infamous character of his day? and if he credits any certificate of Balfour's, either at first or (as here) at second hand, it says very little for his critical acumen. Mr. Fleming's comparison of Calderwood's operations with mine is puerile. Calderwood's shrewdness is not in question, but where is his document if he had any? If Mr. Fleming doubts the correctness of my copy, the Public Record Office is open to him, and he is welcome to find as many errors as he can. The tenor of this "band" shows that the granters were *lay* nobles, not Church dignitaries, as Kirkcaldy of Grange's letter to Bedford next day confirms. Thus Calderwood's remark that Archbishop Hamilton's signature was "counterfoote," might well have been made of all the other bishops' names, which Balfour was fully capable of adding to his "authentick" copy of the original.

I neither admit nor deny Mr. Fleming's observations on the Bishop of Ross and his family affairs, and could not forget what I did not know; but will bow to good evidence, not to an unsupported statement. He must know that the sixteenth century was a period of laxity in morals all round, his friends not excepted.

I see he is very angry at the "Sabbath" question, but conversion of terms for sacred days is irritating, except to a narrow class. The "Sabbath" (Saturday) belongs to the Jews and rightly; the "Sunday" (Lord's Day) to the Christians. Unless Mr. Fleming would be classed among the children of Israel, let him keep the teaching of his childhood for private discourse, and use the Christian Sunday in his historical compilations, when the people he writes of call it so. If he looks at p. 127 of his book, he will see he makes Bedford and Randolph talk of "Sabbath," instead of Sunday, the word they used; and on p. 256 Randolph is again made to write on the "Sabbath"—a word neither of these men ever employed. Perhaps these examples will satisfy Mr. Fleming for the present.

JOSEPH BAIN.

THE GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF RODNEY OF RODNEY STOKE,

As Compiled in the Seventeenth Century by Sir Edward Rodney, Knt.

(From a MS. formerly in the possession of the late Hon^ble^ William Powell Rodney.)

(Continued from Vol. XVI, p. 214.)

Sir Richard Rodeney.

Cap. 3. This man is the eighth heire male of his family as they are set downe in the Pedigree Concerning the time of whose life, I doe not finde y^e^ beginning or end; but must only guesse at it vpon these reasons. The first mention that I finde of him is in a Deed made by Isabell Sor domnia de Clarvm[1] dated the third yeare of Edward y^e^ first where Shee giues Richard Rodeney and his heires a Piece of Ground on Backwell hill to build a Mill on, In the fourth yeare of Edward y^e^ first I finde him set downe [and] in

[1] That is, Isabell Sor, domina de Claverham.

the eleventh yeare of EDWARD the first, as a witnesse to a Deed. In the Broken-paper Booke, page 125 : 116. 125.

ROBERT DE WIKE gaue RICHARD DE RODENEY Certaine Rents of his Tenements, which IOHN LE TAYLER held for his life, on Condition to excuse him & his heyres from the great Court at Bristoll and the hundreds of Hartelive &c : By these Deeds it appeareth that hee was at mans estate, in the beginning of EDWARD the first his reigne active & engaged in businesses and so his age at that time in all likelihood to be aboue 21 yeares which being reckoned backward, makes his birth to be about the yeare 1250 and in the 35 or 36 of HENRY the third. This coniecture will be strengthened by that which followes. His death happened betweene the fifteenth yeare of EDWARD the second & the second of EDWARD the third, I doe not finde him passing any more Deeds at the second yeare of EDWARD the third his Sonne SIR WALTER RODENEY beginnes to passe Deeds, The precise yeare of his death, I haue not mett with; But no doubt his Office found at his death doth shew it; In the meane time I may probably coniecture that it was in the last yeare of EDWARD the second, and so his whole age to be 76 yeare or thereabouts. The eleventh yeare of EDWARD the second hee was Knighted in the great Hall of the Abbey of Kainsham in the County of Somerset & it seemeth it is one of the most ancient presidents now extant, to shew the forme of making Knights in those dayes, and is cited by M^r^ SELDEN in his titles of Honour. Annonym. chronic : apud Millium in quarta parte 2. & cap : 9 : his words are these Vnder EDWARD the second RICHARD DE RODENEY was Knighted by being girded with a Sworde by ALMARICVS Earle of Penbrooke, and having one Spurre put on by the Lord MAVRICE BERKELEY and the other by the Lord BARTHOLOMEW of Badismere. Many Deeds passed to & from him, the originalls whereof, were in the custody of M^r^ RICE DAVIES of Tickn̄ in this Countie, whereof I will set downe a Catalogue at the end of this Booke; as soone as I can recover them into my hands.

Yet here I will insert some of them which are most observeable : By one Deede the Bishop of Bathe and Wells granted to SIR RICHARD & his heires for ever; the Hundred of Winterstoke, which afterward his Sonne SIR WALTER RODENEY regranted to the Bishop againe reserving only to himselfe the execution of all Processes and Writts within his Mannours of Stoke & Dreycot to be directed to the Bayliffs of those Mannors by the Bishops Officers, this last Deed I haue by mee.

