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PAPERS, ETC.

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**The Lytes of Lytescary.**

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BY H. C. MAXWELL LYTE, C.B.

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WHEN arrangements were being made for a visit of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society to Lytescary in August 1890, I was invited to contribute a paper about its former owners, of whom I am now the representative. I accordingly put together the notes which I had made about twenty-five years ago, and some extracts from these were, in my absence, read on the spot by Mr. E. Buckle.

Since then, I have verified most of the references, and rewritten a great part of the paper, so as to incorporate notes and extracts from some manuscripts which, having come to light within the last two years, may be briefly mentioned in this place.

- (1.) A very remarkable pedigree of the Lyte family compiled in the reign of Charles I. by Thomas Lyte of Lytescary, and extending from the thirteenth century to the sixteenth. An account of it will be found under the notice of its author. I have frequently referred to it in the footnotes as 'Ped. I.'

- (2.) An equally remarkable pedigree compiled by the same Thomas Lyte in order to show all the descendants, of whatever name, of his grandfather and grandmother. An account of this will also be found hereafter. I have frequently referred to it in the footnotes as 'Ped. II.'

Both the foregoing have recently been found and given to me by Miss Monypenny, a descendant of their author.

- (3.) A Common-Place Book of the same Thomas Lyte in which he gives a list of title-deeds, and other MSS. at Lytescary, and various notes about the property. I have frequently referred to it in the footnotes as 'C. P. B.'

- (4.) Settlements, conveyances, etc. of the Lytes' property at Charlton Makerel since 1690.

The Common-Place Book and the comparatively modern title-deeds are now in the hands of the trustees of Mr. Dickinson's marriage settlement, to whom I wish to express my thanks for liberty to consult them. All the deeds, court-rolls, etc. prior to 1690 have unfortunately disappeared, but the abstracts of many in the Common-Place Book, and the copies of a few in the margin of Pedigree I. largely supplement the information which I have obtained from sources inaccessible to my ancestor, Thomas Lyte.

While the materials for the following monograph are thus exceptionally abundant in some respects, I may call attention to the fact that the registers at Somerset House and at Wells do not appear to contain the will of a single Lyte of Lytescary, and contain the administration of only one. Furthermore the registers of Charlton Makerel, which give numerous baptisms and burials of Lytes, give only four of their marriages.

In the following pages I have tried to confine myself firstly to the story of the main line of the Lyte family. All notices, therefore, of younger sons which extend to more than a few lines of print, have been relegated to an Appendix.

It only remains for me to express my thanks to Mr. E. Buckle, Professor Napier, the Revd. F. W. Weaver, the

Revd. J. B. Clutterbuck, and Mr. A. J. Jewers, for assistance rendered to me. Two others whom I would have mentioned in this connexion—the Revd. Frederick Brown and the Revd. A. J. Bennett—have passed away.

Mr. T. G. Jackson, A.R.A., has kindly allowed me to reproduce three of his sketches.

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LYTESCARY, the principal seat of the ancient family of Lyte, stands close to a Roman villa situated on the fosse-way which led from Ilchester to Bath.<sup>1</sup> The land belonged ‘in the time of King Edward’ to two thanes named Ordric and Leving, who were brothers. At the time of the Domesday survey, it belonged to Humphrey the Chamberlain, who seems to have obtained his estates, in Somersetshire, Dorsetshire, and Gloucestershire, from Matilda the wife of William the Conqueror.<sup>2</sup> The place is called ‘Curi’ in the Exchequer Domesday, but, more correctly, ‘Cari’ in the Exon Domesday. Humphrey the Chamberlain was probably succeeded by Henry Orescuil, whose name is preserved at Sandford Orcas, which also belonged to Humphrey in 1086. This Henry was father of Elias de Orescuilz, whose heiress Matilda married William son of John of Harptree, ancestor of the Gurneys, who, through her, obtained property which had belonged to Humphrey the Chamberlain.<sup>3</sup>

There is no evidence as to the exact date at which the tenant in chief of this manor of Cary made a subinfeudation,

- (1). Phelps's *History of Somerset*, vol. i. p. 168 ; Somerset Archæological Society, *Proceedings*, vol. xxiv. p. 74.
- (2). Eyton's *Domesday Studies—Dorset*, pp. 77, 137.
- (3). Eyton's *Domesday Studies—Somerset*, pp. 66, 67 ; Collinson's *History of Somerset*, vol. ii. pp. 138, 378.

but in the survey known as 'Kirby's Quest,' which was drawn up about the year 1286, we find under the heading of Kari:—

"William de Lit holds in the said town one fourth part of a fee of Roger de Studecumb, and Roger [holds] of Anselm de Gurney, and Anselm [holds] of the King in chief."<sup>4</sup>

The origin of the surname 'Lyte' is tolerably clear, the Middle English adjective 'lyte' being equivalent to 'little.' The dropping of the final 'l,' which turns 'muchel' into 'muche,' turns 'lytel' into 'lyte.' Robert of Brunne writes:

"Ther bataylles assembled withynne a lite,

And redy were almost to fyghte."<sup>5</sup>

Chaucer uses the word several times in verse, as in his well-known description of the good parson:—

"Wyð was his parisshe and houses fer a sonder,

But he ne lafte nat for reyn ne thonder,

In siknesse nor in meschief to visite

The ferreste in his parisshe, muche and lite."<sup>6</sup>

He also uses it in prose, as when he says:—

"Oure Lord Jesu Crist quiteth every good dede be it never so lite."<sup>7</sup>

Instances might easily be multiplied, but it will suffice to observe that the word was in use as late as the reign of Elizabeth, for in Fairfax's translation of Tasso, which was published in 1600, it is said of Godfrey of Bulloigne that

"From this exploit he spar'd nor great nor lite,

The aged men and boys of tender age."<sup>8</sup>

As a surname, Lyte ranks with Short, Long, Black, and many others which having been originally descriptive of

(4). Somerset Record Society, vol. iii. p. 21. A later Roger de Studecumb is mentioned in connection with Sandford Orcas in the Subsidy Roll of 1 Edward III. and also in the *De Banco* Roll, Easter, 7 Edward III. m. 53.

(5). *Chronicle*, p. 113.

(6). *Canterbury Tales*—Prologue.

(7). *The Persone's Tale*—*De Accidia*.

(8). Book xi. stanza 26.

particular individuals eventually became hereditary. In most of the early instances it has the French prefix 'le,' and we may safely say that the first bearer of it was called 'le Lyt,' or possibly 'the Lyt,' in contradistinction to some relation or near neighbour of the same Christian name who was taller of stature. Women as well as men were called 'le Lyt,' but the forms 'de Lyt' and 'du Lyt' which also occur in documents are apparently erroneous. Considering the manner in which various surnames began, we may hazard a conjecture that the father of the first Lyte was called 'de Cary,' or 'of Cary,' from the place of his abode, and, although there is no evidence as to the date at which the Lytes assumed their hereditary arms—*Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*—it is interesting to observe that these arms have been borne by two other families in the West of England, the Carys and the Michels of Somersetshire. While the surname Cary is of local origin, the adjective 'michel' is the exact converse of 'lyte.'

The earliest instance of the use of the surname Lyte which has been found is in a copy of a deed of the 40th year of Henry III. (A.D. 1255-1256) and for five centuries after that date it occurs from time to time in documents relating to the counties of Somerset, Dorset, Wilts, and Devon: it is rare elsewhere, and practically unknown in the northern part of England. As the letter 'y,' when used as a vowel, was equivalent with 'i,' and the final 'e' had no force, we find the forms 'Lyt' and 'Lit,' 'Lyte,' and 'Lite,' employed indifferently in early times. On the other hand, the form 'Light,' sometimes applied by others to the owners of Lytescary, and actually adopted by several younger branches of the family, is based upon a mistaken etymology.

WILLIAM LE LYT, the first member of the family of whom any dated record remains, was a witness to a deed of the 40th year of Henry III. (A.D. 1255-1256) concerning some land called 'le Gore' in Towkerekary,<sup>9</sup> a manor adjoining that

which was afterwards known as Lytescary. In 1268, he was summoned along with the abbot of Muchelney, the parsons of Isle Abbots, Hatch, and Ashill, and more than thirty others of the neighbourhood, to answer to a charge of having forcibly entered the manor of Staple and carried away therefrom certain goods and chattels of Robert de Briwes. Inasmuch as Brian de Gouiz, one of William le Lyt's associates, who had actively espoused the cause of the Barons in the recent war, was at the same time endeavouring, by virtue of the *Dictum de Kenilworth*, to recover his lands which had been granted by the victorious king to Robert de Briwes, it is not unlikely that the numerous persons charged with unlawful proceedings at Staple were members of the popular party.<sup>10</sup>

It has been seen above that, at the time of Kirby's Quest, William de Lyt held a quarter of a knight's fee at Kari. Thirty years later, a person of the same name was certified to be lord of a manor at Kingsdon, and, although Lytescary is in the parish of Charlton Makerel, it still pays land-tax under Kingsdon.<sup>11</sup>

At different dates between the years 1276 and 1314, William le Lyt was a witness to deeds concerning lands at Kingsdon, Tuckerscary, and other places in the neighbourhood.<sup>12</sup> He also appears as a juror on the inquisitions held at Somerton in 1287 touching the age of John Hurscarl, and in 1299 touching the lands of Alan de Plugenet.<sup>13</sup>

According to a formal statement dictated by Edmund Lyte in 1383, which will be quoted hereafter, William le Lyt married Margery daughter of John Blaunfeld (or Blomvill) and by her had issue two sons, Robert and Peter. A certain Margery de Lit is mentioned as holding some land in dower in the north

(10). *Curia Regis* Rolls, Easter, 52 Henry III. m. 13; Michaelmas, 52 Henry III. m. 17d.

(11). Somerset Record Society, vol. iii. p. 21.

(12). Cartulary of Glastonbury Abbey at Longleat, f. 312; C. P. B.; deed in my possession.

(13). *Inquisitiones post mortem*, 15 Edw. I. no. 73; 27 Edw. I. no. 54.

field of Toukrescari in 1286, in a deed whereby Adam de Cari conveyed to Sir Roger Fitzpayn an adjoining acre in Cleyfurlong and another acre on Shortmore in the same manor, and if she is to be identified with the wife of William le Lyt, who was a witness to the deed, she must have been a widow before her marriage to him.<sup>14</sup>

In the later part of his life, probably in 1312, William le Lyt married a second wife named Agnes, for in that year they were parties to a fictitious suit at Westminster, the result of which was that William de Lawyle, parson of Stapelbridge (Stalbridge), conveyed a messuage, two and a half virgates of land, and 33*s.* 4*d.* yearly rent from land at Toukeriscari and Heghehamme by Somerton, which he received from William, to William and Agnes for their lives, with remainder to the heirs of William.<sup>15</sup> Fifteen years later, Agnes le Lit paid 2*s.* as a twentieth of her moveables at Kingsdon, out of a total of 38*s.* 8*d.* collected at that place for the king's service.<sup>16</sup>

In the elaborate genealogy of his family compiled by Thomas Lyte of Lytescary in the reign of Charles I. there is the following note :—

“ William Lyte, Sergeant at Lawe tempore Ed. I. founded our Lady Chapple annexed to his mansion house at Lytes Carie and the North Ile belonging to his parish church at Charlton Makerell, where he lyeth entombed under a fayre marble monument with his first wife, Marjorie the daughter of John Blanfield, with their pictures cutt and embossed to their full lenkth in the same stone ; and in the North windowe of the saide Ile there is a representation of the saide William Lyte in his serjeant's habitt with his second wife Agnes kneelinge and holdinge a scrole in their hands contayninge this inscription—*Ubi*

(14). Ped. I. ; C. P. B. The date of the deed was probably ascertained by Thomas Lyte from an endorsement.

(15). Feet of Fines—Somerset.

(16). Somerset Record Society, vol. iii. p. 201.

*fructus ventris tui per te detur nobis frui in perhenni gaudio, amen*—which hath relation to the image of our Ladie and our Saviour upon the crosse as the same is prefixed in the windowe all above. And in the same windowe undernethe is subscribed in verie antient characters this French epitaph—*Priet pur Willa le Lit e Agnes sil feme par charite Pater nost' e Ave.*”

Opposite to this on the pedigree is another note :—

“The five speciall joyes of our Ladie.

*Gaude virgo, mater Christi,*

*que per aurem concepisti*

*Gabriele<sup>17</sup> nuncio.*

*Gaude quia Deo plena*

*peperisti sine pena*

*cum pudoris lilio.*

*Gaude quia tui nati,<sup>18</sup>*

*quem dolebas mortem pati,*

*fulget resurreccio.*

*Gaude Christo ascendente*

*et in celum te vidente*

*motu fertur proprio.*

*Gaude quia post ipsum scandis*

*et est honor tibi grandis*

*in celi palacio,*

*Ubi fructus ventris tui*

*per te detur nobis frui*

*in perhenni gaudio.*

“Whosoever shall devoutly say to me these foresaide salutations adding to everychone of them a Pater Noster and an Ave Maria shall never by my protection suffer the paines of hell. And doe this and tell other the same.

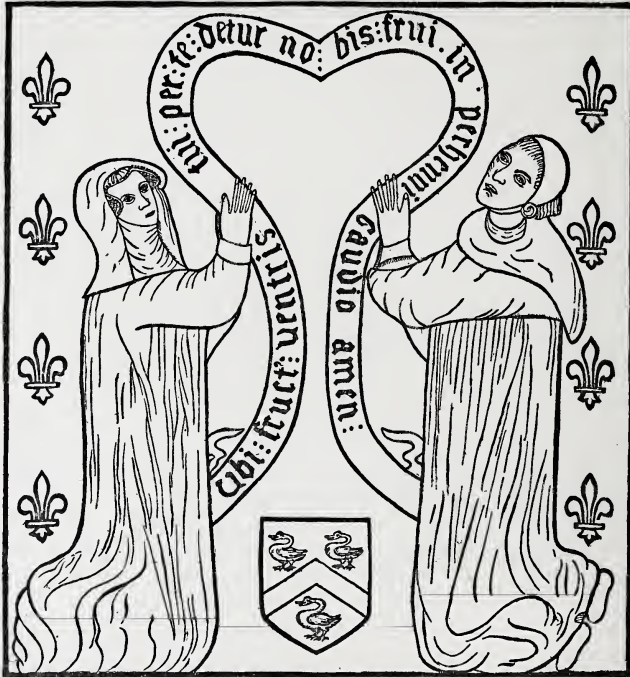
“These v joyes of our Ladie are set fourth in picture in v panes of glasse in the North windowe of our Ile at

(17). “*Gabrielis*” in Pedigree, obviously an error. Three versions of the whole hymn, which is ascribed to St. Bonaventura, are printed in Mone’s *Latéinische Hymnen des Mittelalters*, nos. 454, 455, 460.

(18). “*Nata*” in Pedigree.

CHVRCH:OF:CHARLETON:MAKEREL:1631\*

EXEMPLIFIED:OVT:OF:Y.



PRIOR: PVR: WILLIAM: L  
LIT: B: A: T: N: S: SIL: F  
M: PAR: CHARIT: PA  
T: B: A: B: S: O: U: R: B: A: :  
Fleur-de-lis symbols

ORIGINAL: AS IT IS TO BE SEEN IN THE NORTH: YLE: OF: Y. PARIS:

Charlton, and in the same windowe where Serjeant Lyte and his wife are represented kneeling and praying.”

Moreover in the margin of the pedigree there is a further allusion to “the monument in marble of one William le Lyt in his Serjeant’s habit in the North Ile of the Parish Church of Charlton Mackerell.” The monument in question is still in existence in the churchyard, having been removed thither during the ‘restoration’ of the church in the early part of the present reign. It is now in such bad condition that nothing can be said of it except that it is made of Purbeck marble, that it bears two recumbent figures, and that the few details which remain show that it dates from the time of Edward I. In an old plan of the North Transept, it is represented as occupying the north-eastern angle within the walls. The stained glass, which had somehow escaped the fury of the Reformers of the sixteenth century has disappeared. Fortunately, however, Thomas Lyte took copies, or tracings, of the two kneeling figures and the old French inscription, and he reproduced them at the bottom of the pedigree of the family, and again, though more roughly, on a tablet which he set up on the northern side of the chapel at Lytescary, where they are stated to be “Exemplified out of the originall as it is to be seene in the north yle of the parish church of Charleton Makarel, 1631.”<sup>19</sup> The character of the letters in the French inscription and the costume of the female figure show that it belongs to the early part of the fourteenth century, but the English inscription quoted in the pedigree with regard to ‘the five speciall joyes of our Ladie’ cannot be referred to so early a date.

William le Lyt is not described as a Serjeant-at-law in any contemporary document. The evidence that he occupied that position consists of :—

(i.) The statement of Edmund Lyte in 1383 quoted hereafter.

(19). A very incorrect version of the epitaph is given in Dugdale’s *Origines Juridiciales*, p. 110.

- (ii.) The note of Thomas Lyte that William was represented "in his serjeant's habit" on the marble monument which is now decayed.
- (iii.) The coif worn by the kneeling male figure in the copies of the old glass at Charlton Makerel.
- (iv.) The mention of a certain 'Lit' in a Year-Book of 1309 as counsel in a suit.<sup>20</sup>

Long before the death of William le Lyt, which must have occurred in, or soon after, 1316, his eldest son married the daughter and heiress, or co-heiress, of Peter de Draycot, a near neighbour. Among the original documents copied on the pedigree is a deed by which Peter de Draycot grants to ROBERT LE LYT son and heir of William le Lyt, and to Isabella his wife, daughter of the grantor, in free marriage, a messuage, with a curtilage and land in Gevelton (Yeovilton), to be held by them and the heirs of their bodies on condition of rendering yearly to the grantor and his heirs a gillyflower and rendering to the chief lords the accustomed services. The deed bears date at Gevelton on Sunday before the feast of St. Katherine in the second year of King Edward, and there is another deed dated at Midelton by Gevelton on the same day, and attested by the same witnesses, by which Peter de Draycot grants to the same Robert and Isabella a messuage with a curtilage and land at that place. After this, we hear no more of Robert le Lyt, and it is uncertain whether he survived his father. In the 17th year of Edward II: Isabella late the wife of Robert le Lyt brought a writ of novel disseisin against Thomas de Spekington and Henry Persones of Gevelton, touching tenements in Gevelton and Middelton Abbatis by Yeveleestre (Ilchester), presumably those which had belonged to her father.<sup>21</sup> The arms of

(20). *Year Book*, Hilary, 2 Edward II. The name appears to be 'Lic' in the MS. in the Library of Lincoln's Inn, but it is often difficult to distinguish between the letters 'c' and 't' in medieval MSS.

(21). *Assize Roll*, no. 1390, m. 4d.

Lyte impaling Draycot are among those which John Lyte set up in glass "in the great bay windoe in the parler" at Lytescary in the reign of Henry VIII.,<sup>22</sup> and the arms of Draycot come next after those of Lyte in quartered coats represented in the later glass and in two MSS. at the Heralds' College.<sup>23</sup>

According to the formal statement made by Edmund Lyte in 1383, Robert le Lyt and Isabella his wife had issue a son ROBERT, who married Margaret daughter of Roger of Goathurst, and had issue Peter and Eleanor. The arms of Lyte impaling Goathurst occur among the oldest of the shields painted on glass which were formerly at Lytescary. No other reference to this second Robert le Lyt or to his wife has been found.

In 1331, PETER LE LYT was summoned to appear in the court of King's Bench, along with Robert son of Peter de Draycot, to answer to a charge of having entered the house of John de Leddrede at Hegghamme (High Ham) and carried away corn, barley, oats, and other goods to the value of 100s. for which 40*l.* damages were claimed.<sup>24</sup> In 1333, he was concerned in a similar action for trespass at Limington.<sup>25</sup> In 1332, he paid 3*s.* towards the subsidy in respect of his property at Kingsdon.<sup>26</sup> He was the first juror named on an inquisition held at Somerton in 1337 touching the lands of which John de Horsy died seised in Charlton Makerel and Horsy.<sup>27</sup> Between the years 1333 and 1348 inclusive, he was a party or a witness to five conveyances of land which were preserved at Lytescary in the time of Charles I. One of these, a conveyance in the 7th year of Edward III. by Sir

(22). Ped. I.

(23). '2nd G. 13,' f. 30; 'H. 20.' f. 89.

(24). *Coram Rege* Rolls, Easter, 5 Edward III. m. 109; Trinity, 5 Edward III. m. 43.

(25). *De Banco* Roll, Easter, 7 Edward III. m. 203.

(26). Lay Subsidies, 'Somerset, 6 Edward III.

(27). *Inquisitiones post mortem*, 11 Edward III. no. 24.

Elias Fitzpayn to Stephen de la Hay of lands in Lytescary is interesting as containing the earliest specific reference to the place under that name.<sup>28</sup>

According to the testimony of his son Edmund, Peter le Lyt married Agnes daughter of 'Tristram Blaunfild,' who may almost positively be identified with the Tristram de Blomvill to whom Edward III., in February 1327, committed the custody of the gaol of Somerton and of the hundreds of Catsash and Stone.<sup>29</sup> In 1340, Peter le Lyt and Agnes his wife brought a fictitious suit against Hugh de Blomvill, parson of the church of Wittenham, whereby Peter acknowledged a carucate of land, thirty-five acres of meadow and 28s. 8d. yearly rent from land at Lytescary to belong to Hugh as of his gift, and Hugh settled the same on Peter and Agnes for their lives, with remainder to the heirs of Peter.<sup>30</sup> On the same day and at the same place, another arrangement was made in court whereby two messuages, fifty-one acres of land, four acres of meadow, and 12d. yearly rent from land at Draycot (in Limington) was settled on John son of Peter de Draycot and Agnes his wife for their lives, with remainder to Peter le Lyt and Agnes his wife for their lives, with successive remainders to William and Matilda, son and daughter of Peter, in tail, and eventual remainder to the heirs of Peter.<sup>31</sup> The property thus settled was probably part of the inheritance of Isabella the wife of Robert le Lyt.

Peter le Lyt must apparently be regarded as the founder of the existing house at Lytescary. There is unfortunately no direct evidence as to the foundation or the endowments of the chapel which projects from its south-eastern angle and adds so materially to its picturesque effect. In 1341, a priest named Robert de Werne was instituted to the chantry 'in the court of

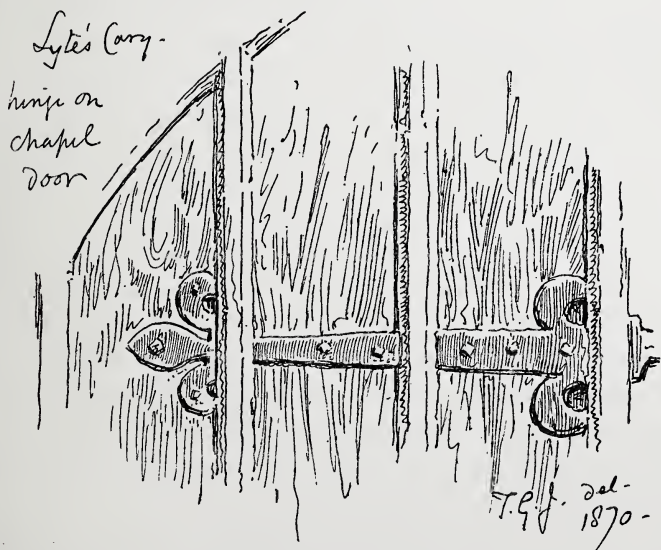
(28). Ped. I. ; C.P.B.

