THE LORDS OF COBHAM.

[PART II.]

BY J. G. WALLER.

GEORGE, second son of Thomas Brooke, seventh Baron Cobham, was born about 1497, and he first appears in public life as accompanying his father, who was in attendance on Mary, daughter of Henry VII, when she left England to be married to Louis XII of France; and they were both at the ceremony. Much of his life was spent in military service, which he began with the expedition into Ireland under the Duke of Norfolk, the King's Lieutenant, in 1520. In 1522, when Henry VIII declared war against France, George Brooke was with the fleet under High Admiral the Earl of Surrey, and was by him knighted. An inroad was made in the neighbourhood of Calais, but it was not a successful campaign, as the French avoided a general action. Nor in the succeeding year, notwithstanding successes on the part of the united Flemish and English forces, did the war lead to much result.

His father having died in 1529, he was now Lord of Cobham, and on the 7th of September, 1533, a letter from Anne Boleyn announced to him the birth of Elizabeth. Events followed quickly, for he was, only three years afterwards, appointed one of the twenty-seven peers to try that unfortunate Queen. The christening of Edward VI, the child of the new Queen, Jane Seymour, took place a year later, on October 15th, 1537, and, at the ceremony, Lord Cobham bore the consecrated wafers for the two princesses Mary and Elizabeth.

For a few years, he seems to have led the ordinary life of a courtier, undertaking those duties in his county which fell to him through his position. In a

letter from the Privy Council, 20 Dec., 1543, addressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury, it is stated that in consequence of a fire having taken place in his house, he would not be able fitly to entertain the Viceroy of Naples, Ambassador from Charles V, whose reception should be undertaken by him. In the following year he resumed his military career, and was made Lieutenant-General of the army under Edward Seymour, Earl of Hertford, now arraying against the Scots. For Henry, having nearly two years before declared war, and obtained some successes, early in the year, sent a fleet commanded by Lord Lisle, consisting of 200 vessels, having on board 10,000 men. They landed at Leith and marched to Edinburgh, which city they burnt and pillaged Hertford then went eastwards, and, having received reinforcements, laid waste the country, burning Haddington and Dunbar, and then retreated into England with but small loss.

A letter from Hertford to the King makes good mention of Cobham, with others. "Forasmuch," says he, "as my Lord of Shrewsbury, my Lord William (Howard), my Lord Cobham, who was Marshall of your armye, my Lorde Clynton, my Lorde Sturton have don Your Highnes right honest and payneful service in this journey I thought it also my parte to signifie the same to Your Majeste and if it might please the same to remember them with Your Majeste's condigne thanks, it should be most to their comfortes."*

The sudden recall of the army was due to King Henry having joined the Emperor Charles V in an invasion of France. He passed over to Calais with 30,000

* State Papers, Hen. VIII, vol. v. p. 390.

men, and about this time Lord Cobham was made Deputy of Calais in the room of the Earl of Arundel. The campaign was soon brought to a close by the Emperor making a special treaty with Francis and entirely ignoring his ally. So, Henry returned to England with but barren triumphs. Meanwhile he was at war both with France and Scotland.

Lord Cobham's services must now be looked for at his important post at Calais, the last relic of the English footing in France, which, a few years later, was to pass away for ever.* Soon after his appointment, we find him exchanging courtesies with the neighbouring towns and the French officers in adjacent fortified positions. On the 12th of December, 1546, M. Bepisseloup, the Captain of Hedin, sent him a couple of "bracques," one of which he had brought up in his own room, "qui lieve très bien le faisant et le perdrix." On February 12th, 1547, he invites M. Blerecourt, Captain of Ardres, with any other gentlemen he might bring, to take part in a series of jousts to be held in honour of the coronation of Edward VI. But the Captain was obliged to decline, on account of pressing orders to proceed elsewhere, saying, in reply to a letter of the 19th inst., "that he had been at the 'chasse' two days in the hope of getting some game for his English friend, that his men had orders to make another attempt; meanwhile he sends him two venison pasties," which are very thankfully acknowledged, and seemed to have been very acceptable at that time. Lord Cobham, on his side, in a letter of the 21st, expresses his regret to M. Blerecourt and M. Damport

* A large number of letters from Lord Cobham of an official character, whilst at Calais, are preserved amongst the Harleian MSS.

that he was unable to send the "dogues" which the latter desired to have, and later in the year again apologises that he was unable to let M. Blerecourt have a supply of laths, as by the laws of the town no new house was allowed to have a roof of rushes, doubtless a provision against fire and the contingencies of sieges.* During this same year he is also one of the Commissioners to enquire into the French and English boundaries, in the county of Boulogne. And he was a witness to the oath of Henry II to observe the conditions of peace.

In the year following he was made a Knight of the Garter, and on the 2nd of May went, in company of Sir William Petre, Principal Secretary, on an embassy to the French King, whom they met at Amiens, and on his return was made a Privy Counsellor. His services were also rewarded in a substantial form by the grant of the site of the Priory of the Augustine Canons at Newenham, Bedfordshire, and also of the College of St. Mary and All Saints at Maidstone, to be held of the King *in capite*, by knight service. These grants inform us of the great change which had taken place through the dissolution of monasteries, and that, like other courtiers, Lord Cobham had come in for his share of the spoil.

One of the most important events of the brief reign of Edward VI was the attainder of the Protector, Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, whose career is a marked one in English history, and some of whose services have already been alluded to. On his committal to the Tower on a charge of treason, he submitted to the mercy of the Crown. But a committee was appointed by the Lords, consisting of the Earls

* Vide Harl. MSS. 288, pp. 60, 62.

of Bath and Northumberland, the Lords Cobham and Morley, with four bishops, to examine him on the articles alleged against him in the name of the House. To each of these he pleaded guilty, and although, on his trial, he was acquitted of treason, he was condemned for felony, and executed.

Soon after this, Lord Cobham was appointed Bailiff of Gravesend for life, but he soon resigned this office. During the same year, March 24th, 1550, he was in the commission for witnessing Henry II of France swear to the treaty of peace. In the year following he was made Bailiff of the manor of Greane for life, which was afterwards conferred on him *in capite* by knight's service. And again, as a reward for his good services, the King gave him the lordship and manor of Great and Little Hoo, and the hundred of Hoo, with divers other lands and tenements to the annual value of £108. 3*s*. 5*d*., to which was added the rectory of Erith. It is therefore clear, that, at present, he was a gainer by the changes, and hardly one of those disposed to quarrel with the times.

But the times were out of joint, and mischief was looming on the horizon. In all sudden changes, even though abstractedly considered beneficial, there is an amount of present evil. When, therefore, we find Lord Cobham appointed, in conjunction with Sir Thomas Cheney, on a commission to enquire into treasons, murders, felonies, etc., in his county of Kent, we see shadowed forth the trouble of coming events, now near at hand, which he was himself to feel, and which, before set at rest, would overwhelm the barony of Cobham itself. As yet, however, things proceed smoothly with him. In July he receives at Cobham Hall, Claude du Val, the Maréchal St. André,

then on his way to London. In December he, with other nobles, attends at a muster of forces before the King in Hyde Park, his brother-in-law, Lord Bray, being in gilt harness as Captain of the Pensioners, he himself with fifty men-at-arms in black and white, his standard being the Saracen's head, the ancient crest of the family of Cobham. In the following year he is made Lieutenant-General of the forces sent into the north, upon apprehension of danger from the French, with whom our relations were still unsatisfactory.

The health of the young King was now shewing serious symptoms of decline, and he removed to Greenwich, where, in the park, on May 16th, 1552, another muster was held before him, in which Lord Bray again appears at the head of the Pensioners, and Lord Cobham, as before, his coat "garded with white and pensils." Possibly this was the last military spectacle the King witnessed, for now we arrive at the time in which the Earl of Northumberland's ambition had reached its climax. The dying King, through his influence, excludes both his sisters from the succession, and the obsequious Council, of which Lord Cobham is one, subscribe to the instrument by which the Crown is limited to Lady Jane Grey.

What ensued is well known. A rising in Mary's favour was immediate, and no sooner had Northumberland left London to suppress it than the Council rebelled against his dictation. Lord Cobham's name does not appear amongst those who took an active part in this revulsion, though he probably was wise enough to see clearly before him. His feeling was most likely on the side of the Reformation, for he had selected for his sons' tutors the well-known Martin Bucer, and others of the reformed faith; and their

education was sedulously attended to. But vacillation is almost a necessary course in mental changes, and it is so the more especially when the matter is one of moment, and there is a gulf to leap. However, Lord Cobham now leaves, like others, the unhappy fortune of the young and innocent puppet Queen for the side of loyalty and legitimacy. So he countenances by his presence the proclamation of Queen Mary, obedient, like others of the Council, to the Queen's letter and accepting the pardon it contained.

The new reign begins amidst the joy of the people. The old religion is restored and Reformation repressed. But the Queen takes the dangerous step of seeking her chief adviser in a foreign potentate. Henceforward the Emperor Charles V, with his Ambassador, Rénard, stands by as Mary's evil genius. Then comes the question of marriage, in which, disdaining the national feeling so strongly manifested, her mind fixes itself on Philip, the Emperor's eldest son. It was the signal and the excuse for the uprising known as Wyatt's Rebellion, which, however, was widely spread amongst the party late in power, and without doubt full of danger to the throne.

Lord Cobham's part was a very difficult one. It may not be easy to say where his real sympathies lay, nor are those living in quiet times like the present able to understand the acts of one in so critical a position. Allied to Wyatt by marriage, and, as we have seen, but lately on the Council which acknowledged the Lady Jane Grey, and by many other facts which point to a leaning to the reformed Church, one might assume his feeling would be with the rebellion. On the other hand, he must have felt it to be a rash proceeding, and at best doubtful as to the result. This may explain his

conduct. We find him advising the Duke of Norfolk, who commanded the Royal forces, of an "espial" who had been at his house, upon whom it was found stated that both "pentioners, gardes, and Londoners wolde tak such part as he dyd," and warning the Duke not to be too forward until such time as his company had come together. Also he said, "I will bryng my men to Gravesende for I have no weapons for them but a few black bills." This was from Cowling Castle, on the 29th of January, and it was on the evening of the same day, that he wrote another letter to the Queen herself, telling her that he was at Gravesend the day before conferring with Mr. Vice-Chamberlain about setting out against the rebels, and afterwards with the Duke of Norfolk, resolving to do nothing until the arrival of the Lord Admiral with his assembly. "Whereupon," says he, "the next morning early I repayred to my Castell putting myself in a redynes with my men and at my coming thither did understand that ther had byn in myne absence a spial sent from Wyat to my sonnes who wer with me at Gravesende." He then recounts his communication with Norfolk, how he desired to be advertised of his movements towards the rebels. Then he heard that his lordship had already marched towards Rochester, and when he was in all speed making to join him, before he got half-way was advertised "that his men had forsaken hym and wer fledde to the rebelles." Upon which he retired back to his castle, and he concludes by assuring the Queen of his allegiance, "praying to God for the preservation of your ma^tie^ with the victory over your enemyes (Couling Castle, January, 1553-4.)"

