THE FAMILY OF SOMERVILLE,

AND

THE POET OF THE CHASE.

By George William Campbell.

William Somerville, the author of *The Chase*, when he described himself in his epistle to Allan Ramsay as "a squire well born," told only the modest truth. He came of an ancient family whose earliest known ancestor, Walter de Somervile, was a Norman knight who came over with the Conqueror, and who himself or whose near descendant acquired the lands of Wichnour, in Staffordshire, famous for their jocular tenure of a flitch of bacon.[1] Besides Wichnour, this family held lands in the neighbouring county of Warwick as early as 10 Henry II. They carried for arms, *Azure three eagles displayed between seven crosses crosslet fitchées Or.*[2] A younger branch of this family acquired at an early period the lands of Aston Somervile in Gloucestershire, for we find that in 45 Henry III Johannes, Miles de Aston Somervile bore for arms . . . *upon a bordure . . . six leopards' heads . . .*; to which his great-grandchild, Sir William Somervile, knight, in the beginning of Edward III's reign added one more leopard's head upon the bordure, and Sir John Somervile, knight, his son and heir, altered it more, bearing *Argent upon a fesse Gules three leopards' heads Or, between three annulets of the second*; which coat was continued by his posterity.[3] The failure of the male line of the Wichnour family in 1356 left the Somerviles of Aston Somervile the chief of that name in England. By the marriage of Thomas Somervile in the latter part of the fifteenth century to Jane, daughter and heiress of John Aylesbury of Ederiston, now Edstone, in Warwickshire, that estate was acquired by the Somerviles and became their principal seat, though they continued to possess Aston also. John Somervile of Edstone, the third from Thomas Somervile, holds a place, though a sad one, in the history of his country. This unhappy youth had been educated at Hart Hall, which was then a favourite college in Oxford for the adherents of the old faith.[4] He had married Margaret, daughter of Edward Arden of Parkhall, the head of an ancient Warwickshire family, descended from

[1] In Dugdale's *Baronage* there is a translation of the old French charter containing this tenure; but it is chiefly known through the *Spectator*, No. 607.

[2] Seal of Philip de Somerville. No. 13 583 of Catalogue of Seals in Department of MSS. in Brit. Mus., vol. iii, appended to a charter of date 1305; *Visitation of Warwickshire* of 1619; Dugdale's *Warwickshire*. The number of crosslets seems to have been indefinite; the counter seal of the above giving three, Dugdale and the Visitation nine, and Harwood in his edition of Erdeswick's *Survey of Staffordshire*, *crusulé*. In the Visitation the crosslets are not *fitchées*. In connection with the crest of the Scottish branch of the family it is interesting to observe that the seal above mentioned bears two wyverns for supporters.

[3] *Antiquities of Warwickshire, Thomas's Edn.*, p. 830.

[4] Among his relations of that persuasion were his sister Elizabeth, and Edward Grant of Northbrook, married to his aunt Anne Somervile, both noted Recusants. Edward Grant was probably the father of James Grant of Northbrook, the Gunpowder conspirator.

the famous Turchil, who is said to have been the first Saxon who adopted a surname, calling himself Turchil de Arden, from his large possessions in that forest. The disaster which befell both families is thus narrated by Camden :—

Ex altera parte Pontificiorum quorundam contra Reginam et Principes excommunicatos libelli nonnullos Papalis potentiæ admiratores ab obsequio abstraxerunt et inter alios, Somervillum nobilem ita dementarunt ut iter clam ad Regiam arriperet et nihil nisi sanguinem contra Protestantes spirans unum et alterum in via stricto gladio furenter aggrederetur. Apprehensus, professus est se Reginam sua manu occisurum. Unde ille et ex illius indicio Edwardus Ardernus socer, vir antiquissimæ in agro Warwicensi nobilitatis, Arderni uxor eorum filia Somervilla et Hallus sacerdos in judicium rapti et damnati quasi conscii. Post triduum Somervillus in carcere strangulatus reperitur. Ardernus damnatus postridie ad patibulum suspenditur et membratim dissecatur ; mulieribus et sacerdoti[1] parcitur. Tristis hic exitus nobilis viri qui sacerdotis insidiis illectus et ejusdem testimonio perculsus Leicestrii invidiæ vulgo vertebatur. Certum enim est illum Leicestrii invidiam nec immerito incurrisse cui in omnibus quibus poterat se temere objecerat quasi adultero obtrectaverat et ut homini novo detraxerat.[2]

Dugdale says that Leicester had a particular spleen against Arden, partly because Arden "disdained to wear his livery, which many in this country of his rank thought in those days no small honour to them, but chiefly for calling him by certain harsh expressions touching his private accesses to the Countess of Essex before she was his wife."[3]

Stow's version is as follows :—

"About this time (Oct. 1583) John Somervill a furious young man of Elston in Warwikeshire of late discovered and taken in his way coming with full intent to kill the Queenes Majesty (whom God long prosper to raygne over us) confessed the treason and that he was moved thereunto in his wicked spirit by certain trayterous persons his kinsmen and allies and also by often reading of certain seditious books lately published : for the which the said Somervill, Edward Arden, a Squire in Parkhall in Warwikeshire, Mary Arden his wife (father and mother-in-law to the sayd Somervill) and Hugh Hall, priest, being with others before indicted at Warwike were on the 16th of December arraygned in the Guild Hall of London where they were found guilty and condemned of high treason. On the 19th of Decr John Somervill and Edward Arden being brought from the Tower of London to Newgate in the same litter and there shut up in severall places, within two hours after, Somervill was found (desperately) to have strangled himself. And on the morrow being the 20th of Decr Edward Arden was drawn from Newgate into Smithfield and there hanged bowelled and quartered : whose head with Somervill's head was sette on London Bridge and his quarters on the gates of the Cittie, but the body of Somervill was buryed in the Moore-fields neere unto the Wind-mills."

