Brass of Sir Nicholas Hervey

AMPTHILL CHURCH, COMB: BEDFORD.
SIR NICHOLAS HERVEY, KT.

Some account of Sir Nicholas Hervey Kt. was given at p. 365, of vol. 2 of the "Proceedings." The brass on his tomb at Ampthill church, of which a representation is here given, shows him to have been third son of William Hervey of Ickworth and Joan Coket his wife, by the very distinct mullet in the first quarter of his coat of arms. It will be observed also that the arms are Hervey quartering Niernuyt; and as Sir Nicholas was a contemporary of Sir George Hervey, (though a few years younger) and died within ten years of him, and within little more than fifty years of Sir George's grandfather, who was Joan Niernuyt's husband, the additional proof thus afforded of the descent of the Ickworth Herveys from those of Thurley is of great weight. The tomb was probably erected by his wife, who died in 1536, just before Ann Boleyn's trial. As regards the reason of his being buried at Ampthill, I have no certain knowledge. But as Queen Katherine resided at the royal manor of Ampthill from the summer of 1531, till the summer of 1533, the time of the divorce (see Miss Strickland, vol. ii p.p. 539, 541, 543), and Henry himself visited it from July 23 to 29, of the year 1532, it is probable that he was there in connection with the king's service. It is not impossible that he may have been employed to try to persuade Katherine to consent to the divorce; certainly he was still high in the king's favour, since in March 1532, not six months before Sir Nicholas' death, the king was
godfather to Henry* his eldest son by his second marriage, as appears by the following entry in the "Privy Purse expenses of King Henry VIII," published by Sir N. Harris Nicolas, "Item the viith daye paid to the noisce and the myd-wife of Sir Nicholas Harvy chielde, iii iis viiid. His wife too, Sir Richard Wingfield's widow, was the intimate friend of Ann Boleyn,† and became one of the Ladies of her bedchamber on her being raised to the throne. It is sad to add that it was on the information of this very Lady Wingfield, given on her deathbed, that, if Bishop Burnet's story on the authority of Sir John Spelman is true, (History of Reformation, i. p. 197, p. 318 edition 1830,) Ann Boleyn was arraigned. But Froude seems to throw doubt upon it (Hist. Eng., vol. ii. p. 461, note). I note by the way that she is called the Lady Wingfield, perhaps in consequence of Sir Richard's rank as K.G., in spite of her two subsequent marriages; and correct the statement at p. 369 of the "Proceedings," that 'she had been' lady of the bedchamber to Ann Boleyn, at the time of her marriage to Sir Nicholas. Bishop Burnet's statement implies that it was after Ann Boleyn was crowned, i.e., after 1533, that she was "servant" to her, and not before her marriage; though Ann Boleyn had ladies in waiting, trainbearer, and chaplains as early as 1528 (Strickland, ii. p. 607).

The two letters to King Henry VIII., the one from Sir Nicholas Hervey, and the other from his successor in the embassy, Sir John Hackett,—which accompany the plate, need no comment, except to state that they are printed in vol. ii. p. 245 of State Papers, and show that Sir Nicholas came on this embassy in June 1530 (not 1532 as erroneously stated at p. 368 of the Proceedings), and was recalled in January 1531; being by Hackett's account "very glad to be discharged of his commission." The MSS. are preserved

* I presume that Henry was the king's godson from his name. His younger brother George, who was 72 in August, 1605, must have been a posthumous child.
in duplicate at the State Paper Office, and are partly in cypher; but the other letters alluded to as written from Mechlin and Cologne are not extant.

As regards the brass itself, the original tomb was built partly in the wall (recessed) of the north aisle, and partly in the aisle. When the church was restored it was found to interfere with the space required, and was consequently taken down, and the slab with the brass upon it was laid flat, and now lies under a pew floor, with a moveable boarding over it. Under these circumstances it was a matter of no small difficulty to obtain a rubbing of it. The difficulty however, was overcome by the skill, and determination of James Wyatt, Esq., of Bedford, to whose kindness I am indebted for the rubbing from which the plate is taken. He writes me word that "the inscription is on the right side, and foot of the stone, on a bevilled edge. There is no appearance of any brass label having been on the other end and side of the stone. I have said appearance, I should rather say feeling, for I could not see, but passed my fingers round the edges, which are rough." It is much to be regretted that this monument should have been so put out of sight.