Wyatt's letter to Lord Cobham was enclosed, and it shews at least that he thought his lordship was with

him, as it reproaches thus: "I am right sorye," says he, "that you are so far behind hande, . . . I pray you to be her tomorrow, for we will march then to London," signing himself "your frend and cosyn." He adds in a postscript, "I pray you take some order for the takyng of the Duke of Norfolk whereso he be between this and London, wherein you shall gratifie the state of the realm."

Lord Cobham, however, did not obey the summons, so Wyatt immediately appears before his Castle of Cowlyng; and in another letter to the Queen, he tells her he bid them defiance and called them rebels, "defendyng my castell with such power as I had until v of the clok at afternone havyng no other municyons or wepons but iv or v hand gones, pykes, and the rest black bylls, the fault wherof I may well ascrybe unto your grace's offycers of the bulwerkes and ships makyng ernest request as well as to my lord of Norfolk as to theym for the same, howbeit I could never get none." He then proceeds to state how they laid battery to the gate with two pieces of ordnance and four others to another side of the castle, that four or five of his men were slain, others hurt, at which the commons assembled were discouraged, and began to mutiny, so that he was obliged to yield. He counsels the Queen to assemble such a force in convenient time as may encounter with them, being "so fewe in number beyng not above ij^{m} and not v^{c} of them able and good armed men, but rascalls and rake-hells as lyve by spoyle." He, however, was obliged, as he confesses, to give his honour to be with them at the morrow at Gravesend, "yet notwithstanding I will remain faithful in hart towards your highnes advertysing your grace from tyme to tyme of

their procedyngs." He concludes by asking, that some one might be sent to his house to see of his good faith, alluding to the suspicions he had heard of reported to her. So, Lord Cobham, between two stools, with his sons now in the rebels' camp, tries to make the best of his uncomfortable position, as would seem natural for a man advanced in age and of mature judgment, and whose life had been passed in the midst of momentous changes, the fruit of which would be gathered long after he had passed away.*

From the failure of allies the enterprise grew desperate as Wyatt advanced, but the young Brookes held with him throughout, until the bedraggled and thinned band arrived at Temple Bar. Here Wyatt found himself shut out from the City, the Queen's forces arriving in his rear. It was then, save themselves who can, his followers dispersed; he himself sat down at a bench of the Bell Sauvage Inn, with Thomas Brooke, who remained faithful to the last, and was taken with him and committed to the Tower. William Brooke, the eldest son, and another, perhaps John, and Lord Cobham himself, were also arrested, though it might seem that the latter had already suffered enough from the insurgents to be thought one of them.

That the principals of an overt act of treason so grave should suffer the extreme penalty, was a consequence they themselves could only expect, and for them pity may be misplaced. The new Queen had now an opportunity of shewing that she possessed the high prerogative of mercy that becomes

"The throned monarch better than his crown."

* The above facts are taken from Cruden's 'History of Gravesend.'

But there was no mercy. Executions took place daily. Never, in its long and eventful history, had London witnessed such a scene as now ensued. Fifteen gibbets with eighty men dangling from them filled its streets with horror. "At all crossways and at all thoroughfares," said Noialles, the French ambassador, "the eye was met with the hideous spectacle of hanging men." So did the Queen pursue her vengeance, until even the Lords, poor though they were in number as in spirit when compared with that proud body who had awed the Plantagenets, plucked up courage to remonstrate. For Elizabeth on that day, and it was Palm Sunday, had been committed to the Tower, and gloomy apprehensions existed as to her probable fate. Lord Paget was their messenger. "He found Mary in her oratory after vespers; he told her that the season might remind a sovereign of other duties besides revenge; already too much blood had been shed; the noble house of Suffolk was all but destroyed; and he said distinctly, that if she attempted any more executions, he and his friends would interfere; the hideous scenes had lasted too long, and as an earnest of a return to mercy, he demanded the pardon of six gentlemen.

"Mary, as she lamented afterwards to Rénard, was unprepared; she was pressed in terms which shewed that those who made the request did not intend to be refused, and she consented. In the course of the week the Council extorted from her the pardon of Northampton, Cobham and one of his sons, with five others."* Thus Lord Cobham and his son William escaped: but Thomas remained in prison for another year, leaving a memorial of his confinement by carving "Thomas Cobham, 1555,"

* Froude, vol. v. p. 384.

on the walls of his prison, where, in the Beauchamp Tower, it may yet be seen.

It was at the close of this year that the reconciliation with Rome took place, and when Cardinal Pole made his progress through Kent on his way to London. Lord Cobham received him on November 23rd at his Castle of Cowling. It could hardly have been without some humiliation, though an act of courtesy due and expected from him; but as yet the Cardinal had not displayed any insignia of his legatine power, that being reserved for the following day at Gravesend.

The last we hear of Lord Cobham's services have a bitter seeming, for in 1556 he is on the commission to enquire about heretics, a time when Archbishop Cranmer was passing to the stake, with whom there was a connection by marriage. It was his fate nearly to live out this unhappy reign, for he died on September 29th, 1558, at the age of sixty-one, and the Queen followed him but a few weeks later, as did also his widow, who expired on Tuesday, the 1st of November, "about xi of the clok in the aftrenone." So close, indeed, that all the furniture of the funeral of her husband was left standing, serving for her own obsequies on the 26th, and so remained until the Christmas following. He thus lived to see the last relic of the English possessions in France, Calais, a post which he had so long held, lost for ever: it had surrendered to the Duke de Guise on January 7th.

In his will made on March 31, 1552, he says, "My bodie to be buried and broughte to the grounde, if I die in England, at Cobham churche, wthowte any pompe or superstitious ceremonye" — a provision which clearly points to the direction of his religious opinions. He proceeds, "Also I will that ev'y of my

howsholde servants have one half yeres wages and one half yeres bourde next and mediately after my decease at Cobham Halle. . . . Also my will is that Katheryn my daughter shall have all and sing'ler my gylte plate which was given me by the French Kinge. To be delyv'ed unto her at the daie of her marriage.

"And if it fortune that Katheryn my said doughter to die befor her mariage or the delyvere thereof made. Then I will all my said plate be delyvered to Sir William Broke Knight my sonne etc. . . ." The usual provisions being made in default of issue, etc., the will then proceeds—"I give the same to Ladie Elizabeth Marquess of Northampton, my daughter and her heires."

Provision is also made for the due payment of 100 marks a year to his father's widow, the Lady Elizabeth, who had for her jointure the manor of Cobham Hall, "and to Sir Percival Harte Knight and to Sir Martyn Bowes Knight eche of them fortie pounds of lawful money of England in consideration of their pains to be taken about the true execution of his will." The residue of all his goods, plate, jewels, ready money, after his debts, funeral expenses, and legacies paid, to be divided into two parts, one to be given to the Lady Anne Broke his wife, the other to his son William his heir. He recites also the amount of the manors for his wife's jointure to the yearly value of £243. 18*s*. 10*d*. over and above all charges, etc.

To his sons he severally bequeaths certain annuities, beginning with John Broke, to whom he leaves £10, or a yearly rent of lawful money of England. To his son George an annuity of £20 until such time as the said George be otherwise provided for that he may dispend £40 yearly above all charge. He leaves

a yearly rent of £20 to his son Henry during his life, and the same to his son Thomas, the younger of that name. None other of his sons are specially mentioned. The will concludes by an elaborate deed of entail of the estates upon the heirs male of Sir William his eldest son, and in default upon those of his other children, etc., etc.

He married Anne, daughter of Edmond, Lord Bray, sister and co-heir of John, Lord Bray, about the year 1525, and by her had the large family of fourteen children, who are all represented around his tomb in Cobham Chancel. There is a portrait of him by Holbein in the fine collection of drawings preserved at Windsor Castle, which have been engraved by Bartolozzi, and published in 1796. It exhibits him in the flat trencher cap, his neck and chest bare, with a loose fold of linen thrown across the shoulders, as used so often in the bust of a sculptor. The hair is thin, as is also the beard, whisker, and moustache. The cheek bones are rather high, the nose appears to be aquiline, and has spreading nostrils. The mouth is firm and compressed, whilst the contraction of the brow is that which marks an anxious temperament. At Longleat is a picture said to be of him by Lucas de Heere.

The tomb of Lord George Cobham and that of Anne his wife stands in the midst of Cobham Chancel, and, before its restoration, exhibited terrible signs of past neglect and dilapidation. It is of rare beauty, both of design and of execution, and consists of a large altar tomb, constructed of alabaster, with the exception of the table, which is of black marble. Upon this rest the effigies of the deceased, and it is partly sustained by sixteen fluted columns of the

Ionic order, the flutings being filled in with black flush with the surface. Kneeling figures of the fourteen children are ranged round the sides on a supplemental table, supported by the plinths on which the columns rest. The four daughters are at each end; the sons on each side, placed according to their priority of birth alternately, first on the right or south side, then on the left or north side of the tomb. Escutcheons of arms are at each end.

The effigies are finely executed, displaying a very superior art, and are most likely of Flemish workmanship, being in character very similar to that of Count Lalaing, at Hogstraaten, in Belgium. This nobleman, who also figured in the political arena of his time, died in 1558, and it cannot be doubted but that the same sculptor executed the monuments of both.

Lord Cobham is represented in armour surmounted by a tabard emblazoned with his arms, through a slit of which, on the right side, appears the lance-rest. Over this he wears the mantle with cordon, collar, and hood of the Order of the Garter, and the garter, with its motto, is on his right knee. His hands are *clasped* in prayer,* and his head rests on an embroidered cushion, the pattern inlaid with black. At his feet is the heraldic antelope, or "gazelle," resembling, however, a young ram couchant.

