

GEORGE BROOK, LORD COBHAM,—OB : 1558.

From the Drawing by Holbein.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
DURING THE YEAR

1899.

PART II.—PAPERS, ETC.

Brook,

OF SOMERSET AND DEVON; BARONS OF COBHAM, IN KENT.

BY W. H. HAMILTON ROGERS, F.S.A.

Part II.

THE additional notes comprised in this *Paper*, allusive to the Brook family, are offered as supplementary to the account found in the preceding volume of Som. Arc. and Nat. Hist. Soc. *Proceedings*, and are designed to render the notice of their history to some extent more complete.

Their Early History.

THE following interesting confirmatory particulars relating to Brook, Cobham, Beauchamp, &c., are extracted from *Coll. Topog. et Geneal.*, vol. vii, pp. 320-354, therein stated to be taken from "*Charters, &c., in the hand-writing of Robert Glover, Somerset Herald, in a volume of the library of the College of*

Arms, marked Philipot, E. J., and were derived from the muniment room at Cobham Hall," about 1574. These refer to the early possession of Olditch :—

"Brianus de Gomz (Goritz) D'n's de Kingesdon, dedit, &c., Henrico de la Broke et Nicholea uxor suæ, &c., s. d. (Seal) 'S. BRIANI DE GOMZ.' (Arms) *vaire, a bend lozengy.*

Henricus de Brok, de Holdyche, 3 Regis Edw.

Elizabeth quæ fuit uxor Henrici de Broke, 7 Edw'd. III—1334.

Henricus Broke, relaxavit Thomæ Broke nepoti suo et Constantia uxoris ejus, &c. Dat. ap. Holdyche, 8 Edw. III—1335.

Thomas Broke, et Constantia uxor eius, 9 Edw. III—1336.

Thomas de Broke, tenuit maner, de Broke juxta Yilchester in Com. Som'st. 14 Edw. III—1341."

The following to Henry de Cobham, the marriage of his son to Joan Beauchamp, his burial at Stoke-sub-Hamdon, and inventory of his goods. It will be observed the date of his son's attendance at the funeral is of a vague nature, stated as "*anno 9 Edw. regis*"; if of Edw'd. II, 1316; if of Edw'd. III, 1336; and this would be nearer the correct date, for he died in 1339, which agrees with the year the inventory was taken and exhibited.

"Johannes de Cobham miles quæritur versus Dn'm Thomam fratrem suum, in qua querela dicit quod cum Joh'es de Cobham leur sage auncestor, le quel Dieu assoile, perquisivit manerium de Chessebury, quod descendit D'no Henrico patri eorum utpote hæridi per successionem: Et postea idem H. accepit D'no Joh'e de Beauchamp pro nuptiis dicti D'ne Johannis filii sui 400 lib. sub eo conditione quod nunquam dishereditaret d'cm J. filium suum. Id non obstante dict. D'ns Thomas ita rem tractavit cum eorum patre anted'co q'd ille feoffavit d'cm Thom. de advocacione eccl'sie pred'ce, &c. Tandem convenit inter eos in presentia Reginaldi de Cobham, Prioris Roffens', et aliis.

Henricus de Cobham, miles, d'n's de Chissebury, 6 Edward II—1313.

Joh'es de Cobham dedit D'ne Matilde de Columbariis et Henrico de Cobham filio suo maneria de Chissebyri, &c., s. d. (seal) arms of Cobham, *dimidiated, impaling a bend* (Columbers).

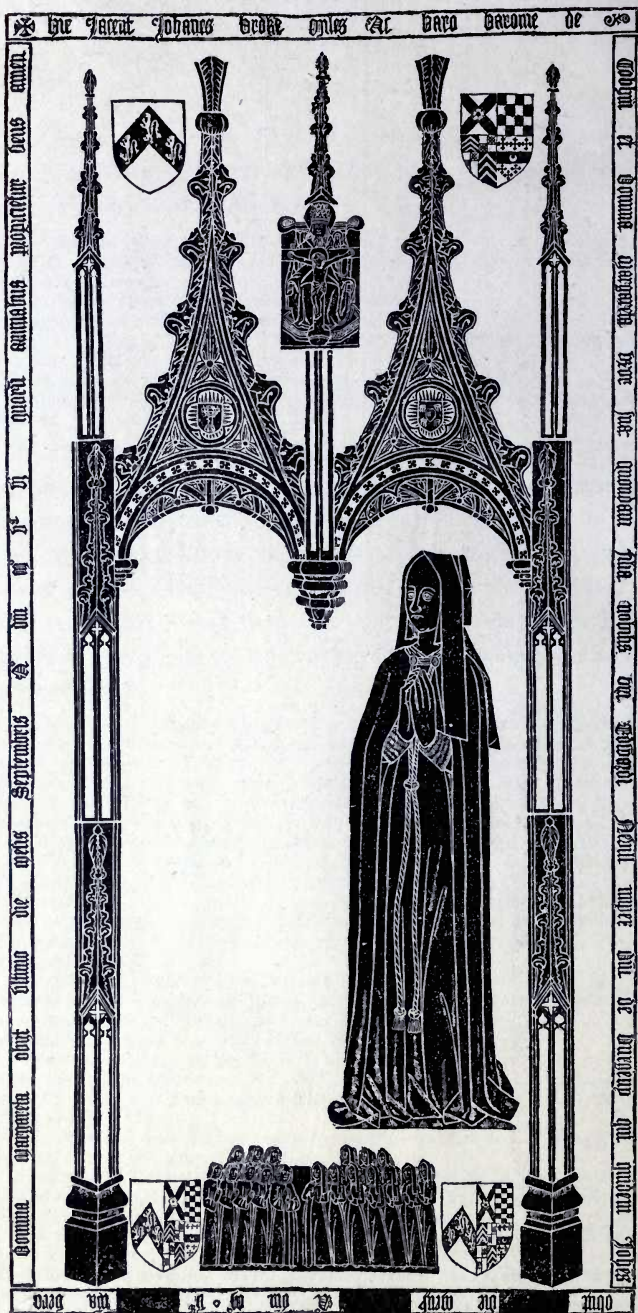
Henricus de Cobham, miles, D'ns de Cobham, dedit Joh'i de C. filio suo et Johanne uxori ejus, pro sexcentis marcis argenti ille præ manibus solutis, manerium suum de Henton in Com. Wiltes, cum omn' pertin', &c. Dat. Londini die Lunæ in f. b. Mariæ Mag. 8 Edward II—1315.

Joh'es de Cobham, miles, filius D'ni H. de Cobham, salut in D'no. nov't univ. vestra me attornasse, &c., Will'm de Blanford ad capiend. (*preceding grant*). Dat. ap. Stoke-subtus-Hamedon die Martis p'x. p. f. b. Marg. 8 Edward II—1315.

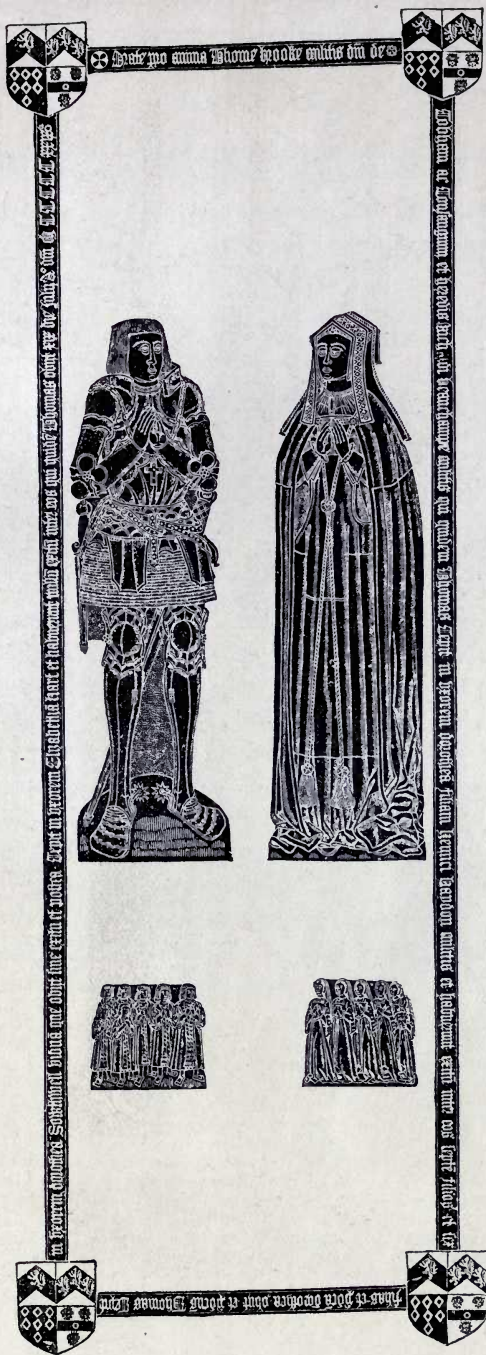
D'ns Johe's de Cobham celebravit funus D'ni Henrici de Cobham apud Stoke in Com. (Somerset) anno 9 Edw. regis.

