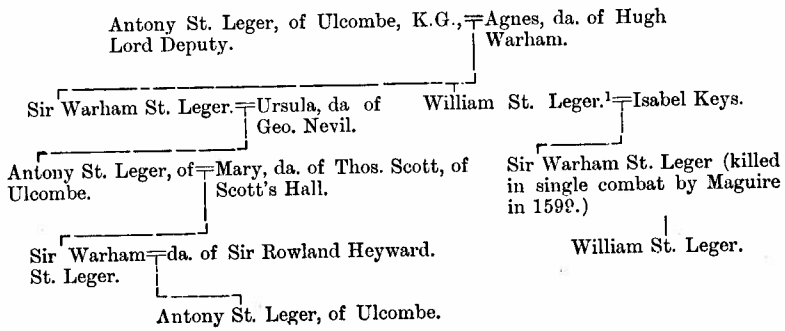
ROYAL DESCENT OF KINGSMILL.

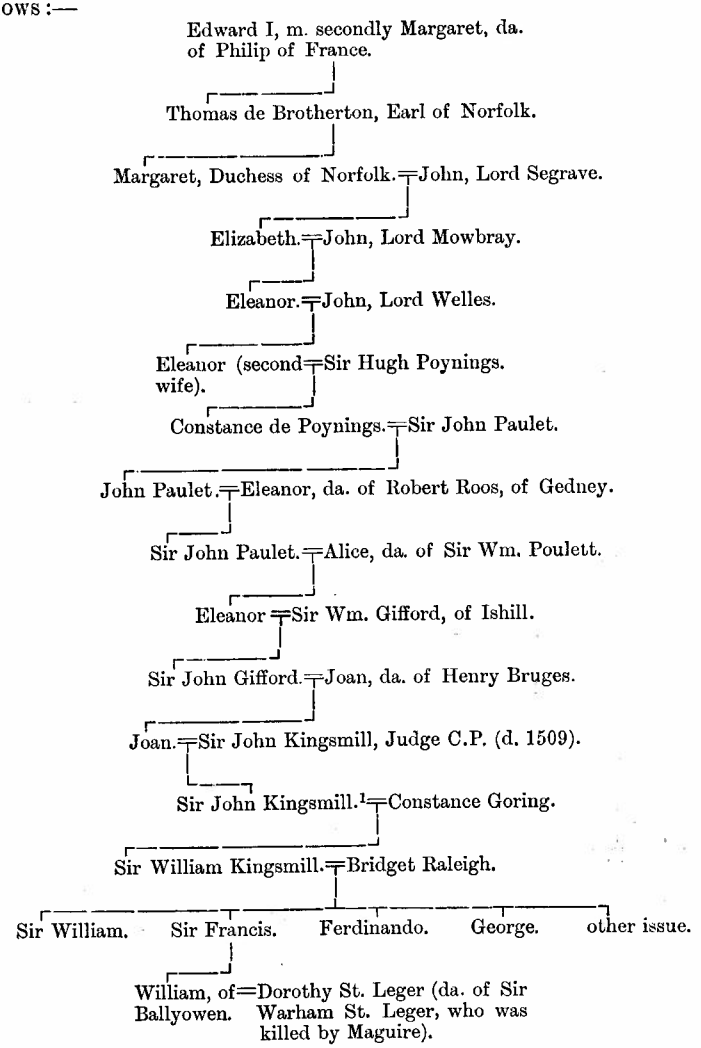
Several families (including those of Lords Carlingford, Ardilaun, and Charlemont) descended from William Kingsmill, of Ballyowen, claim royal descent through his marriage with Dorothy, daughter of Sir Warham St. Leger, assumed to be the same Sir Warham who married Ursula Nevil, daughter of George Nevil, third Lord Bergavenny. The alleged descent is printed in full in Burke's "Royal and Noble Families" (No. 219), "Pedigree of Guinness." It is, however, wrecked in the first instance by chronological considerations. Ursula Nevil's daughter Anne, or Agnes, who married Thomas Digges, died in 1636, aged 81, as appears from her epitaph quoted in Collins' "Peerage" (under Clermont), from Le Neve's "Monumenta," vol. i, p. 170. She was born therefore in 1555. Now William Kingsmill was son of Sir Francis, who was captain in Queen Elizabeth's army in Ireland in 1600, and whose eldest brother, Sir William, was born in 1557 ("Notes and Queries," 3d Ser., vol. i, p. 376). Berry in his "Hants Genealogies" makes Francis the sixth son of the first Sir William, William being the eldest It is hardly possible that William Kingsmill should marry a lady whose full sister was many years older than his own father. But what is still more conclusive is that Dorothy, widow of William Kingsmill, was living in 1675, when she was party to a suit in which Lord Massereene was plaintiff. (Appendix to Sixth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records in Ireland, p. 62). The solution of the difficulty is supplied by a brief MS. pedigree in the Office of Arms, Dublin ("Pedigrees," vol. v, p. 138), written in the seventeenth century, from which I make an extract :—



