



GEORGE FOWNES LUTTRELL.

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MR. G. F. LUTTRELL was the eldest son of Lieut. Col. Francis Fownes Luttrell, of the Grenadier Guards, and afterwards of the Somerset Militia, the third son of Mr. John Fownes Luttrell of Dunster Castle. Born at Kilve Court on the 27th September, 1828, he was, like many other members of his family, sent to Eton, and he there succeeded his cousin, H. A. Fownes Luttrell, as "Captain of the Boats." Although his selected crew was beaten by Westminster in a race at Putney, his captaincy is memorable for the introduction of an outriggered boat for the Eight in 1846.

From Eton he proceeded to Christ Church, Oxford, where he took the degree of B.A. in due course.

Marrying in August, 1852, Anne Elizabeth Periam, daughter of Sir Alexander Hood, Bart., of Wootton, near Glastonbury, Mr. Luttrell settled at Woodlands, near Holford.

On the death of his father in 1862, he took his place as Master of the West Somerset Fox-hounds. Five years later, he succeeded his uncle, Mr. Henry Fownes Luttrell of Dunster Castle, in the great estate in West Somerset which had belonged to their ancestors since the beginning of the fifteenth century, and was in acreage and in value alike the third largest in the county.

The Castle was found to need immediate restoration, remodelling and enlargement. While this work was in progress under the direction of Mr. A. Salvin, Mr. Luttrell rented Norton Manor, near Taunton.

In 1872, he built a permanent residence for the Vicar of Dunster, on the Priory Green, and made it over to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The restoration of the Church was next taken in hand at a cost of about £12,000, of which Mr. Luttrell contributed nearly £10,000, and the restoration of Minehead Church followed a few years later.

During all this time, Mr. Luttrell had devoted large sums of money to the improvement of the farms and other dwellings on his estate, carefully preserving various relics of antiquity.

Having purchased the manor of Old Cleeve, including the very interesting ruins of the Abbey of St. Mary in the Flowery Vale, he proceeded to clear out the cloisters and other monastic buildings which had been used for farm purposes, and excavated the site of the Cistercian Church.

Mr. Luttrell throughout his life took an active part in county affairs. He was High Sheriff of Somerset in 1874, a Justice of the Peace, a Deputy Lieutenant, a County Councillor, a member of the Rural District Council and of the Williton Board of Guardians.

He was elected President of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society for 1889, and served again in the same capacity in 1906. On both occasions the annual meeting was held at Minehead. He was always an active friend of the Society, and a generous contributor towards its funds for the purchase and restoration of Taunton Castle. He also subscribed to the Somerset Record Society, and he encouraged local efforts to awaken interest in the history of the County.

No less keen was he to encourage sport, and he had the honour of receiving the late King, when Prince of Wales, at Dunster Castle for two nights and of driving him to a meet of the staghounds at Hawkcombe Head.

Anxious to develop and popularize Minehead, he personally brought about the extension of the railway from Williton, and took unceasing interest in the preservation of the sea-wall, and

in laying out roads, planning drainage, and helping in the erection of public buildings, and a new pier, with the result that Minehead was transformed during his lifetime from a quaint old-world village into a thriving town. Taking a great interest in forestry, he successfully planted about 200 acres of poor hill land with trees.

Mr. Luttrell died after some months of failing health, on the 24th of May, 1910, and was buried at Dunster close to the east end of the Priory Church.

A few days later there appeared in the *Westminster Gazette* a brief "appreciation" of his life and character, ending with the following words :—

In politics, Mr. Luttrell's views were broad and liberal. From early youth he idolized Mr. Gladstone, and he followed him consistently through every phase.

In his own family and among his friends no one could have been more kind and hospitable than Mr. Luttrell. Until a few months ago he retained his health and vigour of mind and body, and the tall spare figure might constantly be seen rambling over the hills, or along the coast wherever there was work to be supervised.

Calm and equable in temper, he faced difficulties with rare courage, and though reserved and diffident in manner, he spoke out plainly enough when any question of principle was involved. Being pre-eminently honourable, just, and unselfish himself, he always endeavoured to give others credit for motives as good as his own, both in public and private life, and in his presence the voice of scandal and gossip was dumb.

All through his life he kept in close touch with such of his old college friends as survived, and the whole country-side will regret the death of one so wise and good, so true and kind, one whose aim was ever to "help his fellow-men and to glorify his God."

H. C. MAXWELL LYTE.

## Hugh Norris.

ONE of our Vice-Presidents and Honorary Life Members, Mr. Hugh Norris, L.R.C.P. and L.R.C.S. (*Edinburgh*), and L.S.A. (*London*), died at South Petherton on October 31st, 1910, in his ninetieth year. He had been a member of our Society since 1863, and had done excellent service in connection therewith in many ways, especially as a valued contributor to the *Proceedings*, and as the generous donor of a most interesting collection of local treasures which bears his name in the County Museum. As a list of his writings, a full description of the Norris Collection, and numerous biographical notes relating to the Norris family, appeared in Vol. LI, ii, 136, it will not be necessary to repeat them here.

Those who had the pleasure of his friendship will long remember Mr. Hugh Norris as a most able, genial and cultured man, well read in local history and literature, ever ready to impart his stores of knowledge to all who sought his assistance.

To the end, he was keenly interested in the work of our Society, and in all that was being done for the advancement of archæological research, especially in his native county of Somerset.

Mr. Norris (whose portrait also appeared in the volume named above) was the first editor of "Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries," and was a local secretary for the Society of Antiquaries of London, as well as for our own Society.

His principal contribution to local history was a volume entitled "South Petherton in the Olden Time," the outcome

of a lecture he gave to his friends and neighbours in 1879. This has long been out of print.

His papers on "The Camp on Hamdon Hill," "Saint Whyte and Saint Reyne," "The Battle of Langport," and "The Siege of Sherborne Castle in 1645," were contributed to our *Proceedings*, as also were several other articles dealing with archæological matters. These demonstrate his intimate knowledge of the district in which he lived, and which he dearly loved, and will long be read with interest.

C. T.