Henricus de Cobham sepelitur apud Merston Stoke in Com. Somerset, et Joh'es de Cobham filius ejus aderat apud funus suum, cujus quidam Joh'is expensa itinerando et redundo ad'co funere adhuc extant.

Inventiarum omnium bonorum D'ni Henrici de Cobham, mil. defuncti die Assump'onis beatæ Mariæ virginis anno D'ni millo cccmo xxxix. Henricus iste habuit duos filios Joh'em et Thomam, milites, qui contraversar'it pro testamento patris sui. (1339).



(JOHN BROOK, LORD COBHAM), AND MARGARET NEVILL HIS WIFE.



THOMAS BROOK, LORD COBHAM, AND DOROTHY HAYDON HIS WIFE.

Inventiarum omnium bonorum D'ni Hen. de C. mil. defuncti die Assumpt. b. Mariæ virg. 1339, exhibit Ep'o Roffensi per Thomam C. mil."

These relate to John de Cobham, his marriage contract with Margaret Courtenay, and receipt for the payment, "*pro le sojourn*" with her father subsequently.

"Joh'es Cobham dat terras Johi filio suo et Margaretæ filiæ Hugonis Comitis Devon, 5 Edward III—1332. (Seal) *on a spread eagle two shields, 1 vair* (for Joan Beauchamp), 2 Cobham, *with label*.

Indentura facta 6 Edward III—1333, inter D'm'n Hugonem de Courtenay, Comitem Devon et Joh'em de Cobham testatur quod Joh'es filius D'ni Joh'is accipiet in uxorem Margaret filiam dicti Comites, &c.

Hugo de Courtenay Comes Devonix fatetur se recipisse de Johanne de Cobeham mil. filio D'ni Johis de C. de Kent, militis, 5 libras sex solidos pro le sojourn de Margarete de Courtenay filia sua, 29 Edward III—1356.

Joh'es, D'nus de Cobham, habuit licent. fundare Collegium de Cobham—1362."

These exhibit the marriage contract of Thomas Brook, and Johanna Braybroke, Lady of Cobham, with the seals of Cobham and Brook; and a deed relating to the widowed Lady Johanna Brook, with her four sons (including Michael Brook), concerning Kingeston, one of the oldest of their possessions, and dated at Olditch. The seal to this document is specially interesting as displaying Lady Johanna's arms, *Ermine, on a chief gules, three bucks head's affronté or*, impaled with Brook, her second husband.

These arms are now assigned to *Hanning*; and their appearance here makes it questionable if she did not belong to a family so named, and not *Hannap*, or *Hanham*, unless all three are variants of the same name. The arms at present assigned to *Hanham* are altogether different.

"Indentura facta inter Sir John Oldcastell mil. D'n'm de Cobham et Johannem uxoris ejus ex una parte, et Thomam Broke, militem ex altera. Testatur quod Thomas filius et heres d'ci Thome Brooke accipiet in uxorem Johannam filium d'ce Johannæ uxoris d'ci Joh'is O. D'ni de C. infra datum præsentium ad festum Pentecostes proxime venturum si Deus illis vitam concedit, &c. Dat. 20 Feb. 11 Henry IV—1410. (Seal) "**SIGILLUM JOHANNIS OLDCASTELL D'NI DE COBHAM.**" (Arms) quarterly, one and four, *a castle*, two and three Cobham, (supporters) *two lions sejant affrontée*, (crest) *on a helmet and wreath, a Saracen's head wearing a cap*.

Joanna Brooke relicta Thome Brooke mil. defuncti fecit attornatus ad deliberandum Ric'o Chedder, Thome Brooke, Thome Chedder et Michaeli Brooke filiis meis seisinam in maner' de Kingeston. Dat. apud Holdyche 5 Henry V, 1418. (Seal) Brook, impaling, *Ermine, on a chief, three bucks' heads caboshed*.

Michael Brooke, fil. Thomæ et Johannæ B., 11 Henry V, 1424.

Deed dated 12 Henry VI, 1434. (Seal 1) 'SIGILLUM THOMÆ BROOKE MILITIS,' (arms) *on a chevron a lion rampant* (Brook), (supporters) *two lions*, (crest) *on a helmet and wreath a spread wing*. (Seal 2) 'SIGILLUM JOHANNÆ BROKE,' (arms) Brook, impaling, *Ermine, on a chief, three stag's heads caboshed.*"

These notes to Johanna, Lady of Cobham, and Hemenhale and Hawberk, two of her husbands, and Hawberk's first wife.

"Rob'ts Asheley et alii demiserunt maner. de Creshale in Com. Essex. Joh'e quondam uxori Rob'ti Hemenhale mil. filiæ Joh'is de la Poole, militis, 19 Ric. II, 1396. (Seal) 'SIGILLUM D'NE JOHANNÆ HEMENHALE.' (Arms) *on a fess between two chevronels, three escallops* (Hemenhale) impaling, *two bars wavy* (De la Pole).

Nicholaus Hawberk, miles, et Domina Matilda uxor ejus, 1 Henry IV, 1399.

Nich. Hauberck, miles, dedit Hugoni Lutterell, &c., omnia bona et catella sua ubicumque fuerint inventa exceptus centum sol. argenti quod sibi reseravit. Dat. apud Couling, 6 Oct., 9 Henry IV, 1407.

Hugo Lutterell, miles, &c., confirmaverunt D'næ Johannæ, D'næ de Cobham, omnia bona et catella quæ habuerunt ex dono Nicholai Hauberck. militis, 9 Henry IV, 1407. (Seal) 'SIGILLUM NICHOLAUS HAUBERCK, MILITIS.' (Arms) *checky, a chief per fess nebulée.*"

And these refer to John de Cobham, of Blackborough, Devon.

"Joh'es Cobham de Blakeburgh, et Katerina uxor ejus 51 Edward III, 1378.

20 Richard II, 1396. *Cornub.* Johannes Cobham de Blakeburgh, miles, obiit seisitus de reversione manerii de Hilton cum pertin. et de redditu. 10 solid. annuatim Castro de Launceston solvendo. Quod quidem manerium tenetur de Rege in cap. ut de Castro suo prædicto et de Ducato Cornubiæ per serv. militare et per redd. 10 solid. per annum. Quodque Elizabetha soror dicti Johannis est hæres. (Seal) 'SIGILLUM JOHANNIS DE COBHAM.' (Arms) *on a chevron, three spread eagles, in dexter chief point an estoile.*"

These arms of Cobham of Blackborough were quartered by Hungerford, as descending from Elizabeth, daughter of the first John Cobham of that place, who married Sir Hugh Peverell. They are found on the large escutcheon of the splendid monument with their effigies, in the Chapel at Farleigh Castle, of Sir Edward Hungerford, ob. 1648, and his wife Margaret Halliday, ob. 1672; and are, apparently, the only trace of remembrance of the Cobhams of Blackborough existing.

Thomas Chedder

AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

IN Canon Jackson's *Guide to Farleigh Hungerford 1879*, the following "courteous and gentle epistle, &c.," appears, quoted

from the fine *Cartulary of the Hungerford Family*, in the possession of the Rt. Hon. Henry Hobhouse, of Hadspen, near Bruton. An indenture by which Thomas Chedder does homage to Walter, Lord Hungerford (ob. 1449) for his land at Littleton near Wellow; 21 Henry VI, 1441.

"This Indenture made the Fest of Seinte Cutberd the Bisshoppe, the yeare of the Reigning of King Harry the Sext after the Conqueste the 19th, Witnesseth that Thomas Chedder, Scirer (*Esquire*) hath done Homage to Walter Lord Hungerforde for the Londes and Tenements which the saide Thomas holdeth of the saide Lord in Littleton. In witness whereof to the parties of this Indenture as well the saide Lorde as the forsaide Thomas enterchangeably have set their seales the day and the yere above writen."

"To the worshipfull noble and my right gode and gracious Lord the Lorde Hungerford.

Worshipful Noble and my right gode Lord. I recomaunde me unto your right gode Lordeshippe, besechyng the same to have me excused of that I com not to your Presence atte this Tyme for the Doying of myne Homage: for trule, my Lord, God hath visited me with such Intirmite that I may not ryde without right grete Perell of mine Hele (*health*) as I hope my Brother Fortescu which hath sene myne Intirmite will pleyne enforme your gode Lordeshippe: Wherefore I sende unto you by the Berer hereof an Endenture ensealed with the Seale of myne Armys by which I have done unto you Homage.

Worshipfull noble and my right gode Lord, I beseech Almighty God alwey your gode and gracious spede.

Write on the Fest of Seinte Cutberde the Bisshoppe;—

THOMAS CHEDDER."

Thomas Chedder had no brother named Fortescue, and the Canon surmises it may have been the L.C.J. of the King's Bench, Sir John Fortescue, "who was connected with the neighbourhood of Wellow and Farley, by marriage (according to Lord Clermont) with the heiress of John James, of Norton St. Philip's." Thomas Chedder, then in ill health, appears to have died the following year, 1442-3.