(29). Pipe Roll, 2 Edward III. ; Patent Roll, 2 Edward III. part i. m. 10.

(30). Feet of Fines, Somerset.

(31) *Ibid.*

Toukereskary' on the presentation of Peter de Let.<sup>32</sup> Two years later, the Bishop of Bath and Wells collated a mere acolyte, named John de Cadbury, to the chantry of Lytescary which was vacant and in his gift through lapse.<sup>33</sup> This apparent removal of the chantry from Tuckerscary, which lay on the north of Lytescary, to the latter place may perhaps be taken to indicate the erection of the existing chapel, which unquestionably dates from the middle of the fourteenth century. Some traceried stone work in the piscina, earlier than the rest of the building, may be a fragment transferred from the chapel at Tuckerscary.



Peter le Lyt died at the end of 1348, and on the 2nd of January following a priest named William Wodeford was instituted to the 'perpetual chantry' of Lytescary, on the presentation of Agnes his relict.<sup>34</sup> Two years later, William Heidy was instituted thereto on the presentation of

(32). Register of Bishop Ralph, f. 260.

(33). *Ibid* f. 279.

(34). *Ibid.* f. 334.

John de Draycot, a fact which seems to indicate that Peter le Lyt's heir was a minor.<sup>35</sup> We hear nothing of his son William after 1340: his daughter Matilda, who is also mentioned in the fine of that year, is said to have married John Faukner.<sup>36</sup> In the 33rd year of Edward III. Nicholas de Somerton granted certain lands in Lytescary to Elias Fitzpayn, 'lord of Lytescary,' and, six years later, Sir Richard Acton, knight, received a grant of lands in Lytescary and Charlton Makerel from Thomas de Carye, son and heir of John de Carye of Lytescary.<sup>37</sup>

The inheritance of Peter le Lyt eventually passed to EDMUND LYTE, who is described as his son and heir in several contemporary documents. In 1378, this Edmund Lyte conveyed his lands at Lytescary, Heyham (High Ham), Chilton, and Middelton Podymor, together with the advowson of the chantry at Lytescary, to William Carent the elder, John Faukner, and Sir Ralph Cruday, parson of Babcary, in order to make provision for his wife Thomasia, the sister of William Carent of Toomer, and, in the following year, these feoffees re-conveyed the premises to him and his wife and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder to his heirs.<sup>38</sup> In the pedigree compiled in the time of Charles I. mention is made of "his match with Carent yet extant in the parler windoe at Lytescary," and this impaled shield of 'Lyte and Carent' in stained glass forms part of the series now preserved at 3 Portman Square.

The pedigree gives also an attempted facsimile of the following very remarkable document, written at the dictation of Edmund Lyte in 1383:—

"Thus shall be in remembrance to all mine heiris for evermore that my plase of Draicot was brent the yere rayn-

(35). Register of Bishop Ralph, f. 378.

(36). Ped. I.

(37). C.P.B.

(38). Ped. I. ; C.P.B.

ynge of Kyng Richarde the secunde and the most parte of all my evidens, and tharefore y let wryte by avisse of my brotheryn Carant and off my brothir John Fakoner and Sir Raffe Crydey, prest, the wech ys wrete of the seyde pedegree, of the weche the seyde Edmond Lyte ys lynealli comen of. I wrete at Mersh on owre Lady daye on the sexte yere of the same Kyng, that ys to sey that William Lyte Sargent was wedded [to] Margeri the dafter of Jon Blaunfild, the whiche William and Margeri had issu Robert and Peris. Robert sone and heire to William was weddyd to Isabell the dowftere of Peris of Draycot and the seid Peris geaffe parcell of the maner of Draycot and all the lond that he hadde yn Mylton Podymor to Robert and to Isabell yn vre marriage, and the seid Robert and Isabell had issue Robert son and heire to hame, the wyche was weddyd to Margret the dowftryr of Rogger of Gothurst, the wech Robert and Margret had issu Peris and Elynore, the wech Peris was weddyd to Annes the dowftryr of Tristram Blaunfild. Peris and Annes had issue Edmund Lyte the whech was heire to Tristram and enherited by him Brixton Englysh yn the shere of Dewynshere, and of right he shold have Grown dysbowrow yn Northfolke by syde of Episwyche,<sup>39</sup> for y the saeyd Edmund was there and spake with my bellemodyr<sup>40</sup> and modir to the seyde Tristram, and she prayyd me to be styll apon myne nowne, and y made myne atorney there to take hede apon myn lond and to send for me when ned were, and so my bellemodir dissesid, and he that I made myn atorney was ycallde Gerard, and he enterid yn my lond yn my name, and kepid hyt to his owne behofe, so that long tyme after y came thythyr to sesse on my

(39). Grundisburgh is in Suffolk.

(40). 'Beldam,' 'belfather,' and 'belsire' are terms generally applied to a grandparent, but sometimes, as in this case, to a more remote ancestor. *New English Dictionary.*

lond and the sayd Gerard myn atorney aleynd my lond to a knygt the which was ycalld Sir Jon Bowrebage and he areryd the contrey apou me to kipe me out of myn enheritans, and for so moche as myn evidens were brent therof y could never sewe the law agenst myn adversariis yn that contry, and because myn eyrys should have knowlych theroff y lete wryte thys in my sowle yele and that afore God to answer at the day of dome this ys trwe every delle, and thys wole wytness all the contree that y was brent and all my good evry dell and so many of myne evidens also as were in my governans at that day, and that wole wytness al Lymyngton, all Ashington, Mudforde, Chylton, Mersh, Yevylton and meny mo if ned be, for hyt was noyset in all the contrey.”<sup>41</sup>

With regard to the foregoing document there is a note in the Common-Place Book of Thomas Lyte, the genealogist:—

“This writing I found at my father’s deathe much defaced and torne for want of carefull keepinge of yt, the antiquitye whereof dothe shoue ytselfe by the old Englishe and maner of writinge of yt. I found another coppie of the same writinge exemplyefyed out of the originall, as yt appeareth, word for word in another draught annexed to the first.”

The fire at Draycot may have destroyed many documents illustrating the early history of the Lyte family and their settlement at Cary. About a year after this misfortune, we

(41). A few letters appear to have been copied incorrectly, but otherwise the language of this document reproduces that which was in use in the West of England five hundred years ago, so exactly that Professor Napier is of opinion that it cannot possibly be a forgery of the seventeenth century. In printing it as above, the obsolete letter þ has been represented by ‘th.’ The representation of a blank seal with the legend “Edmundus Lyte anno vi Rich. 2” attached to the facsimile of the document in the Pedigree is, like the scroll-work around it, a device of Thomas Lyte or his limner, introduced for the sake of uniformity. The seal attached to another deed copied in the Pedigree shows a man’s head in profile, with the legend—“Sigillum Edmundi Lyte.”

find Edmund Lyt bringing a suit against John Gras and Alice his wife to obtain possession of a messuage, a carucate of land, five acres of meadow, a yearly rent of 50s. 5d., and two capons, and two pounds of wax with the appurtenances, in Brixton by Plympton, co. Devon, which had doubtless belonged to his grandfather Tristram Blomvill.<sup>42</sup>

Edmund Lyte was frequently concerned in litigation. In 1395, he took proceedings to compel Robert Garscoyne, who had been his bailiff at Brodemerston co. Somerset, to render an account of his receipts.<sup>43</sup> In 1409, his own goods were distrained at the instance of Sir Thomas Beauchamp, knight, on account of his detention of a hawk, valued at 10 marks.<sup>44</sup> Three years later, he sued John Welweton, the elder, of Baryngton, to recover a debt of 40l.<sup>45</sup> In 1414, he sued Florence Crede of Glastonbury for quitting his service at Lytescary before the end of time for which she had been engaged,<sup>46</sup> and he also had recourse to the court of Common Pleas to recover a debt of 40s. from Richard Busshup of Fen Ottery, co. Devon.<sup>47</sup> One of the actions in which he was engaged is of some genealogical interest. In 1395, Thomas Passeware of Limington and Alice his wife complained before the justices sitting at Ilchester that Edmund Lyt and Thomasia his wife, Thomas Lyt, and certain others, had unjustly ejected them from a messuage, ten acres and a rood of land, and half an acre of meadow in Gevelton (Yeovilton). Both parties admitted that Peter le Lyt had, in 1338, granted to his

(42). *De Banco* Roll, Easter, 7 Richard II. m. 218. "Brixton English, anno 27 of Kinge Henry 3, was the land of Gilbert le Engles ; whom succeeded Hugh his sonne ; and unto hym Sr Roger le Engleis, his sonne ; after this, Tristram de Blomville, in right of Phelippa his wief ; and after them James Blomville." Pole's *Description of Devonshire*, p. 324.

(43). *De Banco* Rolls, Easter, 17 Richard II. m. 351 ; Trinity, m. 132d.

(44). *De Banco* Roll, Hilary, 10 Henry IV. m. 189d.

(45). *De Banco* Roll, Easter, 13 Henry IV. m. 79.

(46). *De Banco* Roll, Hilary, 3 Henry V. m. 328d.

(47). *De Banco* Roll, Trinity, 3 Henry V. m. 95.

sister Simon le Lyt a yearly rent issuing from the premises, with the reversion of the premises for her life after the deaths of the then tenants. The Passewares, however, produced a deed purporting to be dated at Cary on the 30th of November, 1348, by which Peter le Lyt granted the premises to his sister Simon and her heirs for ever, and they claimed them on the score that Alice Passeware was the daughter and heiress of the said Simon. Edmund, on the other hand, disputed the authenticity of this deed and demanded that the witnesses to it should be summoned to appear in court. This was accordingly ordered, and in the meanwhile the deed in question was committed to the safe custody of the Chief Justice.<sup>48</sup> On the following day, the Passewares abandoned their suit. Nevertheless they revived it two and a half years later, and the same arguments were again adduced on either side. On the second occasion, John son of Edmund Lyte was associated with his father and mother, and Thomas Lyte was not mentioned.<sup>49</sup>

The record of these proceedings tends to illustrate those in a curious suit which had been heard at Ilchester more than fifty years earlier. Cicely, prioress of White Hall, Ilchester, and the sisters of that house had, in consideration of a sum of money paid down by Simon le Lyt, granted to her for her life a plot of ground within their close, with power to build thereon, and also the corrody of a sister, that is to say a yearly allowance of food and clothes, or the equivalent in money. When Simon le Lyt made this arrangement, she must have intended to lead a single life, but after a while she married, and when she and her husband, under the names of Gilbert Passeware and Simona his wife, claimed the rights granted to her by the deed, the prioress and sisters disputed its validity on the ground that it was made to one Simon, a man, the dative '*Simoni*' being derived from '*Simon*' and not from '*Simona*.' To this it was replied that the sex of the

(48). Assize Roll, no. 1502, m.82.

(49). *Ibid.* m.91d.

grantee was clearly determined by the use of several adjectives in the feminine gender.<sup>50</sup> The hearing of the case was adjourned to the next assize, but as nothing further is recorded about it, we may reasonably assume that the prioress and sisters came to recognise the inexpediency of incurring fresh expenses by continuing the contest.

Returning to Edmund Lyte, we find him, in 1391 and 1398, witnessing deeds concerning land in Southmoormede at Somerton, and, at different times, serving as a juror on inquisitions touching the lands of several of his neighbours.<sup>51</sup> In the 9th year of Henry IV. he granted to Robert Soth, chaplain, for the term of his life a tenement in Draycot called 'Lytescourte.'<sup>52</sup> In 1410, he presented a chaplain named Thomas atte Lee to the chantry of Lytescary, but, before instituting his nominee, Bishop Bubwith ordered an enquiry to be held as to his right to the advowson, probably in consequence of the conveyance which he had made to feoffees in 1378.<sup>53</sup> Some years before this, Edmund Lyte had married a second wife, Agnes, stated in the pedigree to have been the daughter of Richard Marleburgh of Loders, and described in a deed of the year 1405 as the relict of John Aysshe.<sup>54</sup> His step-daughter, Agnes, married his eldest son, John, and to him and the heirs of his body, he gave his lands at Brixton English, co. Devon, at the yearly rent of 1*d.* during the life of his mother-in-law and step-mother, and of 4 marks after her death.<sup>55</sup>

Edmund Lyte died in 1418, having, in the last year of his life, conveyed all his lands in Lytescary, Draycot, Chilton Cantelo, Midelton Podimore, Higham, and Yeovilton, to

(50). Somerset Archæological Society, *Proceedings*, vol. xiii. part ii. pp. 51, 115--117.

(51). *Ilchester Almshouse Deeds*, pp. 79, 82; *Inquisitiones post mortem*, 14 Ric. II. no. 64; 19 Ric. II. nos. 6, 99. The last of these belongs to A.D. 1374.

(52). C.P.B.

(53). Register of Bishop Bubwith, ff. 2, 38.

(54). C.P.B.

(55). Ped. I.

Richard Backwell, parson of Charlton Makerel, Thomas Phisse, parson of Babcary, and John Golde, in order to secure life interests in different parts thereof to his wife Agnes and his younger sons.<sup>56</sup> By his first wife, Thomasia, he had issue:—  
John, his successor.

Thomas, who received from his father's feoffees a life interest in certain lands and tenements in Draycot, with remainder to his elder brother John.<sup>57</sup> It is doubtful whether he, or his nephew of the same name, should be identified with a Thomas Lyte who, jointly with Thomas Blanford of Bruton, had charge of certain French prisoners in England in the 14th year of Henry VI.<sup>58</sup>

Peter, who received from his father's feoffees a life interest in a tenement in Yevilton (Yeovilton) and in the reversion of a rent of 4*d.* from three acres of land and meadow in Lytescary.<sup>59</sup> A deed of the 9th year of Henry V. shows that he had a wife named Elizabeth and a daughter of the same name.<sup>60</sup> Considering the connexion of his step-mother with Loders Maltravers, co. Dorset, he may almost certainly be identified with Peter Lyte who was a lance in the company of John Arundel, Lord Maltravers, at the muster taken at Portsdown shortly before the battle of Agincourt.<sup>61</sup> A certain Philip Lyte, who was also at that time a mounted archer, may probably be considered a member of the same family, especially as he served in the company of Sir Hugh Luttrell of Somersetshire.<sup>62</sup>

Lucy, who in the 15th year of Richard II. married Roger

(56). C.P.B.

(57). *Ibid.*

(58). French Roll, 14 Henry VI. m. 6; Warrants for the Great Seal, Series I. file 703, no. 3344.

(59). C.P.B.

(60). *Ibid.*

(61). Miscellanea of the Treasury of Receipt (P.R.O.) <sup>43</sup>9.

(62). *Ibid.*

Raleigh. Her father undertook to give them 10*l.* in money, to provide them for two years with meat, drink, and apparel, and to keep for them a horse and six oxen with a wain.<sup>63</sup>

Elizabeth, who married Adam Burnell, of Glastonbury, clerk. Her father granted to them for life all his lands in Milton Podimore, at a yearly rent of 12*s.*, in the 3rd year of Henry V.<sup>64</sup>

By his second wife, Agnes, Edmund Lyte had issue a daughter, Joan, who married Simon Talbot.<sup>65</sup>

Soon after the death of her husband, Agnes Lyte appeared in person in the court of Common Pleas to sue her son-in-law and step-son, John Lyte of Lytescary, 'gentilman,' for a debt of 12 marks and 13*s.*<sup>66</sup> She was careful moreover not to leave anything to him by her will, which is dated at Wareham in August, 1428. By this document she bequeaths her soul to God Almighty, St. Mary the Virgin, and all the Saints of Heaven, "there to remain with them for ever." Other legacies are those "to the fabric of the cathedral church of St. Mary the Virgin, Salisbury" 20*d*; "to the fabric of the church of St. Mary the Virgin, Wareham," 3*s* 4*d*; "for the repair of the bells of the same church," 3*s* 4*d*; for the support of the light of her fraternity in that church established in honour of Corpus Christi, 3*s* 4*d*.; to the chaplain of that church, 12*d*; to the clerk of the same, 8*d*; to every chaplain present at her exequies and the mass on the day of her burial, 8*d*; "to Robert the vicar of Lodors" 3*s* 4*d*; for distribution among the most needy poor of Wareham, 20*s*; "to twelve poor people in the almshouse of the same town," 2*s*; and "to the crier of the same town" 8*d*. The cost of the funeral is estimated at 20*s*. The personal legacies are not numerous :—to Agnes her

(63). C.P.B.

(64). *Ibid.*

(65). Ped. I. ; Hutchins's *History of Dorset*, (ed. 1861) vol. i. p. 667.

(66). *De Banco* Roll, Hilary, 8 Henry V. m. 256*d*.

daughter, the wife of J. Lyte, a blue gown with fur in it, and a little veil called 'Crymell;' "to Joan Rideleris of Ly[tescary] aforesaid" a russet gown with fur in it, with a blue hood; to Gregory Marleburgh her brother, all his debt to her; to Nicholas Hodde and Joan his wife, 6s. 8d. of their debt to her; to John Waterman, 6d.; to Isabella Holdych, 4d.; to Robert Wylle, 12d.; to Nichola the servant of Simon Talbot, a russet gown; to Agnes the servant of the same Simon, a green gown; to Joan the servant of John Wymond, a blue tunic with fur in it. All the residue of her goods and chattels she bequeaths to Simon Talbot and Joan his wife, her daughter, with an injunction to pray for her soul. Probate of the will was granted to Simon Talbot in February, 1429.<sup>67</sup>

In 1441, JOHN LYTE and Agnes his wife, John Marshall, Simon Talbot and Joan his wife, and Joan late the wife of Philip Brice, are mentioned as the kinsfolk and coheirs of Gregory Marleburgh late forester of Grovelegh, co. Wilts.<sup>68</sup> The arms of Lyte impaling those of Ash form one of the shields in ancient glass formerly at Lytescary, and now at 3 Portman Square, and the arms of Ash occupy the fourth place in the quarterly shield of the family.

The name of John Lyte occurs from time to time in the first half of the fifteenth century as that of a juror on inquisitions touching the property of his neighbours.<sup>69</sup> In 1426, he was a witness to the charter by which Robert Veel founded and endowed an almshouse at Ilchester. In 1429, he acquired from Robert Veel and John Lane a burgage, not built upon, in the High Street of Ilchester, adjoining the almshouse and opposite to the gate of the convent of the Dominican Friars.<sup>70</sup> When, in 1421, he presented John Bishop to the perpetual

(67). Wills at Somerset House, Luffnam, f. 78d.

(68). Fines and Amercements, Somerset and Dorset, Exchequer, Q. R. 377.

(69). *Inquisitiones post mortem*, 4 Hen. V. no. 28; 6 Hen. VI. no. 50; 8 Hen. VI. no. 39; 19 Hen. VI. no. 31; 28 Hen. VI. no. 26. In the last three of these he is styled John Lyte the elder.

(70). *Ilchester Almshouse Deeds*, pp. 116, 126

chantry of 'Lytescary *alias* Tokeryscary,' the income of it was so small that, with his consent, the chaplain obtained licence from Bishop Bubwith to hold, with it, another benefice in the same diocese.<sup>71</sup> Twelve years later, he presented another chaplain, named John Betty,<sup>72</sup> after which there is no further mention of the chantry in the episcopal registers at Wells. Whether the slender endowment was united to that of some neighbouring chantry, or quietly secularised by the patron, does not appear. The chantry of Lytescary is not mentioned among those which were suppressed by authority of Parliament in the middle of the sixteenth century.<sup>73</sup> Its origin and its end are alike unknown.

In 1432, John Lyte conveyed the manor of Brixton English, co. Devon, and certain lands there, to three feoffees, who reconveyed them to him and Agnes his wife in tail.<sup>74</sup> Agnes Lyte's own inheritance consisted of five messuages, 120 acres of land and 2 acres of wood at Otterton, Wolshill and Budleigh, co. Devon, presumably the property of her father John Aysshe, and three messuages, forty acres of land, and five acres of meadow, in Loders, and Loders Lutton, co. Dorset, presumably the property of her mother Agnes Marleburgh.<sup>75</sup> John Lyte and Agnes his wife were alive as late as the year 1453, but the former seems to have died soon afterwards. They had at least two sons and a daughter:—

Thomas, successor to his father.

John, mentioned in connexion with John Lyte the elder, in three documents between the years 1447 and 1450, and described in two of them as his son.<sup>76</sup> His mother's inheritance in Devonshire and Dorsetshire was settled on him in 1453, but he appears to have died without issue, as

(71). Register of Bishop Bubwith, f. 17.

(72). Register of Bishop Stafford, f. 93.

(73). Somerset Record Society, vol. ii.

(74). Ped. I.; C. P. B.

(75). Feet of Fines, divers counties, 31 Henry VI.

(76). C.P.B.

it afterwards passed to the Lytes of Lytescary. In 1464, Joan late the wife of John Lyte presented John Skynner to the rectory of Hornblotton, co. Somerset,<sup>77</sup> and in 1468 Thomas Lyte, esquire, brought an action in the court of Common Pleas against John Talbot the younger of Botteley, co. Somerset, gentleman, and Joan his wife, relict of John Lyte and daughter and co-heiress of William Wasyn of Bottele, to recover a debt of 10*l*.<sup>78</sup>

Agnes, married to Richard Page. In the 32nd year of Henry VI. Thomas Horsey, esquire, confirmed to them an annuity for their lives out of his manor of Clifton, granted to them by Henry Horsey, esquire, Tristram Burnell, John Lyte, John Willing, clerk, and John Byconnel.<sup>79</sup> In the pedigree she is said to have married firstly 'Richard Page of the Vies' (Devizes) and secondly Sir Philip Morgan.

THOMAS LYTE was during his father's lifetime described sometimes as Thomas Lyte of Okely and sometimes as Thomas Lyte, gentleman.<sup>80</sup> Among the muniments at Lytescary in the time of Charles I. there was a document of the year 1439 described as "the Pope's Bull, wherein he giveth the full remission or absolution of synnes to Thomas Lyte and Joan his wife."<sup>81</sup> The issue of this bull does not appear to be recorded in the Papal *Regesta* at the Vatican, but we may fairly assume that it was a licence, or a pardon, for marriage within the then prohibited degrees of relationship, natural and spiritual. The date agrees exactly with that of a deed by which John Lyte appointed Robert Walton (or Walters) and Peter Lyte his attorneys to deliver seisin of certain lands in Draycot to his son Thomas Lyte and Joan his wife, probably

(77). Weaver's *Somerset Incumbents*, p. 105.

(78). *De Banco* Roll, Hilary, 7 Edward IV. mm. 40, 256*d* ; Patent Roll, 11 Edward IV. part 1. m. 26.