There is also another grant to SIR RICHARD RODENEY from GILBERT de CLARE Earle of Gloucester whereby hee releaseth SIR RICHARD RODENEY and his Tenants of Backwell from doing suite & service to the great Court at Bristoll (called now the Court of the Honour of Gloucester) paying six shillings & eight pence by the yeare, This Deede is with RICE DAVIES.

Also a Deed from the Lord of Sparckford to SIR RICHARD RODENEY by which for 30 Marks payd him, hee released the Mannour of Over-Badgeworth, from holding by Knights service, and grants that from thenceforth it should be held in Soccage of his Mannour of

Sparckford aforesaid, by the yearely rent of one shilling eleven pence halfe peney, payable every Michaelmas day; This Deed I haue by mee.

By one Deed of 33 yeare of EDWARD the first I finde his Wifes name to be LVCY, whereas ye Pedigree calleth her MAVDE the Daughter of SIR OSBERT GIFFORD (in ye Four Rolles. 99.). By an other Deed of the tenth of EDWARD the second, where shee is named, & their Sonne and heire named WALTER. It may be hee had two Wives and this LVCY the last, To this last Deed is fixed a Seale of three Eagles in greene wax, with an inscription in the Border, SIGILLVM RICHARDI DE RODENEY which I haue by mee. The eleventh of EDWARD the second (number 3 in the Tower rolles), The King grants to RICHARD de RODENEY to hold a Market vpon Monday every weeke in his Mannour of Backwell, and free warren in his Mannour of Backwell & Stoke Gifford, which was afterwards confirmed in the eighteenth yeare of HENRY the sixth, part 3, number 28.

Now for the estate hee was possessed of, the severall Offices remayning in the Tower of London shew hee died, seized of the Mannours vnderwritten, which from him descended to his posterity to the present age, The totall of which rents of Assize amounted to Three hundred & fifty poundes; as by the Bayliffes accounts made at the Auditts, at Stoke doth appeare; The names of the Mannours are as followeth

STOKE-RODENEY, BACKWELL, WINDFORD, HALLOTROE, SALFORD, TWIRTON, LAMYAT, LOVINGTON, DINDER, OVER BADGEWORTH, CONGRESBERRY-RODENEY, TILLIES COURT, BESIDES RENTS OF HOUSES IN BRISTOLL, All which Mannours continue at the same rent to this day, as they were let in SIR RICHARD RODENEY'S time. But are worth now vpon the improved value twenty times the rent which comes to about Six thousand pound per annum, An estate which when my great Grandfather dyed, which was in the twentieth yeare of HENRY the eight, did equall any Gentlemans estate in Somersetshire, being some yeares before the dissolution of Abbeys, which hoysed vp other familyes into very great fortunes.

Cap. 4. SIR WALTER RODENEY.

THE Pedegree mistakes this man, & calleth him Sir WILLIAM RODENEY, giues him two wiues the first Katherine the Daughter of FVLKE WARREN Knight by whom hee had two sonnes WILLIAM the eldest, and THOMAS the second. WILLIAM left a Daughter called MARY married to Sir HENRY LORLY[1] Knight, THOMAS the second Sonne & heyre male to his Father married ELIZABETH BLEWET Daughter of SIR IOHN BLEWET Knight of Wiltshire, thus saith the Pedegree, But I never heard of any family in that shire, Of that name in Devonshire there is, but their Coate is not a Spred Eagle as in the Pedegree but they beare Or. a Bend vert betweene 3 Eaglets displayed vert, their Crest a Squirrell holding a tree in his foote, His second wife was ALICE Daughter of SIR IOHN CLIFFORD Knight of Somerset-Shire by whom hee had a third Sonne.

The second yeare of EDWARD the third, WALTER RODENEY buyes

[1] *sic*, but ? Lorty.

Land in Backwell of Elisabeth Wickham one of Sores heires, Here note that Sore his heires held the moitie of the Mannour of Backwell with one turne of presentation to the Parsonage there, as appeares by the Tower rolles, in the eighth yeare of Edward the second number 66. And Richard de Rodeney held the ther moitie, each of them by halfe a Knights fee of the Honovr of Glocester.

In the third yeare of Edwarde the third number 44 the Tower Rolles Non est ad damnum si Walterivs Rodeney &c. quas Richardvs de Rodeney Pater predicti Walteri sibi &c.

In the eighth yeare of Edward the third, number 50 the Tower Rolles, A Licence to Walter Rodney to grant &c:

In the twelfe yeare of Edward the third numb. the 33 Walter Rodeney Knight gaue one Messuage in Bathe to y^e^ Prior of Bathe.

Thomas Rodeney —	y^e^ second Sonne & heire male
Sir Thomas Rodeney	to his Father
Sir Iohn Rodeney =	Alice his wife
Sir Walter Rodeney	3. Henry. 4. An Agreement
Sir Iohn Rodeney	betweene Sir William Bonvile
Sir Walter Rodeney	& Sir Walter Rodeney for
	the dowry of Alice wife to Sir
Thomas Rodeney	Iohn Rodeny deceased.

