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HELMINGHAM HALL,

## HELMINGHAM HALL

AT THE CLOSE OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

The high-road from Ipswich passes through the village of Helmingham, and the Hall is approached by a double line of old oaks, flanking a straight road through the park to the house. The Hall is built of brick and stone, and is completely surrounded by a moat.

The moat is from thirty to forty feet wide, and six feet deep. Although it is not fed by springs it is so carefully kept that the water is perfectly clear, and the perch and dace, with which it abounds, can be seen swimming in all directions. The moat is enclosed within brick walls of considerable depth, and these are surmounted by a wide rounded coping, also of brick. Tall slender brick obelisks flank the moat at every corner, and additional obelisks are placed on either side of the bridge. The bridge across the moat is of iron painted white, and it has four brick piers with pointed tops. At the point nearest to the Hall is the drawbridge, still raised every night—as it has been raised throughout four hundred years. It is about nine feet in length, and is made of stout oaken planks. The bridge is raised and lowered by chains and a windlass working on a block of wood, being the exact counterpart of the original arrangement.

It is probable that there were once three drawbridges at Helmingham. The second, connected with the servants' entrance, is not so old as the principal bridge. A third bridge once connected the Hall with the gardens, but this was swept away in some alterations made in 1840, when the fine old brickwork of the house was covered with a smooth coat of white stucco.

Close to the wall of the house is a narrow walk paved with brick, and passing right round the building

just above the moat. It passes through the principal gate-house, and through a second gate-house (similar in design but smaller) on the eastern side of the Hall. Another gate-house once existed on the western side, but this, with a curious little tower and a charming plot of flowers within the enclosure of the moat, was swept away by ruthless hands in 1840.

On the north side of the Hall a boat-house is connected with the moat by a low arch of brick. It might be thought that the moat would make the house damp, but this is by no means the case: even the books and manuscripts in the library on the ground-floor, just above the water, have never suffered from damp.

Perhaps it is on a summer's evening that Helmingham looks most beautiful. Across the park may be seen the tall tower of Helmingham Church, looking down on the old Hall, and on the far more ancient British burial-ground which lies between them.

The principal gate-house at the end of the drawbridge, next to the Hall, is supported on four arches; the outer arch is closed by a massive oaken door, a small door being inserted into it for ordinary use. On either hand extends the outer portion of the Hall; the upper story projecting considerably over the lower, and a large bay window being at each corner. The Hall is only two storeys in height, but under the roof there is a range of low attics, now disused.

The gate-house forms the entrance to a square courtyard, flagged with large stones, round which the house is built. The roof is covered with small tiles in every shade of brown, orange, and red (colours which are said to be due to the large quantity of iron contained in the Suffolk clay). Tall finials of carved and moulded brickwork abound, and the chimney-stacks are built in twisted forms. The most beautiful of these chimney stacks is at the south-west angle of the Hall.

On the inner wall of the gate-house are the arms of Tollemache, with those of Creyke, or Creke, and above

the door of the house itself are eight coats of arms. Above these again is a curious old sun-dial, surmounted by a large clock. The door of the house is sheltered by a porch with a seat on either side, and under-foot is the grey slab of English fossil-marble over which so many generations of the Tollemache family have passed in life and in death.

The hall inside the house has now its original lofty roof, with open beams of carved oak. At one time a low plaster ceiling was introduced, and the space between it and the roof was used as a lumber-room, but this ceiling has long been removed. There is a good deal of fine old armour in the hall, which used to hang in the church above the monuments of the Tollemaches to whom it had belonged. The armour was unfortunately removed from the church, being considered "unsuitable to a place of worship," and texts, painted on the walls in every spot where room could be found, were substituted for it. The panelling put into the hall in 1840, is unfortunately so high that the portraits of the Stanhope Heiress and others can only be seen with difficulty, but there is a book at Helmingham in which all these pictures are beautifully reproduced in miniature form.

At one end of the hall are several stuffed specimens of the Great Bustard. An old keeper at Helmingham used to relate to those recently living that he had seen bustards hunted and pulled down by greyhounds near the park.