(79). C.P.B.

(80). Ped. I. ; C.P.B.

(81). C.P.B.

on the occasion of their marriage, in order to secure a jointure to the wife.<sup>82</sup> Thomas Lyte and Joan his wife were in the 32nd year of Henry VI. the grantees of lands in West Marsh by Yeovil, Chilthorne Domer, Chilthorne Vagge, and Stoke Denis, from Sir Thomas Courtenay, Hugh Courtenay, and others feoffees of Alice Cokers, wife of Nicholas Cokers, daughter and heiress of John Fauconer.<sup>83</sup> This Joan is stated in the pedigree to have been a daughter of — Fitz-James of Redlynch, and the arms of Lyte impaling those of Fitz-James occur twice in the ancient glass formerly at Lytescary.

Thomas Lyte was at one time connected with the Priory of Bruton, apparently as bailiff, and in the 22nd year of Henry VI. Richard Glastonbury, Prior of that house, granted to him, in consideration of his good service, a yearly pension of 40s. out of the manor of Charlton Adam for the remainder of his life.<sup>84</sup> Thomas Lyte was a juror on inquisitions touching the property of different persons in Somerset and Dorset between the years 1450 and 1468 inclusive, and the ordinary description of him as 'esquire' in those subsequent to 1458 seem to show that by that date at any rate his father was dead.<sup>85</sup>

From his cousin Alice Cokers, widow, daughter and heiress of John Fauconer, Thomas Lyte acquired, in the 23rd year of Henry VI., lands in Kingston and Yeovil and common of pasture in Marsh, and he appears at other times to have acquired lands in Babcary, Taunton, West Bagborough, and other places in Somersetshire.<sup>86</sup> To Thomas Lyte we may perhaps ascribe the erection of the hall at Lytescary, whose handsome

(82). Ped. I. ; C.P.B.

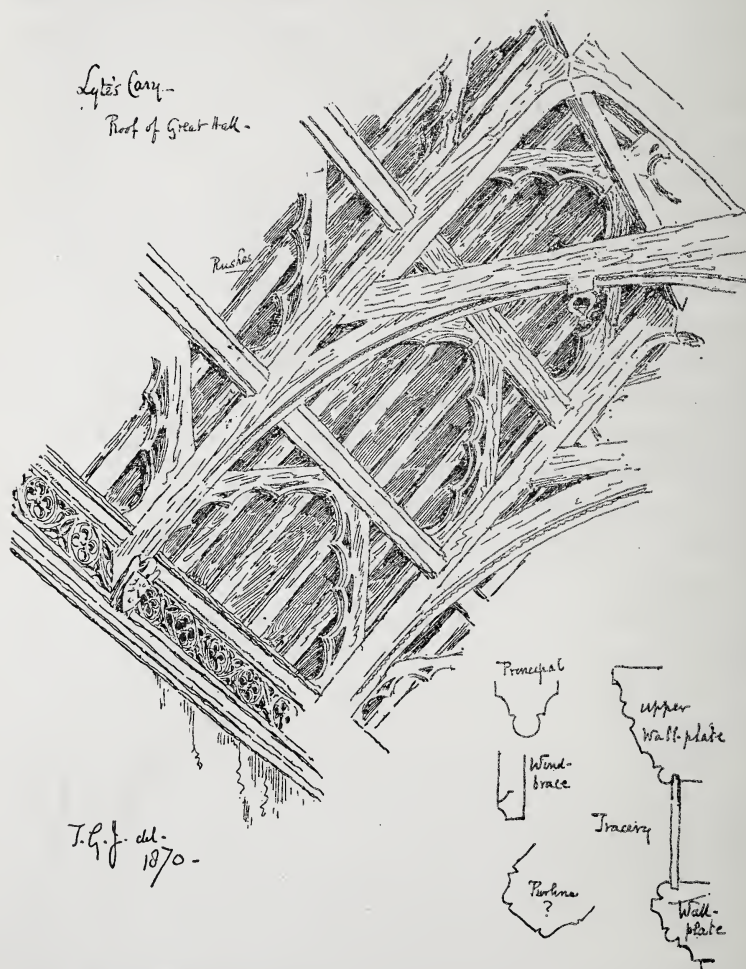
(83). C.P.B.

(84). *Ibid.*

(85). *Inquisitiones post mortem*, 28 Hen. VI. no. 26 ; 35 Hen. VI. no. 16 ; 36 Hen. VI. no. 38 ; 1 Edw. IV. nos. 25. 37 ; 5 Edw. IV. nos. 8, 13 ; 6 Edw. IV. no. 42.

(86). C.P.B.

wooden roof seems to date from the later part of the fifteenth century.



In 1462, 'Thomas Lyete late of Lytescare,' John Mylbourn late of Hinton, Isabella Huntley late of Nether Attebarre (Adbear), 'Richard Crystian, late of Lytescare,' yeoman, and ten others, labourers and masons, were attached in the court of Common Pleas to answer Thomas Swete and Richard Hatfield, for breaking their close at Nether Attebarre.<sup>87</sup>

(87). *De Banco Roll*, Michaelmas, 2 Edw. IV. m. 376d.

Thomas Lyte was succeeded by JOHN LYTE, who in a deed of the year 1470 described himself as son and heir of Thomas Lyte son and heir of John Lyte.<sup>88</sup> According to the pedigree, he married a daughter of ——— Fauntleroy of Marsh, but her Christian name is not given. One of the old shields in stained glass formerly at Lytescary shows the arms of Lyte impaling those of Fauntleroy. John Lyte was a juror on many inquisitions in the second half of the fifteenth century, and as he is generally styled 'esquire' in those subsequent to 1468—the last year in which there is any mention of his father—it is probable that he succeeded in that year or the next.<sup>89</sup> In 1480, John Lyte, esquire, brought a suit against John Lygh of Flamberston, co. Wilts, gentleman, and Thomas Bryce, husbandman, for entering his close at Kingston Lacy, co. Dorset.<sup>90</sup> On the 27th of October, 1498, John Lyte, esquire, executed three conveyances. By the first, sealed with a seal bearing his initials and a shield charged with a chevron and probably three swans, he demised to Thomas Lyte, his son and heir apparent, all his lands and tenements in Draycot, for a term of eleven years.<sup>91</sup> By the second, he granted to the same Thomas and Margery his wife, daughter of John Drew, and the heirs or assigns of Thomas, all his lands in Overham, Netherham by Langport, and Chilton, co. Somerset.<sup>92</sup> By the third, he granted to the same Thomas and Margery all the lands and tenements which he had of the grant of John Ilberd at Fulham, co. Middlesex. The second and third conveyances, although attested by some of the same witnesses as the first, have only the impression of his signet with the device, or crest, of a swan with wings

(88). Ped. I.

(89). *Inquisitiones post mortem*, 35 Hen. VI. no. 16 ; 1 Edw. IV. nos. 25, 37 ; 6 Edw. IV. no. 42 ; 8 Edw. IV. no. 53 ; 9 & 10 Edw. IV. nos. 18, 30 ; 11 Edw. IV. no. 64 ; 13 Edw. IV. nos. 3, 30 ; 18 Edw. IV. no. 46 ; 19 Edw. IV. no. 36 ; 20 Edw. IV. no. 93.

(90). *De Banco Roll*, Michaelmas, 20 Edw. IV. m. 515.

(91). Ped. I.

(92). *Ibid.*

expanded. The first and second of these documents have, along with all the other muniments of Lytescary, disappeared since the time of Charles I.; the third, having been handed over on the sale of the Fulham estate in the reign of Edward VI., has found its way into the British Museum.<sup>93</sup>

The next mention of John Lyte is in a metrical Life of St. Joseph of Arimathæa, the patron saint of Glastonbury, which was printed by Pynson in 1520, and apparently refers to certain miracles said to have been wrought in 1502 :—

“The ix day of Aprill, John Lyght, gentylman,  
Dwellynge besyde Ilchester at Lyghtescare,  
His wyfe had upon her a fever quartayn,  
By the space of two yere vexed gretly;  
No medycyne nor phisyke that coude do her remedy;  
[She prayed to Joseph to hele her of her payne]  
And promysed thyder her offrynge devoutly  
Than was she delyvered of her dysease certayne.”<sup>94</sup>

The names of John Lyte and Thomas Lyte occur in a list of the gentlemen of Somersetshire compiled in the seventeenth year of Henry VII.<sup>95</sup> In the following year, John Lyte, late of Lytescary, esquire, and John Michell, late of East Coker, gentleman, were sued by Richard Wyche of Dorsetshire.<sup>96</sup> The former must have died soon afterwards. He seems to have had issue :—

Thomas, his successor.

Richard, mentioned as a juror on the inquisition taken in 1481 after the death of Richard Gorges.<sup>97</sup> He may have been the ancestor of the Lytes of Easton Percy, co. Wilts, whose pedigree begins with a Richard Lyte, and who bore the same arms as the Lytes of Lytescary, with

(93). Addl. Charter, 5335.

(94). *Joseph of Arimathie*, (ed. Skeat) p. 46.

(95). Collinson's *History of Somerset*, vol. i. p. xi.

(96). *De Banco Roll*, Easter, 18 Hen. VII. m. 295d.

(97). *Inquisitiones post mortem*, 20 Edw. IV. no. 93.

a mullet for difference. It is more certain that he had a daughter Joan, who married firstly William Walton of Barton, co. Somerset, and secondly, as his fourth wife, Sir Nicholas Wadham of Merifield, whom she survived.<sup>98</sup> She died 20 August, 1557. The Lyte pedigree gives a drawing of her monumental brass at Ilford, of which only a portion of the inscription is now remaining there.<sup>99</sup> The arms of Wadham impaling those of Lyte occupy one of the shields in the heraldic glass of the time of Henry VIII. which was formerly at Lytescary.

Edith, mentioned in the will of William Adice, Rector of Charlton Makerel, dated 1497.<sup>100</sup> She married, as his second wife, John Horsey of Martin, co. Wilts.<sup>101</sup>

THOMAS LYTE of Lytescary succeeded his father John in or before April 1512, for in that month he took possession of some land at Loders Maltravers, co. Dorset, which he claimed as part of his paternal inheritance, but which the Earl of Arundel, lord of the manor, asserted to have been held at his pleasure only.<sup>102</sup> Thomas Lyte appears to have increased his fortune considerably by his marriage with Margery daughter and heiress of John Drew of Bridgwater, whose arms are impaled with his own, and also quartered with those of Lyte, Draycot, Blomvill (?), and Ash, in the heraldic glass formerly at Lytescary. He bought lands at Stockland Gaunt, Holford, and Stogursey, the last called 'Curwellesplace,' and he took a lease of 'Litill Carye,' which appears to have been identical with Tuckerscary.<sup>103</sup> In his time, the neighbouring parsonage of Limington was for a while occupied by Thomas Wolsey, and John Aubrey, writing in 1680, cites his cousin [Henry] Lyte of Lytescary in support of a local tradition that Sir

(98). Ped. I. ; *Somersetshire Wills*, vol. i. pp. 49, 58.

(99). Rogers's *Memorials of the West*, p. 161.

(100). Wills at Somerset House, Horne, f. 21.

(101). *Heralds' Visitation*, Somerset.

(102). *De Banco Roll*, Trinity, 5 Henry VIII. m. 412.

(103.) C. P. B. ; *De Banco Roll*, Trinity, 15 Henry VII. m. 39.

Amias Paulet put the future Cardinal in the stocks for "some debauchery."<sup>104</sup>

It has been seen that in 1286 William le Lyt held a quarter of a knight's fee under Roger de Studecumb, and there is reason to believe that the successors of this Roger continued to be the superior lords of the manor of Lytescary until the abolition of feudal tenures in the middle of the seventeenth century. The Lytes were supposed to render some nominal service, and as their neighbours knew that they did not hold directly of the king, it was not thought necessary to take inquisitions after the deaths of successive heads of the family in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. When, however, Thomas Lyte died in February 1523, in possession of more than four thousand acres of land in Somerset, Dorset, and Devon, the escheators of those counties were directed to ascertain whether any profit ought to accrue therefrom to the Crown. The inquisitions consequently taken at Yeovil, at Milton, and at Exeter, give the following particulars of his landed estate:—

## SOMERSET.

## The Manor of Lytescary, and

Place.	Messu- ages.	Acres of land.	Acres of meadow.	Acres of pasture.	Acres of wood.	Superior lord.
Lytescary & } Charlton } Makerel }	10	300	40	300	20	Leonard Knoyle, esq.
Draycot ...	6	200	30	200		John Fitz James, esq.
High Ham ...	7	260	26	250		The Abbot of Glastonbury.
Milton } Puddimore }	2	150	10	200		" "
Yeovilton } 1, and 3 cot- } tages }	1, and 3 cot- tages	120	10	100		The Earl of Derby.
Chilton ...	3	100	18	160		Thomas Stewkley, esq.

Ilchester	...	1				{	The Abbot of Muchelney.
Montacute	...	1				{	The Abbot of Montacute.
Taunton	...	1				{	The Prior of Taunton.
Vale	...	1				{	The Earl of Northumberland.

DORSET.

Sherborne	...	6	100	30	100	{	The Bishop of Salisbury.
Nether Compton	}	1	200	20	200	{	The Abbot of Sherborne.
Knightington		1	100	16	100		" "
Loders	...	2	200	10	140	{	The Earl of Arundel.

DEVON.

Otterton	{	8, and 4 cottages, and 3 tofts	200	20	200	{	The Abbess of Syon. <sup>105</sup>
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It is tolerably clear, however, that this list does not include all the lands of the Lytes of Lytescary, for no mention is made of the outlying property in Somerset near the Quantock Hills, or of the estate at Brixton English in Devonshire, which Thomas Lyte had settled upon his son John at the time of his marriage, in 1521.<sup>106</sup> Leonard Knoyle, superior lord of Lytescary, was the owner of Sandford Orcas, which, like that place, had successively been held in chief by Humphrey the Chamberlain, and the families of Orescuilz and Gurney. The nature of the feudal service originally due was no longer known.

Margery Lyte had a considerable jointure, the particulars of which need not be enumerated here.<sup>107</sup> In the year of her

(105). *Inquisitiones post mortem*, 15 Hen. VIII. no. 46.

(106). C.P.B.

(107). *Ibid.*

husband's death, she was assessed for taxation at Kingsdon,<sup>108</sup> and according to the pedigree, "she buylded in the time of her widdohood all that range of buyldyng which is nowe the barne and stable at Lytescary." It is probable, however, that she ceased to live in her son's house after her marriage to a second husband, Hugh Tratter, customer of Bridgewater, in 1525.<sup>109</sup>

By Margery his wife, Thomas Lyte had issue eight children :—

John, his successor.

William, of Lillesdon (*see* Appendix III).

William, the younger. The pedigree states that he "lived at Sutton Montacue near Cadbury and belonged sometyne to the Lord W. Stourton." He had issue a son Charles, who died young, and five daughters, of whom Grace was born at Puddimore in 1540, Anne died there in 1542, Joan married firstly Edmund Midwinter of Barrow, and secondly John Draper of Haselbury, and a fourth married — Lambert.<sup>110</sup> This William Lyte seems to have been concerned in a lawsuit in 1542, and to have died about 1563.<sup>111</sup>

Thomas (*see* Appendix IV).

Edmund, "chief butler of the port and haven of Bridgewater, lived at Ubley anno 2 Q. Marie, and depended upon Sir William Capell."<sup>112</sup> He was a party to some settlements of Sir Giles Capell's lands in Essex in 1538 and 1548.<sup>113</sup> In 1547, he bought the latten vessels of Woodham Mortimer church for 7s. He is described as 'of Bridgewater, gentleman' in 1558.<sup>114</sup> He had issue a son John, who died in infancy, and three daughters—

(108). Lay Subsidies, Somerset.

(109). C.P.B.

(110). Ped. I.

(111). *De Banco* Roll, Easter, 34 Hen. VIII. m. 605 ; Chancery Proceedings, Series II, bundle 3, no. 38.

(112). Ped. I.

(113). Addl. Charters, British Museum, 6188, 6191.

(114). *De Banco* Roll, Michaelmas, 3 and 4 Philip and Mary, m. 647.

Margaret married to Richard Verier, Protesie married to — Clouter of Mounton, and Anne married to John Wadham, of Lillesdon.<sup>115</sup>

George, "married in the Ile of Gersey and there died without issue. He depended upon the Governor, Sir Ames Paulet, who allowed him a pension."<sup>116</sup> Administration of his property was granted, in November 1583, to the next of kin, his niece, Bridget Smyth *alias* Lyte, wife of Walter Smyth.<sup>117</sup>

Anthony, attached to the royal household. In 1551, he received from King Edward a grant of lands in the counties of Devon and Cornwall, upon the death of Sir Thomas Denys and Philip his son.<sup>118</sup> In 1553, he was elected member of Parliament for Tavistock.<sup>119</sup> In the following year, he received from Queen Mary a free grant of a third part of the lands at Athelney, co. Somerset, of which John Tynbery died seised, together with the wardship and marriage of Henry Tynbery, the son and heir.<sup>120</sup> In the 5th and again in the 13th year of Elizabeth, he was returned as receiving 20*l* a year as "one of Her Majesty's gentlemen ushers, daily waiters."<sup>121</sup> He served the office of Escheator in the counties of Devon and Cornwall in 1571.<sup>122</sup> He married Anne daughter of Thomas Weldon, cofferer to Queen Elizabeth, by whom he had issue two children, Henry, and a daughter, who both died young.<sup>123</sup> Anthony Lyte died 28 January, 1580, and letters of administration were granted on the following day to his next of kin, his niece, Bridget

(115). Ped. I.

(116). *Ibid.*

(117). Administration at Somerset House.

(118). Patent Roll, 5 Edward VI. part 2, m. 14.

(119). *Return of Members of Parliament.*

(120). Patent Roll, 1 Mary, part 1.

(121). Certificates of Residence. (P.R.O.)

(122). Escheators' Accounts.

(123). Ped. I.

Smyth *alias* Lyte, whose husband, Walter Smyth, took the necessary oaths on her behalf.<sup>124</sup> The pedigree compiled by Thomas Lyte gives a copy of Anthony Lyte's monumental brass, which bore the following inscription :  
 “Harde to this wall lyeth buried the bodies of Anthony Lyte esquire and Anne his wife, which Anthony was one of the fower Gentlemen Ushers daylie waiters unto our



most Gracious Sovereigne Ladie Queen Elizabeth. He died in the Lord the 28 of Januarie, 1579, 22 Elizabeth, unto whome God graunt a joyfull resurrection.”

In a marginal note, Thomas Lyte adds :—

“This monument of Anthony Lyte esquire and Anne his wyfe is to be seene in the chancell of the Parish Church of Greenwich in the county of Kent, in a copper plate fixed in the wall, as I beheld the same and took a transcript of it in the yeer of our Lord 1610. He was

(124). Administration at Somerset House.



LYTESCARY,  
FROM THE NORTH-EAST.

the 6 brother, as appeareth by the difference in his coat. He had a faire house, being his owne inheritance, adjoyn- ing to the Court at Greenwich, late in the possession of Henry Howard, Earle of Northampton."

Catherine, married John Soper of Speckington.<sup>125</sup>

JOHN LYTE of Lytescary, eldest son of Thomas and Margery, was born in 1498.<sup>126</sup> For a time he studied law, as we read in the Common-Place Book of his grandson:—

"John Lyte esquire was a student of the Temple in London, who was putt in sute by the sayd house for xiiij. *li.* (?) videlizet vj*li.* for pensions behynd and xls. for the forfeiture of the fee of Steward of the Revells anno 28 Hen. 8. as yt appeareth by a letter sent him from one Mr. John Mawdley, Treasurer there."

Mention is also made in the same MS. of

"Mr. Maudley's letters to my grandfather of his amercements in the Myddle Temple for pensions and the office of stewardship."

In 1521, John Lyte married Edith daughter of John Horsey of Martin, co. Wilts, who paid down 100 marks and undertook to maintain the couple for five years. John Horsey also conveyed certain tenements to his son-in-law in consideration of his pains and expenses in matters not specified.<sup>127</sup>

The pedigree states that "the said John Lyte newe buylt the Hall oriall, the 2 great portches, the closetts, the kittchen, and divers other places which are yet extant, with the dayrie house and the chamber over."

Architectural evidence shows that the hall at Lytescary is earlier than the porch and the room—doubtless the 'oriall' above mentioned—which project on its eastern side. The gable of the porch is surmounted by a swan bearing the Lyte shield, that of the other projection by a griffin bearing the

(125). Ped. I.

(126). C. P. B.

(127). *Ibid.*; Star Chamber Proceedings, Elizabeth, bundle H. 79, no. 39.

Horsey shield. John Lyte's handiwork is equally visible in the southern wing of the house where he inserted new windows and remodelled some of the rooms. The ornate bay window on that side shows outside the arms and initials of John and Edith Lyte with the date 1533, and the shields of Lyte and Horsey alternate on the plaster ceiling of the principal room on the upper floor.

In 1537, John Lyte served the office of Escheator of the King in the counties of Somerset and Dorset.<sup>128</sup> In May of that year, he incurred a debt of 40*l.* to Richard Whiting, Abbot of Glastonbury. One quarter of this he paid on the first Friday in 1539, "in the lytyll parler uppon the righte honde withyn the gret hall" of the abbey, just after the Abbot had finished his dinner, and while his gentlemen and servants were dining in the hall. The Abbot, however, being anxious to have the rest of the money, sued him before the justices of the Common Bench at Westminster, upon his bond for 100 marks. Part of the sequel may be told in the words of John Watts, one of the monks:—

"The said John Lyte uppon Saynt Petterys day at Mydsomer, then beyng Sondag, in the gadyng off the said Abbottes att Glastonbury, whillis highe mas was syngyng, made payment unto the said Abbott of 30*li.* yn good aungell noblis, whiche made upp the said 40*li.* And then the said Abbott delyveryd the said 30*li.* to me the said John Wattes, and att that tyme askyd of the said Master Lyte whether he wollyd sett upp the said Abbottes armys in his newe buldyng that he hadde made, and the said Master Lyte aunswaryd the said Abbott that he wolde, and so att that tyme the said Abbott gave unto the said Master Lyte 8 aungell noblis."

Lord Stourton and others who were walking in the garden did not see the payment, because the Abbot "gote hym into a erber of bay in the said gayrdayng and ther recevyd his money, and very glad he was att that tyme that hit was payde in golde,

for the schorte tellyng, as also he wollyd nott by his wyll have hit sene att that tyme." John Lyte of course asked for the return of his bond, but as the Abbot said that it could not conveniently be found at the moment, and promised to return it on a specified day, he went away, satisfied by the surcease of the suit against him.

