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Connections: Facts and Conjectures, by Joseph Hunter**

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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK POPE, HIS DESCENT AND FAMILY
CONNECTIONS: FACTS AND CONJECTURES ***

POPE:

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HIS DESCENT AND FAMILY CONNECTIONS.

FACTS AND CONJECTURES.

BY JOSEPH HUNTER.

ANCESTRY, whose grace
Chalks successors their way,
SHAKESPEARE.

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The following Tract is an enlargement of the principal portion of an account which I propose to give of POPE, in *Poets and Verse Writers, from Chaucer to Pope: new Facts in their History*—should the public curiosity respecting them call for the publication of what I have collected and written.

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OCTOBER 26, 1857.

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POPE:

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HIS DESCENT AND FAMILY CONNECTIONS.

Two persons of noble birth, who thought themselves insulted in the "Imitation of the First of the Second Book of the Satires of Horace," retorted upon the Poet with a severity not wholly undeserved. Unlike Pope, who had dismissed them both in a line or two, they composed their attacks very elaborately, seeking out everything that could offend him,—defects for which he must be held responsible, and those for which no man can justly be so held.

One of these latter points was, want of *birth*. The lines,

Whilst none thy crabbed numbers can endure,
Hard as thy heart, and *as thy birth obscure*,

are attributed to the Lady Mary Wortley Montague; but Johnson assigns them to Lord Hervey,^[1] who attacked Pope in another poem, in which he makes it a charge that he was a hatter's son, and insults him on the score of the meanness of his family.

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These allusions to his origin seem to have galled the Poet more than anything else that was said of him. He was then living in what is called high society, and it was of some importance to him not to be thought meanly bred. Three courses were open to him. He might have assumed to pass over the charge as unworthy his notice: he might have claimed it as a merit to have surpassed his ancestors, and risen to distinction by his own genius, "out of himself drawing his web;" or he might deny the charge altogether. He adopted the last of these courses, and in this he acted wisely and honestly.

When a defence against such a charge is undertaken, there is an advantage in the difficulty of defining that really undefinable quality called *birth*. There is an *absolute*, and a *relative*, want of it. A rich mercantile family may be a good family when compared with persons of the same class who have been less successful than they; a family owning a good estate in the country is a good family amongst the neighbours; a race of persons eminent in any of the professions may be called a good family. But place these by the side of the ancient aristocracy of the country, who have maintained this position for centuries, and what are they? and let persons even of acknowledged antiquity and elevation be brought into the company of kings and emperors, or even of the great families of the Continent, and they lose something of their lustre:—

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A deputy shines bright as doth a king
Until a king be by.

Undoubtedly, Pope could not in this respect compare himself with the Pierreponts and the Herveys; and *to them* his birth would necessarily appear obscure, if they thought at all about it, and chose to take the unkinde view. But Pope knew that what was *relatively* true might be *absolutely* untrue. He therefore took the first opportunity of claiming publicly what in his opinion belonged to him.

In the *Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot*, which was written early in 1733, he speaks of his birth thus:

Of *gentle blood* (part shed in honour's cause,
While yet in Britain honour had applause)
Each parent sprung—

Then follows his touching notice of his father, and of his mother (who was then living, in her ninety-third year), not the less genuine for being written in imitation of Horace. They are handed down for ever as people of

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Unspotted names, and venerable long,
If there be force in virtue or in song.

To these lines this note is appended:—"Mr. Pope's father was of a gentleman's family in Oxfordshire, the head of which was the Earl of Downe, whose sole heiress married the Earl of Lindsey. His mother was the daughter of William Turner, Esq., of York: she had three brothers, one of whom was killed, another died, in the service of King Charles; the eldest following his fortunes, and becoming a general officer in Spain, left her what estate remained after the sequestrations and forfeitures of her family."

In his more formal reply to his noble assailant, he says that his father was a younger brother,— "that he was no mechanic (neither a hatter, nor, which might please your Lordship yet better, a cobbler), but in truth of a very honourable family, and my mother of an ancient one."

It happened that while this subject was fresh in the public mind, and within a very few weeks after he had finished his *Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot*, the death of his mother occurred. This gave him a fair occasion of publicly asserting his claim to a good position in respect of birth. Accordingly, the following notice, which appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for June 1733, we cannot doubt came from himself:—"June 8. Died Mrs. Editha Pope, aged 93, the last survivor of the children of William Turner, of York, Esq., who, by Thomasine Newton, his wife, had fourteen daughters and three sons, two of which died in the King's service in the Civil Wars, and the eldest retired into Spain, where he died a general officer."

Pope had now said all that he proposed to make public; and accordingly we find nothing more concerning his descent in the *Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Alexander Pope, Esquire*, published by William Ayre in 1745, the year after the Poet's death. He might, or might not, have been acquainted with the letter to Curl with the signature P. T., in which a person professing to be well acquainted with Pope's family, undertakes to inform Curl respecting them. This letter has, strangely, been attributed to some actual friend of Pope, and even to the Poet himself writing thus anonymously to Curl, with whom he was at the time in open war. Who P. T. specifically was, has, perhaps, not been discovered; but that he was a person with whom Curl had unfair dealings respecting the collection of Pope's letters, will be seen in Mr. Ayre's *Memoirs*, p. 300. The information in this letter has been generally received by later writers on the life of Pope, as worthy of the same acceptance which is yielded to the Poet's avowed statements respecting his family; and, undoubtedly, it proceeds from some one who was acquainted with facts in the history of the family a little beyond those which the Poet himself had divulged. To those facts it adds the following:—That Pope's father had an elder brother who studied and died at Oxford: that the father was himself a posthumous child: that he was put to a merchant in Flanders, and acquired a moderate estate by merchandise, which he quitted at the Revolution, and retired to Windsor Forest, where he purchased a small estate: that he married one of the seventeen children of William Turner, Esq., formerly of Burfit Hall, in Yorkshire: and that two of his wife's brothers were killed in the Civil Wars.

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The last clause shows the carelessness with which this letter was written. It is evidently copied from what Mr. Pope had himself written; but then Mr. Pope's account of the matter is, that one brother was slain, and the other died, in the service of King Charles the First. To what Mr. Pope had said of his maternal grandfather, the writer of this letter adds, that he was of Burfit Hall in Yorkshire. "Burfit" is the country people's pronunciation of Birthwaite, an old seat of the Yorkshire Baronet family of Burdet. I would not say that he may not have been a temporary inhabitant of this house, but it can have been but a short tenancy by Mr. Turner, whose far more proper designation was that which Pope had given him, "of York," where he for the most part resided. The seventeen children is but a repetition of what Pope had himself told us, and which is supported by better evidence than the testimony of this anonymous writer. That he acquired a fortune by merchandise is doubtless true, though, probably, but a small one; but when he says that the elder Pope had been put to a merchant in Flanders, this is at variance with what we are told by a relation of the family (of whom immediately), that it was to Lisbon that he was sent for the purpose, and that there it was that he became a Roman Catholic. That he was a posthumous child is peculiar to this communication. I think I shall show it to be a little uncertain, supposing that his age at the time of his death is truly stated on his monument: of the brother studying and dying at Oxford, also peculiar to the letter, I have seen nothing to support or to disprove.

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This will be sufficient to show that there can be no good reason to attribute this letter to Pope himself, or to any person who had received information from him to be given to the world in this form; and, secondly, that in the points where this communication is at all at variance with what Mr. Pope had himself sanctioned, or professes to carry our information beyond what he had told us, its testimony is to be received, if at all, with great caution.

We may, therefore, be said to receive very little more on this subject from the Poet's contemporaries than what he himself on the one side, and his enemies on the other, chose to communicate. It is quite insufficient for forming a right judgment on the question. There is very little fact, no proof, and no detail. If the point was worth raising at all, it was worth settling: besides that, the curiosity of later times craves more than this, when intent on studying the lives of England's greatest worthies. Dr. Johnson is content to dismiss the subject thus:—"This, and this only, is told by Pope, who is more willing, as I have heard it observed, to show what his father was not, than what he was." But Johnson lived in a century when there was little desire of minute and exact information respecting even the most eminent of our countrymen; and in writing of Pope as of Milton, he has certainly kept himself free from the temptation which besets all biographers, of becoming enamoured of those of whom they write.

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The spirit of research, however, was not entirely dormant even in that century. Editors and biographers did look around for anything that would easily present itself: nor can what they observed be said to have been wholly unimportant, for they brought to light one piece of evidence which deserves to be received with the same confidence which the testimony of Pope himself receives at our hands. This comes from a certain Mr. Potenger, who called himself a cousin of Pope. He gave the information to Dr. Bolton, who was Dean of Carlisle, who communicated it to Dr. Joseph Warton, from whom we receive it. His information was to this effect:—That the Poet's grandfather was a clergyman in Hampshire: that the Poet's father was the younger of two sons, and was sent to Lisbon to be placed in a mercantile house: that there he left the Church of England and became a Roman Catholic: that he knew nothing of the "fine pedigree" which his cousin Pope set up, and that as to a descent from the Earls of Downe, he was confident no such descent could be proved, for if it had been so, he must have heard of it from a maiden aunt, who stood in the same degree of relationship to Pope and to himself, who was a great genealogist, excessively fond of talking of her family, and who most certainly, therefore, would have spoken of this descent if it were so. This is the substance of Mr. Potenger's valuable information, as it has been received and incorporated by Roscoe and others of the late writers on the life of Pope. Mr. Potenger,

however, in one respect does some injustice to the Poet's memory. Mr. Pope nowhere says that he descended of an Earl of Downe, but only that he was of the same family as that from which the Earl of Downe sprang; which is quite a different thing, and probably true.