Above the fire-place is the curious picture of the four children, the eldest being the Lionel Tollemache who died in 1575; the picture is let into the wall."\*

In the drawing-room is a portrait, by Vandyck, of Frances Devereux, Duchess of Somerset. She is represented wearing the ruby ear-ring containing the lock of Lord Essex's hair, which passed from mother to daughter through six generations, and is now in the Picture Closet of Ham House. Frances Devereux, Duchess of Somerset, was the daughter of Robert, Earl of Essex.† She

\* See page 104.

† Beheaded Feb. 25th, 1601.

bequeathed the ear-ring to her daughter Mary, Countess of Winchilsea; Lady Winchilsea bequeathed it to her daughter Frances, Viscountess Weymouth; Lady Weymouth to her daughter Frances, Lady Worsley; Lady Worsley to her daughter Frances, Lady Carteret; and finally Lady Carteret left the ear-ring to her daughter Grace, Countess of Dysart, whose marriage took place in 1729, and by whom the ear-ring was taken to Ham House.

There are several family portraits in the drawing-room. One represents Elizabeth Tollemache, daughter of Sir Lionel Tollemache, and "the Stanhope Heiress." She married Lord Allington of Killard, in Ireland. Another picture is of Lord Huntingtower, son of Grace Carteret, Countess of Dysart, in a rustic dress; and a third is a pretty picture of Charlotte Walpole, Countess of Dysart, in white, with a scarf of pink and blue.

Beyond the drawing-room is a small room once used as an ante-room to the drawbridge, which led to the gardens, and which was swept away in 1840.

The next room is the Library, a long room with windows to the west and to the south; from the western windows the gardens are seen across the shining water of the moat, and to the south there is the view of the double avenue of oaks which leads up to the hall.

There are one or two small family portraits in the library, also a picture of Oliver Cromwell, and two portraits (framed together) painted by Dobson, the pupil of Vandyck. On one of these is the inscription:—

"Lord President Bradshaw, of the High Court of Justice, who condemned Charles the First to Death."

The other portrait is that of the Cornishman, Hugh Peters, who was executed as a regicide in 1660.

The collection of books in the library is far more extensive than that at Ham House, and, like that library, was probably collected for the Duke of Lauderdale, second husband of Elizabeth, Lady Tollemache, Countess of Dysart in her own right. The Helmingham library must at some period have been divided from that at Ham House.

as the whole collection of books and manuscripts was made for the Duke of Lauderdale, but it is not known when or by whom the division was made.

Besides the books, the Helmingham library is particularly rich in manuscripts. The manuscripts were examined in 1869, by Mr. Harwood, for the Historical Manuscripts' Commission, and are described by him in the Appendix to the Report of the Commission, vol. i. p. 60, etc. They were also examined about 1877, by the Rev. John Earle, Professor of Anglo-Saxon, at Oxford.

The most celebrated of the manuscripts is that known as *The Lauderdale Manuscript*. This is a "Compendium of General History," written by Paulus Orosius, a Spanish monk, and translated into English. The treatise of Orosius, according to Professor Earle, was completed A.D. 416. The *Lauderdale* ms. is written on vellum; on the fly-leaf are drawings of the symbols of the Four Evangelists, together with sixteen Runic signs or letters. The book is bound in white vellum, left rough and stretched over wood; it is fastened by two little leather straps with curious clasps. Professor Earle satisfied himself that the *Lauderdale* ms., at Helmingham, is a genuine relic of the time of Alfred, and he believed that the other copy of the treatise of Orosius (which is preserved in the British Museum, and is one of the Cotton Manuscripts) was, to use his own words, "the copy of a copy that was copied" from the *Lauderdale* ms. Professor Earle\* speaks of the Duke of Lauderdale's librarian, Dr. George Hickea, as "a capacious and learned scholar." Hickea, in 1688, published a catalogue of the Duke's books, amongst which he notes the *Orosii Historia*, as having formerly belonged to John Dee. John Dee was attached to the household of Queen Elizabeth, partly as physician, partly as astrologer, and he collected a number of the manuscripts which had been dispersed at the dissolution of the monasteries. In Dee's old age he fell into great poverty, and was obliged to part with his treasures. The *Lauderdale* Manuscript