Before the date fixed for the delivery of the bond, the Abbot of Glastonbury had been attainted, and hanged on the Tor, and the king's agents had taken possession of Glastonbury Abbey and all its contents. Among the muniments were found several bonds of John Lyte, and he was put to considerable trouble to resist claims made on behalf of the Crown. John Wattes, however, and others, gave evidence as to his payment of the 30*l*, and he was able to produce 'tallies' proving the delivery of 30 quarters of wheat, at 10*d*. a bushel, to ensure which he had entered into bonds to the Abbot.<sup>129</sup>

Considering the fate which so soon overtook Richard Whiting, it is highly improbable that John Lyte set up the arms of that unfortunate Abbot in his new building at Lytescary. It appears, however, that he caused a good deal of heraldic glass to be made for it, which after some vicissitudes is now in the possession of his lineal representative. Most of the shields are those of different members of the Lyte family down to the middle of the sixteenth century, with the arms of their respective wives impaled. *Gules* is generally represented by ruby glass. Two of the shields—those of Horsey impaling Hussey, and Lyte impaling Horsey—are surrounded by rich borders of oak-leaves, and some others are also within circles. The remainder are in rectangular panels, measuring about 12 inches by 13, and containing below the names of the different families whose arms are represented. Inasmuch as several of the shields commemorate alliances which are not mentioned in the pedigree,

(129). Augmentation Office, Miscellaneous Books, vol. xxii. ff. 13—17. Common Roll, Easter, 31 Henry VIII. mm. 115—157; *De Banco* Roll, Hilary, 33 Henry VIII. mm. 469—479.

it appears that John Lyte must have known some facts about the history of his family which were not known to his grandson, the genealogist. (See Appendix I.) The recurrence of certain shields in duplicate and even in triplicate shows that the painted glass was distributed in different windows at Lytescary. Some was in the bay window of the parlour.<sup>130</sup> That which was in the 'chapple chamber' was, in or about 1631, removed into the chapel by Thomas Lyte, together with a very curious painting of which a copy is given in the pedigree. It represents a man and a woman, both almost naked, each kneeling upon a



scull, and looking towards the sun. Upon a scroll there is the legend:—*Domine accipe pauperes spiritu*, and around the whole picture there is the inscription:—

“*Orate pro bono statu Johannis Lyte et Edithæ uxoris ejus.*”

The picture has disappeared since the time of Charles I. and we have also to deplore the loss of

“Divers noble and gentle mens letters directed to John Lyte and Henry Lyte uppon divers occasions.”

“Princes and noblemens letters directed to John Lyte, esquire.”

“Item another roll of noble and gentlemens letters.”

“Divers noble men and gentlemens letters written to John Lyte and Henrye Lyte.”

(130). Ped. I.; Addl. MS. (British Museum) 33822, f. 263.

“Divers letters from my great uncles to their brother John Lyte.”

“Skollers letters from Oxford to their father John Lyte.”<sup>131</sup>

John Lyte was Escheator of the king in Somerset and Dorset for the second time in 1547,<sup>132</sup> and it was possibly in connexion with that office that he and his brother William entered into a bond for the payment of 240*l.* to the Earl of Southampton.<sup>133</sup> His grandson says of him :—

“At the commotion in the West, anno 3 Edward the 6, he was Captaine of the trained bandes (then called the White Coates) and joyned with Sir Hugh Paulet, Sir Thomas Speake and other gentlemen of the countrie in suppressing the Western Rebels, who came soe farr as Kingweston near Charlton, and were there overthrowne by the power of the countie, a great number of them slaine, and as many put to execution by the Knight Marshall.”<sup>134</sup>

Elsewhere, in a note of the boundaries of the manors of Lytescary and Tuckscary, then practically united, Thomas Lyte says:—

“At the upper end of 20 acres, at the verye corner next Charlton, even without the ditch, there stood an elme which was sett there by my grandfather, John Lyte, as a bound tree betwixt the sayd manors, which tree at the commotion tyme, anno 3 Edward 6, was able to beare a man, as my father hath often told me that on of his father’s men helpe[d] him upp to see the skirmishe in Kingweston Lease, which tree was blowne downe in my tyme by a tempest.”<sup>135</sup>

In 1553, John Lyte was one of the Justices of the Peace who were directed to make enquiry concerning the lands of the dissolved monasteries in the county of Somerset.<sup>136</sup> At

(131). C.P.B.

(132). Escheators’ Accounts.

(133). Close Roll, 1 Edw. VI. part 4.

(134). Ped. II.

(135). C.P.B.

(136). Patent Roll, 1 Mary, part 1.

different times in the course of his life, he was appointed overseer of the wills of Henry Strode, John Gilbert, and John Compton.<sup>137</sup> Although he himself eventually died intestate, there is an analysis by his grandson of :—

“A will made by John Lyte, esquire, written with his owne hand anno 38 Hen. 8, 1546, wherin amongst divers other legasyes he bequevethe to his sonne Henrye his best gowne, his best coate of blacke velvet, his best dublett, his best hose; his best capp, his sourd and dagger, and all his abilaments of warr, and likewise 6 oxen, 6 kyne, a salt of silver, 6 spoons of silver, an ale cupp and a wyne cupp of silver, 2 fether bedes perfourmd, 2 mattresses perfourmd with pyllowes, boulsters, blanketts, sheetes and coverletts, etc. with manye other things of ploughe harnessse, pewter and brasse, etc.; likewise he bequethed to his eldest sonne Henrye, challis with all the ornaments of his chapple.”<sup>138</sup>

Concerning the first wife of John Lyte, the pedigree states that

“The saide Edyth, haveinge lived with her husband a most godlie and vertuous lyfe by the space of 35 years, died in the Lord the 29 day of August 1556, anno 4 Queene Marie, and was buried in the North Ile at Charlton Makerell, founded by William Lyte, Sergeant at Lawe.”<sup>139</sup>

In or about the year 1558, John Lyte married a second wife, Joan relict of — Young of Trent. With her “he had 4 skore pound a yeere besydes other welthe,” and he appears to have established his residence at Sherborne.<sup>140</sup> According to some articles written in his own hand, and dated January 14, in the following year, he gave up a considerable part of the house and demesnes of Lytescary to his son Henry, who was to pay weekly to him at Sherborne two bushels of wheat and two of dredge malt.

(137). *Somersetshire Wills*, vol. i. pp. 45, 65; vol. v. p. 104.

(138). C. P. B.

(139). Ped. II.

(140). C. P. B.

"Item in the same note he deliverethe upp to his sonne Henry a silver salt, 9 slippe spoones of silver, a white boule, and 2 little garnishe cuppes of silver with their covers.

"Item the sayd Henry to have all the chapple stuffe in his custodie, that is to say vestments, aulter cloathes and challis with the cruettes. Divers of these thinges were delivered conditionallye that if Joane the wyfe of the said John dyed before him, or that Sherbourne were visited with the plauge, or that he could not have his healthe there, that then the saide John Lyte was to resume all into his handes againe."<sup>141</sup>

John Lyte appears to have improved his estate very considerably during the first twenty years of his administration. Although he sold his grandfather's property at Fulham, his father's property at Taunton and Stogursey, and the old inheritance of his family at Loders, he enlarged and beautified his house at Lytescary, and he acquired the fee simple of several adjoining farms of which he and his father had been tenants. In the 26th year of Henry VIII. he bought from William Hartgill of Culmington certain lands and tenements within the manors and fields of Lytescary and Tuckscary.<sup>142</sup> In 1540, he finally acquired from Richard Zouche, son and heir apparent to Lord Zouche, his lands and tenements called Lanchers and Clearkes, comprising 200 acres of land, 30 of meadow, 24 of pasture, and 4 of wood, in Charlton Makerel and Charlton Adam.<sup>143</sup> In the same year, moreover, he bought from Sir John St. Lo, the manor of Tuckscary with the appurtenances in the towns and fields of Tuckscary, Lytescary, Charlton Makerel and Charlton Adam, and 10 messuages, 4 tofts, 6 gardens, 140 acres of land, 40 of meadow, 400 of pasture, and 100 of moor, and 40s. yearly rent.<sup>144</sup> When, in the 34th year of Henry VIII., he bought certain lands at But-

(141). C. P. B.

(142). *Ibid.*

(143). *Ibid.*; Feet of Fines, Somerset, Easter, 32 Hen. VIII.

(144). *Ibid.*; Feet of Fines, Somerset, Trinity, 32 Hen. VIII.

leigh and Babcary, from John Fulbrooke, gentleman, he stipulated for the right to buy at seventeen years' purchase any other lands in Somersetshire which the vendor might at any subsequent time desire to sell.<sup>145</sup> Yet, after thus consolidating his property in the immediate neighbourhood of Lytescary, he proceeded gradually to sell much more land than he had bought. He not only re-sold property which he had himself acquired in Chilthorne Domer, East Coker, Hardington, Butleigh and Babcary, but also alienated a considerable part of the ancient possessions of his family. Brixton English—seemingly the most valuable of all—was sold to John Copleston in the sixth year of Edward VI. and the money received for it and for other estates was not applied to the purchase of land elsewhere.<sup>146</sup> There is a note by his grandson:—

“John Lyte, esquire, his chayne of golde was worthe 40 *li*, he had likewise a fayre bason and a yure and mucche other plate.”<sup>147</sup>

John Lyte died in London on July 28, 1566, and was buried two days later in the church of St. Botolph without Aldersgate.<sup>148</sup> Inasmuch as he had alienated all his lands in Devonshire and Dorsetshire, no inquisition was taken in either of those counties. The inquisition taken at Ilchester shows that at the time of his death he held the manors of Lytescary, Tuckscary, and Mudford, under Edward Knoyle, John Horsey, and the Earl of Derby, respectively, and lands and tenements therein and at Vale, Ilchester, Milton Puddimore, Yeovilton, and Chilton, the acreage of which is not given.<sup>149</sup> The will which he had made in 1546 was never proved, but, six years after his death, letters of administration were issued to his relict Joan, who had in the meanwhile married a third husband — Philippes.<sup>150</sup> His children, all born of his first

(145). C. P. B.

(146). *Ibid.*

(147). *Ibid.*

(148). *Ibid.* ; Ped. II.

(149). *Inquisitiones post mortem*, 11 Eliz. no. 132 ; 15 Eliz. no. 153.

(150). Administration at Somerset House.

wife, Edith Horsey, were :—

Bartholomew, died young.<sup>151</sup>

Henry, his successor.

Bartholomew, tenant for a time of certain lands in Tucksary.<sup>152</sup> In 1559, having “in lyvelode 10l.,” he was in

command of a hundred footmen under Humphrey Worth.<sup>153</sup>

He died of pleurisy in 1561, having had issue by Joan his wife, daughter of — Slake of Salisbury, two daughters,

Agnes married to Thomas Dade of Salisbury, and Magdalen, married in 1582 to Henry Mere of Sherborne.<sup>154</sup>

John. (See Appendix V.)

Peter, died young.

Edward, died without issue.

Mary, married Richard Hody of Nethway, co. Devon.<sup>155</sup>

Edith, married Francis Bourne of Writhlington, gentleman usher to Gilbert Bourne, Bishop of Bath and Wells.<sup>156</sup>

Grace, married firstly Henry Strode of Parnham, secondly Barnabas Leigh of Stoke under Hamdon and the Isle of Wight, thirdly John Bailey.<sup>157</sup>

Alice, married John St. Aubyn of Alfoxton, who had been her father's ward.<sup>158</sup>

Dorothy, married Anthony Ashley of Damerham, co. Wilts.<sup>159</sup> Certain lands in Sussex were settled upon her.<sup>160</sup>

The arms of Ashley impaling those of Lyte, with the inscription “*Insignia Lyte de Lytescary in comitatu Somerset*” are, or were, to be seen on a chimney-piece at the Priory, Dorchester.<sup>161</sup>

(151). Ped. II. ; Star Chamber Proceedings, Elizabeth, bundle H. 79, no. 39.

(152). C.P.B.

(153). Green's *Somerset and the Armada*, p. 8.

(154). Ped. II. ; Heralds' Visitation, Dorset.

(155). Ped. II. ; Heralds' Visitations, Somerset, Dorset.

(156). Ped. II. ; *Somersetshire Wills*, vol. i. p. 29 ; Heralds' Visitation, Somerset.

(157). Ped. II. ; *Somersetshire Wills*, vol. i. p. 65.

(158). Ped. II. ; Heralds' Visitation, Somerset.

(159). Ped. II. ; Heralds' Visitation, Dorset.

(160). C.P.B.

(161). Hutchins's *History of Dorset*, (ed. 1861) vol. ii. p. 365.

HENRY LYTE of Lytescary, eldest surviving son of John, was born about the year 1529, and educated at Oxford, but it is uncertain whether he took a degree. Antony Wood, writing in the next century, says that, after leaving the University, "he travelled into foreign countries," and became "a most excellent scholar in several sorts of learning."<sup>162</sup> His son records of him that he "was admitted of Clyffordes Inne."<sup>163</sup> He is chiefly to be remembered on account of his translation of the *Cruyde-boeck*, or *Herbal*, of Rembert Dodoens, of which the first edition was published at Antwerp in 1554, and the second in 1563. A translation from Low Dutch into French was issued by Charles de l'Escuse in 1557, and Henry Lyte's first work appears to have been to make numerous corrections in French in the margin of a copy which is now in the British Museum. He also collated it throughout with the *Herbal* of Dr. William Turner, Dean of Wells, and added various notes in Latin and in English, derived sometimes from other books, and sometimes from his own observations, as when he mentions that the white Solomon's Seal "growithe very plentifully at Haredge Wood by Ashewik in the fosse way beyonde Shepton Mallett in Somersett." Eventually he translated the whole work into his native language, and added on the title page of his copy of the French version above mentioned :—"Henry Lyte taught me to speake English." In order to get the use of the woodcuts which had appeared in both the Low Dutch and French versions, he caused his work to be printed at Antwerp.

The first edition has the following title :—

*"A newe Herball or Historie of Plantes . . . first set foorth in the Doutche or Almaigne tongue by that learned D. Rembert Dodoens, Physition to the Emperour, and now first translated out of French into English by Henry Lyte, esquier. At London by me Gerard Dewes, dwelling in Pawles Churchyarde at the signe of the Swanne, 1578."*

(162). *Athenæ Oxonienses*, (ed. 1813) vol. ii. p. 22.

(163). C.P.B.

The colophon is

“Imprinted at Antwerpe by me Henry Loe, booke-printer.”

This edition is a handsome folio volume of 779 pages mostly printed in black letter, and illustrated by 870 effective woodcuts, of which about 30 were original. On the back of the title-page is a large cut of the translator's arms, a chevron



between three swans, with richly mantled helmet and crest above, a swan with wings extended standing on a trumpet. The motto, containing an obvious pun on the surname of Lyte is :—*Lætitia et spe immortalitatis*. A punning Latin couplet thus describes the crest :—

“*Tortilis hic lituus, niveusque olor arguit in te,  
Leite, animum niveum, pectus et intrepidum.*”

Which may thus be rendered :—

This crooked clarion and this swan's white crest  
Show a pure mind and firm, intrepid breast.

At the bottom of the page is an English couplet :—

“Lyke as the swan doth chant his tunes in sign of joyful minde,  
So Lyte by learning shows himself to prince and country  
kind.”

In connexion with this title-page, there are the two following entries in Thomas Lyte's list of the manuscripts at Lytescary :—

“Chapple's devise upon the swan of Lytescarye and other matters concerning Lyte's Herball.”

“A writinge from Robert Cooke, esquire, then Claren-cieux King of Armes of the Southe, East and West parties of England from the river of Trent southward, wherby he dothe authorize Henrye Lyte of Lytes Carye, esquire, to take unto him and to his heires for ever as an addition to his antient coate of armes a swan volant silver uppon a trumpet gold, for his crest or cognisance, given under the seale of his office, the 24 of June, anno domini 1579, and in the 21 yeere of Queen Elizab.”<sup>164</sup>

It should be observed that the date of Cooke's licence is later than that at which Henry Lyte bore the crest therein assigned to him. The crest of a demi-swan *argent*, wings expanded *gules*, in front of a plume of three feathers, the middle one of the first, the other two of the second, which is given in a MS. at the Herald's College and elsewhere,<sup>165</sup> is not known to have been actually borne by any of the Lytes of Lytescary.

The second page of Lyte's *Herbal* begins with a long dedication of the translation to Queen Elizabeth, dated “from my poore house at Lytescarie within your Majesties countie of Somerset, the first day of Januarie, MDLXXVIII.” This is followed by an introduction addressed “To the friendly and indifferent reader.” After this, come commendatory poems in Latin by W. B., by Thomas Newton of Cheshire, and by John Harding, and in English by W. Clowes who says

(164). C.P.B.

(165). ‘2nd G. 13.’ f. 30 ; Burke's *General Armory*.

that "Lyte whose toyle hath not bene light . . . . deserves no light regarde of us, but thankes and thankes agayne." There is also a portrait of Dodoens, whose name was Latinised into Dodonæus. The translation was warmly approved by the original author, and we are expressly told that he

"did sende additions store,

For to augment Lyte's travell past before."

The translator seems to have added little to the text except some few allusions to gardens in England, but the book was much better than any on the subject that had yet appeared in this country, and it obtained a wide popularity. A new edition, printed in England, without any woodcuts, was issued in 1586, in 4to. or more strictly in square 8vo., and another in 1595, in the same size. A folio edition, also without woodcuts, was published in 1619. Editions said to have been published in 1589, 1600, and 1678, are probably apocryphal, or mere re-issues of older ones with fresh title-pages. There is, however, an epitome by W. Ram, bearing date 1606. Quotations from *Lyte's Herbal*, as the book came to be called, are to be found even in modern books on botany.

John Aubrey, writing in the later part of the seventeenth century, states that Henry Lyte "had a pretty good collection of plants for that age, some few whereof are yet alive." No traces of the botanical garden now remain at Lytescary,<sup>166</sup> but there is in the handwriting of Thomas Lyte, Henry Lyte's son and successor, a list of "divers sorts of frute growing at Lytescary, anno do[mini] 1618":—

"Apples, 3 skore severall sortes.

Peares and Wardens, 44 sorts.

Plummes, 15 divers kynds.

Grapes, 3 severall sortes.

Cherries, 1.

Wallnuts, 3.

Peaches, 1.

(166). Somerset Archæological Society's *Proceedings*, vol. ix. p. 28.

The Almond tree.  
 The Figge tree.  
 The Quines tree.  
 The Barbary tree.  
 The Cornishe berrie.  
 The Philbert trees.  
 The black Bulleis.  
 The Sloe."

Particulars are also given of more than ninety trees of "sundrie sorts of peafs growinge at Lytescarye," in the same year, a few of which may be here enumerated:—"the Antick Pear," "the round greene Pear," "the hundred pound Pear," "the Capon Pear," "the Suger Pear," "the Ruddick Pear," "the Russett Sweatter," "the Orrenge Peare," "the Warden tree," "Pear Pimpe," "the Chesil or Pear Nought," "the Bishopp's Censor," "the Weeten Peare," "the great Kentishe Pear," "the Norwich Pear," "the Winsor Pear," "Pear Bell," "Pear Laurence," "Pear Marwood," "the Red Genett," "the Catherin Pear," "the Bartholomew Pear," "the Cary Bridge Pear," "the Somerton Pear, an excellent pear, ripe before Kingsdon's feast," and "a young tree that bears about our feast Sunday."<sup>167</sup>

Some years after the publication of the first English edition of the *Herbal*, Henry Lyte wrote a small book entitled:—

*"The Light of Britayne, a Recorde of the honorable Originall and Antiquitie of Britaine. At London. Printed Anno Domini, 1858."*

It consists of only 26 small octavo pages, one of which is occupied by a portrait of Queen Elizabeth, and another by a cut of the writer's crest, with two mottoes:—"Letus Cariæ Cygnus," and "*Arma virumque cano.*" The object of the book is to show, by comparison of proper names, that the

(167). These notes on fruit-trees are at the end of the annotated copy of the French version of Dodoens's *Herbal* in the British Museum, which belonged successively to Henry Lyte and Thomas Lyte.

British were descended from the Trojans, and it ends with "A Catalogue or Register of auncient Princes, noble men and gentlemen of Britayne" whose names resembled those of places in Asia Minor and Greece. The beginning of the dedication is a fair sample of the composition:—

"To the most high and mightie Princesse, Elizabeth by the Grace of God, Queene of England, Fraunce and Ireland, defendresse of the true, auncient Catholique, and Apostolique-faith, &c.

Most dread soveraigne Ladie Elizabeth, by the grace of God: The Phoenix of the worlde: The Angell of Englande: The bright Britona of Britayne: even Britomartis President of Britaine: The chaste Diana of Calydonia Sylva Britannia, *terror sylvestribus apris*: The most noble Lyonesse Atalanta: that keepeth Calydonia Sylva Britannia from Romish wolves and foxes: And from the Antichristian wilde Boare figured by the wilde Boare of Calydon that was chased: hunted: and firste wounded by the chaste Maiden Atalanta, a figure (as I take it) of your majestie that hath wounded the wilde Boare, that raunged over all Calydonia Sylva Britannia, and spoiled the principall branches of the fruitfull vines of Calydonia Sylva: and the fruitfull trees of Ætolia, even at Parthaon the principall towne of Ætolia now called Atholl, in Britannia secunda."

Henry Lyte presented *The Light of Britayne* to Queen Elizabeth on the day on which she went in state to St. Paul's to return thanks for the defeat of the Spanish Armada.<sup>168</sup> One copy at least of the original edition must have been in existence in 1814, when Richard and Arthur Taylor printed a facsimile of this literary curiosity, the impression consisting of one hundred and seven copies on small paper, twenty-six

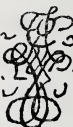
(168). Nichols's *Progresses of Queen Elizabeth*, vol. ii. p. 539; *Notes and Queries*, 1st Series, vol. vii. p. 569. See also the Preface to *The Light of Britayne*.

on large paper, and two on vellum.<sup>169</sup>

In 1592, Henry Lyte wrote two small treatises very much in the style of *The Light of Britayne*. They are styled respectively:—

*“Records of the true origin of the noble Britons that sprang of the remains of the Trojans taken out of oblivious treasure.”*

*“The mystical oxon of Oxenford, alias a true and most ancient record of the original of Oxford and all Britain, or rather thus certain brief conjectural notes touching the original of the University of Oxford and also of all Britain called Albania and Caledonia Silva.”*

*H me Henricu Lyte*  1566.

The originals, very beautifully written, with some words in red ink and others scored with it, were at one time in the library of Miles Windore, Fellow of Corpus Christi College, a zealous assertor of the antiquity of Oxford. After his death, they passed to Bryan Twyne, a better-known antiquary of the same school, and they were bound up in the second volume of his manuscript collections, which, on his death in 1644, were placed in the Archives of the University, where they still remain.<sup>170</sup> Antony Wood, who perused them in the seventeenth century, takes a charitable view when he observes that they contain “many pretty fancies which may be of some use, as occasion may serve, by way of reply for Oxon against the

(169). One of these two copies on vellum is in the British Museum: the other, formerly in the library of J. W. K. Eyton, is now in my possession. There is a minute typographical difference between them and the copies printed on paper in that the words *μάλιστα τὰς μεμβράνας* from St. Paul, applied to the copies printed on vellum are not given in those two copies.