My own researches have done something to enable me to extend the very limited information we possess on this subject: not much, perhaps, it will be thought, but it will be sound as far as it goes, and will be presented in the simple guise of truth, with no intention of unduly magnifying or unfairly weakening the claim set up by the Poet himself. He having made the claim to be "of gentle blood," beside the interest which belongs to the question as part of the Poet's history, his truthfulness and honour may be said to be involved in it, points of even more importance than his wonderful moral sagacity, and the unrivalled felicity of his numbers.

I treat of the two families apart.

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I. THE POPES.

Alexander Pope, the Poet's father, if he was seventy-four or seventy-five at the time of his death in 1717, may be presumed to have been born in 1641 or 1642. He was a younger son, and is said by P. T. to have been a posthumous child, and that while his elder brother, who inherited the larger share of the family property, was sent to Oxford, where he died, he was brought up to commerce. It has never been shown by whom this arrangement was made, for before his birth, his father (of whom afterwards), according to the letter to Curl, was dead: and if not dead, he died when his son was quite an infant. All accounts agree that he was sent abroad to complete his mercantile education—an expensive course, which of itself shows that he was of no very mean stock, and that, though the younger son of a widow, his relatives had the means of giving him a fair start in life.

There are, as we have seen, two opposing accounts from persons who professed to know the facts respecting the place to which he was sent, one stating it to be Flanders, the other, with more of probability, Lisbon, with the additional information, that at Lisbon he joined the Roman Catholic Church, or that there, at least, was laid the foundation of the change in his religious profession. From that time there is a blank in his history till his thirty-fifth year, 1677, when he was living in Broad Street, London, where many of the principal merchants of the time resided or carried on their business. This we learn from a 12mo volume, printed for Samuel Lee in that year, entitled *A Collection of the Names of the Merchants living in and about the City of London*. Books of this kind are of some rarity, being by most persons thought worthless and are destroyed, when superseded by others of a later date. I have a copy which has survived the general wreck, and has been long in my possession. I copy from it the names of three Popes who occur in the list:—

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JAMES POPE, Abchurch Lane.

ALEXANDER POPE, Broad Street.

JOSEPH POPE, Redriff.

There can be no reasonable doubt that Alexander is the Poet's father; and it is worth observation that this is a list of "merchants" properly so called—persons engaged in the higher walks of commerce. The number of the names is about 1770. Hence we must infer that the Poet's father was not, at that time at least, pursuing any low or mean occupation, but one in which in those days it was not unusual to place the younger sons of gentry, and sometimes even of the nobility of the land.

He was then, or very soon after, married, not to the mother of his celebrated son, but to a former wife, whose name was Magdalen, but whose surname is at present unknown. This is a recent discovery of some one whose curiosity has led him to consult the register of St. Benet Fink, the parish in which part of Broad Street is situated, where this entry was found:—"1679, August 12. bur. Magdalen, wife of Alexander Pope." She left him one child, a daughter named Magdalen, afterwards Mrs. Racket, whose sons were the Poet's heirs.

The next event (after another period marked by no incidents with which we are acquainted) is his marriage with Edith Turner, his second wife. This may be presumed to have taken place in 1686 or 1687, the only child, the Poet, having been born in May or June, 1688. Authorities differ respecting the day, and also the place, one naming Lombard Street, another Cheapside. The father had, therefore, changed his residence, but was still living among the trading aristocracy, and we have no reason to believe that he had receded from his original position of a London merchant.

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He acquired some additional property, perhaps considerable, with his wife Edith. She seems to have been the favourite of her brother, the "general officer in Spain," whatever that phrase may denote,—for Pope says, she inherited from him what remained of the fortunes of the family, and it must have been from him that the elder Alexander Pope acquired the valuable interest he possessed in the manor of Ruston, near Scarborough. They were both of mature age at their marriage. Fixing the time in 1686, he would be, according to his monumental inscription, forty-five, and she forty-four. This change in his position had doubtless something to do with his retirement from business very soon after the Revolution,

—perhaps as much as his disgust at the political change which had taken place, or his love of retirement, the motives usually assigned for the step he took.

He did not immediately establish himself in his retreat at Binfield, for Mr. Roscoe in his *Life of the Poet* informs us, that he lived for a while at Kensington. No long interval, however, appears to have elapsed between his final departure from London, and his settlement on a small estate which he bought at Binfield, which is on Windsor Forest, two or three miles from the town of Wokingham.

Commerce has its vicissitudes, and the Poet's father may have had sensible proof of this obvious fact. But there is no evidence, as far as we yet know, that he was ever "unfortunate" in his commercial career. That he did not attain to great wealth, like many of his contemporaries, is certain; but neither did he, like some others of a more adventurous disposition, sink into despondency. When one of Pope's enemies taunted him with being the son of a person who had been a bankrupt, he calls it a "pitiful untruth," and this at a time when there were many persons living who must have known if it had been so, and many others who would have been glad to propagate the libel. Hearne, who disliked Pope, inserted in his private note-book, for future use if necessary, that his father was "a sort of broken merchant." The truth probably is, that he saved something in his business, and added to it by his marriage; and it is certain that he was able to live for many years an easy disengaged life, and at his death to leave his son £300 or £400 a year.

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He made his will on February 9, 1710. I take a few notes of it from Mr. Carruthers's recent publication. He gives to his wife Edith the furniture of her chamber, her rings and jewels, and £20: To his son-in-law Charles Racket and his daughter Magdalen his wife, £5 each, for mourning: All else, including rent-charge out of the manor of Ruston, in Yorkshire, together with lands at Binfield, and at Winsham, in Surrey, to his son Alexander Pope, whom he makes executor. He died in 1717, and the will was proved on the 8th of November in that year.

So far I have had little to do but to repeat what has been previously told by others. But now we come to the question, Who was the Poet's grandfather, the merchant's father? This question, hitherto unresolved, I propose to answer.

When Thomas Warton, in the Appendix to the *Life of Sir Thomas Pope*, the founder of Trinity College, Oxford, and also the founder of the family of Pope, Earls of Downe, with whom Pope claimed kindred, enters on the consideration of this question, he admits the probability that such a relationship existed, but professes his utter inability to ascend beyond the father, in pursuit of the Poet's ancestors. The attempt to do so has been made by others, who have brought far less of antiquarianism into literary history than Warton. Mr. Carruthers can find no trace of him. And it may be stated generally, that no one has (publicly at least) made any approach to the determination of the question. Yet this was plainly the first step to be taken in any investigation of the Poet's claim to be of "gentle blood." Literary biography owes much to the Wartons—more than the present writers in this department seem disposed to acknowledge; and it is to a Warton, not Thomas, but his brother, Dr. Joseph Warton, that we owe the hint upon which I have proceeded, and, as I believe, settled the question for ever.

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Dr. Warton, we have seen, in his *Essay on the Genius and Writings of Pope*, 1780, vol. ii., informs us, that he learned from Dr. Bolton, Dean of Carlisle, that he had heard from a Mr. Potenger, a cousin of Pope, that Pope's grandfather was a *clergyman of the Church of England living in Hampshire*.

This has been accepted by Mr. Roscoe, and others who have written on the life of Pope since 1780; but, though attempts have been made, no one has hitherto succeeded in establishing the truth of Mr. Potenger's statement, by singling him out from amongst the Hampshire clergy of his time, and showing his position.

In looking over the list of beneficed clergymen in the county of Hants, in the period within which he lived, presented to us by the Book of Compositions for First Fruits, I find *only one person of the name of Pope*, and his name was Alexander. This of itself would be sufficient to support Mr. Potenger's account; and to set before us the person for whom search has before been unsuccessfully made. Then as to his residence and position in the Church, we find in these books of Compositions:—

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1. On the 31st of January, 1631, Alexander Pope compounded for the first fruits of the rectory of Thruxton, in the county of Hants.
2. On November 23, 1633, he compounded for the first fruits of the prebend of Middleton.
3. And on May 23, 1639, for the first fruits of the prebend of Ichen-Abbots.

As he held Thruxton till his death, he must be considered in the light of a clergyman possessed of good preferment, in fact, as belonging to the superior class of the clergy in the diocese of Winchester.

Thruxton is a rectory in the neighbourhood of Andover; and Ichen-Abbots is in Bountesborough hundred, a few miles north of Winchester. Why this living and Middleton are called prebends, the only livings in the county so designated, we shall know better when the labours of some sufficient topographer have been directed upon Hampshire.

The next step was to ascertain whether anything respecting himself or his family could be found at Thruxton; and in this inquiry I received the most obliging attention from the officiating minister, who examined the church and went through the register to see whether any memorial existed of persons of the name of Pope. The result was less satisfactory than I had hoped: for it appears that there is no memorial of him in the church, and the register supplies us with no information touching himself or family, except the following entry amongst the burials:—

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“1645. February 21.—Alexander Pope, minister of Thruxton, was buried.”

This, however, is of value. It shows us that he held not his living long, about fourteen years; that he probably died in middle life; and that his son Alexander, the merchant, could have been no more than a very young child when he lost his parent. It does not show us that he was actually a posthumous child; but then there is a possibility that the inscription on his monument, which is expressed in too general terms, may not be strictly correct in setting forth his age at the time of his death. However, the difference is not great between his being literally a posthumous child, and an infant of two or three years old when he lost his father.

But it may be asked, since Pope must have known perfectly well the name and highly respectable position in life of his grandfather, why he did not come boldly forward and claim to be descended of a clergyman born in the reign of Elizabeth, and dying in the prime of life, when occupying so good a position? It would have been a more sufficient answer to the taunt of obscure birth, and have shown to the world his descent, if not from a great, yet from a cultivated, ancestry.

It is, perhaps, idle to attempt to divine the cause, but it is no unreasonable conjecture that here his religious, or rather ecclesiastical, opinions came into play, and that he, a Roman Catholic, would not regard with the same satisfaction as others would, a descent from a Protestant clergyman, a *married priest*, nor would be over solicitous that others should know, on his authority, that his father was the offspring of such an unhallowed union—that is, as he would esteem it.