The figure of the Lady Anne wears over the gown a tabard of her arms, viz., Bray and quarterings, and over this a mantle of estate with the arms and quarterings of Brooke. Her head rests on a cushion

* As this is part of the restoration, it is necessary to state, that the arrangement of what remained, and the contraction of the muscles, decided this point.

similar to that beneath her husband's, and she wears the French hood, forerunner of the modern bonnet. Her hands are conjoined in prayer, and at her feet is the "gatyger," as a lion couchant winged, the wings heraldically emblazoned "vaire." It is a cognizance of the house of Bray.

On a semicircular projection of the west end of the table lies a helmet, surmounted by the ancient crest of the Cobham family—the Moor, or Saracen's Head—and the same is seen over against the tomb on the north wall upon a helmet, possibly that of Lord George.

At the east end of the tomb are two escutcheons; the upper one is Brooke and quarterings, viz., Brooke, Cobham, De la Pole, Peveril, Braybrook, St. Amand, quartering Bray thus:

Troughton.—*Argent*, a chevron between 3 eagles' claws erased *sable*.

Bray.—Vaire *argent* and *azure* 3 bendlets *gules*.

Hallighwell.—*Or* on a bend *gules*, 3 goats *argent*, armed of the field.

Norbury.—*Sable* on a chevron between 3 bulls' heads, caboshed, *argent* a fleur-de-lis of the field.

Boteler.—*Gules* a fess checky *argent* and *sable* between 6 crosslets paté fitché *argent*.

Sudeley.—*Or* 2 bendlets *gules*.

Montfort.—Bandy of four *or* and *azure*.

Croyser.—*Sable*, a cross between 4 butterflies *or*.

Dabernon.—*Azure*, a chevron *or*.

Beneath this is a large escutcheon, having as supporters—on the dexter side an antelope, on the sinister a griffin. This is surmounted by a helmet with crest of a lion passant crowned, a cognizance of Brooke. Motto, "Je me fie en Dieu." In this escutcheon the quarterings of Brooke impale those of Bray, as above given.

At the west end there are also two escutcheons, the upper one consisting of Brooke, as before, with the quarterings of Bray on an escutcheon of pretence. It is surrounded by the Garter.

Beneath this is a large escutcheon with twenty-seven coats of arms, consisting of the quarterings of Brooke and Bray, impaling the arms and quarterings of Newton, the latter representing the second wife of Sir William Brooke, son and heir of Lord Cobham, by whom this monument was erected. It has supporters, and the motto as before, the crest being that of the Moor's head. The bearings of Newton are as follows :—

Newton, or Caradoc.—*Argent*, on a chevron *sable*, 3 garbs *or*.

Sherbourne.—Ermine, a fess lozengy *sable*.

Angle.—*Or*, a fesse lozengy *azure*, a bendlet *gules* (4 fusils fess-wise ?).

Perrott.—*Gules*, 3 pears *argent* (*or ?*).

Harvey.—*Sable*, billetté and a lion rampant *argent*.

Cheddar.—*Sable*, a chevron ermine.

Pickering.—*Gules*, a chevron *or* between 3 fleurs-de-lis.

. . . . *Argent* on a chevron *gules*, between 3 cinquefoils *azure*, 3 annulets of the first.

Bitton.—Ermine, a fesse *gules*.

Furneaux.—*Gules*, a bend between 6 cross-crosslets *or*.

Caldecot, or Caudecot.—Parted per pale, *or* and *azure*, on chief, 3 leopards' heads *argent*.

Gurney, or Corney.—Paly of six *or* and *azure*.

On the west side is the figure of Elizabeth, the eldest child, Marchioness of Northampton, wearing a coronet, a tabard of arms over her gown, and a mantle; she kneels on an embroidered cushion. The arms are Brooke and Bray quartered, impaling Parre thus:—

Parre.—(Not visible). . .

Fitzhugh.—*Azure*, 3 chevronels interlaced and a chief *or*.

Staveley.—Barry *argent* and *gules*, a fleur-de-lis *sable*.
Furneaux.—*Gules*, a bend between 6 cross crosslets *or*.
Gray.—Barry *argent* and *azure* on a bend *gules*, 3 martlets *or*.
Marmion.—Vaire, *argent* and *azure* a fesse *gules*.
Gernegan,—Barry *or* and *azure*, an eagle *sable*.
St. Quentin.—*Or* 3 chevronels *gules*, a chief vaire *argent* and *azure*.
Greene.—*Vert*, 3 bucks trippant *or*.
. . . . . (not visible).

Opposite to her kneels a similar figure for Anne, second daughter, who died unmarried. At the east end, also, is a figure for Mary, third daughter, unmarried; and one for Katharine, fourth daughter. All have tabards of arms of Brooke and Bray, the latter impaling Jerningham, thus:

Jerningham.—*Argent*, 3 buckles *gules* (not visible).
Ingoldsthorpe.—*Gules*, a cross engrailed *argent*.
Fitzosborne.—*Gules*, 3 bars gemelles *or*, a canton *argent*.
Harlinge.—*Argent*, a unicorn rampant *sable* (not visible).
Mortimer.—*Or*, 6 fleurs-de-lis, 3, 2, and 1 *sable*.
Gonvyle.—*Argent*, on a chevron with 2 cottices engrailed *sable* 3 escallops of the field.
Loudam.—*Argent*, 3 escutcheons *sable* (not visible).
Kelvedon.—*Gules*, a pall reversed *ermine*.
Clifton.—*Sable*, a lion rampant within an orle of cinquefoils *argent*.

1. At the west end of the south side the figures of the sons, in armour, kneeling on cushions, begin with Sir William, the eldest. He wears a Peer's mantle with tippet of ermine, a tabard emblazoned with the arms of Brooke and Bray, over which is a label of three points, impaling those of Nevil, of Abergavenny, for his first wife.

3. George Brooke, third son, has the attitude varied from the rest, as he is kneeling upon one knee, the right being slightly raised, as in getting

up. His tabard shews an impalement of the arms of Duke, viz., parted per pale *argent* and *azure* three wreaths counter-changed.

5. John Brooke, fifth son, has the arms of Cobbe impaled, viz., *argent*, a chevron between three cocks *gules*.

7. Henry Brooke, seventh son, being unmarried, impales blank. There is a quatrefoil for difference.* In the portrait taken of him in 1582, the quarterfoil has given place to an annulet, he being then fifth son.

9. Edmund Brooke, ninth son. His tabard has only Brooke and Bray; he holds his sword hilt with his left hand, the right being on his breast.

2. On the north side the first is Henry Brooke, second son, with blank impalement.

4. Thomas Brooke, fourth son, has a fleur-de-lis *argent* for difference, and impales Cavendish quarterly, 1 and 4, *Sable*, three stags' heads couped, 2 and 3, a chevron *gules* between 3 cross-crosslets *sable*, a crescent *or* for difference.

6. Edward Brooke, unmarried, with blank impalement.

8. Thomas Brooke, eighth son, blank impalement.

10. Edward Brooke, tenth son, similar in treatment with 9, as both terminate the row and face the altar. He bears Brooke and Bray without impalement.

All these figures are arranged between the columns, and have their names superscribed above them. The inscription, in Latin, very long and expressed in capital letters, is well carved on the bevelled verge of the

* He afterwards married the widow of Sir Walter Haddon, who died 1571-2. At the time, therefore, in which this monument was made he was unmarried.

marble table upon which the effigies lie, and is as follows:—

Honoratissimvs . et . clarissimvs . vir . Georgivs . Brokvs . fvit . dominvs . Cobhamvs . ex . oppidi . Cobami . possessione . cognominatvs . et . idem . lavdatissimvs . aliqvot . annis . Caleti . præfectvs . in . illvstrissimv' . Col | legivm . cooptatvs . eqvitvm . Divi . Georgii . nec . s°lvm . hanc . prestantissimam . habvit . honorvm . et . familiæ . comendationen . sed . etiam . natvra . fvit . optima . et . animo . omni . genere . lavdis . ornatissimo . dvx . fvit . in . bello . prestantissimvs . et . sapientissimvs . in . pace . consiliarivs . princ | ipibvs . in qvorvm . temporibvs . vixit . egregie . probatvs . Cantianis . svis . inter . qvos . habitavit . eximie . charvs . deniqz . toti . reipvblicæ . propter . honorv' . splendorem . et . virtutv' . notissimvs . et . dilectissimvs . et . hæc . o'ia . fvervnt . in . illo . illvstriora . quoniam . et . professionem . evangelii . sus | ceperat . et . defensionem . ac . eandem . ad . extremv' | vsqz . spiritvm . conservavit . Iste . nobilissimvs . vir . constantissimvs . Dei . servvs . et . ornatissimv' . patriæ . membrv' . cvm . ad . matvram . senectvtem . pervenisset . annv' . agens . sexagesi | mv' . secundv' . et . fæbris . ardoribvs . conflagrans . tertio | calendas . octobris . est . mortvvs . anno . 1558 . cvivs . discessv . liberi . qvos . post . se . mvltos . et . inprimis . lavdatos . reliqvit . et . amici . ac . necessarii . tota . deniqz . respvblica . magnv' . et . ivstv' . dolorem | accepervnt . Gvlihelmvs . autem . Brokvs . eqves . appella | tvs . ex . antiqvæ . familiæ . cognominac'oe . d'ns . Cobhamvs . filivs . Georgii . patris . et . hæres . benevalentissimvs . hoc . monvmentv' . memoriæ . Georgii . patris . svi . charissimi . dedicavit . anno . 1561 . et . Elizabethæ . Reginæ . tertio

Patre . fvit . domino | fælix . dominoqz . marito, . alter . erat . Braivs : Cobamus . alter . erat | Anna . fvit . frv | gi . fvit . et . prosperima . mater . pauperibvs . larga . præbvit . anna . manv | Nil . erat . hac . mel | ivs . nil . fortunativs . una . Donec . erat . charo . charior . illa . viro | Vltimvs . hvnc . annvs . Mariæ . cv' . funere . mersit . illa . pari . fato . mense . novembre . rvit | Sic . qvos . vita . dvos . concordes . semper . habebat . extinctos . eadem . nv'c . qvoqz . busta . tenent .

It was not the first that was suggested, as will be

seen in the draft given in a note below.* It refers generally to his services, to his profession and defence of the Gospel, the esteem in which he was held, and tells us, that his son and heir dedicated this monument to his most dear memory in the year 1561. This date is inscribed in large characters at the base of the west-end of the tomb, being shewn as white upon a black ground, and it is a feature in this monument that its decoration is produced by incisions filled in with colour, black being that for the architectural portions.