(170). Lowndes describes these two MSS. as being in the University Library, and Mr. Carew Hazlitt goes further into error by describing them as being at University College, Oxford.

far-fetched antiquities of Cambridge.”<sup>171</sup>

Henry Lyte was apparently so imbued with the fabulous tales of Geoffrey of Monmouth and so proud of his own etymological discoveries that he furthermore compiled

“*A table wherby it is supposed that Lyte of Lytescary sprange of the race and stocke of Leitus (one of the five capitaynes of Beotia that went to Troye) and that his ancestors came to Englande first with Brute.*”

Two specimens of the arguments used will suffice :—

“A greate parte of Lyte’s possessions laye about thos places of Englande where Brute most frequented, as by Totnesse, London, Bruton and Castelcarye in the countie of Somersett, wheras Lytescarye also standith, which hathe ever ben the auntient seate and chieffest mantion of the Lytes, and so remayneth untill this daye.”

“The swann is thoughte to be the first token or signe of honor that was borne in armes, and may tharefor be called the very mother, grounde, or originall foundation of armes, for of *Cyyno* came *Signum*, also *ensignes* or *insignia* hereon, which are the armes and cognisances of noble men and gentilmen, also the auntientes standards and streamers that ar used in warres came from this originall. And from the necke and byll of this noble and heroicall birde came the first invention of trompettes, and other of that sorte of musicall instruments, called in Latyn, *Litui*, whose spetiall use was first for warres.”

The writer believed, or affected to believe, that *Leitus* was identical with *Cygnus* who was vanquished and converted into a swan by Neptune. This ‘table,’ written by Henry Lyte, and now preserved in the British Museum,<sup>172</sup> seems to have been the basis of a poem of eleven stanzas entitled :—

“*A discription of the Swannes of Carie that came first under mightie Brute’s protection from Caria in Asia to Carie in Britain.*”

(171). *Athenæ Oxonienses*.

(172). Harleian Rolls, H. 26.

The ninth and tenth stanzas run thus :—

“At Totnes Brutus landed first and thence to Brutport  
came,

From thence unto a pleasant place that Bruton hathe to  
name,

Which for the worthiness of soyle and for his better staie,  
He called by his proper name, as it remaines this daie.

And nere about hym did he place some captains of his  
bands,

As doth appeare by names thei gave to sheires, to townes  
and lands.

Next hym was one of Leitus’ blood that had a charge  
assignde

Of Caria men, most apte to serve as Brutus’ will inclynde.  
Where, by resemblance of his name, and countreie  
whence he came,

Unto his dwelling-place he did a title aptly frame,  
And termed it Leitscarie howse, whose coate of armes  
doth weare

Three sylver swannes, as from the shield which Leit at  
Troy did beare,

In felde of Guells resembling blod, and myxt with  
flamyng fyre,

A figure of such wonted force as conquests do require.

Whose creast adjoynd therto agrees : the Swann on  
Lituus stands

Resounding howe from Leitus’ lyne, Lyte doth possesse  
the lands.”

At the bottom is a table of

“Countries and citties in Asia Minor and Phrigia compared  
with countries and townes in England to prove that the new  
Trojans and valiant Brittaines sprang from the noble  
Greekes and Latynes, the remnant of the Trojans,” &c.

“Asia                    Brittain

Caria                    Carie, by Bruton or Brutes towne

Doris	Dorishiere and Dorischester and Brute- porte Mere
Samosata	Somerset
Milcetum	Milton
Glazomena	Glazonburie
Caunus	Caunus in Willshire
Licia Caria	Lytescarie and Lescar in Cornwall
Ilion	Ilion Chester
Tenedos	Tenett
Troy	Troja nova, now called London."

How a man capable of such scholarlike work as the translation of Dodoens's *Herbal* could occupy himself with fancies of this sort, is a psychological problem. The roll of vellum containing the lines quoted above has this one merit that it is a most beautiful specimen of calligraphy. In the two upper corners are small representations of the shield and crest of Henry Lyte, with the two mottoes which he assumed in commemoration of his supposed descent from Leitus the Bæotian. Near the bottom is a large illumination of the arms of Hatton impaling those of Lyte, but without any indication of christian names. On the whole it seems probable that the roll was written in anticipation of a marriage between some near relation of Sir Christopher Hatton and a lady of the Lyte family. No such marriage took place, and the little roll eventually descended to the late Mr. D. Monypenny, by whom it was transferred to the lineal representative of Henry Lyte—the writer of this paper.<sup>173</sup>

Henry Lyte was not able to devote himself entirely to botanical and antiquarian studies. From 1559 to 1592 he had to manage the property in Somersetshire, and during the earlier part of that period he was much troubled by his stepmother who had apparently sown discord between him and his father. Among the papers formerly at Lytescary there were

(173). Shortly before this transfer, the whole text of the roll was printed in *Notes and Queries*, 6th Series, vol. viii. pp. 109, 110.

"John Marrwood's letters to Henry Lyte concerning the trouble he had to withstand his mother-in-law Johan Phelpes for her dower in Lytes Carye."

"The pleadinges of the dower claymed by Joane Lyte widdoe after the death of her husband John Lyte, anno 1576.<sup>174</sup>

John Lyte of Lytescary had settled the manor of Woodcourt, or Mudford Terry, upon his second wife Joan, for her life, with remainder to his second son John, who had married a relation of his step-mother. After her husband's death, however, the widow Joan refused to take Woodcourt as her jointure, and brought a writ of dower at common law for a third of all his manors and lands.<sup>175</sup>

Other papers show that Henry Lyte was at one time Sheriff, or, more probably, Under-sheriff of Somerset :—

"Anno 2 Eliz. Rowland Cowik's acquittances for iiij skore xvli. xvjs. viij*d.* received of Henry Lyte in his shirevweeke, and then fledd unto Ireland, who was principall clearke to on Mr. Godfrey sometyme officer of the first frutes : this money my father was inforced to pay againe."

"Acquittances upon divers receits taken by Henry Lyte in the tyme of his Sherveweek."

"Receites taken by Henry Lyte esquire in his Shrevwike anno Phil. and Mary."

"Henry Lyte his *quietus est* for his Shrevewicke, as also for Cowick's money who fled into Ireland and gave him leave to pay yt twice."

"Accquittances from Mr. Alesworthe of moneyes payd by my father in the tyme of his Sherivewicke."<sup>176</sup>

Thomas Lyte mentions also

"Divers letters sent to Henry Lyte esquire from divers

(174). C.P.B.

(175). Chancery Proceedings, Series II. bundle 114, no. 101 ; bundle 115, no. 83.

(176). C.P.B.

of his frendes, beinge then in troble and in great daunger for surtyshipp and other matters.”

“Divers letters framed by Henrye Lyte esquire sueing to be releevd of Queen Elizabeth and others in his great miserye.”

“My father’s letters written in great anguishe of mynd.”<sup>177</sup>

In 1583, Henry Lyte and Frances his wife conveyed the house of Lytescary with the demesnes to feoffees to the use of Robert Mere for five years, reserving only a right to certain wheat, oats, barley, beans, hay and cattle.<sup>178</sup> They themselves seem to have gone to live in London for the time, as their daughter Hester was married there in 1586.<sup>179</sup> Among the documents formerly at Lytescary there were some described as follows:—

“A record of the villanye and knaverye wrought by Henrye Meere against Henrye Lyte recorded by the sayd Henrye Lyte under his owne hande.”

“The tyrannicall dealinges of Henrye Meer against his uncle Henrye Lyte esquire.”

“Meer’s, Bellamy’s and Creede’s knaveryes discribed by Henry Lyte, esquire, under his owne hand.”

“Mr. Bellamy’s unthriftye courses and willfull fooleryes recorded by Mr. Henrye Lyte under his owne hand.”

“The controversyes betwixt Henrye Lyte esquire and John Creed, and his proceedings in the chancerye about that busynes.”

“The processe in Chancerye betwixt Henrye Lyte esquire and John Creed about certeyne moneye pretended to be due unto him from the sayd Henrye Lyte.”

“Controversyes betwixt Henrye Lyte esquire and Udall for moneyes lent unto the sayd Henrye Lyte.”

(177). C.P.B.

(178). *Ibid.*‡

(179). *Marriage Licences* (ed. Foster), p. 113.

“Controversyes betwixt Henrye Lyte esquire and Antonye Ashelye, and also betwixt him and Watts, all ended.”<sup>180</sup>

In 1583, Henry Lyte sent one light-horseman, named Thomas Hawkens, to the muster, ‘sufficiently furnished,’ but “for want of sufficient habilitie” he was excused from providing a second. Three years later, he was charged to find one only.<sup>181</sup>

There is a note by Thomas Lyte of several pieces of silver bought in 1578, under which date there is a memorandum:—

“To buy plate. White plate is worth 5*s.* 7*d.* the oz.

Gilt plate is worthe 7*s.* the ounce.

Parcell gilt is worthe 6*s.* 8*d.* the ounce.”<sup>182</sup>

On, or soon after, the marriage of his son Thomas, and his own marriage to a third wife, Henry Lyte appears to have handed over the management of the property to him, following in this respect the example set by several of his ancestors.<sup>183</sup>

Henry Lyte married successively three wives. In September 1546, he married Agnes daughter and heiress of John Kelloway of Collumpton, co. Devon, and half-sister of the founder of Wadham College, Oxford.<sup>184</sup> By her he had issue:—

Edith, buried at Kingsdon in 1549.<sup>185</sup>

Jane, married firstly to John Smyth of Shouldham, co. Norfolk, attorney of the King’s Bench, and secondly to

Richard Ferrars, counsellor at law.<sup>186</sup>

Mary, died at Lytescary in 1573.<sup>187</sup>

Florence, married to Robert Mere of Lydford.<sup>188</sup>

Edith, died young.<sup>189</sup>

(180). C.P.B.

(181). Green’s *Somerset and the Armada*, pp. 44, 72.

(182). C.P.B.

(183). *Ibid.*

(184). *Ibid.* ; Ped. II.

(185). Ped. II. ; Kingsdon Register.

(186). Ped. II. ; Harl. MS. 1552, f. 69*d.*

(187). Ped. II.

(188). *Ibid.*

(189). *Ibid.*

The following entries occur in the Common-Place Book of Thomas Lyte :—

“An inventorye taken at Lytescary of all the goodes there uppon the death of Agnis Lyte, anno 1564, 12 of September.”

“There went a most vile report of the sicknes and death of the first wyfe of Henry Lyte, and likewise of himselfe, by the report of his owne father.”

“Unkynd letters and worse dealinges betwixt John Lyte esquire and his son and heire, inscribed with a C.”

“John Lyte esquire urgethe his sonne Henrye that in his second mariage he had married an other man’s wyfe and therefore would disinheritt his issue.”

It is not improbable that John Lyte’s second wife had something to do with these differences between him and his son, and it is certain that after his marriage to her he consumed a considerable part of his patrimony.

Henry Lyte married secondly, 18 July 1565, Frances, daughter of John Tiptoft, citizen of London.<sup>190</sup> By her he had issue :—

John, born in 1566, buried at Charlton Makerel in 1577.<sup>191</sup>  
Thomas, his successor.

Henry, born 17 December, 1573.<sup>192</sup> Under the will of his grandmother, Margaret Marwood, he received some land at East Sealake, co. Devon, which he sold in 1599.<sup>193</sup> A small book entitled, “*The art of Tens and Decimal Arithmetike, as taught in a more exact and perfect method, avoyding the intricacies of fractions, exercised by Henry Lyte, gentleman, and by him set forth for his countrie’s good,*” was published in London, in 1619, with a dedication to Charles, Prince of Wales. In this, the author

(190). C.P.B.

(191). Ped. II. ; Charlton Register.

(192). Ped. II.

(193). Wills at Somerset House, Tyrwhitt, f. 9 ; Patent Roll, 36 Elizabeth, part 2 ; 41 Elizabeth, part 8.

declares his intention of teaching his system in various towns of England. Although a pioneer of the art in his native country, he appears to have borrowed freely from a French work entitled *La Disme*, published in 1590.

By Sibilla, his wife, daughter of John Markey of Walford, co. Hereford, Henry Lyte the younger had issue five children who died young, Henry, Frances, Frances, Eleanor, and Mary, two more, Alice and Anne, of whom no particulars are given, and yet two more, Alice, the wife of John Hardy of Ireland, and Lucy the wife of Samuel Hyet of Ross.<sup>194</sup> Sibilla his relict, described as 'of Alton in the parish of Ross,' co. Hereford, died in 1637.<sup>195</sup>

Hester, born in 1569, married in 1586 to William Bellamy of Hadley, co. Middlesex, when she was described as of the parish of St. Sepulchre, London.<sup>196</sup>

Magdalen, born in 1571, died in 1572.<sup>197</sup>

Frances Lyte, the wife of Henry, was, in October 1581, appointed executrix of the will of her mother, Margaret Marwood of Halberton, co. Devon, under which she received many legacies, such as a chain and bracelet of pearls and gold, a silk dress adorned with embroidery, various gowns of damask and taffeta adorned with velvet, kirtles of velvet and satin, an embroidered petticoat, gorgets, bands, smocks and the like, "a wallnut bedsted in the great chamber at Lytescary, with all the furniture about it," a pair of andirons in the said chamber, a little chair wrought with flowers, "a faire greene chaire in the gallerye chamber, with one other chaire in the hall," and "one turkye carpett for a square table."<sup>198</sup>

Frances Lyte, the wife of Henry, was buried at Charlton

(194). Heralds' Visitation; Ped. II.

(195). Wills at Somerset House, Lee, f. 23.

(196). Ped. II.; Heralds' Visitation, Somerset; *Marriage Licences* (ed. Foster), p. 113.

(197). Ped. II.

(198). Wills at Somerset House, Tyrwhitt, f. 9.

Makerel in 1589.<sup>199</sup> Thomas Lyte her son, mentions

“An inventorye of Mrs. Marwoode’s goodes first sent to Carye, which inventorye was found in my mother’s closett at her deathe in anno 1589.

“Item an other inventorye found in my mother’s closett anno 1589 of Marwoode’s goodes.

“Item an other inventorye taken at Lytes Carye after the deathe of Francis Lyte anno 1589, and likewise of her sumptuous apparell, jewells, and plate, which she left behynd her.”

Henry Lyte married as his third wife, at Charlton Makerel in 1591, Dorothy daughter of John Gover of Somerton.<sup>200</sup> By her he had issue:—

Henry, baptised and buried at Charlton Makerel in 1593.<sup>201</sup>

Ralph, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1596, described as

“a valiant souldier under the command of Sir C. Morgan in Flanders.”<sup>202</sup>

Gertrude, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1591, married to Robert Henborough.<sup>203</sup>

Henry Lyte died 15 October 1607, ‘at the age of 78,’ and was buried at Charlton Makerel.<sup>204</sup> Trobridge of Taunton supplied the ‘blacks’ for the funeral.<sup>205</sup> The inquisition taken after his death shows that his landed estate in Somersetshire was somewhat smaller than that of which his father died possessed.<sup>206</sup>

THOMAS LYTE of Lytescary, son and successor of Henry, was born in or about the year 1568, and sent to school at

(199). Charlton Register.

(200). Ped. II. ; Charlton Register.

(201). Ped. II. ; Charlton Register.

(202). Ped. II.

(203). Ped. II. ; Charlton Register.

(204). C.P.B. ; Ped. II. Charlton Register.

(205). C.P.B.

(206). *Inquisitiones post mortem.*

Sherborne in 1578.<sup>207</sup> According to Antony Wood, he “did spend several years in academicals” at Oxford, but he does not appear to have taken a degree. He became a member of Clifford’s Inn, and removed thence to the Middle Temple.<sup>208</sup> A contemporary writer describes him as “a true immitator and heyre to his father’s vertues,” and says that he

“presented to the Majestie of King James an excellent mappe, or genealogicall table, contayning the bredth and circumference of twenty large sheets of paper—which he entitleth *Brittaine’s Monarchy*, approving Brute’s History and the whole succession of this our nation from the very original, with the just observation of al times, changes and occasions therein happening. This worthy worke having cost above seaven yeares labour, beside great charges and expense, his highnesse hath made very gracious acceptance of, and to witnesse the same, in Court it hangeth in an especiall place of eminence. Pitty it is that this phoenix—as yet—affordeth not a fellowe, or that from privacie it might not bee made more generall; but, as his Majestie hath granted him priviledge, so that the world might be woorthie to enjoy it, whereto, if friendship may prevaile, as he hath been already, so shall he be still as earnestly sollicitated.”<sup>209</sup>

Antony Wood says that Thomas Lyte

“did draw up, with very great curiosity, the genealogy of James I. from Brute, written by him on vellom with his own hand fairer than any print: it was also illuminated with admirable flourishes and painting, and had the pictures of the kings and queens mentioned therein most neatly performed by the hands of an exact limner. This genealogy the author did dedicate to his Majesty, who, after a long and serious perusal of it, gave the said author his picture in gold, set with diamonds, with gracious thanks. Charles, Prince of Wales—

(207). C.P.B.

(208). *Athenæ Oxonienses*, (ed. 1813) vol. ii. p. 649; C.P.B.

(209). *Notes and Queries*, 1st Series, vol. vii. p. 570.

afterwards King Charles—was so exceedingly taken with it, that he gave the author his picture in gold also. Cambden before-mentioned had the perusal of it and underneath wrote with own hand about six verses in commendation of it and the author : about which time, it being hanged up in public in one of the rooms at Whitehall, became by the carelessness of pages and idle people, a little soiled ; wherefore, upon the author's desire made to his Majesty, it was engraved on copper and printed, with this title :—"The most royally ennobled Genealogy of the high and mighty Prince and renowned Monarch, James, by the grace of God, King of Great Britain, etc., extracted from Brute, the most noble founder of the Britains, as also from the first original of the Scots, from whom ascending to the Imperial Romans, the warlike Picts, the Saxons, Danes, and conquering Normans, with his lineal descent from Charlemagne, and other the modern Kings of France, their several regimens, titles, honours, matches, surnames and descents, when they began their reign, how long each Prince ruled and governed the estate royal, the manner of their death and place of burial. Whereunto is added their regal ensigns, arms, achievements of honour, emblems, and memorable epitaphs, etc. reduced into a genealogical table, etc." Printed at London, "in forma patenti."<sup>210</sup>

The foregoing accounts of this work are confirmed by some entries in Thomas Lyte's own list of the manuscripts at Lytescary :—

"Crinkyn's covenants for drawing and lymninge the Kinge's petegree."

"The first draught of divers tables fixed in the kinge's petegree."

"The booke of directions to understand the course of the kinge's petegree, written by R. Smythe, and 2 other books abridged out of the same by Thomas Lyte."

“Camden’s verses and other of my good frendes written in commendation of the sayd petegree.”<sup>211</sup>

Fuller information on the subject is to be found in a small quarto volume of 23 leaves of paper, which is doubtless either “the booke of directions” by R. Smythe, or one of the two “books abridged” out of the pedigree of James I. mentioned above.<sup>212</sup> The second leaf has the draft of a title-page to “*Britaines Monarchie*,” described beforehand as “dedicated to his most excellent Majestie and published with his royall assent and priveledge, 1605.” At the back is a portrait of James I. very neatly executed in pen and ink, with some English verses beneath in his honour, and a short dedication to his “eternall memorie.” It is satisfactory to find that Thomas Lyte was no sincere believer in the legends recounted by Geoffrey of Monmouth and subsequent chroniclers. Writing apparently during the life-time of his father, the author of *The Light of Britayne*, he begins by admitting that it is a “disputable” question “whether the Brittish genealogies and the Historie of Brute be soe warrantable as the same may passe for an undoubted trueth,” and, after stating his concurrence “with our learnedst antiquaries that before the enterance of the Romans our Brittish Historie avoideth not the suspition of some fabulous errors,” he advises “those that are lesse affected to the history of Brute that they will descend lower to those clearer streames issuing from our later Britishe Kings and Princes of Wales.” The idea of immediate publication seems to have been abandoned in 1605, and the fourth leaf of the little volume gives as ‘the title’ of the work, in its final form, “*The most royally ennobled Genealogie*,” &c.

(211). C.P.B.

(212). I lately bought this from Cornish of Manchester. R. Smythe was probably Thomas Lyte’s nephew, a counsellor at law of that name, who married Barbara daughter of Sir Paul Tracy, bart. The little volume may have been handed down to his descendants, for it contains an eighteenth century book-plate of Henry Smith, whose arms are the same as those of the John Smyth who married Jane Lyte.

This is followed by a historical epitome which may have served as an introduction to the genealogical tables. At the beginning there is a note, in the same handwriting as the rest, that

“The King’s Genealogie being fairlye written in parchment, and set fourth in ritch coulers in a verie large Table, was presented to King James at his royall Pallace of Whitehall the 12 of Julye anno regni 9<sup>o</sup>, 1610, in the presence of Henry, Prince of Wales; Richard Bankcroft, Archbishop of Canterbury; Robert Cecill, Earle of Salisbury, Lord Treasurer; Henry Howard, Earle of Northampton, Lord Privie Seal; Charles Howard, Earle of Nottingham, Lord Admirall; Thomas Howard, Earle of Arundle; Henrie Wriothsley, Earle of Southampton; Philipp Herbert, Earle of Montgomery.”

It is to this pedigree, compiled by Thomas Lyte and embellished by Crinkyn, that Camden’s verses refer :—

*“Artificemne manum mirer, celebremve labores,  
Lite, tuos? hi namque docent, delectat ut illa,  
Dum calamo docto quoscunque Britannia reges  
Vidit, depingis graphice, describis et apte  
Regum progeniem, res gestas, symbola et annos,  
Hac una tabula dum mille volumina versas.*

*GVIL. CAMDENVS CLARENCEV.”*

It is matter for regret that the King’s pedigree, so elaborately adorned, has disappeared. No trace either of the original manuscript or of the prints taken from it can be found in the British Museum or elsewhere. The portrait, however, which James I. gave to the author has survived the changes and chances of nearly three centuries. It is an oval miniature by the celebrated Nicholas Hilliard, surrounded by an open border of diamonds, and protected by a grille of gold which shows the monogram J.R. in diamonds. The back of the grille, which is hinged on one side, is richly enamelled in red and blue, and the back of the case is enamelled in red and white. This beautiful work of art cannot positively be identi-

fied with any one of the precious 'picture cases' of the kind which were made for James I. A contemporary portrait of Thomas Lyte, dated 14 April, 1611, shows him wearing it, apparently suspended from a brown riband going round his neck beneath the collar. After his death, it doubtless passed to his son and his grandson, successive owners of Lytescary, but in 1747 it was in the possession of Thomas Lyte, of New Inn, a younger son of the last of these. He thus mentions it in his will executed in that year:—

"I also give unto my said daughter, Silvestra Blackwell, during her life, the possession and use of my great grandfather's picture, and of the jewell which is set round with diamonds, and hath also some other diamonds on the top thereof, and in the inside hath the picture of King James the First—the same being given by him to my said great grandfather—and of which jewell there is also a picture under my said great grandfather's picture. And my will and desire is that the said jewell and my great grandfather's picture may after my said daughter's death go and remain for the use of her daughters successively and their respective issue, the elder and her issue first to enjoy the same: and if both my said grandchildren shall die without issue, I then give the said jewell and picture unto my nephew John Lyte, only son of my nephew Thomas Lyte of Lytescary in the said county of Somerset and his heirs for ever.<sup>213</sup>

Under this will, the portrait of Thomas Lyte, the genealogist, and the miniature of James I., which might fairly have been made an heirloom, passed out of the possession of the Lyte family. From Silvestra Blackwell they went to her daughter, Silvestra, who married James Monypenny of Maytham Hall, co. Kent, and so to their descendant Thomas Gybbon Monypenny, who died in 1854. The portrait of Thomas Lyte still belongs to his daughter, Miss Monypenny,

but the miniature was sold to a stranger. Through a London dealer, it passed into the hands of the late Duke of Hamilton, and at the sale of the famous Hamilton collection it fetched the extraordinary price of 2,835*l*.<sup>214</sup> It is now in the possession of Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild.

