

surface of the soil, in the garden of the late Mr. Pares, in the Newarke, Leicester, when the ground was being prepared for the Militia Barracks and parade-ground. How it came there, whose image it was, where it came from, he could not tell. His impression was that it might have been the cast of some criminal who had been executed at the Magazine, but on referring to Mr. Musson, the governor of the County Prison, he told him that since the period of taking casts of criminals after execution began, the whole head and neck had always been taken, showing invariably the mark of the rope round the latter. Mr. Musson's opinion was that the cast was taken long before anything of the sort was thought of in this country. Mr. Barfield, the sculptor, on the other hand, decidedly said that the cast was taken after death. With regard to mulberry trees in Leicester, Mr. Musson told Mr. Whitby that the mulberry tree in front of the Infirmary, was a cutting from Shakespeare's tree at Stratford-upon-Avon, taken by the grandmother of the late Dr. Freer, who brought it in her lap from that town to Leicester, travelling on a pillion.

The Rev. J. H. HILL read a paper on

THE HALFORDS OF WELHAM.

At our last bi-monthly meeting I had the pleasure to exhibit a handsome lady's fan, which was found underneath the flooring of the pews, in Welham Church, during the restoration. The fan was very beautiful, made of a sort of satin wood, and very well painted, although much injured by time. The colouring was extremely good, and part of the subject of the drawing was a lady sitting with a child upon her knee in a beautiful garden. This relic of the olden time was found just beneath the manor seat, and many years ago it had been accidentally dropped by one of the fair tenants behind the panelling of the pew, and so had found its way to the vaulting under the floor joists. Whether it was the property of some member of the family of the Halfords, or the Edwards, who succeeded them in the manor, it is difficult to tell, but it may not be uninteresting to you to read a few notes that I have made concerning the family of the Halfords of Welham, and at some future time I may have the gratification of giving you a short account of the wealthy and eccentric Mary Edwards, who resided at Kensington, and who having been sharply satirized in society for her own personal oddities, took a sufficiently original vengeance in commanding the celebrated Hogarth to perpetuate with his pencil the monstrous absurdities of dress worn by the most exalted society of the day. The picture is called "Taste in High Life." Mary Edwards erected in Welham Church one of the most elegant monuments of its kind to the memory of her honoured father, Mr. Edwards, of Welham, standing marks of

whose benevolence remain to this day in parts of Leicestershire, and who was the builder of the Grammar School at Kibworth.

Of the Welham family of Halford, a few short notes may be interesting.

The family of Halford was ever distinguished for its loyalty, patriotism, and benevolence. One member of it was so distinguished for his loyalty to his king, that the monarch used to retire to Wistow, when in Leicestershire, as a favourite spot, where the worthy host not only hospitably entertained his royal guest (Charles I.), but also supplied him with large sums of money, for which he was obliged to compound for his estate; this was Sir Richard Halford, who was a cousin of Mr. Halford, of Welham. Sir Richard had a son called Andrew, who was also a devoted royalist, and Richard Halford, of Edith Weston, another cousin of Mr. Halford, was also a most faithful adherent of the king.

It appears that originally this very loyal and most respectable family was seated at Clipstone, and the first we hear of them is that one William Halford had two sons, the elder, Richard Halford, of Clipstone, and Thomas Hawford, the younger, the latter of whom married Margaret Wade, whose son, Edward Hawford, D.D., was master of Christ's College, in Cambridge, in 1559, and in 1560, was Rector of Kegworth, in the county of Leicester, he died in 1570.

Richard Halford, of Clipston, had two sons, William Halford and Richard Halford. The Halfords of Wistow descended from the former. The eldest son, William, had one son, Roger Halford, who married Grace Brodgate, and from this union issued :

1. William Halford, of Welham, in the county of Leicester, who purchased Flitteris Park, in the thirty-third year of Elizabeth, and who was Sheriff of Rutlandshire, 8 James I., and of this county, 14 Jac. I. He married Jane, daughter of Nicholas Foxley, of Blakesley, county Northampton, who we find living a widow in the 15 Charles I. By the Inquis. of 18 April, 1633, we find that William Halford died, 1628.

2. Richard Halford, of Edith Weston, whose death is recorded in that parish church as follows :

"Hic situs est Ricardus Halford, Armiger, Pacis, fautor, ideoque non immerito ei tribueretur non solum nomen sed etiam Locus Justiciarii Pacis. Sepultus vicessimo quinto die Decembris, Anno Domini 1627."

