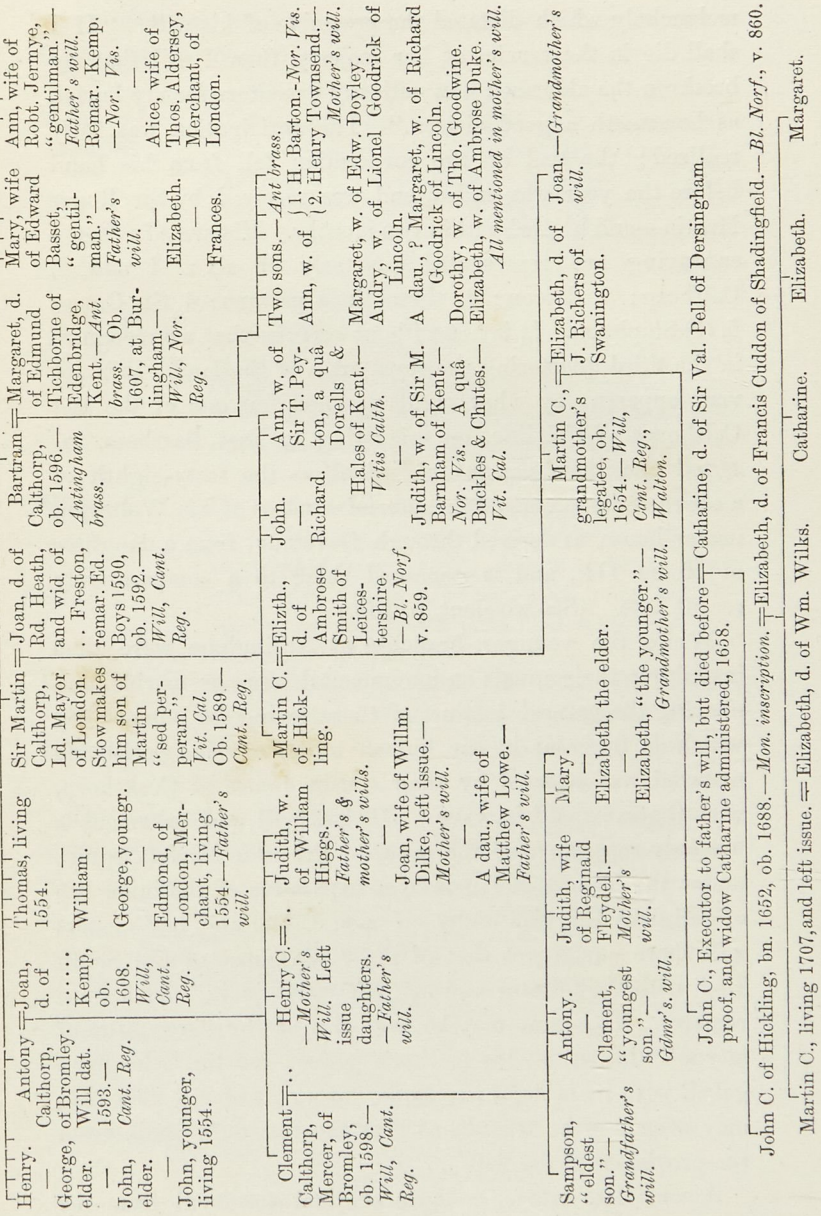
The armorial bearings on the ledger are not without significance. The Calthorp coat is charged with an annulet on the ermine fess for difference, denoting the fifth house. A second escutcheon has Calthorp, impaling Hastings, quartering Ffoliot. A third bears the arms of the "Merchant Adventurers," barry-nebuly arg. and az., on a chief quarterly gules; 1 and 4, a lion passant gardant; 2 and 3, two roses. These Merchant Adventurers or Hamburgh Merchants were one of the most ancient of the City companies;

and when their first incorporation, 1296, was confirmed by Queen Elizabeth, they rose to such a position of wealth and eminence, as not only to excite the jealousy of our own woollen traders at Norwich, *e.g.*, and Ipswich, but in a measure to cripple the trade of Hamburgh and the chief continental centres. A fourth escutcheon has the Mercer's Arms—a demi virgin couped, crowned, and wreathed with roses.—Edmondson's *Heraldry*. These memorials seem to indicate that several of the brothers contributed to their parents' monument; among them Edward the merchant, and Bartram, whose brass remains incised in Roman capitals. The relation of these brasses to the Cockthorp fleeces is obvious. They serve to mark the passage from the sheepfold to the wool-sack, and point out the steps by which Calthorps yet unborn were to attain legal eminence in the service of the state or sovereign.

We may briefly refer to Stow for the mayoralty of Sir Martin,⁵ whose eventful year of office coincided with the appearance of the Spanish Armada off the coast of England. While the queen was riding on horseback through the camp at Tilbury, by her presence infusing animation into the eager hearts of her soldiers, her chief magistrate was engaged in the metropolis extracting loans and subsidies from the pockets of reluctant citizens, to supply the sinews of war. Doubtless, unless prevented by his last fatal illness, he was present at St. Paul's, in attendance on the court, when the queen heard the sermon. Perhaps his patriotic exertions had hastened the messenger of death, and explain the suggestive tone of loyal

⁵ The original silver seal, to which Stow apparently had access for engraving in his *Survey of London*, and to which he has erroneously added a crescent for difference, is now in the possession of the Rev. Jeffery Millard, to whom I am indebted for some of the more recent documents connected with the pedigree. It makes an oval impression, and stands about an inch high, perforated for attachment with a trefoil aperture. Its setting is inscribed "C. C. 1594."

