Remarks on the Arms assigned to the name of Ellis and its synonyms, tending to show a common origin of most of the families bearing them, and of Lacy, Lucy, St. Leger, Lizures, St. Liz, Dizney, Deivill, Holles, &c.

Subsequent investigation has confirmed the theories in the Introduction of the article, p. 270, and given rise to an extension of them, comprehending other families, all tending to show a common origin through similarity of arms and other circumstances.

Before proceeding in the endeavour to prove this in detail, it will be proper to state, as essential to the argument, that the writer of this article, in opposition to the generally received opinion, believes that armorial bearings were in use at and long before the Conquest, and that they were not derived one from another by feudal but by family relationship, the reasons for which he has given in a pamphlet, entitled "A Plea for the Antiquity of Heraldry."

Collins (Peerage, vi. 66), in his account of the Earls Harcourt, says, "Torf son of Bernard the Dane, of the blood royal of Saxony, added Torville, Torcy, Torny, &c. to his paternal inheritance." Numerous similar instances of settlements named after one proprietor are to be met with in Normandy and England, those in the latter, founded as well by Normans as Saxons, having the suffixes -ham, -field, -hurst, &c. added to the settler's name. Investigation would probably show that there were few of the Norman leaders who did not thus fix their name on numerous localities in England.

Accordingly we might expect to find, *inter alios*, William Alis, the Domesday tenant in capite of Allington, co. Hants, and most probably of other places, where he is entered, as in many other cases, by his christian name only, in this manner follow the general practice.

Before however proceeding to ascertain such settlements, it will be desirable to state the grounds for believing this William Ellis and his descendants to have borne one or more *fleurs de lis*[a]

[a] Alice-Holt Forest in Hants, on the borders of Sussex, might have derived its name from and belonged to this family. Most of the families of the name of Holt bear one or more fleurs de lis in their arms.

for his arms, as the attempt is based on presumption afforded by heraldry.

The pedigree of Fitz-Ellis, p. 273, gives as the arms of that family a bend between six fleurs de lis, but by whom, or how early borne, it does not state. Analogy however proclaims that this coat was not the original or earliest form of it. We know in general that all arms consisted originally of but one charge, which in succeeding generations was doubled, trebled, &c. and compounded with ordinaries and other charges.

"Leech*land*," of which Ellis Fitz-Ellis at the head of the pedigree is said to have been lord, is probably "Leech" mentioned in Domesday (Glouc. p. 167[b]) as held by "William" of Roger de Lacy, and containing five hides. Ashburnham in Sussex is mentioned in the same record as "Ashborne" only. Now, Kiddall in Yorkshire, which in the thirteenth century was owned by the Ellises, was held by Ilbert de Lacy at the Domesday Survey, and several other manors are there said to be held of him by "William," who, it is very probable, was William Alis; for if Allington was all he held, his would be a solitary instance amongst those followers of the Conqueror who are so frequently mentioned in Domesday. This feudal dependence of William Alis on the Lacies is somewhat confirmed by a fact given by Dugdale in his account of those Barons. "Walter de Lacy, one of the Conqueror's Barons," he says, "had many skirmishes with Fulke Fitz-Warine, in one of which he was taken prisoner and put in Ludlow castle. But after this, hearing that the same castle and town were won by his friend *Sir Arnold de Lis*, he came and victualled them both, and kept them as his own." The presumed identity of Alis and De Lis will be alluded to hereafter.

Roger de Alis, who, by writ directed to the Sheriff of Hants, 1217, had seizin of lands in Wellhope in that county (Rot. Lit. Claus. p. 305), was doubtless descended from William Alis. The same Roger, by writ directed to the Sheriff of Oxon, 1215, had seizin of the lands of Walter de Tiwa in Tiwa in that county (ibid. p. 236). Now Robert Fitz-Ellis, Sheriff of Oxon 15 Edw. I. was fined 40*s*. because he did not return the writ commanding him to seize the manor of Great Tywa, which had fallen into the king's hands (Abbrev. Rot. Orig. p. 151). This

Robert was son of Robert of Thumley, in the pedigree, and the land was probably forfeited by a descendant of Roger Alis, as partisan of the Mortimers, and the Sheriff was probably his relative, and unwilling to be the agent of his spoliation. The arms borne by the Fitz-Ellises of Oxon and Berks are not known, although the family was of consequence for two centuries in those counties, from Sir William Fitz-Ellis, who owned Ockley temp. Ric. I. (Abbrev. Rot. Plac. p. 6,) to John Fitz-Ellis his descendant, who was possessed of it 1 Hen. V.; but the above circumstance is presumptive of their relationship to the Ellises of Hants, and a coat assigned to Thorley or Thorneley (which name was borne by them), viz. *On a bend flory counterflory three mullets*, confirms the presumption.