As might be expected, the accounts given by Lingard and Froude differ widely. Froude says nothing of the part attributed to Leicester in Arden's destruction, nor does he mention Somervile's madness, although in a letter addressed to Burghley, Leicester and Walsingham, and referred to by Froude, it is alluded to by Wilkes, who collected the

[1] Hall appears to have been preserved as an informer. He informed against Sheldon and other Recusants. *State Papers, Domestic*, vol. clxiv, 31st Dec. 1583.
[2] *Annales rerum Anglicarum et Hibernarum regnante Elizabetha.*
[3] *Antiquities of Warwickshire*, p. 931.

evidence for the Crown.[1] It has been suggested that the ruin which about this time completed the misfortunes of Shakespeare's father, who had married a daughter of Arden of Wilmcote, may have had some connection with the attainder and execution of Arden of Parkhall. John Somervile left two daughters, Elizabeth, afterwards married to Thomas Warwick, and Margaret, married to an Arden. In 1605 Elizabeth petitioned for some portion of her father's land to pay her debts and enable her to subsist like a gentlewoman.[2]

John Somervile's younger brother, Sir William Somervile, contrived to retain or recover the lands of Edstone and Aston; but the small estate of Widenhay, near Solihull, which Thomas Somervile had also acquired by his marriage with the daughter of Aylesbury, was escheated to the Crown. Sir William Somervile is said to have been a friend of Shakespeare, which is not improbable, as Edstone is near Stratford, and still nearer to Snitterfield and Wilmcote, the early homes of Shakespeare's father and mother. One of the most valued heirlooms in the Somervile family was a miniature of Shakespeare, attributed to Nicholas Hilliard, and sometimes called the Somervile portrait.[3] In connection with the alleged friendship between the Somerviles and the Shakespeares, it is worth noting that the letter of Wilkes above referred to, is dated from Charlecote, and that Sir Thomas Lucy took a forward part in obtaining the conviction of Arden and Somervile, which, as much as the traditional poaching adventure, may have earned for him the resentment of Shakespeare.[4]

The nearer ancestors of the poet, who was the fourth from Sir William, do not call for much notice. His grandfather, William Somervile, held a fellowship in New College, Oxford, which, like the poet himself, he probably owed in some measure to his being able to claim kindred with the founder. His father, Robert Somervile, married on 15th Nov. 1674 Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir Charles Wolseley, Bart., of Wolseley, Staffordshire.[5] Sir Charles was of an old Staffordshire family, a younger branch of which has produced our present Commander-in-Chief He had improved his fortunes by siding with Cromwell, and saved them by welcoming the Restoration. The poet was born on 2nd Sept. 1675, not as he says himself "on Avon's banks," but at his grandfather's house at Wolseley on the banks of the Trent.[6] He was the eldest of a family of six sons and one daughter. After receiving his early education at Stratford-on-Avon, he was admitted in 1690 as "founder's kin" at Winchester,

[1] *State Papers, Domestic*, vol. clxiii, 7 Nov. 1583.

[2] *Ibid.*, 6 May 1605.

[3] *Inquiry into the History &c. of the Shakespeare Portraits*, by Abraham Wivell, 1827, p. 150. Sir James Bland Burges, in a letter there printed, says it was the poet Somervile's great-grandfather, also a Sir William, who was the friend of Shakespeare, but as that Sir William must have been greatly Shakespeare's junior, it seems more likely to have been the poet's great-great-grandfather, who was of nearly the same age, and died in the same year as Shakespeare. The miniature is now the property of J. Lumsden Propert, Esq., the well-known collector and historian of miniatures. *Notes and Queries*, 8th S., vol. viii, p. 90.

[4] See an article in the *Athenæum* of 13th July 1895, by Mrs. Charlotte Carmichael Stopes.

[5] Register of Aston Somervile.