Cap: 5. These seven, I will put into one Chapter There being not much to be said of them besides what is in the Pedegree; and some Deeds which shew that such men there were, What the familyes of Cresse were, whom Sir Thomas Rodney marryed, or that of Chedder whom Sir Iohn his Sonne marryed I know not (see the old Pedegree, my Fathers notes), But of that of S^t^ Iohns with whom Sir Walter the fourth of these seven marryed, It is since raysed by King Charles to the degree of the Nobility by the title of Earle of Bvllingbrooke. There is a Deed dated the 31 yeare of Edward the third made by Robert de Lideney to this Sir Walter Rodeney & Iohn his Sonne, this Sonne Sir Iohn Rodeney had a Daughter named Margaret who was second Wife to Thomas Bvrdet, of Arrow beheaded in the seventeenth yeare of Edward the fourth for wordes spoken concerning a White Bucke which the King killed in his Parke, And from her are descended these of that family & who is now living Anno 1622 Thomas Bvrdet of Bremeot in Warwickeshire Knight & Barenet; Bvrtons survey of Leicester-shire, page 203.

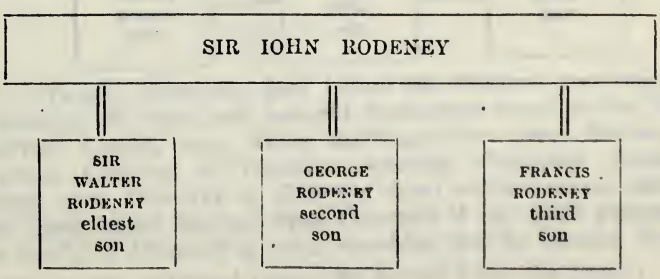
Sir Walter Rodeney Sonne of Sir Iohn Rodeney marryed Margaret Daughter of the Lord Hvngerford w^ch^ match with Rodeney is set vp in the Monuments of the Hvngerfords in the Cathedrall Church at Salisbury, This Sir Walter died the sixth yeare of Edward the fourth, number 46 in the Tower rolles, by which also it appeares that his Sonne Thomas was thirty yeares olde.

In the eighteenth yeare of Edward the fourth in the Tower rolles that Thomas Rodeney the last of these seven dyed 16 of February the 17^th^ yeare of Edward the fourth, and that Iohn his Sonne

was tenne yeares olde at his Father's death, The Pedegree hath omitted his match, but my Father had written POWLET in the margent, but vpon search I found an Inquisition in the Tower taken the 18th yeare of EDWARD the fourth, that her name was ISABELL, and that shee marryed WILLIAM POWLET Esquire, after the death of RODENEY; but of what family shee was doth not appeare, But it appeares by a Deed dated the sixth of August in the third yeare HENRY the sixth by which SIR WALTER RODENEY granteth his Mannour of Congresbury, to THOMAS MOORE Esquire & PHILIP MICHELL vpon condition to regrant it within six moneths to the said WALTER the remainder to THOMAS RODENEY Esquire and IONE the Daughter of THOMAS MOORE aforesaid and the heyres of their bodyes lawfully begotten & in default of such issue, to the right Heires of the said WALTER forever. By this it appeares that ISABEL aforesaid was his second wife & that IONE MOORE was his first wife.

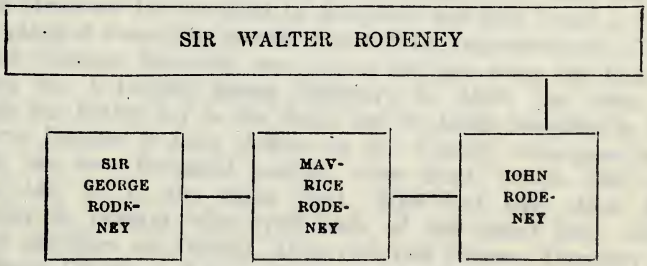
It is very probable that the painted Monument at the Church at Stoke was erected for this THOMAS either by himselfe in his life time, or by his Sonne after his death, & that the Armes of a Bend between 3 cinq foiles vpon three Escutchians vpon that Monument was this mans match with the said IONE MOORE. But because the colours of the field and charge cannot be discerned, it will be some trouble to finde, what family giveth them, there being many familyes of that name in Wilts survey &c. But perhaps vpon search in the Heralds office it may be found. Besides the HVNGERFODS Armes set vpon the Monument, being his Fathers match, was added no doubt to set forth his noble discent.

There was a tradition amongst the olde men of Stoke, when I came first thither, that the painted Monument was erected for Good SIR IOHN RODENEY as they called him, and that, that addition of Good was given him, Because vpon a iolesting with a German vpon London-bridge hee overthrew him, And there vpon the King that then was, willed him to aske some reward of him for his valour. That hee asked only an abatement of the King-silver, from his Tenants of Stoke, from twenty shillings to a noble, which was granted. What ground they had for this tradition I cannot find but rather belieue it to be fabulous, or at least there having been such an abatement vpon many Parishes & of Stoke amongst the rest in a Parliament wherein one SIR IOHN RODENEY served may not be vnlikely; but what hath been aboue this hath been added, Howsoeuer it must be of some other SIR IOHN RODENEY long before.