That the Ellises of Hants bore fleurs de lis there is all but direct proof. In the Chartulary of the Priory of Christ Church, in that county, there is a charter dated 15 Edw. III. of "Henricus filius Elye *dictus Wyrle*, filius et hæres Henrici Fitz-Elys." An ancient coat of the Wyrleys of Staffordshire is six fleurs de lis (v. Shaw's Staffordshire, Ped. of Wyrley). That another family of Ellis bore six fleurs de lis is also pretty clear, in connection with the above and other coats to be mentioned. The manor of Little Redisham in Suffolk was probably severed early from Great Redisham. It contains the three lordships of Strattons, *Elyses*, and Redisham Hall. This was before 1428. De Redisham, whose patronymic was probably Ellis, bore, *Argent, six fleurs de lis gules.* (Suckling's Suffolk.)

But that fleurs de lis were originally the arms of *a* family of Ellis—and that that was the Hampshire family the preceding facts leave little room to doubt—is obvious, from the numerous instances which follow of families in whose arms they are to be found, whose names are either corruptions of that of Ellis, or which is their basis.

ALISON. *Party per bend gules and or, a fleur de lis counterchanged.*

ALEMENT (Ellismont?). *Gules, on a fess argent, between six fleurs de lis or, a rose of the first.*

ELLESTOB (Ellistow?). *Party per pale gules and vert, over all a fleur de lis argent.* A pedigree of this family is in Surtees' Durham

(iii. 46), beginning with Adam de Ellestob in the fourteenth century. Elstob is a small hamlet in that county.

ILES (Yorkshire). *Argent, a fess engrailed sable, in chief three fleurs de lis of the last.*

ILEY. *Argent, a fess engrailed between six fleurs de lis sable.*

OLLEY (London and Norfolk). *Gules, on a fess embattled argent two fleurs de lis sable.*

ELY. *Argent, a fess engrailed between six fleurs de lis gules.*

ELLICK *and* ELLWICK (Elliswick ?). *Argent, on a chevron azure three fleurs de lis or.*

ELLIS (Worcestershire). *Per fesse or and azure, a fesse embattled counter-embattled between three fleurs de lis all counterchanged.* William Ellis, esq. of Worcester, left issue John Ellis, esq. of Claines, who died s. p., and Millicent, surviving heiress, who married Samuel Wall, esq. banker, whose second son Samuel Wall, esq. of Worthy Park, co. Hants, inherits the valuable estates of the Ellises in Herefordshire and Worcestershire, which have been a long while in the family (Burke's Landed Gentry). This family is probably of common origin with that of Jabez Allies, esq. F.S.A. whose ancestors possessed property at Ombersley near Claines, temp. Edw. III., of whom an account is given in that gentleman's "Folk Lore of Worcestershire."

EYLES (Coleshill House, co. Bucks, London and Fulham). *Argent, a fess engrailed sable, in chief three fleurs de lis of the last.*

EYLES. *Argent, a chevron engrailed sable, in chief three fleurs de lis of the last.*

EYLESTON (Lancashire). *Argent, a cross sable between four fleurs de lis gules.*

Neither of these families *may* be descended from the Hampshire Ellises, nor of any other race of Ellises; but from what has preceded and what is to follow, there is the strongest *probability* of it, which cannot be shaken, except by finding another origin for them.

Domesday Book testifies that places of Saxon origin named alike in different counties, or different parts of the same county, often passed together from a Saxon to a Norman; and, affording settlements for succeeding members of the family of the latter, gave the same name, though from a different local source, to scions of the same race, and bearing similar arms.

