

5. "Sir William Cordell, Knight,* knight of the shire for the county of Suffolk, Speaker of the House of Commons 4 & 5 Philip and Mary, 1557, and Master of the Rolls to the said Queen and Queen Elizabeth." A highly animated portrait of the knight, with red hair and peaked beard; a ruff richly fringed, shirt sleeve, and slashed jacket. In his hand is a pedigree of the Cordell family.

6. "Mary, wife of the said Sir William, daughter and sole heir of Richard Clopton, Esq., third son of Sir William Clopton by Margaret his wife, third daughter and one of the heirs of Richard Bozem, Knight." A three-quarter portrait of a handsome lady, with dark hair, ruff, and laced cap. In her hand is a richly-bound book.

SAMUEL TYMMS.

KENTWELL HALL, MELFORD.

THE manor of Kentwell is mentioned in Domesday Book by the name of Kantawella, and its earliest known possessor was Trodo, a brother of the then abbot of Bury, in 1086. The de Kentwells, probably his descendants, were lords here till the beginning of the 13th century; but in 1251 it was in the king's hands, and was granted by King Henry the Third to Lord William de Valence, whose niece and coheir married David Strabolgie, Earl of Athol, and Steward of Scotland; and he, it appears from the *Inquisitiones post mortem*, 1 Edw. III. (1326) held the manor for his life of the king *in capite* of the castle of Norwich, by paying a ward of the said castle 66s. at Easter and St. Nicholas. In the year 1333 it was granted by the earl to Sir Robert Gower† and his heirs. In 1338 the king confirmed to Sir Robert Gower in fee the manor of Kentwell, in the county

* There is a curious portrait of the Master of the Rolls, by Cornelius de Zeem, at St. John's College, Oxford.

† Charter in Harl. MSS. Brit. Mus. vol. i. 184-299, 19.

of Suffolk, fallen into his hands by David de Strabology, Earl of Athol, and Steward of Scotland.* His only surviving daughter Joan married William Neve, of Wyting, and he and his wife had a pardon granted in 1366 for having entered on the Kentwell Hall property on the death of her sister, without process in the king's court, &c., and they were restored after the seizure by the king on payment of 100s. After the death of Neve, his wife married Thomas Syward, of London, pewterer, and in 1368 he and his wife granted the manor of Kentwell Hall to John Gower, the poet; by whom it was soon conveyed in 1373 to Sir John Cobham and others. How the manor came into the hands of the Cloptons is not quite clear. Sir Simonds D'Ewes says that Katharine, daughter and heiress of William de Mylde, esq., married Sir Thomas de Clopton, kt., younger brother of Sir William de Clopton, of Wickhambrook; and on the death of her father, who outlived her, Kentwell Hall descended to her son by this marriage.

The family of Clopton is believed to have taken its name from the parish of Clopton in the hundred of Samford, and to have given it to a manor in Wickhambrook before the Conquest. Clopton, now a hamlet of Wickhambrook, occurs in Domesday Book, and its owners were feudatories of the Honor of Clare; William de Clopton holding the 12th part of a fee of the Earl Marshal. Thurstan de Clopton was a witness in 1154 to a grant of lands in Hawkedon to the abbot of St. Edmund's; and his son Robert de Clopton gave to St. Edmund's abbey four acres of land "in villa de Clopton" that Thurstan de Clopton held.†

The Cloptons acquired large possessions in this and the neighbouring counties of Essex and Cambridge, and allied themselves by marriage with many noble and knightly families. "The unworthiest match that ever any Clopton had" (according to Sir Simonds D'Ewes, whose pedigree of the family is among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum), was the alliance of Sir Wm. Clopton, of Kentwell, with Johan, daughter of Sir William Marrow, kt., an alderman of the city of London in the time of Henry the Seventh, and "the noblest match" was that of "John

* Cal. Pat. Rolls, 13 Edw. III.

† Hist. Thingoe, p. 419.

Clopton, son and heir of the said Sir William Clopton, with Elizabeth, daughter of John Roydon, esq., and Margaret his wife, daughter of Thomas Knyvet, esq., of Great Stanway, Essex, and the coheir of many great and antient families.”