The material used is wax mixed with resin, an Italian process, and a relic of the Greek encaustic practice spoken of by Pliny (*Nat. Hist.*, lib. xxxv.), and which, indeed, was a forerunner of oil-painting. In this particular the example is specially interesting, as no other

* Inscription proposed, but not adopted.

(*Harl. MS.* 284, fol. 131.)

Mortale hoc induet æternitate'.—1 Cor. iv.

Honoratus ac strenuus vir Georgius Brocus, Cobhami Regulus Caleti nuper prorex ordinis divi Georgii eques auratus familia nobilis, dum vixit, verus Dei cultor, religione pius, natura clemens, principibus gratus, hostibus patrie ferus, foris manu promptusz, domi in consilio dando fidelis, patriæ amator, pacis conciliætor, justiciæ co'servator, belli dux præstans, amicis fidus, Inimicis parcens, egenis misericors, om'ibus affabilis, comis, in adv'sis constans, In secu'dis moderatus, In periculis magnanimus, In su'ptibus magnificus, hospitalis, prudens, majoribus quanquam clarissimis, illustrior, cu'ctis ordinibz charus, ætate jam grandis natu, sobole numerosa fœlix, tertio calendas octobris, post natu' Christu', servatorem Anno supra sesquimille, quinquagesimo octavo, ætatis vero . . . . , nobis triste sui desideriu' relinquens, spreto mu'do ex hac vita in domino migravit: corpus autem sole'nibus sepulcroru' ceremoniis apparatu' que funebriu' epuloru' splendido in avitu' monume'tu, a liberis amicisqz veste lugubri, vultu mœsto, ac animo gemibu'do relatu', In extremo restaurationis et Judicii die reviviscens, corona justiciæ redimiendu', In luce' prodiet: mens vero interim divinæ particeps

instance occurs to the writer of its use in England, though its claim, as a means of decoration, is far above any other mode for durability. Many of the colours here used, however, have been made of pigments, having a tendency to fade or change, viz., verditer for blue, which has become a dark green, and an impure vermilion, or native cinnabar, which has become brown. The heraldry, too, is in some places untrue, as in the small figures, *argent* and *or* are both represented by the alabaster itself. But it may be possible that *or* was originally, in the cases alluded to, intended to be gilded.

The family of Lord George command a special attention. It has already been mentioned with what sedulous care he attended to the education of his sons, seeking for them tutors from eminent men of the

naturæ in fæliciu' animaru' cœtu' relata, In cœlis cu' Deo beata ævo sempiterno fruitur.

Piis Christus vita est
et mori lucru'.—Phil. i.

Disce mori, fragilis vita est, mors certa, sed ulli
Tempora fas no' est noscere, disce mori,
Disce mori, non forma, decus, fundus, ve, vires, te
Letho aut subducu't stem'ata, disce mori
Disce mori, sponsus veniet, lampas . . g . . . . . .
Math. xxv. Plena oleo, niteat lumine, disce mori.
Disce mori, sec'li ne gloria fallat, inanis
Divitiis noli fidere, disce mori.
Disce mori, mundi fluxis ne credite rebus,
Si cupis æternu' vivere, disce mori
Disce mori, vigila, mox ingruet arbiter æquus
Vult non paratu' perdere, disce mori
Phil. i. Disce mori, mors paulus ait, tibi lucra reponet,
Christus vita piis optima, disce mori
Sis bonus et clemens nobis, ut morte soluti
Intremus regni gaudia Christe tui.

reformed Church; perhaps, for the first time, we hear of foreign travel forming part of the training of the youth of the nobility of England. Some of them stand out prominently from the rest, and to these our attention must be directed. His eldest, William, will have a full record as a Lord of Cobham, so at present we will take the next in order, leaving mention of those who, dying early and unmarried, are without record.

George, the third son, was born January 27th, 1532-3. He was sent abroad with his tutor, Edmund Harvell, and studied Greek, Latin and Italian under him at Venice in 1545-6; in the following year he returned to England in the company of M. Sylvester. He was apprenticed to his father on the 31st of December, 1552, as merchant of the staple of Calais in the usual form: George Barnes, Lord Mayor of London, and the sheriffs being witnesses.* And this is all we have to say of him, except that in 1561 he took refuge at Antwerp from his German creditors. He married Christiana, daughter and heir of Richard Duke of Otterton, Devon.

It has been remarked that a large family is often productive of a scapegrace. If we seek for an example, among the fourteen children of Lord Cobham we find it in that of his fourth son, Thomas. He has been mentioned before, as in Wyatt's Rebellion, but, as he was not the only one of the family who was therein engaged, in itself it would not be notable. But his earlier days were a shadow of the coming man. We hear dire complaints of him at Orleans, when he was but seventeen years old, in a letter from one Nicholas Alen (Alenus), his tutor, to his father, January 25th, 1549-

* *MS. Charters*, Brit. Mus., 46 I. 29.

50.* He speaks of his licentious mode of living, his idleness, his disregard of his (the tutor's) many discourses, which did not seem to make the youth a bit better. Then, he spends whole days drinking in taverns, and the time he should give to his studies he passes away at tennis, or wanders through the streets, even by night, in the company of "lost men," now from this and now from that craving money; nor would he go to public lectures, etc. The wayward youth, arrived at his prime manhood, gave a very unmistakable illustration of his character, now developed.

The time was prolific of adventure, stirring, and full of active life. Religious revolt was being fearfully repressed in the Netherlands under the express direction of Philip II; and by many in this country Spain must have been considered as a natural enemy. Froude's history relates that "Thomas Cobham was at this time roving the seas, half-pirate, half-knight errant of the Reformation, doing battle on his own account with the enemies of the truth, wherever the service to God was likely to be repaid with plunder. He was one of a thousand whom Elizabeth was forced, for decency's sake, to condemn and disclaim in proclamations, and whom she was as powerless as she was probably unwilling to interfere with in practice. What Cobham was and what his kind were may be seen in the story about to be told.

"A Spanish ship was freighted in Flanders for Bilbao, the cargo was valued at 80,000 ducats, and there were on board also forty prisoners, 'condemned,' as the Spanish account says, 'for heavy offences worthy of chastisement,' who were going to Spain to serve in the galleys. Young Cobham, cruising in the Channel,

* *Harl. MS.* 374, f. 5.

caught sight of the vessel, chased her down into the Bay of Biscay, fired into her, killed her captain's brother and a number of men, and, then boarding, when all resistance had ceased, sewed up the captain himself and the survivors of the crew in their own sails, and flung them overboard. The fate of the prisoners is not related; it seems they perished with the rest. The ship was scuttled, and Cobham made off with the booty, which the English themselves admitted to be worth 50,000* ducats, to his pirates' nest in the south of Ireland. Eighteen drowned bodies, with the main-sail for their winding-sheet, were washed up upon the Spanish shores, cruelty without example, of which but to hear was enough to break the heart. English hearts, in like manner, had been broken with the news of brothers, sons or husbands, wasting to skeletons in the Cadiz dungeons, or burning to ashes in the Plaza of Valladolid. But this fierce deed of young Cobham was no dream of Spanish slander; the English factor of Bilbao was obliged to reply to Chaloner's eager inquiries, that the story, in its essential features, was true. . . . Cobham was tried for piracy the next year at the indignant requisition of Spain. He refused to plead to his indictment; and the dreadful sentence was passed upon him of the *peine forte et dure*. His relations, De Silva said,

* This estimate seems to have come rather from the merchants of Antwerp, as, in a complaint to the Regent, they state that two ships and two zebras were attacked in the Bay of Biscay, and one ship and the zebras escaped, the other taken, her captain being slain. "Her cargo is worth 50,000 ducats, her crew of forty have been sent to the galleys," a surmise, of course, on their part, as there were none in England, and shewing they were ignorant of their fate. This took place in November, 1563.—Vide *Calendar State Papers*, Foreign Series, 46, Feb. 1564.

strained their influence to prevent it being carried into effect, and it seems that either they succeeded, or that Cobham himself yielded to the terror, and consented to answer. At all events, he escaped the death which he deserved, and was soon again abroad upon the seas."*

Close about the same time (March 13) at which this transaction is mentioned, comes another report, in a letter from Zealand by Gough to Gresham, stating that "two English pirates, one is Lord Cobham's brother, came in with a Spanish ship, whereof is much ado here," and, perhaps, it is this same which Guesten writes to Cecil about (March 14th, 1564) from Bilbao, wherein he says, "a ship of this town has been spoiled by Cobham, and a friar and another man killed;" and the transaction of Biscay is also alluded to. All this year he seems to have been active on the sea, and on August 24th we find him associated with Hawkins, as bound for Guinea and the Portugal Indies, there, without doubt, to be similarly engaged.

The sea was not a school of morals at this age, nor even later, and on all sides much of this licence was going on. Spain had little to expect from us, nor we from her. Thomas Brooke was a decidedly unquiet spirit, and in later years, as we shall see, was concerned in the conspiracy of the Duke of Norfolk and Mary Queen of Scots, and arrested by his own brother, Lord Cobham, on the night of the 14th of October, 1571. But whatever his guilt may have been, he escaped, and if we hear of him again it is possibly as the "Brooke," who, when the great Armada was flaunting by our coasts, and each port sent forth its patriotic volunteers eager for the fight, joined with Raleigh,

* Froude, vol. viii., pp. 447, 448.

and a number of others of noble names, to bear his part in this great drama of the time. He married Katharine, daughter of Sir William Cavendish, by whom he had issue a daughter, Frances, married to Arthur Mills, Esq.

Of Lord Cobham's other sons, John demands a brief notice. He was born April 22nd, 1534, and his education was under the care of Martin Bucer. In a letter from the latter dated Strasburg, May 6th, 1548, he speaks highly of his abilities and attainments.* At a later time he is spoken of as having distinguished himself as a soldier, in the wars of the Low Countries, during the momentous struggle for civil and religious liberty. But we hear complaints of him, too. William, Prince of Orange, writes to Elizabeth, March 16th, 1560-7, concerning his elopement from the island of Walcheren with one Lucretia de'Affetati, a lady under the especial protection of the Queen, who therefore was much offended at this affair.† And eleven years later we hear that "John Brooke, captain in her Majesty's service, keeps the whole pay of her soldiers from them; and that Mr. Henry Brooke has gotten Mr. Norton Green, a Roman Catholick, guilty of no other crime than disobedience to her Majesty, in not going to church, from whom he means to squeeze 2,000 marks before he shall have his libertie." Afterwards we find him in his own country, aiding in the preparations being made against the Armada, and a possible landing of the Duke of Parma. In May, 1584, John Cobham is named amongst the commissioners for the musters in the county of Kent, and seems to have been active in that service.