As to the "picture in gold" said by Wood to have been given to Thomas Lyte by Charles, Prince of Wales, nothing further is known. If the genealogist indeed received a second royal miniature, the donor was more probably Henry, Prince of Wales, who, as has been seen, was at Whitehall in July 1610, when his younger brother, Charles, was under ten years of age.

It was not likely that a man of ancient family like Thomas Lyte, "inclined," as Antony Wood says, "to genealogies and histories," would neglect to preserve some account of his own ancestors and relations, and there are still extant two very remarkable pedigrees compiled by him. The first of them is thus described in his list of the manuscripts at Lytescary:—

*"A collection of myne ancestors from the 14th of King Edward the first even to our tyme, with their wives and severall issues, taken out of divers ancient deedes remaynyng in my custodye at Lytescarye."*

It is a roll of vellum 2ft. 7in. wide and at present 6ft. 4½in. long; the top sheet is unfortunately lost. It begins, at the bottom, with a copy of the inscription in memory of William le Lit and Agnes his wife, and of their figures, as formerly portrayed in the glass of the main window of the north transept at Charlton Makerel church. From the shield between them springs the tree on which are given, in circles, the names of different members of the Lyte family down to the time of Elizabeth. The shields which hang from some of the branches remain quite blank. On either side of the tree is a very remarkable series of copies of ancient deeds which were the main authority for the pedigree. So carefully were these transcribed

(214). *Catalogue of Hamilton Sale*, lot 1615.

*New Series*, Vol. XVIII., 1892, Part II.

that in some cases the artist has inserted words of which he evidently did not know the meaning. In dealing with the seals, however, he took the liberty of making the legends begin at the bottom instead of the top, and he appears, in some instances, to have supplied seals from other deeds or from his own imagination. In the upper part of the pedigree there are reduced copies of a picture of John Lyte and Edith his wife formerly in the 'chapple chamber' at Lytescary and of three monumental brasses, viz. those of Anthony Lyte and Anne his wife, at Greenwich, 1579, of Dame Joan Wadham at Ilton, 1557, and of Gertrude, Viscountess Bindon, at Bindon. The fact that the picture and the brasses, fixed in four different places in England, have alike disappeared since the time of James I. tends to illustrate the extent of the loss of works of this kind which the country has sustained.

The second of Thomas Lyte's pedigrees of his own family is a very much larger roll of vellum, being no less than 12ft. 2in. wide and 2ft. 3in. high. In the lower corner on the right there is a tablet bearing the following inscription:—

"This Genealogie was collected by Thomas Lyte of Lytes Carie Esq. Anno 1633 and in the 9 year of King Charles, not for any ostentation of birth or kinred, knowing as sayth Job that corruption is our mother and the wormes our sisters and brethren. Job, chap. 17. 13. But only that those that are soe lately discended of on parentage and from on famelye might not be strangers one to an other. For as it hath pleased God to advance somme of them to honour and worshippe, soe somme againe are humbled to a lowe and meane estate, yet not to be despised for that they are discended of the same bloud, and it may please God in a moment to raise them up againe, for as the Prophet David sayth Promotion commeth neither from the East nor from the West nor yet from the South. And why: God is the judge, he putteth downe one and setteth up an other. Psal.

75. 7, 8. Blessed are all they that feare the Lord and walke in his wayes. Thy wife shall be as the fruitfull vine upon the walles of thine house, thy children like the olive branches round about thy table. Loe thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord. Yea thou shalt see thy children's children and peace upon Israel. Psal. 12, 8."

While the object of the first pedigree was to show the descent of the compiler from William le Lyt, that of the second was to show the number of the descendants—of whatever surname—of John Lyte and Edith his wife, the grandparents of Thomas Lyte. The roll is divided vertically into eight compartments, one for each of the eight children of John and Edith Lyte who married and had issue. It is also divided horizontally into six compartments, each of which represents a generation. John and Edith Lyte occupy the lowest compartment; their eight children above mentioned occupy the next. The third compartment is occupied by "cousen germans" 80 in number, the fourth by "cousen germans once removed," or second cousins, 272 in number, the fifth by "cousen germans twise removed," or third cousins, 416 in number, and the sixth by "cousen germans thrise removed," or fourth cousins, 59 in number. The addition of these figures gives a total of 835 direct descendants of John and Edith Lyte, besides their respective husbands and wives. The inclusion of three children of John and Edith who had no issue brings the sum up to 838 in 112 years, viz. from 1521 to 1633.

In a few cases, Thomas Lyte, not satisfied with mere names and dates, gives some biographical notes, thus :—

Eleanor Lyte was "brent to death by great misfortune at the age of 8." Edward Bayley was "drowned in a well by great misfortune at the age of 4 years." Lewis Moore "died by great misfortune by the fall of a horse." Thomas Warre, judge of the Marshalsea, was "drowned at Holmes on Severn." Jane St. Aubyn was "not so fortunat as fayre." Jane Ashley "twise married, tasted both of prosperity and adversitie."

The pedigree is adorned with ten portraits beautifully executed in pen and ink, and interesting as examples of costume, the persons so represented being John Lyte and Edith his wife, Edith Bourne, Alice St. Aubyn, Mary Hody, Bartholomew Lyte, Henry Lyte of Lytescary holding a flower in one hand and a book—doubtless his *Herbal*—in the other, John Lyte, Grace Bayley, and Dorothy Ashley. The pillars dividing the vertical compartments are surmounted by the Lyte crest, but the shields which occur at different places are still blank. The



HENRY LYTE.

portraits and other ornaments on both the Lyte pedigrees may be attributed to the artist named Crinkyn who executed those on the genealogy of James I. Antony Wood, it has been seen, praises Thomas Lyte's own hand as "fairer than any print," but it is evident that he confounded his writing either with that of his limner, or with that of his father Henry, which better corresponds with that description.

Philemon Holland, in his additions to Camden's *Britannia*, which Antony Wood attributed to Camden himself, mentions Lytescary as a place "to be remembered in respect of the late owner Thomas Lyte, a gentleman studious of all good know-

edge," but, as the book was published in 1610, it is doubtful whether the person so described was "the late owner," Henry Lyte, or the actual owner Thomas Lyte.

So again it is uncertain whether Henry Lyte or Thomas Lyte was the subject of a curious, though somewhat irreverent, sonnet "to my beloved and praiseworthy friend Mr. Lyte of Lytescary," by John Davies of Hereford:—

"Lith art and nature did agree  
To make thee Lyte of Lyte.  
Thou art a type of Christ, for He  
Is very Light of Light.  
Thou light'st like Him with wit and grace,  
Whose fame, like His, fills time and space."<sup>215</sup>

Thomas Lyte was still a minor when, in 1581, his grandmother, Margaret Marwood, bequeathed to him three silver bowls and a dozen silver spoons<sup>216</sup> which may perhaps be identified with "a dosen of spoones knopped with mayden heades" mentioned in his Common Place Book. He continued on good terms his half-uncle John Marwood, but, in 1610, he had recourse to the Court of Chancery for protection against his cousin, John Marwood, who wanted to enforce payment of a bond which had been executed as security for a loan that had been repaid, and which consequently should have been cancelled.<sup>217</sup>

His first wife, Frances, died 4 April, 1615,<sup>218</sup> and he afterwards married a lady of considerable fortune, Constance daughter of Matthew Huntley of Boxwell, relict of Capt. Nicholas Baskerville and of Sir John Sidney.<sup>219</sup> In connexion with her property, he became involved in several Chancery suits, and he is described in one as 'Thomas Lyte of Boxwell,'

(215). *Wit's Bedlam*. No copy of this curious work is now known to exist. I give the quotation from an extract in the handwriting of my grandfather, the Rev. H. F. Lyte, who had a very wide acquaintance with English poetical literature of the seventeenth century.

(216). Wills at Somerset House, Tyrwhitt, f.9..

(217). Chancery Proceedings, L. 2. 65.

(218). Ped. II.

(219.) *Ibid* ; Heralds' Visitation, Gloucestershire.

and in another as ‘Thomas Lyte of Weston Birt,’ co. Gloucester.<sup>220</sup> Inasmuch as none of his children by her were baptised at Charlton Makerel, it is probable that he lived a good deal in Gloucestershire. He has, however, left his mark upon the house at Lytescary. The panelling of the parlour in the south wing may almost certainly be ascribed to him, and there are distinct traces of his handiwork in the chapel. It has been seen that the series of presentations to the perpetual chantry of Lytescary *alias* Tuckerscary recorded in the episcopal registers at Wells ceases in 1433. In 1546, John Lyte mentions the chalice and the ornaments of his chapel, and, in 1559, he mentions vestments, altar-cloths, chalice and cruets for wine and water. The following entry occurs in the Common-Place Book of Thomas Lyte:—

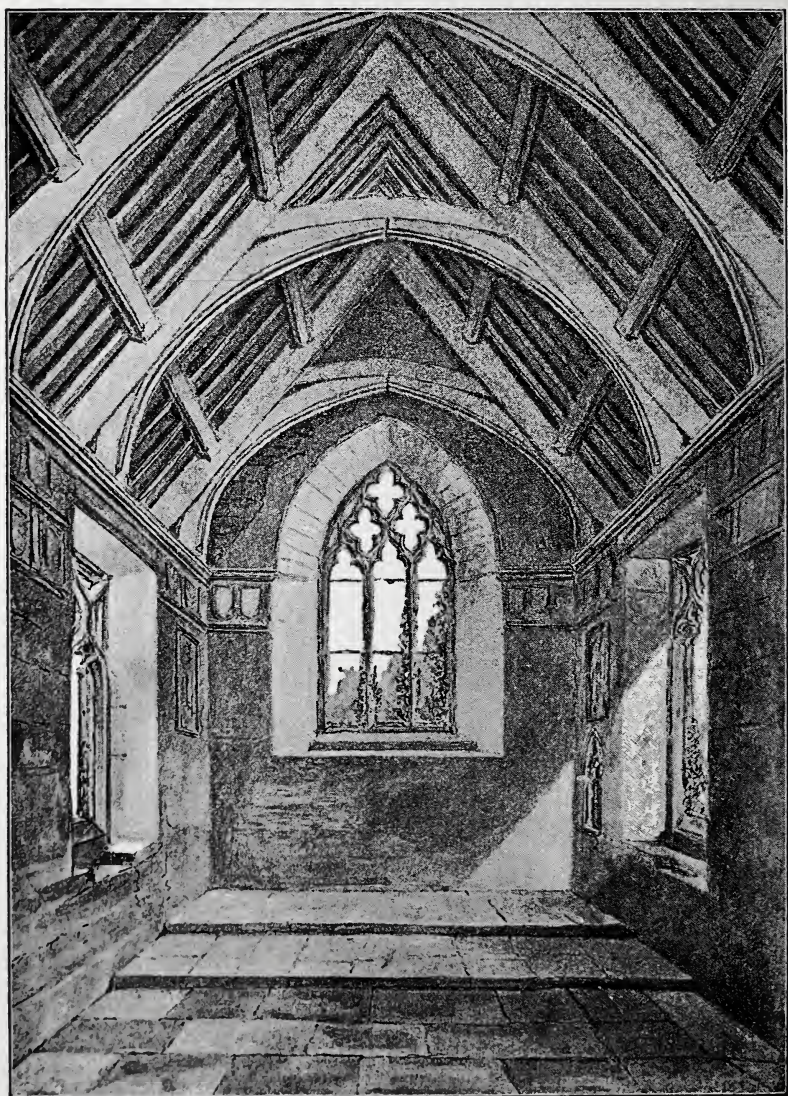
“Ten foote and halfe of glasse sett upp in the chapple windoe at Lytes Cary by Henry Lyte, esquire, anno domini 1567, whereby yt appeareth that the chapple at Lytescarye was standinge in his tyme and by him lett downe.”

The glass in question was probably painted with coats of arms, and there is still existing some old glass from Lytescary which is very inferior in execution to that which was made for John Lyte in the reign of Henry VIII. (*See Appendix I.*) However this may be, there is in the chapel, affixed to the south wall, a tablet bearing the following inscription:—

“This chappell beinge founded by William Lyte, sergent at lawe tempore Ed. I. was in the vii. yere of K. Charles newly repayred by Thomas Lyte esquire and Dame Constance Sydney his wyfe, an<sup>o</sup>. do. 1631.”

In the middle of the tablet is a shield of the arms of Lyte impaling those of Huntley, with two mantled helmets surmounted by the crests of the two families. Above are three smaller shields without helmets or crests:—‘Lyte and Tiptoft, 1565,’ ‘Lyte and Worth, 1592,’ and ‘Lyte and Baskerville, 1621.’ The repairs of 1631 seem to have included the closing of the

(220). Chancery Proceedings, L 2. 38; L 2. 39; L 18. 11.



INTERIOR OF THE CHAPEL,  
LYTESCARY.

opening into the 'chapel chamber' and of a small window in the southern part of the west wall, and the erection of some panelling and seats, of which Mr. E. Buckle has very ingeniously ascertained the plan. A curious picture of John and Edith Lyte, already noticed, and some squares of heraldic glass were also transferred from the 'chapel chamber' to the chapel. The picture has disappeared, and the glass is now at 3 Portman Square. A series of shields painted on the plaster immediately below the wall-plate has suffered so much during the present century that ere long they will scarcely be recognisable. Considering that the successive alliances of the Lyte family were sufficiently recorded in the painted glass provided by his grandfather, his father, and himself, Thomas Lyte selected for representation on the walls of the chapel the shields of some of his relations, with an obvious preference for those who were of 'honour and worshippe.' Dividing the available space by a line running east and west, he placed the arms of men on the north and those of women, painted on escutcheons of the same size and shape, on the south. In the eastern part, which was always regarded as the most honourable, are the arms of the persons of the highest social rank. (*See Appendix II.*) It is probable that Thomas Lyte had some personal acquaintance with most of those whose shields he thus caused to be painted in his domestic chapel. The most remarkable name among them is that of Sir Anthony Cooper, 'Knight and Baronet,' a minor, who afterwards, as Earl of Shaftesbury, became famous in politics.

On a tablet on the north wall Thomas Lyte caused to be incised a copy of the kneeling figures of William le Lyt and Agnes his wife and of the inscription in their memory, with a statement that it was

"Exemplified out of the originall as it is to be seene in the north yle of the parish church of Charleton Makerel, 1631."

The figures, the shield between them, and the inscription, are alike exactly the same size as those represented on the pedigree, thus suggesting the idea that they were of the same size as the original. The tablet has however some fleurs de lys in the background, which may be taken to represent quarries of ancient glass.

Thomas Lyte also caused to be executed in glass several shields which can easily be distinguished from those made for his grandfather and his father, inasmuch as the pieces are larger, and *gules* is represented by a tawny colour applied on the surface, whereas in the older series it is represented by glass stained to a ruby colour. Besides some small shields of the arms of Howard and Fane and some fragments, there are four shields of the regular series :—Lyte and Tiptoft, Lyte and Worth, Lyte and Baskerville, and the Lyte shield quartering Draycot, Blomvill (?), Ash and Drew. As three of these alliances were shown on the tablet on the south wall of the chapel, it is probable that this glass was fixed in the window of the parlour or some other room in the house.

Antony Wood says that Thomas Lyte left behind him various matters “fit to be printed, and the character of an ingenious and learned gentleman.” It is clear from his Common-Place Book that he himself reckoned his ‘library’ among his most valuable possessions, but no catalogue of it remains. The list of his muniments includes:—

“Physike notes good for the new sweat and other good old physike.”

“Excellent sweet powders for the composition of Dan-master and other aromaticall waters, pomendars, perfumes, and washing balls.”

“Books and notes of cookerye collected by Henry Lyte, esquire.”

“Markett matters recorded in a booke by Henry Lyte, esquire.”

“Platts for housekeepinge and matters of husbandrye.”

“Divers good instructions which I had found by to deer experience in husbandrye in our clay cuntrye to be trew and therfor to be well observed.”

“Prayers in tyme of sicknes collected by Thomas Lyte.”

“Collections taken out of the New Testament.”

“The monuements in the Kinge’s chapple at Westminster, collected by Thomas Lyte, in anno. 1611,” besides various political and heraldic MSS.

A great part of his Common-Place Book is occupied by notes about land and taxes. In 1611, he and his tenants contributed “towards the reliefe of those that were visited with the plauge in Dunster...at a tithinge rate.” On another occasion, he, “with the consent of the parish,” assessed a rate for the poor in Charlton Makerel, at 1*d.* for every acre of meadow,  $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* for every acre of arable land, and  $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* for every acre of pasture, worth a noble. To this he contributed 13*s.* for the demesne lands not occupied by tenants.

Thomas Lyte of Lytescary occurs as patron of the neighbouring rectory of Kingsdon in 1626.<sup>221</sup> In the third year of Charles I. he was one of the four collectors of the subsidy in the county of Somerset, and in 1628 he was appointed one of the commissioners to inspect King’s Sedgemoor.<sup>222</sup> He died 18 September 1638, and was buried on the following day in the north transept at Charlton Makerel, where there was, until the ‘restoration’ of the church, a stone in memory of “Thomas Lyte of Lytescarie Esq. in lineal descent of that surname and family the 14th.”<sup>223</sup> It is, however, worthy of remark that in the pedigree compiled by himself there are only eleven Lytes before him in the direct line. The inquisition taken after his death shows that he held approximately the same amount of land as his father held.<sup>224</sup>

(221). *Liber Institutionum* (P.R.O.) Series A. vol. 2, f. 68.

(222). Lay Subsidies (P.R.O.) ; Rymer’s *Fœdera*, (ed. 1726) vol. xviii. p. 1031.

(223). Collinson’s *History of Somerset*, vol. iii. p. 194.

(224). *Inquisitiones post mortem*.

Thomas Lyte married firstly, in February 1592, Frances daughter of Henry Worth of Worth, co. Devon,<sup>225</sup> and by her had issue :—

Henry, his successor.

Thomas, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1602.<sup>226</sup> He had property there and at Hurst in 1661 and 1663, and he was buried in 1672 under an altar tomb which still remains in the churchyard of Charlton Makerel.<sup>227</sup>

John, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1604, became an indigo merchant in London.<sup>228</sup>

William, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1606,<sup>229</sup> had land at Kingsdon in 1663,<sup>230</sup> and was buried at Charlton Makerel in 1677 under the name of ‘William Light, gentleman.’<sup>231</sup> He may possibly have been the ancestor of the Lights of Baglake, co. Dorset.

Edmund, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1609.<sup>232</sup>

Bridget, married to — Nicholls.<sup>233</sup>

Dorothy, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1594,<sup>234</sup> married to Walter Franke of Lynch in Timberscombe.<sup>235</sup>

Jane, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1598, and married there, in 1629, to Hugh Luttrell of Rodhuish.<sup>236</sup>

Frances, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1600.<sup>237</sup>

Mary, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1614.<sup>238</sup>

(225). Ped II. ; C.P.B ; Heralds' Visitation.

(226). Charlton Register.

(227). Lay Subsidies. (P.R.O.)

(228). Charlton Register ; Ped. II.

(229). Charlton Register.

(230). Lay Subsidies. (P.R.O.)

(231). Charlton Register.

(232). *Ibid.*

(233). Ped. II.

(234). Charlton Register.

(235). Ped. II.

(236). Charlton Register ; Ped. II.

(237). Charlton Register.

(238). *Ibid.*

By his second wife, Lady Sidney, Thomas Lyte of Lytescary had issue three children :—

George,<sup>239</sup> who married Anne second daughter of George Hodges of Wedmore. By his will, dated 9 June 1677, and proved 11 November 1685, he bequeathed to her “all the plate marked with the swan, during her life,” and gave instructions for his burial in the chancel of the church of Leighterton, co. Gloucester.<sup>240</sup> His two children, George and Anne, are mentioned in his will, and also in the will of their mother’s sister, Margaret Barlow of Wells.<sup>241</sup> He was buried at Leighterton in July, 1681.<sup>242</sup>

George Lyte the younger married Mary daughter of his neighbour and cousin Matthew Huntley of Boxwell.<sup>243</sup> She died in 1680.<sup>244</sup> He may probably be identified with George Lyte of the parish of St. Clement Danes, London, gentleman, whose relict Elizabeth obtained the administration of his goods in March 1687.<sup>245</sup> This Elizabeth, again may almost certainly be identified with Elizabeth Lyte, widow, who died in 1694, leaving a will in which she mentions her father Arthur Reeve, and her son George.<sup>246</sup> Constantine,<sup>247</sup> of Elm, co. Somerset, who after the death of his first wife, Joan, had licence, in 1664, to marry Ann Leversege of Vallis.<sup>248</sup>

Elizabeth,<sup>249</sup> married firstly to Sir Richard Crane, and secondly to Thomas, son of Sir John Seymour of Frampton Cottrell.<sup>250</sup>

(239). Ped. II. ; *Report on the MSS. of the Duke of Portland*, vol. ii. p. 300.

(240). Wills at Somerset House, Cann, f. 138.

(241). *Somersetshire Wills*, vol. iv. p. 48.

(242). Leighterton Register.

(243). Heralds’ Visitation, Gloucestershire, 1683.

(244). Leighterton Register.

(245). Administrations at Somerset House.

(246). Wills at Somerset House, Box, f. 129.

(247). Ped. II. ; *Marriage Licences*, (ed. Foster) p. 845.

(248). Chancery Depositions, Charles II. part 5, no. 115.

(249). Ped. II. ; *Somersetshire Wills*, vol. iv. pp. 112, 132.

(250.) *Somersetshire Wills*, vol. i. p. 54

HENRY LYTE of Lytescary, son and successor of Thomas, was baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1597.<sup>251</sup> He married, in 1621, Constance daughter and apparently co-heiress of Capt. Nicholas Baskerville of Sunningwell, by Constance his wife who married, as her third husband Thomas Lyte of Lytescary.<sup>252</sup> By her, who was buried at Charlton Makerel in 1652,<sup>253</sup> Henry Lyte had issue :—

Thomas, buried at Charlton Makerel in 1634.<sup>254</sup>

Henry, his successor.