Such was probably the case with the family of William Alis of Allington, as the following coats seem to show.

ELYNGTON. *Argent, three fleurs de lis sable* 2 *and* 1, *three cross-crosslets fitchée* 1 *and* 2.

ELINGTON (Devonshire). *Argent, three fleurs de lis between seven cross-crosslets fitchée sable, on a canton or a rose gules.*

ELINGTON. The same, with only five cross-crosslets fitchée.

ELYNGWORTH (Surrey). *Azure, a fess flory counter-flory gules between three escallops sable.*

Among the proved variations of the name of Ellis are, Ilys, Hollis, Hollys, Holles, &c.

The following families, therefore, may be of the Hampshire stock.

HELLIS. *Per pale argent and gules, a lion passant or.*

HELLES and HELLIS. *Sable, a bend and chief argent.*

HELLIS. *Gules, a bend and chief argent.*

HOLLES (Norfolk). *Sable, on a bend between two talbots passant and a dolphin embowed argent three annulets gules.*

HOLLIS (Devon and Notts). *Sable, on a bend between a hound passant in chief, and a dolphin in base . . . . . .*

HOLLIS, HOLLES, HULSE, &c. *Three piles.*

HELLIS. *Sable, a fess counter-embattled between three leopard's faces or.*

ELLYS. *On a fess embattled counter-embattled argent three leopard's faces gules.*

Before proceeding to inquire what there is in the above bearings to indicate a connection with other families of the name of Ellis, it will be desirable to give the following list appertaining to the name, which it will be seen will afford materials to assist in the investigation.

ELLEY. *Gules, two dolphins . . . .*

ELLIS. *Argent, a lion rampant sable, on the shoulder a dolphin argent.*

ELLIS. *Argent, a saltier gules.*

ELLIS. *Or, a pale gules.*

ELLIS. *. . . two pallets or.*

[a] Collins in his Peerage (vi. 538) gives a coat, *Argent, on a pale sable three crescents or, between two leopard's faces sable*, that seems to be derived from the Ellises. It is that borne by the Leas, Barons Dudley, descended from the Leas of Lea Green, in King's Norton, co. Worc. Now, as Alley is one of the undoubted synonyms of Ellis, and might be easily mistaken for à Leigh, it is probable the above name of Lea was thus corrupted, and that it was originally Ellis, the more as in Worcestershire the latter was frequently spelt Alleys.

ELLIS. *Azure, three pallets or.*

ELLIS. *Azure, three piles or.* (Harl. MSS. 1530, p. 15.)

ELLIS (John, whose daughter married Sir Everard Fielding of Warwick). *Argent, on a chevron gules an escallop between two crescents or, on a chief party per pale gules and argent a greyhound courant pellettée counterchanged.* (Granted by Christopher Barker, Garter. Harl. MSS. 1538, Pedigrees of Devon families.)

ALIE or ALLEY. *Azure, a pale ermine.*

ALLEY. *Azure, a pale ermine between two lions rampant of the second ducally crowned or.*

ELLESWORTH. *Per pale gules and argent, two lions counterchanged.*

ELLESWORTH (Oxon). *Per pale indented gules and argent, four lions rampant counterchanged.*

ELLESWORTH. *Per pale indented paly of eight, argent and gules.*

ELLISWORTH. *Per pale indented gules and argent, four pallets counterchanged.*

ELLISWORTH. *Per pale gules and argent, a pale engrailed or.* Another: the same *between two lions rampant counterchanged.*

HELESBY. *Or, a saltier sable.* Another: the same, *over all a label gules.*

HELSHAM. Crest, *an esquire's helmet.*

HELSHAM. *Argent, a fess engrailed between three leopard's faces gules.*

ELLIES of Elliston, and ELLICE. . . . . *three helmets* . . . Crest, *a lily.*

HALYS. *Barry of twelve azure and or, on a canton gules, a lion passant or.*[a]

ELLYS (Wilts). *Argent, three eels naiant in pale barways sable.* Crest, *a dolphin coloured proper, ducally crowned or.*

The first coat on the preceding list, viz. Hellis, Per pale argent and gules, a lion passant or, resembles that of Plaiz, except in tinctures. The Plaizes of Norfolk, in which county the Ellises were early settled, bore also a *fleur de lis*, and another of their coats was *a pale*, which, doubled and trebled, appears also in the above list as a bearing of Ellys. Presuming that the fleur de lis of Plaiz was obtained on the marriage of an heiress of Ellis, and that the lion passant and pale of the Ellises came in the same way from the Plaiz', it is pretty well established that the families of Ellis, &c. as above, bearing the lion passant, pale, paly, &c.