\* Quoted by Archdeacon Groome, *Ipswich Journal*, 1877.

passed from Dee's hands into the library of the Earl of Lauderdale (only brother of the Duke of Lauderdale), at Hatton, near Edinburgh. A version of the Anglo-Saxon text was published by Daines Barrington, in 1773,\* and, in 1858, Dr. Joseph Bosworth, then Rawlinson Professor of Anglo-Saxon, at Oxford, edited a good deal of the original manuscript, adding a translation and notes.

Another manuscript at Helmingham is described by Mr. Harwood as "superb." This is known as the *Trevisa manuscript*: it is a translation, and was completed in 1398. The original work, according to Archdeacon Groome, was written in Latin about the year 1360, by an English Franciscan monk, Bartholomew de Glanville. It was the Encyclopædia of the time, and was translated into English by a Cornishman, John de Trevisa or Trevisa, who undertook the work "by command of Lord Thomas of Berkeley." The present interest of this manuscript lies in its being "a very mine" of Old English words, and curious terms, connected with agriculture, plants, and animals. One of these words is *Rettary*, a name still given in Suffolk to a place in which flax is dressed. There is a copy of the *Trevisa manuscript* at the British Museum, and another in the University Library, at Cambridge, but both are said to be inferior to the Helmingham copy. This is a large parchment folio, beautifully written, with illuminated letters rich with gold and colour, and there are marginal borders on every page, full of ornamental figures. The colours are still perfectly fresh, and the gold as bright as when it was first laid on. The *Trevisa manuscript* was one of the earliest books to be printed. Wynkyn de Worde printed it about 1509, John Berthelet re-printed it in 1537, and Stephen Batman† published it in an abridged form many years later. Archdeacon Groome considered that there was much of great interest in the changes of letters, words, and inflexions, found in these printed editions when they were compared with the original copy of the *Trevisa manuscript*.

\* Son of John Shute, first Viscount Barrington.

† Chaplain and librarian to Archbishop Parker. He died in 1584.

Another of the Helmingham manuscripts is beautifully illuminated. This is written on parchment, the date being about 1340. The manuscript is in two parts; the first part contains a treatise called *The Prick of Conscience*, rendered into English verse by a writer named Hampole. His real name was Richard de Rolle, and he lived as a hermit in several places in the north of England. He died at Hampole, near Doncaster, in 1349.\* The second part of the volume contains a curious translation from the French, called *The Lapidary, or Book of Stones*.

There is in the Helmingham Library a volume filled with small sheets of manuscript on parchment, which is called *A Treatise on Maumetrie* (i.e., mummery), said to belong to the year 1400: and another small book of about the same date is filled with short sermons in manuscript, in the style of those delivered by Wycliffe's band of poor priests.

There are many other manuscripts in the Helmingham library. Among them is the only copy known of *Sir Gennerides*, a long romance in English verse of the fifteenth century, written on parchment: manuscripts of some of Chaucer's poems; manuscripts of the statutes of English law to the end of the reign of Edward the First, and manuscripts in French of other statutes extending to the middle of the reign of Henry the Sixth: also several parchment Rolls of the fifteenth century. Besides these, there are several manuscripts of portions of the Bible, all of which are described by Mr. Harwood as "splendid." One of them, written in the fourteenth century, is full of beautiful illuminated letters. There are several manuscripts of the Fathers, which came from the suppressed monastery of St. Oysyth on the north-east coast of Essex; and a small book bearing the motto of Winchester College, "Manners Makyth Man," which is filled with fifteenth-century tracts. There are some of the early Chrouicles called Brut Chronicles, belonging to the fourteenth century, and

\* Dict. National Biography.

besides these early treasures at Helmingham, the library contains a vast quantity of later manuscripts. Among these is a play which was written in the middle of the seventeenth century by John Pallin. This writer describes himself as "Chancellor of the Church of Lincoln," and he dedicates his play in a long poem to Lady Tallmash, Countess of Dysart (the lady who by her second marriage became Duchess of Lauderdale).