Sir Edward Grey—Viscount L'Isle. He carried the Rod with the Dove at the coronation of Richard III—7th July, 1483. His first wife, Elizabeth Talbot, granddaughter of Thomas Chedder, died 8th September, 1487, and was buried at Astley, Warwickshire; he died 17th July, 1492, and bequeathed his body to be buried in the new chapel of Our Lady, begun by himself to be built in the College of Astley, where the body of his late wife lay interred. The interesting pair of effigies in Astley Church may represent them; the knight, in full armour, with collar of S.S.; the lady, with long

flowing hair, coronet, and wearing the rare Yorkist collar of Suns and Roses. Another effigy of a lady, with pedimental head-dress, in the same church, is presumed to represent her niece, Cicely Bonville, of Shute.

The Viscount married secondly, Jane, widow of Sir Robert Drope, citizen and draper, Lord Mayor of London, 1474-5, knighted the same year, and who died about 1485. She survived her second husband and died 1499-1500. Sir Robert Drope and his widow, the Viscountess, were munificently inclined in founding some substantial charities, and both were buried in the church of St. Michael, Cornhill, "on the north side of the choir under a fair tomb of grey marble," but, continues Stow, "notwithstanding their liberality to that church and parish, their tomb is pulled down, and no monument remaineth of them."

Sir John Grey—*Viscount L'Isle*, son of the preceding, was created Knight of the Bath, 18th February, 1503, "being one of the Knightes of the Sword dubbed at the creation of Prince Henry." He died 9th February, 1504; his widow, Muriel Howard, remarried Sir Thomas Knyvett, K.B., of Buckenham, Norfolk, ob. 1512; she died about the same date, and was buried in the Friars' Church, Greenwich.

Arthur Plantagenet—*Viscount L'Isle*. He married Elizabeth Grey-Dudley, 12th November, 1511; knighted 14th October, 1513; Sheriff of Hants, 1513-14; Knight of the Garter, 23rd April, 1524; Vice-Admiral of England, 1525; First Commissioner to Francis I, King of France with the Garter, invested at Paris, 10th November, 1527; Governor of Calais, 1533-40; Pantler at the coronation of Anne Boleyn, 1st June, 1533; Privy Councillor, 1540. His committal to the Tower, in April 1540, was owing to a suspicion that he had a design of betraying Calais to the French, and when Henry VIII, being convinced of his innocence, ordered his release, he is said to "have died of joy" thereat, on 3rd March, 1541-2, and was buried there. His wife appears to have died the preceding year.

John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland. He was the eldest son of Elizabeth Grey-Dudley, by her first husband, and heir to the possessorship of Kingston L'Isle, and the title, as specified on the patent, dependant thereon. But before his mother's death, which occurred about 1540, during her lifetime, on the 27th March, 1538, he disposed of the reversion of the manor and estate of Kingston L'Isle, to William Hyde, whereby on her death, when he became heir to the grantees of the Barony of L'Isle, he failed to comply with the conditions of the grant, and the title so created became extinct. He was executed on Tower Hill, 22nd August, 1553.

The Brook Memorials

IN COBHAM CHURCH, ETC.

ALTHOUGH there were seven descents of Brook after their migration to Cobham, of whom six were summoned as Barons, only three memorials exist to them in the church there, wherein all, except the last—Henry Brook—were interred.

The oldest of these is the brass to Sir John Brook, fifth Baron of Cobham (grandson of Sir Thomas Brook, of Olditch, who married Joan de la Pole, Lady of Cobham), and his wife, Margaret Nevill, which lies in the pavement of the chancel. He married first *Eleanor*, daughter of — *Anstell* or *Anstie*, of Suffolk, who left no issue, and secondly *Margaret*, daughter of Edward Nevill, Lord Abergavenny, youngest son of *Ralph*, first *Earl of Westmoreland*, by his wife *Elizabeth*, daughter and sole heir of Richard Beauchamp, Lord Bergavenny, created Earl of Worcester in 1420, who married Isabel Despencer, sister and sole heir of Richard, eighth Baron Despencer and Baron Burghersh. This descent explains the impalement of the shields on the brass, namely Cobham, impaling Nevill, Warren, Clare, Despencer, and Beauchamp, *with a crescent for difference*. It is curious to note that the

arms of Brook, proper, are not included. By her he appears to have had eighteen children, as depicted at the foot of the brass, eight sons, and ten daughters. The inscription as it is now found reads thus:—

Hic Jacent Johanes Broke Miles Ac Baro Baronie de Cobh'm et Domina Margareta vxor sua quondam filia nobilis viri Edwardi Nevill nuper D'ni de Burg'eny qui quidem Joh'es obiit die mens' A'o D'ni Mo v^c ip'a vero Domina Margareta obiit vltimo die me'sis Septembris A'o d'ni Mo v^c vj quoru' animabus propicietur Deus: amen.

Only the figure of the lady now remains, but that of Sir John was in existence in 1597. The costume of Lady Margaret is very simple, gown with full sleeves guarded with fur, mantle with cordon, and pedimental head-dress. John Brook, Lord Cobham, died 9th March, 1511-12, but the date was never filled in upon the brass. Affixed to the central pinnacle is a square panel, whereon is a representation of the Trinity, the Father seated, with triple crown, and right hand raised in benediction, supports the Saviour on the Cross, which rests upon the orb of the Earth, and on the left arm of the cross is the Holy Spirit, sitting as a Dove, with partially extended wings; in the central compartments of the canopies are shields, on one the instruments of the Passion, and on the other the Five Wounds.

In Couling (*hodie* Cooling) Church, Kent, the parish in which Couling Castle, the original seat of the Cobhams, is situate, is the brass of Faith Brook, one of the ten daughters of the aforesaid John Brook, Lord Cobham (ob. 1512) which lies in the floor of the nave. The figure is of small size, and clad in pedimental head-dress, gown with fur cuffs, and ornamental girdle. Below is the inscription:—

Pray for ye soule of Feyth Brooke late ye dowgt'r of Syr John Brook lord of Cobh'm whiche Feyth decessed the xxj day of Septe'b'r ye ye'r of o'r lord m.vcviij o' whose soule J'h'u have m'cy.



man for þe soule of ffeerth wrooke late þe dohter of hre Johā
 Brook lord of Robbūn whiche ffeerth decessed the xxj day
 of septer þe yer of o lord ag þe by o whose soule ihu hene ag

FAITH BROOK.—COWLING CHURCH.

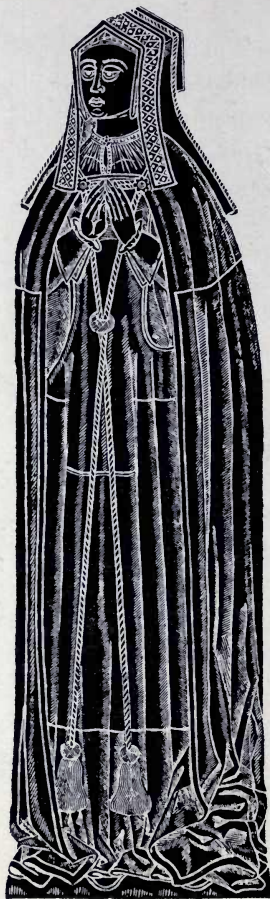
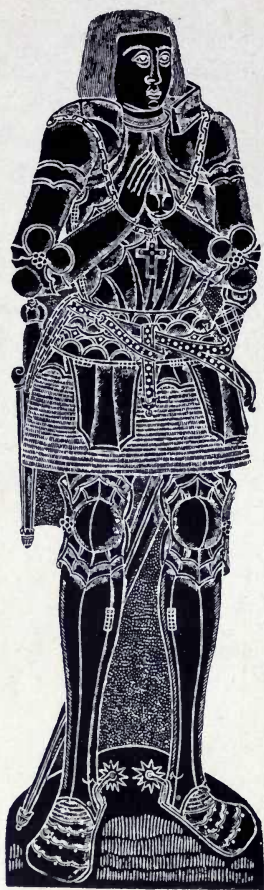
KENT.



HIC IACET SEPVITA DOMINA IOHANNA
BROOKE VXOR ROBERTI BROOKE MILITIS
QVÆ FVIT PRIMOGENITA FILIARVM HVMFRIDI
WELD MILITIS VIXIT ANNOS TRIGINTA
OCTO ET OBIT XXIJ DIE MAIJ AÑ DÑI.1618

JOHANNA WELD, FIRST WIFE OF SIR ROBERT BROOK.

VOXFORD CHURCH, SUFFOLK.



THOMAS BROOK, LORD COBHAM, AND DOROTHY HAYDON HIS WIFE.

COBHAM CHURCH.

The second memorial in Cobham Church is also a brass (the last of the series), in the pavement of the chancel, and commemorates Sir Thomas Brook (eldest son of Sir John), sixth Baron of Cobham, his first wife, Dorothy Haydon, and their thirteen children. He died 19th July, 1529.