[a] Sir Roger Halys, knt. of Hales, co. Norfolk, sealed with these arms, 22 Edw. I. His ancestors as early as Hen. II. were enfeoffed of this place, which in Domesday is called "Hals," whose Saxon owner was Alestan. Thomas de Brotherton, Earl of Norfolk, who married Alice daughter of Sir Roger Halys, knt. had the lordship of Lodden-Hales given to him by Edw. I. (Bloomfield's Norfolk, iv. 240. fol. ed.) This family obviously is named from a Saxon locality, and is not of the blood of the Alises as the orthography of the name would indicate.

are all descendants of the William Alis of Domesday Book, admitting that *he* bore one or more fleurs de lis. The arms of Ellesworth are an obvious extension of the pale.

The pedigree of Holles, Duke of Newcastle, goes no higher than the time of Ric. II. As an Ellis *ut ante* bore three piles, it is highly probable that that was the original name; and that the family who bore it was of the stock under consideration; for a coat of Holles of Norfolk (if of the same family) contains a talbot passant (an easy mistake in drawing for a lion) and a dolphin, which occurs, as will be noticed hereafter, in the arms of an Ellis who was of the Yorkshire line, and who bore the cross and crescents.

The embattled fess and leopard's faces of Hellis and Ellys seem to be variations from the fess and fess embattled with the fleurs de lis that have been noticed. They are also borne, it has been seen, by Helsham; and this will be explained hereafter, though it will be necessary here to presume this to be Ellis-ham, to account for the affinity of the Ellises who bear three helmets, for an esquire's helmet is the crest of Helsham, whilst the lily is the crest of Ellis of Elliston.

The Ellis who bore a saltier may with some reason be connected with the Kiddalls (? of Kiddall). The Kiddalls of Lincolnshire bore a saltier raguly. Their pedigree, entered at the visitations of that county in 1564–92, contains twelve generations, and begins with Thomas Kiddall of Barton, who, by calculation of descents, must have lived about the end of the 12th century. Their crest is *a goat's head erased.* He had a son Adam of Fereby, co. Linc. who was probably progenitor of the Ferbies of Kent, who were settled there temp. Edw. II. and bore *a fess between three goat's heads erased.* The crest of the Ellises of Lincoln was a goat's head charged with a pale bearing three crescents. This was also the crest of Ellis of Chiselhurst; and, without the pale and crescents, of Ellis of Denbigh. It was probably an ancient one, for the pale and crescents clearly shows their connection with the Ellises in whose arms they are to be found. The Kiddalls of Cornwall bore dolphins in their arms. A dolphin, we have seen, was borne by Holles, and two by Elley, and one by Sir John Ellys. All these circumstances are strongly presumptive of a connection, and a close and frequent

one, between the Kiddalls and the Ellises, and the following theory to explain it may not be far from the truth.

The "Chidall" of Domesday probably soon after the Conquest became the residence of an undertenant of Ilbert de Lacy, and furnished him with a local designation. He was probably a descendant of, or married into, one of the northern families sprung from a progenitor of the Annans of Annandale, the Fitz-Maldreds, and Nevilles, who all bore a saltier. The Kiddalls of Lincolnshire might have been an early offshoot, and made their saltier raguly: one of the Ellises of Kiddall probably married the heiress of the family, and either took the arms and afterwards dropped them on assuming the cross and crescents, or if the match was with Sir Archibald Ellys, or a descendant, transmitted the arms of Kiddall to a younger son, along with the crest. The dolphins used by some of the Ellises, thus descended from this match, were probably derived from the Kiddalls, from the same source as the saltier, more than one person of the name of Dolphin being found in the pedigree of the Fitz-Maldreds, from one of whom probably a family surnamed Dolphin was descended, who bore three dolphins.

