HERALDIC NOTES TAKEN AT CLARE, CO. SUFFOLK, IN THE REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

The old collectors of Church Notes enjoyed an advantage which is denied their modern successors, in the richly storied panes with which ecclesiastical edifices were decorated, and which frequently afforded more information, both in arms and inscriptions, than even the sepulchral monuments. The funereal banners and achievements were also preserved for many generations. Of these sources of information the heralds did not neglect to avail themselves; and it is desirable that the notes they made, mostly from originals now destroyed, should be searched out in their MS. collections, brought into view, and compared with the few existing remains.

The following article is selected from a valuable collection of armorial notes, chiefly made in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, now preserved in the MS. Lansdowne 260: but written in such a crabbed and obscure hand that they are at first sight very forbidding. They will, however, be found worth the toil of decyphering.

The church of Clare was illustrated with some of the armorial achievements of the royal house of York, which owned the castle at that place. The "statues," which the writer describes with so much *gusto*, were figures represented in the windows.

The Editor has been favoured with some remarks by David Elisha Davy, Esq. of Ufford, and Richard Almack, Esq. F.S.A. of Long Melford, which materially illustrate the several achievements. It appears that scarcely any of the memorials in painted glass here enumerated can now be found. The chancel was rebuilt about 1716, by divers benefactions, so that none of the old arms remain: but those of many of the benefactors are still in being. These benefactors were Sir Thomas Barnardiston, Sir John Higham, Sir Stephen Soame, Sir George Le Hunt, and Sir William Clopton. The arms of De Clare appear over the west entrance, in stone, very ancient. In the town of Clare there also remains a very ancient carving of the sign of the chained Swan, with much blazonry of Clare, De Burgh, Mortimer, &c.

IN CLARE PRIORY. (f. 266.)

In theyer convocacion house, now made a barne.

On the south side, in one wyndow two scochions of Bucher (Bourchier[a]), and underwritten, Joñes Bucher, archidiaconus Essex.

In the next, two scochions ermen charged with three lyons rampant or; under-written, dña de Cotterell.

In the next, two pendant of, Sa. a bend argent twixt two cotises or dansy, under an old-fashioned helmet covered with a shappew (chapeau) parted per pale or and sable, lyned gules, twixt two wynges, th'one parted or et argent, th'other sa. et argent, downewardes. Under-written, Wiłłm Clopton.

In another wyndow, Argent, a chief gules and two cressantes (crescents) or.

On end of this house, glased with England and France, in borders; an other with Clare and Ulster; an other with Clare, Ulster, and Bardolf; and St. George there pictured.

Finis.

IN CLARE CHIRCH. (Ibid. f. 267.)

In the steple wyndow:—

One with a label ar. quartering idem quod Howard.

Or, a cheif indented sa. [Harsick.]

Ar. a chevron gules twixt three mullets.

One of Clopton, the bend ar.

One of Sa. a crosse or engrailed, and a mullet ar. in the first quarter. [Peyton.]

One of Swillington quartering Battayle [Or, a griffin segreant azure. This still remains in the west window.]

One of Tyrell.

One, Sa. a chevron twixt three crosses ar. fermed, in a chief ar. a demy . . sa.

Item thare —

One statue of a (smothe fased) tall soldiour in long yellow

[a] Joh. de Bowsar exchanged the rectory of Sible Hedingham for the archdeaconry of Essex with Hugh de Stathern 11 kal. Feb. 1336. The patron of the church was Sir Robert de Bousser, or Bourchier, the Lord Chancellor: so he was probably of that family. See Newcourt's Repert. vol. i. p. 72, vol. ii. p. 323.

heere, in armour of plate and a cloke of his armes, sc. 3 roches barways in a bordure engrailed, about his necke a short cheine dobled or. [Lilling.] His faire wyfe by him in the same armes, on hir mantell gules. Under wrightten, *Thomas.*

One next him in long browne heere, bot elder and grym-visadged, of lyke stature, in the cloake of Barnard, sc. Ar. a beere sa. rampant, moseled or; and by him his fyne wyfe in a kyrtell gules, with three roches ar. and bordure engrailed; on hir mantell the beare predict.

[These arms clearly identify the figures, as those of Robert Bernard, lord of Isleham in Cambridgeshire, and Elizabeth his wife, daughter and heiress of Sir Nicholas Lilling of Abington, in the county of Northampton, Knt. who was high sheriff of that county in 1384. Their eldest son, Sir John Bernard, Knt. of Isleham, had three daughters, his co-heiresses; the eldest, Margaret, married Thomas Peyton, Esq. who thereby acquired the Isleham estate. (See the Baronetages, under Bernard, Peyton, &c.) In Melford church are portraits, in old glass, of this Thomas Peyton and his wife, with the arms (on their surcoats) of Peyton, impaling Barnard quartering Lilling. The husband's portrait I have restored and placed in the east window, quite perfect. The lady is nearly perfect, but remains in the original obscure position in the church. R. A.]