(B.)



John C., Executor to father's will, but died before proof, and widow Catharine administered, 1658.

John C. of Hickling, bn. 1652, ob. 1688.—*Mon. inscription.* = Elizabeth, d. of Francis Cuddon of Shadingfield.—*Bt. Norf.*, v. 860.

Martin C., living 1707, and left issue. = Elizabeth, d. of Wm. Wilks. Catharine. Elizabeth. Margaret.

melancholy which dictated the preamble of his will. "If I shall die in the service of her majesty, then I will that my brethren the aldermen join with my executors for my burial, as beseemeth a good citizen." The anticipation was fully realized; the seal of the corporation fell from his hand before the year was ended, and was received by Sir Roger Martin—and he died within two months. His arms in Stow's engraving are represented quarterly of six: 1 and 6, Calthorp; 2, Bacon; 3, three lions passant; 4, St. Omer; 5, (?) Stapleton. It is not without surprise that we recognize in the third quartering the royal arms of England. It is not very apparent by what right assumed, but one of the last Calthorps of the line, on migrating to East Barsham, inserted the lions passant regardant as the forty-eighth of a series of impalements in an oriel window of his Wolterton manor-house, as derived through Devereux, from a daughter of Henry III., and it remained there to a comparatively recent date. (See woodcut, p. 168.)

While the younger branches at Antingham were thus inscribing their annals on monumental brass or marble, and obeying the natural instinct of that craving for immortality which is inherent in the human mind, a more perishable material was selected by their cousin James of Cockthorp, with the same end in view. His last will and testament is not only suggestive of the outward life of a Norfolk squire under the Tudors, but moreover expressive of the inner life of religious England under an open Bible, and our readers will share our regret that of the "Wyndowe of the South Ile," with the testator and his wife "sett in it," not a trace remains. The same may be said also of the "serypture of latyne" (latten) on his mother's grave; but the "chauncell gabell with its table of ffreestone," at a cost of *vili. xiiis. ivd.*, may even now be traced; as also the testator's tomb, from the provisions of the will.

A court leet extract from an original document from the

parish chest at Wighton gives us an interesting glimpse of Cokthorpp at this period.

“Hundř de North Grenhoo.”

Styffekey cum Cokthorpp. Vis. franc. dnoř Regis et Regine ducat sui Lancastr. iřm tenē die Jovis prox ante festum Sci Nicholai Ep̄i regnorum Phi. et Marie dei grā Regis et Regine Anglie Franc' Neapol. Jerusalem et Hiřnie fidei defens. Regine Hispaniař et Sicilie Archiduc. Austř Dñe Mediolañ Burgund et Brabant' comit' Hauspourg Flandř et Tiroll s'edo et tercio.

Certificatio inī al. Juratores dicunt sup sacrañ suum q^d Jacobus Lete v^s x^d.

Mercia iij^d.

ñ iij^d
p̄r ei pen.

{ Calthorpp arñ diminuit et accrochiavit sibi cum fossař suo pcell' vię vocat' le perambulacion Wey apud Brokebake prope Cokthorpp Debdale neenon accrochiavit sibi cū arratr' suo p̄cell unius Meř vocat' le perambulacions mere apud Coldesdale et etiam diminuit et accrochiavit sibi p̄cell vię perambulac' apud Blaklands per quod capitulares de Styffekey non possunt facere purell [purfle, a border or hemming] sive perambulacionem suam prout debent. Ideo in mercia est. Et p̄r ei illud suffie^e emendare citr^a px' let sub peñ iij^s iij^d.