By an Inquisition taken the second of July the eighteenth yeare of EDWARD the fourth number 4 in the Tower rolles It appeares that this IOHN was ten yeares olde when his Father died, hee was Ward to RICHARD CROFTS Esquier, who marryed him to ANNA Daughter of SIR IAMES CROFTS Knight.[1] SIR IOHN RODENEY dyed August 20. in the eighteenth yeare of HENRY the eight Anno 1527. Shee dyed the thirtie eigth yeare of HENRY the eight. They left three Sonnes as aforesayd; of whom I haue heard my Father tell this story:—

That the elder Brother & one of the younger shooting at the Buttes which stood in the Vtter Court and vnder the olde Gate-house, they differed about a shoote, and agreed that their Brother that stood by should measure and iudge it, he adiudged it to the younger Brother: Wherevpon the eldest threatned them both, that hee would make them repent it both, when hee came to his land, The Father stood in a chamber in the Gate-house, beholding them bvt vnseene, and heard the threatning words who therevpon called out to him, How now Sirrah? are you threatning your younger Brothers? I will make them liue without thee, & therevpon setled the two Mannours of Over-Badgeworth & Congresbury being forty poundes olde rent vpon them, with condition, That if one of them dyed, the other should haue them both, and in case that both dyed without issue, they then should then come to the eldest Brother WALTER RODENEY; but FRANCIS dyed without issue, and the two Mannours came to GEORGE. Hee had sixe Daughters to whom hee bequeathed by his will Two hundred markes a peece for their portions. His eldest Sonne was knighted in his Fathers lifetime He lyes buried at Stoke vnder the Monument y^{t} stands next to the East window, in the Chancell there, & in the RODENEYES Ile, and I suppose y^{t} his Monument was made by his Grand-childe IOHN RODENEY sonne of SIR WALTER RODNEY, because his match with CROFTS is cut in the stone & no other, and his eldest Sonne dyed before his Father.



SIR WALTER RODENEY died before his Father; was knighted in his Fathers life time, and marryed ELIZABETH sister to SIR WILLIAM COMPTON Knight, vpon which marriage there were Deedes passed betweene COMPTON & RODENEY, whereby COMPTONS Lands were assured vpon RODENEY if COMPTON dyed without issue, and RODENEYS Land setled likewise vpon COMPTON if hee dyed without issue. The family of COMPTON is since ennobled, first by Queene ELIZABETH

[1] She was dau. of Richard Crofte. *See* his will P.C.C. (14 Blamyr).

into the title of Lord Compton & since by King Iames into the title of Earle of Northampton, who told mee that hee had such a Deed by him, and that other from Compton to Rodeney is in the hands of Rice Davies aforesaid, Hee lyes buried in Backwell where hee lived in his Fathers life time, Hee dyed in the thirteenth yeare of Henry the eight, & in the 17 yeare of Henry the eight, his Wife marryed Sir Iohn Chaworth and dyed Iuly the fourth in the twenty nineth yeare of Henry y^e^ eight Iohn Rodeney his Sonne was eight yeares olde, when his Father dyed, & thirteenth when his Grandfather dyed, hee lived thirty five year dying December 25 day in the second yeare of Edward the sixth Anno Domini 1547, hee married Elizabeth Daughter of the Lord Mordant which family is since made Earle of Peterborough by King Charles the first what more is extant of him besides my guesse that hee erected his Grandfathers Monument as aforesaid I know not, & that hee left y^e^ estate his Grandfather left him to his Sonne Mavrice.

Mavrice Rodeney Esquire sonne of Iohn Rodeney Esquire was left a Ward when his Father dyed, hee was Ward to one Serieant Powtrell a Layer who carryed him to his house in the North, where it seemes hee was bred carelessely, for during his nonage hee marryed a Smith's Daughter in those parts and afterwards was divorced from her & marryed Ione Daughter to Sir Thomas Dyer Knight, before which marriage hee was cozened of a great part of his estate by Roynion his kinsman & others, as appeares by a Bill brought against them in the Starre-Chamber, and the new-setling of his estate by Act of Parliament, in the reigne of Queen Elizabeth to himselfe & Ione his wife, for tearme of their liues and the heires of their bodyes.

All that I can say of him hee was a great house-keeper, killing vsually 12 great Oxen in the 12 dayes, and that hee was the first in this County that gaue livery Cloakes to his men. Hee sued his livery, in the first yeare of Queene Elizabeth and dyed August 9^th^ 1588, his wife dyed 3 yeares after Anno 1591. Hee had been no good Husband for hee dyed in debt, and had sold Lands in Bristoll to the value of about fifty pounds rent and the Impropriation of Backwell.