Richard had a son, also named Richard, whose name is recorded in Weston Church, upon a handsome monument on the north wall of that chancel thus :

"Richardus Halford Armiger, Filius Richardi, Justiciarius pacis, et bis Vicecomes Comitatus Rutlandie, duas sibi adjuxit uxores, Annam filiam Sheringtonis Montgomery de Sherington in comitatu Bucks per quam duos habuit filios, Carolum et Johannem : et

Janam filiam Joahanis Day de Chard, in Comitatu Somerset. obiit 28 die Octobris Anno Ætatis suæ 81 Annoque Domini, 1675." The above Richard Halford was Sheriff of Rutlandshire in 1631, was a staunch royalist, suffered severely during the civil wars, but lived to see monarchy restored. His son Charles succeeded him, and was Sheriff of Rutlandshire in 1666; he died in 1696, and was succeeded by Richard Halford, also deceased, when the estate passed through his heiress to another family.

3. A daughter, married to — Brandwood, of Warwickshire, Esq.

To return to the family of William Halford, of Welham, consisting of six sons and two daughters.

1. William Halford, of whom hereafter.

2. Edward, who died unmarried.

3. Anthony, of Lilborne, county Northampton.

4. Henry, a merchant of London, who died unmarried, 1652, æt. 45.

5. John, of Shangton and Launde Abbey, county Leicester.

6. Roger, of London, and Sibbertoft, in the county of Northampton.

This Roger had the manor of Sibbertoft, in Northamptonshire, settled on him and his wife in the 10 Charles I., by his father, who purchased it 3 Charles I., from John and Thomas Alicock, and also the manor of Westhope. His son, in conjunction with his mother, sold both these manors to Sir John Langham, Bart., in the year 1661, for £3897.

1. Grace, married Miles Bussey, Esq., of Heather, son of Sir Edmund Bussey.

2. Emma, married Sir John Bale, of Carleton Curliou, Leicestershire.

William Halford, of Welham, Esq., married two wives. The first was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edmund Bussey, Rutland; she died S. P. Secondly, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Elmes, of Greens Norton, county Northampton, Esq. Mr. Halford was High Sheriff of Leicestershire in the 15th year of Charles I. His will was dated 23 of February, 1642, and was proved the 9th February, 1646. He left six sons and five daughters.

1. William Halford, of whom hereafter.

2. Thomas, will dated, 11 February, 1678.

3. John, killed at Oakham in 1647.

4. Arthur.

5. Edward, a merchant of London, living in 1681, æt. 83, and who married Anne Atwood, daughter of William Atwood, of London, Esq., will dated 1693, October 2nd, and proved 5 February, 1696.

6. Henry, an apprentice in London, 1652, living 1681.

1. Jane, married to John Turville, of Newhall, county Leicester.

2. Frances, married Richard Halford, of Lutterworth.

3. Christiana, married to — Turville.

4. Elizabeth.

5. Margaret, unmarried.

William Halford, of Welham, Esq., the eldest son and heir, was born in 1615, and had the manor of Clipstone, in Northamptonshire, and Welham, Leicestershire, settled upon him on his marriage, 5 February, 6 Charles I., with Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Atkyns, in the County of Surrey, Knight, by Annabella, his wife. He bore for his arms Argent, a greyhound passant, Sable, on a chief, Azure, three fleur-de-lis, Or.

He was succeeded in his estates by Sir William Halford, his eldest son, who we find a knight in 1674, and who purchased a moiety of the manor of Market Harborough and Great Bowden, Leicestershire, in 1676. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Pretyma, Bart., of Nova Scotia, of Lodington, county Leicester, and had a large family by her. This lady was buried at Welham, the 31st day of July, 1698. She was married first to Sir Thomas Burton, of Stockerston, Bart., by whom she had three children, Sir Thomas Burton, John, and Jane. Sir William Halford died December 28th, 1682, æt. 42. His will was dated 31 July, 30 Charles II.

On the south wall of Welham Church is a marble tablet, with this inscription :

Juxta situs est
Gulielmus Halford, Eques auratus,
Ex antiqua familia in agro Leicestrensis
oriundus :
Qui cum bonis omnibus carus vixit,
Patris optime merentes memoriam
Noluit hic cum corpore interire
Elizabetha Hiccocks,
Filia pientissima
Hoc monumentum poni curavit.
Obiit 28 Decemb. Anno. Dom. 1682,
Ætatis suæ 42.

The other children of William Halford were :

2. Henry, of Grays Inn, barrister at law, æt. 38, anno 1681.

3. Edward, of Stockerston, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Roberts, Esq., of Thorpe Langton, and by her had three sons and three daughters. He was buried at Stockerston, 9th of May, 1705, æt. 59; his wife was buried January 11, 1731.