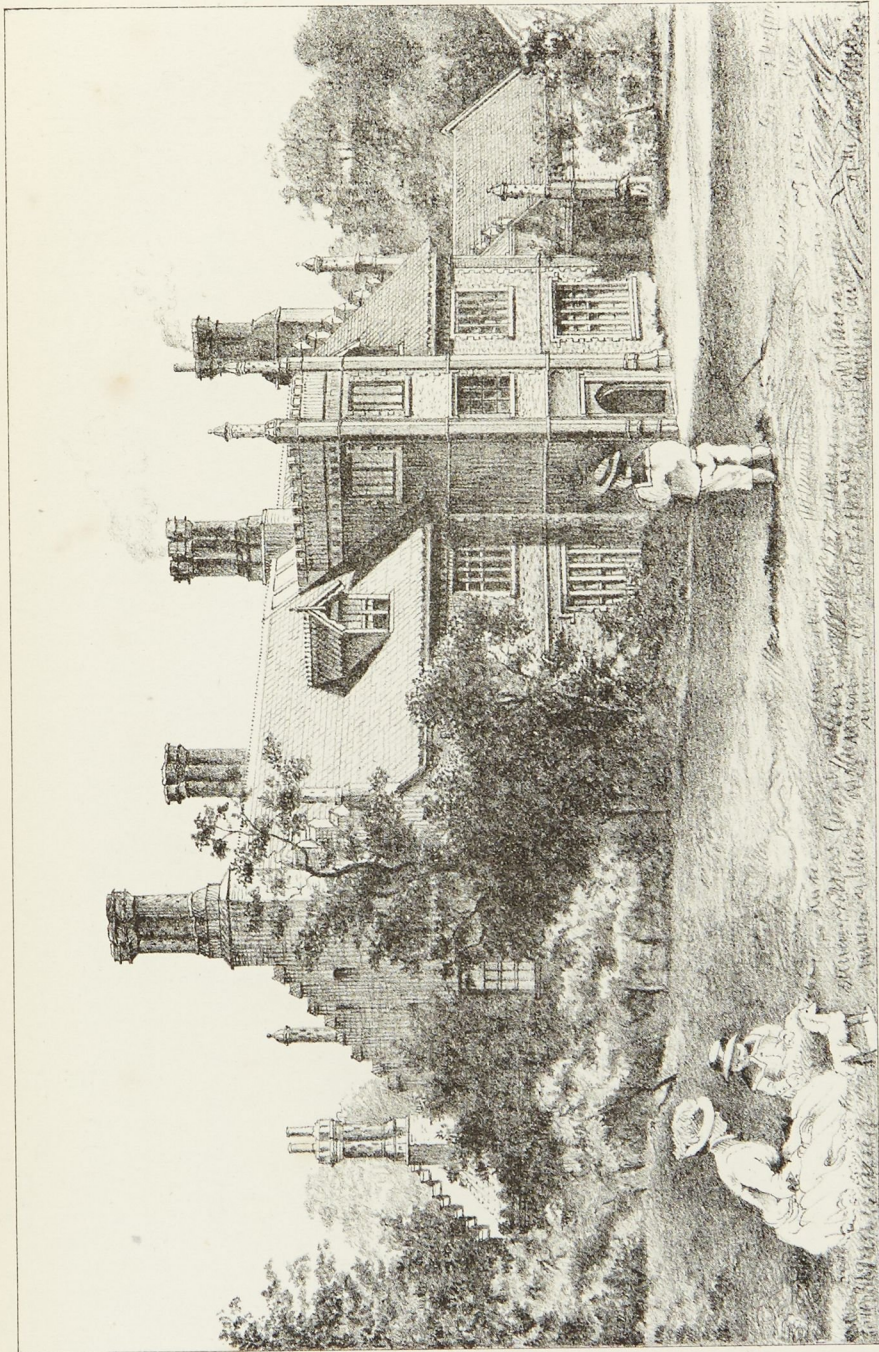
{ Et q^d Jacobus Calthorpp arñ volent' absent serv' suum ad cerī suas faciend' hujus let prout debent. Ideo in ñ. Et p̄r ei ne ampl. ita facere sub peñ iij^s iij^d.

The only family monument remaining in the little church attracts attention mainly by reason of its uncouth inscription:

“IN ASSURED HOPE RESTETH HERE THE BODIES OF—
SIR JAMES CALTHORP, K^{sh}t AND DAME BARBARA HIS WIFE
DAUGHTER TO JOHN BACON ESQ. OF HESSET.
BY HER HE HAD 8 SONS, AND 6 DAUGHTERS,
IN WHOSE SEVERAL MARRIAGES AND ISSUE THE ANCIENT GLORY OF
NAME AND FAMILY, (RESTING THEN CHIEFLY AND ALMOST SOLELY IN HIMSELF)
DID REFLOURISH AND IS DILATATED INTO MANY OF THE BEST HOUSES
IN THE COUNTY. HE WAS BURIED THE 16 DAY OF JUNE A.D. 1615,
AND OF HIS AGE 57.
THE SAID DAME BARBARA SURVIVING HIM,
AND MUCH COMFORTED WITH THE SIGHT OF 193 OF THEIR CHILDREN
AND THEIR OFFSPRING, AT THE AGE OF 86 YEARS,
EXCHANGED THIS LIFE FOR A BETTER
UPON THE 3rd DAY OF NOV^r A.D. 1639.”

The figures of this inscription, partially confirmed as they are by the parish register, may not perhaps be disputed; but a passing smile may be indulged at the verbose pomp and circumstance of its vaunting pretensions. Notwithstanding our modern "Hecuba, centumque nurus," the Cockthorp branch in reality was about to wither on the stem, while other fruitful scions were *dilatating* elsewhere. Calthorps were then living, not only in London, and at Antingham, but at Dunchiddock near Exeter, Wingfield in Suffolk, and even in Calthorpe itself; and Gybbons, at this date, in search of materials for the *Vitis*, received from a collateral, John Calthorp of Fincham, the following memorandum, worth preserving for its quaintness:—"My great grandfather was a gentleman, yet, I think, a younger son. He came, I think, from the South, by reason of the good English he writ. He had, as I remember by his will, 2 sons and 3 daughters. He came a single man into Lincolnshire, and there married. His sons were both married, and their grandchildren were living at Pinchbeck."

But leaving these speculations, we turn to the safer ground of registers and monuments, and the equally tangible evidence of brick and mortar. The Wolterton manor-house at East Barsham, although now roofless, and reduced to broken walls, is one of the finest examples of moulded brickwork in the kingdom. The humbler mansion of Thorpland Hall, where these lines are written, was apparently the work of the same builders; and the so-called "Clamp Meadow," on the stream midway between them, points to the same conclusion. The chimney-shafts and porches, with other details of the two houses, are so fully illustrated in Pugin's *Gothic Architecture* as hardly to need description. Nevertheless, a photograph, taken from the leads of Thorpland, enables us to bring near, not only the Stapleton (?) lion and Tudor rose crowned, which decorate the chimneys, but also the original approach; formerly a public road, but now



ENGRAVED BY J. H. B. 1881.

THORPLAND HALL 1881.