But what if it should turn out that this clergyman was not only a Protestant minister possessed of considerable preferment, but that he also belonged to that section of the Church of England which was the most remote from the Church of Rome, and which held it in especial abhorrence? That he was either the son-in-law or the grandson of one who is always placed in the first rank of the Puritan ministers of the reign of Elizabeth, the noted and long-lived John Dodd, of Fawsley, in Northamptonshire?

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I shall first state a few well-established matters of fact, and then the probable inferences to be drawn from them.

I refer, first, to the will of Robert Barcroft, of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, D.D., made on the 29th of April, 1627. He gives “to his godson, John Wilkins, Zanchi’s Works, so many as I have, to be delivered to his father-in-law, Mr. Alexander Pope, for his use.” Wilkins was then a boy; and Wood informs us (*Ath. Oxon.* ii. 105) that he was the son of a Walter Wilkins, a goldsmith of Oxford, and that his mother was one of the daughters of Dodd of Fawsley, where Wilkins was born. Further, that Wilkins was uterine brother to Dr. Walter Pope, who, in his *Life of Bishop Seth Ward*, speaks of this relationship. Wilkins was the Bishop of Chester of that name, and one of the founders of the Royal Society.

Wood appears not to have known, any more than his informant Aubrey, that Alexander was the name of Pope, the father-in-law (which here means stepfather) of Wilkins; and neither has Dr. Walter Pope, Aubrey, or Anthony Wood, told us anything about him. The question is, Was *this* Alexander Pope, of Dr. Barcroft’s will, the Alexander Pope who died rector of Thruxton? Was he the father of the rector, or was there, in 1627, two Alexander Popes, both clergymen connected with Oxford, but not nearly connected with each other? A little further light, which possibly the records of the University of Oxford might supply, may enable some one to dispose of these questions. All I at present venture to say is, that the probabilities seem to incline in favour of the supposition that the Alexander Pope who was instituted to the rectory of Thruxton in 1631, is the Alexander Pope named in Dr. Barcroft’s will in 1627, and consequently the Alexander Pope who married the widow of Walter Wilkins. But then I should propose a further conjecture (in questions such as these we must allow conjectures, and bear to hear of probabilities), that there was a second marriage of the Rector of Thruxton, of which the Poet’s father was the issue, and that Dr. Walter Pope, the poet and miscellaneous writer, was the offspring of the first marriage.

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Yet I state this dubiously; and, considering how much we know of Dr. Walter Pope and of Bishop Wilkins, find it difficult to reconcile the want of any trace of family connection between them and the Poet, with the supposition that Dr. Walter Pope was half-brother to the London merchant. Perhaps, after all, there were two Alexanders connected with Oxford, and Dr. Walter Pope, the child of the one, father or uncle of the Hampshire clergyman.

It is to be regretted that more has not been preserved of what Mr. Potenger could have told of the Popes, from recollections of the conversations of the maiden aunt, who must have been sister to the Rector of Thruxton; and as she stood, as he informs us, in the same degree of relationship to Pope and to himself, it would follow that the father or mother of Mr. Potenger was issue of another sister or brother of the Rector of Thruxton. This affords hints

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as to the course which further inquiry should take; but I cannot pass by the indication which this fact affords of the respectability of the Poet's paternal ancestry: the Potengers of Hampshire and Dorsetshire being descendants of Dr. John Potenger, the celebrated headmaster of the Winchester College School, whose son John Potenger, born in 1647, was Comptroller of the Pipe.[2]

There were certain peculiarities which remove Dodd from the position of one of the crowd of Puritan divines: a certain cheerfulness, hilarity, and also good practical common sense; and certainly his descendant, Dr. Walter Pope, an ingenious man and no mean poet, is not to be charged with over much of the severity and strictness of the Puritan life. The later Pope, however, would not be over forward to reveal his connection with either Dodd or Dr. Walter; else, if he really did descend from one of the many daughters of the Rector of Fawsley, he might have claimed to himself a descent which, on fair evidence, can be traced to the very depths of the antiquity of English families, the Puritan divine being well known to be of the very ancient family of Dodd of Shockledge, in Cheshire. A long account of him is given by Dr. Samuel Clarke.

We are now prepared to enter upon the question of Pope's descent from a younger son of the family, which was ennobled by the Irish title of Earl of Downe. This was all which he claimed for himself; and I should be unwilling to think him so foolish and disingenuous as to make this assertion without some good grounds; though possibly, if he or his father had collected evidence, they might not have been able to show how specifically they did so descend, with the precision now required by the College of Arms. But probabilities are strongly in favour of the assertion. The title of Earl of Downe did not free the family of Pope from the obscurity in which it had lived till one member of it had become greatly enriched by aiding in the measures which established the Reformation in England. It will be at once perceived, by any one who may look into what is shown respecting them, that Sir Thomas Pope had no grace of ancestry to boast of. His father, whose will we have, is the first of the family of whom anything is known, and the will shows that he was a man of small possessions, living at Deddington, in Oxfordshire. Not that he was quite of the lowest class, as he desires to be buried within the walls of Deddington Church: in fact, he appears to have belonged to the rank of superior yeomanry, families who placed daughters in monasteries and sons in the Church, or sent them to make their fortune in the cities. He made no pretension to the distinction even of a gentleman's coat-armour; for Sir Thomas Pope, when he had acquired wealth, took a grant from Barker in 1535. Warton has traced his course with some assiduity; but we may compare with what he says the evidence of a person who had good means of knowing Sir Thomas Pope's circumstances. "He was the son of a poor and mean man in Deddington, in Oxfordshire, within four miles of Banbury, and over against Somerton, and was born there; was brought up, when a boy, as a scribe and clerk by Mr. John Croke, one of the Six Clerks when Wolsey was Chancellor, and so lived with Mr. Croke till after the Suppression. The Lord Audley made a motion to Mr. Croke to help him to some ready and expert clerk, to employ in the King's service about the Suppression business; and Mr. Croke preferred Thomas Pope unto him, being then his household servant in livery, which was the first step of all his following good fortunes. This Mr. Croke was my wife's great-grandfather; and I have heard her grandfather, Sir John Croke, often say, that at his christening, Thomas Pope, then his father's man, carried the bason; and Sir Thomas Pope, by his will, gave this Sir John Croke some of his best raiment as a token of his love unto the house and family."

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Previously to the time when Sir Thomas Pope made the acquisitions, the greater part of which he disposed of so nobly in the foundation of his college at Oxford, his family made no marriages with the higher gentry. In short, there is nothing to interfere with the probability of the Rector of Thrupton being of a branch of the family, nor anything in it which the Downe family could look upon as degrading. We must not suffer the glare of the coronet to mislead us: we are speaking of times before the Popes were ennobled.

The Earls of Downe were one of the many families who rose into distinction out of the spoils of the ancient Church; but the rank given to them, and the wealth they possessed, to say nothing of any personal merit, would be a reasonable defence for Pope to fall back upon under the circumstances. The earldom, we may observe, had long been extinct. The first earl was the son of John Pope of Wroxton, who was brother of Sir Thomas (who left no issue). The dignity was created by Charles I. in 1628, not till then. The first peer was succeeded by his grandson, the second earl, who died at Oxford in 1660. This is the earl of whom Pope speaks, whose daughter and heir married the Earl of Lindsey. The third earl was uncle to the second, and in his son, who died in 1668, the title was lost, having existed for forty years only.

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We have Pope's direct testimony that his ancestors were of Oxfordshire, and we find them about Oxford in the time of Elizabeth. I think I have said sufficient to show that his claim to a distant kindred with the Popes of Wroxton, raised *per saltum* from the rank of yeomen, is affected with no improbability on the score of disproportion of rank.

The surname of Pope is not uncommon, but chiefly found in the southern counties. No other family of that name, I believe, is ever stated to have claimed consanguinity with the founder of Trinity College and the family of the Earls of Downe.

We proceed now to speak of the Poet's maternal descent.

II. THE TURNERS.

Of gentle blood, part shed in honour's cause,—
Each parent sprung.

In the note on this passage, Pope expresses a kind of preference for his descent on the mother's side, calling the Turners an ancient family, which means that they possessed hereditary wealth through many generations.

Families of really ancient gentry, which, like *birth*, is but a relative term, are generally found recorded in the Visitation Books of the Heralds for the counties in which they dwelt. [Pg 26] Whatever antiquity may be claimed for this family, who resided in the county of York, it is certain that no pedigree of them was recorded at any of the Visitations of that county, of which three were held during the time of the Turners' residence, viz., in 1585, 1612, and 1665; in which last year, too, the large list of "Disclaimers" does not contain them. The only assistance we derive from the labours of the heralds is this. In a manuscript lately added to the British Museum (Additional, No. 12,482) a list of persons whom, in 1665, the heralds summoned to appear, or intended to do so, contains the name of "Mr. Turner, of the parish of St. John del Pike, York," who is unquestionably the Poet's grandfather. This indifference to the advantage of making a public record of many facts, interesting at least to their posterity, is not peculiar to this family, but deposes rather unfavourably to the taste and judgment of the persons in whom the representation of a family at such a time vested. It manifests also some want of a disposition to co-operate in an important public institution, unhappily now fallen into desuetude.