Sir Thomas Clopton, who married Katharine de Mylde, the heiress of Kentwell Hall, died before his lady, who then took to her second husband Sir Wm. de Tendring, kt., and had issue by him one daughter Alice, who married Sir John Howard, kt., grandfather of the first Duke of Norfolk of that family; “so as from this very match (says D’Ewes) the Cloptons are allied to all the honorable branches of the Howards, and by them to many other noble houses and families of England.”

The Kentwell property passed to her son William Clopton, and it continued to be the residence of his descendants till the time of Charles the Second.

William de Clopton added to the family estates most of the large possessions of the family in the counties of Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, by purchase from his cousin Sir Wm. Clopton, of Wickhambrook, whose daughter Joan was the wife of Sir Thomas Erpingham, who, as a penance for his sin in favoring the heresies of Wickliffe, built the beautiful gate that goes by his name at Norwich cathedral.

William Clopton was twice married; first to Margery, daughter of Sir Roger Drury, and secondly to Margery, daughter and heiress of Elias Franceys, who died in 1423. From the latter marriage were descended the three families of Clopton settled at Kentwell Hall, at Castelins in Groton, and at Lyston in Essex.

John Clopton, esq., the son of William and the second Margery, was a zealous Lancastrian, and was sent to the Tower with John Earl of Oxford, Aubrey de Vere, his son, John Montgomery, William Tyrell, esq., and Sir Thomas Tuddenham, for corresponding with Margaret of Anjou. These were all beheaded on Tower-hill, Feb. 22, 1461, but Clopton escaped, and lived to a great age. From the Paston letters it would appear that in 1454 he had entered into a contract* to marry Elizabeth, only daughter of Sir

* Fenn’s Paston Letters, where the marriage articles may be seen.

William Paston, but though the marriage articles were drawn up, the match was broken off in consequence probably of "his land" not standing so "clear" as to "content" the young lady's careful mother. He ultimately married Alice, sister of Sir Robert Darcy of Maldon, Essex, and having served the office of High Sheriff of Suffolk and Norfolk 30th Henry VI., died 13th Henry VII.

His eldest son Sir William Clopton, who sold the Hawsted estate to the Drurys, used for his private seal the punning device of a plant—supposed by Sir John Cullum to be a caltrop—issuing out of a ton.

His second son was Sir Edmund Clopton, called in the Rookwood pedigree "*Rodiorum eques percelebris.*"

From the marriage of his daughter Anne with Thomas Rokewode, esq., of Stanningfield, was descended the Ambrose Rokewode, who was executed in 1605 for being implicated in the Gunpowder Plot, and the second Ambrose, also executed for being concerned in the Barclay conspiracy against William the Third in 1696. The present Sir Thomas Rokewode Gage, Bart., of Hengrave, is the lineal representative of this marriage.

William Clopton, esq., son of Sir William and the alderman's daughter, married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Say, esq., of Lyston Hall, in Essex, and became the founder of the Lyston house of Cloptons. At the coronation of Queen Mary, in 1553, William Clopton, in right of the manor of Lyston, claimed "to make wafers for the quene, and to serve the same wafers to the queen's table, and to have for his fee all the instruments as well of silver as other metall ordeyned for makinge of the same wafers, and also to haue all the napkins and other profites and fees thereunto appertaining."*

Thomas Clopton, esq., of Kentwell, who died in 1597, was probably the builder of the present mansion. He married Mary, daughter of Sir Wm. Waldegrave, of Smallbridge, near Bures, ancestor of the present Lords Waldegrave and Radstock.

Their son was the last of the name that owned Kentwell Hall. He was educated at Jesus-college, Cambridge, and

* Jerdan's Rutland Papers, p. 120.

while there engaged in some love passages, with one of Dr. Duport's daughters, that excited the fears of his family. A letter from Mr. Wm. Boswell to Sir William Waldegrave (printed in the D'Ewes Correspondence, ii., 162) shews the old knight's "tender and fatherly care of his [orphan] grandchild's well-doing"; the distress which the "badd and most false report" had caused to his tutor; and the young man's innocent compliance with a merry custom of the period, which had given rise to the rumour. The tutor thus writes :

"Necessitie of publike business causeth with sorrow my absence from Kentwell; wheruppon I am bould to intreate your worshipfull to be satisfied by my letters present, which I write as dippinge my penne in my hearte, deliveringe (I protest uppon my salvation) unto you y^e naked truthe of my inwarde thoughts and knowledge concerninge that matter and reporte of your grandchilde Mr. W. Clopton's marriage and contract unto one of Doctor Duport's daughters.