Sir George Rodeney was not of full age when his Father dyed, being one & twenty yeares February 2: 1589, but was marryed while his Father lay in his death bed to Anne daughter to Mathew Smyth Esquire of Long Ashton in this County, who gaue in portion with her two thousand pounds, Shee dyed before him, and hee died July 1: in the yeare 1601, Hee had two elder Brothers, Henry & Thomas who dyed both of the small pox, while they lived schollers at Oxford, Hee had two Sisters, Dorothy married to Rice Davies a Layer of the Middle Temple, and Ione Married to one Trenchard. Sir George dying without issue there grew great suites in law about his estate; the sisters clayming it as heyres generall, & my Father Sir Iohn Rodeney, heyre male of the family but clayming it by Sir George Rodeneys will, what the successe was of those suites shall appeare in my Fathers life; But with Sir George ended the first lyne of the family.

(To be continued.)

THE GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF RODNEY OF RODNEY STOKE,

As Compiled in the Seventeenth Century by Sir Edward Rodney, Knt.

(From a MS. formerly in the possession of the late Hon^ble William Powell Rodney.)

(Continued from p. 12.)

George Rodeney second Son of Sir Iohn Rodeney.

His Father left him by the death of his Brother Francis the two Mannours of Over-Badgeworth & Congresbury, being fortie poundes olde rent, & hee being a good Husband, improved his estate to a good competency, Hee rented the Demesnes of Stoke during his Nephew Mavrice's minority at fortie pounds per annum, The Vicaredge of Westbury & Predy being much in arreare to Queene Elizabeth, Hee compounded with the Vicar that then was, and tooke a Lease from the Vicar the Bishop, the Deane & Chapter for fourscore & one yeares, paying twenty markes pension to the Vicar of Westbury, and finding a Curate for Predy, Then hee pulled downe the olde Vicaredge-house, & built that which now is standing, where hee lyved to his death. Hee had bought also of the Bishop a good part of Westbury Parke for threescore & one yeares, ioyning with one Boycher of Bristoll and others who bought the rest, Hee had also a Lease of the Parsonage of Predy with a Copyhold tenement in Predy and a tenement in Butleigh, Hee had bought also the whole Mannour of Butleigh; But before it was conveyed, hee was vnderminèd by old Christopher Symcockes, who was Steward of the Court to Mavrice Rodeney, by this tricke. Hearing that my Grandfather had compounded for it, and articled & payd some part of y^e^ mony Hee went to the Gentleman that sold it, & offred him more money then [than] my Grandfather was to pay; the Gentleman told him, that hee had already sold it to M^r^ Rodeney, and could not goe from his Bargaine; Symcockes replyed, that hee would get M^r^ Rodeneys good will to haue it, the Gentleman answered, if hee could doe so, hee would take his money, therevpon the Olde-Foxe comes to M^r^ Rodeney to his House at Westbury, bringing to [two] men with him, and after salutations, told him hee had bought the Mannour of Butleigh, if you haue much good may it doe you, Symcockes turnes about to his two men, and bad them beare witnesse, for these wordes were a good attornèment in law, yet for all this there grew suites in law betweene them, and my Grandfather rather then [than] to holde his bargaine with the trouble of law tooke his money, & that one Tenement in Butleigh by a large lease of yeares, which hee left to my Father.

Hee had kept a very plentifull house of Provision had good store of money in his purse, & dyed an olde man, Anno 1580 being about 80 yeares olde.

My Father tolde mee that walking with him in Westbury-feildes

among other discourses hee bad him obserue, how his Nephew MAVRICE his match did prosper with him, for hee thought it would not prosper very well with him because hee put away his first wife, though a meane woman, which fell out accordingly, for. all his Sonnes by the second wife dyed without issue.

Hee marryed ELIZABETH KYRTON of Chedder, her Coat is omitted in y^e^ Pedegree but I thinke is in Chedder Church windowes Hee left four Daughters, BARBARA married to WALTER BVCKLAND Esquire of Stanlich in Wiltš, AGATHA marryed to THOMAS HODGES Gentleman of this Countie, HONOR and LVCRETIA & one Sonne. whom I am next to speake of.

SIR IOHN RODENEY Knight.

Hee was the Sonne of GEORGE RODENEY second Sonne of SIR IOHN RODENEY hee was borne at Stoke, while his Father rented the Demesnes there about the yeare 1549, for hee was 61 when hee dyed, which was August the sixe 1612, when his Father dyed hee was about 30 yeares, hee was bred a Scoller in Corpus-Christi-Colledge in Oxford, & afterward marryed IANE SEYMOVR a Daughter of SIR HENRY SEYMOVR Knight & Brother to EDWARD Duke of Somerset & to Queene IANE SEYMOVR from whom came King EDWARD the sixth, to whom my father[1] was cozen-German, so was shee likewise to EDWARD Earle of Hertford, the Dukes son & heyre, Shee was a very wise & provident woman, and brought him a thousand pound portion, with many Children, Sonnes & Daughters, After hee was first marryed, hee bought the farme of Cheddar, and lived there about two or three yeares, then hee bought a lease of one & twenty yeares of Pilton Parke and farme, and after his Father dyed, hee bought in the other parts of Westbury Parke & tooke a new Lease of the whole Parke and certaine Demesne Lands for One hundred & twenty yeares, bought in first a Lease of the Parsonage of Westbury, then the Feefarme, Also an Annuitie of Fortie poundes rent charged vpon y^e^ Mannour of Congresbury-Bishop for his life & my Mothers, Then hee bought a new Lease of Pilton-Parke & Farme for three lives, his owne [his] Mothers & his Sonne EDWARD.