There can be no question that the heralds of old time did sometimes record matter, even then of early date, which will not bear the test of comparison with contemporary evidence; but of the generations then existing, or but just passed away, they may be taken as worthy witnesses. And fortunate are those families who have a few generations recorded in the Heralds' books. They are saved thereby a vast amount of research into miscellaneous papers, which, after much labour and expense, may yield data sufficient for the construction of a genealogical system, without security against error. The difficulty of recovering lost portions of family history is far greater than is imagined by those who have never made the attempt. [Pg 27]

In the case before us, it could not be easy to ascend beyond the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the period, emphatically, when the really ancient gentry of the kingdom were either pushed from their pedestals, or obliged to admit new men to share with them the honour and influence which belong to the possession of broad lands and powerful family alliances. In the forty-fifth year of Elizabeth, February 10, 1603, within a few weeks of the close of her reign, a grant was made by the Crown to Lancelot Turner, of the Manor of Towthorpe, in the county of York. He was then residing at Towthorpe, for on the 12th of December, in that year, 1603, it was certified by William Bainbrigg and R. Aldborough, that "Lancelot Turner, of Towthropp, gentleman, in the wapentake of Bulmer," was for the most part of the year preceding the taxation of the subsidy, and ever since, residing at Towthropp with his family, and is there assessed on goods estimated at £8.

This certificate is valuable, inasmuch as it enables us to decide which of the two Towthorpes in the county of York is the one to which Pope's ancestry in his mother's line is to be traced: Towthorpe, in the wapentake of Buckrose, in the East Riding; or Towthorpe, in the wapentake of Bulmer, in the North Riding. The Turners' Towthorpe is a few miles to the north-east of York, near to Huntingdon, once the abode of Wilfrid Holme, who left the curious metrical account of the Pilgrimage of Grace; and its vicinity to York brought it within reach of the civilization of the northern counties, of which that city was the chief seat.

It is just possible, though hardly probable, that we may ascend a generation above this Lancelot; for, on January 20, 1626, the will of Robert Turner, of Towthroppe, was proved in the court of the Archbishop of York: its date does not appear. He desires to be buried in the churchyard at Huntingdon. He gives to his son Anthony the two younger oxen, with certain husbandry utensils; to his son Richard the red whie, which came from Stockton; and to his grandchild, William Turner, the little brown whie. He makes his wife and his younger son executors. There is no mention of Lancelot, who was, however, dead; but the grandson William may be he whom we shall soon meet, as the nephew of Lancelot, and the father of Edith. [Pg 28]

In all probability this Robert was an inferior member of the same family, a small agriculturist, Lancelot being the great man of the family, whose connection with the Popes is quite in proof. He is described as of the city of York, in some documents of the reign of King James. On the 10th of October, 5 James I., 1607, Robert Harrison, Lord Mayor of York, certifies that Lancelot Turner, of the city of York, gentleman, was residing there, and assessed on £10, goods. A like certificate was granted on the 6th of April, in the 8th of James, 1610, signed by Henry Hall, Lord Mayor, and William Robinson, Alderman.

The wapentake of Bulmer is, as respects minute and accurate information, part of the *terra incognita* of Yorkshire. Any tolerable account of the manor of Towthorpe would have shown us something at least of the history of the family who possessed it, and we might reasonably

have expected to find some account of the means by which this Lancelot Turner gained the fortune with which he made this and other purchases, and appeared in the rank and position in which we see him by the light afforded by his last will, for we can hardly believe that all he had, came to him by descent. Perhaps as probable a conjecture as is likely to be made is, that he was connected with the Council of the North, or a successful practitioner in that court.

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But we go at once to his will, which is dated December 23, 1619. He describes himself Lancelot Turner, of Towthorpe, in the county of York, gentleman. He was then in his last sickness, for the will and a codicil were proved on the 17th of January, 1620, and administration was granted to the executor named therein, on the 20th. He sets out, in the laudable practice of the time, with a profession of faith, and then proceeds to dispose of his temporal estate. He gives, first of all, to his sister, Margaret Stephenson, an annuity of £30, to issue out of his lordship of Towthorpe, and also the use (interest) of £100, which, on her death, is to go to his niece, Elisabeth Huggeson, wife of Nicholas Huggeson. Then, to William Turner, son of his brother Philip Turner, he leaves all the manor of Towthorpe, and lands there; and also a rent-charge of £70 a year, which he has issuing out of the manor of Ruston. He gives £200 to his nephew, Thomas Martin, an apprentice in London, on condition that he release whatever claim he may have to the testator's house in Leeds; and he gives £30 to Margaret Moor, sister of the said Thomas, and wife of William Moor, of Beverley; and £10 to John Hustler, son of his sister Elizabeth Hustler.

We come now to an interesting bequest:—To Thomasine Newton, daughter of Christopher Newton, late of Kilburn, gentleman, an annuity of £50 for life, issuing out of the manor of Towthorpe, with the household stuff at Kilburn, of which her mother is to have the use during her widowhood, also a livery-cupboard, and a chair, plate, and the green bed. It appears later in the will, that the plate given to her consisted of seven silver bowls, six gilt spoons, one round white salt, and a three-corner trencher salt, and silver porringer to each, and a silver beer-bowl. To his nephew, John Stephenson, he gives all his books, "*except my song-books, which I give to Thomasine Newton.*"

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He gives forty shillings to Mr. William Nevil, and to his "good and worthy friend Sir William Alford, a little clock, with a bell and a larum, which I carry about me, and one of my best horses." To the poor of Towthorpe forty shillings. To the poor prisoners in the castle of York, £3. To the poor prisoners in the Kidcote, on Ousebridge, in York, forty shillings. "To the poor of the parish where I am buried, £5." To his servant, Catherine Wetwang, £50, which is partly due to her. To Isabel Fawcet, daughter of Mrs. Kay, wife of Mr. Thomas Kay, of York, merchant, £10. To Robert Siddal, of York, gentleman, forty shillings. He makes his nephew, William Turner, the sole executor, who is to have two years to collect his debts. His friend Sir William Ingram, Doctor of the Civil Laws, to be supervisor, and to determine all questions that may arise about the interpretation of his will.

Little more than a fortnight after, namely, on Monday next after Twelfth Day, 1620, he revoked nuncupatively the gift of the clock to Sir William Alford, saying, "he forgets his old friends," and gives it to his nephew William Turner. To this were witnesses Thomasine Newton, Henry Dent, and Alice Atkinson, who depose that William Turner reminded him that there had been much kindness between him and Sir William. This was a few days before his death. In this codicil he is described of York, so that it was probably made there.

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This is evidently the will of a wealthy and considerable person, without children himself, but, having made a fair provision for his sister, establishing his nephew and heir male, William Turner, in the possession of the bulk of his fortune, as intent to maintain the respectability of the family and name. The particular regard he had for Thomasine Newton, is best accounted for by supposing that her mother was a sister of the testator; but it is also pretty evident that it was at that time contemplated that she should become the wife of the nephew William, which she did not long after the death of the uncle. She was the mother of the seventeen children of William Turner, of whom Edith, the mother of Pope, was one. The bequest to her of the song-books is remarkable, as indicating that she manifested thus early something of the poetical temperament, if anything more than music-books is meant. Sir William Alford was owner of the site of the monastery of Meaux, in Holderness. Sir William Ingram was of the family seated at Temple-Newsome; and Mr. William Nevil, an intimate friend of the Turners, in his will, made in 1641, names a number of persons of distinction.

But of this will a more particular account must be given, as showing in what rank of society the parents of Edith moved, and with how much reason the Poet might claim for her that she was, in point of *birth*, equal to the lady (Mary Lepell), whom his adversary, Lord Hervey, had made choice of to be the mother of his children.

April 10, 1641, William Nevil, of the city of York, Esquire, makes his will. To be buried in the church of St. Helen. To Mrs. Elizabeth Stanhope, the eldest daughter of Dr. Stanhope, Bishop Hall's Works. "To my funeral expenses, £80; to Mr. William Turner, my godson, £20; and to William Turner, his son, my godson, £10; to Mrs. Turner, his wife, £5, and to the rest of his children £5, to be divided amongst them." To his cousin Thomas Bourchier, £20; to Catherine Penrose the Book of Monuments, and to her sister Elizabeth Penrose the great Bible, and £10 to each. He leaves plate to Lady Osborne and Dame Mary Ingram, wife of Sir Arthur. To Mr. White, St. Bernard's Works, and "what I have of St. Augustine." To Sir John Bourchier's eldest daughter the great gilt salt, and to the second sister a black silk gown. He

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had been we see the godfather in two generations of the Turners.

The will of Lancelot Turner gives us the name of the father of William Turner, to whom we must now proceed. It was Philip, but beyond the name I have not discovered anything respecting him. Of Christopher Newton, the father of Thomasine, I can only conjecture that he was the Christopher, son of Miles Newton, of Thorpe in Claro wapentake (by Jane his wife, daughter of Ambrose Beckwith, of Stillingflete), who was aged one year and three months at the Visitation of 1585. Supposing this Christopher to be Thomasine's father, which can hardly be doubted, she would be allied, through the Beckwiths, with several of the higher Yorkshire gentry.

William Turner, son of Philip, and nephew and principal heir of Lancelot, is styled by his grandson the Poet, "Esquire." I cannot find that he was ever styled more than "gentleman" in his lifetime, and certainly he does not claim to be more in his last will. He appears to have been young, at least unmarried, in 1620, when, by the death of his uncle, he became lord of the manor of Towthorpe, and possessed of the rent-charge on the manor of Ruston, and of other considerable property. His birth may be fixed with considerable probability in the year 1600 or 1601, and it could not well be later than 1621 that he took to wife Thomasine Newton, his uncle's favourite, for one son of that marriage was killed in the Civil Wars, and another died in the King's service, that is, we may assume, between 1642 and 1648. It does not appear that William Turner was brought up to any profession, or engaged in any gainful employment. The first notice we have of him, after the date of his marriage, is only gathered inferentially from the history of his children, viz., from the record of the baptisms of four of them, including Edith, in the parish register of Worsborough, in the years 1641-2-3, and 1645.

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Where he had been living up to this period, from the time of his succeeding to the family estate, is unknown to me; it might have been at Towthorpe, or at York; but the determination of this point is not beyond the power of a laborious search, which might bring with it the discovery of some particulars concerning his position and character. One thing is certain, that his wife was producing him almost yearly a son or a daughter, as the four children whom we have mentioned were among the latest born of his very numerous family, fourteen daughters and three sons.