That the Hellises who bore a bend and chief were of kindred with the Kiddall Ellises, may be presumed from the occurrence of those ordinaries in the arms of Sir John Ellys of Devon,[b] blazoned at p. 284 (which also contained the dolphin), for the cross and crescents are also attributed to him.

The crest of the Kiddalls, and of some of the Ellises, the goat's head, probably was derived from the Thorolds, an old Lincolnshire family, who bore three goats salient.

We now arrive at the consideration whether the families of Disney and Deivill may not be descendants of the William Alis before mentioned.

The fullest account of the origin of the former family is in Burke's Landed Gentry. They are there said to derive their name from Isigny, a bourg near Bayeux in Normandy; but

[b] The name of Ellis is to be met with in Cornwall earlier than the instance given in the article, p. 270.

William Mohun, of Posselynche, co. Devon, marr. 1442 Margaretta, dau. of Robert Blerokke, by Johanna, dau. and heir of John Fleming, lord of Meneley-Flemyng and *Ellys* in Cornwall, who marr. Cecily, dau. and heir of — *Ellis* of Wyde. (Burke's Landed Gentry, Supp. p. 318.)

with perhaps no better authority than many other families, who are said to have taken their names from Norman villages.[c]

" Sir William Disney," says the above account, " was 11th in descent from Lambert D'isney, of Norton Disney, co. Linc. Lord of that place temp. Hen. III. He married Jane, daughter and co-heiress of Sir William Dive, by Ermentruda, daughter and co-heiress of Peter de Amundeville of Kingerby, great-great-grandson of Roger de Amundeville, called also Humfines (? Humphries), seneschal to Remigius de Feschamp, Bishop of Lincoln 1072, who gave to him the manors of Kingerby, Auresby, Ellesham, and Craxton."

Without inquiring into the whole truth of this statement, it appears very suspicious, from the obvious discrepancy in the descent given; for we have 11 generations from the Conquest to Hen. III.—an unusually rapid succession of generations—whilst on the other side but eight descents are admitted in the same time. Another statement about this family, quoted by Burke, is clearly erroneous. Tanner says, that Ailesham Priory (in Lincolnshire), by Thorney-Curthoise, was of the Disneys' foundation, and there several lie buried. Now a reference to the foundation charter in the Monasticon proves this establishment to have been founded by one of the Amundevilles before 1166, and subsequently enriched by endowments of members of that family, but not, it appears, by any of the Disneys. Other de Ellesham was a witness to the foundation charter. In Domesday Book there are two Ellishams mentioned,—one held of the Bishop of Baieux, the other of Roger Pictavensis. Ellislake, in Yorkshire, was also held of the latter. If, as was probable, there was an Ellisleigh, Disney would be a corruption of it, not greater than many proved changes. The following arms are assigned to the name of Disney in the Heraldic Dictionaries.

On a fess three fleurs de lis.

A fess between three fleurs de lis.

Argent, on a fess embattled counter-embattled three fleurs de lis.

Gules, three fleurs de lis.

The last is probably the earliest coat of the four. A crest of

[c] The name of Sidney is said to be a corruption of Saint Denis, but without any probability afforded by circumstances. The first on record, Sir William Sidney, Chamberlain to Hen. II., had a grant from that monarch of Sutton, in Surrey; and as Stepney, near Blackwall, is a proved corruption of Stephen's Heath, analogy would more safely derive Sidney from Sutton Heath.

Disney is *a lion passant guardant gules*, the charge borne by the Plaiz', which we have seen entered into the arms of the Ellises, &c. Might not, then, their fleur de lis as well as the name be derived from the Ellises? And did not Ellisham pass by marriage into the family of Amundeville? These are allowable conjectures in the absence of a more consistent and authentic account of the early ancestry of the Disneys, and are supported by local circumstances, and the arms and crest of Helsham, which, we have seen, indicate a connection with the Ellises and Kiddalls.

In introducing the baronial family of Deivill amongst the probable descendants of the Ellises, it must be confessed there are no circumstances of connection, such as distinguish the foregoing cases, to justify such a derivation upon any very strong grounds. But as no origin of this family and their arms has been attempted, the supposition of the same descent as the Disneys may be fairly advanced in the absence of any more feasible one.