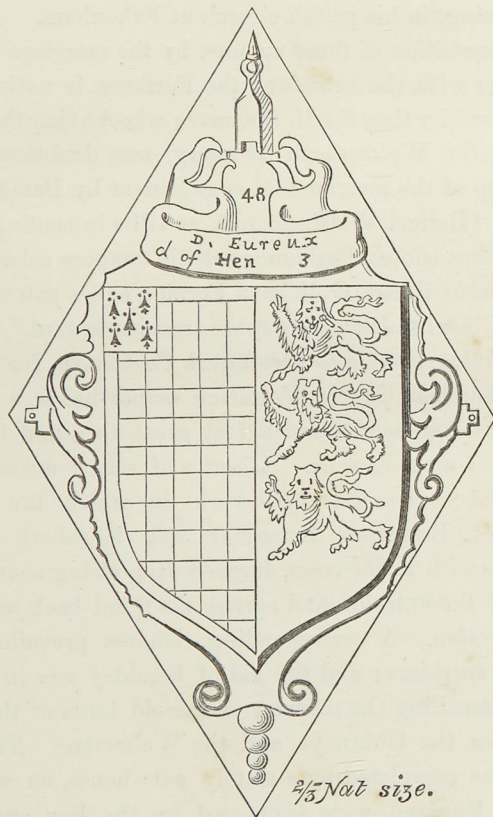
converted into a kitchen garden. In the latter of these houses, Sir Christopher, the last male Calthorp of his line who attained majority, brought up a numerous family. From the former he was doomed to follow them, with the exception of his eldest daughter, to the house appointed for all living, in his parish church at Fakenham.

The acquisition of these manors, by the marriage of James his father with the heiress of the Fermors, is noticed by no less a chronicler than Sir H. Spelman; who, having thoroughly explored the Walsingham Deanery, was doubtless told at Cockthorp of the matrimonial engagement by Dame Barbara herself. "*Relictâ Walsinghamiâ, et villis in confinio croceos anhelantibus odores, Bashamiæ sub illo tempore ædes condidit istius tractûs illustr. Gulielmus Fermor, eques potens, e cujus jam familiâ ad Calthorpos nuptiis transiture sunt.*"

The bridegroom might well quit Cockthorp, for he found at East Barsham, in the Wolterton manor-house, a new and sumptuous mansion, completed at great cost, and in a style of unusual magnificence. A series of raised medallions, in sound and ornamental brickwork, in which the jewelled coiffure of Henry of Lancaster and Elizabeth of York alternates with Tudor roses, forms a deep string course on the façade of the exterior, and carries the mind back to the date of its erection. A corresponding richness prevailed in the hall and corridors; and the aid of heraldry was invoked to assist in recalling the memory of the old lords of the manor, the Wodes, the Gourneys, and the Woltertons. The whole design was completed by a stately gate-house, on which the arms of England were supported by the lion and griffin, indicating a later date than the rest of the building; and, as if to mark the day when Henry VIII., as a royal pilgrim to Walsingham, may have once passed beneath it.

The husband, on his side, had contributed to this alliance a full proportionate share, whether of land or lineage, and could surround his escutcheon of pretence with noble or even

royal achievements; of this the diamond quarry, engraved in illustration, may be adduced as a specimen. It formed one of a series which passed from an oriel window of the Wolterton manor-house, through the hands of Sir John Fenn the archæologist; and was properly restored by a



subsequent possessor to the third Lord Calthorpe. His portrait, the "Vera effigies Jacobi Calthorp armⁱ æt. 38, A.D. 1642," is best known to us from the engraving in Blomefield, vol. iii. fol. Its original was perhaps intended as a present to his second bride, a daughter of Sir Edward Lewknor of Denham, Suffolk; and, although the din of

arms was resounding in the west of England, its echoes were not thought loud enough to disturb a Norfolk honeymoon. We have no reason to conclude that this remarkable portrait was in any way exaggerated; on the contrary, we see him as he was, habited in the silver gorget, which was hung up afterwards in his hall at East Barsham, and figures as the first item on the roll of his personal estate, preserved among the Hunstanton muniments. As a staunch Norfolk Royalist he deliberately adopted the costume of the Cavalier, in opposition to the cropped tresses of the Roundhead. We should be warranted in this conclusion by the high official standing of his uncle, Sir Henry, in the service of the Crown; and the name Henrietta Maria, given by Sir Henry to his youngest daughter. Of his equipments we may form a notion (allowing for the lapse of years) when we read some of the bequests which came down from his grandfather, A.D. 1558: "To Thomas my sonne one almayne revett with *spents*, pair of *spilents* (*garde-de-bras*, *Prompt. Parv.*), salette, gorgett, and bill." "To Christopher my son all the rest of my harness, which is for viii men complete, with bills, salletts, skulls, *spents*, gorgetts, and all things belonging." And Sir James, as Lieut.-Col. of "a regiment of ffoote" at Barsham, writes to the constables of Greenhoe "to have their men ready to march at an hour's warning." — *Hunstanton Muniments*.