The Helmingham Library possesses one Caxton, and that is a copy of the *Game and Play of Chesse*, printed by Caxton, at his Westminster Abbey press in 1474. Another treasure is a manuscript copy on parchment, of the fifteenth century, of the *Dicts and Sayings of Philosophers*, a book which was printed by Caxton in 1477. This Helmingham manuscript is called *The Booke of Morall Sayings of Philosophers*. Archdeacon Groome says of it: "Both Caxton's book and the manuscript are translated from the French; and by the same translator. The translator was Anthony Wydville, Earl of Rivers,\* and brother to Elizabeth (the relict of Sir John Grey of Groby), who married King Edward the Fourth in 1464."

It seems probable that the books and manuscripts at Ham House and at Helmingham were in great part collected for the Duke of Lauderdale. But the twelve Caxtons in the Ham House library, and the one Caxton at Helmingham were, with others of the rare books, bought from the well-known bookseller, Tom Osborn, by "a Mr. Joseph Brereton, B.L."†

This Joseph Brereton was the son of the steward at Helmingham. Brereton is a Cheshire name, and the steward may have obtained his situation through Grace Wilbraham, who married the third Earl of Dysart, son of the Duchess of Lauderdale, and is known as "the Cheshire heiress." Brereton the steward, sent his son Joseph, when

\* Anthony Woodville, or Wydville, Baron Scales, and Second Earl Rivers, born about 1442, executed 1483. He wrote several translations from the French, which were issued by Caxton (Dictionary of National Biography).

† Brayley (E. W.) History of Surrey, London, 1850, vol. iii., p. 125.

only fourteen, to Queen's College, Cambridge, where he was known as the little man of Queen's. His name is written in one or two of the Ham House Caxtons, with the prices he gave for them (which vary from 7s. 6d. to two guineas), the dates given being 1739 and 1744.

Before Brereton was in priest's orders he was presented by the Earl of Dysart to the living of Acton, near Nantwich, the advowson of which had been part of the inheritance of Lord Dysart's mother, "the Cheshire heiress." Brereton went to Acton in 1745, and there he remained till his death in 1787, happy in the friendship of Joseph Priestley, who was for some years the Unitarian minister at Nantwich, and was then actively engaged there in scientific pursuits.

The Dining-room at Helmingham is panelled with old oak, taken long since from a Suffolk farm-house. Some of the panels have fruit and flowers, such as the pomegranate and the honeysuckle, carved in high relief. On the sideboard are three of the old drinking-vessels called Jacks, which are made of waxed leather, mounted with silver. Below are several other Jacks, quite a yard in height, but unmounted. There is in the dining-room one of the old marble bowls (or cisterns as they were called), once used for washing plates.

The garden at Helmingham has no gravel-walks, only old alleys of soft green turf. Another moat, outlined by clipped yews, surrounds the garden, and on the lawn beyond stand fine old mulberry, medlars, apple, and pear trees. The gardens are enclosed by ancient brick walls, broken here and there by alcoves and seats, and half hidden by flowering creepers. There are several gateways, the piers of which are surmounted by eagles modelled in stone. Rows of tall hollyhocks mark the course of the grass alleys, and the garden is divided from the park by a double row of gnarled and twisted old apple trees, under which stretches a golden carpet of the great St. John's Wort.

The park at Helmingham contains nearly four hundred acres, and there is a herd of red deer in it as well as of

fallow deer. There is a tradition that the deer were there before the park was enclosed, and the Oak Grove at the north side of the Hall is believed to be the remaining portion of the ancient forest in which the red deer once roamed at will.

