

LEIGH PLACE IN 1891.

SOME ACCOUNT OF LEIGH PLACE, SURREY, AND OF ITS OWNERS.

BY JOHN WATNEY, F.S.A.

THE parish of Leigh is not mentioned in *Domesday Book*, and was probably at that time part of the manor of Cherchefelle or Reigate, which was held by the king at the time of the survey, or perhaps a part of Ewell, another of the crown manors of which Selewode or Shellwood, now the principal manor in the parish of Leigh, was a member in the time of Henry II. I incline, however, to think that Leigh was part of the great manor of Reigate, which at some time after the Conquest was held by the Earls of Warrenne and Surrey.

In early times, and indeed until very recently, there were only two capital houses in the parish of Leigh, Leigh Place and the manor house of Shellwood. Leigh Place has been called a manor house, but I cannot find that it was entitled to such an appellation. Shellwood manor was, as said above, a member of the manor of Ewell, and was with it granted by King Henry II, in the second year of his reign, 1156, to the priory of Merton, in this county.¹ It was held by the priory until the dissolution of monasteries.

The first reference that I can find to the parish is in a grant of Hamelin, Earl of Warrenne and Surrey (who was an illegitimate son of Geoffrey, Earl of Anjou, husband of the Empress Maud,) and of Isabel his wife. She was the only daughter and heiress of William, second Earl of Warrenne and Surrey, and married, first,

¹ Manning and Bray's *Surrey*, Vol. II, p. 180.

William, Earl of Mortain in Normandy, natural son of King Stephen. Hamelin on his marriage became Earl of Warrenne and Surrey, and died in 3rd John, 1121, his countess having predeceased him in 1119, leaving William their eldest son, who succeeded to the earldom.¹ Earl Hamelin and his wife granted the churches of Creschesfeld (Reigate), Bescheswood (Betchworth), and Leghe, to the priory of St. Mary Overy, in Southwark.²

It has been said that Sir John de Braose, whose two brothers were starved to death by King John in Windsor Castle, and who was killed by a fall from his horse in 1232, owned Leigh, and that in the 13th century frequent mention is made in the records of Sir John Brewse, at Lee or Leigh, but I have not been able to verify this statement.³ The eldest son of Sir John de Braose or Brewse, Lord William, was of Findon in Sussex (a manor held with Leigh in the 16th century), and died in 1290, and Sir Peter de Braose, who died in 1311, a younger son of this William by his third wife, Mary de Roos, had a younger son, Sir John, who was called the Lord of Leigh.⁴ He had issue, John, who had by Joan de Cornwall a son, George Brewes or de Braose, Lord of Leigh, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward St. John, of Godstone, and, dying without issue in 1418, was buried in St. Saviour's Church, Southwark. He held the manors of Crawley, Sidgwick, and Nuthurst, in Sussex; and Leigh, Bookham, Imworth, and Walton, in Surrey. John de Braose had also issue, Margaret, a nun at Havering atte Bower, and Agnes, wife of Urian Seyntpere or de St. Peter, by whom she had a daughter, Isabel, who married Sir Walter Cooksey, of Kidderminster, and died in 1415, and the Leigh estate probably came through her into the Cooksey family, which is said to have held it in the early part of the

¹ Dugdale's *Baronage*.

² Dugdale's *Monasticon*, Vol. VI, p. 172; Manning and Bray, *Surrey*, Vol. I, p. 273; Vol. III, p. 564.

³ MS. addition to Manning and Bray's *Surrey*, in the possession of the writer.

⁴ Manning and Bray, Vol. II, p. 77.

15th century.¹ The arms of this family were at one time in the parish church.

In the bishop's register there is a license to John le Doene, 2 nones Dec. 1324, to have a chapel in his manor or mansion-house of Leigh, for two years, so that no damage was done to the mother church of Leigh.² This chapel might have been in Leigh Place, or perhaps in an ancient farmhouse now called Dean, which is about a mile from Leigh Place, and on the borders of Horley parish.

The next family in possession of Leigh Place, so far as can be traced, was that of Arderne, in the 15th century, but it does not appear in what manner they acquired it. This family had been connected with the county long previously to this date. Thomas Arderne, of Horndon-on-the-Hill in Essex, and Thomas, his son, gave the Church of St. George, in Southwark, and certain tithes in Horndon to the priory of Bermondsey in 1122.³ About 1286, William de Arderne was rector of Merrow;⁴ in 12th Edward II, 1319, John de Arderne and Agnes, his wife, made a grant of lands in Basselagh, a member of the manor of Byfleet;⁵ in 1324, John de Arderne was instituted vicar of Dorking;⁶ and in 10th Edward III, 1336, Roger Arderne was M.P. for the borough of Southwark.⁷

In the patent roll, 21st Edward III,⁸ 1347, there is a grant to Reginald de Cobham, of all the lands and tenements of Sir Thomas de Arderne, Knight, which had escheated to the Crown by reason of the rape of Margery, formerly wife of Nicholas de la Beche, and the murder of Nicholas de Poynings, and other felonies

¹ Manning and Bray, Vol. II, p. 77; and see *History of Castles, Mansions, and Manors of Western Sussex*, by D. G. C. Elwes and the Rev. C. J. Robinson, p. 48.

² Stratford, 8b.

³ Dugdale's *Monasticon*, Vol. I, p. 640.

⁴ Manning and Bray, Vol. III, pp. 60, 63.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 188. Close roll, 1st Edward III, p. 2, m. 67.

⁶ Reg. Stratford, 90a.

⁷ Manning and Bray, Vol. III, p. 649.

⁸ P. 3, memb. 34.

of which the said Thomas was convicted. It is said, in Sir William Burrell's *Sussex Collections*,¹ that Arderne pacified the widow by marrying her, and that his lands were restored; the murder seems to have been forgotten. There is a tradition that the crimes were committed in Leigh, and that the lady died of a broken heart; and it is said that the white lady still haunts the house, but it is very doubtful whether an Arderne held Leigh Place at such an early date.

The first of the Ardernes who is recorded to have held land in Leigh was John Arderne, probably one of the family of that name seated at Cudworth in Warwickshire. There is no evidence to connect the Ardernes of Leigh with the Warwickshire family, except the statement above, but the similarity in the arms borne by the two families makes it probable that they were related.² John Arderne was buried in the chancel of Leigh Church, and had two wives, Margaret and Elizabeth, both of whom died in his lifetime, and six children—Thomas, John, Henry, Anna, Bregitta or Bridget, and Susanna. On a small slab in the middle of the chancel of Leigh Church is a brass, nine inches in length, of Susanna, one of his daughters, with the following inscription:—

Hic iacet Susanna filia Joh̄is
Arderne Armig'i & Elizabeth ux'is
Sue. Cui' aīe ppicietur deus. Amen.

And on a label over the head of the figure—

Mercy Kyū & graunt m'cy.

John Arderne was high sheriff of Surrey and Sussex in 1432, 11th Henry VI. He made his Will on the 1st February, 1446, in which he describes himself as "armiger," and after bequeathing his soul to God, his Saviour and Creator, to the blessed Mary His Mother, to St. Michael the Archangel, and all the holy angels, and to St. Katherine and all the holy virgins, desired, if he should die in or near London, that he should be

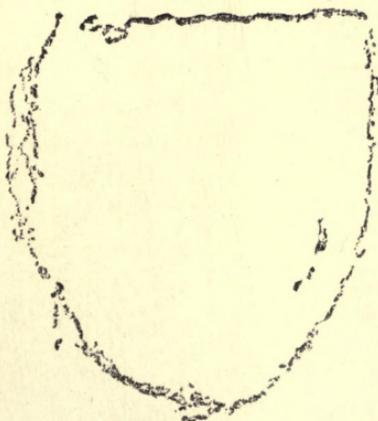
¹ No. 5680, Vol. III, p. 93.

² See Drummond's *Noble Families*, Vol. I, p. 8.

¶ Anni M^o C^o L^o XLV



Susanna filia Joh^{is}
Arderne Arm^{ig}i & Elizabeth^e ux^{is}
sue cu^m aⁿo p^{ro}cur^or^o d^ei Amen



buried in the church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Carmelite Brothers, in London, or Westminster, or near London, under the marble slab where his late wife Margaret lay buried, but, if he should die at Leygh or near that parish, that he should be buried in the chancel of the church of Leygh, under the marble slab where his late wife Elizabeth lay buried. He bequeathed, for the relief of the poor on the day of his burial, 20s., and appointed as executors John Somerset, William Fallan, John Elmerugge and Robert Thorp, and desired that they should carry out his last wishes contained in a schedule under his seal; and further, that John Arderne, his son and heir, and William Selman, should counsel and assist his executors in carrying out his Will. He appointed John Stafford, Archbishop of Canterbury, supervisor, and gave all the residue of his goods, &c., after payment of his legacies and debts, to his said son and heir John Arderne and his daughter Bridget, to be disposed according to the discretion of his executors towards their marriages. The Will was proved at Lambeth on the 12th May, 1449, by William Fallan, John Elmerugge, and Robert Thorp.¹ John Arderne appears to have died at Leigh; he was buried in the chancel of Leigh Church.

On a slab on the northern side of the communion table are two whole length brasses, measuring three feet four inches in length, of John Arderne and Elizabeth his wife, the male figure being habited as a merchant, and the female wearing a horned headdress and a long cloak, on which is a talbot dog. There are smaller figures below them of their six children. The inscription is as follows:—

Thomas, Johānes & Henricus, filii Johānis
Arderne, Armig'i, & Elizabeth ux'is suc.

Anna, Birgitta & Susanna, filie Johānis
Arderne, Armig'i, & Elizabeth ux'is suc.

There is no date to the inscription. On a shield in the corner of the stone above the woman's effigy, is the

¹ Lambeth Library, Archbishop Stafford's Register, fol. 172.

coat of Arderne, *arg.*, a fess chequy *or* and *az.* between three crescents *gu.*, and on a shield below the same coat, impaling 1st and 4th, 2nd and 3rd, paly of six.

As two only of the children of John Arderne, John and Bridget, are mentioned in his Will, it is probable that the others died in his lifetime. John, his second son, who became his heir, succeeded to his estate in Leigh.

In 1453, Flauncheford in Reigate, with certain other lands, was conveyed by feoffment to John Ardern, of the county of Warwick, and Alice his wife, John Gaynesford, Esquire, John Elmerugge, of Albury in Merstham, and John Skynner, in trust for the said John and Alice, for their lives, and the heirs of John Arderne for ever. The letter of attorney for delivering seisin was dated the 12th February, 32nd Henry VI, 1453-4, and on the 20th of the same month and on the 18th October following, Thomas Hornyngescerthe of London released all his right, &c. in the same lands to the said John Arderne and Alice his wife.

The last-mentioned John Arderne is said to have been seised of the manors of Purching, Adberton,¹ La Wick, Hangleton, Fulking, Nutknolle, Bolney, Alburne, Woodmancourt, and Hurst in Sussex, and probably was the same person who had a grant from the crown, *temp.* Henry VI, of the manor of Tooting Bec for ten years, and who was lord of the manor of Imworth in Thames Ditton.²

John Arderne married Alice Grene, and had three children by her, Richard, his heir, Walter, parson of the Church of Cheyham (Cheam) in Surrey, and Elizabeth. I cannot find the date of his death and cannot trace his Will. He is said to have been esquire of the body to King Henry VII, but this seems to be an error, as he must have died before that king's accession. His widow,

¹ In 1327, a charter of free warren was granted to Robert de Arderne as to his manor of Edbarton (Tower Records, 1 Edward III, No. 45), of which, with Perching, he died seised in 1331. (Dugdale's *Warwickshire*, p. 297.)

² Manning and Bray, Vol. I, p. 455*.



Thomas Johannes & Henricus filii Johis
Arderne armigeri & Elizabethæ uxoris sue,

Anna Margrita & Juliana filie Johis
Arderne armigeri & Elizabethæ uxoris sue,

LEIGH, SURREY.
JOHN ARDERNE AND WIFE ELIZABETH.
c. 1450.