Worsborough is a village in the southern part of Yorkshire, on the road from Sheffield to Barnsley, as the turnpike roads formerly were. It is seated near the stream of the Dove, which flows along a dale called Worsborough Dale, where were several homesteads, inhabited by families of the lesser gentry, some of whom could trace themselves from remote ancestors living in the same vicinity. The inhabitants have long been accustomed to point out one particular house, in which they say the mother of Pope was born. It is called Marrow House; but, whatever may be the evidence for the claim of this particular mansion, there cannot be a doubt that the Poet's grandfather was for some years a parishioner of Worsborough, where we find these entries in the Register of Baptisms:—

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1641, Nov. 20. Martha, daughter of Mr. William Turner.

1642, June 18. EDITH, daughter of Mr. William Turner.

1643, Sept. 1. Margaret, daughter of Mr. William Turner.

1645, Nov. 25. Jane, daughter of Mr. William Turner.

Thenceforward we lose the benefit of the testimony of the register.

It will be observed that this was while the Civil Wars were at their height, in which two of the sons died, being on the King's side: not that this affords us any hint or presumption respecting the circumstances which brought Mr. Turner to Worsborough.

Whoever may have been the P. T. who communicated to Curl the particulars before given of the history of the Poet's father and maternal grandfather, they contain, few as they are, one specific statement which tallies with his residence in this part of the county, far from the districts where his estates lay. He was, says P. T., of "Burfit Hall," in Yorkshire. This can be no other place than Birthwaite Hall, at no great distance from Worsborough, but in the parish of Darton. It was the seat of the family of Burdet of Birthwaite—not that of the late Sir Francis Burdett—though Francis was a favourite name with these Yorkshire baronets. At the period with which we are concerned, this Yorkshire family were in great straits, and Birthwaite, in 1643, became the property of an heir of only a year and a half old. Furthermore, their affairs were placed very much in the hands of their relative, Mr. Rockley, of Rockley, which is in Worsborough; and in the absence of any positive evidence, without any choice but to fall back upon conjecture, or be silent, I would suggest that Mr. Turner's residence in these parts of the West Riding, might arise out of some connection with the affairs of the Rockleys and Burdets. Rockley, like Turner, had two younger sons in the service of King Charles I.^[3] At both these houses Mr. Turner would be only a tenant.

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At what time he returned to York has not been ascertained. The next thing we know of him is that he was living there, in the parish of St. John del Pike, at the time of the Heralds' Visitation in 1665. Next that he made his will, describing himself "William Turner, senior, of the city of York, gentleman." And, lastly, that in 1671, he, or his son William, was living in the parish of St. John del Pike, in a house with seven hearths, one of the best houses in the

parish.

Here, as is usually the case in inquiries of this nature, we gain our best information respecting him from his will, which is of considerable extent. It is dated Sept. 4, 1665. He was then "grown weak and infirm," but still of sound and disposing mind and memory, "humbly imploring Almighty God to bless and prosper these my intentions and bequests." He gives his soul to God, hoping to be saved through the merits of Jesus Christ his Saviour, and his body to be interred with such decency and solemnity as his executors shall approve. He then gives all interest in his messuages in Gotheram Gate, York, to his trusty friends Thomas Thompson, of York, notary public, and Thomas Tomlinson, of the same city, grocer, to suffer his dear and loving wife, Thomasine Turner, to take the issues as long as she continues his widow and unmarried ("it being her desire to have no further interest in them than so long as she continues my widow"), and after her death to convey them to his seven daughters:—Alice Mawhood the wife of Richard Mawhood, Elizabeth, Mary, Martha, Edith, Margaret, and Jane Turner, equally amongst them. He then gives his manor of Ruston, with its appurtenances in Ruston, Wickham, and Marton, and a rent-charge out of the said manor, lands, and tithes, of £70, to his wife, so long as she continues his widow, and afterwards to his only son, William Turner, his heirs and assigns, subject nevertheless to the charge heretofore made to my son-in-law Samuel Cooper and Christian his wife and their heirs, and to the further charge that he shall, within a year after he comes into possession, pay the sums hereafter mentioned, namely, to his loving daughter, Thomasine Turner, £50, in full of her filial part; to Martha, John, and William Haitfield, my grandchildren, £50 amongst them; and to his wife £40, which is to be given by her among her seven daughters first named in his will. He gives to the said seven daughters all his money, plate, linen, woollen, pewter, brass, household stuff, goods, chattels, and personal estate, of what kind soever (saving his wife's wearing apparel, rings, and jewels), equally amongst them, for the better augmentation of their portions; desiring and entreating his said wife's great care for their advancement, "considering my kindness and love to her by this my will." He further gives to his son-in-law Cooper and his wife, and to his daughter Thomasine Turner, each twenty shillings, for rings, to wear for his sake. He makes his wife executrix, and desires Thompson and Tomlinson to assist her, to each of whom he gives a ring. The witnesses were R. Etherington, James Tennant, and Edward Topham.

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This will tends to confirm Pope's representation that two of his mother's brothers died in early life. Towthorpe, we see, is not mentioned; probably it had passed from the family: but, on the other hand, there seems to have been some addition made to what Lancelot the uncle had possessed at Ruston. This Ruston (for there are two Rustons as well as two Towthorpes in Yorkshire) is near Scarborough, and Brompton, the ancient seat of the Cayley family, as this will plainly shows, by mentioning as appurtenances, Wickham and Marton, in the same neighbourhood. We have already seen that an interest was possessed here, in 1710, by Alexander Pope, the London merchant, and his son, who seem to have intended to sell it to the Vanden Bempd family.^[4] It was a valuable property; but we cannot but perceive, when we compare this will with that of Lancelot Turner, that the prosperity of the family had meanwhile declined.

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Pope speaks rather magniloquently of the cause of the decline, telling us that "his mother inherited what estate remained after the sequestrations and forfeitures of her family." We are bound to accept this statement; but, in the printed list of compounders, the name of this Mr. Turner does not appear, and I have seen no evidence of any sequestration. In comparing the wills of Lancelot and William, we must not forget that Lancelot's was made at the close of a life passed without children, and William's after he had portioned some of his fourteen daughters, and had others still remaining in his house.

These children of his grandfather were the only relatives of Pope in the preceding generation with whom he appears to have kept up much acquaintance; and after he became distinguished in the world, no particular intimacy existed between him and them. We must except, however, his mother, for whom he entertained the highest respect and affection; and who, he says, had lived with him from the time of his birth, to her death at the age of ninety-three. She survived, as we may easily believe, all her brothers and sisters; and of these it now remains to give such an account as the few memorials of them which have fallen under my notice enable me. They are in no respect interesting except as they are connected with the life of Pope, whom it is no exaggeration to designate one of the greatest names among Englishmen, standing, in his own department, with Chaucer, Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, and Dryden,—men of whom, and whose connections, men now desire to know all that can be known.

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Of the two Turners, who died in the service of King Charles I., we have no account even of their names. The other son, named William, left England to serve in the Spanish army, which was also the course taken by one of the young Rockleys of Worsborough, his "coetanean," and probably his friend. He rose in that service to be what Pope calls "a general officer"; which distinction, if it gave him rank like that of a general in the English service, was one that, in such a controversy, Pope was undoubtedly entitled to put forward as an honour to the family. I lament that more has not been discovered concerning him, and more particularly that we have not even that slender piece of autobiography, his will. We know, however, that he retained to the time of his death some portion of the family property, and left it to his sister, Edith Pope, perhaps then the sole survivor.

Of the fourteen daughters, it would seem that some may have died in infancy or in very early life. The General used to speak of his *ten* sisters, and to compare them with the five wise and five foolish virgins, that is, five Roman Catholics, and five of the English Protestant Church; but which, in his opinion, were the wise, and which the foolish, does not appear in the family tradition preserved by John Charles Brooke, Somerset Herald, who was descended of one of them.

To place them in the exact order of seniority is out of our power, though a more thorough search in the Yorkshire parish registers might enable us to do so.

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All we can pretend to is to place them in an order approximate to the truth; and I need not apprise the reader that where we have to deal with so large a family, there must be a long interval between the elder and the younger. At the birth of Pope, in 1688, his mother was forty-six, and some of his aunts must have been sixty, or thereabouts.

CHRISTIANA is named in her father's will as the wife of Samuel Cooper. She may be presumed to have been one of the elder daughters, her husband having been born in 1609. He was the famous miniature-painter of the name, and was also noted for his skill in music. His father was a professed musician, as we are informed by Aubrey, in his *Natural History of Wiltshire*. His science may possibly have introduced him to the family of Thomasine Turner, to whom, as we have seen, some song-books were bequeathed by her uncle. Walpole knew of Cooper's marriage, and tells us that he lived long in France and Holland; also, that he died in London, on May 5, 1672, at the age of sixty-three, and was buried in St. Pancras Church. All this may be true; but when he says—"I have a drawing of Pope's father as he lay dead in his bed, by his brother-in-law, Cooper, which had belonged to Mr. Pope," he must be mistaken, as Pope's father outlived Cooper many years. More probably it was of Pope's grandfather, and Cooper's father-in-law, William Turner. Walpole further informs us that the widow of Cooper received a pension from the Court of France, for whom her husband painted several pieces on a larger scale than he usually adopted.

Mrs. Cooper survived her husband many years. We are indebted to Mr. Carruthers for notes of her will, which was made on the 16th of May, 1693, and proved on the 28th of August following. She desires to be decently buried in the Church of St. Pancras, as near to her dear husband as may be. She leaves legacies to her sisters, Elizabeth Turner, Alice Mawhood, and Mary Turner; also to her sisters Mace (not Marc, as printed by Mr. Carruthers) and Jane Smith. To her sister Pope she leaves her mother's picture,—(what has become of this?)—a broad piece of gold to her brothers Mace, Calvert, Pope, and Smith; to her nephew and godson, Alexander Pope (then five years old), a china dish with a silver foot, and instruments which had been used by her husband in his art; and, after the death of her sister, Elizabeth Turner, all her books, pictures, and medals. She makes her nephew, Samuel Mawhood, citizen and fishmonger, her sole executor.