The first of the family on record is Robert Deiville, who was a Baron by tenure temp. Hen. I. The family bore fleurs de lis in various ways, and flourished in Yorkshire.[c] As no account is given of them prior to the first Baron, it is probable he obtained his barony, as many of the Barons did, by marriage, and was thus suddenly lifted into rank and importance. The name might previously have been Ellisfield, and have undergone the successive changes of D'eylesfield, D'eyfield, and Deivill, the latter sounding more of Norman origin.

[c] The coats assigned to D'Eivill, Davill, &c. are,

Argent, on a chevron sable three fleurs de lis or.

Or, on a fess between four fleurs de lis gules two fleurs de lis of the field.

Argent, on a bend azure eight fleurs de lis or.

A chevron embattled ermine, between three fleurs de lis gules.

"*D'or, trois fleures de goules, à une fesse de goules à trois fleures d'or.*" (Sir Johan D'eyvill. Roll of Arms temp. Edw. II.)

"*De goules fleuretty d'argent, à un lyon rampant d'argent.*" (Sir John D'eyvill. Ibid.)

Temp. Hen. I. Nigel D'Albini gave Egmanton, co. Notts, to Robert D'eivill, who not improbably married his daughter, and, perhaps, heiress, and whose lion rampant he may have incorporated with his own bearings; if so, the last-named Sir John D'eivill was probably a descendant in the elder line, the junior branches varying their arms as above. One branch of the family took the name of Egmanton, for to the Egmantons of Lincolnshire are assigned, *Or, on a fess between four fleurs de lis gules two fleurs de lis of the first*, whilst those of Yorkshire bore the same with different colours.

There are other coats—in addition to those in the article, p. 270—attributed to the name of Ellis, &c. which present no features of affinity with any of the above,[c] but which nevertheless may prove on investigation to belong to (and adopted on marriage with an heiress) the wide-spreading race of which Sir William Alis was the founder at the Conquest.

Ellis of Peterboro' bore, *Vert, three eagles displayed in fess or.* (Harl. MSS. 1553, fo. 88.)

Ellis of Dent. *Argent, a cross couped and raguly between four Cornish choughs proper.*

Ellis. *A lion rampant argent, tail forked, langued gules.*

Ellis or Elowe *Sable, three legs in pale or.*

Ellis. *Gules, six plates* 3, 2, *and* 1.

Ellis. *Argent, three eels naiant barways in pale sable.*

Ellis. *Gules, a lion rampant argent, tail forked, armed or, oppressed with a bend azure.* Another with *a fess.*

Robert Fitz-Ellis de Newton[d] port *d'argent et une chef d'azure dauncée.* (Roll of Arms temp. Edw. III. Collectanea Top. & Gen. ii. 327.)

Ellys de Thornetonrust *(sic. ?* Thorney-hurst) port *de sable, et trois haches batantz d'argent.* (Ibid. 328.)

In the article before alluded to, the name of Ellis, along with those of De Liz, St. Liz, Lizures, and St. Leger, has been conjectured to be derived from Louis; an origin countenanced by the fleurs de lis to be found in the arms of those families. It is true no known coat of Lizures contains this charge, but the name is undoubtedly the same as St. Lizier or St. Leger, just as much as Clare and St. Clair are identical; and as the allusive arms of the latter, *a sun proper,* was disused by many of its branches, so the original fleurs de lis of the St. Legers may have been departed from. The baronial family of Lizures bore, *Or, a chief azure.* The St. Legers being feudal tenants of, and

[c] Some of these probably belong to families of Welch origin, each of distinct lineage, who continued the arms of their ancestry whilst the fixed surname they adopted was the Christian name borne by the father of him who first introduced the surname.

[d] In the Cartulary of Marrigg Abbey, co. York, is a charter concerning land at Newton in le Willows, alias Morker, olim Newton super Lemyng, of "Roberti fil' Helye, junioris, de Newtun," without date or seal. Collectanea Top. & Gen. v. 114.

therefore probably related to the Earls of Eu, took, along with the Echinghams, Maltravers, &c. a fret or fretty, adding thereto a chief. Now in the arms quoted from the Dict. Gen. at p. 271, the two coats of St. Leger contain fleurs de lis: a branch of these probably adopted a chief instead, from which the St. Legers and Lizures of Domesday probably descended.