[6] Register of Colwich, Staffordshire. The date of his birth is erroneously given by Johnson as 1692, and by Peter Cunningham as 1677.

whence in 1694 he proceeded to New College, where he obtained a fellowship. In 1696 he was a student at the Middle Temple,[1] but he retained his fellowship till his father's death in 1705. He then settled at Edstone, where he spent the rest of his life. On 1st Feb. 1708[2] he married Mary, daughter of Hugh Bethell, Esq., of Rise, in the county of York. His life at Edstone was that of a country gentleman, taking his share in the business and pleasures of his station. He had the credit of being a good Justice, and he enjoyed the esteem of his neighbours, among whom were Shenstone, Lyttelton, and Jago, the poets, and Lady Luxborough, the half-sister of Bolingbroke. Dr. Thomas, who published in 1730 his edition of the *Antiquities of Warwickshire*, calls him in that work *vicinicæ suæ ornamentum*. He was a Whig in politics, and the earliest of his verses to which a date can be assigned, were addressed to Marlborough, Halifax, Stanhope, and Addison, all statesmen of that party. It appears from the verses addressed to him by Allan Ramsay that some of his poems were circulated privately before publication. His first published poem was *The Two Springs*, a fable, which appeared in folio in 1725. This was followed in 1727 by *Occasional Poems, Translations, Fables, Tales, &c.*, in octavo. *The Chace*[3] was published in 1735. *Hobbinal, or the Rural Games*, a burlesque in blank verse, in 1740; but he states in the preface that much of it had been in circulation before that time. *Field Sports*, a poem on Hawking, appeared in 1742, the year of his death. It had been sent in MS. to Lord Lyttelton, and read by him to the Prince of Wales, who was fond of the sport it describes. He left to Lord Somervile, his executor and residuary legatee, a MS. volume of unpublished poems,[4] and Lady Luxborough mentions that she had in her possession a translation which he had executed of Voltaire's *Alzire*, and also "several little poems and impromptus, for the most part too trivial or too local for the press."[5]

Of his devotion to field sports there is ample evidence in his own writings. The only form of sport he condemns is coursing, which, with an intolerance of the amusements of others, not uncommon in sportsmen, he denounces in these terms:—

> Nor the timorous hare
> O'ermatched destroy; but leave that vile offence
> To the mean, murderous, coursing crew, intent
> On blood and spoil.

Somervile's wife died childless on 5th Sept. 1731. She lies buried in the Chantry Chapel of Wooton Wawen, beneath a stone, level with the pavement, bearing her husband's arms, impaling Quarterly, first and fourth, *a chevron between three boars' heads couped*, for Bethell; second and third, *a lion rampant within an orle of crescents*, for Skynner of Thornton, Lincolnshire, her mother's family; and the following inscription:—

[1] Record of Admissions, 3 Oct. 1696.
[2] Register of Cherry Burton, Yorkshire.
[3] So spelt in the first edition.
[4] *Memorie of the Somervils*, vol. ii, p. 484 n.
[5] *Letters written by the late Lady Luxborough to William Shenstone, Esq.*, Lond. 1775, p. 211.

H. S. E.
MARIA GULIELMI SOMERVILE ARMIG.
UXOR DILECTISSIMA
HUGONIS BETHEL DE RYSE
IN COM : EBOR : ARM. FILIA
PIE VIXIT
INTREPIDE OBIIT
NONIS SEPTEMBRIS
A : D :
1731.

The words *intrepide obiit* resemble the *impavidus obiit* in the following epitaph in the south transept of the church of Stratford-on-Avon, which we know, on the authority of the late Mr. Robert Bell Wheler, the historian of that town, to have been written by Somervile.[1]

H. S. E.
NATHANIEL MASON, GENEROSUS
DEI CULTOR
HOMINUM AMATOR
FIDEI DATAE OBSERVANTISSIMUS
IN NEGOTIIS AGENDIS
SOLERS, ACCURATUS
SINE FUCO PROBUS
BIS MATRIMONIUM CONTRAXIT
NUNQUAM VIOLAVIT
UXORIBUS PLACENS AMICUS
LIBERIS MONITOR FIDELIS
SERVIS EXACTOR MINIME SEVERUS
VALENS HILARITER VIXIT
NON IMPROVIDE
MORBO AFFECTUS
AEQUO ANIMO TULIT
ET CHRISTO FIDENS
IMPAVIDUS OBIIT
12° FEBRUARII 1734
AETAT 63.

Another epitaph from the poet's pen appears in his collected works. It is there said to have been written on *Hugh Lumber, husbandman.* Dr. Thomas says it was cut on a tombstone in the churchyard of Aston Cantlow, a parish which adjoins Wootton. The tombstone is no longer to be found, but the register under date 18th April 1720, contains the burial of *Hugo Lombard de Aston.* The epitaph is as follows:—

In cottages and homely cells
True piety neglected dwells,
Till called to heaven, her native seat,
Where the good man alone is great.
'Tis then this humble dust shall rise
And view his Judge with joyful eyes,
While haughty tyrants shrink afraid,
And call the mountains to their aid.

[1] *Gent. Mag.* for May 1814.

There is little doubt that the following inscription on a tombstone in the churchyard of Wootton Wawen was also written by the poet :—

H. S. E.
JACOBUS BOETER
GUILELMO SOMERVILE ARMIGRO
PROMUS & CANIBUS VENATICIS
PRAEPOSITUS
DOMI FORISQ. FIDELIS
EQUO INTER VENANDUM CORRUENTE
ET INTESTINIS GRAVITER COLLISIS
POST TRIDUUM DEPLORANDUS
OBIIT
28° DIE JAN.
ANNO DNI 1719
AETAT. 38.