* *Harl. MS.* 374, f. 2.

† *Cott. MS.* Nero B. VI., f. 332.

He married Alice, daughter and heir of Edward Cobbe, Esq., widow of Sir John Norton, of Northwood, knight. He died September 25th, 1594, and was buried at Newington, Kent, where is a fine monument of alabaster to his memory, erected by his nephews, William and George, representing him in armour kneeling within a niche. The Lady Norton was also interred here, where still remains a brass representing her with two sons by her side, and a rhyming inscription, which speaks of her as "John Cobham's late and loving wife."

The last of whom a special mention is required, and, perhaps, the most distinguished of them all, was Henry, his seventh son. He was born February 5th, 1537. A good part of his life was employed in diplomacy at various Courts as Ambassador, but specially at those of France and Spain, where he proved himself an able public servant, sending home to Cecil much valuable information. In 1570-1 he was on an embassage to the Emperor at Vienna about a possible alliance of Elizabeth with the Archduke Maximilian, and also to the King of Spain. He was knighted by the Queen at the festivities of Kenilworth in July, 1575, and that same month went again as Ambassador to Spain. In 1579-80 he was sent to France, and whilst there sent to the Queen, as a new year's gift, "a cage of gold with hope in it," and was appointed a commissioner in 1582 with Sir Francis Walsingham and others to treat of the delicate business of the marriage of the Queen with Alençon. In a letter to Mr. Secretary Wilson he gives some account of his early life. When young he was dedicated by his father to the service of the Princess Elizabeth during the reign of Mary, and was educated under the Earl of

Devonshire. In referring to his various embassies, he stated that his pay was not sufficient to pay his expenses, nor did the Queen's gifts make up for the loss. In the twelfth of her reign, however, he received a grant of the site of the monastery of East Malling in Kent, of the yearly value of £100. He was knight of the shire for Kent in the twenty-eighth and thirty-first of this reign. He married Anne, daughter of Sir Henry Sutton, knight, and widow of Sir Walter Haddon, principal master of the Court of Requests. The latter died January 21st, 1571-2. This lady once tried her own hand at diplomacy when at Paris, unknown to her husband, and made communications to the Earl of Leicester.*

Amongst the names of the sons it will have occurred that some are repeated. This may find explanation in the fact that four of them died young, viz., the elder Henry, the younger Edward, Edmund, and the younger Thomas. Of the daughters, Elizabeth, the eldest child, born on June 12th, 1526, demands most attention, chiefly on account of her marriage with William Parre, Marquis of Northampton, whose name has already appeared as concerned in Wyatt's Rebellion. He had been divorced from his first wife, Anne Bourchier, by the Ecclesiastical Court, on account of her adultery, and he then married the daughter of Lord Cobham, the Protestant canonists stating "that the band of wedlock being broken by the mere fact of infidelity, the second marriage was lawful." But in Mary's reign this decision was reversed, and the two were separated. It was one of the debatable scandals of the time. She

* The portrait of Sir Henry Brooke, already referred to, was engraved by Remigius Hagenbergh, 1582, and has been often mistaken for that of Henry, last Lord Cobham.

died in 1565, and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Katharine, the youngest daughter, was born April 7th, 1544, and was married to John Jerningham, Esq. Her father alludes to her probable marriage in his will, 1552, when she was but a child. Being represented on the monument (1561), with the arms of Jerningham on her tabard, she must have been then already married, although but seventeen.

Mary died unmarried, and Anne at an early age.

It will have been seen how much the lives of the Lords of Cobham illustrate the different epochs of our history. The Barons' contest with the Crown, the wars with France, the wars of the rival houses, then the Reformation, which in its dawn found a victim among them, to the time of its struggle and the changing political arena, of which the late lord's life was an apt example. His death, so nearly coindent with that of Queen Mary, closes this period; for on the accession of Elizabeth, Protestantism again arises, and at the end of her reign may be said to have been firmly established. Now William Brooke, who comes next upon the scene, is a type of the new era, and identified with its success.

He was born November 1, 1527, the second child of the numerous family. And, as it has already been shewn that his father was alive to the growing necessities of a good education, it will be supposed that his heir would have special attention paid to his. And thus we find him at the early age of thirteen sent abroad with a tutor for this purpose. An interesting document is extant, preserved amongst the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, relative to this journey, being a licence or passport to William Brooke, Lord

Cobham's eldest son, to travel beyond sea. It runs thus:—

"And wheras oure trustie and welbeloved William Broke, the eldest sonne of oure right trustie and wellbeloved the Lord of Cobham, is desirous and mynded to passe into the p'tes of beyond the sea there to contynue for his further encrease of vertue and lerning. We have you wit that we have licenced and by these pat's do licence him to passe unto the said p'tes of beyond the sea wth his two servants, three horses, twentie pounds in money, bagges and baggage, at his libertie.

"geven under our signet at o^{r} palace of Westm' the fourth day of June in the xxxiij yere of our raigne (1541)."

On this occasion his father drew up a rule of conduct for his observance during his absence, and the analogy between this and the advice given by Polonius is so strong that it becomes an interesting illustration to Hamlet. In both cases the father is a statesman and a courtier. It is headed—

"Remembrances to Mr. William Broke.

"1. Firste in the mornyng remembyr to serve God, thankyng hym for his benefitts and humblie desiryng his grace to aide and assiste you.

"2. It^{m} To heare Masse devoutlie upon yo^{r} knees and pray ferventlie at that tyme (all other fantasies and worldlie pleasures cleane sett apart), that your mynde and bodie may that tyme oonely be given to call upon Almightie God.

"3. It^{m} To applie yo^{r} lernyng diligentlie (and that of yo^{r} own mynde without any compulsion) yo^{r} lernyng shal be Civil Lawe, Rethoricke and Greke.

"4. It^{m} To be obedient in all pointes to yo^{r} Tutor and to doo nothyng without his advise and counsell.

"5. It^{m} To kepe yo^{r}selfe chast and to take grete hede that ye sett no mynde or pleas^{r} upon the abhominable sin of lechery ever havyng in yo^{r} remembraunce the bounde of yo^{r} promesse of mariage and kepe yo^{r} vessell cleane according to the comandement of God.

"6. It^m To send lettres over to my Lorde into Englande so often as the comoditie of cariage shall serve you.

"7. It^m At vacant tymes to playe upon the lute or other instrumentes.

"8. It^m To marke well the best formes and maneres in the countrie and those to put in use and accustome yourselfe to the best.

"9. It^m To take heed that ye doo not speke to thicke, (*i.e.*, not too quick)."

"I wyl performe aull thes
thyngs bi the grace of God
by me your sonne
WYLLIAM BROKE."*

Item 7 is similar in spirit to the advice sent by Polonius to Laertes, as in Hamlet, act ii., sc. 1, "And bid him ply his music;" music evidently being at that time considered as a necessary accomplishment of a gentleman. Indeed, in Elizabeth's reign, England stood high amongst neighbouring nations in the knowledge of that science.

Item 5 shews that the youth of thirteen was already engaged to be married to Dorothy, daughter of George Nevil, Lord of Abergavenny.

There is a letter during their absence, from Edmonde Baller, his tutor, dated at Arey (?), a town in the neighbourhood of Calais, in which he acquaints his father of his son's inclination towards a military life; he being, it seems, a witness of the musters and preparations being made by the King's Commissioners; but after the matter had been fully considered, it was concluded he should "tarry and take such part as God shall send him."† A few years later he had an opportunity of displaying his martial ardour, and in 1549 was engaged in the war in France which ensued on the attempt to recover Boulogne, by taking advan-

* *Harl. MSS.*, 283, f. 171. † *Ibid.*, f. 133 b.

tage of the social distractions then shewing themselves in England. But peace being soon concluded, young Brooke's military career came to an end, nor does it appear that he ever again took up the sword, as his services were afterwards of a purely civil character. He was one of the esquires of the body to Edward VI, and was knighted a short time before his father's death, when he became the ninth Lord of Cobham.

It has already been shewn that he was implicated in Wyatt's rebellion, and how, with his father, he escaped the Queen's vengeance. This affair does not appear to have influenced her against him, for, on his becoming Lord of Cobham, he was made Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of the Castle of Dover, and in these offices he was confirmed on the accession of Elizabeth, which took place the following year, viz. in 1558, and he was also appointed Chancellor of the Cinque Ports and the first permanent Lord-lieutenant of the county of Kent, all which offices he held until his death.

The first service he was called upon to render by the new sovereign was to go on an embassage in November to Philip of Spain, who was then at Brussels, to announce the decease of Queen Mary his wife, and her own accession to the throne. He was also to endeavour to renew the treaties with Spain. But the French were intriguing with the latter under the supposition that all interests between the two countries had ceased by the death of Mary. Lord Cobham writes to Elizabeth that "at Cercamp the French did not let to say and talk openly, how that your highness is not lawful Queen of England." Though Spain did not join with France, Lord Cobham did not seem to succeed in making with Philip any

direct or sincere alliance. The double dealing of this monarch, indeed, was but the too natural bent of his mind, as the envoy discovered at a later day.

Thus beginning, with honours falling like showers upon him, the Queen in her progress through Kent paid a visit to him at Cobham Hall in the month of July, 1559. This visit is especially described by Thynne in Holinshed's Chronicle, who tells us of—

"a banketing house made for hir maiestie in Cobham parke, with a goodlie gallerie therevnto composed all of greene with seuerall deuices of knotted flowers, supported on each side with a faire row of hawthorn trees, which nature seemed to haue planted there of purpose in summer time to welcome hir maiestie and to honor their lord and maister."

It was on the 22nd September this year (N.S.) he lost his first wife, whose daughter, an only child named Frances, was married to Thomas Coppinger.

On the 25th of February, 1559-60, he married his second wife, the daughter of Sir John Newton, and one of the ladies of the Queen's bedchamber. The marriage is thus quaintly described, and is a curious picture of manners:—

"Sundaye the 25th of februarye being Shrofsundaye 1559 A^{o} sc'do Elizabeth Regine, the Quenes ma^{tie} lyinge at her pallace of Westm' abowt x of the Clock the young lordes knightes & gentlemen of the Court cam' to the Chambre of the sayd Lord Cobh^{a}m & Conductyd hym uppe into the Quenes grate clossett.

"And afterwarde she was fro' her chambre likewyse conductyd uppe to the seyd Clossett betweene Waltre viscount hereford & John lord Sheffelde bachelors, but shortlye after & in the same yere maryed, her trayne borne by a younge ladye.