The inscription is :—

Orate pro anima Thome Brooke militis d'ni de Cobham ac Consanguini et heredis Richardi Beauchampe militis qui quidem Thomas cepit in-vxorem Dorothea' filiam Henrici Haydon militis et habuerunt exitu' inter eos septe' filios et sex filias et p'd'ca Dorothea obiit et p'd'cus Thomas Cepit in vxorem Dorothea' Sowthwell vidua' que obiit sine exitu et postea Cepit in vxore' Elizabetha' Hart et habuerunt nullu' exitu' inter eos qui quide' Thomas obiit xix die Julij A'o d'ni MCCCCxxixti.

He is in the elaborate armour of the period, with skirt of mail, and broad-toed sabbatons, a chain with dependant cross suspended from the neck, an ornament found on many effigies about this date. The lady wears the pedimental head-dress of that era. The children are in two groups below. Arms, four shields at the corners, each charged alike with Brook, Cobham, Braybroke, and De la Pole—*Azure, a fess between three leopards heads or, an annulet for difference*, being the bearings assigned to the younger branch of De la Pole; those on the brass of Lady Johanna Braybroke, as also on her mother's at Chrishall, being the older blazon of the main stem, *azure, two bars nebulée or*; in the porch at Chrishall both shields occur separately, dexter being the *fess and leopards heads*, sinister the *bars nebulée*. A Sir Henry Heydon, was made K.B. at the coronation of Henry VII, 30th October, 1485, his arms, *Quarterly, argent and gules, a cross engrailed counterchanged*. Lysons (*Environs of London*) in describing West-Wickham, Kent, says :—

“The manor house, which stands near the church, was built by Sir Henry Heydon, temp: Henry VII. In a window of the hall are the arms of Heydon and his wife, Anne, daughter of Sir Godfrey Bulleyne. The parish church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, was re-built by Sir Henry Heydon temp: Henry VII. In the east window is the representation of a skeleton in kneeling

posture, with label issuing from its mouth inscribed, '*Ne reminiscaris Domine delicta mea aut par . . .*' intended for that of Sir Henry Heydon, Founder of the church, as appears by the helmet and his shield of arms lying at its feet."

Of his thirteen children, *John*, the eldest son, died in his father's lifetime; *George*, who became his heir, *Thomas*, *William*, and *Edward*. Of his daughters, *Margaret* was married to Sir John Fogge, of Repton; *Faith*, to William Ockenden, Gentleman Porter of Calais; and *Elizabeth*, to Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington, and afterward to Sir Edward Warner.

The third and last memorial to the Brooks, in Cobham Church, is the splendid tomb and recumbent effigies of George Brook, seventh Baron Cobham, and his wife Anne, daughter of Edmond Lord Bray, with their fourteen children kneeling below. From Mr. Waller's excellent description we extract the following:—

"It stands in the midst of the chancel, and before its restoration exhibited terrible signs of past neglect and dilapidation. It is of rare beauty, both of design and execution, and consists of a large altar tomb constructed of alabaster, with the exception of the table, which is of black marble. Upon this rests the effigies of the deceased, and it is partly sustained by sixteen fluted columns of the Ionic order. Kneeling figures of the fourteen children are ranged round the sides on a supplemental table below. The four daughters are at each end, the sons on each side, placed according to their priority of birth alternately, first on the right or south side, then on the left or north side of the tomb. The effigies are finely executed, and are most likely of Flemish workmanship, being in character very similar to that of Count Lalaing, at Hogstraaten, in Belgium. This nobleman, who also figured in the political arena of his time, died in 1558, and it cannot be doubted but that the same sculptor executed the monuments of both.

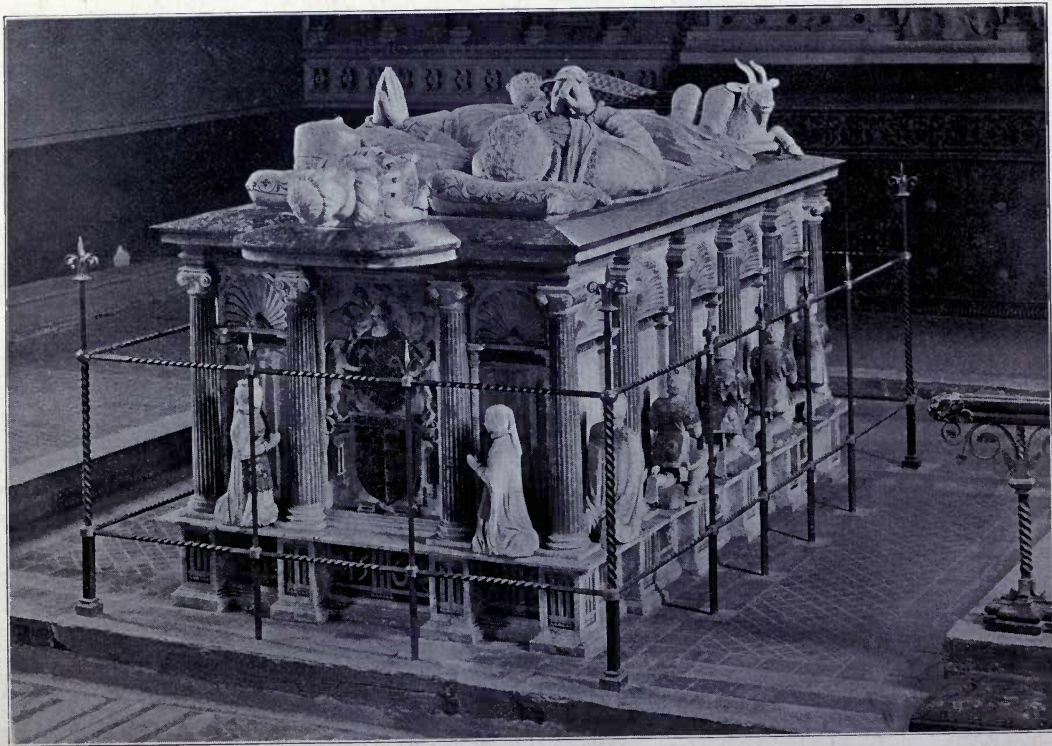
Lord Cobham is represented in armour surmounted by a tabard, emblazoned with his arms, through a slit of which, on the right side, appears the lance rest. Over this he wears the mantle with cordon, collar, and hood of the Order of the Garter, and the garter with the motto is on his right knee. His hands are clasped in prayer, and his head rests on an embroidered cushion. At his feet is the heraldic antelope, or '*gazelle*,' resembling, however, a *young ram couchant*. The figure of Lady Anne wears over the gown a tabard of her arms, Bray and quarterings, and over this a mantle of estate with the arms and quarterings of Brook, her head rests on an embroidered cushion, and she wears the French hood. Her hands are joined in prayer, and at her feet is the '*gatyger*,' as a *lion couchant winged*, the *wings* heraldically emblazoned '*vaire*.' It is a cognizance of the house of Bray. On a semi-circular projection of the west end of the table lies a helmet, surmounted by the antient crest of the Cobham family, the *Moor*, or *Saracen's head*, and the same is seen upon a helmet on the north wall, possibly that of Lord George.

At the east end of the tomb are two escutcheons. The upper one is Brook quartering Cobham, De la Pole, Feverill, Braybroke, and St. Amand quartering Bray, thus—Troughton, Bray, Hallighwell, Norbury, Boteler, Sudeley.



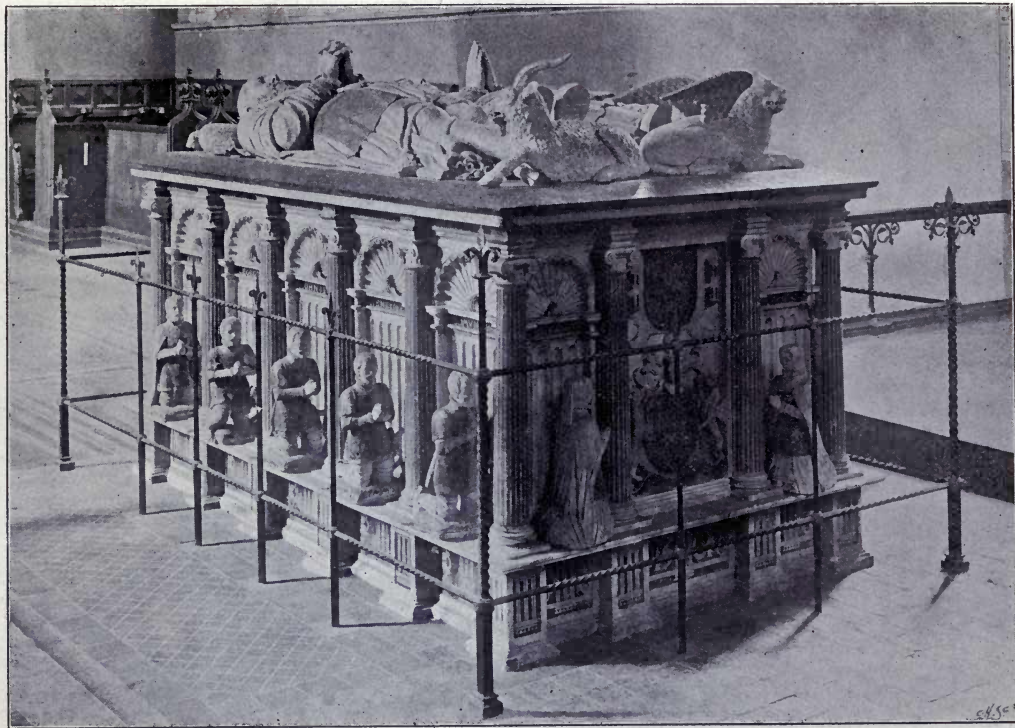
GEORGE BROOK, LORD COBHAM, AND ANNE BRAY HIS WIFE.