Alice, afterwards married John Holgrave, appointed Baron of the Exchequer in 1484,¹ by whom she had four children, Thomas, John, Kateryne, who married Colyns, and Elizabeth. Holgrave died in 1487, and his widow survived him a very short time.²

Leigh Place descended to the eldest son of the second John Arderne, Richard, who made his Will at Boseham, near Chichester in Sussex, on the 18th November, 1499, and there calls himself Richard Ardyn. After bequeathing his soul to Almighty God and our Lady St. Mary, and all the holy company of heaven, he directed his body to be buried in the chancel before the image of St. Kateryn in the parish church of "the Lee," and gave to the same parish church 40s., and to the rood of rest for a "cote" 13s. 4d. He also gave to his brother Thomas Holgrave a gilt cup, and to his brother John Holgrave his chain of gold, and appointed Johen his wife his sole executrix, and gave to her all his goods and chattels, moveable and unmoveable, wheresoever they might be. He further willed that John of Lee,³ of Addynton, Richard Culpex of Ardyng Lee, and John Chaloner, his feoffees, should suffer Johen, his wife, peaceably to enjoy and occupy all his lands without impeachment of waste during her life, and that they should see that his said wife found an honest priest, to pray for him and all his friends and all christian souls, during her life. After her death he gave all his lands unto John Holgrave, his brother, and to his heirs wheresoever they were, and directed his feoffees to see that the said John Holgrave and his heirs found an honest priest for evermore, and to give him £6 : 13s. 4d. by the year to pray for him, for Johen his wife, his father and mother and other friends, and all christian souls. He further gave to Walter Dabernon his house at Craley (Crawley) for

¹ Foss's *Lives of the Judges*, Vol. V, p. 54.

² Wills of John Holgrave, dated 6th August, 1486, Prerogative Register, *Milles*, fol. 4 ; of Alice Holgrave, dated 17th September, 1487, register *Milles*, fol. 4 ; and of Walter Arderne, parson of Chyeham, dated 13th September, 1492, *Dogett*, fol. 9.

³ Blank in Will.

evermore, and to Richard Stylar, after the death of his wife, all his houses and lands in the parish of Rowsper; the said Richard, his heirs and assigns, to make an obit once a year to the value of 6s. 8d. for him and Johen his wife and all christian souls, the said obit to be continued for evermore. Richard Arderne died on the 22nd November, 1499, and his Will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 2nd February, 1499-1500.¹ Thomas Grene, vicar of Boseham, was one of the witnesses.

Richard Arderne was buried on the south side of the chancel of Leigh Church, where are indents for a man and woman (the brasses themselves having been lost for many years), with supplicatory labels issuing from the mouths of the figures with the following inscriptions:—

(Man) ut videntes Hūm̄ semper collemur.

(Woman) fili redemptor mūdi deus miserere nobis.

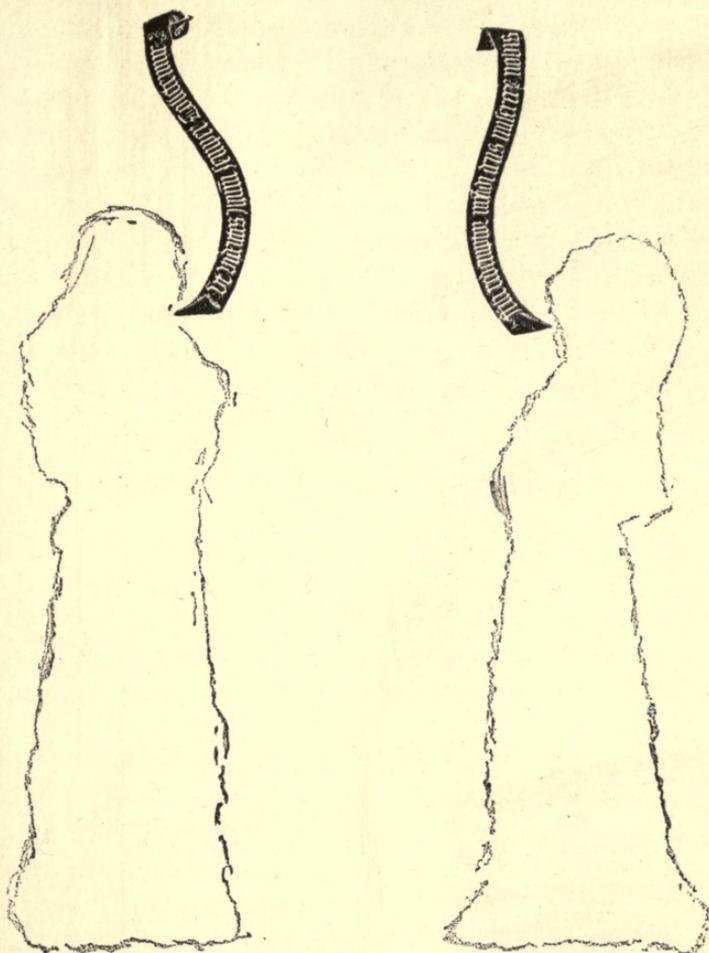
Underneath is the following inscription:—

Orate pro animabus Ricardi Ardern Gentilman et Johanne uxoris eius qui quidem Ricardus obiit xxij^o die Mensis Nouembris Anno Dñi Millmo CCC^olxxxix^o. Quorū animabus Propiciet' deus. Amen.

There are also four shields with the arms of Arderne as above, and the same coat impaling [*sable,*] a chevron between three stags trippant [*argent*]. There is also a small brass on the top of the stone with a representation of the Trinity; God the Father holding the Saviour on the cross, on which the Dove is sitting. All these brasses are engraved in Drummond's *Noble Families*, and are shown in the annexed plates.

There is no record of the foundation of the chantry mentioned in Richard Arderne's Will, and it is uncertain whether he intended it should be founded in Leigh or some other church; neither is there any record of the death of Joan Ardern, nor the succession of John Holgrave, his step-brother, to the estate. Not long

¹ Prerogative Calendar, *Moone*, fol. 5.



Orate pro Annabus Ricardi viduę Gentilman et Johanne uxoris eius
 qui quondam Ricardus obiit xxii die mensis Nouembris Anno dñi
 Millesimo CCCo xxxix Quoru Annabus Propiciat deus amen



after Arderne's death, however, Leigh Place appears to have been purchased or acquired in some way by Edmund Dudley, the minister of King Henry VII. There would appear to have been some connection between the families of Arderne and Dudley, for in the act 3rd Henry VIII, c. xix, for the restitution of John Dudley, mentioned below, it was provided that the act should not affect the title of Thomas Stydolphe to the reversion of a messuage in Cheapside in London, which Margaret, then the wife of John Theccher and late wife of Richard Arderne, of the parish of Lee, in the county of Surrey, gentleman, then held for the term of her life. It is possible that Margaret was the same person as Joan, widow of Richard Arderne, mentioned above, and that a mistake was made in her christian name in the act. There is a grant recorded, dated the 10th February, 1510-11, to John Kirton, John Ernley, the King's attorney, Richard Dudley, clerk, Sir Andrew Wyndesore, Sir Stephen Jenyns, Richard Broke, Richard Hesketh, and Henry Tyngelden, of certain lands in Sussex, and of lands in Godstone, Lingfield, Lagham (Leigh), and Horne in Surrey, forfeited by Edmund Dudley,¹ who was executed on the 28th August previously, and the grant was no doubt made in trust for Dudley's family. On the 4th February, 1511-12, there is a petition on the rolls of parliament for the restitution of John, son of Edmund Dudley,² and the act mentioned above was passed in the same year, reversing the attainder of Edmund Dudley, and conditionally reinstating John Dudley his son, then under age (he was born in 1502), and appointing Edward Guldeford, esquire of the body to the king, his guardian during his minority.³

John Dudley, who afterwards became Duke of Northumberland, is said to have lived at Leigh Place, and there is a tradition that his daughter-in-law Lady Jane Grey occasionally stayed at the house, but this cannot

¹ Pat., 2nd Henry VIII, p. 2, m. 12.

² Parl. R., 3rd Henry VIII, c. 19, p. 2, m. 31.

³ Exemplification in Pat., 4th Henry VIII, p. 2, m. 36.

be true, if her visits there were to Dudley, as she was not born when he sold it.

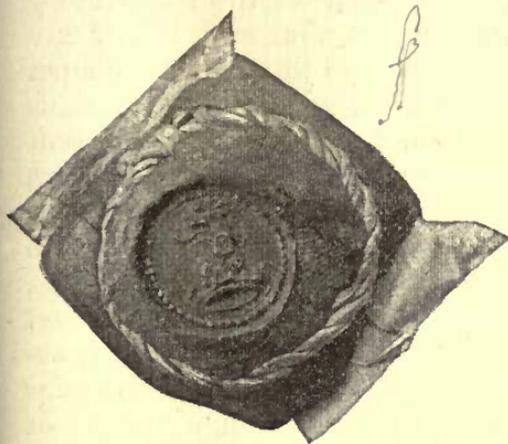
Dudley sold the estate to Edward Shelley, of Fyndon, in 1530, and conveyed it to him by deed of the 10th September, 22nd Henry VIII. In this deed it is recited that Sir John Dudley, by indenture of the 20th May, 19th Henry VIII, 1527, had conveyed to Edward Shelley the manor of Fyndon, in Sussex, which had belonged to Edmund Dudley,¹ father of Sir John Dudley, except only to the said Sir John Dudley reserved all manner of bondmen to the said manor regardant or belonging, and that Shelley had agreed to resell the manor to Dudley. In consideration of such sale, Dudley agreed to sell to Shelley "a messuage called the Lye Place, with the appurtenances in the parish of Lye, in the county of Surrey, and the lands called Flansford, lying in the parish of Rygate, then in the occupation of John Howlet, with a water mill, called Flansford Mill, in the said parish of Rygate; and also another tenement and lands called Hartyswood, in the parish of Buckland, then in the occupation of James Clyfford, all which lands were of the clear yearly value of £14 sterling over and above all charges;" and Dudley covenanted that he and Dame Jane his wife should bar the dower of the said Dame Jane, and also that he would grant a lease to Shelley, of Fyndon Farm (which Henry Coke then held in farm), for 30 years from Michaelmas day, 1530, at the rent of £13: 6s. 8d., and to pay to Shelley £100.² This Edward Shelley was the second son of John Shelley, of Michelgrove in

¹ This manor was conveyed by deed dated 28th October, 12th Henry VII, 1494, to Sir Richard Guldeford, a relation of the Dudleys, John Dudley having married Jane, daughter of Sir Edward Guldeford, son of Sir Richard. (*History of Castles, &c. of Western Sussex*, by Elwes and Robinson, p. 94.) From the act 3rd Henry VIII, mentioned above, it would appear that the manor of Fyndon had been vested in Edmund Dudley, for it is provided that it should not extend or be prejudicial to the title of Sir Thomas Howard, Knight, to that manor, which had been granted by letters patent to Lord Howard. The manor must, however, have been afterwards acquired by John Dudley.

² Deed in possession of the present owners of the estate.

Sussex, and ancestor of the poet Shelley, and of the Lords de l'Isle of Penshurst.

Facsimiles of the signature and seal of Sir John Dudley attached to the above deed are below:—



John Dudley

At the Epiphany Sessions for the County of Surrey in 1534, among the defaults and common nuisances of bridges and causeways in the hundred of Reigate, the bridge before Mr. Shellie's place at Lye is mentioned.¹

It appears from an inquisition,² on the death of Dame Elizabeth Copley, taken at Southwark, on the 29th April, 1560, before John Selwyn, Esquire, Escheator in Surrey, that Edward Shelley, described of Fyndon, in the county of Sussex, and Anne Cobbe, Widow, were seized of one messuage, 200 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, and 20 acres of wood, with the appurtenances in Ley and of 40 acres of pasture in Becheworth, in the county of Surrey, and being so seized by their charter, dated the 10th March, 31st Henry VIII, 1539, gave and granted to Sir Roger Copley and Elizabeth, his wife, the aforesaid messuage and land, by the name of all that mansion, messuage or farm with one dovecot, called "Le Ley," and one other messuage and all free lands, tenements, meadows,

¹ Harleian MS. 6166, fol. 108.