Vpon the death of SIR GEORGE RODENEY dying without issue; there fell great suites in law betweene my Father & the Sisters of SIR GEORGE RODENEY who claymed his estate as Heyres at the Common law, and my Father by SIR GEORGE's Will, whereby hee gaue y^e^ whole estate to him. There had been an Ancient entayle of the whole Estate vpon the heires males, but in 1588 (the worldes clymactericall yeare (as CAMDEN calles it) my Father having no Sonnes, cut of [off] the entayle of his two Mannors of Congresbury & Over-Badgeworth, from the elder line, which SIR GEORGE RODENEY hearing made him cut of [off] the entayle of his Landes also; but hee resolved to new convey it againe, according to the entayle, and to that purpose, setled it so by his last Will and Testament and also kept by him engrossed in Parchment a Deed ready to be sealed at any time; but hee dying at Amesbury in his way to

[1] *Sic* in MS., but ? mother.

London it was not sealed; and the Will the Heyres at Law challenged as insufficient, & made by a man that was not Compos mentis, My Father on the other side defended the contrary, as that at the time of making the Will hee was free from any the least distraction. This being y^e maine question, as also whither [whether] a Will could convey any more then [than] two parts? admitting it to be good in respect of the tenure by Knights service. After four yeares suites in most or all the Courts at Westmister and much money spent By the mediation of SIR IOHN POPHAM Chiefe Iustice, who professed great good will to SIR GEORGE RODENEY, and that hee was loath to see his estate spent in Law, which hee thought was very likely, by consent of all parties it was agreed to referr it to his arbitrement, which hee made in this maner.

That the Demesnes and Woodes of Stoke and Backwell-Parke should be sold, to pay SIR GEORGE RODENEYS debts being about seven thousand pounds, that if that did not reach it, the rest should be payd equally by my Father, DAVIS & TRENCHARD the rest of the Estate being two hundred & threescore pounds olde rent, should be equally divided betweene them, then hee caused Deeds to be drawne to the effect of the Arbitrement and procured an Act of Parliament to confirme it in the first yeare of King IAMES.

My Father being vnwilling to let the Demesnes of Stoke goe away from his family having beene the ancient seat of the RODNEYS, purchased it; and to enable himselfe the better for payment of his purchase and his part of SIR GEORGE RODENEYS debtes, hee stated out Westbury-Parke for eighty yeares if three liues lived so long.

And here began nostri fundi calamitas for together with these debtes, of SIR GEORGE RODENEYS, it fell out so, that at that very time, hee was to buy his Lease of Pilton-Parke & Farme, for three lives, besides the marryage of his second Daughter PENELOPE to SIR THEODORE NEWTON which cost him 1200 pounds & 3 yeares dyet and of his third Daughter IANE to M^r TRENCHARD with whom hee gaue 1200 poundes more; and the great extreame hee was at in law, brought him very much in debt, who before was alwayes purchasing & full of money; But if GOD had given him longer life, his providence was such, as would haue carryed him through all difficulties & to haue left his estate free to mee his heire who was now to vndergoe those great burdens with young & weake shoulders, as will better appeare in that which followeth.

Hee had many Children sixeteene or seventeene; but left behinde him at his death only seven (viz) EDWARD, HENRY, GEORGE & WILLIAM and three Daughters ELIZABETH marryed to IAMES KIRTON a Layer of the Middle Temple, PENELOPE marryed to SIR THEODORE NEWTON of Glocestershire & IANE marryed to IOHN TRENCHARD a younger Sonne of SIR GEORGE TRENCHARD of Dorsetshire, His Sonne HENRY was bound an Apprentice to one GREENE of Walbrooke in London, and going Factor into Barbary, was drowned vpon the coasts of Africke. GEORGE who first marryed ANNA LAKES and Widdow to the Lord Roos, after whose death he marryed SARAH

CAGE[1] Daughter of SIR IOHN CAGE[1] of Cambridge-shire. WILLIAM who marryed ALICE Daughter of SIR THOMAS CÆSAR.

Of EDWARD the eldest wee will speake more in the next Chapter.

SIR IOHN RODENEY was Knighted in the first yeare of King IAMES, Hee had borne all the Country Offices, which were proper to the best sort of Gentlemen, and at last being highe Shiriffe at the Assizes at Charde, dyed on the sixth day of August 1612. And lyes buried at Stoke, in the Ile there nere the painted Monument, where also his Wife who survived him one & twentie yeares and halfe, lyes interred by him and to whom in duty I owe a Monument which if GOD grant mee life I doe resolve to erect, Hee was of a iust stature sixe foote high or neere thereabouts of a sound constitution of body, having been seldome sicke, Hee was very temperate in his diet, iust in all his dealings chaste in Wedlocke, a good Maister to his Servants, very Hospitable in his port & manner of living, and generally an honest man and a good Christian, Whose soule by GODS mercy enioys the beatificall vision.

SIR EDWARD RODENEY Knight and GEORGE RODENEY Esquire.