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It appears that there is or was a monument in the Church of St. Pancras to the memory of the Coopers, with arms of Cooper impaling those usually assigned to the name of Turner.

Mrs. Cooper was one of the five Roman Catholics. It seems probable, though Walpole does not state it, that Cooper was originally a musician by profession, as his father was, who is better known by his Italianized name Coporario.

THOMASINE, named in her father's will, seems to have left the paternal mansion early; for I find a Thomasine Turner living at the west end of Turnmill Street in 1645, when she was assessed one shilling towards the support of Sir Thomas Fairfax's army. In 1642, a receipt had been given to the same person for three shillings assessed upon her for the tenements she holds of Thomas Stokes, gentleman, in the parish of Clerkenwell, for the subsidy of £400,000; and in another receipt for a very small sum to the same subsidy. It is incidentally noticed on this receipt, that Thomas Stokes was a Papist. It is hardly likely that there should be two Thomasine Turners, unmarried, living at the same time. She seems never to have married, and subscribes her maiden name as a witness to Mr. Cooper's will. I place her among the five Roman Catholic sisters.

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ALICE is mentioned in her father's will as the wife of Richard Mawhood. She was one of the elder children, as she was eighty-eight at the time of her death, January 15, 1713/4, and consequently born in 1625. Her husband resided at Ardsley, where he had a good estate, which place being near to Worsborough, we are at no loss to account for the connection thus formed, and may refer it to the period when the family were living at Marrow House, especially as we find that the eldest son, William Mawhood, who succeeded them at Ardsley, was born in 1647, being seventy-eight at the time of his death in 1725; many persons descend from him. But, beside the eldest son, there were eight other children, of whom Samuel, a woollen-draper on Snow Hill, was Mrs. Cooper's executor. One only of these children was a daughter, who lived to the age of eighty-four, dying in 1736, the widow of Thomas Brooke of Doncaster. There was another connection of the Mawhoods with the family of Brooke of Yorkshire, William Brooke of Dodworth having married Alice, daughter of William Mawhood, an alderman of Doncaster (grandson of Richard Mawhood and Alice Turner) by Margaret Mawhood his wife, daughter of William, the eldest son of Richard and Alice. A son of that marriage was John Charles Brooke, the Somerset Herald, a most laborious inquirer into points of genealogy, who has left a large account of his relations, the Mawhoods, from which more might be extracted were I not, perhaps, too sensible how wearisome genealogical details are to many readers. His inquiries about his ancestors the

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Turners were less successful. He knew the relationship to Pope, but substitutes for William Turner of York, his contemporary, William Turner of Bilham, near Doncaster, a person of the same rank, but of a totally different family. Mrs. Mawhood may be considered to have remained a Protestant.

ANOTHER DAUGHTER, who must have been among those early born of this prolific bed, seems to have died before her father, who names in his will, Martha, John, and William Haitfield, as his grandchildren.

EDITH, baptized in 1642, is spoken of in her father's will by her maiden name,—in her sister, Mrs. Cooper's will, in 1693, as then the wife of Pope the elder. She died in 1733, the last survivor of the family.

JANE, baptized in 1645, married — Smith. Both were living when Mrs. Cooper made her will in 1693.

ELIZABETH, is named in her father's will, 1665, and her sister Cooper's will, 1693, as unmarried.

MARTHA, baptized 1641, and named in her father's will. Either she or (less probably) her sister Margaret was the wife of — Calvert, who was living in 1693, according to Mrs. Cooper's will. J. C. Brooke says that she was maintained in her old age by her nephew, Captain Charles Mawhood, who resided at Alkley, near Doncaster. She was a Roman Catholic.

MARGARET, baptized 1643. She (or Martha) married a clergyman named Mace. There were several clergymen of that rare name living at York and in the northern part of Derbyshire. She is named in her father's will, and, with her husband, in her sister Cooper's.

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Ten daughters have now been presented before us; but Brooke, who professes to write from the information of the elders of the family, speaks of two others, viz., Mrs. Tomlinson, whom we may suppose to have married in the family of Tomlinson of York, one of the supervisors of Turner's will; and Mrs. Corbet, who he says was one of the five Roman Catholics. She was, I conceive, the Mrs. Corbet on whom Pope wrote what pleased Dr. Johnson most of all his epitaphs.

One of the unmarried daughters, Thomasine, Elizabeth, or Mary, must have been the deformed sister who lived with Mrs. Pope, and who taught her son to read, according to the popular accounts of the Poet.

We have thus accounted for twelve of the fourteen daughters. The remaining two we may well believe died in infancy or early youth.

Whatever excellent qualities Edith may have possessed, it would seem that her literary education was not much superior to that of other young ladies of her time, and inferior to that of many. This is proved by a letter of hers, the only one I believe that is known, printed in the *Additions to the Works of Alexander Pope, Esq.*, 1776, vol. ii. p. 96.^[5]

The people of York seem not to have been without a due sense of the honour done to their city in having had the mother of so great a man residing among them in her youth. In some verses addressed to Lady Irwin, a daughter of the Earl of Carlisle, these lines occur:—

[Pg 45]

York lent us Pope by th' mother's side:
But from th' paternal, this our pride
Gives Castle Howard: say which here
Illumines most the natal sphere.

On the whole, then, it will appear that Pope descended of a *clerical* family, the members of it being much connected with the University of Oxford; but that at present we can trace him only to a person of his own name, who was rector of Thrupton and prebendary (if the incumbents are so called) of Middleton and Ichen-Abbots, in the diocese of Winchester: that these, being rather conspicuous pieces of preferment, place him in the higher rank of the clergy of his time, and seem to be but the beginning of the offices he would have held in the Church, had he not died in rather early life, and had not the changes at that time imminent, stopped him in his course:—that, though we cannot ascend beyond him on evidence that would bear a close examination, there is strong presumptive evidence that he was either identical or nearly connected with an Alexander Pope of Oxford, the friend of Dr. Barcroft, and the son-in-law of the famous John Dodd of Fawsley, and the father of Dr. Walter Pope, the Gresham Professor, the Poet, and the miscellaneous writer, who was half-brother of Dr. John Wilkins, the Bishop of Chester, who married a sister of the Protector Cromwell:—that there is no reason to believe, on account of disparity of rank, that he was not of the same stock as the Popes, Earls of Downe, but, on the contrary, that nothing can be more probable than that the family tradition was correct, which delivered thus much and no more:—that his Oxfordshire ancestors did spring, as the Earl of Downe did, from people of small account living at Deddington, near Banbury.

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And that, on his mother's side, he sprang from persons who had possessed land of their own

at Towthorpe, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, from perhaps an early period, but who, from the time of Elizabeth were lords of the manor:—that one of them who died in the reign of James I. was an opulent person, and intimate with some of the principal families in the county:—that he left the greater part of his possessions to his nephew, William Turner, the Poet's grandfather:—that in his hands the family estate did not receive any material additions, and perhaps rather decayed:—that he had the charge of not fewer than seventeen children, nearly all of whom grew to man and woman's estate:—that of the sons, two died during the Civil Wars, in which one of them was slain, and the other went abroad and served in the Spanish army, and at his death gave property, not very inconsiderable remains of the family estate, to Edith Pope, his favourite sister.

And that, this being the case, there is nothing of exaggeration or of boasting, when the Poet has to meet the charge of being of obscure birth, in asserting that he sprang "of gentle blood."

LONDON; F. PICKTON, Printer, Perry's Place, 29, Oxford Street.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

CRITICAL AND HISTORICAL TRACTS.—I. Agincourt; II. Collections concerning the Founders of New Plymouth; III. Milton; IV. The Ballad Hero, Robin Hood. 12mo. 1849 to 1852. Published by J. Russell Smith.

"WHO WROTE CAVENDISH'S LIFE OF WOLSEY?" 4to. 1814.

HALLAMSHIRE.—The History and Topography of the Town and Parish of Sheffield; with Historical and Descriptive Notices of the Parishes of Hansworth, Treeton, Whiston, and Ecclesfield. Folio. 1819.

GOLDEN SENTENCES.—A Manual for the use of all who desire to live Virtuously and Religiously. 8vo. 1827.

THE LIFE OF SIR THOMAS MORE.—By his Great-Grandson Cresacre More; with a large Biographical Preface, Notes, and other Illustrations. 8vo. 1828.

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THE HALLAMSHIRE GLOSSARY. 12mo. 1829.

THE DIARY AND CORRESPONDENCE OF RALPH THORESBY, F.R.S., Author of the "Topography of Leeds." (1677-1724.) From the original Autographs. 8vo. 4 vols. 1830.

ENGLISH MONASTIC LIBRARIES.—I. A Catalogue of the Library of the Priory of Bretton in Yorkshire; II. Notices of the Libraries belonging to other Religious Houses. 4to. 1831.

THE LIFE OF THOMAS GENT, Printer, of York; from his own Autograph. 8vo. 1832.

AN HISTORICAL DEFENCE of the Trustees of Lady Hewley's Foundations, and of the Claims upon them of the Presbyterian Ministry of England. 8vo. 1834.

A TRUE ACCOUNT of the Alienation and Recovery of the Estates of the Offleys of Norton, in 1754. 12mo. 1841.

A LETTER TO PATRICK FRASER TYTLER, ESQ., on the Evidence lately given by him before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, on a Plan of Publication applicable to the National Records. 8vo. 1837.

THREE CATALOGUES: Describing the Contents of the Red Book of the Exchequer, of the Dodsworth Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library, and of the Manuscripts in the Library of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. 8vo. 1838.