COBHAM CHURCH.



GEORGE BROOK, LORD COBHAM, AND ANNE BRAY HIS WIFE.

COBHAM CHURCH.



GEORGE BROOK, LORD COBHAM, AND ANNE BRAY HIS WIFE.

Montfort, Croyser, and Dabernon. Beneath this is a large escutcheon, having as supporters, dexter, *an antelope*, sinister *a griffin*; with helmet and crest of *a lion passant crowned*, a cognizance of Brook; below, the motto, '*Je me fie en Dieu.*' In this escutcheon, the quarterings of Brook impale those of Bray, as above.

At the west end there are also two escutcheons, the upper Brook as before, with the quarterings of Bray on an escutcheon of pretence. It is surrounded by the Garter. Beneath is a large escutcheon of twenty-seven coats of arms, consisting of the quarterings of Brook and Bray, impaling the arms and quarterings of Newton, the latter representing the second wife of Sir William Brook, son and heir of Lord Cobham, by whom this monument was erected. It has supporters, and the motto as before, the crest being that of *the Moor's head*." (These bearings of Newton have been before described).

The children, in varied costumes, with tabards emblazoned with their parents' arms, impaling their own alliances, kneel around, and have their names superscribed above them. They are carefully described by Mr. Waller, who continues:—

"The inscription, in Latin, very long, and expressed in capital letters, is well carried on the bevelled edge of the marble table on which the effigies lie, and is as follows:—

Honoratissimus et clarissimus vir Georgius Brokes fuit dominus Cobhamus ex oppidi Cobami possessione cognominatus et idem laudatissimus aliquot annis Calesi prefectus in illustrissimæ Collegium cooptatus equitum Divi Georgii nec solum hanc prestantissimam habuit honorem et familiæ comendationem sed etiam natura fuit optima et animo omni genere laudis ornatissimo dux fuit in bello prestantissimus et sapientissimus in pace consiliarius principibus in quorum temporibus vixit egregie probatus Cantianis suis inter quos habitavit eximie charus denique toti reipublicæ propter honorem splendorem et virtutem notissimus et dilectissimus et hæc omnia fuerunt in illo illustriora quoniam et professionem evangelii suscepit et defensionem ac eandem ad extremum usque spiritum conservavit. Iste nobilissimus vir constantissimus Dei servus et ornatissimus patriæ membrum cum ad maturam senectutem pervenisset annu agens sexagesimum secundum et febris ardoribus conflagrans tertio calendis octobris est mortuus anno 1558 cuius discessu liberi quos post se multos et imprimis laudatos reliquit et amici ac necessarii tota denique respublica magni et iusti dolorem acceperunt Gulielmus autem Brokes eques appellatus ex antiquæ familiæ cognominacoe dñs Cobhamus filius Georgii patris et hæres benevolentissimus hoc monumentum memoriæ Georgii patris sui charissimi dedicavit anno 1561, et Elizabethæ Reginae tertio.

Patre fuit domino felix dominoque marito alter erat Braius Cobhamus alter erat Anna fuit frugi fuit et prosperima mater pauperibus larga præbuit annu manu. Nil erat hac melius nil fortunativus una. Donec erat charo charior illa viro Ultimus hunc annus Mariæ cum funere mersit illa pari fato mense novembre ruit Sic quos vita duos concordēs semper habebat extinctos eadem nunc quoque busta tenent."

As mentioned in the inscription, the tomb was erected by his son and heir, William Brook, eighth Lord Cobham, to the memory of his parents, 3 Elizabeth, 1561. Lord Cobham made his will 31st March, 1552, and died 29th September, 1558, aged sixty-one.

The sons of George Brook.

LORD COBHAM.

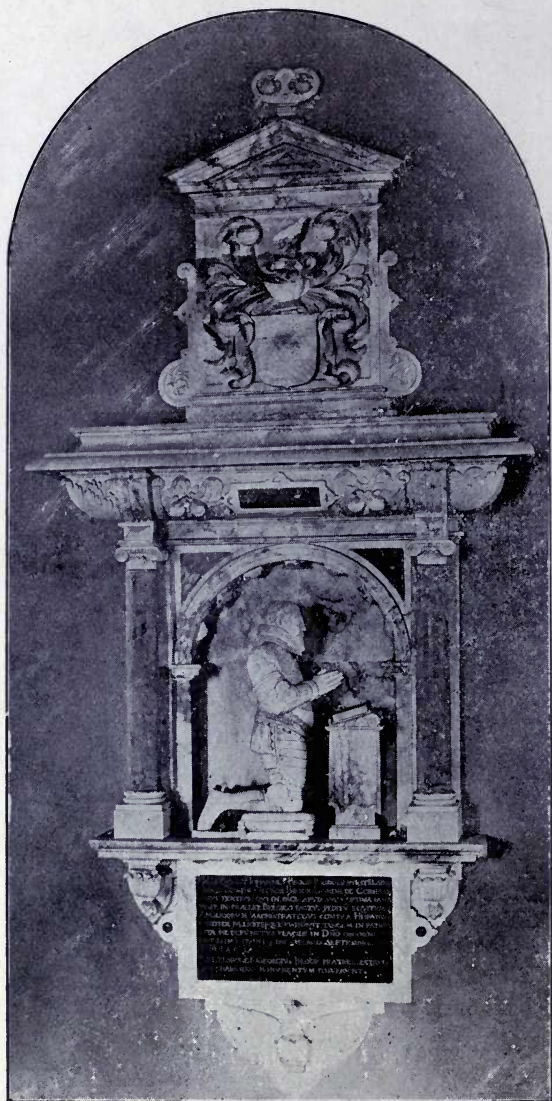
George Brook, his fifth son (previously noticed), married *Christiana Duke*, of Otterton, Devon, and, apparently, three of their sons, *Peter*, *Duke*, and *Charles*, were of Templecombe, Somerset, where they held influential positions as Lords of the Manor. *Peter*, his administration was granted to his brother *Charles*, 12th July, 1606. *Duke*, his nuncupative will, 27th May, 1606, also to his brother *Charles*, 12th July, 1606, *Margaret*, his widow and executrix, renouncing. These brothers appear to have died in date very near each other, and, in a worldly sense, unprepared. *Charles*, the survivor, will dated 4th April, proved 7th May, 1610, mentions his "kinsman," *Richard Duke*, of Otterton, Esq. (his cousin's son, who married *Margaret*, daughter of Sir *Arthur Bassett*, of *Umberleigh*, ob. 1641), with his sister, *Elizabeth* (wife of *Humphrey Walrond*, of *Ottery St. Mary*), and four hundred pounds for his funeral. There are no memorials to them in the church, but interesting evidence of these descendants of Brook is found in the *Register* at Templecombe :—

"1587.—*Duke Brooke*, the sonne and heir of *Duke Brooke*, Esqr., was buried xij October.

1606.—*Duke Brooke*, Esquire, Lord of this Manor, departed this life at London, the 27th day of Maye, and was buried at Cobham, in Kent, on xth June.

1610.—*Charles Brooke*, Esquire, Lord of this Manor, dyed and was buried 5th Aprill.

These three brothers were cousins to the unfortunate *Henry Brook*, last Lord Cobham, and it appears that after his attainder, *Duke Brook*, who died in 1606, must have purchased in May, 1605, from *King James*, for £10,669, a considerable interest in the confiscated estate, and this accounts for his burial at Cobham. He left the residue of his property to his wife *Margaret*. From the large sum then paid, they appear to have possessed considerable wealth, as evidenced also by the amount ordered to be set aside by *Charles*, the surviving brother, for his funeral.



JOHN BROOK, NEWINGTON CHURCH, KENT.

Thomas Brook, fourth son, his tabard on his father's tomb displays Brook, with a *fleur-de-lys argent for difference*, impaling, quarterly, 1 and 4, *sable, three stags' heads caboshed argent*; 2 and 3, a *chevron gules between three cross-crosslets, sable, a crescent or, for difference* (CAVENDISH). (Waller). Is this the Thomas Brook mentioned by Collins (as being the fourth son of Thomas, Lord Cobham) as "of Wiltshire," who married Katherine, daughter of Sir William Cavendish, ob. 1562 (the ancestor of the Dukes of Devonshire) by his first wife Anne, daughter of Edmund Bostock, of Wallcroft, Cheshire?

He appears to have been a man of infamous character, the "scapegrace of the family," and became a buccaneer of the worst class, with revolting cruelty, an instance of which, almost unparalleled in atrocity, is graphically described by Froude.