4. Richard, married Elizabeth, daughter of Anthony Andrews, of Bisbrooke, Esq.

1. Mary, unmarried in 1681.

2. Elizabeth, married 1681.

Sir William Halford, Knight and Baronet, was baptized at

Stockerston, 11th of June, 1668, and was the eldest of six sons, having four sisters. He was aged seventeen in 1681, made a Knight, June 2, 1685, and created a Baronet, June 27, 1706. He bought the manor of Kibworth Beauchamp, in the reign of James II. He married Frances, daughter of James Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, (articles of marriage dated 2 April, 1 Jac. II., and settlement after marriage dated 16 and 17 April, 2 Jac. II.). Lady Frances Halford died before the 2nd June, 1698.

Her death in Welham register is thus recorded :

Frances, the daughter of Sir William Halford, and ye Lady Frances, his wife, was buried upon Saturday, the seaventeenth day of August, anno predict, 1695.

From the same register it appears that Sir William Halford, Knt. and Bart., was buried March the 12th, 1708.

Other children of Sir William Halford by Elizabeth Pretymann.

2. Henry, the second son, was baptized 21st of April, 1664, at Stockerston, and buried at Welham, April 9th, 1707.

3. Charles Halford was born 1665, and was living in S. Martin's, Stanford Baron, in 1703.

4. Edward, born at Stockerston, 1671, ob. 1673.

5. Richard, ob. juvenis, probably born between Edward and Mary.

6. Thomas, died young, probably a posthumous child.

1. Elizabeth, baptized 9th January, 1668-9, at Stockerston, married John Hickocks, Esq., city of London, she died 27th November, 1706, æt. 41, leaving three daughters—Ann, Elizabeth, and Bridget.

2. Mary, baptized 12th February, 1673, at Stockerston.

3. Kate, baptized 23rd April, 1675, at Stockerston, living at Overton in Bedfordshire, in 1695 and 1708.

4. Agnes, baptized 23rd October, 1677, living 3 and 4 William and Mary, but dead in 1692.

Sir James Halford was the only son of Sir William Halford, by Lady Frances, his wife, who had a daughter named Frances, who was buried with her mother in one grave, August, 1695. Sir James Halford sold the manor of Welham, and the remnant of the estate there, January 20th, 11th Anne, 1712-13, to Edmund Skynner, and Edmund, his son. I have not been able to collect more matter respecting the Welham branch of the family of Halford, owing to the loss of the first parish register, and also to the entire absence (with one exception) of any monumental records, removed, I fear, during the time of the alteration in the church in the year 1708. During the progress of the late restoration of the Church, at the east end, the workmen broke into some brick graves, which contained leaden coffins, but these were immediately made quite secure, and left to rest undisturbed in their original places. I have no doubt these were the remains of the Halford family,

which had been deposited from time to time in the ancient chancel of the church, upon the site of which they were discovered.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

GENERAL SUMMER MEETING.

THE General Summer Meeting for the year 1871 was held at UPPINGHAM in conjunction with the Architectural Society of the Archdeaconry of Northampton, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 6th and 7th of June.

President THE REV. LORD ALWYNE COMPTON.

Tuesday, 6th June.

At twelve o'clock the Proceedings were opened by a Public Meeting in the Large Schoolroom (which with the Library and Class Room was kindly placed at the disposal of the Societies by the Rev. E. Thring) which was largely attended.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the business of the meeting, said he was glad to see so much interest taken at Uppingham in the work the societies were engaged in. He supposed that, if he said anything, it must be on architecture or archæology. He did not think he need say much in defence of architecture. New houses were being continually built around them, and whilst they might be inclined to ask what an Architectural Society had to do with such buildings, he might remark that it was very desirable, when a person built a new house, that every arrangement should be made for convenience and beauty. If an ordinary tradesman or servant, such as a butcher, tailor, or cook, did not please them, they could at once dismiss him; but if they had a house built, and the design of the architect, after it had been realized, did not please them, it would be no use dismissing him after the work was done. It was one of the objects of Architectural Societies to cultivate good taste in connection with the erection of buildings. But the principal work of the societies concerned the rebuilding and restoring of churches. During past years the churches of the land had got a good deal out of repair, some of them having fallen into grievous dilapidation; and it had therefore become necessary, at this period, to restore a number of them throughout the country. They might repair a common wall without much knowledge of architecture; but, when they were dealing with a place where there was a great deal of beauty, and they had to repair, not only the ravages of time in the structure, but the beauty of the style, they could not do it without some knowledge of the style, and of the character and feeling of the men who erected the building. To