The trees in Helmingham Park are remarkable, among them being very ancient oaks, and beautiful old thorns and maples. During the Peninsular War, Wilbraham, Earl of Dysart, was offered, by the Admiralty, three hundred pounds for one oak. He refused to sell the tree, and "Lord Dysart's oak" still stands. This oak has a clean stem of some twenty feet without one lateral bough, and the trunk measures nineteen feet round. Some of the older oaks are much larger, their trunks measuring twenty-one, twenty-four, and even twenty-seven feet round. Sir George Airy, Astronomer Royal, examined some of these oaks about 1880, and gave it as his opinion that several were above a thousand years old.

Suffolk has always been famous for its oaks, and the trees were sent to the royal dockyard at Chatham in Defoe's time. He writes in 1722, that they were sent by sea from Ipswich, "which is so little a way that they often run to Chatham from the mouth of the river (Stour) in one tide."\*

Before the days of railroads the Tollemache family used to travel from Ipswich to London by sea. The "Ipswich Hoy," a large half-decked sailing-boat, was engaged, and this carried the whole party, with servants and luggage, leaving only the horses and carriages to follow with the grooms, and to travel over the sixty miles of road which lie between Ipswich and London.

There are still two ancient fish-ponds in Helmingham Park. In old days these ponds supplied fresh fish to the occupants of the Hall, and they are still full of carp, perch, and roach. The ponds are called the Upper and the Lower Lay," lay being a word used in the Eastern Counties for a large pond.

\* Tour through Great Britain, vol. i. p. 39.

It may be well to give here two other epitaphs in Helmingham Church. They have already been quoted in the volume of family history called "*Ham House.*"

The first epitaph is in memory of General Thomas Tollemache, the second son of Sir Lionel Tollemache, third baronet, and his wife Elizabeth Murray, Countess of Dysart in her own right. Above General Tollemache's epitaph there is a bas-relief, representing the scene of his death. The monument was erected by Wilbraham, Earl of Dysart, by whom the epitaph was probably written.

Thomas Tollemache, Lieutenant General, descended of a Family more antient than the Norman Conquest: Second Son of St Lionel Tollemache Bart: by his Wife Elizabeth Murray, Countess of Dysart in her own Right.

His natural Abilities and first Education were improved by his Travels into foreign Nations where he spent several years in the younger part of his Life in the Observation of their Genius, Customs, Politicks, and Interests: and in the Service of his Country Abroad in the Field: in which he distinguished himself to such Advantage by his Bravery and Conduct that he soon rose to considerable Posts in the Army. Upon the Accession of King William the III. to the Throne he was made Colonel of the Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards: and soon after advanced to the Rank of Lieutenant-General. In 1691 he exerted himself with uncommon Bravery in the Passage over the River Shannon and the Taking of Athlone in Ireland, and in the Battle of Aghgrim. In 1693 he attended the King to Flanders and at the Battle of Landen against the French (when His Majesty Himself was obliged to retire) he brought off the English Foot with great Prudence and Success.

In 1694 he was ordered by the King to attempt the Destroying of the Harbour of Brest in France: but on his Landing at the Head of Six Hundred men he was so much expos'd to the Enemy's Fire that most of his Men were kill'd and himself shot through the Thigh. Of which Wound he died a few Days after.

Thus fell this Brave Man: extremely lamented: and not without Suspicion of being made a Sacrifice in this desperate Attempt through the Envy of some of his pretended Friends. And thus fail'd a Design which if it had been undertaken at any time before the French were so well prepared to receive it might have been attended with Success and follow'd with very important Effects.

His Corpse was brought over to Plymouth : and from thence removed and buried on the

30<sup>th</sup> of June 1694.

in the Family Vault under this Chancel.

The second epitaph refers to Lionel Robert Tollemache, who at the age of eighteen was killed at the siege of Valenciennes, July 14, 1793. The inscription is placed upon a fine monument by Nollekens, which was erected in 1810.

This Monument was Erected to the Memory of

Lionel Robert Tollemache Esq :

who lies buried in the Vault beneath.

He was the only Son of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Captain John Tollemache of the Royal Navy and Lady Bridget Henley, Daughter of the Earl of Northington.