Two statues of Thomas Myeld and his wyfe by him, in thaire armes; he in long browne here and chained about his necke, in whight armour, faire and smoth-fased, with a lion rampant gules and fees [*i. e.* fess] compone or and blue, and she in the clothes of Barnard.

Twixt them a statue of a pouchemouthed squier in long here, cloke gules, and lion rampant ar. (*above written* or), in a dobled cheine *ut alii*, hare browne; by him his wyfe, in the mantell of her husband and kyrtell of Myld. A most sweet fase, for-heed tyres all one.

In the north yle:—

A banner larglie fringed with gules and verte, borne uppe with four knightes in armour, and in the banner France [and] Ingland quarterly with a label of three points pelleted gules, empaled with Mortimer, quartered with Ulster, and pretens to Edmund of Woodstock.

[The achievement here described, which might otherwise be subject to some doubt, is placed beyond dispute by a tricking in the margin of

the MS. The coat of pretence, which is borne upon the impalement, is that of Holland, the wife's mother, the writer erroneously describing it as "pretens to Edmund of Woodstock," instead of Edmund Holland, Earl of Kent. It was the achievement of Richard of Coningsborough, Earl of Cambridge, and his wife Anne Mortimer, daughter of Roger Earl of March and Ulster, by Alianor Holland, sister and coheir of Edmund Earl of Kent. Edmund Earl of March, the brother of the Countess of Cambridge, was buried in the church of Clare in 1424. This may be noticed as a very remarkable instance of arms of pretence.]

In the north yle, a banner of Badlesmere.

In the chauncell south yle:—

One of Oxfford, empaled with Mortymer, his inscutchon gules.

One, Or, three chevrons gules, a label blue [Clare], empaled with Or, a lion rampant purpure [Lacy].

One of Veere, empaled with Gules, two lyons or passant fulfased.

One of Wokendon, empaled with Myld.

One of Myld, empaled with Barnard, and many scutchons of Montgomery, and ever by him Buttler lord Sudley.

Orate pro aïab3 Thome Green ar. ꝙ Joñe vx̃ eiusdem, dñi Joñis Montgomere militis, dñe Elisabethe Say, et dñe Joñe Dedh^{a}m, qui ist^{a}m fenestr^{a}m vitriari fecerunt. Ao. Dñi 1489.

The statue of the knight lyke Popham now attorney, [b] in long whight heere, and his armour and coate of armes; his two wyfes behind him in straight-bodyed gownes with slender sleeves putt on, th'one blue, th'other purpure.

Over heed—one scutchon of Mowbray,

One of Myld,

One of Montgomery,

and by ytt Buttler quartered with Sudley.

[Sir John Montgomery married Elizabeth, sister of Ralph Boteler, Lord Sudley, Knt. and had issue Sir Thomas Montgomery, a benefactor to Long Melford church, where his figure was placed in a window.]

Over the chappell dore:—

Orate pro aïa Joñis Ruste filij Robti Rust.

In upper wyndowes, Sable, three acorns or, fruited ar.

[b] This singular remark, alluding apparently to a fancied resemblance in features, fixes the date of these notes between 1580 and 1591, whilst Sir John Popham filled he office of Attorney-general.

Sa. three staggs heedes ar. cabused, horned or; empaled with a blanke. [Cavendish.[c]]

Item with Clopton ermine, one flec on his bend.

Ar. a chevron and martlett sa. Amont, quartering Harleston; empaled with that Clopton: and *memorandum*, that in Walden church that Harleston ys empaled with Or, a cinquefoil sa.

Denstons two coates empaled with Clopton.

[Denston's two coats are, Denston and Wanton quarterly, and in this instance they impale Clopton, shewing that it is the shield of John Denston who married Katharine, daughter (by his first wife) of William de Clopton, of Kentwell in Melford, who died 1446. The portrait of this John Denston, in painted glass, is one of the figures which I have restored and placed in the east window of Melford church. The tomb and effigy of William de Clopton are in Melford church. His mother was Katharine Mylde, the heiress of the family of Mylde of Clare, and she by her second husband, Sir William Tendring, Knt. had an only daughter, Alice, who married Sir John Howard, and was grandmother of the first Duke of Norfolk of that name. Elizabeth Clopton, daughter of William de Clopton by his second wife, married Richard Cavendish, Serjeant at Law. This will shew the family affinity of several of the coats named. (See Cullum's Hawstead, p. 112.) R. A.]

In a house, late brought from the pryory:—

One of St. Edmond.

One of Playce.

One, Gules, six lefte-hand gloaves ar.

One of Baynard.

One of Or, a salter sa. engrailed and annulet ar.

Many of Clare with Ulster in a bordure sa. gutted or.

On th' outside of a house, one of Mortymer quartering Ulster.

In a wyndow, one of Barnardeston.

In the church-yard, Fretté, charged with fleurs-de-lis saunce number, in a quarter dexter a starre.

Finis.

[c] The noble family of Cavendish is derived from ancestors long settled at Cavendish, a parish adjoining to Clare.