² *Inquisition post mortem*, 2nd Elizabeth, part I, no. 145, and also *Inquisition post mortem*, 28th Elizabeth, no. 85.

feedings, woods, underwoods, commons, rents, services, liberties, franchises, and other free tenements and hereditaments, and every of them, in Ley and Becheworth, and all other their lands, &c. in the vills, fields and parishes of Ley and Becheworth or elsewhere in the said county of Surrey, to hold the same to the aforesaid Roger and Elizabeth, their heirs and assigns, to the use and behoof of the said Roger and Elizabeth, their heirs and assigns for ever. It was also found on the said inquisition that the above-mentioned messuage and premises in Ley were held of Francis Carowe, Esquire, of his manor of Bansted, in the same county, in free socage, by fealty and the yearly rent of 11 shillings for all services.¹

Sir Roger Copley was the eldest son of Roger Copley, of Roughway in Sussex, by Jane, daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Lord Hoo and Hastings.² He was married first to Jane, daughter of Henry Lode, of Kingsley, Hants; and secondly, in Leigh Church,³ to Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Shelley, who was the eldest brother of Edward Shelley before mentioned, and became Recorder of London in 1520, Sergeant-at-Law in 1521, and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1527. Sir William Shelley was sent to Cardinal Wolsey, at Esher, to obtain a surrender of York House from him to King Henry VIII. Wolsey demurred, saying that he had no power to alienate the possessions of the church, and that "the judges should put no more in the king's head than that law which might stand with

¹ Part of the land in the parish of Leigh is held of the manor of Bansted.

² Lord Hoo married first, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Felton, Knight; secondly, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Nicholas Wichlingham, Knight, by whom he had an only daughter, Anne, married to Sir Geoffrey Bullen, Knight, from whom Queen Elizabeth was descended; and thirdly, Alianore, daughter of Leo, Lord Welles, and sister and heiress of Richard, Lord Welles, by whom he had issue—Jane, married to Sir Roger Copley; Alianore, married to Sir James Carew, Knight, of Beddington, co. Surrey; and Elizabeth. (Burke's *Extinct Peerage*.)

³ So it is stated in a MS. in possession of the writer, but the marriage does not appear in the parish register.

conscience.” Shelley replied that, having regard to the king’s great power, it might better stand with conscience, as he might recompense the church of York with double the value.¹ Shortly after, Shelley obtained a grant from the king of the manor of Gatton, in Surrey, which he is said to have settled on his daughter Elizabeth.² He died in 1548, and his arms with the sword of justice were formerly in Leigh Church.³

The family of Copley appear to have been connected with this part of Surrey, for the prior and convent of Lewes presented the Rev. Edward Copley to the rectory of Merstham in 1488,⁴ and Catherine of Arragon presented the Rev. Robert Copley to the rectory of Walton-on-the-Hill,⁵ of which he was deprived in 1561. Roger Copley was High Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex in 6th Henry VIII, 1514, and again as Sir Roger Copley in 21st Henry VIII, 1529.⁶

Some members of the family were members of the Mercers’ Company of London. Sir Roger Copley was admitted to the freedom of the Company in 1456, having been apprenticed to Richard Claver, and was warden of the Company in 1471. His second son, Richard, appears to have been admitted by patrimony in 1498, and his eldest son, Sir Roger Copley, was admitted also by patrimony in 1541. Sir Thomas Copley, son of Sir Roger, was admitted also by patrimony in 1562.

Lady Copley survived her husband, having had by him an only son, Thomas, who was born in 1534, and three daughters—Bridget (a very learned lady, said to have been Latin instructress to Queen Elizabeth), who married Richard Southwell, of St. Faith’s, in Norfolk, and was the mother of Robert Southwell, the Jesuit; Kateryne, who married Sir Robert Lane, of Horton, in Northamptonshire; and Margaret, who married in May,

¹ Cavendish’s *Life of Wolsey*, p. 187.

² Manning and Bray, Vol. II, p. 231.

³ MS. in the possession of the writer.

⁴ Manning and Bray, Vol. II, p. 239.

⁵ Horn, 4b. Manning and Bray, Vol. II, p. 648.

⁶ Manning and Bray, Vol. I, p. xxxvii.

1559, as his second wife, John Gage, of Firle, in Sussex,¹ eldest son of Sir Edward Gage, K.B.

Dame Elizabeth Copley and her son, soon after the latter attained his majority, granted the Leigh Place estate to William Henshawe, of Gatton, gentleman, and Agnes Hyder, of Sompting in Sussex, widow,² and they, by deed of the 9th of February, 1556-7, regranted the same to Dame Elizabeth Copley, widow, and Thomas Copley, her son and heir apparent, by the description of the capital mansion or messuage called "the Lye," and one dovehouse and lands in the parishes and fields of Lye and Betchworth, which were formerly in the tenure of Thomas Colbrande and then in lease to Alexander Hewse for 21 years, at the rent of £50 per annum.³

Dame Elizabeth Copley made her Will on the 14th December, 1558, 1st Elizabeth, and directed that her body should be buried with that of her husband in the church of St. Oliff's, Southwark. She gave and bequeathed to her daughter Margaret all her yearly rents, issuing out of her lands and tenements, as well copyhold as freehold, in the parish of Lie in the county of Surrey, to her own use yearly until she should be married, but, if her said daughter could not have the said yearly rents, then she gave and bequeathed to her all her yearly rents issuing out of her manor at Bedham, in the county of Sussex, and out of the farm and tenements in Merstham, which she had lately purchased of her cousin Leonard Dunnett, to have and receive the same to her own use until she should be married. She gave and bequested to her son Thomas Copley the manor of Eyefield in Norfolk, the said manor of Bedham, and all her manors, lands, &c. in Bedyngton, Bandon, Gatton, Merstham, and Lie in Surrey, and all other her lands, &c. within the realm of England, which she had purchased, either jointly with

¹ There is a brass in Firle Church to the memory of John Gage and his two wives, and on the wall, above the figure of his second wife, Margaret Copley, are the arms of Gage impaling *argent*, a cross moline; *sable*, for Copley. (Gage's *Antiquities of Hengrave*, p. 237.)

² Deed in the possession of the owners of the estate.

³ *Ibid.*

her late husband, to their heirs, or else solely to herself and her heirs, to hold the same for five years, if her Will should not be performed before the said five years had expired; and, after the expiration of such five years, she willed that all the same manors, &c. should wholly remain and be to her said son Thomas Copley and his heirs male, with remainder in default of such heirs, to the heirs male of her daughters Dame Kateryne Lane and Bridget Southwell, with remainder over to the heirs female of her said son and three daughters Kateryne, Bridget, and Margaret, in equal shares, with an ultimate remainder to her nephew Henry Shelley, eldest son of her brother, Thomas Shelley, and his heirs for ever. She appointed Thomas Copley, her son, her sole executor, and her son-in-law, Sir Robert Lane, her cousin Thomas Wutton and her brother Thomas Shelley her overseers, and directed her executor to give to each of her overseers a ring of the value of 26s. 8d., with a death's head and this word in it, "Remember thy frende."

Lady Copley made a codicil to her Will on the 16th of July, 1559, in which she stated that she had lived to see her daughter Margaret married¹ and bestowed to her comfort, and revoked all the bequests in her Will in favour of her said daughter, saving that which touched the entail of her lands to her and her heirs for fault of issue male of her son Thomas Copley, so that her said son paid 1,000 marks, which she stood bound to pay to Sir Edward Gage for the marriage of her daughter, should the same or any part be unpaid at her death. In the codicil she gave to her daughter Kateryne Lane a chain of gold, to her daughter Bridget Southwell, £13: 6s. 8d. for a token of remembrance, and to her daughter Marie Shelley,² a satin gown furred. She died on the 25th December, 1559, and her Will and codicil were proved on the 9th January following.³ Thomas

¹ She married, as stated above, John Gage, of Firle.

² Daughter of Sir Roger Copley by his first wife, Jane Lode, and wife of Thomas Shelley, of Mapledurham, Oxfordshire.

³ Prerogative Register, *Mellershe*, 5.

Copley her eldest son was 25 years old and more at the time of his mother's death.¹

Thomas Copley was seized of several manors in Surrey as well as in other counties. In the early part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth he purchased from Sir John Whitt, Alderman of London, the manor of Colley in Reigate, with London Lands and Larke Lands in the same parish.² On the 26th May, 10th Elizabeth, 1568, licence was granted to Francis Southwell to alien to Thomas Copley, after the death of Margaret, wife of William Plumbe, who held it for her life, the reversion of the manor of Merstham and 40 messuages, 2 water-mills, 2 windmills, 2 dovehouses, 40 gardens, 40 orchards, 500 acres of land, 200 acres of pasture, 120 acres of wood, 300 acres of furze and heath, and £16 rent in Merstham, Gatton, Chipsted, Cowlesdon, Chawldon, Blechingley, Nutfield, Horley, Charlewood, and Reigate, and the conveyance was accordingly made by bargain and sale dated the 28th December, 10th Elizabeth, and enrolled in Chancery.³ The manor of Merstham and 16 acres of land in Merstham, of the yearly value of £33, was held of the Queen, in capite, by payment of the twentieth part of a knight's fee. Copley also had half the manor of Stone Court in Kersalton, and the manor of the Maze in Southwark, which descended to him from his parents.⁴

He was M.P. for Gatton in the following Parliaments: 1st Mary, 1st and 2nd Philip and Mary, 4th and 5th Philip and Mary, and 1st and 5th Elizabeth. He appears to have been a protestant in the time of Queen Mary, and was committed to the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms for having spoken "unreverent words" in the House of Commons concerning the bill for confirmation of patents, saying that he feared the Queen might thereby give away the Crown from the right inheritor.

¹ *Inq. p. m.*, 2 Elizabeth.

² Manning and Bray, Vol. I, p. 312.

³ Patent, 10th Eliz., p. 6; Manning and Bray, Vol. II, p. 256.

⁴ *Inq. p. m.*, 26th May, 28th Eliz. 1584; Manning and Bray, Vol. II, p. 256.

Copley desired the house to consider his youth and that if he had been guilty of an offence, it might be imputed to his young years.¹

He married in July, 1558, Catherine, eldest daughter and coheirress of Sir John Luttrell, of Dunster Castle in Somersetshire, "who was handsome," having it is said before that turned his attention to the daughter of Lord William Howard, afterwards Lord Howard of Effingham. There is a curious letter among the Losely MSS. from Thomas Copley to Sir Thomas Carwarden, dated from Gatton on the 18th July, 1558, asking him secretly to lend him the use of one of his masks for one night, against his marriage, which (in an ill hour for him) was like to be solemnised on the next Sunday at Nonsuch. He also asked Sir Thomas Carwarden and his wife to the wedding and hoped that no harm would come of it.² The mask to be borrowed probably included the garments and properties necessary for representing it, and perhaps also the manuscript of the performance.

Copley soon after his marriage went abroad, and was in France when Queen Mary died, but he returned to England almost immediately after the accession of Queen Elizabeth, the commissioners who had been sent to France to treat for the recovery of Calais having despatched him to England with letters of congratulation to the new Queen.³

Thomas Copley, after the accession of Elizabeth, appears to have reverted to the old religion,⁴ and was in trouble for refusing to subscribe to the Act of Parliament of the 1st Elizabeth, c. 1, for restoring to the crown the ancient jurisdiction over the state ecclesiastical and

¹ Journals of the House of Commons, Vol. I, p. 50.

² Kempe's *Losely MSS.*, p. 59.

³ Stevenson State papers, *Elizabeth*, Foreign Series, 1558, no. 23.

⁴ According to Father Parsons, in the relation of a trial between the Bishop of Evreux and the Sieur Plessis Mornay, the falsehoods he found in Jewel's *Apology*, in 1562, led to his conversion to the Church of Rome. (*Dictionary of National Biography.*)

spiritual, and abolishing all foreign powers repugnant to the same.

A curious letter is extant among the Losely MSS. from him to the Sheriff and Justices of Surrey, excusing himself from complying with the statute, and stating reasons why he should be relieved from the obligation. The letter is dated the 23rd November, 1569, and is copied below.

“THOMAS COPLEY TO THE SHERIFF AND JUSTICES OF SURREY.