John Brook was his third son, born 22nd April, 1534, died 25th September, 1594, and was buried in Newington Church, Kent. He served with distinction as a soldier in the Low Countries. His monument is on the south wall of the chancel, and a very fine one. Of alabaster, Ionic columns, handsome design, and richly ornamented. He is represented kneeling before a prayer-desk with book on it, habited in armour, with great character in the features, all being of excellent workmanship. The inscription records:—

"Hic situs est Johannes Brook, armiger, illustrissimi herois Domini Georgii Brook, Domini de Cobham, filius tertius: qui in pace apud suos optima fama vixit, in praelio Belgico factus peditumque Anglicorum archistrategus contra Hispanos fortiter faciliturque pugnavit: tandem in patria vita pie defunctus placide in D'no obdormivit vicesimo quinto die mensis Septembris A'no D'ni 1594.

Gvilielmvs et Georgivs Brook fratres, patrvs svo charissimo monvmentvm posvervnt."

Which may be read:—

"Here is interred John Brook, Esquire, third son of the most illustrious and distinguished Lord George Brook, Lord of Cobham, who in peace lived among his people with the highest reputation; and in the war in the Netherlands, was made leader both of the English infantry and cavalry against the Spaniards, he fought bravely and successfully: at length in his native land he ended his pious life, and peacefully fell asleep in the Lord, 25th September, 1594.

The brothers, William and George Brook, have set up this monument to their dearest uncle."

Arms—Brook, *with annulet*, and eleven other quarterings, Cobham, Braybroke, De la Pole, Peverel, Braye, Troughton, Norbury, Boteler, &c. Helmet with crest, *on a cap of maintenance a spread wing*.

He married *Alice*, daughter of *Edward Cobbe, Esq.*, and widow of Sir John Norton, of Northwood, Kent. She is also buried in the chancel, and on the floor is her brass memorial. She is represented in embroidered petticoat, gown with dependant sleeves, ruff, and close cap, and has her hand on the head of the eldest of her two sons, who are standing by her side. Below is the inscription :—

*"The Lady Norton once she was, whose corpes is couched here,
John Cobham's late and loving wyfe, of the Country of Kent, Esqr.,
Who in her lyfe did well deserue to have a future fame,
For that she was vnto the poore, a good and gratus dame,
With charitie and modesty, and all the gyfte of grace,
Actquanted so she was to good to tarry in thys place.*

She died ye 9 daye of September, 1580."

John Brook appears on his father's tomb, his tabard emblazoned with Brook, impaling, *Argent, a chevron between three cocks gules*. (COBBE).

Henry Brook, seventh son, was, says Mr. Waller :—

"perhaps the most distinguished of them all, born 5th February, 1537, a good part of his life was employed in diplomacy at various Courts as Ambassador, but specially at those of France and Spain, where he proved himself an able public servant. He was knighted by the Queen at the festivities of Kenilworth in July, 1575, was Knight of the Shire for Kent 1586-9, married *Anne*, daughter of Sir Henry Sutton, Knt., and widow of Sir Walter Haddon, principal Master of the Court of Requests, ob. 1571-2."

He died in 1591, was described of Sutton-at-Hone, near Dartford, Kent, but no memorial or reference to him is found in the church there. His son was the Sir John Brook, to whom the peerage was restored in 1645. In the *Register*, of East Barnet (Lysons) is this entry :—

"George Brookes *alias* Cobham, the son of Sir John Brookes *alias* Cobham, Knt., and Frances, his wife, born October 11th, and baptized 15th same month, 1636."

This was Sir John's only son by his second wife; he predeceased his father, at whose death the revived title became extinct.



The lady Norton once she was whole corpse is couched here
 John Cobbe's late and lovinge wyfe of the Countrey of Kent & Lye
 who in her lyfe did well deserve to have a future fame.
 for that she was unto the poore a good and gracious dame
 with charitie and modesty and all the gifts of grace
 Actquanted to she was so good to larye in this place.
 She died the 9 daye of September 1580

ALICE COBBE, LADY NORTON, WIFE OF JOHN BROOK.

NEWINGTON CHURCH, KENT.



HERE LYETH BVRIED THE BODY OF MARY BROOKE,
 ALIAS COBBVM WIDDO VNTO EDWARD BROOKE,
 ALIAS COBBVM ESQVIER, WHOE DEPARTED THIS
 LIFE THE XXIJTH DAYE OF Iuly AN^O DÑI. 1600.

MARY, WIFE OF EDWARD BROOK.

NEWINGTON CHURCH, KENT.

Edward Brook was, apparently, the tenth and youngest of his sons. His widow, *Mary Brook*, is also buried in Newington Church. Who she was does not appear; no impalement appears on his tabard on his father's tomb, and he was probably unmarried at the time of its erection. The brass to her memory represents her in plain costume, with ruff and close cap. The inscription records:—

"Here lyeth buried the body of *Mary Brooke alias Cobbvm*, widdo vnto *Edward Brooke alias Cobbvm*, Esquier, whoe departed this life the xxijth daye of *July*, Aⁿo Dⁿi, 1600."

Brook

OF YOXFORD AND ATHELINGTON, SUFFOLK.

Sir Robert Brook, of Cockfield Hall, Yoxford, was, according to *Cotman (Suffolk Brasses)*,

"the son of *Robert Brooke*, Citizen and Alderman of London, descending from a younger branch of the noble family of Cobham. He purchased the estate of the Hoptons at Yoxford and Blytheburgh, about 44 Elizabeth, 1602, built the present Cockfield Hall, 1613; Sheriff of Suffolk, 1614; M.P. for Dunwich, 1623-5-8."

He married first, *Johanna*, daughter of *Sir Humphrey Weld*, knighted 26th July, 1603, Lord Mayor of London, 1608, died 29th November, 1610, by his wife *Frances*, daughter and heir of *Nicholas Wheler*, of Hollwell, in Hatfield, Co. Hertford. His grandson *Humphrey*, purchased of *James*, Lord Howard de Walden, and Earl of Suffolk, the Lullworth and other estates in Dorset, 20th January, 1641. He married *Clara*, daughter of *Thomas*, Lord Arundell of Wardour, died about 1685, and was buried in Henry VII Chapel, in Westminster Abbey. (*Hutchins*).

She is buried in Yoxford Church, where there is her brass; she is portrayed in Elizabethan costume, with large and elaborately embroidered farthingale. The inscription records:

"*Hic jacet sepulta Domina Johanna Brooke, vxor Roberti Brooke, Militis, quæ fuit primogenita filiarum Hymfridi Weld, Militis, vixit annos triginta octo, et obiit xxij die Maij, Aⁿo Dⁿi, 1618.*"

Arms destroyed, but were those of Brook of Cobham, impaling—Azure, a fess nebulée, between three crescents, ermine. (*WELD*).

Secondly, he married *Elizabeth*, daughter of *Thomas Culpeper*, of Wigsale, Sussex. By her he had three sons, *James*, *John*, and *Robert*, and four daughters, *Mary*, *Elizabeth*, *Anne*, and *Martha*. Their monument is in Yoxford Church, thus inscribed :—

“*Robertus Brooke Miles Fortunis æque ac moribus Par Honori Hic conditus jacet. Cui proxime accubat sua Lectissima et Dilectissima Conjux Elizabetha Rari Exempla Femina: Omnibus et Naturæ et Gratiæ dotibus Ornatissima: Ingenio, et Judicio, supra Sexum, Prudentia Singulari, Pietate admirabili: Cognominis Zachariæ Conjugis Effigies Expressima: Thomæ Culpeper de Wigsale, In agro Sussexienci Armigeri, Filia: Jacobi, Joannis, et Roberti (Itidem ut Pater Militis) Mariæ, Elizabethæ, Annæ, Marthæ q' mater, E Quibus Maria sola Superstes Lugens curavit Hæc Apponenda Marmor. Ille, Jul: 10 An' Chr', 1646—Ætat 74—Hæc, Jul: 22 An' Chr', 1683—Ætat 82.*

Memoria Justi Benedicta.

Arms—1, Brook of Cobham, impaling, Argent, a bend engrailed sable (CULPEPER). Crest, on a helmet—a cap of maintenance, thereon a spread wing erect, charged with the arms of Brook—being an antient cognizance of Brook; 2, Brook, impaling, A fess dancetté between three roses or roundels; 3, In a chief two mullets (ST. JOHN) impaling Brook; 4, Brook impaling, Three lions rampant; 5, Gules, a bend vairé argent and azure, between two fleurs de lis argent (BLOIS) impaling Brook.”