"That I should privily consent unto any such underhand dishonest dealinge, I utterlie denie, and in deniall thereof for ever defye it; withall I protest unto your worshipfull, that neither that or any such marriage or love matter was ever moved unto mee, or once mencioned in my presence, or any tyme bred in my thoughts. Nay, though all my friends livinge should persuade mee unto such a thinge, I would not yield unto it, against your worship whom so derely I reverence; neither would I permitt any man to seduce Mr. Clopton so to his overthrowe, whose welfare I preferre before myne owne. From whom such a report should rise I know not. About a quarter of a yeare since Mr. Clopton was, amongst other fellowes and gentlemen of our colledge, drawne by paper lotts to be Valentine to one of Dr. Duport's daughters: which being tould unto Mr. Clopton, he came presently and asked mee what he should doe; I resolved him as the other company did; which afterward giving gloves unto their Valentine, wee also bought a pair, costing 2s. 6d., and bestowed them uppon her, which (God is my witness) was done without any such intent as the report falsely carrieth. Neyther did the gentleman or myself ever speake twice unto those daughters in our lives."

The custom alluded to is mentioned by several of the early dramatists, and the mode of drawing for valentines was this. The names of a select number of one sex are, by an equal number of the other, put in some vessel; and after that every one draws a name which for the present is called their valentine, and is looked upon as a good omen of their being man and wife afterwards.

Of the young man himself, Mr. Boswell declares that "his diligence and care of his studies" was equal to his

grandfather's desire; "his carriage and demeanour civill and quiet, right befitting a gentleman"; and "his minde and affection as pliable unto his tutor as any young gentleman's in Cambridge." He was knighted by King James at Newmarket in 1613, and died in 1618. He was twice married. His first wife, "a gentlewoman of exact beauty and comeliness, and of exemplary piety," was Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Barnardiston, of Clare Priory, one of the most antient knightly houses in the kingdom. His second lady was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Giles Alington, of Horseheath (ancestor of the Lord Alington who built the magnificent house at that place), and widow of Sir Henry Palavicini, of Babraham, in the county of Cambridge, son of Sir Horatio, the Genoese arras-dealer and naval commander, who, it has been said,

"Death wyth besome swept from Babram
 Into the bosom of ould Abraham;
 But then came Hercules with his club,
 And struck him down to Belzebub."

The only child that survived Sir William's death was Anne, daughter of his first wife, who became at the early age of thirteen the bride of the famous antiquary Sir Simonds D'Ewes, Bart. During her minority the heiress of Kentwell was committed to the care and education of her grandmother, the Lady Barnardiston, at Clare Priory; and here, being then but seven years old, took place that introduction of the young lady to her destined husband which has been so frequently appealed to by those who hold that there is a "fate" in marriage.

"I must confess (writes Sir Simonds D'Ewes in his autobiography) when I saw her, I never imagined that of all women living, God had ordained her for my wife, or that I should have remained so long unmarried as I afterwards did; for I was at this time past seventeen years of age, and my father himself began also to treat of a wife for me.....Nay so far was I from ever imagining that I should have married my said wife, that I never after had sight of her till I was admitted to be a suitor to her in the year 1626, being about seven years.....But it is easy with the divine Providence to bring about those things which are most unlikely, which is seen in no one particular more fully than in the consummation of some marriages from very contingent and unlikely beginnings, and in breaking off divers treaties of marriage long laboured and much intended. There happened also, during my being now at Kediton, another particular, though less

serious, yet not unworthy the relating in this place; for Sir Nathaniel's eldest son, named Thomas, being then but a child of some six years old, would always call me cousin, and though divers times chid for it by his mother, would still hit upon it, which made us all at length take such special notice of it, as it caused Sir Nathaniel himself at one time to say pleasantly unto me, 'Sure I think we shall be kindred at the last.'