HEE was borne at Pilton on Munday Saint PETERS day halfe an houre after 2 of the clocke in the after noone, being the 29th of Iune 1590. Hee was nursed at Holt in the parish of Pilton till hee was two yeares olde, and afterward remayned in his Fathers house till hee was eight, where hee learned to read & write, From thence hee was sent to the Grammer Schoole at Trowbridge, in Wiltshire, where hee continued sixe yeares, & from thence to Magdalen Colledge in Oxford, where hee continued almost four yeares, Afterwards hee was placed a Student in the Middle Temple in London, where hee saluted only the Law afarre of [off], & mispent his time.

Anno 1611. Hee went beyond the Seas with SIR WILLIAM SEYMOVR second Son of WILLIAM LORD BEAVCHAMP who fled with the Lady ARBELLA whom hee had marryed privately, whereat King IAMES tooke great offence, and committed them both to severall prisons, from whence they escaped; but the Lady ARBELLA was taken againe, and committed to the Tower, where shee dyed of sickenesse; SIR EDWARD RODENEY returned againe in Candlemas tearme the same yeare; but Mr SEYMOR not vntill four yeares after; and not till the Lady ARBELLA was dead. After that hee returned and is now by the death of his elder Brother Earle of Heartford.

SIR EDWARD RODENEY and those Brothers the SEYMOVRS were bred together in the Schooles of Trowbridge & Oxford which contracted such a friendship betweene Mr WILLIAM SEYMOVR & him; That hee readily exposed himselfe to any hazzard to be in his company; and since so much favour from the same person being Marquis and so much respect from SIR EDWARD RODENEY to the Marquis as to no man so much. It is true they were nerely allyed; for SIR EDWARD RODENEY was more then [than] halfe a

[1] Altered in the MS. from "Gage," as originally written.

Seymovr, by his Mother, who was Daughter to Sir Henry Seymovr who was Brother to the Duke of Somerset, and to Queene Iane Seymovr.

Anno 1612 August 6. Sir Iohn Rodeney dyed, at what time Sir Edward Rodeney was aged 22 yeares, and almost 2 moneths.

May 29: 1614. Sir Edward Rodeney marryed M^rs^ Frances Sowthwell in the presence Chamber at Somerset house in the Strand, then the Queenes house, and called Denmarke-house, Shee was a Lady of the Queene Anna her Privy Chamber; and the Queene kept the marryage feast, all that day at extraordinary charges, Shee invited the King from White-hall, who knighted mee that day, as hee passed through the Privy-chamber, with the Prince his sword, I was conveyed from my Chamber in Westmister to the Court with aboue 40 Knights & Gentlemen my friendes & Countrymen, all mounted vpon great horses richly furnished with foote-cloathes and great-saddles, Bishop Movntagve being Deane of the Chappell marryed vs. I lodged in the Queenes house that night, The Presents in Plate given vnto my Wife that day, by great Lords & Ladyes & other her friends & kinread did amount in value neere two thousand poundes; but my Charge in Apparrell wedding Gloves Skarfes & rewardes, given to those that brought Presents, did fully equall it.

The Queene gaue her all her Wedding clothes worth at least five-hundred pounds, and the King & Queene gaue her Iewells to y^e^ value of a thousand poundes.

The portion by her Father's will was only fifteene hundred poundes, but her Brother added five hundred poundes more.

Her Father was Sir Robert Sovthwell of Woodrising in Northfolke, a Gentleman of an Ancient family, and of a great estate about foure thousand pounds per annum, Her Mother was the Lady Elizabeth Howard eldest Daughter to Charles Howard Earle of Nottingham & Lord High Admirall of England descended from the Dukes of Norfolke.

Of their Daughter I will leaue this testimony that her birth, education & other quallifications of her minde & Person, made her a fit Wife, for a man of a farre greater fortune then [than] my selfe; Of whom I may speake in the wordes of Solomon, Many daughters haue done well, but thou exceedest them all, Shee brought to her Husband thirteene Children (viz:) fiue Sonnes named Iohn & Iohn, Edward, William & George, The two Iohns & Edward dyed within one moneth after they were borne, William lived to be about 2 years olde, and some odde moneths.

George lived to be two and twentie yeares olde & foure moneths dying in the prime of his age. Shee brought eight Daughters, Elizabeth Frances Penelope Anna Iane & Katharine and two others Margaret & Mary who dyed young, Frances dyed at Womans estate, Anna marryed Sir Thomas Bridges Knight of Kainsham in this Countie of Somerset. Penelope marryed Peter Gleane of Northfolke Esquire.