A DISQUISITION on the Scene, Origin, Date, &c. of Shakespeare's Tempest; in a Letter to Benjamin Heywood Bright, Esq. 8vo. 1839.

THE RISE OF THE OLD DISSENT: Exemplified in the Life of Oliver Heywood, one of the Founders of the Presbyterian Congregations in the County of York, 1630-1702. 8vo. 1842.

NEW ILLUSTRATIONS of the Life, Studies, and Writings of Shakespeare, supplementary to all the Editions. 2 vols. 8vo. 1845.

THE CONNECTION OF BATH with the Literature and Science of England. 12mo, 1827; and enlarged, 1853.

ECCLESIASTICAL DOCUMENTS: viz., I. A Brief History of the Bishoprick of Somerset, from its Foundation to the Year 1174; II. Charters from the Library of Dr. Cox Macro. 4to. 1840.

THE DIARY OF DR. THOMAS CARTWRIGHT, Bishop of Chester, 1686 and 1687. 4to. 1843.

COLLECTIONS concerning the Church or Congregation of Protestant Separatists at Scrooby, in North Nottinghamshire, in the Time of James I.: the Founders of New Plymouth, the Parent Colony of New England. 8vo. 1854.

Under the Direction of the Commissioners
on the Public Records.

MAGNUS ROTULUS PIPÆ, de anno tricesimo primo regni Henrici Primi (ut videtur) quem plurimi hactenus laudarunt pro rotulo quinti anni Stephani regis. 8vo. 1833.

AN INTRODUCTION to the "Valor Ecclesiasticus of King Henry VIII." 8vo. 1834.

ROTULI SELECTI ad res Anglicas et Hibernicas spectantes. 8vo. 1834.

FINES sive Pedes Finium, sive Finales Concordiæ in curia Domini Regis. 8vo. 1835.

POPE:

[Pg 1]

ADDITIONAL FACTS

CONCERNING

HIS MATERNAL ANCESTRY.

BY ROBERT DAVIES, F.S.A.,

IN A LETTER TO MR. HUNTER, AUTHOR OF THE TRACT ENTITLED "POPE:
HIS DESCENT AND FAMILY CONNECTIONS."

It is one of the most pleasing offices of the genealogist to trace the descent and to show the alliances of GENIUS.

HUNTER'S *South Yorkshire*, vol. ii. p. 297.

LONDON:
JOHN RUSSELL SMITH,
36, SOHO SQUARE.
M.DCCC.LVIII.

"Let any one bethink him how impressive the smallest historical fact may become, as contrasted with the grandest fictitious event;—what an incalculable force lies for us in this consideration;—the thing which I here hold imaged in my mind did actually occur; was, in very truth, an element in the system of the All whereof I too form part; had therefore, and has, through all time, an authentic being; is not a dream, but a reality!"—CARLYLE'S *Essays*, vol. iii. p. 43.

[Pg 2]

POPE.

[Pg 3]

My dear Sir,

In that section of the interesting and valuable tract you have recently given to the world, which treats of the maternal ancestry of Pope, you suggest the possibility of "ascending a generation above" Lancelot Turner, the uncle of William Turner, the Poet's maternal grandfather.

Having had the good fortune to discover this higher step in the genealogy of the Turners, and to obtain some additional information respecting several members of the family, I beg to be permitted to communicate to you, in this form, the facts which have come to my knowledge.

The descent of the maternal ancestors of the illustrious Poet may be traced to a source whence many families among the present aristocracy of Yorkshire have originally sprung,—the trade or commerce of the city of York.

At York, in the reign of King Henry VIII., Robert Turner carried on the business of a wax-chandler, which, before the Reformation, when this commodity in various forms was profusely and constantly used in the celebration of religious services, was a lucrative and important occupation. Had he not been a person in good circumstances, and belonging to the higher class of tradesmen, he would scarcely have brought up his son to one of the learned professions. In the year 1553, "Edward Turner, skryvener," son of Robert Turner, wax-chandler, being entitled by patrimony to be admitted to the city franchise, was duly enrolled upon the register of York freemen.

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This Edward Turner was the father of Lancelot Turner; and what you have hazarded as a probable conjecture with regard to the son,^[6] is quite true as regards the father: he was connected with the Council of the North; and there can be no doubt that great part of the property he possessed at the time of his death had been acquired by the influence and emoluments which arose from his official connection with that court.

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We have decisive evidence of his having been one of the officials of the Council of the North in a circumstance which is recorded upon the minutes of the proceedings of the corporation of York. Being a freeman of the city, Edward Turner was liable to serve municipal offices; and it may be regarded as a proof of the estimation in which he was held by his fellow-citizens, that they thought him a proper person to sustain the dignity and responsibility of the office of sheriff of the city. In October, 1562, he received an intimation from the corporate body, that they intended to elect him to be one of their sheriffs for the ensuing year. When this was made known to the Lord President and Council of the North, Mr. Secretary Eymis "went in all haste" to the common hall where the corporation were assembled, and told them that "Edward Turner was a clerk to the Council, and they must not make him sheriff."

The citizens did not deem it expedient to act in opposition to the wishes of the Council thus peremptorily expressed. They abandoned their design of electing Mr. Turner sheriff, and he was never afterwards called upon to bear that or any other office in the corporation.^[7] It

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was of more importance to him to retain the favour of the Council, than to accept a municipal appointment which was attended with no profit, and might have interfered with the due discharge of his official or professional duties.

The Mr. Secretary Eymis who is here spoken of, was Thomas Eymis, Esq., one of the chief functionaries of the great Court of York for nearly thirty years. A gentleman by birth, and, doubtless, a lawyer by profession, he was first constituted a member of the Council of the North, and appointed to the important office of its secretary, by the commission under which the Earl of Shrewsbury was made Lord President in the 4th year of King Edward VI. After the accession of Queen Elizabeth, under the commission which appointed the Earl of Rutland Lord President, and under the subsequent commissions issued in that reign, he continued to hold the office of Secretary, and was also Keeper of the Queen's Signet.

From the alarm shown by Mr. Secretary Eymis when he heard that the efficiency of Edward Turner's services as clerk to the Council was in danger of being impaired by his advancement to civic honours, it seems probable that the appointment he held was that of one of the clerks of the seal,^[8] the duties of which would be more immediately under Mr. Eymis's superintendence. It is obvious, however, that the office, whatever name it bore, was of great respectability, and placed the holder of it upon a footing of friendly intercourse with numerous persons of family and distinction, members of or connected with the Council, who at that period constituted the highest class of society in York.

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Edward Turner's place of residence was in the centre of the city. The house in which he lived and died, stood in that part of the parish of Saint Helen Stonegate, which was then called Stayngate, but is now known as Saint Helen's Square. This and an adjoining mansion occupied by Lady Beckwith (the widow of Sir Leonard Beckwith, Knight, one of the Council of the North), and several other houses situate in the adjacent streets, were his property. Some of them he had most probably inherited from his father.

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In the year 1562, when the corporation of York contemplated making him sheriff, Edward Turner was a married man, and the father of a family. The earliest register book of the parish of Saint Helen Stonegate, which commences in the year 1568, records the baptism of two of his younger children: "Lucy Turner, daughter of Edward Turner, gentleman," was baptized on the 24th of February, 1569, and a son, named Edward, on the 12th of August, 1570. Another son, named Martin, of whom he speaks in his will as his youngest son, must have been born a very short time before the death of his mother, an event which is thus entered in the same register:—"Mistress Turner, wife of Edward Turner, gentleman, buried 13th June, 1571." I have found no clue whatever to the discovery of the name of this lady, or of any other particulars relating to her.

A few months after the usual period of mourning had passed, the widowed husband took unto himself a second wife. On the 22nd of September, 1572, "Mr. Edward Turner and Mrs. Jane Fale" were married at the church of the parish of Saint Michael le Belfrey, in York. Mrs. Jane Fale was the widow of Mr. Thomas Fale, who for more than twenty years was town-clerk of York, and died in the month of March, 1571.

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In the year 1573, Mr. Turner purchased of William Wentworth, of Killingwicke, a plot of ground near to his own residence, which had been the churchyard of the demolished church of Saint Wilfred.^[9]

Of thirty householders of the parish of Saint Helen Stonegate, who, in the year 1574, were assessed to the relief of the poor, Edward Turner paid the highest rate. The amount, when compared with modern experience, seems ridiculously small: it was no more than fourpence. But this was in the very infancy of poor-rates, and, with one or two exceptions, the aldermen of the city were the only persons who contributed so large a sum as sixpence.

A few years later, Mr. Turner had to lament the loss of his early friend and patron, Mr. Secretary Eymis. He died on the 19th of August, 1578; and in his last will we find a token, although it be but a slight one, of his regard for the person who had so long shared his official labours.

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During his long tenure of the influential and lucrative office of Secretary to the Court at York, Mr. Eymis had accumulated great wealth. He appears to have participated largely in the distribution by the crown of the ecclesiastical property in Yorkshire which was confiscated at the Reformation. His estate at Heslington, near York, where he built for his own residence a stately mansion, consisted chiefly of lands which had belonged to the Hospital of Saint Leonard and the Priory of Saint Andrew, two of the religious houses at York. He had possessed himself of the estates belonging to a collegiate foundation at Lowthorpe in the East Riding. He was lessee under the church of York of the prebend of Bugthorpe in the same riding, and owner of the manors of Bugthorpe and other adjacent places; and he had obtained a grant from the crown of the tithes of Clifton, near York, which belonged to the rectory of Saint Olave in Marygate. He must have been remarkable for the state and splendour of his domestic establishment, having a house in the Minster Close at York, and another in the Savoy at London; and two country houses, one at Bugthorpe, and the other at Heslington.^[10]

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The last will of Mr. Eymis was executed on the first day of the year in which he died. In this document the name of Edward Turner occurs twice: first, in his disposal of a house and close

of land, without Monk Bar, York, which he states that he had purchased of "Edward Turner, gentelman"; and secondly, in a bequest of which I must speak more at length. The testator gives a life interest in nearly the whole of his estates to his wife Elizabeth; but he does this by means of numerous separate devises, intailing the various parts of his property, after her death, upon his nephews, Thomas Eymis, William Eymis, Richard Eymis, John Eymis, William Thynne, and Sir John Thynne, Knight,[11] varying the order of succession, and introducing into some of the limitations the names of the younger sons of his nephew, Sir John Thynne, and his brother-in-law, Sir Henry Neville, Knight, and of two or three other persons, of whom Edward Turner is one.