In looking at the burly frame and jovial countenance of the "Vera Effigies," as connected with the subsequent history of James Calthorp, late of Cockthorp, and now of Cockthorp and East Barsham, we are reminded of the "girding on" and "putting off" of the armour. He was still in the prime of life, and the names of his infants, Fermor Calthorp the elder and Fermor Calthorp the younger, inscribed on their mother's monument, read like a mockery of destiny. In a few short years he died, and his second wife, Catharine, a widow, on May 6th, 1652,

administered to his effects. A touching inscription on a brass plate, which still remains attached to the wall of the East Barsham almshouse, refers to the early death of the last of these infants, and anticipates, as it were, the sequel of his own eventful life:—

BONI SI QUID HABEO A DEO SYMPSE NON A ME PRÆ SYMPSE; NEC IN EO QVOD
JAM DONAVIT INGRATVS NEC IN EO QVOD ADHVC
NON DONAVIT INCREDVLVS

Meantime, an amusing episode, which occurred some years afterwards, during his life as a widower, may be here properly inserted, as introductory to our remaining notice of him. The manor of Fakenham Lancaster, which formed part of the Duchy, had been purchased from the Crown by the Lady Hatton, the intriguing second wife of *Coke* the Chief Justice. The manor passed at her decease to the Hon. Robert Villiers, nephew of the Duke of Buckingham, in right of his wife Frances, who was Lady Hatton's youngest daughter; and he sold it in 1647 to James Calthorp for £1500. This acquisition increased his Thorpland estate to 650 acres, to which extent in 1650 it was rated at threepence in the £. (*Hunstanton Muniments*), and it explains to us the motive for his son's preference of Fakenham as the family burial place. The letter has been kindly communicated by Mr. L'Estrange from among the *Hunstanton Muniments*:—

Temple
4 Dec. 1641

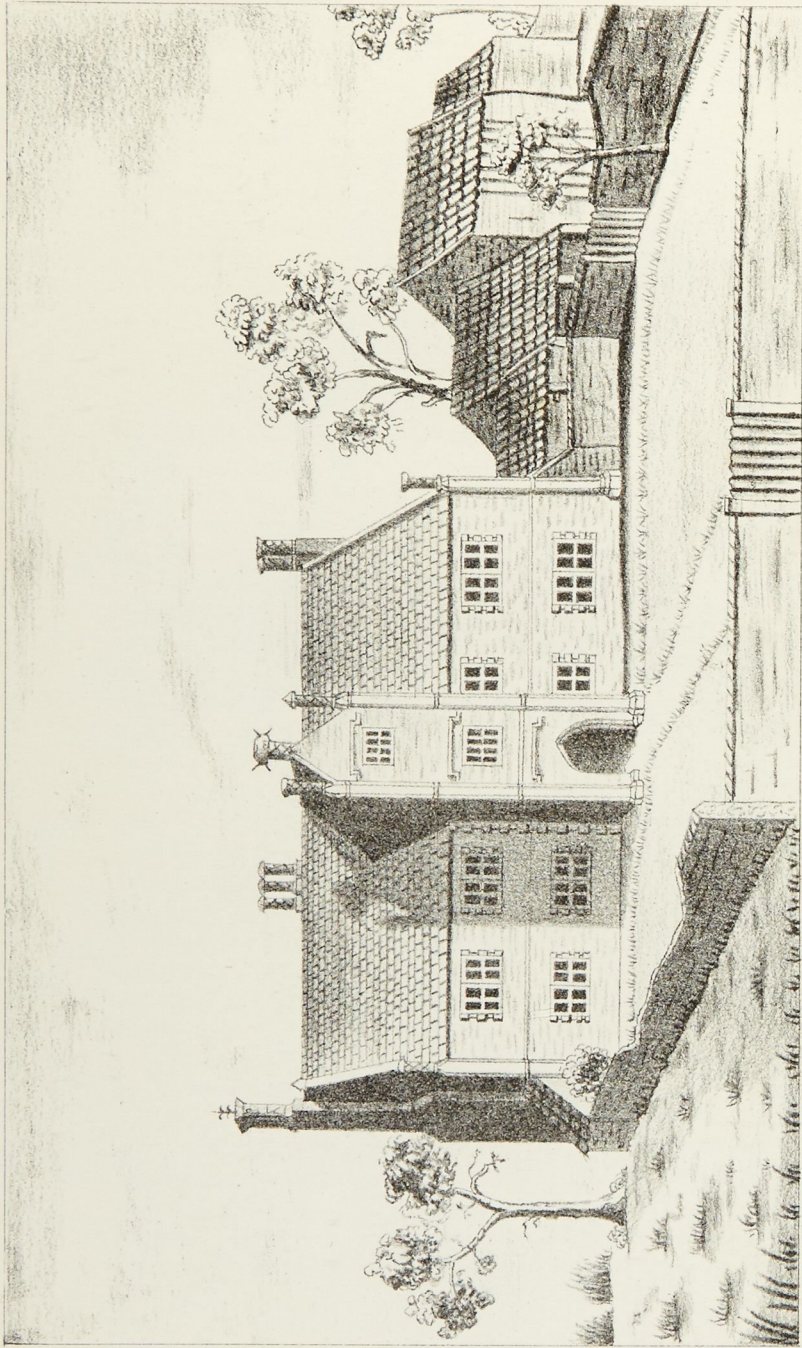
“ To my much honoured Brother James
Calthorp Esq.