Thomas,<sup>255</sup> of Martock, married Gertrude, daughter of—Chandler of Wilton, co. Wilts,<sup>256</sup> and died in 1690.<sup>257</sup> He had issue—Thomas, Henry, Richard, and Constance, who married John Arden of Crewkerne.<sup>258</sup> The eldest, Thomas became M.A. at Oxford in 1678,<sup>259</sup> and in the following year had licence to marry Anne Coward of Wells, a widow six years older than himself.<sup>260</sup> In 1684, he was presented to the rectory of Bleadon, co. Somerset, and he died in 1717.<sup>261</sup>

Paul, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1635,<sup>262</sup> may be identified with Major Paul Lyte, who, in 1679, had 235 acres of land, 8 white servants, and 120 negroes in St. George's parish, Barbados. By Anne, his wife, he had issue a son, Paul, and two daughters, Mary, who married firstly—George, and secondly—Thompson, and Constance, who

(251.) Ped. II ; Charlton Register.

(252.) Ped. II.

(253.) Charlton Register.

(254.) Ped. II ; Charlton Register.

(255.) Ped. II.

(256.) Heralds' Visitation, Somerset, 1672 ; Recovery Roll, Mich. 24 Car. II.

(257.) Wills at Wells.

(258.) Heralds' Visitation, Somerset, 1672 ; Martock Register, 1655—1661 ; Administrations at Wells, 1698.

(259.) *Catalogue of Oxford Graduates.*

(260.) *Marriage Licences*, (ed. Foster) p. 845.

(261.) *Weaver's Somerset Incumbents.*

(262.) Charlton Register ; Heralds' Visitation.

married firstly Drax Shutterten and secondly Robert Moore, and died in 1722. Paul Lyte the younger, born in 1678, and styled successively 'esquire,' 'major,' and 'colonel,' was for some years member for St. George's parish in the General Assembly of Barbados. He died before 1722, leaving a son John, who married a daughter of Henry Peers. The Hon. John Lyte was Speaker of the General Assembly from 1740 to 1743, and afterwards Judge of Oistin's Court. He died in 1766.<sup>263</sup>

John, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1637.<sup>264</sup>

Joseph, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1639, and buried there in 1640.<sup>265</sup>

Edmund, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1640.<sup>266</sup>

Nicholas, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1644, and buried there in 1646.<sup>267</sup>

Constance, married to John Browne of Chilthorne co. Somerset, whose will was proved by her in 1657.<sup>268</sup>

Hester.<sup>269</sup>

Frances, buried at Charlton Makerel in 1659.<sup>270</sup>

Mary, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1630.<sup>271</sup>

Rebecca, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1640, married to John Stocker, and died in 1699.<sup>272</sup>

Phoebe, buried at Charlton Makerel in 1667.<sup>273</sup>

Henry Lyte of Lytescary was buried at Charlton Makerel in 1666.<sup>274</sup>

(263.) State Papers Colonial (P.R.O.) ; Will of Constance Moore.

(264.) Charlton Register ; Heralds' Visitation.

(265.) Charlton Register.

(266.) *Ibid.*

(267.) *Ibid.*

(268.) Ped. II ; Heralds' Visitation ; *Somersetshire Wills*, vol. iii. p. 65.

(269.) Ped. II ; Heralds' Visitation.

(270.) Ped. II ; Heralds' Visitation ; Charlton Register.

(271.) Ped. II ; Heralds' Visitation ; Charlton Register.

(272.) Charlton Register ; Epitaph at Somerton.

(273.) Charlton Register.

(274.) *Ibid.*

HENRY LYTE, son and successor of Henry, born in or about 1629, married Margaret daughter of John Hipplesley of Emborough, co. Somerset.<sup>275</sup> Both of them are mentioned in the will of Giles Strangways of Charlton, and in 1672, Isaac Lyte, a wealthy alderman of London, the founder of 'Lyte's Almshouses' at Kington St. Michael bequeathed his great back-sword to his "cousen, Lyte of Lytescary."<sup>276</sup> Margaret Lyte is also mentioned in the wills of several members of the Hipplesley family.<sup>277</sup> She was buried at Charlton Makerel in 1705,<sup>278</sup> having borne her husband at least eleven children:—

Henry, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1661,<sup>279</sup> and buried there in 1685, under the designation of Captain Henry Lyte.<sup>280</sup> His relict, Joan, administered his estate, and an inventory of his goods shows that he owned live stock, farming implements, and household furniture at Lytescary. Some of the rooms are mentioned in the following order:—The great parlour, the little parlour, the hall, the kitchen, the brew-house, the larder, the cellars, the dairy house, the chamber over the little parlour, the larger kitchen chamber, the lesser kitchen chamber, the dairy chamber and the cellar chamber.<sup>281</sup>

Captain Henry Lyte left a son also named Henry, heir to Lytescary, who is mentioned in a settlement of December, 1690, and in a will of March 1706, but of whom nothing else is known.<sup>282</sup> The widow Joan Lyte had licence, in 1686, to marry John Butler,<sup>283</sup> and probably took her son to live at her second husband's home.

(275). Heralds' Visitation.

(276). *Somersetshire Wills*, vol. i. p. 48. Wills at Somerset House, Pye, f. 102.

(277). Wills at Somerset House, Penn, f. 91; Cure, f. 151; Pye, f. 78; Hare, f. 147; Ent, f. 44.

(278). Charlton Register.

(279). *Ibid*; Heralds' Visitation.

(280). Charlton Register.

(281). Administrations at Wells.

(282). Lytescary title-deeds.

(283). Marriage bonds and allegations at Wells.

John, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1666,<sup>284</sup> admitted a member of Lincoln's Inn in 1685,<sup>285</sup> and buried at Charlton Makerel in 1698.<sup>286</sup> There was, until lately, a stone to his memory in the north transept.<sup>287</sup> In 1690, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Cooper the elder, of Sherborne.<sup>288</sup> Administration to his estate was granted to her in 1698.<sup>289</sup> She subsequently married Thomas Cook, and after the death of her father-in-law, Henry Lyte, took up her residence at Lytescary, which she held in jointure until 1732 or later.<sup>290</sup> There she caused to be painted in the chapel two shields commemorating her marriages—"Lyte and Cooper," and "Cook and Cooper." By her first husband, John Lyte, she had an only child:—Thomas, eventual inheritor of Lytescary.

Thomas, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1673,<sup>291</sup> became an attorney at New Inn, and amassed a considerable fortune.<sup>292</sup> In 1698, he acquired from his father and mother a messuage, four barns, four stables, three gardens, three orchards, fifty acres of land, thirty acres of meadow and forty acres of pasture, with the appurtenances in Charlton Makerel and Charlton Adam.<sup>293</sup> In 1702, in anticipation of his marriage to Silvestra Bracebridge, widow, a settlement was made of his messuage and lands in Charlton called 'Bellamy's tenement,' which had belonged to his great-uncle Thomas Lyte.<sup>294</sup> He appears to have rebuilt the house, which has his crest, with the

(284). Charlton Register ; Heralds' Visitation.

(285). Lincoln's Inn Register.

(286). Charlton Register.

(287). Collinson's *History of Somerset*, vol. iii. p. 194.

(288). Lytescary title-deeds.

(289). Administrations at Wells.

(290). Lytescary title-deeds.

(291). Charlton Register.

(292). *Whitehall Evening Post*, 23 August, 1726.

(293). Recovery Roll, Mich. 10 William III.

(294). Charlton title-deeds.

date 1726, on the leaden pipe-heads. Either by gift or by sale, he obtained from the head of his family various objects of interest in connexion with the Lytes, such as the portrait of his great-grandfather Thomas Lyte, the beautiful jewelled miniature of James I., two genealogical rolls and a small roll about the swans of Cary already mentioned. His property at Charlton Makerel was in 1726 settled on his daughter Silvestra, who in that year married the Rev. Thomas Blackwell,<sup>295</sup> and she and her descendants, the Monypennys, inherited the pictures, pedigrees, etc. His first wife, Silvestra, was buried at Charlton Makerel in 1734,<sup>296</sup> and, in August 1735, he married Anne daughter of John Packer of Groombridge, co. Kent, and coheirress of her brother Philip Packer.<sup>297</sup> She was buried at Charlton Makerel in 1738, and he was buried there ten years later.<sup>298</sup> In his will, he mentions his dwelling called 'Hall's House' at Groombridge, his mansion at Charlton, and other property at those places, at Hackney, at Birmingham, in the county of Gloucester and elsewhere.<sup>299</sup>

Margaret, born about 1659, had licence, in 1680, to marry Thomas Harris of Glastonbury, at Kingsdon or at Charlton Makerel.<sup>300</sup>

Constance, born in 1660, had licence, in May 1680, to marry Thomas Cooke of Shepton Mallet, gentleman, at Lytestary or at Charlton.<sup>301</sup> The mention of Lytescary as a possible place for the marriage is remarkable. Thomas Cooke appears to have soon transferred his affections to Constance's younger sister, and she died unmarried, in 1704.<sup>302</sup>

(295). *Ibid.*

(296). Charlton Register ; Mourning ring in my possession.

(297). Chancery Proceedings, 1714—1758, no. 531.

(298). Charlton Register.

(299). Wills at Somerset House, Strahan, f. 332.

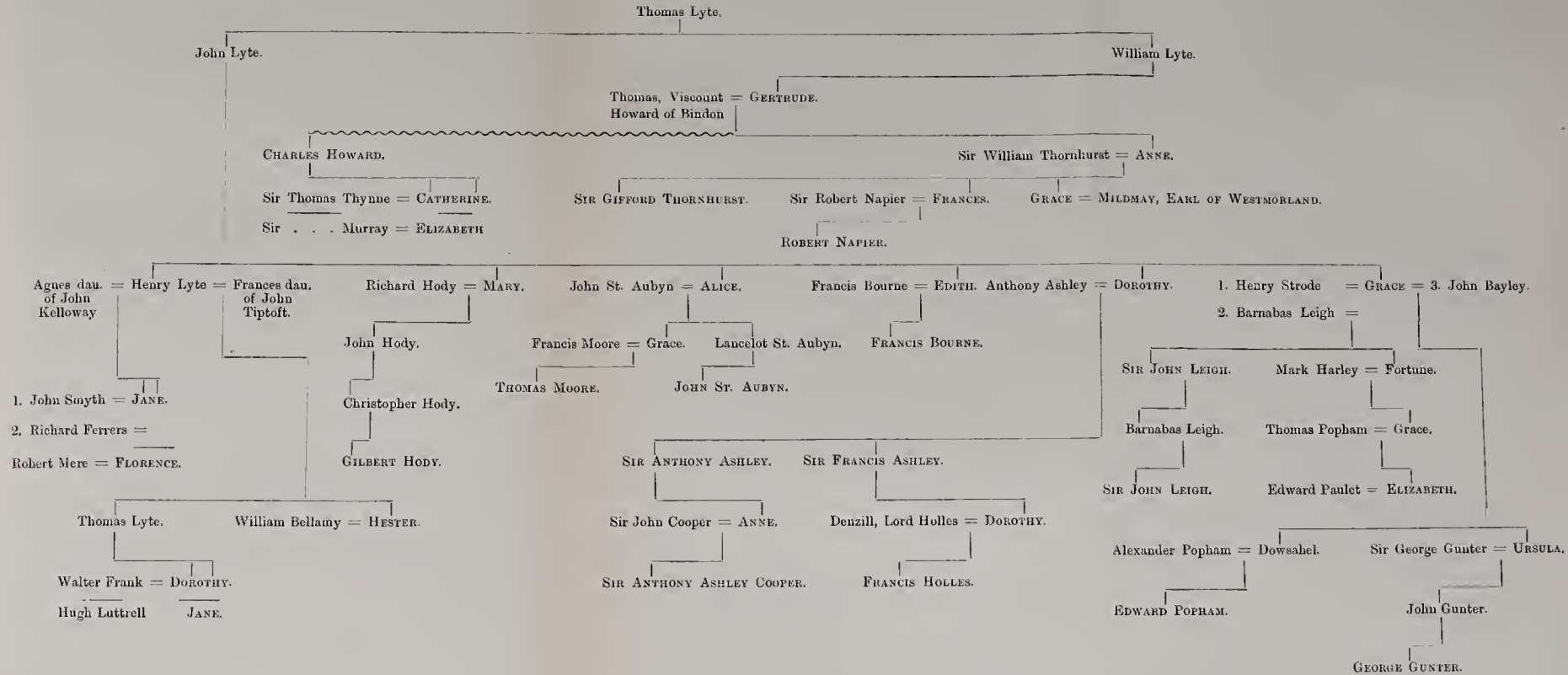
(300). Heralds' Visitation ; Marriage bonds and allegations at Wells

(301). Heralds' Visitation ; Marriage bonds and allegations at Wells.

(302). Charlton Register.

# PEDIGREE

TO ILLUSTRATE THE SERIES OF SHIELDS PAINTED IN THE CHAPEL AT LYTESCARY, IN 1631.



Catherine, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1662, had licence, in September 1680, to marry Thomas Cooke of Shepton Mallet, gentleman, at Charlton Makerel.<sup>303</sup>

Frances, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1664.<sup>304</sup>

Phœbe, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1665,<sup>305</sup> and mentioned in the wills of her father Henry, and her brother Thomas.<sup>306</sup> A field on the Tuckscary estate still bears the name of 'Phœbe Lyte's ground.'<sup>307</sup>

Rebecca, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1667, married about twenty years later to William Day, and buried at Somerton in 1709.<sup>308</sup>

Elizabeth, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1669, married William Warman of Somerton.<sup>309</sup>

Gualtery, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1671.<sup>310</sup>

Henry Lyte of Lytescary, son of Henry son of Thomas, died in 1711, and was buried at Charlton Makerel.<sup>311</sup> The Tuckscary title-deeds show that he made a will in May 1707, which was proved by his son-in-law, William Warman. In him the main line of the family almost became extinct.

THOMAS LYTE of Lytescary, son of John, born in 1694,<sup>312</sup> succeeded to part of the property either on the death of his grandfather Henry in 1711, or on that of his first cousin of the same name, his mother having the remainder in jointure. In 1720, he married Elizabeth daughter and eventual heiress of Gilbert Maximilian Mohun of Fleet, co. Dorset.<sup>313</sup> A shield

(303). Heralds' Visitation ; Charlton Register ; Marriage bonds and allegations at Wells.

(304). Heralds' Visitation ; Charlton Register.

(305). Charlton Register.

(306). Lytescary title-deeds ; Wills at Somerset House, Strahan, f. 332.

(307). Tithe map.

(308). Charlton Register ; Epitaph at Somerton.

(309). Charlton Register ; Lytescary title-deeds.

(310). Charlton Register.

(311). *Ibid.*

(312). *Ibid.*

(313). Lytescary title-deeds ; Hutchins's *History of Dorset*, (ed. 1861) vol. ii. p. 742.

commemorating this marriage is the latest in date of those painted on the walls of the chapel at Lytescary. He had issue :—

Thomas, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1722, and buried there in 1731.<sup>314</sup>

John, his heir, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1726.

Henry, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1727, and buried there in the following year.<sup>315</sup>

Thomas, buried at Charlton Makerel in 1732.

Silvestra, baptised at Charlton Makerel in 1724, and buried there in 1726.<sup>316</sup>

Elizabeth, baptised at Charlton Makerel in May 1730, married to Thomas Gybbons of Somerton, and buried in the Lyte transept at Charlton Makerel in November 1777, 'aged 46.'<sup>317</sup>

In the very year of his marriage, Thomas Lyte appears to have sold Tuckscary, close to his own house, to his step-father Thomas Cook, the then occupant of Lytescary.<sup>318</sup> Thus it was that the ancient name of Tuckerscary, which had been shortened into Tuckscary in the sixteenth century, became corrupted into Cookscary in the eighteenth. In 1740, he found it necessary to convey part of the house itself, the out-buildings and the demesne lands, to trustees, who, after paying him a small yearly allowance and making some provision for the education of his son and his daughter, were to apply the rents to the satisfaction of his debts. The temporary ruin of the family was completed by his son, John, to whom, in 1748, he surrendered his own life interest, in consideration of a small annuity. The entail being barred, the small remaining property was mortgaged to the Hon. Francis Fane of Brympton, and eventually sold, in March 1755, to Thomas

(314). Charlton Register.

(315). *Ibid.*

(316). *Ibid.*

(317). *Ibid.* ; Lytescary title-deeds ; Epitaph formerly in Charlton church.

(318). Lytescary title-deeds.

(319). *Ibid.*



LYTESCARY,  
FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

Lockyer of Ilchester.<sup>319</sup> In a fictitious suit of the previous year, it is described as comprising the manor of Lytescary and its appurtenances, three messuages, three cottages, three barns, three stables, one dovehouse, six gardens, six orchards, 140 acres of land, 160 acres of meadow, 200 acres of pasture, 10 acres of wood, and common of pasture for all manner of beasts in Lytescary, Charlton Makerel, Charlton Adam, and Puddimore Milton, which John Lyte and his father Thomas Lyte acknowledged to belong to Thomas Lockyer.<sup>320</sup>

In 1770, Thomas Lockyer granted a lease for twenty-one years of "the west part of the site" of Lytescary House, situate on the west side of the Great Hall, consisting of one parlour, one kitchen, one pantry, one cellar with a common passage through the said Great Hall to the said cellar, one dairy room, five lodging rooms and garrets over the same, together with common use of the great well and court there on the south-west side of the said Great Hall, and certain gardens, orchards and lands adjoining. A neighbour, writing in 1810, states that the old buildings on the right of the entrance had "lately been destroyed and a farm house built on the site."<sup>321</sup> The whole of the house, together with the nucleus of the Lytescary estate, passed under the will of Thomas Lockyer in 1775 to Mary the wife of Samuel Smith, and was eventually purchased by William Dickinson of Kingweston, at the beginning of the present century.<sup>322</sup>

It is worthy of remark that on the 25th of March, 1755, when John Lyte and Thomas Lyte his father executed their final release of all right in the relics of their ancestral estate, a separate agreement was made between Thomas Lockyer and John Lyte to the effect that the said John Lyte and his heirs should notwithstanding peaceably hold all the aisle commonly called "the Lytes' Isle" situate in the church of Charlton

(320). Fines, Somerset, Hilary, 27 George II.

(321). Addl. MS. 33822 (Brit. Mus.) f. 263.

(322). Lytescary title-deeds.

Makerel and hitherto annexed to the capital messuage of Lytescary. Thus it was that Thomas Lyte was buried in the north transept in 1761, and his daughter Elizabeth Gibbons in 1777. John Lyte's daughter, Betty Worth Hoddinet, whose second name recalls the surname of the wife of Thomas Lyte, the genealogist, was likewise buried there in 1782. The rights reserved by the deed of 1755 were probably alienated afterwards, and at the 'restoration' of the church in the present reign, the epitaphs of the Lytes were destroyed, and the marble effigies of the founders of the transept, William le Lyt and his wife, were removed into the churchyard.

In a description of Lytescary, written in 1810, as above mentioned, it is stated that, within the memory of old persons then living, the window of the dining-room "was enriched with painted glass containing the arms of many persons connected with the family, the whole of which has disappeared, but how disposed of is not known."<sup>323</sup> Since that time, the glass in question, or at any rate a great part of it, which had been in the church of Angersleigh, near Taunton, has been recovered, and it is now in the possession of the writer of this paper. (*See Appendix I.*)

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The history of the Lyte family, subsequent to the sale of their ancestral home, scarcely comes within the scope of the present monograph, and it must not be allowed to occupy more than a few lines.

John Lyte is said, after leaving Lytescary, to have bought or hired a smaller house at Pilton. It is more certain that he eventually settled at Bath. His two sons, Henry Maximilian and Thomas, were educated at the expense of their father's aunt, Mrs. Worrall, the last surviving member of the family of

Mohun of Fleet, a place which, if strictly entailed, would have passed to them successively. Both of them obtained commissions in the army. The elder eventually became a navy-agent, and acquired some notoriety in connexion with the Stock Exchange Fraud of 1814, with which the more illustrious name of Lord Dundonald is generally connected. He died in 1834, aged 73,<sup>324</sup> having had issue, by Amelia his wife, daughter and eventual heiress of the Rev. James Viney, three daughters, Amelia Mary Ann, married in 1806 to Col. Samuel Shaw, Knight of St. Ferdinand, Harriet Sophia married to the Rev. Peter Macdonald, and Ann Elizabeth married to Samuel Cole.

Capt. Thomas Lyte, second son of John Lyte of Lytescary, born at Bath in 1766, was author of a small book about the Island of Jersey. He had issue by Anna Maria Oliver his wife, three sons, Thomas, born at Berwick in 1792, died at Brixham, co. Devon, unmarried, Henry Francis born at Ednam, near Kelso, in 1793, and George born at Ednam in 1795. The Rev. Henry Francis Lyte, known as the author of '*Abide with me*' and other hymns and poems, married 21st January, 1818, Anne daughter and eventual heiress of the Rev. William Maxwell, D.D., of Falkland, co. Monaghan, the friend of Dr. Johnson,<sup>325</sup> and one of their grandchildren, the writer of this paper, is now the male representative of the Lytes of Lytescary.

(324). *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1834.

(325). Shirley's *History of Monaghan*, p. 161; Boswell's *Life of Johnson*; *Remains of the Rev. H. F. Lyte*.

## APPENDIX I.

THE twelve following shields executed in glass for John Lyte of Lytescary, in the reign of Henry VIII., constitute a uniform series. Although the borders round them are different in treatment to the heraldic bearings, and probably the work of a different artist, they appear to be contemporary.

LYTE AND DRECOTE.<sup>1</sup> *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*; impaling *Argent* a cross engrailed *sable*, in the first quarter an eagle displayed *gules*.

LYTE AND GOTEBURSTS.<sup>2</sup> *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*; impaling *Sable* a goat statant *proper* on a mound *vert*.

LYTE AND CARANT. *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*; impaling *Argent* three hurts, each charged with as many chevronels *gules*.

LYTE AND ASH. *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*; impaling *Argent* an ash tree *vert*.

LYTE AND FITZJAMYS. *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*; impaling *Azure* a dolphin naiant *argent* between three mullets *gules*.

LYTE [AND —]. *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*; impaling *Argent* a chevron *sable* between three hammers *sable*, handled *gules*.

LYTE AND FITZWUCKE. *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*; impaling *Argent* a chevron between three mill-rinds *sable*.<sup>3</sup>

(1). Drecote=Draycot.

(2). 'Gotebursts' is the painter's error for 'Gotehurst.'

(3). This sinister half of this shield resembles that of the family of Wyke of Nynehead. It is, however, doubtful whether the charges depicted on the glass are intended for mill-rinds, chess-rooks, salt-cellars, dice-boxes, or hour-glasses.

LYTE AND BRUNE.<sup>4</sup> *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent* ; impaling *Or* three piles conjoined in base *azure*.

[JOAN, LADY WADHAM.] *Gules* a chevron between three roses *argent* ; impaling *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*. (The ground and border of this panel date only from the time of Charles I.)