The notices of the De Liz[e] are very scanty. D'Alis is, there is little doubt, its synonym, and the adoption of that form in England may account for the infrequency of the use of the original spelling. It may be objected, however, that this variation is not in conformity with analogy—that if the particle *de* were dropped the name would stand Liz or Lis. But we occasionally find a somewhat parallel case, *e. g.* De Langridge becomes Dallangridge, De la Ryver, Dallender; and Dalis, sounding like De Alis, would, in another stage, become Alis, and eventually Ellis. That it should also become Ally, &c. is explained by the fact of Louis being pronounced Lui, and Eliot or Aliot,[f] as it was originally written, may have been a contraction of Alis-ot. But there is another theory which may explain the derivation of Alis from Louis. Heloise is our Louisa, and the Helewisha, and perhaps Hawisia and Avicia of the Normans. If the female name was thus preceded by a strong aspiration, so of course was the male, and the transition from Helouis to Elis or Alis is natural.

Other names of which Louis is the basis may reasonably be looked for. The meaning of most of the French terminations of local names are unknown; those ending in cy or y are very common. That Lucy should therefore be a crasis of Louis-y is very feasible, and also that Lacy should be another form of Lucy. Camden says Lucy is the name of a place in Normandy. And there are topographical and heraldic confirmations of this etymology of those names. The arms of the Lucys are three pikes. These, as they are represented in *Dansey's Crusaders*, very nearly resemble three fleurs de lis, and a pike hauriant may

[e] There are French families named Du Lis and De Liz whose arms, to be found in the Dictionnaire Généalogique before cited, contain fleurs de lis, as do also the bishoprick and family of Lisieux.

[f] Sir William de Aliot is said to have come in with the Conqueror; but the name is not to be found in Domesday. "Helio" occurs once as a sub-tenant in Staffordshire.

with little distortion for heraldry be drawn to resemble fleurs de lis, as indeed they often so appear on seals. It is remarkable that, although fleurs de lis are the most numerous charges in English heraldry after the eagle, the cross, and the lion,[g] we do not find them assigned to any one of the great Anglo-Norman Barons till after the separation of Normandy from England. A political reason may account for the absence of their display by the English nobles (not the lesser gentry) prior to this period, but this does not seem to have been the case in Scotland. The Lucys and Peverells (whom we shall give reasons for supposing to have borne fleurs de lis) were placed in offices of high trust in Kent by the Conqueror, and were not improbably related.

No coat in which fleurs de lis prevail is assigned to Lacy; and which of the numerous coats borne by the name was that used by Ilbert and Walter de Lacy, the Conqueror's Barons, it is difficult to say, as it is also to ascertain the lineage of their family. The probability of its being the fess assigned to the baronial family seems best supported. Torolph, a great Norman Baron before the Conquest, was father of Humphrey (progenitor of the Umphravilles, the Bellomonts, &c.), Ilbert, and other sons. Turchetil, Turolph's brother, was ancestor of the Harcourts.[h] The alliances formed by these persons, or their immediate kindred, was with the De la Hays and the Busseys, who, with the Harcourts, bore bars. Assuming that the above Ilbert was progenitor of the Lacys, and that they obtained that name by marriage with a heiress of Lacy, or took it from a place so named, the fess of the Lacies might be of hereditary usage. The feudal connection between the Ellises and the Lacies strengthens this derivation of their name; and supposing they acquired it from marrying a family who bore it and fleurs de lis for their arms, and that some junior members took the maternal coat, two facts still further authorize the conjecture. Sir Nicholas de Leicester, knt. who was Seneschal to Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, temp. King John, bore—or at least his descendants—*a fess between three fleurs de lis*, and *a swan's head* for a crest, *three swan's heads* being one of the coats borne by the Lacies. The family

[g] The proportion, as given in Berry's Ordinary of Arms, is, fleurs de lis, 5 pages; eagles, 6 pages; crosses, 10 pages; and lions, 20 pages.