His Course was Short, but it was brilliant. For at the Age of Eighteen he died nobly, fighting for his King and Country. He was an Ensign in the First Regiment of Foot Guards and was killed at the Siege of Valenciennes in July 1793 by the bursting of a Bomb thrown from the Garrison. His Death was the more unfortunate as he was the only British Officer killed on that occasion. He was a Loss to his Country for he was a Youth of uncommon Promise. But to his Family his Loss was Irreparable.

The Father and two Uncles of this valiant Youth like himself lost their Lives in the Service of their Country. His Uncle the Hon<sup>ble</sup> George Tollemache was killed by falling from the Mast-head of the "Modeste" Man of War at Sea (1) His Father, the Hon<sup>ble</sup> John Tollemache was killed in a Duel at New York (2) And another of his Uncles, the Hon<sup>ble</sup> William Tollemache was lost in the "Repulse" Frigate in a Hurricane in the Atlantic Ocean.\* (3)

So many Instances of Disaster are rarely to be met with in the same Family.

Thus fell the young, the worthy and the brave!

With emulation view his honoured Grave!

Lionel Robert Tollemache was an only son. None of his six uncles had children, so that on the death of the survivor of the six brothers, Wilbraham, Earl of Dysart, in 1821, the Tollemache family became extinct in the male line.

Wilbraham, Earl of Dysart, had three sisters, Lady

\* (1) 13 November, 1760. (2) 25 September, 1777. (3) December, 1776.

Frances Tollemache, Lady Louisa, and Lady Jane. The elder sister, Lady Frances, died unmarried in 1807, aged 71.

Lady Louisa, the elder of the two younger sisters, married in 1765, John Manners of Grantham. She had ten children, and she was the great grandmother of William John Manners, the ninth and present Earl of Dysart. On the death of her brother Wilbraham, Earl of Dysart, in 1821, Lady Louisa Manners became Countess of Dysart in her own right. She died in September 1840, aged 96.

The third sister, Lady Jane Tollemache, married in 1770, Major John Delap Halliday, and died in August, 1802, aged 52. Lady Jane Halliday had several children, and she was the great-grandmother of Wilbraham, Lord Tollemache of Helmingham.

Lady Jane Halliday's son, John Richard Delap Halliday, entered the Royal Navy. He was born in 1772, and in February, 1797, he married Lady Elizabeth Stratford, the daughter of John, third Earl of Aldborough. In 1821 he succeeded to the estates at Helmingham, and in Cheshire, of his mother's brother, Wilbraham, Earl of Dysart, and took the name of Tollemache by royal license. Admiral Tollemache died 16 July, 1837.

Admiral and Lady Elizabeth Tollemache had three sons and several daughters. Their eldest son, John Tollemache, was created Lord Tollemache of Helmingham in 1876. Their second son, Wilbraham, married in 1844, Anne, the elder daughter of the Rev. James Tomkinson of Dorfold, near Nantwich, in Cheshire. The elder daughter of Wilbraham and Anne Tollemache married in 1873, Charles Savile Roundell, of Gledstone, Skipton-in-Craven. She has endeavoured to give an accurate sketch of her father's family in these pages.

## 1.

Lionel Tollemache of Bentley, married Edyth Joyce of Helmingham. He died 1552-3.

## 2.

Their son, Lionel Tollemache, married Dorothy Wentworth of Nettlestead. He died 1571.

3.

Their son, Lionel Tollemache, married Susannah Jermyn of Rushbrooke. He died 1575.

4.

Their son, Lionel Tollemache (first baronet), married Catherine Cromwell of Elmham. He died 1612.

5.

Their son, Lionel (second baronet), married Elizabeth Stanhope of Harrington. He died 1640.

6.

Their son (third baronet), Lionel, married Elizabeth Murray, daughter of William Murray, first Earl of Dysart of Ham House, Countess of Dysart in her own right. Sir Lionel died in 1669. (His widow married, secondly, John, Duke of Lauderdale. She died in 1698.)

7.