p^rsent these

“ My best Brother

I have soe acted the parte of an Embassodur (that I feare when y^e Prince falls to a treaty I shall not want Employment) only I have much exceeded my co'mission in interesting my Lady Calthorp and my brother Charles in giving them a view, and they say a woeman can best judge a woeman; and then I doubt not but you will co'mend my approving of my Lady Poley choice for you wherein I hope my Lady was but an Instrument, but he that guides the stars hath ordained it for a great blessing and comfort unto you a good wife being a guift of the Lord, and I am

perswaded according to my Lady report you will find her a humble and sanctified woeman of a fit stature to breed a Sir James Calthorp mightly well fashioned, and as well beloved. 23 years of age, a brave kinred and most of them wondrous handsome. I have sent letters gratulatory both from her and M^r Cro'well. She did soe overmatch me and my Lady Calthorp also in the choice of my fellow embassodour that I must say I never sawe soe much beauty soe richly inwardly deckt and furnish't w^{ch} is (?) Sir Rob^t Karr Lady never did I heare such language wth soe sweete a grace wth soe great temper of wisdom and modesty that had not her servants told she was a Lady I should have conceived her no humane Wight that even my Lady Calthorp was struck into admiration and durst Hardly venture a word but those few she did was solely and wholly in yo^r com'enda'con for which you are oblig'd to her by way of gratitude. At last after an houers debate she made choice of Sir Thomas Hatton to conclude all wher in less than an hower I finish both yo^r barganes but I am afraid you will for both be cordially angry but in this I wash my hands doing for you as I would doe for my selfe if I have erred & is error amoris not amor erroris. I have agreed to settle Thorpland house with 500^{li} per ann and yo^r new Purchase of Fakenham upon her for iointuer the remainder to the heires males of your body on Lucy Karr begotten the remainder to yo^r right heires. I have also contracted with my Lady Hatton to pay for Fakenham cum pertin^s 1000^{li} upon the sealing and delivering of the assur . . . and 1000^{li} moer upon midsom'er day, 1641. Methinks I see you blush I hope for love not anger Under 2000^{li} I could not get there being 2 that offered y^t same sune only my Lady having promised M^r Bedingfield you should have y^e refusall would not but be noble in her worde and my L^d Coke's position (though his practise was otherwise) was land deerly bought was mostly quietly enioyed occasio calva est and I durst not omitt this opportunity fearing you should more blame me for the one than for the other knowing you are only a lover of money to supply necessity. I have likewise without direction made a purchase of honour for you for my Lady Dutchess of Lennox have 2 h^{ts} (hereditaments?) given her I made Payne Chadenver reserve one for you y^r price 600^{li} I have also provided 1000^{li} of my Cosin John Pepys w^{thout} w^{ch} fuel y^r irons will not Heate. M^r Bedingfield likewise offers me 500^{li} upon a fortnight's warning, but that I leave you to take or refuse upon o^r enterview y^e desier of M^{rs} Karrs lands making me have many suitors for that I hope I have wth much ease and little distraction of my owne . . . business finish'd yours and that you are only to act y^r p^t of



THORPLAND HALL 1795.

St George up and ride. To w^h God give his goode blessing of comfort and happiness unto you my nephewe's occasions stayes my coming down to my house untill Saturday when if you please there to make up the sweet harmony of conversation and bring my brother Strutt's will with you shall honour him that loves you

Yo^r Servant

H. Mordaunt.

The above curious bargain led (as might be expected) to no actual result, and the second marriage with Catharine Lewknor soon put an end to the delusions of the match-makers. She found herself in early life the mother of three sons, the eldest of whom, the future Sir Christopher Calthorp, (K.B. at the coronation of Charles II.) became at his father's death the almost unconscious possessor of a princely heritage, as well as the representative of a lineal succession unbroken for ten generations. His prospect on entering life was one of unclouded sunshine, and his coming of age was the signal for his marriage. He took up his abode at first with his mother in the Wolterton manor-house, and the East Barsham register thus records the baptism of his first child, who alone unmarried survived him:—"Elizabetha Calthorp filia Christopheri Calthorp militis Balnei et Dominæ Dorotheæ uxoris ejus baptizata fuit sexto die Martii, 1666." The birth of a second daughter, and probably other circumstances, the forecast of a numerous family, now led to his migration to the adjoining mansion at Thorpland, as the following extract from the Barsham register may testify; and it is only from this register, combined with the Fakenham monuments, that we now put together the last links of our pedigree, and can throw some light on the abode of the last Calthorps:—

Anno. Dom. 1670. "Mad^{ma} Catharina Calthorp nata fuit maiæ decimo tertio 1670, circiter horam nonam antemerid et baptizata fuit apud Thorpland maiæ decimo octavo existente die Mercurii per me Simonem Lombe et sequente die ibidem declarabatur baptiz. per magistrum Carolum Robotham Rectorem in Fakenham."

From this time onwards, for a period of fourteen years, no baptism of a Calthorp occurs in the Barsham register, and as five sons and six daughters now rest with their parents in the family vault at Fakenham, we may safely conclude that most of them were born at Thorpland, and their birth duly recorded in the lost Fakenham registers.

Seldom has a morning of promise been succeeded by a darker evening than in the case of Sir Christopher. In possession of his clear faculties, but "under a lingering distemper," on April 6th, 1717, he had made his last will; but only six days afterwards was compelled to write a codicil; for in that short interval, the body of his daughter Catharine (after a long sickness) had been carried to the Fakenham vault; while his only little grandchild, in whom his hopes centred, being "now under infirmity," survived him but a short time.

Of an eminently religious mind, and desiring to be buried "according to the form appointed in the Liturgy only, and without any sermon," he seems to have been consoled by a diligent and faithful pastor, Thomas Wright, B.D., to whom he leaves a vicarage with other endowments; and who records his gratitude in no measured terms on a fly leaf of the Barsham register.