“After my right hearty commendations unto you all. For that the true knowledge how God should be served and the true order of the administration of the sacraments was known, practised and established in the Church of God, long before the Act of Parliament was made, whereunto I should now subscribe, and that the referring, as it were, of the original and true setting forth thereof to the said act so lately made should seem a great derogation to the christain faith and a great slander and discredit to the Church of God, that the same should be so many ages after ignorant, how God should be served, or a false teacher of his people, which cannot be, since the Apostle saith that the same is *Columna et firmamentum veritatis*, and because, without a faithless mistrust in God, it may not, in my opinion, in word or thought be doubted, that God, who being truth itself, and promising that he would be with his church, not after 1,500 years only, but *omnibus diebus usque ad consumacionem seculi*, by all days to the world's end, and to instruct the same into all truth, which words admit no intermission, would, contrary to His divine promise, suffer such long and general error and blindness in His Church, as is by some imagined. For these and divers other great causes (too many in a letter to be rehearsed unto you), I cannot yet, by any search, find sufficient matter to persuade me with safe conscience to that which is at this present required of me; amongst others, I see the great danger of displeasure, restraint and much hindrance and trouble, that is likely hereby to grow unto me, without the great mercy and favour of my Lords of the Privy Council.

“Neither am I so senseless or stony, but that I feel grief thereof, and gladly would avoid the same and do with all my heart as others do, being I know much wiser than myself, if I could do it without fear of danger and by offence of God and my conscience, not being persuaded in this point as some others perhaps be. Wherefore I most instantly require you all, if it may be, to grant me longer respite for the informing of my conscience in this case. If you cannot so do, then for my excuse of my not subscribing at this present, to send up even this my letter to my Lords and others of the Privy Council, whose honours I trust will, of their great mercy and goodness, have favourable consideration of this my doing, not proceeding, I protest before God, of any obstinacy, but only of mere fear to offend my

conscience. And farther that I might find so much favour and friendship at your hands, that you would be contented for neighbourhood to afford herewithall to my said Lords a few favourable lines from yourselves in the favour of me, your poor neighbour and loving friend, which I doubt not should procure me more grace at their Lordships hands in this behalf than any mine own private suit can do. In which your friendly doing, as by your charitable compassion therein appearing of your neighbour's affliction, you should singularly please God and avoid from yourselves and others the danger which the Apostle admonisheth you of in these words, "*Peritur infirmus in tuâ conscientia, frater, propter quem Christus mortuus est; Sic autem peccatis in fratres et percutietis conscientiam eorum infirmorum in Christum*, which sinning against Christ were, as ye see, dangerous to such as should urge men to the offence of my conscience in this case, so shall I herein have cause to acknowledge myself much beholden to you all in general, and especially to such of you in particular as I shall understand to be furtherers of this my reasonable suit, as knoweth the Almighty, of whom I heartily wish unto you all the love, fear and true knowledge, with prosperous success, in all your worldly affairs to his honor, XXIII of November, 1569.

"Your loving neighbour and assured poor friend,

"THO. COPPLEY.

"To Sir Henry Weston Knight,
high Sheriff of the County
of Surrey, and to the
Justices of the Peace of the
said Shire assembled at
Dorking, and to every of
them."¹

Thomas Copley claimed to be related to Queen Elizabeth through his great grandfather, Thomas, Lord Hoo and Hastings, whose eldest daughter Anne married Sir Geoffrey Boleyn, the great grandfather of Queen Elizabeth, and sometimes claimed and assumed the titles of Lord Hoo, Hastings, and Welles, from his maternal ancestors.² He was related to Lady Burleigh and Lady Walsingham, and, but for his troublesome conscience, might have risen to eminence in the service of the Queen. She is said to have been godmother in 1560 to his eldest son, to whom she gave the name of her father, Henry.

Thomas Copley, after suffering some years' imprison-

¹ Kempe's *Losely MSS.*, p 243.

² *Dictionary of National Biography.*

ment as a popish recusant, with other persons disaffected to the English Government and the reformed religion, retired to Louvain in the Spanish Netherlands about the year 1570.¹ Camden styles him "E primariis inter profugos Anglos." In 1574, Burleigh inscribes in his list the name of Copley, as having a pension from the King of Spain of 60 ducats a month.² He is mentioned incidentally in the instructions given by Don Lewis Zuniga de Requesens, Spanish Governor of the Netherlands, in a commission to Boischot, who was sent into England in 1575 to levy, with the Queen's leave, ships and sailors to fight against the Hollanders and Zealanders. Boischot failed in his purpose and then made suit, that the Queen would not be offended, if the English exiles in the Netherlands served under the Spaniards in sea-fight against the Hollanders. The Queen in no wise consented, but hoped that Requesens would not favour those rebels, and notably Thomas Copley, for it appeared that the Spaniards purposed to send him forth to make prizes.³

In the year 1574, it was announced in England that the King of Spain⁴ had made Copley Baron of Gatton and Raughey, and Master of the Maze. Amongst the Loseley manuscripts is a copy of letters patent dated the 30th June, 1575, drawn by A. Van Horne, notary public, and signed at Antwerp, whereby Thomas Copley, a noble Englishman, Lord of Maze, Gatton, Mersham, Colleye, Rowgheye, Warnham, &c., appointed John Blinkesope, of London, gentleman, one of his substitutes and deputies, to act against a fleet of pirates on the authority of letters of marque granted to the same Thomas Copley by Don Lewis de Requesens, which letters of marque, recited in the patent, set forth the

¹ In Manning and Bray's *Surrey*, Vol. III, p. cxliii, quoting from the court-rolls of the manor of Shellwood, in Leigh, it is stated that Copley fled the country, and a commission was issued to inquire what land he held.

² Strype's *Annals of the Reformation*, Vol. II, p. 333.

³ Camden's *Annals of Queen Elizabeth*.

⁴ This must have been a mistake.

injuries done by a fleet of pirates, infesting the shores of the Low Countries, to the shipping of Spanish, French and English adventurers, and also set forth the terms and conditions on which the said Thomas Copley was invested with authority to act as a belligerent against the depredators, and to depute others to act under him as belligerents. The letters of marque reserved to his Catholic Majesty a tenth part of the prizes made under that authority, and in the patent it is stipulated that one-fifth part of the prizes made by John Blinkesope, should be paid to Thomas Brook, of Gatton, Gentleman, lately dwelling with the magnificent¹ Humphrey White, of Watling Street, London, Citizen and merchant taylor.²

Copley appears to have offended the English Government by taking upon himself titles to which he had no right and for issuing letters of marque against the subjects of the Queen, and, on the 15th November, 1575, he wrote the following characteristic letter to Elizabeth. It has been damaged by fire and is partly illegible.

“MOST GRACIOUS QUEEN AND MY MOST DEAR SOVEREIGN.

“That my humble duty in most lowly and obedient sort to your sacred Majesty may it please the same to be advertised, that I have of late to my great grief understood by Mons^r de Boscot, duly arrived in this Court, that your Majesty is somewhat offended with me for having sought to draw from thence some of your Majesty’s subjects, viz^t mariners and seamen to the service of the King against his rebels without your Majesty’s knowledge and for attributing to myself greater titles than your Majesty thought I could avow, being a simple gentleman and of mean estate. This point I have thought it my duty forthwith to send in defence of my poor credit, loyalty and reputation, which I respect more than my life, and for the satisfying of your Majesty, which I perceive to have been uninformed of my doings.

“To the first, I saw, Most Gracious Sovereign, so many apparent arguments and had daily so many credible reports of your Majesty’s most faithful loving and sincere amitie towards the King Catholique and so much better liking your Majesty shewed to have of those your

¹ Probably *magnifico*.

² *Historical Manuscripts Commission*, VIIth Report, Appendix, p. 628A. Mrs. Copley is stated to have lodged in 1569–70 with Mr. White, Merchant Taylor, in Bow Lane, one of her tenants.

subjects, which serve that good King than of those that employed themselves against him, that I was encouraged (having commission to that end granted unto me) to such my countrymen as would either for good will to the King desire to experience or give to themselves, or the willingness to recover or revenge their losses and wrong done to them by the, when upon knowledge of that my advanced themselves to the service of his Majesty against those his rebels, wherein that I had such dutiful report of your Majesty, (my most dear Sovereign,) and of my country. As sure as I there is no one letter of marque passed my hand, that hath not an especial clause in it forbidding, upon pain of grievous punishment, any attempt to be made by color thereof against your Majesty or any whatsoever of your Majesty's subjects, and every my substitute was not only sworn thereto in my presence, but also bound to me in a bond of £1,000, truly to keep and observe that and all other the covenants comprised in his patent, and, if I or any of them have done contrary to your spoil or cost, or hurt of any of your Majesty's subjects, I crave no pardon or favor in that case either for myself or any of them.

"Of this commission your Majesty was advertised by express letters from my Lord the Commendador Major of Castilla, Governor of this Estate, and your Highness' favor required to this service and willingness granted for aught that ever I heard or saw cause to suspect to the contrary. My servant also and friends, to whom at the earnest request of the Admiral here, I wrote to see if they could help us with some watermen for the vacation time to serve the King here, (who wanted then skilful rowers for the 20 new galleys that were builded here this summer,) dealt so openly with your common whirrey men yet your Majesty shall, I trust, not find any probable argument to think that I had any intention to do what I did without your Majesty's knowledge, or to any undutiful end and so I most humbly beseech your Majesty to conceive.

"As to the other point, where your Majesty shewed to be informed, that I had attributed to myself in those letters of marque greater titles than became me or than I could well avow, that must needs be either in that I termed myself *nobilis Anglus*, or in that, for more credit both to myself and your service, I was bold to set down *Dominus de Gatton Roughey* etc. naming certain my Lordships. To the first I beseech your Majesty to consider, that there is no other Latin word proper to signify a gentleman born, but *nobilis*. As for *generosus*, as I have read in good writers *Vinum generosum*, for a good cup of wine and *equus generosus* for a courageous horse, so I never heard *generosus* alone so used, to signify a gentleman born, but only in the gross Latin current in Westminster Hall, and, if I had set down *generosus Anglus*, it would have then construed rather a gentle Englishman than an English gentleman. And as for *armiger*, it had been yet more barbarous, for surely the world here abroad would rather have understood by that strange term a page or a sword-bearer than a gentleman of the better sort, as custom has made it to be construed in England; that this is simply true, I doubt not, but that your Majesty, excelling in

your knowledge of good letters, will easily judge a gracious sentence on my suit, . . . so that in setting down the term *nobilis* used through the world for a gentleman, I had no intention to make myself more noble than I am, but to take only that which was due unto me.

“The names of some my Lordships grew of usage here, where in such public instruments a gentleman will not lightly leave out the name of any his seignories, because he that cannot truly mention in his style the name of some seignory, whereof he is Lord, is reputed either an obscure person or a very simple hidalgo. Wherefore if concerning which the better sort of the Spanish nation were envious in resenting those points of honor, I was bound to name some of the Lordships that belong unto me according to custom here in those cases.

“I trust your Majesty will not take it in evil part to graciously allow me that offence to serve myself with the names of my lands at the least when occasion so requireth.

“Other titles than these I am sure cannot be found in any letters of marque given out by me against the King’s rebels, whereunto any exception can justly be taken.

“And where it was further stated I found one that looked to fish in troubled water, (which words grieved me very much,) I beseech your Majesty to consider it is hard to find any water in all Christendom at this day not troubled with the turbulent practices of factions and unquiet heads about private quarrels cloaked with public pretences. No Madam . . . to fish in troubled water I am thrown thereinto by necessity and not by my own will. It would be much more agreeable to me to fish in the calmer streams and sweet water of my own goods in my dear country, and that may be, when it shall like the Almighty to work in your Majesty’s heart some compassion of me and toleration of my case.

“In the meantime, being prostrate in heart at the feet of your sacred Majesty, I most humbly beseech your favor, even for the love and honor of God, to redeem me in your Majesty’s favor and if in this service aught by me done, aggravated by my enemies, shall be made to seem offensive graciously to pardon it; I will faithfully promise your Majesty thereupon I will seek all the means I can, (so soon as I shall possibly be able to live elsewhere,) to withdraw myself with license and favor of the King’s Majesty to some such other Estate or place farther off, where no occasion shall be in likelihood to offer of service, that may be anywise offensive to your Majesty, whose heart and counsels I most humbly beseech our Lord so to direct, as may be to his honor and to the long preservation of your Royal person and estate in perfect felicity.

“From Antwerp this 18th Nov^r 1575.

“Your Majesty’s most
humble and obedient
servant and subject

“To the sacred Royal
Majesty of the Queen
My Sovereign.”¹

THOMAS COPPLEY.