[h] Collins's Peerage.

of Bellasis bore fleurs de lis, and this name might be a corruption of De Lascy, one of the orthographies of the name.[1]

But although a considerable proportion of families who bear fleurs de lis undoubtedly derive them in various ways from the preceding sources, or are strongly presumed so to do, yet the greater part of the remainder must be traced to an origin not so immediately connected with them. Most of the coats containing chequy seem to be derived from the De Warrens, who took it, on marriage, from the Vermandois', and most of those containing pheons from the Sidneys; but such a common personal origin of crusading devices would never be entertained. A bearing, however, like the fleur de lis, having little intrinsic importance or meaning, but obtaining its celebrity from the eminence of its first bearer and his descendants, and therefore jealously guarded from usurpation, is not likely to have been adopted, in any of its numerous forms and positions, by any but those who had a legitimate right to do so, according to the laws of heraldry. In tracing therefore the origin and extension of this celebrated device, we may expect eventually to reach some of the scions of the early kings of France, and from them to deduce its wide-spread descent. Thus the Beaumonts bearing *Azure, semée de fleurs de lis, a lion rampant or*, are descended from Lewis second son of Charles younger son of Lewis VIII. who married Agnes heiress of Beaumont in France, the lion of the latter being compounded with the arms of France. But two other coats exactly resembling this, one borne by Sir John Dayvill (Gules, semée de fleurs de lis, a lion rampant argent), and the other by Sir Robert de Holland (Azure, fleuretty, a lion rampant argent), both temp. Edw. II. have no relation, nor the families bearing them, with the Beaumonts, though the origin of both the lion and the fleurs de lis might be ultimately the same. The three fleurs de lis, however, of the Baronetical Scotish family of Broun, are said, with the family, to be directly derived from the royal blood of France, a cadet of a Norman Baron named Le Brun settling in the twelfth century in Scotland, and founding that house. The English family of the name seems, at least in its elder branch, soon to have become

[1] Ralph de Val is also called Beleval and Belevallo in the Cartulary of the Abbey of Otham. (Sussex Arch. Coll. v. 159.)

extinct. Henry I. is said to have given the Barony of Brunn, in Cambridgeshire, to Pain Peverell, son of Ralph, who married the Conqueror's concubine. As forfeited Baronies were generally given to relatives of the despoiled Baron, the Peverells were probably of near kindred to the Le Bruns, a probability confirmed by the following circumstances. Jeffrey Waterville married a coheiress of Pain Peverell. One coat of Waterville is *Gules, three fleurs de lis or, a chief barry wavy argent and azure.* Gules, three fleurs de lis or, is the coat borne by Le Brun. Osbern Peyforer was an extensive Domesday tenant in Kent; his descendants bore six fleurs de lis, which are also the arms of the Lenhams of Lenham, in Kent. One or more fleurs de lis were borne by the Pluckleys, Cobhams, and Fresnes, all Kentish families. Jeffrey de Peverell, soon after the Conquest, held fourteen knight's fees, chiefly in Kent, which made up the Honour of Peverell. Now if Peyforer be synonymous with Peverell—a variation not greater than many in Domesday—it is difficult from the foregoing to resist the conclusion that the families bearing these names were of kindred origin with the Le Brun; and these latter there seems no reason to doubt were, as they are said to be, of the royal blood of France, as they certainly did bear three fleurs de lis for their arms.

The greater part of this article is composed, it is true, of speculations; but it is hoped well justified by the *facts* produced. If none but direct argument, and simple statement of fact, are to be employed in the present state of genealogical and heraldic literature, truth will be but very slowly elicited. An hypothesis is true or false. If the conclusions drawn from one are indisputable, its truth is established; if not, it falls to the ground, and another must be set up in its stead. To build upon assumptions is not to demonstrate; but it serves to direct paths of inquiry, where all was darkness and confusion; and clues thus furnished are serviceable at least as guides to investigation, and if, as is often the case, they prove correct, a valuable end is accomplished. It is better to explore from uncertain indications than to do nothing, and the chances of discovery are as great as those of failure.

Hurst Pierpoint, July 10, 1854. W. S. E.