PEDIGREE OF PYCHEFORD.

PYCHEFORD (now Pitchford) in Shropshire, which gave name to this family, was itself so named from a well there, the surface of which is frequently covered with the oily substance called *petroleum*, and at a very early period was one of the possessions of the "de Pychefords." The family was founded by Ranulph de Pycheford, who, as Camden says, was for his valiant conduct at Bridgenorth Castle temp. Hen. I. enfeoffed by that king of Littlebrug, co. Salop, to be held by the tenure of finding dry wood (*i. e.* fuel) for the chamber in the castle when the king came thither; and, in consequence of this service, the fundamental bearing of the early de Pychefords seems clearly to have been adopted; it being "a blue *lion* passant, on a golden field." This was borne on a chief by Englefield, who married one of their heiresses; and the Surrey Pychefords, who branched from the Shropshire stock temp. Hen. III. were evidently those of the name who placed the same charge, in a fess, on a field chequy or and azure; derived probably from Warren. These early Pychefords were a distinguished and knightly family, and of large landed possessions during the two centuries immediately succeeding the exploit which raised them, viz. from Henry the First's time; and a branch which had moved to Blimenhull, in the adjoining county of Stafford, did not expire till the fifteenth century: but all trace of their name disappears, at least in public records, about the war of the roses; and if their blood was not lost during those commotions, there can be little doubt their possessions were.

After the restoration of peace, and the settlement of the kingdom, a second family of the name appeared, resident at Lee Brockhurst, in Shropshire, of which manor Sir John de Pycheford, of the former race, had died seised in 13 Edw. I. (1284-5); and hence owing at least their name to the original stock. This second family, however, seem to have just emerged from yeomen, when Robert Cooke, Clarenceux, who visited Shropshire in 1584, allowed them a coat of arms (totally different from the previous family's) with a crest:—the former being "Azure, a

cinquefoil between six martlets or;" the latter, "An ostrich argent, beaked and ducally gorged or." This house, first recorded as Pycheford, afterwards as Pichford, and finally Pitchford, like most yeoman families kept its chiefs on its lands (the Lee Brockhurst estate), and sent its younger sons into the trades of London. One of these, a grocer of James the First's reign, having retired to St. Alban's in Hertfordshire, entered a short pedigree of the family in the Visitation of that county 1634, together with the arms and crest allowed by Cooke, and an abstract of one of the early Ranulph de Pycheford's deeds; from which family the new stock had now claimed descent. From the will of William Pycheford or Pitchford, of London, haberdasher, nephew of the said grocer, and both connected with St. Mary's Colechurch parish, (in which will, proved 1659-60, he mentions to have been born and baptized at Lee, co. Salop, and leaves to that church,) it would seem that several of the family held commissions in the parliamentary army—not uncommon in families recorded as yeomen under James and Elizabeth. The name of Pitchford is still existing in the neighbourhood of Lee, but its fortunes scarcely survived the usual period of rise, zenith, and fall. Its last match with a family of consequence seems to have been that with Gatacre, recorded in Burke's Commoners. The two pedigrees subjoined are, respectively, a collection and arrangement of the records respecting the former house, and an elaboration of the visitation entry of the latter; in which last table the matter contained in the Visitation is printed in Italics, to distinguish it from the additional details.

PEDIGREE I.

Arms: Or, a lion passant azure, armed and langued gules.

Ranulph de Pycheford, of Pycheford, co. Salop, enfeoffed by Hen. I. of Littlebrug, co. Salop, for his valiant conduct at Bridgenorth Castle, to be held by the tenure of finding firewood for the castle when the King came thither. (Vide Camden, Brit. iii. p. 4.)

Ranulph de Pycheford had licence 16 Hen. III. (Cal. Rot. Chart. p. 48.) for market and fair at Albrighton, co. Salop, Inq. p. mort. 37 Hen. III. seised of Lynne and Dunethe manors in Ireland, and Pycheford and Albrighton, co. Salop, with lands in Littlebrug, =

William de Pycheford "had a grant from the King of Eleton manor, co. York. (Plac. Abb. p. 130.) =

Burgia de Pycheford, dau. and heir, wife of John de Inghelfield or Englefield, 37 Hen. III. when they had a suit with one Thornton for Eleton; decree in their favour. =

Richard de Pycheford held land in Blimenhull, co. Staff. 39 Hen. III. =

Robert Pycheford, of Clifton, co. Staf. 7 Edw. I.