Somervile survived his wife nearly eleven years. In his preface to *The Chase*, he speaks of running over in his elbow-chair some of those chases which were once the delight of a more vigorous age ; but in an article in the *Sporting Magazine* for February, 1832, it is stated that he followed hounds to the day of his death, and that in the last year of his life a dinner was given him by two hundred gentlemen in honour of the chivalrous deeds he had performed in the field. It is added that on the same occasion he made and won a bet of £50 that he would kill his hares and pick them up before any of the company.

His revenue is said to have been £1,500, but it was burdened with an annuity of £600 to his mother, whose death at the age of ninety-eight, occurred only a month[1] before his own. We learn from a letter of Shenstone's that his brother poet resembled himself in his imprudence, and in his later years was harrassed by straitened circumstances. In 1730 he made a transaction with Lord Somerville, the representative of the Scottish branch of his family, whereby, in consideration of the relief of burdens, he settled upon his lordship the reversion of his estate at his death. Shenstone's statement that he fell into habits of intemperate drinking receives some confirmation from a remark of his old huntsman Hoitt, reported in the *Sporting Magazine*. He died on 17th July 1742, and was buried by the side of his wife, where the following epitaph marks his grave :—

H. S. E.
GULIELMUS SOMERVILE ARM :
OBIIT 17 JULIJ 1742.
SI QUID IN ME BONI COMPERTUM HABEAS
IMITARE
SI QUID MALI TOTIS VIRIBUS EVITA
CHRISTO CONFIDE
ET SCIAS TE QUOQUE FRAGILEM ESSE
ET MORTALEM.

[1] The Register of Wootton Wawen gives 19th June 1742 as the date of her burial.

This inscription is generally believed to be the poet's own composition, but it seems to be the epitaph attributed to Dr. Parr by the writer of the article in the *Sporting Magazine* already quoted. It is not, however, among the inscriptions in Dr. Parr's works, edited by Dr. Johnstone in 1828. The church of Wootton Wawen, in which he is buried, is one of great interest and antiquity, showing in the lower part of the tower the *long and short work* which is characteristic of Saxon architecture. "The north and south sides of the Chantry Chapel are the respective property of the owners of Wootton Hall and Edstone within this parish. By an award made by the Bishop of Worcester, 11th April 1609, it appeared that the late Sir W. Somervile 'had a particular right to the south side of a certain Isle or Oratory in the parish Church of Wootton Wawen and S^r^ Francis Smith deceased had also a particular right to the north side' A licence or faculty was subsequently obtained bearing date 16^th^ Feb. 1738 by which these rights were confirmed, and the privilege of 'burying their dead bodies therein for ever' secured to the owners of these two estates."[1] Besides the tombs of Somervile and his wife, this chapel contains monuments to his father and mother, his grandfather, and his brother, Dr. Edward Somervile, Rector of Adderbury, in Oxfordshire. His brother Charles was buried at Aston.

His will is dated 22nd January 1732 (old style), and was proved 3rd September 1742. It is written on the one side of two sheets of paper, both of which bear his noble signature, and the second is sealed with his seal of arms. It narrates that by indenture between the testator of the first part, James, Lord Somerville, of the second part, the Hon. George Somerville[2] of Combe, in the County of Gloucester, of the third part, and Francis Lindon of Chancery Lane, in the County of Middlesex, gent., and John Reynolds[3] *alias* Lindon of Morton Bagot, in the County of Warwick, clerk, of the fourth part, certain lands therein mentioned were limited for the use of the fourth parties for 200 years from the testator's death, in trust that out of the rents, or by mortgage or sale, they might levy £3,500 to pay off all debts secured on the lands subsequent to the date of the indenture, and to dispose of the residue in such manner as the testator might appoint. The testator then appoints that, after payment of his unsecured debts, there shall be paid out of the said sum of £3,500, £30 a year to his aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Cresses; twenty pounds a year to his servant, Margaret Boeter, widow;[4] fifty pounds to each of James Boeter and William Boeter, her sons; fifty guineas to Dr. Mackenzie;[5] to the Minister and Churchwardens of Wootton Wawen twenty pounds, to be disposed of to such poor housekeepers as do not receive collection of the parish; and other twenty pounds to buy books for the Parochial Library; and twenty pounds to each of the said, Francis Lindon and John Reynolds,

[1] *Notices of the Churches of Warwickshire*, printed for the Warwickshire Nat. Hist. and Archæological Society, 1847-58, vol. i, p. 125, note.

[2] Lord Somerville's brother.

[3] Probably the same John Reynolds who was contemporaneously Vicar of Wootton Wawen.

[4] Probably the relict of his *Promus et canibus venaticis praepositus* commemorated in the Latin epitaph already quoted.