Their son, Lionel, Earl of Dysart, married Grace Wilbraham. He died in 1727. His son, Lionel, died in 1712, as Lord Huntingtower, having married in 1706, Henrietta Cavendish.

8.

The grandson of No. 7, Lionel, fourth Earl of Dysart, married Grace, daughter of John, Lord Carteret, afterwards first Earl of Granville. He died 1770.

9.

Their son, Lionel, 5th Earl of Dysart, married (1) Charlotte Walpole, (2) Magdalen Lewis. He had no children, and died in 1799. His own nephew, Lionel, was killed at Valenciennes, 1793.

10.

Wilbraham, Earl of Dysart, brother of No. 9, succeeded. He married Anna Maria Lewis, but had no children. He died in 1821, when the Tollemache family ceased in the male line.

11.

Louisa, sister of Lady Jane Halliday, the grandmother of John, Lord Tollemache of Helmingham, sister of Lionel No. 9, and Wilbraham No. 10, both Earls of Dysart, married in 1765, John Manners of Grant-ham. She became Countess of Dysart in her own right on the death of her brother Wilbraham in 1821. Her son William, Lord Huntingtower, died in her life-time in 1833. He married Catherine Rebecca Gray of Lehena, Cork. Louisa, Countess of Dysart, died 22 September, 1840, aged ninety-six.

## 12.

Lionel, Earl of Dysart, son of William, Lord Huntingtower, succeeded his grandmother, Louisa, Countess of Dysart, in 1840. He married Maria Elizabeth Toone, and died in 1878, aged eighty-four. His son, William Lionel Felix, married in 1851, Katherine Camilla Burke, and died in 1872 during the life-time of his father.

## 13.

William John Manners, son of Lord Huntingtower, and grandson of Lionel, Earl of Dysart, succeeded his grandfather in 1878. He is the ninth and present Earl of Dysart.

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## THE DYSART SUCCESSION.

1st Earl, William Murray, created Earl of Dysart in the county of Fife, and Baron Huntingtower of Huntingtower in Perthshire, August 3, 1643, with remainder to his heirs male and female. He married Catherine Bruce, daughter of Sir Robert Bruce of Clackmannan, and had five daughters but no son. William Murray died in 1651. Ham House and other property in Surrey was granted to him by Charles the First, whose "whipping boy" he had been. William Murray's father was rector of the parish of Dysart.

2. Elizabeth Murray, eldest daughter of William Murray, became in 1651 (on the death of her father), Countess of Dysart in her own right. She married first, Sir Lionel Tollemache of Helmingham, and had eleven children, of whom only six survived childhood. Sir Lionel Tollemache, the third baronet, died in 1669. His widow married in 1671, John, Duke, of Lauderdale, and resided with him at Ham House. Elizabeth, Countess of Dysart in her own right, and Duchess of Lauderdale by her second marriage, died at Ham House in 1698.

3. Sir Lionel Tollemache, son of Sir Lionel, third baronet, and Elizabeth, Countess of Dysart in her own right, succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his father in 1669. On the death of his mother in 1698 he became Earl of Dysart. He married Grace, daughter and co-heir of Sir Thomas Wilbraham, of Woodney in Cheshire, and died in 1727.

4. The son of Lionel, third Earl of Dysart, died as Lord Huntingtower in 1712. He had married Henrietta Cavendish in 1706. Lionel, the third Earl of Dysart, was, therefore, succeeded in 1727 by his grandson. Lionel, fourth Earl of Dysart, married Grace, daughter of John, Lord Carteret. He died in 1770.

5. Lionel, fifth Earl of Dysart, succeeded his father in 1770. He married in 1760, Charlotte, daughter of Sir Edward Walpole. She died in 1789. In 1791 Lord Dysart married secondly, Magdalen Lewis, of Malvern Hall, Warwickshire. Lord Dysart died without children in 1799.

6. Wilbraham, sixth Earl of Dysart, succeeded his brother in 1799. He married Maria Lewis, of Malvern Hall, Warwickshire, in 1773, and died without children in 1821.