There is a brief account of this brass in Nichols's Topographer and Genealogist, vol. i. p. 63, and a lithograph of it was taken by Fisher, of which one or more copies are in Mr. Nichols's possession.

ARTHUR HERVEY.

(Letters to King Henry the VIIIth.)

SIR NICHOLAS HARVY TO KING HENRY VIII.

Pleas it your Highnes,

Sythe my commynge bidderwardes I have wryttyn to your grace two my former letters, the one beryng date at the Town of Meghelin the 22nd of the monnythe laste paste, and the other from Coleyn the 27th of the same monnythe, whiche from Coleyn I deliverde into the handes of Sir Herman Rynge, addresseynge it to your Highnesses Ambassadour with
the Ladye Margarite*; and upon rapporte of the sayde Sir Herman, made therein mention a leghe to be taken with the Turke, and an appointment betwixt Don Fernando and Vyvalde upon certen conditions: howbeit, I can here fynde no sayenges, but rather apperance to the contrarie.

Furthermore it maye pleas Your Grace to understand that upon Fridays of this monnythe I atteignyd hider, and the secondye daye after myne arrivall by one of the Maisters dostell, callid le Maistre Mouqueron, I was conveyed from my lodging unto the emperors presence into his bed chamber, wher I deliverd Your Highnesses letter, with Your Grace hartelye recommandacions unto Hym; bothe which He accepted in right lovyng and frendelye wise, makynge in semblable facion recueil unto me, and thankyd Your Grace hartelye in that it had lykyd Your Highnes to send to be resident with Hym one, by whom He might have knowledge of Your Graces good estate from tyme to tyme. And after declaration of the firste part of my charge, He attempting noothing of Your Graces greate cause, with a verrry sobre, manner sayd, that at all seasons when I shuld have any affaire to be shewyd Hym from Your Highnes, I shulde be hartelye well-com unto Hym, and wolde gladlye gave me audience at all seasons.

The day followinge I repairid unto the Kyngge of Hungarie at his lodgynge, widder I was conveyed allso by one of the Maisters of his Household; and deliveryng Hym Your Graces letter, with Your Highnesses effecteous recommendacions, He shewed in his maintien and countenance to be gretelye rejoysid and satisfied therewith, and usid me in my recueil after a kynde and familier facion, sayenge that he shulde be right glad at all tymes of Your Graces good convalescence, and was verrry wele contentid to knowe that by me He mighte have meane to geve Your Highnes advertisement from Hym at all tymes when the cas shall so require.

Moreover, it maye like Your Grace to be ascertenyd that a grete companye of the Estates of the Empire be here assembled, and all the Princes, savinge the Bisshop of Trere † and the Counte Palentine Ludovic, whiche two personaiges be absent by occasion of som diseases, and have made theyr excuses, consentinge, as I here saye, to all that shalbe decreed and done by th Emperour and the other Electours here, as Farr forthe as iff they were them selfes present. Daylly counsailles behad upon the Lutherian secte, whiche as yet bringe furthelitle towardnes to that purpose, and some-where men doubt that th Emperour shall haue to moche to doo to redresse that affaire, for their supporters holde theyr opinione stronglye, and shrinkenot a dealstherat; and so it shalbe sene, as well in that thing as other, the Emperour shalbe somewhat used, as his predecessors have been; that is to saye, as it shall please them. Nevertheless by the Cardinall of Luke, with whom I supped yesternight, and had of him, for Your Highness sake, as gentle, loving and frendelye cheere a seuer I had, being everaye(sic) to hear of Your Graces good estate, I percyyved that the beddes of that secte incline sumwhat to th Emperors mynde; whereby good hope is had, that with som leysor and jaire meanes they shalbe reduced, for in other maner is no holsom medling.