[5] A physician in Warwick to whom one of his poems is addressed.

alias Lindon. The residue of the £3,500 is left to Lord Somerville, as is also the testator's interest in the jointure lands of Anne, Lady Somerville, wife of Lord Somerville, under a conveyance for 99 years, executed by her husband and her in favour of the said Francis Lindon and John Reynolds. There is also left to Lord Somerville a house or tenement in Beverley, bequeathed to the testator by his late loving wife, Mary Somervile, by her will, dated 6th June 1731. The other bequests are:—To the said Margaret Boeter all the testator's wearing apparel; to Major Suckling, of the Hon. Major-General Honywood's Regiment of Dragoons, his cutting sword, which he received from the Major, and his pistols, mounted with silver; to Dr. Mackenzie his gold watch and silver hilted sword; to the Hon. George Somerville his best horse, his diamond ring, and his gold buckles and buttons; to Henry Archer, Esq.,[1] his best gun, mounted with silver; to Mr. Richard Grimshaw[2] his other gun; to the Warden and Fellows of New College, Oxford, his fifteen volumes of Father Montfaucon's Antiquities: and to his god-daughter, Anna Whichnora Somerville,[3] his ruby ring. The residue of his personal estate is left to Lord Somerville, who is appointed his executor.

That Somervile's nature was amiable, appears from the manner in which his memory was cherished by his intimate friends, particularly by Shenstone and Lady Luxborough, both of whom, after the manner of the time, erected to him memorial urns, with dedicatory Latin inscriptions. Neither of these urns now remains. A drawing of the one erected by Shenstone at the Leasowes is given in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for September 1807. Lady Luxborough's, which she set up at Barrells, seems to have been similar both in design and inscription, but at Shenstone's suggestion, it was ornamented with a French hunting-horn and laurel wreath, which she regarded as a most happy combination. Her letters to Shenstone contain frequent reference to their departed friend.

Somervile was tall and handsome. He describes himself as "six foot high."[4] Lady Luxborough says he was very fair. An engraving from a portrait of him, which belonged to Lord Somerville, is prefixed to the second volume of *The Memorie of the Somervils*. It represents him in early manhood, with a face of remarkable frankness and charm. Another portrait belonged to Christopher Wren, Esq., of Wroxall Abbey. An engraving of it by Worthington, from a drawing by Thurston, is prefixed to a copy of the first edition of *The Chase* which is in the Birmingham Public Library, and formerly belonged to the late William Staunton, Esq., of Longbridge. This volume contains also a pencil drawing of the first mentioned portrait. In this second

[1] Probably of the Umberslade family.

[2] There were Grimshaws at Baker's Lane and Grimshaw Hall in the neighbouring parish of Knowle.

[3] Lord Somerville's daughter, wife of George Burges of Greyslie, Berks, who captured the standard of Prince Charles's body-guard at Culloden.

[4] *Epistle to Allan Ramsay.* Somervile probably became acquainted with Ramsay's works through Lord Somerville; but he was not the only English contemporary poet who appreciated them. They earned for their author a correspondence with Pope and Gay. In the British Museum there is a copy of the *Gentle Shepherd*, with an interleaved MS. Glossary prepared by Shenstone.

picture he is older and wears a full-bottomed wig. Lady Luxborough mentions a portrait by Worlidge, besides another belonging to herself.[1]

After Somervile's death his lands of Edstone and Aston, in terms of the agreement already referred to, passed to James, thirteenth Lord Somerville, the representative of the Scottish branch of the family, which claimed descent from Sir Walter Somervile of Wichnour, through John Somervile whose name is sixth in the Wichnour pedigree. The career of this ancestor, who gets little more than bare mention from the English authorities, is treated of at length by the historian of the Scottish family. He is said to have accompanied his father to Scotland and to have received from William the Lyon the barony of Linton in Roxburghshire in reward for his "extraordinary and gallant action in slaying ane hydeous monster in the form of a worme" or serpent. After giving a long account of the preparations for the combat, the narrator goes on to say:—"About the sun ryseing this serpent or worme (as by traditione it is named) appeared with her head and some part of her bodie without the den; whereupon the servant, according to directione, set fyre to the peats upon the wheell at the top of the lance, and instantly this resolute gentleman puts spurrs to his horse, advanced with a full gallop, the fyre still encreasing, placed the same with the wheell and almost the third part of his lance directly in the serpent's mouth, which went doune her throat into her bellie, which he left there, the lance breaking by the rebound of his horse, giveing her a deadly wound, who, in the payns of death (some part of her body being within the den), soe great was her strength that she raised up the whole ground that was above her and overturned the same to the furthering of her ruin, being partly smothered by the weight thereof."[2]

(To be continued.)

THE PEDIGREE OF THE FANE AND VANE FAMILY.

By W. V. R. Fane.

The object of this article is twofold: *First*, to test the authenticity of the Fane pedigree as given in the Heralds' Visitations of Kent, preserved at the College of Arms, by the light of contemporary records, such as Wills, Probate Acts and Letters of Administration, preserved at Somerset House, and Inquisitiones Post Mortem, Grants of Patents, etc., at the Record Office. *Secondly*, to trace the real connection between the names Fane and Vane through the use of the former in the Earl of Westmorland's branch of the family, and the use of the latter in that of Baron Barnard.

[1] *Letters*, pp. 250, 260, 267.
[2] *Memorie of the Somervills*, vol. i, p. 43.