¹ Cottonian MSS., *Galba*, c. v. 211.

It is said that about this time Thomas Copley and his eldest son Henry were knighted by King Henry III of France, but from the letter of Thomas Copley of the 5th of September, 1577, referred to below, it would seem that he did not receive that honour until two years later. Henry Copley was, however, probably knighted before his death at Paris, of pleurisy, in 1576. But if Thomas Copley had been knighted before the date of his Will (the 25th September, 1576), he would probably have described himself in it as Sir Thomas Copley, and not Thomas Copley, Esquire.

Thomas Copley made his Will at Lierre, in the Duchy of Brabant, on the 25th September, 1576, in which he described himself as Thomas Copley, of Gatton, Esquire, and desired to be buried in the parish where he should die, or in some religious house, with as little pomp as might be, only some remembrance of him in Latin to be graven on the stone that should cover him, as should be devised by his friend Dr. Stapleton, whom he required to afford him that last office of friendship. He gave all his goods and chattels in England and "on this side the seas," not otherwise disposed of, to his wife Katheryne Copley, and appointed her during widowhood, and after her remarriage his brothers,¹ John Gage, of West Firle, Sussex, and Richard Southwell, executors. He desired that his eldest son Henry being dead, his son William should remain abroad until he was 21, and that his education should be in the discretion of his wife, who was to follow the advice of his uncle, the Lord Prior of England, and of his friend Dr. Stapleton, the rest of his children to be in the governance of his wife, until she married, and then of his brothers Gage and Southwell. He gave to each of his daughters, Margaret, Helen and Marie, 500 marks on their attaining 25 or marriage, if they should marry with the consent of his wife and of his sisters Southwell, White and Shelley. He gave and bequeathed to his trusty servant Thomas Brooke a lease of the farm of

¹ Brothers-in-law.

Lee, both of the freehold and the copyhold, so far as he could by law without forfeiture of the said copyhold; Brooke to obtain the consent of the lord of the manor, whereof the copyhold was holden, and to pay yearly for it £30 and the discharge of the lord's rent for the copyhold, the lease to continue during Brooke's life. But if the farm should happen to be in lease at his death, then that Brooke should have an annuity of 30 marks, to be taken out of the rent reserved by such lease. Copley left his books, both in England and elsewhere, except those prohibited by the last general council of Trent, which were to be burnt, to his son William, whom, so far as he might dispose, he gave and dedicated to the service of God in the church, and trusted that God would so inspire him with his grace, that he should rather choose the reverend and honourable order of the priesthood, than to follow the lay and secular life. To his most loving sister Southwell and to every of his wife's sisters he left a gold ring, to wear in memory of him, that should weigh in gold 20s. sterling, besides the fashion which he willed to be a death's head, with the words "Mors mihi merces," and on the inside, to be graven and enamelled his black cross with a T on one side of it and a C on the other;¹ and to every of their husbands and to his cousin George Cotten a cross of gold weighing 40s. sterling, besides the fashion, whereon he would have enamelled on the right side a red cross, and on the back side a black cross which was in his arms, and graven about it these words, "In hoc signo vici"; and to his son William, with the best of his apparel, his great ring with his seal of arms and his seal of silver.

Touching his lands in the realm of England, he left to the heirs of his body all his manors and lands, &c. whereof he was seized in tail general or special, to the intent that of the same the Queen's Majesty might have and take the full third part thereof, for wardship, livery, or primer seisin, according to the laws and

¹ Alluding to the cross moline *sable* in his coat of arms.

customs of the realm, if it should evidently appear that he held any land *in capite*, which to his knowledge he did not, as he was moved to think, because he himself being within full age at the death of his father was not in ward. And he directed that the said Kateryne Copley, his wife, might have such part and portion of the said lands, tenements and hereditaments, whereof he was seised in tail, amounting over and above the said full third part as should appertain to her in respect of her jointure or dowry; and as a further augmentation or increase to her, he bequeathed his manors of Merstham and Colley, London lands, Lee, Cassalton, Beddington and Bandon, in the county of Surrey, his manor of Goldwall *alias* Hevenden, in the parishes of Byddenden and Tenterden, in the county of Kent, with all their appurtenances, to his wife for her natural life; and if she should marry again, she was to have the jointure then already assigned to her, or her dower of the third part of all his lands, if she liked to stand to her dower and waive the jointure at her election. And subject to his wife's interest therein he directed that his said manors, &c. should be levied and taken up from time to time by his said brothers,¹ Gage and Southwell, whom he requested to be his executors, until such time as his debts and legacies should be fully paid and satisfied. And he directed that, if his daughters should attain 25 and should not marry, his manor of Goldwell, London lands in Reigate, his lands in Beddington and Bandon, and Kingsland in Reigate in the occupation of Henry Marden, should be sold by the discretion of his wife, if unmarried, and, if married, then by his brothers Gage and Southwell, and the money thereof coming employed in the performance of his Will. He stated that his sister Gage² had adopted his daughter Margaret, and directed that, if she should be sufficiently provided for by her or Sir John Gage, the 500 marks bequeathed to her should go to her other sisters, and

¹ Brothers-in-law.

² Lady Gage had no children.

directed that the legacies to daughters dying should be divided between his wife and his next heir. He further declared that he made his Will upon urgent occasion and without proper deliberation, but, that if any question arose upon it, the same should be settled by his brothers Gage and Southwell. He also gave to his sister, Mrs. Southwell, a ring which Cardinal Hosius sent him with the *alcos huffe*¹ closed in it and the *portegue* which Dr. Harding gave him when he died. And he gave to his trusty servant, Thomas Brooke, one such cross of gold as he had before appointed and given to the three husbands of his sisters and to his wife's sisters, and £50 to him in money, to be lent him for two years to help stock such farms as he should leave him. He appointed Kateryne his wife executrix, so long as she should remain unmarried, and if she married, he appointed his brothers John Gage and Richard Southwell his executors, and ordained his friend Mr. Hopkins to be overseer of his Will.²

In 1576, as stated above, Copley was at Lierre, and probably in the next year he removed to Paris, where he was made a baron by the King of France, and was after that time called Lord Copley by the exiles.

A letter from Copley is preserved among the Cottonian manuscripts, dated at Paris the 5th December, 1577, probably to Lord Burghley. It has been very much injured by fire and in many places quite illegible. He says that the recipient of the letter might probably hear some sinister report with reference to the title of baron, given to him on the Friday before the date of the letter, and that he thought it well to advertise his lordship of the cause which moved him not to refuse that honor ;

¹ *Alcos huffe* is no doubt elk's hoof, from the Latin *alces*. The elk was supposed to be endowed with great virtue, and was almost confined to the north of Europe. Cardinal Hosius, who was a Pole, would not be far from its habitat. A *Portague* was a Portuguese gold coin, worth about £3 : 12s. In the Will of W. Daye, Bishop of Winchester, 1596, is a legacy of "one *Portague* of gowld, which commonlie we value at seaven angels."

² Prerogative Calendar, *Brudenell*, 13.

that he arrived in the town of Paris, on the¹ with his wife, children and family, with intent to settle there, in greater repose and security than they could enjoy in [Flanders], where they were forced constantly to remove from place to place by the rebellious "populazzo." After three days in Paris his happ was to meet . . . , who had known him before, and who appears to have presented him to the King of France, with a view to his obtaining some honour from the King. Copley thought, that in receiving some "special order," he must needs take an oath to the King, which he was resolved not to do to any foreign prince. He then went home "to his poor wife, seeing with what lovingness and patience she had made herself a voluntary partaker of all his travails," and in the end resolved to accept an ordinary knighthood, whereunto no oath was incident, and also the honour of baron, whereunto he might well pretend, if he could obtain it without binding himself by any oath, partly because his grandmother was the eldest daughter and heir to the Lord Hoo, by the eldest daughter and part heir to the Lord Welles, both whose arms he bore, and part of whose possessions he had inherited, and chiefly because he had been often told by his friends of the Spanish nation that if he were "*Senor de Vitalo*," as they termed it, it would very much help to advance and increase the entertainment he had at the King his Majesty's hands. Two days after he was informed that the King had very willingly granted it, and had commanded his letters patent to be despatched out of hand, and within other two days he had word that the same were made and signed with his Majesty's hand, and soon after passed the great seal. On Thursday, at 10 of the clock, the King being then set in council, he was sent for and remained in the King's bed-chamber until the council did break up, when the King sent for him and calling for the sword [used] in such cases, drew it and made him² in the presence of the

¹ Date burnt.

² The manuscript is very much mutilated here.

Queen mother, the . . . Bourbon and Guysa, the duke of . . . , the Chancellor, and divers others. Copley says that this was the second time he had been at the court of France, the first time being when he kissed his majesty's hand and recommended to his protection his wife and . . . so long as they should remain in France. The rest of the letter contains an apology for his conduct, and the hope that his correspondent will not think that he was "a practizer against his country, for the prosperity whereof he should heartily pray God."¹ The letter is endorsed "T. Copley to Lord . . . states his reasons for accepting the rank of Baron from the French King."

On the 21st December, 1577, being then at Paris and about to depart on that day into Spain, Copley made a codicil to his Will in the presence of his wife Lady Copley, Sir Henry Copley,² and others. He describes himself as Sir Thomas Copley, and recites his former Will. He then goes on to say that he had ordained that his daughters should marry only with the consent of his wife and other friends mentioned in that Will, and that having daily proof and more and more confidence that his wife would not marry again or show hereof an unkind mother, he directed that, if his daughters should marry with the liking and consent of their mother, they should have the portions given them by his former Will. He then states that, under that Will, his younger sons were for haste forgotten, and no provision made for them, and he willed that each of them should have out of his lands an annuity of £30 per annum to be paid and taken out of such of his lands as should be devised by his brothers Gage and Southwell for the performance of his Will. He charged his executors to save harmless Mr. Humphrey Whitt, his brother-

¹ Cottonian MSS. *Caligula*, E. VII, 29.

² The original Will is not at Somerset House, and there are many obvious errors in the copy. There is no trace of a Sir Henry Copley, except the son of Sir Thomas, who had died before the date of the Will of 1577. The copyist may have mistaken the name for Sir Henry Cobham, or possibly Sir Henry Cotton.

in-law, and his friend Thomas Doyley, Esq., from such sums of money as might have been necessarily disbursed by them in the judgment of his wife and his said brothers, and bequeathed to Thomas Doyley, for his pains, an annuity of 20 marks for his life out of the lands before assigned for the performance of his Will.¹

In 1582 Copley was at Rouen, but he soon afterwards returned to the Low Countries, for he made a second codicil to his Will at Benen in the land of Wasse, Andwerph, on the 9th September, 1584, in which he describes himself as Sir Thomas Copley, Knight, Lord Copley of Gatton, in the county of Surrey. He stated in the codicil that his Will lay already signed and sealed in the cupboard in the great chamber in his house at Dunkerke, and referred to houses which he had at Tournay and at the figure (sign) of the "Golden Ack-horne," at Rouen. He appointed his servant, Thomas Brooke, to whom, in his first Will, he had bequeathed a lease of his lands at Leigh for his life, executor of the codicil, and gave 20 florins to Dr. Stapleton, one of the Holy Society of Jesuits, and to the reverend priest, master John Ffenn, to whom he had also given the collation of the parsonage of Gatton, 20 florins, and required him to celebrate for him, for as many days as the money should amount to, at 5 sous a day. He gave to his son William his ring with his arms which he usually wore; to his trusty servant Thomas Brooke the other two rings which he used to wear, one against the plague, the other against the falling sickness; and for his pains taken with him in that his sickness over and above what he had already given him by his Will and codicil, the sum of 10 crowns of 20 florins; and of his apparel left at Torney and Dunkirk, he gave to his servant Brooke his hat of stitched taffeta with the gold band belonging thereto, his green harrowel (*sic*) that he had made last, the gali-gascoes belonging thereunto, and his cassock of rat-colored cloth. He also gave to the convent of the English Carthusians, at Loven (Louvain) 20 florins, and to the

¹ Prerogative Calendar, *Brudenell*, 13.

virtuous nuns of St. Bridget, resident in Rouen, 20 florins, requiring the religious company of both houses to remember him in their prayers, and he gave all the arrears of the pension due to him by his Catholic Majesty to be received by his executor and applied to the uses of his Will. He authorized his executors to demand and receive all his apparel and goods remaining at this place, *i.e.*, Benen, in Torney, at the sign of the "Golden Ackerhorne," in Rouen, with Mr. de la Hyde, and in his house at Dunkirk, and to sell same.¹

Copley died in Flanders on the 24th September, 1584, in his 49th year, and his Will and codicils were proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 12th March following. He had eight children:² four sons, *viz.*, Henry, his eldest son, who as stated above died in Paris; William, born in 1565; Anthony; and John, born at Louvain, 1577; and four daughters, Mary, married to one of the Prince of Parma's captains; Eleanor or Helen, who, in 1485, became the second wife of Richard Stanhurst, the friend of Campion, the Jesuit; Margaret, who married John Gage, of Haling, near Croydon, Surrey; and Elizabeth, who married Musgrave.