"And after her followyd the ladye m'quys of North^{a}mpton & the ladye Strange wth a greate noumbre of other ladyes & gentleweomen, where they stayd in the seyd great clossett tyll the quene were com'. And then the p'cessyon was sunge w^{ch} ended the p'ceaded w' the Espousalls afore the quenes ma^{tie} who stod nere by them & the Counsell & other lordes. Fyancyd by doctor Carloe Busshoppe

of Chychestre and the lord Willam howard, lorde Chamberlayne dyd geve her in thabsence of her father. And so the Fyauncyinge fullye Fynnisshyd they knealyd douwne agayne at a fourme in the seyd Clossett wherupon were bothe Cuyssheons & carpett leyd and the servyce beinge endyd she was agayne conductyd to her Dynynge chamber wch was the greate chambre wthin the Counsell chamber betweene James blunt, lord mountjoye & Edwarde wyndsor lord wyndsor, where was great fare & cheare, and after dinn' great Dauncynge & other pastyme untyll the Eveninge prayer and then to supper where suppyd wth the bryde the Right hon'able hyghe & mightye prynce John Duke of fyneland ye son to the kinge of Swethow who also had Dauncyd the Afternone wth the seyd Bryde for the more honoryng of the seyd maryage."

By this lady he had six children, the first a boy, being born on December 4th, the same year, at his house in Blackfriars. The ceremony of the christening has been handed down, and may follow as another illustration of the time. It took place only three days after the birth, a usual custom at this era. The Queen was one of twelve sponsors, and in this, as well as in many other acts, shewed herself a close friend to Lord Cobham, to whose lady she was probably much attached:—

"The Byrthe and Chrystenynge of maxymylyan fyrst son to Wyllam lord Cobhm & ladye his wyfe afore namyd.

"On Wenysday the iiijth of december 1560 Ao tercio Elizabeth Regine the sayd ladye lyinge at her howsse wthin the late Blacke Freeres at london abowt x of the Clocke in the fornone the seyd wenysdaye was delyv'ed of A sonne and on Setheredaye next Aftre in the Aftrenone toward the Evenynge she was caryed & conveyd to the Courte the Quenes Matie lyinge at her pallace of Westm' by Dyv'sse ladyes as the ladye Dacres of the Sowthe th'eldre & the ladye Dacres the younger her Doughter in lawe the Lady harte the ladye Broke the ladye Mason & dyv'sse other wth a greate companye of gentlemen of the seyd lords Srvants & others where in the Quenes great clossett was prepared the Sylver Soute & all other thinges necessarye for the seyd Chrystenynge and there at the tyme of Eveninge prayer the Quenes matie cam' & Crystenyd the same who

was godmother thereunto & namyd hyt Maxymylyan Wyll^{a}m Parre m'quis of North^{a}mpton & younge Erle of Arundell beinge the godfathers who after the Chrystenynge endyd there wasshyd & gave presents to the seyd Chylde as followeth."*

(List of presents not preserved.)

From the position which Lord Cobham held in the county, he was frequently called upon to perform the necessary courtesies to such distinguished foreigners as passed through it, on their way to the Court. We therefore find that, in September, 1565, he and Lord Abergavenny were ordered to attend at Dover to receive, on his landing, Christopher, the Prince and Margrave of Baden, with his wife Cecilia, sister to the King of Sweden, and to escort them to London. And it is notable, that Lady Cobham was also enjoined to accompany him, to do the necessary honours, though at this time she was within three months of her confinement, which took place on December 11th, when his fifth child, William, was born, and for whom the Princess Cecilia became one of the sponsors.

The next few years may be called the most troubled period of Elizabeth's reign, when conspiracies arose and were suppressed, and the cause of Mary Queen of Scots, as possible successor to the Crown, had, even in the Court itself, many adherents.

In the conspiracy of the Duke of Norfolk Lord Cobham was imprudent, but not otherwise guilty; though for some days he was retained a prisoner in Lord Burghley's house. He was indeed doing his duty as Warden of the Cinque Ports, examining Baily, Ridolfi's agent and one of the young enthusiasts in the cause of the Queen of Scots, and about to lay the papers discovered upon him before the Council.

* *Addit. MSS.* Brit. Mus. 6113, f. 201.

But that scapegrace brother Thomas was present—in fact, he had been arrested by Lord Cobham, and, throwing himself at his feet, besought with tears that he would not shew them to the Council, as it would be the undoing of the Bishop of Rosse. Lord Cobham hesitated, but at length yielded, and the letters found were placed in the Bishop's hands. Ultimately, however, when the whole plot was unravelled, he was exonerated, and even his brother, who had been committed to the Tower, was pardoned. The Duke, however, suffered death on Tower Hill, June 2, 1572, and although he protested his innocence, his guilt was amply proven.

It is clear that the incident did not affect the continuance of the Queen's friendship. For, in 1573, another progress through Kent being proposed, Lord Cobham's duty, as Warden of the Cinque Ports, required him to see into the sanitary condition of those towns, as well as to the general health of the county, and he applied to the Earl of Sussex, Lord Chamberlain, respecting the "eyring and makinge swete of her Majestie's lodginges" in Dover Castle. In September, after paying a visit to her dockyard at Chatham, she went from Rochester to Cobham Hall, where, for two days, she was magnificently entertained, and there knighted James Hales, of Bekesbourne, and Humphrey Hales, of Woodchurch. Many evidences are extant of the friendly relations between the Queen and Lord and Lady Cobham, manifested at different times by presents on both sides. A new year's gift, presented by Lord Cobham on January 1, 1577-8, consisted of a petticoat "of yellow satten, layed all over with a parement*

* It is doubtful if this be written "parement" or "pasement." If the first, it would simply mean an ornamentation; if the second,

of silver, and tawney silk fringed with silver and silk, and lyned with tawney sarcenet." At the same time he received from her Majesty £10 in gold and in "guilt plate 20 oz.;" he had a similar gift also in 1588-9.

An interesting document is extant illustrating Lady Cobham's duties at the Court, which is preserved among the *Ashmole MSS.* (1148, f. 337). It is as follows :—

"This bill indented conteyneth certayn perles deliuered in charge by the Quenes ma^tie^ to the Lady Cobham the xviij^th^ of ffebruary 1570, being upon her ma^ties^ commaundement viewed wayed and examyned the last of June 1577 by John Louison of London goldsmith and Will'm Neale one of her ma^ties^ auditors. And aftre the said examynac'on left in charge w^th^ the said La: Cobham the said last of June in the presence of M^r^ Secretary Walsingham untill it should please her ma^tie^ to take furdre ordre for the disposinge of them."

Here follows the list of pearls, and attached to this bill, and forming fol. 336 b of the MS. is a piece of paper indorsed :—

"Geven the Earle of Lester on Newe yeres Daye A° xvij R. R^e^ Elizabeth 1574."

The paper is bruised through and through, apparently by the gold-setting of the pearls thus mentioned. It is indorsed :—

"Wt. carretts 13 di'

"(Geven) to me on newe yeres morninge a perll by the Q. ma^e^ pear fashio' which semed owt (?) this paper beinge of y^e^ weyzt above named.

R. Leycester."

The public services of Lord Cobham were now directed into an important arena. The terrible struggle in the Netherlands for civil and religious liberty had already long endured, when Elizabeth, who was always dreaming of peace which never came, despatched

a kind of lace. See Halliwell's *Archaic Dictionary*—"Parements" and "Passamen."

Lord Cobham and Sir Francis Walsingham in August, 1578, to the governor Don John of Austria, to effect, if possible, a pacification. But their first interview was not assuring, for Don John utterly refused to accept the terms offered by the States, nor did the envoys succeed in some further efforts. "They then expressed their intention of returning to England, much grieved at the result of their mission. The governor replied that they might do as they liked, but that he, at least, had done all in his power to bring about a peace." After further but yet more unsatisfactory debates, the ambassadors took their leave. This conference took place on the 24th of August, and Lord Cobham and Walsingham addressed a letter to the States General deploring the disingenuous conduct of the governor, and begging that the failure might not be attributed to them; after which they returned to England.

At home, again, in 1580, amenities pass between him and the Corporation of Rochester, which sent him a present of three salmon, at two different times, they receiving in return half a buck, for the venison of Cobham Park was in esteem. In 1582 he added to Cobham Hall, as also to his house in Blackfriars, and afterwards carried out "the rare garden at Cobham Hall, in which no varietie of strange flowers and trees do want, which praise or price maie obteine from the furthest part of Europe or from other strange countries wherby it is not inferior to the garden of Semiramis." It was an age of great improvement in this particular, and many gardens were at this time established in England for the cultivation of exotic plants.

On the 2nd of February, 1585-6, he was sworn of the Privy Council, and on the 14th of April was

made Knight of the Garter. In this year also he was in the commission for enquiring into the authorship of *Martin Marprelate*, and in 1587 into the plots of Mary Queen of Scots, who still continued to cause alarm to the government.

Ten years had now passed away since Lord Cobham's embassy to the Netherlands. Years of horror and bloodshed to that unfortunate country, but of much heroism, in which our countrymen took part, of whom many a noble life was lost in desperate fight upon the dykes. Now, in the momentous year of 1588, the Earl of Derby, Lord Cobham, Sir James Croft, Doctors Valentine Dale and John Rogers, having also in their company Robert Cecil, a young man of twenty-five years of age, arrived at Ostend in February, as commissioners to treat of peace with Farnese, Prince of Parma. A more solemn farce was scarcely ever enacted. Farnese's part was to delay and delude, and he did it to perfection, well seconded by his astute commissioners, Count Aremberg, Champagny, Richardot, and Secretary Garnier. Hardly a day passed but they sent presents of a hare, or pheasant, or a cast of hawks, having in return barrels of oysters—but as to business, nothing. But it was a crowning act of audacity when the Prince, disguised as a menial, came to Ostend during a feasting given to the commissioners, and surveyed the defences. Philip wrote to the latter, "keep the negociations alive until my Armada appears, and then carry out my determination, and replant the Catholic religion on the soil of England." So well were the delusions maintained, that if the author of Hudibras is right in saying,

> "Doubtless the pleasure is as great
> Of being cheated, as to cheat,"

the commissioners must have been perfectly satisfied with each other.

The mist now passed from the Queen's eyes, as well as from those of the most easy of the commissioners. Shortly after their return home, the great Armada was in the Channel riding in triumph, until those true descendants of sea kings, Drake, Hawkins, Frobisher, and others came upon it. What ensued is a memorable passage in our history. Schiller's words express the result.