Roger Pycheford of Blimenhull. =

Sir John de Pycheford, knt. held Lee Brockhurst, co. Salop, in chief 39 Hen. III.; served Edw. I. against Llewellyn 1297; defaults through infirmity 1282; died soon after, Inq. p. mort. 13 Edw. I. seised of Albrighton manor and advowson, Pycheford manor, Routon church, tenements in Cantelowe, Oswaldestre, and Lee under Brockhurst. =

Geoffry de Pycheford, of Wenlock, co. Salop, (where he held lands, 2 Edw. I, 1273.) Constable of Windsor Castle (Rot. Hund. I. 18); had a grant from Griffin de Wenoneyme of Scheladen in Esseford, co, Derby, temp. Hen. III.; held lands in Chichester Rape, Sussex, 1296; returned a Sussex and Surrey landholder 1297; died seised of tenements, co. Camb. Inq. p. mort. 17 Edw. I. He was assessor of the Berks and Oxon 15th, granted 1275. =

Sir William Englefield, *a quo* Englefield, co. Berks, Bart.

? John, called de Pycheford, M.P. for Scarborough, co. York, 1300-1. Inq. p. mort. 30 Edw. I.

Roger de Pycheford, of Blimenhull; lev. a fine of lands in Blimenhull with his wife Alianor, 5 Edw. III.

John Pycheford. =

Ranulph de Pycheford returned 1297 as a Salop land or rent owner of 20*l.* per ann. and summoned as such to perform military service beyond seas. Inq. p. mort. 31 Edw. I.

John de Pycheford, Lord of Wimpole, co. Camb. 1315.

Roger de Pycheford of Blimenhull, living 5 Edw. III. Inq. p. mort. 5 & 7 Hen. IV. seised of Blimenhull, and tenements in Bruynton, co. Staff.

Ralph de Pycheford, of Littlebrug. Inq. p. mort. 16 Edw. III. seised of lands at Bridgenorth, &c.

Nicholas de Pycheford, lord of Cantelow 1316; living 1341 (Inq. Nonarum); dead 1349. =

Joan ...., dead, a widow, 23 Edw. III. when her executors had licence to appropriate five marks rent in Bridgenorth in mortmain. (Rot. Orig. II. 198.)

William de Pycheford, 16 Edw. III. enfeoffed of La More, juxta Oldebury. co. Sal. (Cal. Esc. & Rot. Orig.)

PEDIGREE II.

Arms: Azure, a cinquefoil between six martlets or.
Crest: An ostrich argent, beaked and ducally gorged or.

John Pycheford of Lee Brockhurst, co. Salop; buried at Lee, 16 March 1580. = ...

John Pichford, of Lee Brockhurst, co. Salop, to whom Robert Cooke allowed the arms and crest circa 1584, at the visitation (entered in Harl. MS. 1396); bur. at Lee, 2 Aug. 1590. = *Jone, dau. of ..... Besford, of co. Salop.* Bur. at Lee 13 Nov. 1593.

1. A-lise. = 1. *Thomas Pitchford,* of Lee B. co. Salop, liv. 1608; bur. there 2 Februar. 1615-6. = 2. Jane ..... bur. at Lee 29 Aug. 1615.

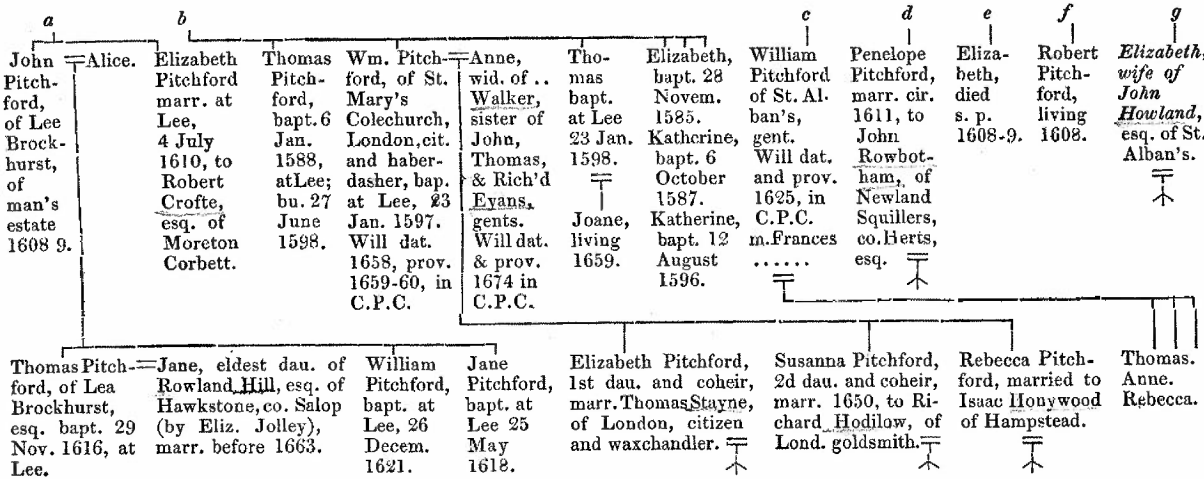
1. ..... = 2. *William Pitchford,* of London, grocer and citizen. Will dat. & proved in C.P.C. 1608-9. = 2. Elizabeth dau. of Mrs. Alice Bower, of Westchester widow. = Alderscy, niece pat. of Alderscy, of Alderscy, co. Chester, and mat. of Sir Thomas Lowe, of London. kt, = Thomas 1st Lord Coventry, Keeper of the Great Seal, &c. 2nd husb.

