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 Heralds' Visitations give a long descent of the family from one "Howell ap Vane of Monmouthshire," representing one member as having been knighted at the battle of Poictiers, and others as having intermarried with families such as de la Dene, Pembridge and Trafford. But when we turn to the original documents at Somerset House and the Record Office, contemporaneous with the facts which they relate, we are surprised to find that the name does not occur in either form until 1456 at the former and 1450/2 at the latter.

In the case of the collection of Wills at Somerset House, it may be said that the Register Books of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury only commence in 1383, and those of the Rochester Court in 1440, but surely a family, some members of which attained to such importance as the Heralds' Visitations would lead us to suppose, would have appeared in the Inquisitiones Post Mortem or in the Patent, Charter, or Close Rolls. With one exception, however, viz., a supposed reference to one Robert Vane (which on investigation is clearly Robert Vaus), who paid respective aid for Brenchley at the knighting of the Black Prince, this is not the case.

The first contemporaneous document relating to the family is a curious petition,[1] the date of which can be fixed by internal evidence as between 1450 and 1452, addressed by Thomas Underdowne to the then Lord Chancellor, Archbishop Kemp, against Henry a Vane, in which the petitioner complains that Henry a Vane had wrongfully caused him to be imprisoned in Tunbridge Gaol, and had seized some of his property. In 1456 we find in the Rochester Registry the will[2] of this Henry a Vane, who describes himself as of Tunbridge, and mentions therein his brother William, his sons John, Richard, Thomas and Robert, and his daughter Joan, married to Thomas Reade; but there is no mention of either the Manor or the Parsonage of Hilden, which Hasted (vol. ii, p. 334) states that the testator devised by his will. The Heralds' Visitation, followed by Collins' Peerage and the County Histories, describe the wife of this Henry a Vane as "Isabel, daughter of Henry Persall or Peshall," but the testator throughout his will, in which her name occurs constantly, calls his wife Margaret. From this will[3] of Henry a Vane it is clear that the family at that time, viz., the middle of the fifteenth century, was settled at Tunbridge, and that its members were not tenants in chief, but held lands in and around that town from the principal lords of such lands.

John Fane, the eldest son of Henry a Vane, has left a long and very interesting will dated 1488, making many bequests to the parish churches of Tunbridge and its neighbourhood, and giving us the fullest information as to his four sons, Richard, Henry, Thomas and John, and his daughters Ann, Alice, Mercy, and Margaret. Amongst other bequests he left to his son Thomas "his messuage, etc., late the mansion of Henry Fane, his father," and to Humfrey Fane, his brother's son, "a house with a garden at the Towne ende of Tunbrigge." This Humfrey cannot well have been the son of either of the testator's

[1] Early Ch. Proceedings, Bundle 19, No. 388, Rec. Off.
[2] Roch., B. ii, 79.
[3] P.C.C., 9, Milles.

brothers Richard or Thomas, for we obtain a considerable amount of information as to the children of both these brothers from the will[4] of the former, dated 1487 (in which it is curious to note that he calls his brother and nephews *a Fane*), and the name of Humfrey Fane does not appear. It is therefore probable that Humfrey was the son of John Fane's only other brother Robert. Humfrey in his will,[5] dated 1521, speaks of his wife Joan, but makes no mention of children, and directs that his house, etc., at Tunbridge, shall be sold.

The edition of Collins' Peerage published in 1812 (vol. iii, p. 284) following one copy of the pedigree in the Heralds' Visitations, provides Henry a Vane with four other sons, not one of whom is mentioned in his will, and who cannot, therefore, be believed to have been alive in 1456, if indeed, they ever existed.

John Fane's wife is represented by Hasted (vol. iii, p. 225, note f) to have been Isabel Darell, daughter of Sir John Darell of Calehill, Little Chart, who died in 1509, and though we know from her husband's will that her christian name was Isabel, she cannot well have been a daughter of that Sir John Darell who made his will[6] in 1509, and thereby left money for the marriage of his daughter Isabel; for Isabel, the wife of John Fane, must have been married long before 1488, the date of her husband's will. Further, the pedigree as given by the Heralds' Visitations, calls the wife of John Fane, "Isabel, d. of . . . Darknall of Kent," and it is noticeable that the name Darkynghole, which is probably a variation of Darknall, appears in the will of John Fane's father, Henry a Vane, as the name of former owners of land devised by that will. The first Inquisition[7] after death which we find relating to the family is that of John Fane, dated 1488.

With the third generation as represented by John Fane's sons, we arrive at a really clear period, all his four sons, besides being mentioned in their father's will, having left wills of their own. From Richard, the eldest, the Earls of Westmorland are descended, and from John, the youngest, sprang the Barons Barnard and the extinct Earls of Darlington and Dukes of Cleveland.

Richard, as we know from the inscription on the tomb of his son George in Tudeley Church, married Agnes, daughter of Henry and grand-daughter of Thomas Stidulf, and through her became possessed of the house and manor of Badsell in that parish. We have also his will[8] dated 1540 and the Inquisition[9] after his death in the year 1542. Neither Henry nor Thomas (sons of John Fane) appears to have had legitimate issue, but Henry at any rate must have been a person of some importance, as he was twice Sheriff of Kent, and in 1508 received a grant[10] of the keepership of the Park of Southfrithe (between Tunbridge and Tunbridge Wells). In his will,[11] dated 1534, he mentions Raaf

[4] Roch., B. v, 152.
[5] Roch., B. vii, 272.
[6] P.C.C., 24, Bennett.
[7] Inq. 4 Hen. VII 18, Rec. Off.
[8] P.C.C., 26, Alenger.
[9] Inq. 33 Hen. VIII 18, Rec. Off.
[10] Pat. Rolls, 606, m. 13, Rec. Off.
[11] P.C.C., 4, Hogen.