"Gott, der Allmächt'ge, blies,
Und die Armada flog nach allen Winden."*

Lord Cobham's life from this time was that of a courtier or peer, but attending to those important duties in his county incumbent on him from his position and the offices he held. The defence of the country during the critical state of affairs between England and Spain, as far as regarded the coast of Kent, naturally called for his services, and orders of the Council were addressed to him accordingly, on many occasions, in respect to levies of men, the firing of beacons, etc., in cases of alarm.

His wife, Lady Frances, died at Cobham on October 17, 1592, and was interred within the church with much ceremony, the details of which are preserved in the College of Arms. During the same year, he received a grant of the custody of the Palace and Park of Eltham, and two years later, in 1594, the advowson of the hospital of the Holy Rood near Winchester. He was on the commission of 1593 to enquire into the proceedings of the Jesuits and other enemies, which seems to have concluded his public life.

* Which is but a translation of the motto on the medal struck to commemorate the event: "Afflavit Deus et dissipati sunt."

During the greater part of his life, he was constantly adding to or rebuilding Cobham Hall, and in 1595, he had permission from Henry IV of France to import Caen stone to be used in these works. On the 24th of January, 1596-7, his daughter Elizabeth, one of twins, who in 1589 had married young Robert Cecil, died, to the great grief of her father. She was buried in Westminster Abbey by command of the Queen, and he bore the great banner at her funeral. An altar tomb of alabaster covers her remains in the chapel of St. Nicholas. This event seems to have hastened his own end, as he died the 6th of March following at the age of 71.

In his will he directs his body "to be buried in Cobham church without vayne pomp;" nevertheless we have proof that it must have taken place with considerable heraldic display, and among those who attended was Sir Walter Raleigh, with whom he had been on terms of friendship, and the Lord Charles Howard, Lord High Admiral.* The tomb of his father had many pendant escutcheons placed around it, and, it is extremely probable, that either his body was placed temporarily within it, or that it was put into a vault beneath. That no memorial whatever of him exists must be due to those circumstances which soon afterwards ensued, and thus we are left in ignorance of the spot in which his remains repose.†

* Vide *Lansd. MS.*, 874, art. Cobham Church. The will of Lord Cobham is printed in full in Vol. XI. of *Archæologia Cantiana*, with notes by the Rev. Canon Scott Robertson.

† It was evidently the intention of his son to erect a tomb to his memory, as the following entry shews. In 1601 R. Williams recommended that Giles de Whitt should be set to work on some new chimney pieces, or his *lordship's father's tomb*, that he may maintain himself.—*Calendar of State Papers*, p. 139, No. 64. The name of the workman here mentioned seems to be Flemish.

Sir William was a patron of literature, and may have merited the title of a Mæcenas which is applied to him by Holinshed. The following works were dedicated to him, viz., Thomas Newton's *Translations of Levinus Lemnius, De Habitu et Constitutione Corporis*, &c., &c.; Paul Ives' translation of William de Bellay's *Instruction for the Warres and his own Practice of Fortifications*. London, 8vo, 1589. Also, *The Historical Description of the Islande of Britayne*, compiled by William Harison (his household chaplain) attached to Holinshed's *Chronicles*. Many of the eminent men of this, the Augustan age of our literature, were his personal friends. It is hardly possible but that he must have known something of Shakespeare himself, for his house in Blackfriars was in close vicinity to the Playhouse of which the poet had a share, and where many of his plays were produced. Of his charitable acts we must record the refounding of the College at Cobham for the use of the poor. The hall and many other portions of the existing buildings must be part of the original foundation, but other parts were doubtless added. On the south side, there are some ruined walls with an arch overhung with ivy, and the escutcheon of Lord Cobham having the following inscription beneath it:—

"The new College of Cobham in the countie of Kent was founded for the reliefe of the Poore at the charge of the Right Honorable the . . . Sir William Brook, Knight of the Garter, Lord Cobham, Lord Warden of the Cinque Portes, Lieutenant for the same Countie to . . . excellent Ma^tie of Elizabeth Queene of England one of her High Privie Cou'cel and Chamberlayne of Her most Hon^ble Houshold. He died 6th March 1596. This was finished 7 Sept. 1598."

All the buildings in connection with this ruin are now gone, but traces of the foundations are visible

in dry seasons, and there is the remains of a fireplace.

His eldest son, Maximilian, at whose coming into the world there was such ceremony of good omen, bid fair for a good career. He had ability, and during his absence abroad is said to have sent valuable information to Cecil. But he died at Naples, December 5, 1583, being 23 years of age, and was buried in the hospital "degli Incurabili" of that city.

William, his sixth child, whose birth has already been alluded to, was spoken of as a "comlie youth disposed to follow the Court." He was knight of the shire for Kent in 1597, and was killed in a duel at Mile End Green by the son and heir of Thomas Lucas, of Essex, Knight. The fate of his son George will presently be alluded to.

Henry Brooke, second son of Sir William, was born at Cobham Hall November 22, 1564, and Holinshed speaks of him as "a gentleman of whom great hope is conceived that his following yeares giving increase to his good parts by nature and to the like gift of the languages by education will not onelie make him a beneficiall member to his commonwealth, but also a person worthy of such a father." On the death of his father in 1597, he succeeded to the Cobham Barony at the age of 33. He seemed to be fortune's favourite, for honours fell rapidly upon him. In 1598, he was made Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, which, as has been shewn, was so often held by his ancestors. At his inauguration at Canterbury, there was a display of more than feudal grandeur, it being attended by 4,000 horse, and he kept the feast very magnificently. In the following year, he was made a Knight of the Garter, as his father and grand-

father had been before him,* and was in high personal favour with his Sovereign.

In fact the duties which had been fulfilled by his father seemed to fall naturally on him, and, in August 1599, he received orders respecting the quartering of 12,000 men in Kent, 6,000 of whom were to be drawn from the ordinary bands of the county, as invasion was apprehended on the side of Spain or Flanders. The same kind of courtesies, as occurred with his father, also passed between him and the Queen, for on January 1, 1599-1600, he presented to her, as a new year's gift, "a rounde kyrtell of silver tabyne,† with starres and droppes of gold tyssue,"‡ and on the same occasion a present of gilt plate. On the 16th of June, in the same year, he entertained her Majesty at Blackfriars, whither she came to do honour to the marriage of Henry, Lord Herbert, son of the Earl of Worcester, with Ann, daughter and heir of John, Lord Russell, son of the Earl of Bedford. The Queen was received at the river side by Lord Cobham, with whom were six knights, bearing a litter, in which she was conveyed to Lady Russell's house, where she dined. The supper and a masque were given by Lord Cobham. This procession is represented

* An account of the ceremony of this instalment at Windsor, on the 6th of June, is preserved in Ashmole MS. (1112, f. 17). With Lord Cobham were also Robert, Earl of Sussex, and Thomas, Lord Scrope. It concludes as follows:—"About a quarter of an hour after him (Lord Scrope) came the Lord Cobham, although the last, yet most bravest, his gentlemen in purple velvett breeches, and white satin doubletts, and chains of gold; and his yeomen in purple cloth breeches, and white fustian doubletts, all in blew coates, faced with white taffeta and fethers of white and blewe." According to the custom he gave William Dethick, Garter, "an annuity of 40s. and a fat buck yearly at the season to be taken of my parke at Cobham."

† A kind of silk. ‡ See Nichols' *Progresses*, etc.

in a well-known painting preserved at Sherborne Castle, wherein Lord Cobham is seen bearing the Sword of State before the Royal litter.*

The ladies of the Court speculated, and quarrelled as to which of them was to be "the Lady of Cobham." It was at one time whispered, that he was about to marry the great heiress, Sir John Spencer's daughter, who afterwards became Lady Compton, and have with her £12,000; but the two, who seemed to reckon most on their pretensions, were Mrs. Ratcliff and Frances, daughter of Charles Howard, Earl of Nottingham, and widow of Henry, Earl of Kildare. Rowland White writes to Sir Robert Sydney, that—

"Mrs. Ratcliff hath kept her chamber these four daies, being somewhat troubled at my Lady Kildare's unkind usage of her, which is thought to proceed from her love to my Lord Cobham."

But this poor lady died soon after, and was buried at Westminster, November 23, 1599, Lord Cobham, with others of the nobility, being present. Then we hear that—

"Lord Cobham hath wrenched his foot and unable to go out, which much troubled Lady Kildare. Hearing that Raleigh had come to court from him just when the Queen's diet was sent for, she sent for him to come unto her in all hast, els the well carving the Queens meate would be mar'd for that day; she wishes an end of it, but it seems he finds delay for it."

His Lordship was evidently but a lukewarm lover. Again, July 12, 1600, Lord Cobham and Raleigh had gone to the States camp. Lady Kildare took it very heavily, and kept her room the first day†—so ran the Court gossip. But as the lady had now no rivals, time eventually brought about the desired result, and the

* See account of picture by Scharf, in vol. xxiii. of the *Journal of the Archæological Institute.*

† See Collins' *Letters and Memorials of State.*

contract was made before the Queen, May 27, 1601. The union, however, was not a happy one, and was soon to be abruptly dissolved. On the death of Queen Elizabeth, in 1603, James of Scotland ascended the throne, and immediately plots arose against him. It is a dark and obscure passage of English history. Lord Cobham and Sir Walter Raleigh were said to be involved in what was styled, in the jargon of the day, "The treason of the Main," and were tried and condemned to death, as well as the Lord Grey of Wilton, Sir Griffin Markham, and George Brooke, Lord Cobham's brother, with others.

George Brooke was beheaded at Winchester, December 5, 1603; Lord Cobham and the rest had their sentence commuted to imprisonment for life, after a disgraceful scene had been enacted upon the scaffold, in which the unhappy men were subjected to considerable mental torture, Raleigh looking on from the windows of the castle.*

Lord Cobham was reconducted to the Tower December 15, 1603, and there lay for fifteen years, and, as our history stands, is said then to have been allowed to walk out, and to have died in extreme want and squalid misery. The story, as told by Sir Antony Weldon, is as follows:†—"His death was base, for he died lousy, for want of apparel and linen: and had starved, had not a trencher-scraper, sometime his servant in court, relieved him with scraps, in whose house he died, being so poor a house as he was forced to creep up a ladder into a hole to his chamber." The writer then makes a desperate effort at a pun, saying, "The King was cheated of what should

* See account in *Archæologia*, vol. xxi., p. 170.