The children of Nicholas Samborne were :—

1. Anne Samborne, no further record.
2. John Samborne, born about 1490. Married Dorothy Tichborne, of the famous Hants family, dau. of Nicholas Tichborne, and grand-daughter of John Tichborne, Sheriff of Hants in 1488. This is the John Samborne who is said in Somerset Visitation to have married a daughter of . . . Lisley. After the partition of the Lisle estates John Samborne lived at Timsbury, Somerset, and, perhaps, built the fine Tudor mansion there which is the residence of his descendant, S. S. P. Samborne, Esq., J.P.
3. *Nicholas Samborne*, born about 1493 The ancestor of a Hampshire family of Sambornes, living near Andover. One of his descendants was probably that John Samborne who, about 1620, married Anne Bachiler, daughter of "that notorious inconformist," the Rev. Stephen Bachiler, of Wherwell, Hants, and became the progenitor of the American Sanborns.

THE FAMILY OF SOMERVILLE,

AND

THE POET OF THE CHASE.

By GEORGE WILLIAM CAMPBELL.

(*Continued from page* 81.)

John Somerville,[1] having recovered the English estates of his family, which had been forfeited by the rebellion of his father, left them to his elder son Robert, while the lands and barony of Linton went to William, his younger son. The fortunes of the Scottish branch may be read in one of the best of our family histories, *The Memorie of the Somervilles*, written in 1679 by James Somerville of Drum, who was heir to the peerage of Somerville, but like his father and grandfather before him and his grandson after him, did not claim it, because "he thought his fortune not suitable to that dignity." The MS. was edited in 1815 by Sir Walter Scott. Besides minute details of the Somervilles of Linton, Carnwath[2] and Drum, which were successively the chief

[1] The hero's "effigie . . . cut out in stone and placed above the principall door of Linton Kirk . . . stands entire to this very day." It represents him slaying the monster, and he is further celebrated in an old rhyme current in the neighbourhood—

The wode Laird of Laristone
Slew the worme of Worme's Glen,
And won all Linton parochine.

Another version of the legend ascribes the achievement to a William Somerville—the rhyme running—

Wood Willie Somervill
Killed the worm of Wormandaill,
For whilk he had all the lands of Lintoune
And six miles them about.

[2] Carnwath, like Wichnour, was held by a jocular tenure. In a Crown Charter of date 13th March 1507, in favour of John, Lord Somerville, the Reddendum is thus expressed, "Unum par galigarum (? gallicarum) continen. dimidietatem bluepanni Anglicani in festo S. Joh. Baptiste nuncupat. Mydsomer alicui viro citius currenti a fine orientali ville de Carnweth usque ad crucem nuncupat. Cawlocros nomine albe firme." (*Register of the Great Seal.*)

possessions of the elder branch of the family settled in Scotland, and also an account of the younger branch of Cambusnethan, this history contains much information about many of the families with whom both branches were allied. It is, moreover, no mere record of succession, but gives many lively pictures of the times of which it treats. The story of Katharine Carmichael and her relations with James V, has often been quoted for its *naïveté*. And not less interesting is the account of the bribing of Regent Morton to obtain a favourable decision in a law suit. But it is in treating of the life of his father, an officer of the Covenanting army, that the writer appears at his best. His narrative of the siege of Edinburgh Castle in 1640, of which he himself was a witness when a boy of eight years, contains some pictures of most vivid, though ghastly realism. The work, however, shows much prejudice on the part of the writer, especially against the Earl of Mar, who purchased Cowthally from the improvident eighth Lord Somerville; and the early part of the genealogy cannot be reconciled with the better authenticated account contained in Douglas's *Peerage of Scotland*. In 1723 the great-grandson of the family historian established his claim to the peerage of Somerville, which had been dormant since the death of Gilbert, eighth lord in 1618, and, as we have seen, acquired in 1730 the lands in England which then remained in the possession of the English branch of the family. Sir Walter Scott tells us that his son, the fourteenth lord, had some prospect of acquiring the Marquisate of Somerville, near Evreux, in Normandy, from which his ancestors had come to follow the fortunes of William the Conqueror. "This title and manor appear to have fallen into abeyance or to have reverted to the Crown by the extinction of the French branch of the Somerville family. A treaty for the grant of this manor, and researches for ascertaining his claim as heir male of the ancient marquises were set on foot by Lord Somerville;"[1] but the negotiations were put an end to by the breaking out of the French Revolution. In this connection it is interesting to find that the arms of the French and Scottish branches of the family were the same. The arms of the Somervilles of Normandy, as given by Francisque-Michel, were, *D'azur, à trois molettes d'or, 2 et 1, et sept croix recroisetées au pied fiché d'argent, 3, 1, 2 et 1.*[2] The earliest arms of the Scottish family appeared on a seal appended to a grant, formerly in the Scots College in Paris, by William de Somerville, of the Church of Carnwath, to the See of Glasgow, between 1180 and 1189. The bearing was a lion rampant, which Riddell describes as an extremely old instance, perhaps unparalleled, of an armorial ensign in Scotland.[3] This lion rampant appears again in the first and fourth quarters of the shield of Sir John Somerville, of Quathquhan and Cambusnethan (ob. 1513) as shown in Balfour's MS., the second quarter bearing six stars which, and not nine stars as now, were at an early period the bearing of Baillie, his mother's surname. The three cross crosslets fitchée in the third quarter, may have reference to the crusulé shield, which was adopted by the Lords Somerville, instead of the lion rampant. This lion afterwards dis-