Anthony Copley, the third son of Sir Thomas Copley, was born in 1567. He appears to have been a student at Furnival's Inn, and in 1582 went abroad to join his father and mother at Rouen. He then went to Rome where he was in the English College, and had a pension of ten crowns from Pope Gregory XIII. He afterwards proceeded to the Low Countries, and had a pension of 20 crowns from the Prince of Parma, and entered the service of the King of Spain, in which he remained until about 1590, when he returned to England and was arrested and put in the Tower. Shortly afterwards he obtained his liberty and married, residing at Roughway.

On the accession of James I, Copley was concerned

¹ Prerogative Calendar, *Brudenell*, 15.

² In a letter written by Copley from Antwerp, dated the 27th December, 1572, he speaks of seven children, the eldest, Henry, being then not 12 years old.

in a plot for placing the Lady Arabella Stuart on the throne. A proclamation for his apprehension in 1603 is in the British Museum. He and other conspirators were tried and condemned to death, when the annuity of £30 granted to him by his father's Will was forfeited to the crown,¹ but he was afterwards pardoned on the 18th August, 1604, having made a confession relating the entire history of the plot. In 1606 or 1607 he was in the English College at Rome, after which he disappears.²

John Copley, the youngest son of Sir Thomas Copley, became a priest of the Church of Rome, but in 1611 left that church for the Anglican Church, and in 1612 published his reasons for so doing. In the same year, he obtained from Archbishop Abbott the living of Bethersden, in Kent, and four years afterwards the rectory of Pluckley, in the same county. He and the Puritan squire of the parish, Sir Edward Deering, of Surrenden, were in constant feud, and in 1643 the House of Commons found him to be a delinquent, and sequestered the living. On the restoration his benefice was restored to him, and he died in 1662, aged 85.³

On the 13th November, 1584, Lord Burghley, Master of the Court of Wards and Liveries, wrote to the High Sheriff of Surrey, requiring him not to return burgesses for Gatton, which as he supposed was depopulate, one Mr. Copley having been used to nominate burgesses for the town, but he was dead, and his heir, being within age, was in ward to the Queen.⁴

Sir Francis Walsyngham, writing from Winchester, on the 27th September, 1586, to Sir William Moore and Sir Thomas Browne, Knights, and Richard Banstocke, Esquire, says, that the Lords of the Council understood that Mrs. Copley had the nomination of two burgesses for the town of Gatton, being a parcel of her jointure, and that, as she was known to be evil affected, it was not

¹ Manning and Bray's *Surrey*, Vol. II, p. 257.

² *Dictionary of National Biography*.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Harl. MSS., Vol. III, p. 16.

thought convenient that she should bear any sway in the choice of the said burgesses. He further stated, that it was the Queen's pleasure that a special choice should be had for the then present parliament of fit persons, known to be well affected in religion and towards the state, and that they should recommend to the burghers William Wood, one of the clerks of the Privy Council, and Nicholas Fuller, a counsel in the law; and further, that if the burghers should not be willing to make choice of them, at the least care should be had that there might be discreet persons chosen and well affected.¹ The burgesses returned for the parliament held in this year were Edward Brown and Thomas Bishop.

Lady Copley returned to England with her son William and her daughter Margaret, and appears to have given trouble to the Government immediately after, for there is an order of Lord Buckhurst among the state papers to apprehend her for disaffection, and she and her daughter were examined before the council, in 1586, for harbouring Nicholas Phelps *alias* Smith, a popish priest, their kinsman, at Gatton.² On the 30th October, 1586, Anthony Radcliffe, an Alderman of London, writes to William Davidson, the Secretary of State, in favour of William Copley, who had been committed to his charge until the return of the council from Fotheringhay. Radcliffe said that he found Copley to be very tractable, and that he would be easily won to be a good Christian.³

¹ Kemp's *Losely MSS.*, p. 262.

² Lemon's *State Papers Domestic, Elizabeth*, 1586, Vol. CXIII, p. 352.

³ *Ibid.*, Vol. CXIV, p. 365. In the Chancery Bills and Answers for the year 1591 (Elizabeth, C.C. 13, No. 19), there is a Bill preferred on the 10th May, to Sir Christopher Hatton, Lord Chancellor, by Katharine, Lady Copley, widow of Sir Thomas Copley, Knight, against Richard Lashford (Latchford), Lord of the Manor of Shelwood, in Leigh. The Bill recited that Sir Thomas Copley was seised of a customary tenement called 'Popes,' and of other lands in the said parish and held of the said manor, in the possession of Nicholas Hewstowe and others, and died so seised, whereupon the same premises descended to William Copley, his son and heir, and Lady Copley was entitled to dower thereout for her life, but the lord had entered upon the said tenement and cut down trees, &c., and Lady Copley prayed

It was, no doubt, during the time that the Copley family held Leigh Place, and probably during the life of Thomas Copley, or his widow, that Roman Catholic priests, the tradition of whose residence there still lingers in the parish, were concealed in the old house at Leigh. In a remote part of Surrey, embosomed in woods, approached only by green lanes often impassable and surrounded by the river Mole and its branches, Leigh must have been a very convenient hiding place, and a cupboard at the side of the chimney in the great hall of Leigh Place was known in very recent times as the priest's hole. About eighty years ago, when the greater part of the old house was pulled down, an inscription partly defaced was found scratched on the mantel of the chimney piece in one of the bedrooms, near a rough figure of the crucifix. The inscription so far as it could be read was as follows:—"Nonne mea peccata quietem de plura fuere quam maculæ viperæ, nec dabit ullam salutem Dei typus." It is likely that this was scratched by one of the Roman Catholic priests in hiding in Leigh Place, and very possibly by the Jesuit and enthusiast Nicholas Saunder, or Sanders, who was born in the adjoining parish of Charlwood, and was distantly connected with the Copley family.¹

William Copley, on the death of his father in September, 1584, was of the age of 19 years 2 months and 20 days, and in May, 1585, joined the Prince of Parma at Tournay, and had a grant of 15 crowns a month from the King of Spain.² He soon after went to Spain, and married in Madrid, in 1589, Magdalen Prideaux, the only

relief. The lord put in his answer on the 12th May, alleging that William Copley did not come to pay his fine and be admitted tenant, and after several proclamations in open court, according to the custom of the manor, the lord entered upon the said lands as forfeited, and the lord further alleged that William Copley had departed beyond the seas as a fugitive before admission had been granted to him. I have not been able to trace what was the result of the suit.

¹ The style of the writing is more like that of the 15th than that of the 16th century, but it may more probably be referred to the later date.

² *Inq. p. m.*, 26th May, 25th Elizabeth, 1586, part 2, no. 38, 37.

daughter of Thomas Prideaux, who had been taken by her father to Spain and met Copley there. Father Holt, in a letter to Cardinal Allen at Rome, says, that the banns between them were asked on Candlemas Day, and that Copley had more need of wit than of a wife in such troublesome times. Copley continued to live in Spain during the remainder of Elizabeth's reign, and several of his children by his first wife were born there. The eldest, Thomas, was born in 1594, and becoming a Romish priest made over his right in the family inheritance to his brother William, and eventually went out with the Roman Catholic settlers to Maryland, and was one of the founders of that colony. William Copley's two daughters by his first wife, Mary and Helen, became nuns at Louvain.

On the accession of James I in 1603, and the proclamation of pardon, William Copley and his family returned to Gatton. He seems to have compounded for his estates in the sum of £2,000, and to have paid £20 a month under the act of 1st James I, c. 4, empowering the Crown to levy that sum on popish recusants absenting themselves from church.

In 1615, William Copley obtained letters of naturalisation in England, having been born in Spain, and in November, 16th James I, 1618, he married Anne, daughter of William Denton and niece of Mary, the wife of William Shelton, of Ongar Park in Essex, by whom she was adopted.¹

On his marriage his father, by deed dated the 10th November, 1616, made a settlement of the manors of Gatton and Colley and of Leigh Place on his wife for a jointure and on the issue of the marriage. Magdalen Copley died on the 30th August, 1619, and was buried at Gatton,² and he very shortly after married Margaret, a daughter of William Fromonde, the head of a Roman

¹ Court of Wards and Liveries decree book, no. 95, Hilary Term, 1st Charles I, 1625.

² Gatton Registers.

Catholic family settled at Cheam. He seems to have repented of the settlement made on the marriage of his son, for I find that, by indenture of the 10th November, 18th James I, 1620, made between him and his son of the one part, and John Thetcher, of Priesthawes, Sussex, and Bartholomew Fromonde, of Cheam, Surrey, of the other part, it is stated that (as well towards providing some maintenance and livelihood for Margaret, the then wife of the said William Copley the father, if it should please God that she should overlive her said husband, and for a provision for the children of the said William Copley and Margaret his wife, and also in consideration of £250, the marriage portion of the said Margaret, which was paid by William Copley to his son,) William Copley the father and William Copley the son agreed to levy a fine, of all that farm called Lee, alias Leigh, then in the tenure of John Woodman, yeoman, situate within the towns, parishes, fields, or precincts of Leigh, Betchworth, or Rygate, or some of them, which fine should enure to the use and behoof of the said William Copley the father and the said Margaret his wife, and the longer liver of them, and after their deaths then to the use of the heirs of the said William Copley the father by Margaret his wife; and for default of such issue then to the use of William Copley the son and of his heirs and assigns for ever.¹ William Copley the son died on the 5th June, 1622, in the lifetime of his father, and was buried at Gatton,² leaving two daughters and co-heiresses, Mary, aged 3, and Ann, aged 1. Ann Copley, widow of William Copley the son, was buried at Gatton on the 22nd June, 1632.³ His father then disputed the settlement of 1616, and an information was filed on behalf of the king in the Court of Wards and Liveries, claiming the wardship of the infants and to establish the settlement. It is said in Manning and Bray that the

¹ Deed in the possession of the owners of the estate.

² Gatton Registers.

³ Ibid.

settlement was at length confirmed,¹ but this is somewhat inconsistent with what follows.

William Copley the elder died on the 22nd December, 1643, aged 79, and had by his second wife Margaret two sons, John, the eldest, and Roger, born 28th March, 1632,² and two daughters, Maria and Eleanor. Margaret Copley, his widow, is said to have entered into possession of Leigh Place and to have lived there, but being a Roman Catholic her estate was sequestered.³

Mary, the elder daughter of William Copley the son, married John Weston, of Sutton Place, Woking, Surrey, and Ann the younger married Sir Nathaniel Minshall. On the partition of the estates, Leigh Place, with the manors of Gatton and Colley in Reigate, were allotted to Mary Weston,⁴ and by deed of the 17th November, 1649, she and her husband and George Weston, also of Sutton, his next brother, in consideration of £518, covenanted with John Woodman of Lee, *alias* Leigh, yeoman, to levy a fine of the reversion, expectant upon the death of Margaret Copley, widow, of all that capital messuage, site, or mansion place of Lee, *alias* Leigh, and the several closes thereafter mentioned, namely:—one messuage or tenement and certain lands called Church Lands, Cobb's Luggs, and Sheppard's Field, containing 70 acres more or less; and also four closes called the Norlands, containing 26 acres more or less; two other closes called the Brickhurst, containing 12 acres more or less; and two fields called the Marlehurst and the Moores, containing 24 acres more or less; three closes called the Burlands, containing 14 acres more or less, in Betchworth; and three other closes in Betchworth called Gadbrook lands, containing 12 acres more or

¹ Vol. II, p. 231.