Sir Robert Brook, his son and heir, M.P. for Aldeburgh, 1660-1, married Margaret, daughter of Sir Henry Mildmay, of Wanstead, Essex (ob. 1666), and was drowned in the Rhone in 1669, aged 33, s.p. Martha, his sister and ultimate heiress, married Sir William Blois, Knt., of Grundisburgh Hall, Suffolk, to whom she brought Cockfield Hall. Her son, Sir Charles, was created a baronet 15th April, 1686. She is buried at Grundisburgh, and on the north wall of the chancel is her monument thus described :—

“Mural of marble, and inscribed :—

‘*Martha natu minima Roberti Brook, Eq., Aur. filia V: A: 28—Obijt 18 Sep. 1658.*’

Arms—Blois impaling Brook. Beneath are the figures of a man and woman kneeling at a faldstool facing each other, behind him four sons, behind her three daughters, all kneeling. Below is

‘*Gul. Blois: jun: arm: conjugii dulcissimæ ac p'petuum desiderand: M.F.C.*’

(*Topographer and Geneal.*, vol. i, p. 552).”

Sir Robert Brook probably descended from one of the ten sons of Sir Thomas Brook, and his wife, Joan de la Pole Braybroke.

In Athelington churchyard, Suffolk, is the genealogic

memorial of *John Brook*, a descendant of *Reginald Brook*, of *Aspall*, in that county, *second* son of *Thomas Brook*, and *Joan de la Pole Braybroke*, Lady of *Cobham* :—

“*H. S. E. (Hic situs est)—Johannes filius Edwardi, filii Edwardi, Georgii, Georgii, Georgii, Edwardi, Reginaldi Brooke Arm: de Aspall in hoc Comitatu—Filiu natu secundi D'ni Thomæ Brooke, Militis, Baronis Cobham de Cobham, in agros Cantiano—Filiu Thomæ, Thomæ, Johannis Brooke, Mil: (filii) Henrici, Henrici, Willelmi de la Brooke arm: de la Brooke Comit: Somerset: Obeuntis anno xv Henrici III, Domini Manerii de la Brooke juxta Ilchesterii.*

Supra memoratus Johannes Brooke uxorem duxit Mariam filiam Georgii Green de Brundish in hac viciniâ ex qua Georgium et Penelopen liberos superstitis reliquit. Obiit, Ille, xx^o Novembris, A.D.—M.D.cccxxij; Illa, xxi^o Januarii—A.D.—M.D.cccxxij. In memoriam inclytum majorum, et pietatem erga charissimos parentes Georgius filius unicus et hæres posuit.”

Other memorials record the deaths of

George Brooke, 8th Dec. 1732: Mary, his wife, 13th March, 1733; George Green Brooke, their son, 3rd March, 1764: Rebecca Brooke, 28th October, 1732; Penelope Brooke, wife of Rev. Nath. Rye, of Hepworth, Suffolk, 15th April, 1741.

[The brasses in this Paper, as in the former one, have been engraved from rubbings specially taken and completed.]

Cobham Hall, of the Brooks.

A REFERENCE to the portions of the structure of *Cobham Hall*, existing as completed, or in process of erection at the date of the attainder of *Henry Brook*, and especially of the ornamental details, at present remaining, may be interesting. Of the main edifice, the north and south wings appear to have been the principal portions then existing. The large expansion and completion of this fine edifice as it now appears is due to its subsequent possessors the *Dukes of Lenox*, and their descendants and present owners the *Earls of Darnley*.

An excellent detailed history and description of it is given by *Canon Scott-Robertson*—in vol. xi *Archæologia Cantiana*, pp. lxx-xc—and from it we extract the following account of the ornamental portions that had their origin with the *Brooks* now found therein. Of these—

“The southern door of the south wing, dated 1584, which suggests that

Lord Cobham commenced the work in that year, and another date 1587, and the initials W.C. and F.C. (Frances Newton) upon the heads of the leaden shooting, points to the completion of the roof of the south wing."

But the most conspicuous remnant of the exterior of the Brook mansion as then existing appears to be the handsome doorway in the south face of the north wing.

"In 1591, Lord Cobham obtained permission, under the sign-manual of King Henry IV of France, to transport, from the city of Caen, 200 tons of stone for building. Much of this stone was devoted to the construction of this doorway, which, being designed to lead directly towards the chapel is inscribed :—'DEO. OPT. MAX.' And in addition to the date 1594, bears the text, 'CUSTODI PEDEM TUUM INGREDIENS' (Eccles., chap. v). In the spandrels of the arch appear on one side the twelve-quartered coat of William Brooke (Lord Cobham), and on the other side, within a lozenge-shaped shield, the coat of twelve quarterings, borne by his second wife, Frances Newton (of Harptree). In the second stage, we see the same shield of Lord Cobham sculptured on a large scale, with lion supporters, and the Cobham crest. The whole flanked by huge vases of flowers sculptured in stone."

The principal reminiscences of Cobham within the mansion are three fine mantelpieces, one of these is in the entrance hall, brought hither from the south wing.

"It is of coloured marble and reaches to the ceiling, dated 1587. The emblazoned heraldic coat of William Brooke (Lord Cobham), with its twelve quarterings, its huge lion supporters, and its crest (a Saracen's head), are fine examples of Elizabethan work."

The other two are in the picture gallery.

"The first (or easternmost) of these is the more handsome of the two. Its lower stage, containing the fireplace, is flanked on each side by two coloured marble columns with Corinthian caps. The two inner columns project considerably in front of the others, their shafts formed of black marble, banded with others of light colours. The cornice above them supports the second stage, which is boldly carved. The arms of Henry (Lord Cobham), encircled by the Garter, occupy its central space, which is flanked on each side by two demi-figures, issuing from small altars, ornamented with flowers, carved in bold relief. Between each pair of altars and figures the space is carved with shields and weapons. The demi-figures support a large projecting, quarter-round cornice of marble. The date upon this mantelpiece is 1599, which shows it was erected by Henry Brook, the last and hapless Lord Cobham. Remembering this fact, it is very remarkable to read the motto inscribed upon the marble, '*Sibi quisque naufragium facit.*'"

The second mantelpiece, also of marble, reaches to the ceiling, but looks poor and tame in comparison with the bold and massive character of its fellow. Both the upper and under stages are flanked by pairs of Corinthian columns, sculptured in delicate coloured marbles, but the columns are thin, and are all upon the same level, neither do the cornices above them project as in the other mantelpiece. In the upper stage appears a sculptured representation of the Fates with their human victim, who sits in the middle of the design. A nearly vertical scroll of marble on his right hand probably once bore a bronze inscription, descriptive of him and his fate. One of the Fates is seated above, another with the distaff is on his right hand, while the third appears on his left."

This curious allegory, coupled with the significant inscription on the other mantelpiece, seems to imply a presentiment of the dark fate that subsequently overwhelmed their erector; at any rate the coincidence is very striking.

The sculpture on these chimney-pieces and on the fine porch appears to have been the work of a carver named Jellis (or Giles) de Whitt, but the work proceeded very irregularly, and his steward, in 1601, thus writes to Lord Cobham—

“That he ‘must resolve what and how much you are pleased to have doen by Giles de Whitt, either upon some newe chymney piece, or upon my Lo: yo’r father’s tomb, that the poore man, have some worcke, to get wherewithall to maintaine and susteyne himself.’ It seems pretty clear that, at least, the chimney-piece, dated 1599, must have been the work of Giles de Whitt, and that he was afterwards engaged to make two others. It also seems probable that he had been brought over from the Low Countries expressly for the Cobham work, and if so all the sculpture about the house was done by him. It is interesting to identify the sculptor to whose skill we owe the work that adorns this stately mansion.”

The “yo’r father’s tomb” was probably one designed by Henry, Lord Cobham, to be erected to William, Lord Cobham, his father, but never carried out.

Frances Howard, wife of Henry, Lord Cobham.

COUNTESS OF KILDARE.

HER first husband, Henry Fitzgerald, twelfth Earl of Kildare, died 31st July, 1597, aged 37, and by him she had two daughters, Bridget, wife of Nicholas, Viscount Barnewall, of Kingsland, and Elizabeth, wife of Lord Killeen, first Earl of Fingall.

“Lady Kildare seems to have been extremely unfortunate in her husbands. She appears to have suffered so much ill-treatment from the Earl of Kildare, that Queen Elizabeth caused the Lord Deputy in Ireland to interfere with remonstrances, and to order him to send the lady to England. She did not fare better when, as her second husband, she married Henry Brooke, Lord Cobham, who, at the age of thirty-three, had succeeded to his father’s title and estates, in March, 1597, a few months before Lord Kildare’s death. Soon after their marriage, Lord Cobham was arrested on a charge of high treason.