[1] *Memorie of the Somervilles*, vol. ii, p. 485.
[2] *Les Ecossais en France*, Lond. 1862, vol, ii, p. 298.
[3] *Peerage and Consistorial Law.*

appeared even from the shield of Cambusnethan. It has no place in the arms registered by James Somervile, Usher of His Majesty's Exchequer, whom Stodart[1] calls the representative of the Cambusnethan family, his arms being *Argent, three mullets Gules within an orle of six cross crosslets fitchée Sable.* The historian of the Somerville family tells us that the seal of Sir Walter Somerville, of Newbigging, appended to a bond of man-rent between him and David Barclay of Towie, of date 20th April 1281, differed nothing from the arms used in the writer's time, save a little in the placing.[2] Lord Somerville bore, *Azure, three stars Or, accompanied with seven cross crosslets fitched, Argent, three in chief, one in the centre, two in the flanks, and the last in base.* Supporters, *Two hounds proper, collared Gules.* Crest, *A wheel Or, and upon it a dragon Vert spouting fire behind and before* (in allusion to the slaying of the worme as already narrated) with this motto, *Fear God in Life.* Nisbet gives these arms as on a seal and an old stone in Drum, but adds that in books he had found the three stars, two and one within an orle of seven cross crosslets.[3] The family historian tells us that a procuratory granted by John, fourth Lord Somerville, in favour of John Somerville, of Cambusnethan, dated 21st March 1516, has affixed to it the grantor's seal "which is three mullets or starres with sex corslets, all of them somewhat differently placed upon the scheild be what the successor of this lord had them who added a double crosse to the armes. What his reason hes been I understand not unless that having done it when he was second brother he continued them so when he came to be lord himself."[4] In a MS. in the Lyon Office, of date probably 1570-80, the supporters are two frogs seated on a small piece of turf, and the crest, a frog, surmounted of three ostrich feathers and motto, *Fear God in Love*, which seems to have been the earlier and preferable form of the motto.[5] In Workman's MS. (1565-6) the crest is a wyvern[6] on a wheel (as it is also on the large achievement at Drum), and the supporters two brown dogs, with long hair and large ears, collared Gules. A MS., a few years later, gives two frogs for supporters, and for crest a frog sitting in front of three ostrich feathers.[7] The blazon given in Mr. Balfour Paul's *Ordinary of Arms*, taken from the Lyon Register, is "*Az. seven cross crosslets fitchée between three mullets Or.*" It will be observed that by the change of the three mullets into three eagles the arms of the French and Scottish families might stand for the arms of the Somerviles of Wichnour.[8] As before mentioned[9] the arms of the Somerviles of Aston Somervile, were totally different. Lord Somerville, after acquiring the English estates, seems to have quartered these arms with his own;[10] but the monuments of the

[1] *Scottish Arms.*
[2] *Memorie of the Somervilles*, vol. i, p. 76.
[3] *System of Heraldry.*
[4] *Memorie of the Somervilles*, vol. i, p. 328.
[5] Stodart's *Scottish Arms*, vol. ii, p. 309. Nisbet also gives this as the motto of Somerville of Drum.
[6] *Cf.* p. 73, note 2.
[7] Stodart's *Scottish Arms*, vol. ii, p. 102.
[8] *Vide supra*, p. 73.
[9] Ibid.
[10] Douglas's *Peerage of Scotland*,

last three barons in the church of Aston Somervile contain the Scottish arms only.

Early in the present century Edstone was sold to John Phillips, Esq., of Hanbury Hall, Worcestershire, who pulled down the old house and built the present mansion, where he came to reside in 1829. In the article in the *Sporting Magazine*, already referred to, there is a view of the old house, probably the same from which the ill-fated John Somervile set off "to shoot the Queen with his dagg." It was one of the *pane* manor houses so common in that part of the country. It stood nearer the stream than the present mansion, and appears to have been moated. All that remains of the Poet's residence is a stone, sculptured with the arms of his family as already given, with helmet and mantling, and his crest, *two leopards' heads affrontée, crowned with one ducal coronet Gules.* It is built into the pediment above a side doorway leading into the present house. In an adjoining building there is another smaller stone bearing the crest alone.

The last Lord Somervile died in 1870, since which time the title has been dormant, and the manor of Aston Somervile now belongs to John Whitehead, Esq. In the church of that parish are the monuments of the 15th, 17th, 18th, and 19th lords. The estates in Roxburgh and Berwick, whereof that in Roxburgh is known as the Pavilion estate, were held by the last lord under a Disposition and Deed of Destination and Settlement by Kenelm, 17th lord, dated 23 January 1857, and recorded in the Books of Council and Session 12 Nov. 1869, by which he disponed these estates to the Hon. Hugh Somerville, his eldest son, whom failing, to the persons who should successively have right and succeed to the title of honour and peerage of Somerville, whom failing, to the heirs of the said Hugh Somerville's body, whom failing, to the Hon. Frederick Noel Somerville, the grantor's second son, whom failing, to the heirs of his body, whom failing, to Louisa, the grantor's eldest daughter.