This last Sir William St. Leger was Lord President of Munster, and it is certain that William Kingsmill's wife was his sister, for in the histories of the time it is stated that in 1641 "the rabble plundered Mr. Wm. Kingsmill, of Ballyowen, brother-in-law of the Lord President." (Smith's "History of Cork," ii. 114). It is clear, therefore, that the uncle and nephew have been confounded in the published pedigrees.

[1] Eldest son, but disinherited. In the pedigree of Lord Doneraile in Burke, this line is given correctly according to the MS. here cited.

However, I am able to trace a royal descent, which includes all the families interested in this fallacious one and others besides. It is as follows:—



Lord Mowbray, whose da. married Lord Welles, was descended from Henry III, his mother being a daughter of Henry Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster. My authorities are, for the earlier steps, Doyle's "Official Baronage," for the Poynings links, the Poynings genealogy in the

[1] Sir George, second son of this Sir John, and like his grandfather a Judge C P., married Sarah, da. of Sir James Harington and Lucy Sidney, a lineal descendant of Edward I, by his first wife, Eleanor.

"Sussex Archæological Collections," vol. xv; for the Paulet links the genealogy of the Marquis of Winchester in Burke, and for those that follow, Berry's "Hants Genealogies."

The three brothers, Francis, Ferdinando, and George were all serving in the Queen's army in Ireland about 1594-1610. John, said to be a cousin, obtained a grant of land in Donegal in 1612. A Rev. Antony Kingsmill, B.A., Cantab. 1598, ordained 1599 (son of Rev. Antony, Vicar of Milton), having been collated to the Prebend of Cahirultan in 1599, was in 1639 or 1640 appointed Rector of Mallow.[1] Mallow had been granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Thomas Norreys, who m. Bridget, daughter of Sir William Kingsmill (the second). On his death in 1599 the property passed to his son-in-law, Sir John Jephson. The patronage of the living belonged to his representatives when the Irish Church was disestablished. A daughter of Sir Francis Kingsmill m. firstly "an Irish esquire," and secondly Mr. St. Michel, by whom she was mother of Sam. Pepys' wife. Is it known who the Irish esquire was?

THOMAS KINGSMILL ABBOTT, B.D., LITT. D.

A DEED RELATING TO THE CONVENT OF ST. CATHERINE OF SIENNA, NEAR EDINBURGH.

Communicated by J. G. WALLACE-JAMES.

The Convent of St. Catherine of Sienna, near Edinburgh, was one of the last Religious Houses to be founded, before the Reformation introduced a new order of affairs in Scotland. The chief founder was Lady Janet Hepburn, daughter of Patrick, Earl of Bothwell, and widow of George, fifth Lord Setoun, who fell at Flodden. The land on which the Monastery stood was the gift of Sir John Crawford, Canon of St. Giles, and of John Cant, a burgess of Edinburgh, and Agnes Carkettle, his spouse. The Sisters of the Sheens, as the Nuns were called, bore a high character for piety and virtue. Sir David Lindsay, who was not sparing of his satire on the vices of the religious, says of this house that Chastity—

> Thaire hes scho found hir mother Povertie
> And devotioun her awin sister Carnall
> There hes scho found Faith. Hope and Charitie
> Togidder with the Virtues Cardinall
> Thare hes scho, found ane Convent yit unthrall
> To dame Sensuall, nor with ryches abusit
> So quietlye those ladyis bene inclusit.

[1] These dates are from Cotton's Fasti. If they are correct the patron was then the son of Sir John Jephson (who died 1638); or perhaps the true date was $163\frac{8}{9}$. Mallow is certain, for his claim for compensation for losses by the rebels in 1641 exists in Trinity College Library. Cotton, who is uncertain about Mallow, was not aware of this.