"She had been (continues Sir Simonds) very religiously educated under Dame Anne Barnardiston. She was the heir of her family, which was justly reputed the first for antiquity in that shire in which God's providence had planted me, and would link me by alliance to most of the gentry therein, to whom I was yet a stranger. She was ten years and two months, wanting a day, younger than myself, and every way so comely, as that alone, if all the rest had wanted, might have rendered her desirable. My father was well acquainted with Sir William Clopton, and knew well that stately house in the town of Melford, with an estate of about five hundred pounds per annum lying round about it, to which she was heir, which was not far distant from his own manor of Lavenham, and therefore he also was very sensible what advancement this match might bring to his name and family."

The autobiography of Sir Simonds D'Ewes contains most minute particulars of his course of "true love"; and as an interesting episode in the history of Kentwell Hall, and a curious picture of love-making in the olden time, I may be excused for introducing some passages here.

"The match itself (he writes) was first proposed to me by Walter Clopton, esq., her father's younger brother, when my thoughts were fixed elsewhere; but the treaty I then was engaged in breaking off about the end of March last past, I sought after the lodging of the said Walter in London, intending to have used him as the instrument to have moved the Lady Barnardiston on my behalf; but missing him, Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston, of Kediton, kt., proposed the same match unto me awhile after, which with all thankfulness I accepted—being resolved, if he had not prevented me, to have requested his assistance and furtherance therein. On the 12th day of May foregoing, we conferred seriously of it, and he showed me some writings concerning the gentlewoman's estate. The same day I had discourse with my father about it, who was exceeding willing I should proceed in this match. On the 20th of the same May I saw a letter sent from the said Lady Barnardiston, by which she gave authority to Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston and Mr. Arthur Barnardiston, his younger brother, to proceed with the treaty. I had divers discourses and serious thoughts concerning the same, the remainder of that May, and the greater part of the ensuing June, intermixed also with some fears by reason of my father's inconstancy. And I might well, for on Monday, June the 19th, when I had procured Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston and his brother to come to him to his lodgings in Chancery-lane, in the Six Clerks Office, to treat upon the estate to be settled in possession and reversion, and the

jointure to be made, he suddenly broke all off somewhat abruptly. I was much annoyed at it, and extremely dejected, beginning now to conceive that I should never marry during his life; and yet I was confident there was some other proposition newly made to him, which he liked better, and that made him so careless of this. I thereupon laboured with the Lady Denton, his wife, to know if some other match had been wished to him for me. She confessed in general there had; but that she might not yet particularly acquaint me with it. I only then requested her to give me leave to name but one gentlewoman to her, and that she would but tell me whether I guessed right or not, which she promised she would. Upon my nomination, I found I had hit the mark; and then I grew presently joyful and secure, for I had seen the gentlewoman, and of all the women I knew, could not affect her, although her portion was voiced to be near upon 5000*l*.

“ I took occasion awhile after to move my father to renew the late treaty he had broken off...He, little imagining I had gotten knowledge of his secret, took this discourse to proceed from a stranger providence than indeed it had done, and now that he understood my resolution, gave me full authority to proceed with it again; which assent of his ministered unto me, on Thursday, June the 29th, much comfort and satisfaction, there having passed but ten days since the late interruption and stoppage. Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston also, supposing the same rub would prove, as it did indeed, but short and temporary, had very happily forbore to write to Lady Barnardiston concerning it, so as when I came home all matters were set right again in an instant. But when, on the same 29th day of June, I had conference with Mr. Arthur Barnardiston about it, I heard sad tidings from him, and began to fear, whilst we beat the bush, another would take the bird. For he told me that Sir Thomas Coventry, now lord keeper of the great seal of England, had some thoughts of marrying Mr. Thomas Coventry, his eldest son, unto her; and that he had already sent to the said Mr. Barnardiston to come to him, that he might confer with him about it. I expected the issue of that conference with much fear and unquietness, concealing this new overture from my father. Upon the same Mr. Barnardiston's repairing to my lord keeper, when he saw that the whole estate almost of Mistress Anne Clopton was in reversion only, (for Dame Elizabeth Tracy, her father's second and last wife, then and still living with Sir John Tracy, kt., her husband, held it as her jointure for the term of her life,) and that Walter Clopton, esq., her uncle, did likewise pretend some title to it, he told him he would proceed no further in it...