7. Louisa, sister of Lionel the fifth and Wilbraham the sixth Earl of Dysart, married in 1765, John Manners of Grantham. She succeeded as Countess of Dysart in her own right in 1821. Her son, William, Lord Huntingtower, married in 1790, Catherine Rebecca Gray of Lehena, Cork, and died in 1833. Louisa, Countess of Dysart, died in 1840, aged 96.

8. Louisa, Countess of Dysart, was succeeded by her grandson, Lionel, eighth Earl of Dysart. He married Maria Elizabeth Toone, and had a son, Lord Huntingtower. Lord Huntingtower married in 1851, Katherine Camilla Burke, and died in 1872. Lionel, eighth Earl of Dysart died in 1878, aged 84.

9. William John Manners, ninth and present Earl of Dysart, son of Lord Huntingtower and grandson of Lionel, eighth Earl, was born in 1859.

## EXCURSIONS, 1904.

TO MOULTON, LYDGATE, GIFFARD'S HALL, AND  
BADMONDISFIELD HALL, AND TO LAVENHAM.

The Annual Excursion of 1904 was held on Wednesday, July 27th, when a visit was made to the picturesque vale of the Kennett. Arrangements were made for members to be accommodated with seats in brakes, which met an early train at Kennett Station, and proceeded to the village of Moulton.

The Vicar of Moulton met the carriages at the entrance to the village, and, standing on a most picturesque bridge of the 15th century, he read an interesting paper concerning it. He considered the bridge to have been built for pack animals, which probably followed a route winding through the villages lying between Cambridge and Bury, among them being Fulbourn, Wilbrahams, Dullingham, Stetchworth, Woodditton, Cheveley, Moulton, Gazeley, Higham, Barrow, the Saxhams. The bridge appeared on this occasion to span the dry bed of a river, but the visitors were assured that its existence was most necessary when at times this dry bed was the channel of a rapid swollen stream, whose waters flooded all the adjacent fields and meadows. The reason for the existence of the other bridges farther up the river was obvious. After listening to the vicar's paper, progress was made towards the church, which was reached by traversing an expansive lawn under the shade of most magnificent beech trees. The Rev. W. J., Josling introduced Dr. Peile, Master of Christ's College, Cambridge, to his visitors. The latter gentleman had made a careful study of the church,

and pointed out the various features of interest. All the members present were particularly interested in what is evidently the remains of a private chapel, but which now forms part of the vicarage. Various traces of the early chapel were discovered when alterations were made to the dwelling-house, in 1846, and these have been carefully preserved both in the hall and in the cellar.

Before leaving Moulton, the Vicar and Mrs. Josling kindly entertained their visitors upon the lawn to light refreshments, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to them for their genial hospitality, and to Dr. Peile for the carefully-prepared paper which he had read. Permission had been obtained for the carriages to drive through the long beautiful avenue of Dalham Park, the seat of Col. Frank Rhodes. Occasionally, through the trees, glimpses could be obtained of a wide view of charming country. A halt was made at Dalham church, and, under the guidance of the Rector, the Rev. H. B. Pugh, a short inspection was made of the mural paintings, and the old tower, but it was necessary to hasten on to Ousden church—the central tower, low and plain, of Norman construction, but with Decorated insertions, was greatly admired.

The principal object of the day's excursion was Lydgate Church and Castle, which were reached punctually at noon. The members surveyed the old site of the castle, with its wide overgrown moats, and examined the church which stands within the old castle enclosure, but a paper upon the subject was reserved for a later hour. Before luncheon, an inspection was made of an old Tudor farmhouse, with its quaint old mantelpiece, and its massive carved oak-beams upon which the Masonic emblem of Solomon's Seal was embossed. Luncheon was, by the kind permission of the Rev. E. Audrey Gray, served upon the Rectory grounds. After luncheon, Prince Fredk. Duleep Singh, as chairman, introduced Mr. Chas. Partridge, junr., of Stowmarket, who gave a report of the Proceedings of the recent Congress of Archæological Societies.