Fane, who would seem to have been his illegitimate son, and who afterwards became a trusted commander under Henry VIII. As Sir Ralph Vane he received large grants of land, and amongst others a grant[12] of the site of St. Stephen's Chapel at Westminster, as a reward for taking the Earl of Huntley prisoner at the battle of Musselburgh; he was finally hanged in 1552 as an adherent of the Duke of Somerset, and his body was buried[13] in the chapel of St. Peter ad Vincula in the Tower of London.

Thomas Fane (the third son of John Fane) described himself in his will,[14] dated 1532, as of the parish of St. Peter le Poor, London, and after making various bequests to Thomas and Alice, who were probably his illegitimate children by one Margery James, he leaves money for the purchase of "a tuneable tenor Bell" for the church of Bytborough.

John Fane (the fourth son of John Fane of Tonbridge) founded the younger branch of the family which settled at Hadlow, and we shall speak of him in connection with that branch.

Of George Fane, the only son of Richard Fane and Agnes Stidulf, we find neither a will nor an Inquisition, but his tomb in the chancel of Tudeley Church, near Tonbridge, informs us that he died in 1571, and that his wife was Joan Waller, whom we know from her father's will[15] to have been a daughter of William Waller of Groombridge.

The two sons of George Fane were curiously both named Thomas, and both were knighted. The elder Sir Thomas Fane after having been imprisoned in the Tower in 1554 for complicity in the plot in favour of Lady Jane Grey, was pardoned and settled at Badsell in Tudeley parish. In 1574 he married Mary Nevile, only daughter of Henry Nevile, Lord Abergavenny, and by her was father to Francis, the first Fane Earl of Westmorland. Sir Thomas Fane senior's will[16] is dated 1589, and there is a monument erected to him and his wife in Mereworth Church, near Maidstone.

The younger Sir Thomas Fane, settled at Burston in Hunton parish, married Helen, daughter of Sir Walter Hendley of Corsehorne in Cranbrooke, and was made Lieutenant[17] of Dover Castle about the year 1590. He died in 1606, leaving an only daughter Mary, married to her cousin Henry Fane of Hadlow, and there is a monument erected to his memory and that of his wife Helen in the chancel of the church of Hunton, near Maidstone.

It is worthy of notice at this point that the first appearance of the Vane pedigree, then containing sixteen generations, commencing with Howell ap Vane of Monmouthshire, is in the year 1574, in which Sir Thomas Fane, senior, of Badsell, was about to marry Mary Nevile, whose descent could historically be traced to very early times.

It is not improbable, therefore, that Sir Thomas Fane would be anxious to produce a pedigree matching in antiquity that of the lady whom he was about to marry, and we should be inclined to doubt its

[12] Add. MSS., 6,176, f. 22, Brit Museum.
[13] Certificate in the Chapel Register.
[14] P.C.C., 19, Thower.
[15] P.C.C., 40, More.
[16] P.C.C., 10, Saintberbe.
[17] Dom. State Papers, 1590, Feb. 26.

authenticity unless it was supported by some extraneous contemporary evidence. But when we refer to generations twelve to sixteen of that pedigree, which can be tested by such contemporaneous evidence, we find them constantly incorrect, while the various copies of the pedigree in the Heralds' Visitations do not even agree in all points among themselves. If this is so even in the 120 years immediately preceding the first appearance of the pedigree, how much less probable does the authenticity of the first eleven generations appear.

Meanwhile the younger branch of the family descended from John Fane, the youngest son of that John Fane who died in 1488, had, as we have already described, settled at Hadlow, about five miles to the N.E. of Tunbridge.

John Fane himself married Joan Haute, probably one of the Hautes of Petham, and made his will[18] in 1542, leaving at his death a son Henry, a son Richard and several daughters; Henry married Elizabeth, the widow of one Godsalve; he was imprisoned in the Tower along with his cousin, Thomas Fane, senior, of Badsell, for taking part in the insurrection in favour of Lady Jane Grey, and made his will[19] in 1582, in which he styles himself *Fane*, and describes himself as of Hadlow.

His son, also Henry Fane of Hadlow, married his cousin Mary, the daughter of Sir Thomas Fane, junior, of Burston, but after her death, without surviving issue, he took as his second wife, Margaret, daughter of Roger Twisden of East Peckham, by whom as we learn from his will,[20] proved 1597, he had several children. Of these one was Henry, who changing his original name was afterwards known as Sir Henry Vane, the elder, and who early in the reign of James I obtained a grant of the Raby estates after their forfeiture by Charles Nevile, Earl of Westmorland.

From this sketch of the family during the period 1450 to 1600, founded as it is solely on the internal evidence afforded by contemporaneous documents, we may safely deduce the following facts:—

1. That the family throughout the period was resident in or near Tunbridge, and that until the marriage of Sir Thomas Fane, senior, to Mary Nevile, and the grant of the Raby estates to the younger branch, its members possessed little, if any property, except in the district immediately round Tunbridge.

2. That the earlier descent of the family as given in the Heralds' Visitations, and especially its first eleven generations with their Welsh origin, is rendered so doubtful by negative evidence, as to be no longer capable of support.

3. That the name, which in the first authentic generation is clearly *a Vane*, and is in the second alternatively *a Fane* or *Fane*, becomes in the three succeeding generations almost invariably *Fane* in all the branches of the family.

4. That the descent of both the present Earl of Westmorland and of the present Baron Barnard is clearly traceable to that John Fane who died in 1488.

[18] P.C.C., 15, Spert.
[19] P.C.C., 6, Rowe.
[20] P.C.C., 45, Cobham.

The Fane or Vane Pedigree, 1450—1600.

