

MURAL MONUMENTS IN DORKING CHURCH.

BY THE RIGHT HON. LORD ASHCOMBE.

THE Mural Monuments preserved from the original Dorking Church, which was pulled down in 1837, and from the second Church which was removed in 1872, have now been rearranged and repaired, and can be seen under the tower of the Church. Aubrey, in his *History of Surrey* (1718), records many tombstones then existing on the floor of Dorking Church, some of which appear to have been ornamented with brasses not now remaining, but mentions no mural monuments of any account. Manning and Bray's *History of Surrey* (1804), besides recording many of these tombstones, mentions several mural monuments of which four still remain, viz.—1, Howard; 2, Talbot; 3, Tucker; 4, Markland.

(1) The Howard monument has the following inscription:—"Near this place are interred Charles Howard, of Greystock Castle, fourth son of Henry Frederick, Earl of Arundel, who died 31st March, 1713, and Mary his wife, one of the daughters of George Tattershell, of Finchampted, in the County of Berks, who dyed the 7th of November, 1695, and also Henry Charles Howard, his son and heir, who dyed 10th June, 1720, and Mary his wife, eldest daughter of John Hailward, of the Kingdom of Ireland, descended of the Aylwards of Waterford, who died October 7th, 1747. Near this place is also interred the body of Mary Anne Howard, the late wife of Charles Howard, Junr., Esq., dyed in childbed of her first child May 28th, 1768, in the 23rd year of her age. She was the daughter of John Coppinger, a gentleman of very ancient and respectable family of the Kingdom of Ireland."

The Earl of Arundel mentioned on this monument was the head of the Norfolk family, but from the attainder of his ancestor, who was beheaded in 1572, was not Duke of Norfolk. The Earl died in 1652, and was succeeded by his eldest son Thomas, whose family attainder was reversed by Act of Parliament in 1644, and who thus became fifth Duke of Norfolk. He was succeeded in 1667 by his next brother Henry as sixth Duke, in whose descendants the Dukedom remained for several generations. The third son, Philip, a Cardinal and Lord Almoner to Queen Catharine, wife of Charles II, died in 1694. The fourth son, Hon. Charles Howard, of Greystoke, whose burial is recorded above, inherited from his father three-fourths of the Manor of Dorking, as well as the Greystoke estates in Cumberland. This gentleman resided for many years at the Deepdene, and appears, according to a very quaint description given in Aubrey's *History of Surrey*, published in 1718, to have laid out the grounds. "Near this place (*i.e.* Dorking), the Hon. Charles Howard, of Norfolk, has very ingeniously contrived a long Hope in the most pleasant and delightful solitude for home, gardens, orchards, boscages, &c., that I have seen in England. Mr. Howard has cast this Hope into the form of a theatre, on the sides whereof he hath made several narrow walks like the seats of a theatre, one above another, above six in number, done with a plough, which are bordered with thyme and some cherry trees, myrtles, &c." After a long description, including the mention of a laboratory and oratory, and of "the house not made for grandeur but retirement, neat, elegant, and suitable to the modesty and solitude of the proprietor, a Christian philosopher, who in this iron age lives up to that of the primitive times," Aubrey adds, "The pleasure of the garden, &c., were so ravishing that I can never expect any enjoyment beyond it but the Kingdom of Heaven." Mr. Howard's garden is also mentioned in Evelyn's diary in a description of a visit paid to it by Evelyn in 1655, and of another in 1670. Mr. Howard appears to have been as much interested in the study of chemistry as in

the pursuit of gardening. He died in 1713, and was succeeded by his son, Henry Charles, who, as the monument tells us, died in 1720, thus surviving his father only seven years. His son, Charles, who is not named on the monument, lived the greater part of his life at the Deepdene, and built a new mansion there also. He had literary tastes and wrote *The Historical Anecdotes of some of the Howard Family*. He married Catherine, daughter of John Brockholes, Esq., of Claughton, co. Lancaster, and in 1777 succeeded his cousin as tenth Duke of Norfolk. According to the Dorking Church Parish Register he was buried at Dorking Church on September 7th, 1786, the Duchess having predeceased him in 1784. There is no mention of either on the monument. Their only son Charles succeeded as eleventh Duke. His first wife's death is recorded on the monument as that of the wife of Charles Howard, Junr., Esq., in 1768. This Duke restored the Castle of Arundel, which had fallen into ruins, and sold the Deepdene Estate in 1791 to Sir William Burrell, from whose family it passed to Mr. Thomas Hope. He however retained much of the Surrey family property, and bought the remaining fourth part of the Manor of Dorking, which had been separated from the other three portions for three hundred years, and which remains the property of the Dukes of Norfolk. Duke Charles, who was born in 1746, on coming of age, and before his father's death, left the Roman Catholic Church, and having thus removed the disqualification which prevented him from entering Parliament he sat in the House of Commons until his succession to the title, and was throughout his life a prominent and eccentric political character and a supporter of Mr. Fox. He married a second time but left no legitimate issue, and, dying in 1815, the title passed to a cousin, the direct ancestor of the present Duke. His remains were deposited in the family vault at Dorking, and this was the last interment there of any of the Howard family. A full description of this ceremonial, which was conducted with great pomp,

may be found in *A Promenade round Dorking*, by John Timbs, 1823. A large tombstone of Sussex marble, of about a ton in weight, which was formerly affixed to the vault, has been recently removed from the crypt to the churchyard adjoining the south wall of the nave, and upon it may be read the Latin inscription with a full catalogue of the Duke's titles.

(2) Talbot. Henry Talbot, of Chart Park, named on this monument, was the son of Dr. Talbot, Bishop of Durham, and nephew of Lord Chancellor Talbot. He purchased Chart Park in 1746; was Sheriff of Surrey in 1754; and died in 1784. The monument is to his second wife, and the armorial bearings, carved in stone, now placed beneath it, came from a mausoleum formerly in the churchyard, and are those of Mr. Talbot impaling the arms of his wives. Chart Park was sold by members of his family, who inherited it, to Mr. Thomas Hope, who pulled down the house and annexed it to the Deepdene.

(3) Tucker. Mr. Tucker purchased the Betchworth Castle estate in 1727, and died there in 1774. A long account of this gentleman will be found in Manning and Bray's *Surrey*. Betchworth Castle passed to his daughter, whose nephew sold it to Mr. Henry Peters, and by Mr. William Peters, the son, it was sold to Mr. Hope, who pulled down this house also in order to join it to the Deepdene estate.

(4) Markland. This is a brass monument, and was preferred, on the recommendation of Dr. Heberden, who wrote the inscription, to a stone memorial as more durable. Dr. Heberden was a distinguished physician of the last century, and an ancestor of Rev. W. Heberden, for many years Vicar of Great Bookham. This brass has been placed on the west wall of the Church. Manning and Bray's history gives further particulars of Mr. Markland beyond those on the brass.

The monument of the Earl of Rothes, of later date, was also removed from the old Church. Lord Rothes and several members of his family are buried at Wotton Church. He purchased and lived at the house called

Shrub Hill, which at his death passed to his second wife, and from her to her daughter, Lady Elizabeth Wathen, who survived until 1860, and who is still well remembered by many of her former neighbours. From her surname has arisen the name of the "Wathen Estate."

The remaining mural tablets were removed from the second Church, and comprise those in memory of two Vicars, Rev. A. Feacham and the Rev. James Joyce, of Mr. Thomas Hart, of Mr. R. B. Ede, the publisher of Brayley's *History of Surrey*, and other old and respected inhabitants of the town.