² Gatton Registers. Roger Copley's wife was named Ann, and he was by her the father of several children, of whom four were buried at Gatton—Winifred, 22nd May, 1658; Lewis, 26th August, 1663; Thomas, 4th February, 1669; and Frances, 13th July, 1672 (Gatton Registers); and he is supposed to have been also the father of William Copley, a member of the Society of Jesus, born in 1668, who took the last vows in 1698, laboured in Warwickshire, and died in 1727.

³ Manning and Bray, Vol. II, p. 183.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 231.

less; in all, 158 acres more or less, in the occupation of the said John Woodman, except the lands called Heightonsfield, *alias* Heydonsfield, containing 14 acres 2 roods, or thereabouts, in the occupation of William Mathew, which fine should be and enure to the only use of the said John Woodman, his heirs and assigns, for ever.¹

The Woodman family occupied Leigh Place for many years before John Woodman purchased it. John Woodman his father, as appears from the parish registers, was in occupation as early as 1610. Several of his children were baptized in the parish church between 1610 and 1620, and on the 23rd May, 1623, his son John was baptized there. On the 26th March, 1626, John Woodman, "father of John Woodman of the place in Leigh," was buried. In 1636 and 1638 two of the daughters of John Woodman and Jane his wife were buried, and the following entry occurs after their names in the register: "*concione habitâ ejus funeribus.*" On the 9th September, 1639, Jane Woodman was buried, the same entry being repeated, "*exequiis*" being substituted for "*funeribus,*" and on the 18th October, 1646, her husband was buried. The estate appears to have descended to his son John, and in the register it is noted that John and James, two children of John Woodman and Ann, his wife, were baptized in 1647 and 1651, but after the latter year there are no further entries in the register of this family.

John Woodman, by indentures of lease and release of the 19th and 20th December, 1651, in consideration of £750, conveyed Leigh Place and the lands above mentioned, containing 158 acres, except as aforesaid, to Thomas Jordan, of Gatwick, in the parish of Charlwood, free from the dower and thirds of Ann his wife, to be held by Jordan in trust for Robert Bristow, of Horley, gentleman.²

On the 24th December in the same year, Margaret

¹ Deed in the possession of the owners of the estate.

² *Ibid.*

Copley, described as of Gatton, widow of William Copley, agreed to sell her life interest to the said Robert Bristow for £350, and it is stated in the deed that the said farm and lands had been taxed by the Committee for the County of Surrey, by reason of the recusancy of the said Margaret Copley, whereby two parts in three of the rents and profits were payable unto the Commonwealth and were received by their receivers. It was therefore agreed that £200, part of the said £350, should remain in the hands of Robert Bristow, until the said premises should be discharged from the sequestration, or from any sequestrations imposed upon the same premises for any recusancy or delinquency of Margaret Copley, to the end that Bristow might, out of the £200, and the interest thereon at six per cent., pay all such rents and profits as should be payable out of the said premises to the Commonwealth.

A few days after, on the 30th December, 1651, Robert Bristow, Thomas Jordan, and Margaret Copley, widow, demised the estate to Francis Huett, of Ampthill Grange in Bedfordshire, for 99 years, to secure £200, part of the said purchase money.¹

Margaret Copley died on the 30th April, 1655, having made her Will on the 21st August, 1652, which was proved on the 12th July, 1655.² On the 28th May, 1655, less than a month after her death, John Copley³ and Roger Copley, of Gatton, sons of William Copley, in consideration of £500 conveyed to Robert Bristow (described as of Leigh) all their interest and inheritance in the said estate,⁴ and in Michaelmas term, 1655, a fine was levied of one messuage, one garden, one orchard, 150 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 80 acres of pasture, and 10 acres of wood in Lee, otherwise Leigh, Betchworth and Reigate.⁵ So that Bristow paid

¹ Deed in the possession of the owners of the estate.

² Prerogative Calendar, *Aylett*, 301.

³ John Copley was buried at Gatton on the 12th May, 1662. (Gatton Registers.)

⁴ Deed in possession of the owners of the estate.

⁵ From a deed in the possession of the owners of the estate.

£1,600 in all for an estate of about 140 acres of land.¹

Robert Bristow, by his Will, devised the estate to his eldest son Robert Bristow, described as of Hartswood in Buckland, Surrey, Gentleman, who by his Will dated the 18th March, 1695, gave to the poor of the parish of Buckland 50 shillings, and to the poor of the parish of Leigh 50 shillings, and gave his capital messuage called Leigh Place, in the occupation of Ralph Arnold, and the lands, &c. thereto belonging, to his wife Susanna absolutely.² She was the only child of Thomas Moore, of Hartswood in Buckland, and by deed of the 25th August, 1705, mortgaged the estate to Richard Sheppard, of Henfield in Sussex, Gentleman, to secure £700 and interest.³

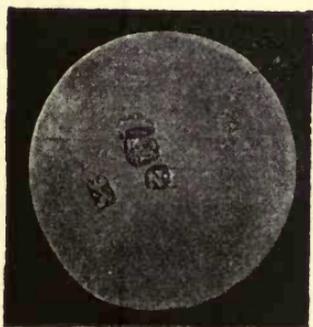
On the demolition of part of the house mentioned above, a silver porringer was found concealed in the walls with a few silver coins in it. A woodcut of it is annexed. The hall-mark is that for the year 1688-9, and the following initials appear on it: on one side W.B., on the other, R^A I. It had been probably given by one of the Bristow family to Ralph Arnold, who, or whose son, remained in the occupation of the farm until at least the year 1721.

On the 12th March, 1706, the mortgage was transferred to John Risbridger, of Dorking, on the occasion of the sale of the estate to Edward Budgen, of Dorking, who paid, including the mortgage, £1,760 for it. In the conveyance from Susanna Bristow and her eldest son, Edmund Bristow, contained in indentures of the 15th and 16th August, 1706, the estate is described as

¹ I am much indebted to Mr. Richard Copley Christie, Chancellor of the diocese of Manchester, for information as to the Copley family, and for very kindly revising the proof of this part of my paper, and to the life of Father Thomas Copley by Mrs. Dorsey, of Georgetown, in the United States. On the opposite page is a pedigree of the family of Copley, which I have compiled from various sources, and which I believe to be correct.

² Copy Will in the possession of the owners of the estate.

³ Deed in the like possession.



SILVER PORRINGER, 1688-9.

Found at Leigh Place.

face page 180.

PEDIGREE OF COPLEY OF LEIGH PLACE AND GATTON.

Anna, daughter and coheirss of Thomas, Lord Hoo and Hastings, born 1447.

Sir Roger Copley, of Roughway or Roffey, near Horsham, Sussex, admitted to the freedom of the Mercers' Company of London in 1456; probably knighted at the coronation of King Henry VII.

1. Jane, daughter of Henry Lode, of Kingsley, Hants.

Sir Roger Copley, Knt., born 1473, admitted to the freedom of the Mercers' Company, by patrimony, 1541, died 1549.

2. Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Shelley, Knight, Justice of C. P., died 25th December, 1559.

Richard Copley, admitted to the freedom of the Mercers' Company in 1498.

Eleanor, m. Thomas, Lord Delawarr.

Margaret, m. Edward Lewknor, of Kingston on the sea.

Elizabeth, died 1535.

Ann, m. Thomas Lusher.

Ada, grandmother of Lady Walsingham, m. Sir Henry St. Barbe.

Mary, m. Thomas Shelley, of Mapledurham, Oxfordshire.

Eleanor, m. Roger Dallender, of Buckland.

Joan, m.
1. — Corbett.
2. — Dingley.

Sir Thomas Copley, Knt., a baron in the kingdom of France, born 1534, admitted to the freedom of the Mercers' Company, 1562; died in Flanders, 24th September, 1584, aged 48.

Catharine, eldest daughter and coheirss of Sir John Luttrell, of Dunster Castle, Somersetshire, m. July, 1558.

Kateryne, m. Sir Robert Lane, of Horton, Northamptonshire.

Bridget, m. Sir Richard Southwell, of St. Faith's, Norfolk.

Margaret, m. May, 1559, John Gage, of Firle, Sussex, who died 10th October, 1595.

Sir Henry Copley, godson of Queen Elizabeth, died in Paris before 1576, s.p.

1. Magdalen, daughter of Thomas Prideaux, m. in 1589, died 30th August, 1619; buried at Gatton.

William Copley, born 1565, died 22nd December, 1643, aged 79.

2. Margaret, daughter of William Fromonde, of Cheam, Surrey, died 30th April, 1655.

Anthony, born 1567, author of "A Pig for Fortune."

John, born at Louvain, 1577, Rector of Pluckley, Kent; m. 1, Rebecca, daughter of Moone; 2, Martha He was author of "Observations Doctrinall and Morall."

Eleanor, m. in 1585, as his second wife, Richard Stanihurst.

Margaret, m. John Gage, of Haling, near Croydon, Surrey.

Elizabeth, m. Musgrave.

Thomas, born in Spain, 1594, a member of the Society of Jesus, died s.p. in America, after 1652.

William Copley, died 5th July, 1622; buried at Gatton.

Anne, daughter of William Denton and niece of Mary, wife of William Shelton, of Ongar Park, Essex; m. November, 1618, died 1632; buried at Gatton, 22nd June.

John, died 1619.

Mary, born 1592, a nun at Louvain.

Helen, a nun at Louvain.

John, died 1662; buried at Gatton, 17th May.

Roger, born 25th March, 1632, baptized at Gatton; m. Ann, daughter of; died 1680.

Maria.

Eleanor.

William, died an infant.

Mary, born 1618, died 1694.

John Weston, of Sutton Place, Woking, Surrey.

Ann, born 1621.

Sir Nathaniel Minshull.

all that capital messuage or tenement called Leigh Place, with the barns, &c., and land thereunto belonging, in the occupation of Ralph Arnold, as follows:—

	A.	R.	P.
The old orchard	2	3	8
The Barn Close	2	0	17
The Pond Close	4	3	30
The three sheep Closes	6	2	31
	6	1	24
The Upper Church land	12	0	16
The Lower Church land	7	3	6
The Church land mead	2	3	0
The Bushy Close	3	2	2
The Square piece	2	2	0
The Pit field	4	0	16
The East field	7	3	10
The Marle field	3	3	30
The Great Brickhurst	7	1	2
The Little Brickhurst	3	3	21
The Brickhurst Mead	1	2	0
The Little Thurle Hurst	6	1	2
The Little Marleland	3	0	0
The Great North land	9	1	5
The Hither North land	7	2	25
The Great Marleland	8	1	0
Three parcels called the Moors	12	2	30
Acres	133	0	35

Edward Budgen died in 1716, and was buried in Dorking Church, having made his Will dated the 15th July, 1710, which was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 5th December, 1716. By it he devised Leigh Place, together with some lands in Leigh he had purchased from his nephew Dr. John Budgen, to his godson Edward Budgen, the eldest son of his nephew Edward Budgen, high sheriff of Surrey in 1698, who died in August 1719, and was buried in Dorking Church.