“ This second interposition being thus fairly cleared,...my father wrote both to Sir Nathaniel and Lady Barnardiston his real desire that this present treaty might be brought to a fair conclusion, and setting down under his hand what he would settle in possession and reversion upon me. These letters did Mr. Arthur Barnardiston carry with him, and gave me full assurance...that I should speedily receive letters, appointing me the day and place where to enjoy the full liberty of seeing and speaking with the young gentlewoman.

“ But he was deceived, for as my father had acted his part of incon-

stancy, so now began the old lady to play hers. For notwithstanding this business had been treated of by virtue of her own warrant or letters, yet, before she heard any answer, she moved herself a match for her granddaughter with an Essex gentleman; but then it was too late, for my business had so far proceeded after two or three visits, as she could not have broken it off again without much discredit and infamy. But this was the least part of my lady's inconstancy, for... she ruled Mr. Barnardiston to make a journey on purpose, in his own person, into Oxfordshire...to William Viscount Say and Sele, to make a tender of her grandchild to him, for his eldest son, Mr. James Fiennes. But he, upon the same reason as my lord keeper,...refused the offer in direct terms; and therefore the said Mr. Barnardiston, upon his return to her, remonstrated plainly what unjust and undue proceedings these were, and how misbeseeming the religion she professed; and he obtained from her not only a full acceptance of my father's demands, with a little alteration in a circumstance or two, but a promise also never to give way again to any future inconstancy or change. And thereupon wrote unto me that his cousin would be at Kediton hall what time I should appoint, giving but a week's warning of it before hand; when I should have free access and liberty to make mine own affection known: whereupon I appointed the 25th of this instant August for the first time of my much desired interview...

"At my arrival I found the said Lady Barnardiston and her grandchild, whose person gave me absolute and full content as soon as I had seriously viewed it; for though I had seen her twice or thrice, some seven years before, in 1619, when she was a child, yet I did then little observe her, save in general I did well remember she was a pretty little one...

"August the 28th I departed from Kediton with the Lady Barnardiston, and my joy (whose loving and discreet entertaining me, being not yet fourteen years old, gave me some cause of admiration), to Clare Priory. Having lodged there that night, the next day I returned to Stow hall to my father, whom I found very much contented and pleased with the good and successful entertainment I had received.

"August the 31st I sent my servant over to Clare with a diamond carcanet (necklace), to be presented to Mistress Clopton, and a letter with it; which being the only lines I sent her during my wooing-time, and but short, I have thought good to insert in this place.

"Fairest,

"Blest is the heart and hand that sincerely sends these meaner lines, if another heart and eye graciously deign to pity the wound of the first and the numbness of the latter: and thus may this other poor inclosed carcanet, if not adorn the purer neck, yet lie hidden in the private cabinet of her whose humble sweetness and sweet humility deserves the justest honour, the greatest thankfulness. Nature made stones, but opinion jewels; this, without your milder acceptance and opinion, will prove neither stone nor jewel. Do but enhappy him that sent it in the ordinary use of it, who, though unworthy in himself, resolves to continue your humblest servant,

"SIMONDS D'EWES."

The carcanet was “respectively” *i. e.* respectfully received, and the servant bountifully rewarded. The following week the youthful lovers devoted to private converse; and “so humble and discreet was the deportment of the maiden, as to oblige him no less to an ardent affection for her than the comeliness of her person.” At length, all things being fully agreed upon, continues the autobiography,