Here giue mee leaue to make some Apology for my selfe because when I die there will be an end of my family, and the

fortunes of my house, Least [lest] it may be thought, that vnthrifti nesse or some other as bad faults in mee, haue beene the cause of our ruine That GOD hath put an end to it by the death of my Deare GEORGE is neither matter of wounder, nor in true estimation a punishment; for who is punished? My deare GEORGE hath gained an exceeding weight of glory by it. His sinnes whatsoever they were by reason of his tender yeares, being only sinnes of infirmitie; which GOD is delighted to pardon, if men will but aske mercy as hee did in his death-Bed: His good parts were not a few, a cleane mouth never speaking ill of any, If hee could not speake well hee would say nothing, Hee was chaste to admiration, for though hee were in the flower of his age, I could never obserue or heare by his Servants or any others that ever hee went beyond an ordinary salutation with any Woman. To his Parents hee was very obedient & affectionate, being indeed the staffe of my age, doeing all my businesses for mee, as in keeping Courts, receiving and accounting for money, And when by reason of my adhering to the King, in those vnnaturall warres, I had beene severall times imprisoned; the last of those times hee being growen vp to mans estate, and able for businesses, hee went to London, solicited my enlargement, and having obtayned it came poste with it from London & brought it to mee the next day to Tanton, riding night & day with it a iourney of 120 miles. Hee gaue good evidence of a religious minde, as in vowing to set apart a day in the weeke of thankesgiving, for particular mercyes from GOD to him, and in giving Almes, according to his small mite. Hee was of a iust stature, about sixe foote high, well proportioned through his whole body, actiue & full of spirit. His education to his booke was much lost, or interrupted by reason of those warres, for I was forced to take him from the Schoole at Sheapton, and afterwardes from the Schoole at Westminster, for feare that he should be enticed to take vp Armes against the King, being myselfe engaged in his quarrell.

This is all that I will say concerning him a iust commendation being due to him & all the wealth I can leaue him now. I sayd before, that in true estimation this period of my family was no punishment, but in our account, that suffer it for what punishment is it to change a brittle and fading inheritance for one y^{t} is immortall & everlasting; or if it be a punishment, it is much lightned by the multitude of sufferers in the same kinde.

Solamen miseris socios habuisse doloris.

Fiue hundred yeares is the common period of Kingdomes; and very few or no familyes goe beyond that period, very many come short of it; so as in true account it is rather a blessing to haue lasted so long, then [than] a punishment to end at last. For those places of Scripture, that spoke of it as a punishment, I perceiue they are to be vnderstood of such foolish men that take a pride in the Antiquitie & numerous discent of Ancestors, and thinke their houses shall continue for ever, and are careless with what sinnes they vndermine it, for calling houses & places after their owne

names, which the Psalmist findes fault with, I thinke that if it were begun by themselves in pride & presumption, it is no lesse, if others put it vpon them after a long continuance of a family in one place it can be no fault at all, as in our family in this place which was formerly called Stoke-Gifford, and now is generally called Stoke-Rodney, Wee having continued here by the space of neere five hundred yeares, and how much longer I know not neither can I finde by my search. Now a word or two to the Apology I mentioned before.

My Father was a very provident & wise man, and a great husband, yet by reason of the suites, Sir George Rodeneys debtes and other payments in portions for Daughters, and other purchases, Hee dyed in debt to the summe of neere Three thousand five hundred poundes, and left three younger Sonnes vnprovided, dying intestate. The debt was increased by giving my three younger Brothers, fiue hundred poundes a peece; By occasion of his Shrivealty at least fiue hundred pound more, and his funerall cost mee at y^e least fiue hundred poundes more, which put together made Sixe thousand poundes. Almost halfe of his estate went to my Mother; and so this great summe lay on my Shoulders with some other considerable summes which I had run out in my Fathers life. So as from his death money being then at ten pounds per centum I payd vse to the full value of my Revenue; the whole estate not being aboue One thousand pounds per annum. Whereof my Mother had foure-hundred & I sixe-hundred poundes; yet by selling & now and then, as I could haue opportunitie by my Wifes portion and avoyding all vnnecessary expences after I was marryed, I almost winded myselfe out of it, till these warres came which by sequestration plunderings great taxes at Goldsmiths Hall Haberdashers Hall, and in the Country cast mee very farre backe againe, And if God had blessed my Sonne, with long-life, I make no question, but hee would haue recovered and kept it vp longer. But I conclude with Iob. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh; blessed be the name of the Lord. God grant that his true worship may continue in my Posteritie, though it cannot in my Sonnes; and that some of my Brothers Sonnes may continue his true worship in our name to another period.

I haue done with this broken discourse, & indeed with the world, wayting till my change come, as the Text of my Sonnes funerall Sermon[1] speaketh; which may serue for the History of his short life.

Iob 14: 14: If a man die shall hee liue againe. All the dayes of my appointed time will I waite, till my change come.

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[1] The "History" is followed in the original MS. by this Sermon, entitled :—

"The Christian exchange"

"A Sermon preached at Rodeney Stoke in | Summersett shire at the funerall of the mvch | lamented George Rodeney Esq^r: the only sonne of the | Right Wors^ll: Sir Edward Rodeney Knight. | By Frances Atkings M^r of arts and some times | Fellore of Wadham Colledge in Oxford." | The MS. concludes with :—

"An Elegie"

"Vpon the immature fate of y^e most mature | Gentleman | George Rodney Esq^r. | Who dyed at Rodeney Stoake November 30 1651 | Writtin at the same Rodeny Stoake, almost | an yeare after his decease : By his friend | and servant | Franc : Atkines."