LYTE AND DRUE. *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent* ; impaling *Argent* a chevron *sable* between three moor-cocks *proper*. (The sinister half of this shield appears to be later in date than any of the rest of the glass.)

LYTE AND HORSE. *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent* ; impaling *Azure* three horses' heads couped *or*, bridled *argent*.

LYTE AND [KELLOWAY]. *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent* ; impaling *Argent* two glaziers' irons in saltire *sable* between four kelway pears *gules*.

The two following shields, of the time of Henry VIII., are in circular panels surrounded by conventional oak-leaves :—

[HORSEY AND HUSSEY.] *Azure* three horses' heads couped *or*, bridled *sable* ; impaling *Gules* three bars *ermine*.

[LYTE AND HORSEY.] *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent* ; impaling *Azure* three horses' heads couped *or*, bridled *sable*.

The two following shields, also of the time of Henry VIII., are in circular panels, at present without borders :—

[LYTE AND FITZJAMES.] *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent* ; impaling *Azure* a dolphin naiant *argent* between three mullets *gules*.

[LYTE AND FAUNTLEROY.] *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent* ; impaling *Gules* three infants' heads couped at the neck *proper*, crined *or*.

(4). Brune=Bryan.

The following seems to have occupied a rectangular panel larger than those of the regular series :—

LORDE STURTON AND MY LADYS. *Sable* a bend *or* between six fountains *proper* ; impaling [*Gules* three infants' heads couped at the neck *proper*, crined *or*.] Supporters—two antelopes *azure*.

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There are also, of the same date, fragments of a dexter Stourton shield and of a sinister Horsey shield.

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The following may perhaps be ascribed to Henry Lyte:—

[LYTE AND DRAYCOT.] *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*, billed *or* ; impaling *Argent* a cross engrailed *sable*, in the first quarter an eagle displayed *gules* and a mullet *sable*.

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The two following are of uncertain date :—

[LYTE AND HORSEY.] *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent* ; impaling *Azure* three horses' heads couped *or*, bridled *sable*. (The treatment is different from that of the two other representations of this coat.)

[LUCY, LADY MORGAN.] *Argent* a chevron *ermine*s between three birds *sable* ; impaling *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*. (This shield is smaller than those of the regular series, and the white colour of the swans has been produced by scraping away the surface of the ruby glass.)

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The four following shields were made for Thomas Lyte, to match the regular series of rectangular panels made for his grandfather, John Lyte, and with very similar borders, but in other respects they are altogether different :—

LYTE AND TIPTOFT. [ANNO DOM. 1565.] *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*, billed *or* ; impaling *Argent* a saltire engrailed *gules*, a fleur de lys *or* for difference.

LYTE AND WORTH. ANNO DOM. 1592. *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*, billed *or* ; impaling *Argent* an eagle displayed with two heads *sable*, beaked and legged *gules*.

LYTE AND BASKERVILE. ANNO DOM. 1621. *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*, billed *or* ; impaling *Argent* a chevron *gules* between three hurts.

[LYTE OF LYTESCARY.] Quarterly of six. 1 and 6. *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*, billed *or* ; 2. *Argent* a cross engrailed *sable*, in the first quarter an eagle displayed *gules* ; 3. [*Argent*, on a fess between three ducks *sable*, three bezants ;<sup>5</sup>] 4. *Argent* an ash tree *vert* ; 5. *Argent* a chevron *sable* between three moor-cocks *proper*.

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## APPENDIX II.

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THE following description of the shields painted on the walls of the chapel at Lytescary, in 1631, is derived from three sources :—

- (I.) A bald and somewhat inaccurate list of the names, taken in 1810, and now forming part of Addl. MS. 33822, at the British Museum.
- (II.) A series of coloured drawings in my possession, made for my grandfather, about sixty years ago, by an artist who was ignorant of the rudiments of heraldry, and committed such extraordinary blunders as to render several points uncertain.
- (III.) Notes made by me on the spot, somewhat hurriedly, and under great difficulties, in consequence of the decay of the paintings.

(5). This quarter was missing. I have supplied it from MSS. at the Heralds' College.

While I cannot therefore pretend that there is satisfactory evidence for all the particulars, I hope that the description is fairly correct, and I give it here for want of a better.<sup>1</sup>

The first shield blazoned is on the south side of the east window; the last of the original series occupies the corresponding position on the north.

It should be noted that borders and tressures, not being dimidiated in impaled coats, entirely surround the half shields where they occur.

GRACE, COUNTESS OF WESTMORELAND. *Azure* three dexter gauntlets, backs affrontee, *or*; impaling *Ermine*, on a chief *gules*, two leopards' heads *or*.

GERTRUDE, VISCOUNTESS BINDON. *Gules*, on a bend between six cross crosslets fitchee *argent*, a crescent *sable* for difference; impaling *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*.

ANNE, LADY THORNHURST. *Ermine*, on a chief *gules*, two leopards' heads *or*; impaling *Gules*, on a bend between six cross-crosslets fitchee *argent*, a crescent *sable* for difference.

LUCE, LADY MORGAN. *Argent* a chevron *ermine*s between three birds *sable*; impaling *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*.

JOAN. [LADY WADHAM?]

FRANCIS, LADY NAPER. *Argent* a saltire between four roses *gules*; impaling *Ermine*, on a chief *gules*, two leopards' heads *or*.

CATHERINE, LADY THIN. Barry of ten *or* and *sable*; impaling *Gules* on a bend between six cross crosslets *argent*, a crescent *sable* for difference, within a border compony *argent* and *azure*.

ELIZABETH, LADY MURREY. *Azure* three mullets and a crescent for difference within a double tressure flory, counter flory, *argent*; impaling *Gules*, on a bend between

(1). This list is intended to supersede drawings previously printed.

six cross-crosslets *argent*, a crescent *sable* for difference, within a border compony *argent* and *azure*.

ANNE, LADY COOPER. *Gules* a bend engrailed between six lions rampant *or*, a canton *argent* charged with a sinister hand coupé *gules*; impaling *Azure* a cinquefoil pierced of the field within a border engrailed *ermine*, a canton *argent* charged with a sinister hand coupé *gules*.

URSULA, LADY GUNTER. *Sable* three sinister gauntlets, backs affrontée, *argent*, within a border *or*; impaling *Gules* a chevron engrailed *ermine* between three birds *argent*.

DOROTHY HOLLIS. *Ermine* two piles meeting in point, and a crescent for difference, *sable*; impaling *Azure* a cinquefoil pierced of the field, within a border engrailed *ermine*, a mullet *argent* for difference.

MARYE HODY. *Argent* a fesse indented within, point in point, *vert* and *sable*, cotised counter-changed; impaling *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*.

GRACE STROUD, LYE, AND BAILEY. *Argent*, on a chief embattled *sable*, three plates; impaling *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*.

ALICE SAINT ALBAN. *Ermine*, on a bend *sable*, three bezants; impaling *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*.

YEADITH BOWRNE. *Argent* a chevron *gules* between three lions, passant guardant *sable*, a chief (embattled?) *ermine*s; impaling *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*.

JANE SMYTH AND FERRARS. [*Argent* a cross *gules* between four peacocks *azure*;] impaling *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*.

FLORENCE MERE. *Sable* a chevron between three water-bougets *argent*; impaling *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*.

ESTER BELLAMY. *Azure*, on a bend cotised *argent*, three crescents *gules*; impaling *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*.

DOROTHY FRANK. *Azure* (or *vert*) a saltire engrailed *or*; impaling *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*.

JANE LUTTRELL. *Or* a bend between six martlets *sable*; impaling *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*.

ELIZABETH POWLET. *Sable* three swords in pile, points in base, *argent*; impaling *Argent*, on a chief *gules*, two bucks' heads cabossed *or*.

FRANCIS BOWNE, ESQUIRE, COUNCELLER AT LAWE. *Argent* a chevron *gules* between three lions passant guardant *sable*, a chief (embattled?) *ermine*.

GILBERT HODY, ESQUIRE. *Argent* a fesse indented within, point in point, *vert* and *sable* cotised counter-changed.

THOMAS MOORE, ESQUIRE. *Argent* two bars engrailed *azure* between nine martlets *gules*.

JOHN SAINT ALBAN, ESQUIRE. *Ermine* on a bend *sable* three bezants.

GEORGE GUNTER, ESQUIRE. *Sable* three sinister gauntlets, backs affrontee, *argent*, within a border *or*.

EDWARD POPHAM, ESQUIRE. *Argent*, on a chief *gules*, two bucks' heads cabossed *or*.

ROBERT NAPER, ESQUIRE. *Argent*, on a saltire between four roses *gules*, an inescutcheon of the field charged with a sinister hand coupé of the second, in chief a label of three points *azure*.

FRANCIS HOLLIS, NEPHEW TO THE E. OF C. Quarterly, 1 and 4, *Ermine* two piles meeting in point and a crescent *sable* for difference; 2 and 3, *Azure* a cinquefoil pierced of the field within a border engrailed *ermine*, a mullet *argent* for difference.

SIR JOHN LYE JUNIOR. *Argent*, on a chief embattled *sable*, three plates, and a label of three points of the field.

SIR WALTER ERLE. *Gules* three escallops, two and one, within a border engrailed *argent*.

SIR JOHN LYE OF THE WIGHT. *Argent* on a chief embattled *sable* three plates.

SIR GIFFORD THORNHURST, KNIGHT AND BARONET.

*Ermine*, on a chief *gules*, two leopards' heads *or*, on a canton *argent* a sinister hand coupé of the second.

SIR ANTHONY COOPER, KNIGHT AND BARONET. Quarterly,

1 and 4, *Gules* a bend engrailed between six lions rampant *or*; 2 and 3, *Azure* a cinquefoil pierced of the field within a border engrailed *ermine*; over all an inescutcheon *argent* charged with a sinister hand coupé *gules*.

SIR FRANCIS ASHLEY, SERGT. AT LAWE. *Azure* a cinquefoil pierced of the field within a border engrailed *ermine*, a mullet *argent* for difference.

SIR ANTHO. ASHLEY, KNT. AND BARONET. *Azure* a cinquefoil pierced of the field within a border engrailed *ermine*, on a canton *argent* a sinister hand coupé *gules*.

CHARLES HOWARD, SON TO VISCOUNT BINDON. *Gules* on a bend between six cross crosslets fitchée *argent*, a crescent for difference *sable*, within a border compony *argent* and *azure*.

MILDMAY, EARL OF WESTMORELAND. [LORD LE DESPENCER AND BURGHURSH.] *Azure* three dexter gauntlets, backs affrontée, *or*; impaling [Quarterly *gules* and *or*, in the first quarter a mullet *argent*].

The three following shields were painted, in or about 1720, on a lower level:—

COOK AND COOPER. *Gules* a fesse chequy *argent* and *sable*, in chief three mullets *argent*; impaling *Sable* a saltire engrailed between four trefoils slipped *argent*, on a chief of the last three dolphins embowed *azure*.

LYTE AND COOPER. *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*; impaling *Sable* a saltire engrailed between three trefoils slipped *argent*, on a chief of the last three dolphins embowed *azure*.

LYTE AND MOHUN. *Gules* a chevron between three swans *argent*; impaling *Gules* a dexter arm proper habited in a

maunch *ermine*, the hand holding a fleur de lys *or*, within a border *argent*.

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The accompanying Pedigree is intended merely to show the connexion between the different persons whose arms were painted in the Chapel in 1631. Their names are given in capitals.

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### APPENDIX III.

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WILLIAM LYTE of Lillesdon co. Somerset, second son of Thomas Lyte of Lytescary by Margery Drew his wife, was nicknamed by his father 'Black Will,'<sup>1</sup> probably to distinguish him from his younger brother of the same name. In 1530, he was appointed by Henry, Lord Daubeney, to the office of Constable of Sherborne Castle, with a yearly pension of 9*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*,<sup>2</sup> and in 1534 he received from the King a grant of the wardship and marriage of the heir of John Buller with certain profits from his lands in the Isle of Wight.<sup>3</sup> A letter written by him to Thomas Cromwell in the following year is preserved among the State Papers.<sup>4</sup>

In 1544, William Lyte took proceedings in the Court of Star Chamber against certain persons who, in wrongful execution of a writ of outlawry, had, three years before, broken into his house at Lillesdon and carried away some of his goods which he valued at 600 marks. The Under-Sheriff was reported to have said that the kitchen there was fit for a Lord, and mention was made of a casket containing chains, pearls, bedestones, brooches, and three quarters of a coat of cloth of

(1). C.P.B.; Ped. I.

(2). *Cartæ Antiquæ*, Augmentation Office, box 16, x. 21.

(3). Patent Roll, 26 Hen. VIII. part i. m. 5.

(4). *Letters and Papers* (ed. Gairdner), vol. ix. p. 295.

gold.<sup>5</sup> At another time, being summoned to serve the King in the wars, William Lyte applied to the same court in order to obtain the delivery of twenty-eight pair of harness with saletts and splints, ten bows, ten sheaves of arrows, and twelve bills which had belonged to his wife's first husband, John Buller.<sup>6</sup> In 1550, he was Escheator of the King in the counties of Somerset and Dorset.<sup>7</sup> Three years later, he bought from the Dean and Chapter of Wells, the wardship of Thomas son of Anthony Norton,<sup>8</sup> and he seems to have obtained from his brother, Anthony Lyte, the wardship of Henry Tynbery.<sup>9</sup> He had various lands at Northover, Crewkerne, North Curry, Gregory Stoke, Lyng, Langport Westover, and other places in the county of Somerset.<sup>10</sup> A will made by him on the 27th December 1558 was proved at Lambeth four months later, but his younger children took proceedings in Chancery against the executors, and, after protracted litigation, the will was eventually set aside.<sup>11</sup>

William Lyte married Dorothy daughter of Sir John Kelloway of Rockborne, co. Wilts, and relict of John Buller of Wode, co. Somerset,<sup>12</sup> and had issue at least ten children:—

John, baptised at Northover in 1538. He sold some of his father's lands in 1566, and died without issue "at the age of 56."<sup>13</sup>

Giles, died young.<sup>14</sup>

- (5). Star Chamber Proceedings, bundle 23, nos. 60, 96, 156.
- (6). *Ibid.* bundle 23, no. 160.
- (7). Escheators' Accounts.
- (8). Hist. MSS. Comm. *Tenth Report*, App. part iii. p. 239
- (9). Patent Roll 1 Mary, part i.; Wills at Somerset House, Cheyney, f. 7.
- (10). *Inquisitiones post mortem*, 1 Eliz.
- (11). Wills at Somerset House, Cheyney, f. 7; Darcy, f. 39; Chancery Proceedings, Series II. bundle 118, no. 21.
- (12). Ped. I.; Heralds' Visitations, Somerset, Hants; Star Chamber Proceedings, bundle 23, no. 160.
- (13). Ped. I.; Northover Register; Collinson's *History of Somerset*, vol. iii. p. 306.
- (14). Ped. 1.

Hugh, married Joan daughter of John Weekes, and had issue a daughter Dorothy and three sons:—

Edward, who had issue Edward and William.

John.

Chrispian who, in 1616, married Christian Sparke and by her, who died in 1624, had issue:—Francis, born in 1618, Hugh, born in 1621, Mary, born in 1624 and buried in 1625.<sup>15</sup>

This Hugh Lyte seems to have lived at Ruishton, co. Somerset, and he may have been the ancestor of the Lights of that parish.<sup>16</sup>

Guy, described in a Chancery suit of the reign of Elizabeth as of Lyng, co. Somerset, gentleman.<sup>17</sup> In 1574, he took proceedings in the Court of Star Chamber against Lord Bindon and others, who had carried away eleven fat oxen and twenty-six loads of hay from a house near Wool, co. Dorset, and three years later he applied to Lord Burghley about a debt due to him by Henry Howard for ‘a great horse’ sold for 30*l*.<sup>18</sup> In 1571, he married Joan, daughter of John Frampton of Moreton, and his arms impaled with hers are blazoned in the family aisle of the Framptons at Moreton Church.<sup>19</sup> He had issue Henry and Elizabeth.<sup>20</sup>

Catherine, married to Philip Rocytor of Collies Combe.

Dorothy, married to ——— Somerset, “cosen to the Earl of Worcester.”

Gertrude, married to Thomas, Viscount Howard of Bindon, son of the Duke of Norfolk. There is a drawing of her monument on the pedigree.

(15). Ped. I.

(16). Chancery Proceedings, Elizabeth Ll. 2, 40.

(17). Ped. I.; Chancery Proceedings, Elizabeth Ll. 9, 60.

(18). Star Chamber Proceedings, Elizabeth, L 21, no. 35; L 30, no. 19; L 38, no. 21; State Papers Domestic, Elizabeth, vol. 114, nos. 45, 48.

(19). Hutchins's *History of Dorset*, (ed. 1861) vol. i. pp. 398, 403, 404.

(20). Ped. I.

Margaret, married firstly to Strangways Rogers, and secondly to ——— Turner.

Dorothy, born at Puddimore.

Anne, married to George Causse.<sup>21</sup>

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APPENDIX IV.

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THOMAS LYTE of Meriet, co. Somerset, fourth son of Thomas Lyte, of Lytescary by Margery Drew, his wife, was for some time steward to his relation John Wadham of Merifield, from whom he bought the mill of South Bradon.<sup>1</sup> He is mentioned as a cousin in the will of Joan, Lady Wadham,<sup>2</sup> and he had an annuity of twenty nobles out of the lands of his brother, John Lyte of Lytescary, at Mudford.<sup>3</sup> He married firstly Isabella, daughter either of William Webber or of ——— Radcliffe,<sup>4</sup> and, apparently by her, had issue five children :—

George, died young.<sup>5</sup>

Hugh, settled at Crewkerne, married Eleanor ——— and had issue:—

John born in 1573, buried in 1577.

Bridget, born in 1575.<sup>6</sup>

Peter, instituted to the living of St. Mary church, co. Devon, in 1580, had several children whose names are not given in the pedigree.

William, married in Devonshire.

Bridget, married to Walter Smyth of Crewkerne.<sup>7</sup>

(21). *Ibid.*

(1). Ped. I.; Wills at Somerset House, Petre, f. 12.

(2). *Somersetshire Wills*, vol. i. p. 49.

(3). Wills at Somerset House, Petre, f. 12.

(4). *Ibid.* Cheyney, f. 7.

(5). Ped. I.

(6). *Ibid.*; Crewkerne Register.

(7). Ped. I.

Thomas Lyte married secondly Joan——, whom he appointed executrix of his will dated in March 1573 and proved in the following month.<sup>8</sup>

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## APPENDIX V.

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JOHN LYTE, fourth son of John Lyte of Lytescary by Edith Horsey his wife, was, in 1553, associated with his father and other justices of the peace in a commission of enquiry concerning the lands of the dissolved monasteries in Somerset.<sup>9</sup> He married Frances ——, a kinswoman of his father's second wife "wereby he undermined his eldest brother of the mannor of Mudford," which was settled upon him in remainder after the death of his stepmother.<sup>10</sup> At one time he was styled 'John Lyte of Blackdown' co. Somerset, and at another 'John Lyte of Clyfton' co. Dorset, under which latter description he was in 1584 released from the Fleet prison, to which he had been committed for a debt to Richard Arnold.<sup>11</sup> Among the State Papers there is an undated petition to the Privy Council from John Lyte, gentleman, a prisoner for debt in the Counter in Wood Street, giving information about the treasonable words of a gentleman and a priest, and praying that he may either be heard as to his cause or licensed to serve the Queen in the wars.<sup>12</sup> This may have some connexion with a note by his nephew, Thomas Lyte, of

"Laurence and Alton their slanderous words against Queen Elizabeth, delivered to Francis Lyte."<sup>13</sup>

(8). *Somersetshire Wills*, vol. i. p. 58.

(9). Ped. II. ; Patent Roll, 1 Mary, part I.

(10). C P.B.; Chancery Proceedings, Series II. bundle 114, no. 101.

(11). Patent Roll, 26 Elizabeth, part 10.

(12). State Papers, Domestic, Elizabeth, vol. 185, f. 183.

(13). C.P.B.

John and Frances Lyte had issue at least two sons and no less than twelve daughters :—

Thomas, died an infant.

William, “died in the Portugall voiage.”<sup>14</sup>

Joan, married to Richard Serle of the Isle of Wight.

Mary, married firstly to Henry Stevens, secondly to Stephen Eme, and thirdly to Ellis Phelipps.

Frances, married firstly to Henry Reynoldes, and secondly to Thomas Rogers.

Elizabeth, married firstly to ——— Crosse.

Edith, married to Arthur Saul of co. Gloucester.

Charity, married to Robert Cooke, parson of Stratton in the Fosse.

Grace, married firstly to Laurence Hill, and secondly to ——— Thomas.

Sarah, died young.

Joan, died an infant.

Joan, died an infant.

Jane, living in London in 1633.

Etheldred, married firstly to Peter Simons, and secondly to Thomas Creese.<sup>15</sup>

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## APPENDIX VI.

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It is not improbable that many of the families bearing the name of Lyte or Light were younger branches of that which, for five centuries, abode in the parish of Charlton Makerel.

The Lights of Horley, co. Oxford, for instance, bore the same arms as the Lytes of Lytescary, with a crescent for difference, and the Lytes of Easton Percy, co. Wilts, John

(14). Ped. II. Administration of the goods of a certain William Lyte who died abroad, unmarried, was in 1630, granted to his brother John.

(15). Ped. II.

Aubrey's ancestors, bore the same arms with a mullet for difference, thus indicating descent from a second and a third son respectively. The Lytes of Easton Percy moreover specifically claimed cousinship to the Lytes of Lytescary. So again, a member of the family of Light of Baglake, co. Dorset, gave to his estate in Canada the name of Lytescary, in remembrance of the place which he believed to have been the cradle of his family.

In these and many other cases, however, there is no direct evidence of the connexion, and it does not appear necessary to notice in this place all the Lytes and Lights whose names occur in MSS. relating to the West of England or, more particularly, to the county of Somerset. Fresh evidence may some day be found, and in the meanwhile, I give the names of four persons whose close connexion with the Lytes of Lytescary can hardly be doubted:—

Sir Hugh de Lite, almost certainly an ecclesiastic, was a witness to an undated deed whereby Richard de Catymore conveyed land at Cary to Henry de Cary, son of Gurmund. This document, which may probably be referred to the reign of Henry III. was at Lytescary in the time of Charles I.<sup>16</sup>

John de Lyt was, in 1265, summoned for breaking the house of Robert de Chilterne at Little Chilterne, a few miles from Lytescary.<sup>17</sup>

Richard le Lyt was, in 1346, one of the pledges of Peter le Lyt (of Lytescary) in a suit against John de Homere the younger, touching a tenement at Chilton Cantelou.<sup>18</sup>

Gertrude Lyte was, in 1690, married to Richard Saunders at Charlton Makerel.<sup>19</sup> She may have been a daughter of Thomas and Gertrude Lyte of Martock, already mentioned.

(16) C.P.B.

(17). *Curia Regis* Rolls, 177, m. 30 ; 178, m. 7.

(18). Assize Roll 1430, m. 75 d.

(19). Charlton Register.