† Court of King James, pp. 342, 348.

have escheated to him, that he could not give him any maintenance as in all cases the King doth, unless out of his revenues of the crown, which was the occasion of this Lord's want: (the wife being very rich would not give him the crumbs that fell from her table.)" All this is very circumstantial and very fit for the Romance of the Peerage, in which it duly finds its place; but it is all false. Very many of Lord Cobham's letters from the Tower are extant* in which he addresses the Lord Treasurer, for the time being, for his monthly and quarterly allowance, which, added together, make up a sum of £516 per annum. We have a document in our Records† which shews that after his death money, which he had not spent, was returned to his assignees. It is indeed marvellous, that so absurd a tale should ever have obtained credence at all, letting alone its having become part of the gravity of history.‡

On his recommittal to the Tower he amused himself with classical study, making translations from Seneca and dedicating them to Cecil, his brother-in-law, with feeble hopes of release. But Cecil hated him, and was not above bargaining for shares in the estates.§ So hope died within him, and he became as lost to the outer world. One of his letters from

* Penès F. C. Brooke, Esq.

† Devon's *Issues of the Exchequer (James I.)* Lond. 1836, 4to, pp. 224, 225.

‡ A full examination of all the circumstances, accompanied by transcripts of letters, etc., was communicated in a paper, by the author, read before the Society of Antiquaries, December 6, 1877.

§ Motley in his valuable *History of the United Netherlands* (vol. iv., p. 143; London, 1867), makes quite a mistake when he speaks of Cecil, on the authority of a foreigner, as "being too rich, too powerful to be bribed," for *his own letters* to the Lord Treasurer for

the Tower on May 5, 1618, shews that he was then seriously ill. Not only does it allude to his physicians, but his signature is almost unintelligible, having evidently been written with extreme difficulty. In September following, he is allowed to go to Bath attended by his keeper, whence returning back, as it was said, cured, he was seized with palsy at Odiham in Hampshire, and conveyed to Sir Edward Moore's* house, where for some time he lay. Of the living man we hear no more, but in the following January he is said to have died in the Tower according to a legal document of a later date. Where his body found a resting-place we cannot find, but we know it lay some time awaiting the last of human charities for want of money.† But the Lady Kildare, his widow, seemed to make no sign, though living at Cobham Hall. The King too, enters his prison house and seizes "1000 volumes of good books of all learning and languages," which had been the solace of his imprisonment.‡

As to the allegation of the King being cheated, the statement is most unfortunate. By the will of George, Lord Cobham, 1552, the estates were so elaborately entailed, that the Crown could only be entitled to a life interest after the attainder. This the King immediately sold to Duke Brooke for

money for *secret service* rendered, shew that he was well alive to getting money in whatever way he could, and that he bargained successfully in obtaining possession of some of the Cobham estates there is proof. He was quite right, however, when he speaks of the "terrible hunchback, who never forgave, nor forgot to destroy his enemies."

* *Calendar of State Papers*, 1618, p. 515. This gentleman had married Frances, Lord Cobham's sister, and widow of Lord Stourton.

† *Calendar of State Papers*, Domestic Series, 1618, p. 8.

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 590.

£10,669 (May 4, 1605);* and, to understand this transaction, we must recall that the immediate heirs were the three young and friendless children of George Brooke, who was executed at Winchester. Now the Crown had usually waived the absolute claim by which the innocent were attaint in blood, and restored the heir, possibly through the jealousy of Parliament. But King James knew nothing of the prerogative of mercy, so nobly taught by the great and then living poet—the mercy which is "twice blessed, which blesseth him that gives and him that takes." He went in for his bond—his pound of flesh. The infants, whose innocence might have pleaded for them, were not thought of. It was some years later, in 1610, after he had done his best to beggar them, that he restored them in blood. But it was bitter irony that, in this Act, a strict clause was inserted, that William Brooke, the heir, was *not* to claim *any* of the property of his father, nor of that of Henry Lord Cobham, nor was he ever to assume the title of Lord of Cobham without the King's especial grace, which was never accorded.

What would have been the consequences if the Crown had at all times carried out this system? Why, one-half the roll of our nobility would have gone. The Percies, Fitzalans, Beauchamps, Stanleys, Berkeleys, Staffords, and many others would have left but their names, their place in the Baronage a blank. Their power as the second estate would have merged into a mere shadow, and the course of our social history might have been altogether changed.

Thus the great feudal barony passes away like an insubstantial dream. William Brooke seems almost

* Vide Collections, penès F. C. Brooke.

like a phantom on the scene, or as an *ignis fatuus*, now visible, now eluding the mental vision. A Peer by the law of the land, but with no title; by law entitled to large estates, yet not allowed to claim them. A writer gravely mentions the having heard one say he had seen him *dance*, as if by that to prove his existence. Scarcely one of his ancestors but had not played a part in his country's history. But shall we not record an act of his in accordance with these traditions of his family?

William Brooke was knighted, and a small pittance was granted to him out of the large estates to which he was the heir, which included the advowson of Cowling. He was married twice, first to Pembroke, daughter of Henry Lennard, first Lord Dacre; secondly to Penelope, daughter of Sir Moyses Hill, Bart., and by her had three daughters—Hill, Margaret, and Frances. He represented Rochester in 1628, at that time being thirty years of age. And now, year by year, was the long-accumulating cloud growing blacker and blacker, and more ready to burst. Great issues were at stake, which were to define our future history. King James had taught kingcraft, and his son followed in his steps, but to be the victim. Sir William chose his side, in a spirit similar to his ancestors with De Montfort and in the repression of Richard II., and he died a soldier's death at Newbury in 1643, or from the wounds he received in that battle, fighting on the side of Parliament. Thus, then, with the rightful heir of Cobham lying dead upon the field of Newbury, the curtain appropriately falls as upon the last scene of a great tragedy. In him the barony by writ became extinct, and no more "than a tale that is told."*

* The resuscitation of the title in the person of Sir John Brooke in 1645 was a Barony by Patent, and not a continuation.

There are in Cobham Church several brasses commemorating Masters of the College, or chantry priests. The earliest of these lying in the chancel is a demi-figure, elegantly engraved, representing a priest in surplice, over which is a large tippet or almuce with hood, having a fringe of acorn shape, and lappets in front, and fastened on the breast with an ornamental morse. The inscription is as follows:

Hic iacet Will'ms Tannere qui prim' obijt magister istius Collegij xxij° die Mensis Junij Anno d'ni M°cccc°xvij° cuius Anime propicietur deus Amen.*

The next in point of date is in the nave, and consists of a figure of a priest in cassock, surplice, almuce and cope, finely executed. It is to the memory of the next Master who succeeded Tannere, and died in 1420, for the inscription, which is as follows, has no date:—

Hic iacet Magist' Joh'es Gladwin quond'm Magist' istius Collegij cuj' ai'e p'picietur deus Ame'.

Over the head are scrolls; on one is:

In die judicij libera me d'ne

Beneath this—"With mercy . . . . and grace," and below the inscription—"Ihu' mercy . . . lady help."

The succeeding Master, William Hobson, had a brass with demi-figure in the chancel, but only half of the old inscription remains, the rest having been restored. The restoration is shewn in italics, and is taken from Holinshed.

Hic iacet D'ns Will'm*us Hobson quondam* Mag'ri (*sic*) istius Collegi*j qui obijt xxj die* Augusti A° d'ni mcccc*lxxiij cuius aie* p'picietur deus.

This inscription was discovered to be *palimpsest*,

* Tannere was not the first master, as from the inscription some might infer; he was the first who died in that office, "qui primus obiit Magister."

which is so far curious, that it is of rare occurrence at this early date, having this fragment on the reverse:

Hic iacent magist' . . . .
Obijt xx° die mens' . . . . .
Ac' Isabella 't Agne . . . . .

John Sprotte, another Master, who died in 1499, is also commemorated by a brass in the chancel. The inscription is a restoration from a drawing by Fisher, preserved in the British Museum. It consists of a figure rather coarsely executed, habited in cassock, almuce, and cope; the inscription at foot as follows:—

Hic iacet d'ns Joh'es Sprotte quondam Magist' istius Collegij qui obijt xxv die me's Octobris A° d'ni M°cccclxxxxviij cuius ai'e p'picietur de'

In the north aisle is the matrix of a very elegant brass, consisting of a cross flory and figure within it, of which remains but this inscription—it is to John Gerye, a fellow of the college, who died 1447:—

Hic iacet Joh'es *Gerye quonda' Soci*us huj' Collegij qui obijt vij° Idus Julij Anno d'ni m°cccc°xlvij *cuj' ai'e* propicietur deus Amen.

Let into the external wall of the north aisle is a piece of sculpture in relief—an angel holding an inscription. It is very much defaced, but the latter reads thus—the italics shewing that part now indistinct:—

Of your charitie pray for the sole of Robart Holte the whyche dyed the xiij day of Septembre A° d'ni M° V' iij *on whos solle Ihu' haue mercy.*

Of other inscriptions from memorials now gone, there is record preserved of the following:—

Here lieth Anne Cobham daughter to William Cobham of Hoo and wyffe to Edmund Irysh w^ch^ died anno domini 1563.

Also the following elaborate family memorial:—

Hic jacet Joh'es Claveringge quondam fili' Rogerij Claveringge

civis et pannarij civitatis Londoni. Orate p' a'iabz p'dict' Joh'is Claveringge Juliane 't alicie uxor' eius et filior' eor' p'd'ci Rogerij Claveringge et Joh'e uxor' eius patris 't matris p'd'ci Joh'is Claveringge fratru' et soror' suor' 't filior' eor' eciam Anne Westby et Matilde matris eius et nostri genitoris et Joh'is de Branderood Thome Legge et Simonis filij et pro animabz omni' benefactor' memor' et omniu' fideliu' defunctoru' quor' animabz propiciet' deus Amen.

The restoration of the monuments at Cobham was made at the cost of F. C. Brooke, Esq., of Ufford, Suffolk. The authorities for arms and inscriptions, as well as for certain details of the monument of George, Lord Cobham, are found in Lansdowne MS. 874, Brit. Mus., and in Glover's MS., in the College of Arms, also Harl. MS. 6587. The fragments of the tomb were first collected and arranged by the late Charles Spence, Esq., of the Admiralty, and the late John Gough Nichols, Esq., F.S.A.; to the services of the latter we were indebted for identifying the heraldry to each of the smaller figures. The final work in 1865-6 was under the general direction of the writer of this article.