Whatever may have been the treatment received by Lady Kildare from her husbands, all testimony seems to agree in charging her with cruel neglect of Lord Cobham in his misfortunes. Yet she obtained for herself the enjoyment of (nearly) all his vast possessions during her life. Immediately after Lord

Cobham's arrest, the King seized the whole of his estates. In October, 1603. he granted to one of the Grooms of his Privy Chamber, Miles Ransford, the custody of Cobham Hall, its deer-park, gardens, orchards, &c., and in the May following, the King granted a lease of the whole of the forfeited estates in Kent, Middlesex, and Leicestershire, in trust for Lady Kildare for a hundred years, if she should live so long, dated 13th May, 1604, including Lord Cobham's house in Black-friars, London. The King reserved no rent for himself, and she had simply to pay those reserved rents, upon certain lands, which her husband had been accustomed to pay before his attainder. Yet it would seem she left him utterly unassisted during his imprisonment, which extended over more than fifteen years, and to subsist upon the royal bounty, while she enjoyed his estates."*

But some twenty years afterward, and when Henry Brook had for three years been laid in his unknown grave, and his wife was still occupying Cobham Hall, King James

"desired her to sell her life interest in Cobham, to his cousin, the Duke of Lenox, and her own cousin, the Duchess of Lenox, in order that they may obtain immediate possession, but she was not easily persuaded to do so. In June, 1622, when the King was going to Rochester to inspect his navy, he said he would call at Cobham Hall and dine with Lady Kildare, hoping that he might then be able to persuade her to sell the (reversion) of the place on reasonable terms to the Duke and Duchess. Probably the King succeeded, although not at once. Within a year or two, however, it is evident she made some bargain with the Duke, and retired to a house she had purchased at Deptford." (*Ibid.*)

Here, she made her will, dated 20th June, 1628, and in it this hard-hearted woman, who styles herself the "*right honorable Dame ffances Countes Dowager of Kildare,*" begins with this religious exordium—

"I give and commende my soule into the hands of Allmightie god my maker and Creator, and to his deere sonne Jesus Christ my onelie Saviour and Redeemer, by the merritts of whose most bitter death and painefull passion I faithfullie trust and stedfastlie believe to be saved and to be partaker of his most blessed and glorious resurrection and with him for ever to live in the Kingdome of Heaven. And I will that my bodie shal be decentlie buried in the Chappell of the Cathedrall Church at Westminster in the night season, as neigh the place whereas the bodies of Ffrances late Countesse of Hartford my late Aunt (her father's sister) lyeth buried as convenientlie may be."

From the *Register of Burials* of the Abbey, we learn—

"1628. The Lady Frances, Countess of Kildare, was buried in St. Benedict's Chapel, July 11."

Fitting and consistent sequel; the noble outcast in his obscure and unidentified grave; his wife—if she may be so called—sepulchred with the kings of the land. Ignored in death as well as life, the last indignity had now been offered to his memory.

* *Archæologia Cantiana*, vol. xi, pp. 218-19, by Canon W. A. Scott-Robertson.

Elizabeth Brook, Lady Cecil.

SHE was the eldest daughter of William Brook, Lord Cobham, ob. 1596-97, by his second wife, Frances Newton, of Harptree, ob. 1592; and married Sir Robert Cecil, Knt., Principal Secretary to Queen Elizabeth, afterward first Earl of Salisbury; was Lady of the Privy Chamber and of the Bed-Chamber to the Queen. She was sister to Henry Brook, the last Lord Cobham, and

“on his re-committal to the Tower in 1603, he amused himself with classical study making translations from Seneca, and dedicating them to Cecil, his brother-in-law, with feeble hopes of release. But Cecil hated him, and was not above bargaining for shares in the estates. So hope died within him, and he became as lost to the outer world.” (*Waller.*)

After his death, which took place in 1619, and incredible as it may appear—

“The King, too, enters his prison-house and seizes ‘1000 volumes of good books of all learning and languages,’ which had been the solace of his imprisonment.”

By which it seems that not even death could appease the implacable revengeful meanness of this King toward his victim.

Lady Cecil left two children, William and Frances, and died after the birth of a third, “*at her house in the Strand*,” on 24th January, 1596, to the great grief of her father, “which event seems to have hastened his own end, as he died the 6th March following, aged seventy-one.”

She was buried by the Queen’s order in Westminster Abbey, in the Chapel of St. Nicholas, with great state; her pallbearers were interesting from their local derivation, being Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Thomas Gorge, Sir George Carew, and Sir Edward Dyer. There is a marble monument to her memory, with a long inscription in Latin and English.

Sir William Brook, Knight.

HE was the eldest of the three children of George Brook (brother of Henry Brook, the last Lord Cobham), who was beheaded at Winchester, 5th December, 1603, and, according to the will of his great grandfather George, Lord Cobham, at the death of his attainted uncle Henry, was heir both to the title and estates, but under the cruel rule of James it will be seen what happened; and, narrates Mr. Waller—

“By the will of George, Lord Cobham, 1552, the estates were so elaborately entailed that the Crown could only be entitled to a life interest after the attainder. This the King immediately sold to Duke Brooke for £10,669, 4th May, 1605. To understand this transaction, we must recall that the immediate heirs were the three young and friendless children of George Brooke, executed at Winchester. Now the Crown had usually waived the absolute claim by which the innocent were attain in blood, and restored the heir, possibly through the jealousy of Parliament.

But King James knew nothing of the prerogative of mercy, so nobly taught by the great and then living poet, the mercy which ‘is twice blessed, which blesseth him that gives and him that takes.’ He went in for his bond, his pound of flesh. The infants, whose innocence might have pleaded for them, were not thought of. It was some years later, in 1610, after he had done his best to beggar them, that he restored them in blood. But it was bitter irony that in this Act a strict clause was inserted, that William Brooke, the heir, was *not* to claim *any* of the property of his father, nor of that of Henry, Lord Cobham, nor was he *ever* to *assume* the title of Lord of Cobham without the King’s especial grace, which was never accorded.

Thus, the great feudal barony passes away like an insubstantial dream. William Brooke seems almost like a phantom on the scene, or as an *ignis fatuus*, now visible, now eluding the mental vision. A peer by the law of the land, but with no title, by law entitled to large estates, yet not allowed to claim them. Scarcely one of his ancestors but had not played a part in his country’s history. But shall we not record an act of his in accordance with these traditions of his family?

William Brooke was knighted, and a small pittance was granted to him out of the large estates to which he was the heir. He was married twice, first to Pembroke, daughter of Henry Lennard, first Lord Dacre; secondly, to Penelope, daughter of Sir Moyses Hill, Bart., and by her had three daughters, Hill, Margaret, and Frances. He represented Rochester in 1628. And now, year-by-year, was the long accumulating cloud growing blacker and blacker, and more ready to burst. Great issues were at stake, which were to define our future history. King James taught kingcraft, and his son followed in his steps but to be the victim.

Sir William chose his side, in a spirit similar to his ancestors with De Montfort and in the repression of Richard II, and he died a soldier’s death at Newbury, in 1643, or from wounds received in that battle, fighting on the side of the Parliament.

Thus, then, with the rightful heir of Cobham lying dead upon the field of Newbury, the curtain appropriately falls as upon the last scene of a great tragedy. In him the barony by writ became extinct, and no more ‘than a tale that is told.’”

Here we take final leave of the three last direct representa-

tives of Brook, and their disappearance from this rightly-named "great tragedy," which overwhelmed them with its avalanche of misfortune. Of Henry Brook, weak and unfortunate, led with all its terrors up to the very jaws of death, there to experience a cat-like reprieve, but subsequently condemned to be socially dead, stripped of all his honours and possessions, dependant on his jailer for means of subsistence to eke out the remaining fifteen years of his life of hopeless captivity, disowned by his wife, and comparatively all others, until death entered the obscurity of his prison-house, and released him from his misery. Of his brother, George Brook, with existence summarily extinguished in the prime of life, carried in a blood-stained shroud from the scaffold at Winchester, 5th December, 1603. Of his, George's son, William Brook afforded the wretched mockery of being "restored" literally "in blood," and a small sustenance doled out to him from the wreck of the family estates, but absolutely prohibited otherwise to assume the honours, or make any claim to the extensive possessions of his ancestors, to whom he was the legal heir, except "by the king's especial grace," which was never accorded him; and his life was ended, stretched in death upon the battlefield at Newbury, 20th September, 1643, fighting for the return of that mercy and justice, which in life had been so rigorously denied him.

It is interesting to enquire what befel the descendants of the royal oppressor of their race, and despoiler of their home. Retribution sometimes appears to follow with halting step, but it rarely stops, and its ultimate approach is generally sure. It is written "the iniquities of the father will be visited on the children unto the third and fourth generation," and it is instructive—although a matter of common knowledge—to observe how completely this declaration became fulfilled in them.

King James himself, after narrowly escaping a violent death, passed unscathed to his great account. Not so his unfortunate

son, who, nurtured in the hazardous pretensions of irresponsible king-craft, perished on the scaffold so often set up for others. His elder grandson, generously recalled to the nation's rule, meanly revengeful, licentious, and passively cruel, left one of the least honoured names on the roll of its kings; while the younger, forgetful of his father's fate, unscrupulous and merciless (whose memory linked with his blood-thirsty minion Jefferys, lives with undying horror in these western parts) hated and deserted by his subjects, forsaken at last by his own kindred and deprived of his crown, fled for refuge to a foreign land; and when at Rochester, on Sunday, 23rd December, 1688, he "privately withdrew himself," and stepped on board "a small frigot" that immediately set sail for Ambleteuse, in France, the foot of the last Stuart king had trod the English shore. And the same adverse fate followed him and his descendants; who, after futile attempts to recover their lost position, lapsed into the comparative indigence and obscurity of exile, and at their deaths, this royal dynasty, of which they were the last direct male representatives, became as completely extinguished as that of their victims, the knightly Brooks.