On 24th Jan. 1871 a petition was presented to the Sheriff of Chancery by Lord Somerville's daughter, the Hon. Louisa Harriet Somerville, afterwards wife of Charles Stuart Henry, of Aldershot, Colonel in the Royal Horse Artillery, praying to be served nearest and lawful heir of provision in special to Aubrey John, the last Lord Somerville, in the said estates, under her father's deed. On 3rd May the same lady presented an amended petition praying to be served as nearest and lawful heir of provision in special to Aubrey John Somerville, described as having assumed the title and honour of the peerage of Somerville. On 3rd March of the same year the Rev. Alexander Neil Somerville, Minister of Anderston Free Church, Glasgow,[1] claiming to be Lord Somerville, presented a petition for service as cousin in the ninth degree or thereby and nearest and lawful heir of provision in special to the said Aubrey John, setting forth the following genealogy :—

[1] *Dr. Somerville's Life*, written by Mr. George Smith, was published in 1890. In regard to his claim to the peerage of Somerville, see an article by Mr. Joseph Bain, N.S., vol. ix, p. 1 of this magazine.

James, sixth Lord Somerville = Agnes, dau. of Sir James Hamilton, of Finnart and Evandale.

James Somerville, second son. = . . . dau. of . . . Lindsay, of Covington.

John, Minister of Ednam, 1640. = Margaret Knox (Fasti Ecc. Scot.)

James, drowned s.p. — Robert. = . . .

William. = . . . (extinct.) — John, of Park, Renfrewshire, ob. 1767. = Jean, dau. of John Paterson, in Blawarthill, Renfrewshire.

Two sons, ob. s.p. — John, younger, of Park, Landing Waiter of Customs in Greenock, def. 1765. = . . .

John, ob. s.p. — Neil, resided at Fairfield, Govan, served heir to his grandfather 1782, ob. 1796. = Eleanor, dau. of the Rev. Alexander Scott, Minister of Inverkip.

. . . ob. s.p. — Alexander, wine merchant, Edinburgh, ob. 1855. = Elizabeth, dau. of Major Munro.

Rev. Alexander Neil Somerville, Minister of Free Anderston Church in Glasgow.

On 10th Nov. of the same year Thomas Taylor Somerville, of Tipton County, State of Tennessee, U.S.A., petitioned to be served as cousin in the twelfth degree or thereby and nearest and lawful heir of provision in special to the said Aubrey John, setting forth the following genealogy :—

James Somerville, second son of James, sixth Baron of Cambusnethan, ob. 1674.

William.

James, ob. 1743.

William, ob. s.p.m. — John, emigrated to Maryland, U.S.A., ob. 1788.

John, ob. 1806. — William. — George.

John, ob. 1831. — James. — George. — Robert.

Thomas Taylor Somerville, na. 10 June 1813. — Richard B. Somerville, na. 2nd Sept. 1820.

All these petitions had reference only to the estates in Roxburgh and Berwick. It will be seen in the genealogy produced by the Rev. Dr.

Somerville, that he claimed to be descended from the sixth lord, through Robert, second son of John Somerville, Minister of Ednam. Of this Robert Somerville, the family historian, writing in 1679, says that he was then living in good condition upon lands purchased by his father in Teviotdale, and that, failing heirs male of the house of Drum, he was the next heir male to the house of Cowthally.[1] In regard to James, second son of the sixth Baron of Cambusnethan, from whom Mr. Thomas Taylor Somerville claimed to be descended, the same authority says that having "marryed creditably," he had four sons, "being in prosperous condition and lyke if God spare his days to lay the foundation of some other house or recover a considerable part of his predecessors' inheritance if it be to sell, he being now the only representative of that honourable family."[2]

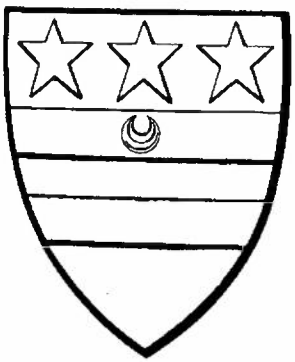
On 8th January 1872 the Sheriff of Chancery, under direction of the Court of Session, served Mrs. Henry in terms of her petition, refusing the application of the other petitioners, thus giving her the property of the estates in question. But the title of Baron Somerville still remains dormant.

Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire,

WITH ADDITIONS.

(*Continued from p.* 120.)

STRAFFORD AND TICKHILL WAPENTAKE. Doncaster, 9 Apr. 1666.



Washington of Adwicke.

ARMS :—Argent, two bars and in chief three mullets Gules, a crescentfor difference.

I. RICHARD WASHINGTON mar. Jane, dau. of . . . Lord or Lunn (Visitation). They had issue—

[1] *Memorie of the Somervilles*, vol. i, p. 440.
[2] *Ibid.* ii, 105, 106. *Cf.* the statement in Stodard's *Scottish Arms* referred to above.