“I had some serious discourse with the old lady touching the speedy consummation of my marriage; and we had both great motives to induce our mutual consents to it. She had feared some inveigling or misfortune might come to her grandchild, having just cause to suspect that some of her near friends would be too mercenary to help her to some mean match. Besides, though she had agreed for her wardship, she had yet paid nothing, nor given security for the payment of it; which was now to be done in October next ensuing. The most of the estate being in reversion, she had obtained the wardship for 500*l.*, which had she been to buy two or three years after, would have cost her at least as much more. For mine own part, I had many reasons to desire the hastening of it. I feared some great offers might be made to tempt the old lady, who was naturally, as most of her sex, marvellous inconstant...I had also felt too many sad and woeful experiences of my father’s proneness to alter and change his former purposes and resolves; and I knew the longer the business hung in suspense, the more likely it was for some rubs and stops to occur. Besides, it took my whole time and thoughts; and I desired again some freedom for my studies. The only objection arose from her grandchild’s tender years, which persuaded her to make some long pause before she yielded to the consummation of her marriage: for she did not only doubt what danger might ensue to her very life from her extreme youth, but she was also in some fear that the very interest I had already gained in her grandchild’s goodwill and affections was no solid or real love grounded on judgment, and might therefore alter and lessen again after marriage—she being at this time but little above thirteen years and a half old. To these objections I answered fully to her own abundant satisfaction, that I only desired to have the marriage consummated, and would forbear to reap the fruits of it till all danger in that kind should be passed; which, through God’s blessing, I afterwards performed, although there were no separation between us, it being perhaps the first example that ever was of that kind; and so impossible it seemed, as others could scarcely be brought to believe it; and for the second objection, I told her I did not doubt but easily to mediate and prevent it; for the same means I had used to gain her affection before I married her, should be continued afterwards to maintain and increase it. Hereupon she the same day, September the 20th, moved her grandchild to assent to a speedy marriage; which she also yielded unto..

“It pleased God, out of his infinite mercy and goodness unto me far above my desert, to add a final end to my cares and suspicions upon

the 24th day of October, by the solemnization of our espousals in Blackfriars church [London]. My father received much comfort at the instant, seeing my happiness in the choice I had made, and hearing from all hands how great and advantageous a match it was conceived to be, by which he himself gained much esteem and repute. My content also was daily increased by it, although many troubles and crosses presently ensued, and intermixed with it. For besides the charges of my wooing and marriage, and the payment of the before mentioned 500*l.* for my wife's wardship, I ran into divers other expenses, which brought upon me great debts; so as I spent about 1000*l.* above my allowance the first two years after my marriage...My father also, notwithstanding the small remainder of some 250*l.* per annum I had left, deducting what I was to pay away in my yearly annuities, caused me to enter into a chargeable suit with Walter Clopton, esq., my wife's uncle; and before that ended, I was also forced to bear the charges of a suit in Chancery which Sir John Tracy and Dame Elizabeth Tracy his wife her mother-in-law, commenced against Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston, kt., and others;...and for three years after that was finished, we had no sign or likelihood of issue, which, as it proved no small affliction to ourselves, so I believe it occasioned my father to be less hopeful and assistant unto me than otherwise he would have been..."

Lady D'Ewes afterwards bore her husband several children, but only one, Cecilia, survived its infancy. Their first son, named Clopton, "a goodly sweet child born," died soon after birth, through "the cursed ignorance or neglect of such as were employed" about the lady during her lying-in. Two other sons, twin-born, survived but a few hours after their premature birth, which was occasioned "by some hurt to Lady D'Ewes by travelling in her coach in Bury streets" during the festival; and her fourth son, also named Clopton, died before it was two years old of the rickets, which were produced "by their pitching upon a proud, fretting, ill-conditioned woman for a nurse," and aggravated by the unskilful treatment of "Dr. Despotine, an Italian physician at Bury."

Lady D'Ewes died of the small-pox in her 29th year, at Stowlangtoft Hall, in 1641. The melancholy circumstances attending "the sickness and death of this glorious saint of God"—the last of an honorable race that had been long settled at Kentwell Hall—are painfully related in the correspondence of her sorrowing husband.* She fell ill on the 15th of July, while on a visit to Lady Denton, her husband's mother-

* Printed in the Appendix to his Autobiography.

in-law, at Ixworth Abbey, "but finding no remorse or pity, nor offer for her to stay, she resolved" to return to Stowlangtoft; declaring to her maid, who wisely entreated her to remain, "that she must goe whatever hurt comes of it, seeing nobody offered her to stay"; and exclaiming "that were she at Busbridge her sister Elliott would have lost her life before she would part with her thus." At the time of her departure "she was all over of a sweate," and the exposure of "soe tender and delicate a body to the open air in such a condition" was the cause, in the opinion of those "skilfull in that disease," of her death. At Stowlangtoft Hall she was carefully tended by her anxious partner till the 25th, when, being "deluded by that blindefold and unskilful woman who kept her," who assured him "that shee was noe otherwise affected then was usuall in that disease with such as did recover," he returned to London. He had not departed many hours, however, before death mercifully relieved the lady from her sufferings. These were of the most dreadful description; but her only care throughout this severe trial was for the welfare of her immortal soul. She had no dread of death: all her anxiety was for the "assurance of God's love"; and her only fear, "that in dying of this hott and violent disease she might by word and impatience dishonor God."