The bulk of his estates, which had not gone by settlement on the marriage of his daughter Lady Le Strange, vested in his daughter Elizabeth, to whom meantime he had specially bequeathed his "head mansion-house called Thorpland House, with the outhouses, gardens, and orchards, the meadows called Dovehouse and Hall Meadows, two oak groves the Six-acre Close, Stocks Pitt Hill and Pit, and all those cow pastures, as well Broom Hill and medows late in mortgage to Mr. Edward Calthorp of Southwark, as well other cow pastures and medows in Fakenham, Thorpland, and Great Snoring, under covenants of hulving, and all those arable lands hulved which are in my own hands." We find room

for this extract, not as a mere register of old names⁶ and conditions long since forgotten, but rather as enabling us to follow out the possession, and note the progress of decay, through which the two mansions were now beginning to pass. Thorpland (we shall find presently) contained sundry old pictures and relics of past centuries; but, in common with the Wolterton Manor-house, it was doomed to a longer abandonment, of exactly thirty years. By the death of Elizabeth Calthorp they changed hands, and went in different channels.

This lady, although living at a distance to a very advanced age, had kept up cordial relations with the elder branch of her family at Ampton, as well as with her cousins at West Barsham and Gressenhall; and a few extracts from her will shall now conclude our notice, as the best supply of information derived from the fountain head. She entitles it "the last will and testament of me Elizabeth Calthorp, now the only surviving daughter of Sir Christopher Calthorp, K.C.B., made March 13th, 1743;" and after particular directions for her funeral in the church at Hunstanton, and bequests to various parishes, it proceeds—"I now give and devise my part of East Barsham, which falls to me of course by the death of my dear sister, the Lady Le Strange, all the moieties of Manors of Barningham, East Barsham, West

⁶ The extinction of old names, as well as their persistence under difficult circumstances, is remarkably illustrated in the "Clink Closes," now rated to Fakenham as a portion of the Thorpland estate. They obtained this name from a mediæval owner, "Johannes de Clint," who describes them in his charter of donation to the Abbey of Walsingham (see *Walsingham Reg.* p. 74, Cott. Nero E. 7) as part of his "cultura, quæ vocatur Scortegorsholm," *i.e.* the holm, or sandy hollow, from which the gorse or furze had been scored, or scoured; and situated "juxta viam quæ ducit de Crek ad Norvicum." This way is now the Fakenham "Long Lane," and the "scoring," for cutting down brushwood, is the usual term in Norfolk; and the Whin Hill Plantation marks the locality (probably synonymous with the Broom Hill of Sir Christopher) traceable at the present day.

Barsham alias Wekyn, and also all that moiety of all that capital messuage or mansion house called East Barsham Hall, and of all that farm in the occupation of Mr. Richard Dugate; my share in that library (with any exceptions I shall make in this will or codicil) to Sir Thomas Le Strange and his heirs for ever; as well as Wissingsett, if he can save the sale of it; for I am sure none of our estates have ever answered what he might expect, with vast repairs, tenements, breachings, and great taxings. Therefore I had need allow a valuable consideration to approve myself just to so worthy a gentleman, that did such honour to our sinking family. My own estate at Thorpland, given me for my fortune, paying an annuity of £20, which I discharged upon my sister's marriage; and the lawyers that made the wedding articles said there was no intailles upon any of our estates, and this was wholly at my dispose, and have since made more repairs than was done in 30 years—and now I give and bequeath it at my death to my cousin James Calthorp, the present heir of the Ampton family, to help to support our name, with many pictures and things in that house, which I shall enlarge upon in my codicil, and hope he will take it friendly, and make no disputes; for since the last of our line is gone, the estates are vested at our dispose. I desire he would give his brother Henry and sister Fairfax £100 each, and let Crowder have his 14 acres."

In less than a year afterwards she added a new codicil, thus entitled and amended. "Codicil to the use of my will, Feb. 9th, 174 $\frac{3}{4}$, Blotted out several things, given to James Calthorp of Ampton before my death."

"Having many changes, since I writt my codicil annexed to this my old will, I now make a new one, to my last will made March 13th, 174 $\frac{2}{3}$, with reference to both my old codicils for trifles; and also to my old will, having several things not worth inserting here, being too tedious."

"Having settled by will my estate at Thorpland upon

(p.)

A dau. ob. s. p. A dau. of West Barsham, Sergeant-at-law, bn. 1624, ob. 1678.—*Mon. Ins. West Barsham.*

? Dorothy, bapt at Hoo 1632.—*Par. Reg.*

Barbara Calthorp, bn. 1660, mar. 1696, ob. 1731, at Mileham. Second wife of Rev. C. Higham, Rector of Southorp 1667, and Barrow 1685.—*Lady Am's will and Mon. Ins.*

Sir Le Strange Calthorp of West Barsham, bn. 1624, ob. 1678.—*Mon. Ins. West Barsham.*

Ann, d. of Arthur Turner of Gt. Parndon, ob. 1712, set. 88. Will dated 1710. ? James Calthorp, d. of East Dereham Reg. ob. Sept. 4, 1641.—*East Dereham Reg.*

Barbara.—Thos. Deye of Scoulton, ob. 1671.

Mary Calthorp, wife of Shalcross.—*Lady Am's will.*

Le Strange Calthorp, bn. 1657, ob. 1678.—*Mon. Ins. at W. Barsham.*

Capt. James Calthorp, ob. 1691. Drowned at sea.

Elizabeth, d. of Jas. Cooper. She remarried Charles Morley.

Bridget Deye, wife of her cousin Edward Calthorp.