3. *John Pitchford.* — 4. *Andrew Pitchford.*

5. *Robert Pitchford,* of London, grocer, 1608, *of St. Alban's, Herts,* 1634. when he entered his arms and pedigree at the Visit. Herts. Will proved in C.P.C. 1636. = *Jane, dau. of ..... of North Coventry, co. Warw.*

6. Arthur Pitchford, marr. with issue 1608. = ... wife of .... Binnell, co. Salop, 1608 = ... wife of ..... Donne, of Preston Brocas. = ... wife of ..... Groom 1608. = Sarah Groom 1659.

a — b — c — d — e — f — g — h


a
b
c
d
e
f
g
h
John Pitchford, of Lee Brockhurst, of man's estate 1608 9.
Alice.
Elizabeth Pitchford marr. at Lee, 4 July 1610, to Robert Crofte, esq. of Moreton Corbett.
Thomas Pitchford, bapt. 6 Jan. 1588, at Lee; bu. 27 June 1598.
Wm. Pitchford, of St. Mary's Colechurch, London, cit. and haberdasher, bap. at Lee, 23 Jan. 1597. Will dat. 1658, prov. 1659-60, in C.P.C.
Anne, wid. of .. Walker, sister of John, Thomas, & Rich'd Evans, gents. Will dat. & prov. 1674 in C.P.C.
Thomas bapt. at Lee 23 Jan. 1598.
Joane, living 1659.
Elizabeth, bapt. 28 Novem. 1585.
Katherine, bapt. 6 October 1587.
Katherine, bapt. 12 August 1596.
William Pitchford of St. Alban's, gent. Will dat. and prov. 1625, in C.P.C. m. Frances .....
Penelope Pitchford, marr. cir. 1611, to John Rowbotham, of Newland Squillers, co. Herts, esq.
Elizabeth, died s. p. 1608-9.
Robert Pitchford, living 1608.
Elizabeth, wife of John Howland, esq. of St. Alban's.
Mary, wife of John Redwood, of London, gent.
Thomas Pitchford, of Lea Brockhurst, esq. bapt. 29 Nov. 1616, at Lee.
Jane, eldest dau. of Rowland Hill, esq. of Hawkstone, co. Salop (by Eliz. Jolley), marr. before 1663.
William Pitchford, bapt. at Lee, 26 Decem. 1621.
Jane Pitchford, bapt. at Lee 25 May 1618.
Elizabeth Pitchford, 1st dau. and coheir, marr. Thomas Stayne, of London, citizen and waxchandler.
Susanna Pitchford, 2d dau. and coheir, marr. 1650, to Richard Hodilow, of Lond. goldsmith.
Rebecca Pitchford, married to Isaac Honywood of Hampstead.
Thomas.
Anne.
Rebecca.

The parish registry of Lee Brockhurst shows the family to have been very much more numerous than the contents of the preceding table, though without in the least interfering with it; which, so far as it goes, is fixed and certain, and embraces all the family's principal matches. All these, excepting that with Crofte, are acknowledged in the current pedigrees of the families matched with; and probably the omission in the Baronet Crofts (for Robert Crofte was doubtless of the Croft Castle family) is referable only to deficiency of information.

I have not here quartered the lion coat of the early Pychefords with the cinquefoil and martlets of the second race; but I think most genealogists of experienced judgment would consider the circumstances of property and location a sufficient evidence of the right; to say nothing of the claim of descent made in 1634. Lee register shows that the second family must have been a considerable time resident in the parish prior to the commencement of this pedigree. So early as 1581, "John Pycheford was married there to Katherine Pycheford:" who could, therefore, scarcely descend more nearly than from a common grandfather. The same rules of proof seldom apply to two cases of this description; but at the period in question, and under the circumstances of this case, the identity of derivation or name-origin (if not the successionary descent) is unquestionable; though the connecting links may be irrecoverable.

W. D. B.

Coatham, Dec. 1848.