Lady D'Ewes was the last of the Cloptons who possessed Kentwell Hall, and the name itself became extinct in 1730, on the death of Dr. Poley Clopton, M.D., founder of the asylum at Bury which bears his name. The Afflecks and the Folkeses are the representatives of this antient family.

In the year following the death of Lady D'Ewes Sir Simonds contracted a second marriage with the youngest daughter of Sir Henry Willoughby, and dying in 1650, was succeeded in his title and paternal estates by their son, Sir Willoughby D'Ewes; but Kentwell Hall descended to his daughter Cecilia, the only surviving child of his first lady, and was carried by marriage to her husband, Sir Thomas Darcy, Bart., of St. Osyth, Essex. Lady Darcy died without issue in 1661, and was buried in the Kentwell chapel, in Melford church.

Kentwell Hall then became the property of Sir Thomas

Robinson, kt., Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas, who was created a baronet by Charles the Second in 1681-2; and two years after lost his life by leaping out of his chamber window in the Temple, to avoid the fury of a fire which had broken out near his chambers.

His grandson Sir Thomas, the third baronet, married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Hare, of Stow Bardolph, and sold Kentwell to John Moore, *alias* Mould, esq. Henry Moore, esq., was high sheriff of the county in 1757, and Richard Moore, esq., the last of the family, served the same office in 1812. From that family it passed by purchase to Robert Hart Logan, esq., merchant, of London. He had been educated in the college of Montreal in Canada, and formed one of a deputation from Quebec and Montreal, appointed to give the Government information on Canada affairs, and urge the union of the Provinces. In 1818 he married Nancy, daughter and co-heiress of Robert Sarvice, esq.; in 1828 served the office of High Sheriff of the County; and in 1835 was an unsuccessful candidate for the representation of the Western Division of Suffolk. In 1837 he was, however, returned at the head of the poll. Great expectations were formed by his friends on his entrance into parliament; but his career of usefulness and promise was early terminated by an almost sudden death on the 13th of April, 1838*.

Kentwell Hall was purchased the same year, for 85,000*l.*, by the trustees of Captain Edward Starkie Bence, second son of Col. Bence, then a minor, and the present owner of this beautiful estate.

The mansion is nearly a mile distant from the high road, and is approached by a fine avenue of lime trees for nearly the whole distance. The whole of these beautiful trees were at one time sold to an eminent pianoforte maker, and some of them on either side nearest to the house were cut down, but he was ultimately induced to forego the purchase.

The house, which is described by D'Ewes as "a goodly fair brick house," was, as already stated, built by the last but one of the Cloptons in the time of Queen Elizabeth.

* Gentleman's Magazine for Aug. 1838, p. 213.

It is in the form of the letter E; a form observable in many houses of this reign, and in some instances known to have been so designed as a mark of respect to the sovereign. A fine moat, over which there are two bridges, surrounds the house; and what is more remarkable, a second moat appears to have enclosed the pleasure grounds. The modern alterations were made under the direction of Mr. Hopper, the architect. A window in the billiard-room is filled with stained glass, representing in twenty-six coats the arms and alliances of the Cloptons, which were collected from different parts of the mansion, and placed in their present position in the beginning of the 19th century. Part of the glass is as old as the time of Henry the Seventh; and part is of modern manufacture. The banners in the hall, the work of the lady of Col. Bence, are those of Henry the Third, Earl of Pembroke, Earl of Strathbogie, Edmund Gower, Catharine Mylde, Clopton, D'Ewes, Robinson, Moore, Logan, and Starkie.

In the park, which is extensive and picturesque, was formerly a little chapel in honor of St. Anne. It is described in a MS. of Roger Martin, of the time of Queen Elizabeth, to have been near the pond in the park; and to have been the spot where a drinking took place when the parishioners went the bounds on the second day in Rogation Week, being their longest perambulation.

SAMUEL TYMMS.