* The passages printed in Italie are in cypher, in the original.
† Richard Greiffenklau, Archbishop of Treves, died in the following year.
SIR NICHOLAS HERVEY, KT.

with them. In whiche and other behaules as I shall fether fele and knoue, I shal not sayle from tyme to tyme to assartayn Your Grace.

The said Cardynall shewed me also that th Empeor had worde how as well the ton of Florence is infectid with the plaghe, and that the Emperor is in doubte of the Prince of Orange his chief Captin, and the residue of his people ther.

Some men judge that in this enterpris th Empeor hath been unto the Pope as well a scourge as a frende, for under conforte of Hym the Pope hath in the same enterpris wastid hys frendes, people and substaunce to small effecte.

Your Highnes shall herewith receyve a letter from the Duke George of Saxon, which is answer to Your Graces letters sent unto hym by me, at the deliveraunce whereof he willed me from tyme to tyme to repayre unto him.

And thus I beseche Almyghtye God to have Your Highnes allwayes in Hys moste blessed preservacion. Wryttyn at the tonne of Osbourghe, in the cuntrey of Swethin, the 11th daye of the monnythe of July, anno 1530.

I send Your Grace the dubble of thys by Sir Herman Ringes handes.°

No manner person as yet, sithe my beynge here, hath emoved me of Your Graces greate cause.

Duke Georke letter ii with the dubble herof, sent by Sir Harmon Ringes handes.

By Your Highnesses moste humble subject and servant.

(signed) N. HARVY.

HACKETT TO KING HENRY VIII.

Plesse Your Highness to understand, that now of late I beyng arywyd at your town of Calks, and there tarryng to know what Your Highnes is plesur was to command me to do, the second day of this monnyth I res-sewit syche letters as hath plessyd Your Grace to send me, by the whiche Your Highnes is letters ye hawe synygnyed and comytted me to be Your Hyghnes is Imbassadour toward and with the Empeor, in lyke wysse as Your former Imbassadour Master Harvy,* whom at this tyme Your Grace revockes Homeward And acordyng to Your Highnes is commandment, and that to accomply the same to the best of my lyttyll poer, I departyth from Calles the 3rd day of the sayd monnyth, and for som lyttyll byssenyed that I had a do, consernyng myn afferes at Bruges and at Mack-lyng, wyth slowe deligence I arryvyd in this town of Brussellis the 11th

* This duplicate is still with the original.

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day of this monnyth to your Imbassator Master Harvy is lodging, to whom I was as right hartly welcom as to one that was werry glad to be dysh-chargeyd of his comysyon. And after that we had consultyth our charges to gyddyr, we fond the comodytti to have had audyence of the Empyre yisterday afor dyner: and there comyng to his presence, accordyng to my charge, after Your Highnes moste harty recommendacions and my devoers done, I delyvyrd His Majeste Your Highnes is letters, who with a sad familiar conttenance ressewit them, and after the reddyng possyd Hymself with silence, tyll Master Harvy schowyd His Majeste how Your Highnes is plessuer was to revoke hym homward, and that I schowld tarre here with his sayd Majeste, in his place, as Your Highnes is Imbassadour; which wourdes I affyrmyth sych to be Your Highnes is plessur. And here to His Majeste answeryd, that the contenttes of Your Highnes is letters to Hym conformed with our saynges, and that he was sory of Master Harvy is departure, but that in a mowch as your plessyr was syche, that His Majeste was well plessyd of my comyng, acceptyng me right agreably. After that His Majeste imbrassyd me, for my first welcomyng.

And as touchyng the surplus of all the wanteyes, that they spek here in general nombyr, and of all other occurrenttes or tedynges that we have here at this tyme, the berrer here of, Your Bighnes is Imbassatour, Master Harvy, may schow Your Grace at large of all the premysys; and makyn an eynd of this, Almighty God prossper Your Highnes with long life, good helt and felicite. From Brussellis, the 13th day of Fevrer, 1530. Your right humyll soggett and servent,

John Hackett.

(superscribed)
To the Kinges Hyghnys Noble Grace.

* By a recredential letter from the Em- peror to Henry, dated at Bruxelles the 13th of Feb. and remaining in the State Paper Office, it appears that Harvy's letters of recall and Hackett's appointment were made on the 27th of January.