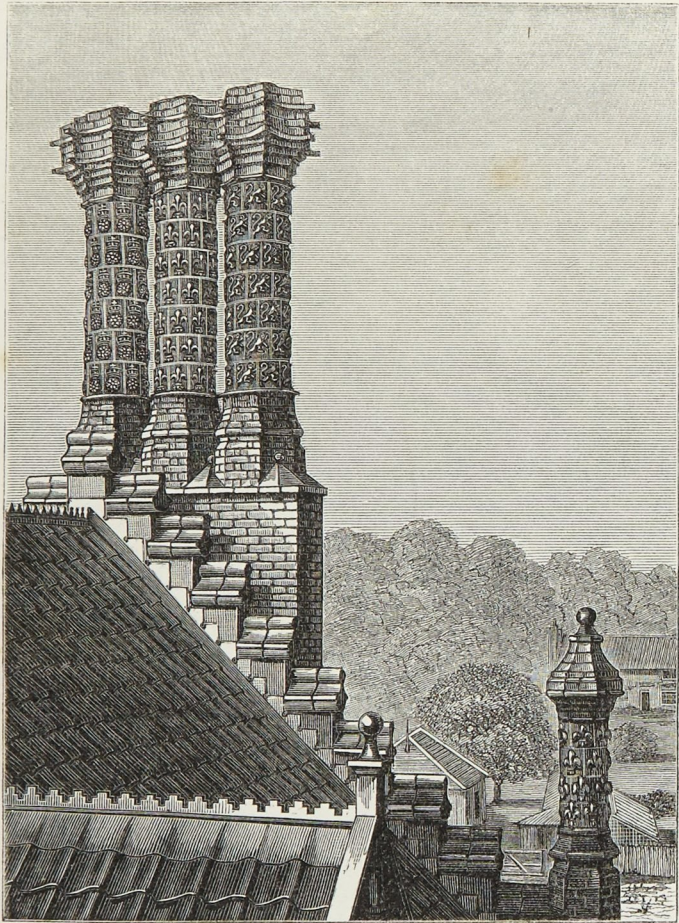
Elizabeth Calthorp, living 1710.—*Lady Am's will.*

James Calthorp, heir of the Ampton family, at my decease, I further give him the ring of table diamonds set in three sorts of table lozingers, and Sir Lestrangle Calthorp's picture set in gold, according to Cosen Barbara Heigham's order and directions, when she gave me them for life, and then to the heir of Ampton family, to remember Lestrangle Calthorp's eldest daughter, and my [gilt cup and cover, erased in orig.] lieu of my silver basin, given by his family at Ampton to ours, as a legacy. All my escotcheons, the work of Lady Calthorp that was Bacon, and buried at Cockthorp, and M^r Whiting's books, that was transcribed by me, with the Calthorp's arms up'on 't [and the mass-book in my hands, given by the Drurys to our family, erased in orig.], and desire he will give his Uncle Reynolds Calthorp's son Henry £20 to buy trifles, now Sir Henry Calthorp. To my 3 tenants and their wives—that is M^r Rix and wife [Mr. Dugate and wife, erased in orig.] M^r Ratcliff and wife each 20 shillings. To cousins Barbara, daughter of Eliza Seaman, Thornton's daughters, Sutton and Shaw, &c. I desire Cosin Calthorp may have some of the pictures and furniture left at Thorpland Sir Thomas Le Strange don't chuse, for it belong to him and he may take what he please first, and some things Catherine Taylor have a note of. Some trifles I have already disposed of, and perhaps may to Cosen Calthorp before my death, which may be crossed out in my codicil. I give to Rev^d Wilson 10 divinity books, either in East Barsham Study, or nine at Hunstanton. To Cosin John Swain a bed that was his Aunt Strutt's."

Thus the Cockthorp line ends like that of Burnham in the person of a female, Elizabeth, and in tracing their lineage we obtain a connected record of a distinguished Norfolk family for above ten generations.

"Indulgent memory wakes, and lo! they live
Tinted in softer hues than light can give."

Their estates, by the laws of succession, are dispersed in



VIEW OF THE CHIMNEY STACK AS SEEN FROM THE LEADS AT THORPLAND HALL.

various channels, but some costly relics, more precious to archæology than bare land or manors, survive the wreck of time. By indentures of lease and release dated May 4 and 5, 1714, Sir Christopher Calthorp for £1700 conveyed to John Clayton of Wells, merchant, a "capital messuage or chief mansion-house," wherein Edwin Wright then dwelt, with 191 acres in Thorpland, Fakenham, and Great Snoring. The "Hall" and the bulk of the estate continued with the Calthorps till 1790, when it was sold to John Hill of Wells; but early in the present century the farms were reunited under the same ownership. The "capital messuage" above named is seen in the opposite illustration in the distance, to the right of the stack of chimneys.

"The mass book given by the Drurys," mentioned in the above codicil, is treasured by Lord Calthorpe, as a missal of such beauty as to deserve a separate notice and illustration in our journal. The bricks of the Wolterton Manor-house continue to hold their own; and with those of the humbler residence of Thorpland, we trust they may prove as enduring as the Roman stones of Branodunum.⁷

⁷ This allusion is suggested to the writer by the gable of a large barn which he constructed at Thorpland, A.D. 1848, from the loose debris of the ashlar of the Roman *Bancaster*, where it had once faced the bastion of the *Porta Decumana* (see plan and section at p. 9 of the *Norwich* vol. of the *Archæological Institute*.) The so-called sugar stone of these blocks was pronounced by the late Dean Buckland to be the "Druid's sandstone," and probably to have done duty as a monolithic enclosure before the Roman occupation.