Edward Budgen, the grand nephew and devisee of the first Edward Budgen, who is described as of Sutton, Surrey, married Mary, only daughter and heiress of Peter Hussey of Shire, Surrey, and, dying without issue

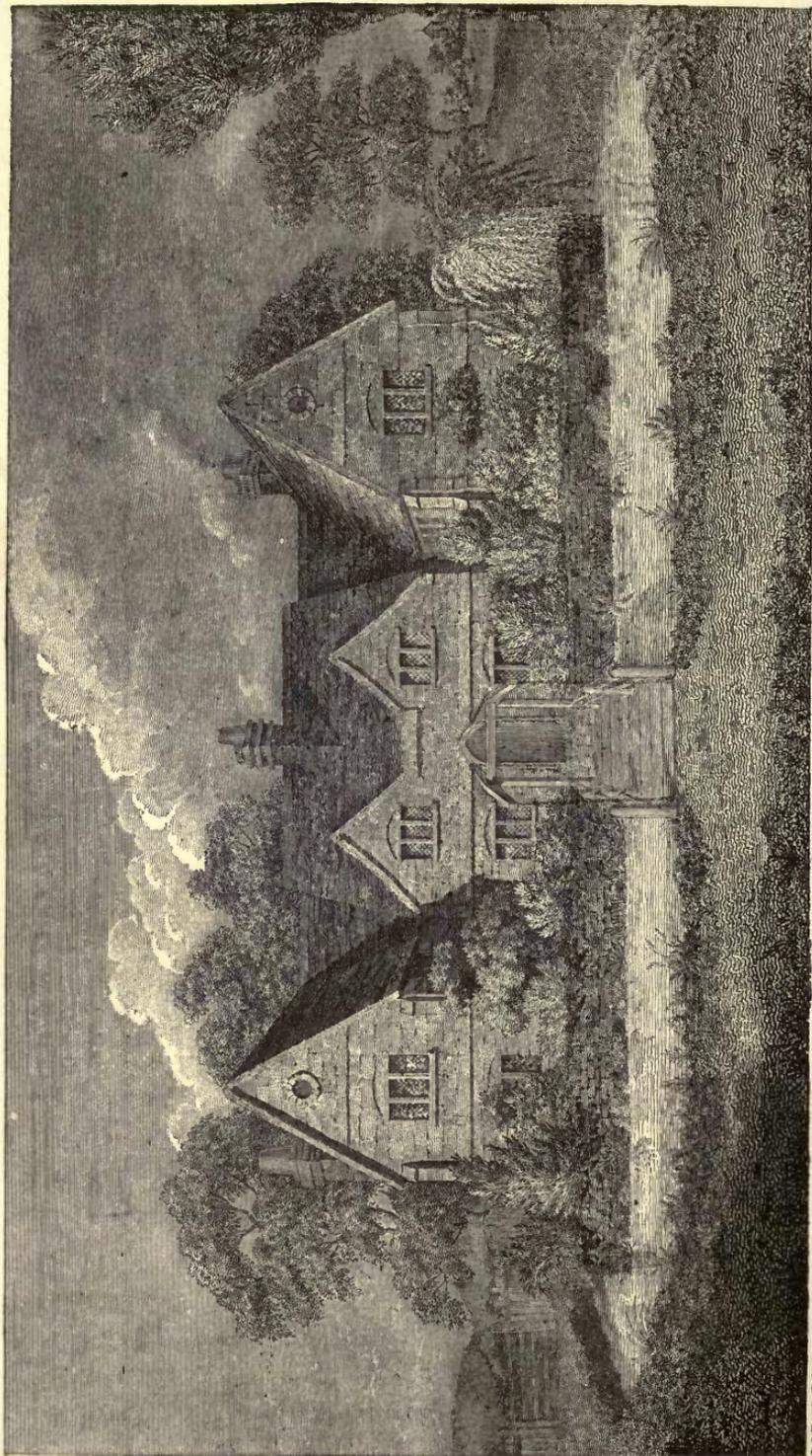
on the 12th August, 1728, æt. 29, was buried in the chancel of Dorking Church.

The above estate was settled in his lifetime, by indenture of the 9th November, 1727, upon trust for him for life, and to his issue male, and in default of such issue for his brother James Budgen and his issue male, and in default of such issue for his brother Thomas Budgen and his issue male, with power for each of them to appoint the said estate to any woman whom he might marry, for her life, by way of jointure.

Edward Budgen's Will, dated the 11th June, 1728, with a codicil dated the 26th July, 1728, was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 6th September, 1728.

James Budgen, of Trinity College, Oxford, the next brother of the last-named Edward Budgen, married Mary Ede, daughter of J Ede, of Cudworth in Surrey, and by his marriage settlement, dated the 18th August, 1729, he appointed the said estate to his said wife, for her life, for her jointure, and in bar of dower; and by his Will dated the 28th February, 1731, he devised certain copyhold estates to his wife, and devised all the remainder of his real estates unto any child he might have by his said wife, and in default of children to his brother Thomas Budgen. He died on the 8th March, 1731, without issue, and his Will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 12th April, 1732. Mary Budgen, his widow, conveyed her life interest to Thomas Budgen, by indentures of the 6th and 7th July, 1733, and afterwards married Richard Morton, and died in 1778.

Thomas Budgen was M.P. for Surrey in the last two parliaments of King George II, and was twice offered and refused a baronetcy. He married Penelope, second daughter of Daniel Smith, Governor of the island of Nevis, and had an only son, John Smith Budgen, to whom the estate descended under the provisions of the deed of the 9th November, 1727. Thomas Budgen died on the 3rd March, 1772, and was buried in the chancel of Dorking Church.



J. B. Davis, Del.

LEIGH PLACE,

face page 183.

J. B. Davis, Del.

John Smith Budgen was born on the 28th June, 1741, and married in the month of August, 1764, Lucretia, daughter of Matthew Mills, of the island of St. Christopher. By his marriage settlement, dated the 9th and 10th August, 1764, the Leigh Place estate, said to contain about 126 acres, was charged with other estates of much greater value with the payment of £10,000, as portions for the children of the marriage other than an eldest son. John Smith Budgen died on the 25th May, 1805, and was buried in the chancel of Dorking Church. By his Will, dated the 27th July, 1799, and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 6th September, 1805, he directed the sum of £5,000 to be added to the said £10,000, as portions for his three daughters, Lucretia, Cornelia Penelope and Maria, and devised and bequeathed all the residue of his estate to his son Thomas Budgen.

The portions were paid off, and by indentures of the 24th and 25th November, 1806, Thomas Budgen, of Nutfield in Surrey, conveyed the Leigh Place estate to Richard Caffyn Dendy, in whose family it still remains.

The first reference to a house on the estate is in the conveyance from Sir John Dudley, in 1527, and part of Leigh Place may have been then in existence. During the absence of the owners abroad, in the latter half of the 16th century, the house appears to have become dilapidated, and it is probable that extensive alterations were made after the return of Margaret Copley and her son William from abroad, in the early part of the reign of James I.

When the estate was purchased by Mr. Richard Caffyn Dendy, the house was considerably larger than at present, and the woodcut facing p. 183 is a copy of one which was inserted, at his expense, in Manning and Bray's *History of Surrey*. The house was then much dilapidated, and a large part of it was pulled down about the year 1810. The woodcut facing page 141 shows the exterior of the house as it is at present.

Two old plans of the estate have been preserved. The earliest is described as "a plot and description of

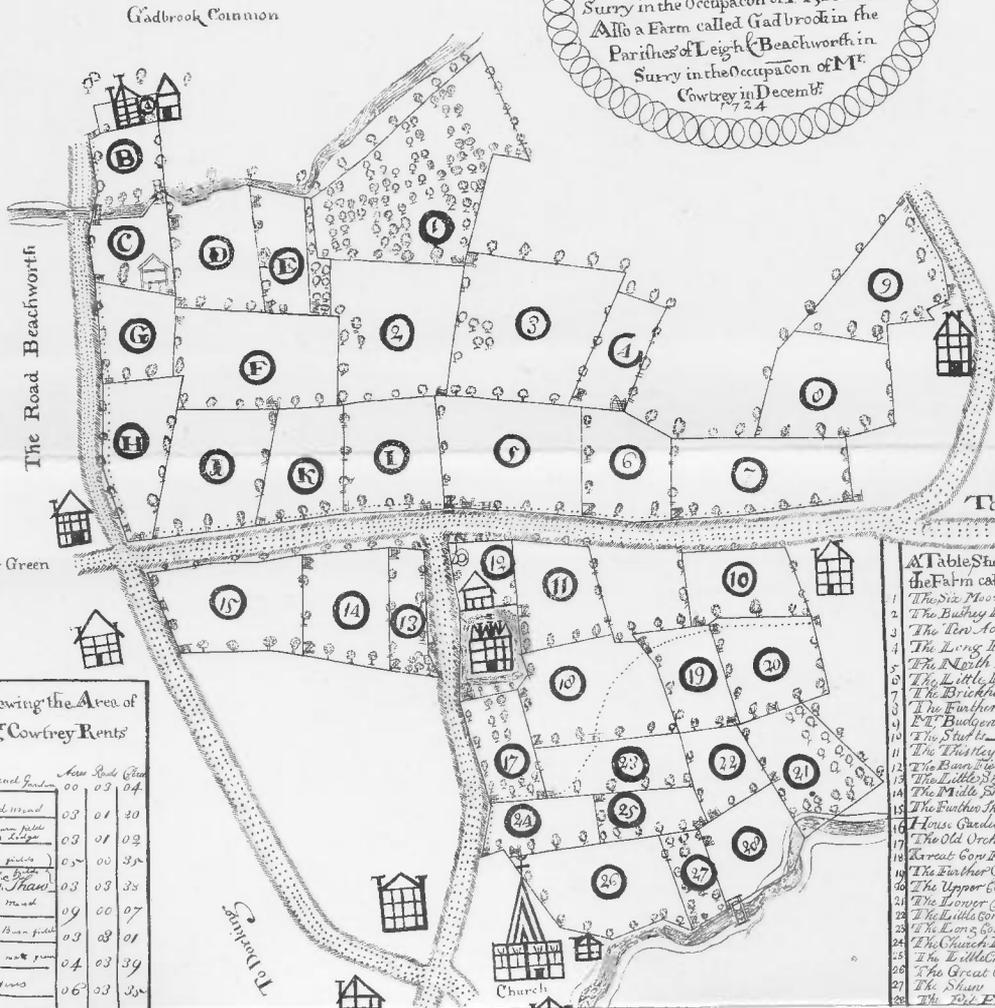
the Manor of Lye, in the county of Surrey, with all the lands belonging to the same, had, made and taken the 6th day of April, 1627, by John Richardson." This was taken evidently soon after the death of William Copley the son, and probably for the purpose of the information in the Court of Wards and Liveries claiming the wardship of his infant daughters mentioned above.

The second plan was made in 1724, when the farm was surveyed for Edward Budgen, then the owner, and it is called "a farm called Leigh Place, situate in the parish of Leigh, in the county of Surrey, in the occupation of Mr. Arnold, also a farm called Gadbrook, in the parishes of Leigh and Beachworth, in Surrey, in the occupation of Mr. Cowtrej, in December, 1724."

These plans have been reduced to a quarter size and photo-lithographs of them face page 184.

North

SURVEY for
Edwd Budgen Esqr
 A Farm called **Leigh Place** Situate
 in the Parish of Leigh in the County of
 Surry in the Occupation of **M^r Arnold**
 Also a Farm called **Gadbrook** in the
 Parishes of Leigh & Beachworth in
 Surry in the Occupation of **M^r**
Cowtre in Decemb^r
 1724



A Table Shewing the Area of the Farm as M^r Cowtre Rents

A	Contains	Home stead Garden	Acres	Rods	Links
B	Contains	Orchard Wood	00	03	04
C	Contains	middle Home field Parson & Kitchen	03	01	30
D	Contains	Home garden in a new field	03	01	02
E	Contains	wildy Thand in a new field	03	03	35
F	Contains	Upper Home field	09	00	07
G	Contains	6 acres more ground	03	03	01
H	Contains	6 acres more ground	04	03	39
I	Contains	6 acres more ground	06	03	30
K	Contains	6 acres more ground	04	02	26
L	Contains	6 acres more ground	05	03	18
Totally			51	03	25

A Table Shewing the Area of the Farm called Leigh Place

1	The Six Moor	01	03	07
2	The Bushy Field	09	01	23
3	The New Acre	10	00	37
4	The Long Field	03	00	21
5	The North Field	08	00	06
6	The Little North Field	04	02	07
7	The Brickhouse	07	01	19
8	The Further Brickhouse	07	02	39
9	M ^r Budgen's Croft	05	00	04
10	The Start	04	01	17
11	The Turkey Field	04	01	09
12	The Run Field	02	01	04
13	The Little Sheephead Field	02	01	04
14	The Middle Sheephead Field	05	02	03
15	The Further Sheephead Field	08	03	23
16	Hous. Garden & Boat	02	02	04
17	The Old Orchards	03	00	20
18	Great Cop Pasture	06	03	25
19	The Further Cop Pasture	03	02	18
20	The Upper Coppice & Egg	04	01	17
21	The Lower Coppice & Egg	05	01	22
22	The Little Cop Pasture	05	00	00
23	The Long Cop Pasture	04	01	07
24	The Church Land	02	00	04
25	The Little Church Land	02	01	02
26	The Great Church Land	02	00	06
27	The Shaw	02	00	06
28	The Red Field	02	03	32

M^r Arnolds Total is 22
 M^r Cowtre is 51 03 25
 All which is 20 03 02



South