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The tithes of Clifton, which the testator states that he held for a term of years by a grant from the Queen, he gives, after the death of his wife, to five of his nephews for their lives successively; and if they all die before the expiration of such term of years, he bequeaths the same tithes to "Edward Turner, gentelman, and his assigns, during the residue of the years then to come, if he live so long;" and if not, then "to my friend Robert Man, gentelman," in a similar manner, with the ultimate bequest to "Henry Pulleyne, my servant." The will was proved at York, on the 20th of March, 1578-9, by the testator's widow, Elizabeth Eymis, the residuary legatee and sole executor.[12]

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Mr. Edward Turner did not long survive his patron and superior in office, Mr. Secretary Eymis. He died in the month of December, 1580, and was buried in the church of the parish of Saint Helen Stonegate, of which he had been for many years one of the principal inhabitants. A few weeks before his death he executed his last will. It is dated the 27th of November, 1580, and was proved by Lancelot Turner, the eldest son and one of the executors, on the 31st of January, 1581. After the usual pious introduction, the testator, who describes himself "Edward Turner, of the cittie of Yorke," without any addition, gives to his wife, Jane, for her life, all such lands, &c., as she had already set forth for her jointure. He then proceeds to make the following disposition of his real estate:—

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"To Lancelot Turner, my son, all my lands in possession and reversion, except a tenement and garthinge in Stanegate, to him and his heirs males; with remainder to Phillippe Turner, my son, and his heirs males; with remainder to Thomas Turner, my son, and his heirs males; with remainder to Martyn Turner, my son, and his heirs males; with remainder to my own right heirs."

The following bequests show that the testator's personalty was of a costly description:—

"To my son, Lancelot Turner, my dolphyn of gold; to my wife, all such gold rings and gold tablets as she hath in possession; to Phillipp Turner, my son, my ring hoop of gold; to Thomas Turner, a ring of gold, with a graven death's head in it, weighing about 40s.; to Martyn Turner, a gold ring, with a death's head of stone in it; to Margaret Willowbie, a round gold ring of 12s. price, which lieth in my study amongst other my rings; to Elizabeth Martyn, a gold ring in a purse, in my far study; to Katherine Turner, a ring of an angel weight; to Margaret Willowbie, 100 marks in consideration of such reckoning as is between her and me; to Elizabeth Martin, £10 over and beside £6. 13s. 4d. which I owe of the 100 marks that I promised to her husband for her marriage goods; to Katherine Turner, £30 over and besides her child's portion; to Johan Willowbie, 40s., and to Anne, Elizabeth, and Thomas Willowbie, 20s. each; to my wife, the tithes of corn and hay at Bishopthorpe during her life; to Martyn Turner, my youngest son, twenty marks yearly, out of the annuity of £20 granted unto me from William Chamberlayne, Esq., and Leonard his son,[13] for his bringing up at the University, and I commit him to the tuition of my wife, to be ruled and ordered by her, who I trust will be his good mother, and see all his things ordered for his most benefit; to my son, Lancelot, my years in the tithe of Braken-on-the-Wold, by grant from the Queen's Majesty; to Thomas Turner, the tenement and garthing in Stanegate; to my son, Philip Turner, my years in my lands in Clifton which I have by grant from the Queen, and my right in the Howe close without Walmgate Bar; to my well-beloved cousin, Mr. Henry Maye, the moiety of my leasehold lands in Kexbie township, for that he in truth did disburse the one half of the money for the obtaining of the leases—the other moiety I give to my children, Edward, Martyn, and Katherine Turner; to my daughter, Margaret Willowbie, my years in a close in Scoreby, paying out of it to my sister, Alice Hall, widow, 40s. yearly; to Lancelot Martin, my son-in-law, a gold ring of the value of 40s. I will that all the 'waynescott, sealings, portalles, binckes, cundetts for conveying of water,' &c. in my now dwelling-house, and within the house of the Lady Beckwith, be heirlooms. To my wife, a stoke of corn which I estimate to be twenty quarters of barley; £30 from one Hunter, for the fine or gressam of a tenement and lands of my said wife in Tockwith; and a grey ambling nag which she useth to ride upon, and calleth her own nag, which I esteem at the value of £4. To the right worshipful and my singular good mistress, Mrs. Eymis,[14] one old ryal; to my good friend Mr. Thomas Sandes, my cousin Henry Maye, and his wife, an old angel each; to my cousin Thomas Jackson, and my niece Jane Crosethwaite, each a French crown; to each of the children of my late brother-in-law, John Hall, 5s.; to Edmund Fale and his wife, 5s. each; to Mrs. Maltus, an English crown; to Mrs. Wood, of Kilnwick, a gold ring, or two old angels; to Agnes Walker, of Saint Nicholas, 3s. 4d. The residue to my wife, and Lancelot Turner, Margaret Willowbie, and Elizabeth Martin, my children, whom I make executors; my very good friend, Mr. Thomas Wood of Kilnwicke,[15] Robert Man, Thomas Blenkharne, John Stephenson, and Thomas Smithson, supervisors."

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It does not appear that the testator's wife, who survived him, had borne him any children. By

the aid of his will the issue of his previous marriage may be placed in the following order:—

1. LANCELOT, the eldest son. For copious information respecting him, we are indebted to your researches.
2. PHILIP, the grandfather of Edith Pope.
3. THOMAS. In the year 1580, "Thomas Turner, goldsmith, son of Edward Turner, gentleman," was admitted to the city franchise.
4. MARGARET, married, in her father's lifetime, to a person of the name of Willowbie. After his death she married John Stephenson,^[16] one of the supervisors of her father's will.
5. ELIZABETH, married to Lancelot Martin at the Church of Saint Helen Stonegate, on the 17th of July, 1580. Thomas Martin, the London apprentice, to whom Lancelot Turner gives a legacy of £200, was their son. It appears from the will of Lancelot Turner, that she was afterwards the wife of a person named Hustler. [Pg 21]
6. KATHARINE, a minor at the time of her father's death. She afterwards married Thomas Blenkarne, another of the supervisors of his will.
7. LUCY, baptized 24th of February, 1569. As she is not named in her father's will, she most probably died young.
8. EDWARD, baptized 12th of August, 1570.
9. MARTIN, the youngest child, about nine years old when his father died.

Mrs. Jane Turner lived several years after she became the widow of Edward Turner. Her last will is dated the 11th of December, 1588. The bequests it contains, are very numerous, and I will mention only such of them as seem to be pertinent to our present inquiry.

"To my god-daughter, Jane Newton, the wife of Miles Newton,^[17] gentleman, one angel." Jane Newton was one of the daughters of Ambrose Beckwith of Stillingfleet, the brother of Sir Leonard Beckwith, whose widow, Lady Beckwith, was the neighbour and tenant of Edward Turner. You have shown us that Thomasine Newton, Edith Pope's mother, was the grand-daughter of Miles Newton and Jane Beckwith.^[18] [Pg 22]

"To my son-in-law, Martin Turner," 5s., and a tablet of gold which was his father's. "To Phillip Turner and Edward Turner, my sons-in-law," 20s. each. "To my daughters-in-law, Elizabeth Martin, wife of Lancelot Martin, and Katherine Blenkarne, wife of Thomas Blenkarne," gold rings. "To John Stephenson, my son-in-law, and Margaret Stephenson, my daughter-in-law," small legacies; and "to my sister, Alice Hall, an angel and my black gown furred with cunny."

Among the other legatees are the following persons of distinction, then resident in York and the neighbourhood:— [Pg 23]

Mr. Henry Slingsby, afterwards Sir Henry Slingsby, Knight, Vice-President of the Council of the North; and Mrs. Frances Slingsby his wife, daughter of William Vavasour of Weston, Esq., by Elizabeth, sister and coheir of Roger Beckwith, Esq., eldest son and heir of Sir Leonard Beckwith.

Mrs. Jane Wood, widow of Thomas Wood of Kilnwick Percy gentleman (of whom I have previously spoken), and Mr. Barney Wood, their son.

Mrs. Hilliard, wife of William Hilliard, Esq., Recorder of York, afterwards Sir Wm. Hilliard, Knt.

Mr. John Jenkins (whose son was afterwards Sir Henry Jenkins, Knight), and his wife, and Margaret, their daughter.

Mrs. Darley, the wife of Mr. John Darley of York.^[19]

Lady Beckwith, and her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. George Harvie,^[20] and Mrs. Frances, his wife. [Pg 24]

The testatrix appointed John Darley and William Allen,^[21] draper, executors, and Mr. William Bushell and Mr. William Hilliard, supervisors of her will, which was proved at York on the 30th November, 1589. She was buried on the 9th of September preceding, in the church of Saint Michael le Belfrey; it being her testamentary wish to be interred near to her first husband.

I now pass to the third generation of the Turners; and I will speak first of Philip Turner, who was the second son of Edward Turner, and the direct ancestor of the great Poet.

In the year 1586, Philip Turner was admitted to the franchise of the city of York, as the son of Edward Turner, gentleman. In the register of freemen he is called a merchant, implying that he was a member of the chartered company of Merchant Adventurers, which was then constituted of the highest class of York citizens. [Pg 25]

On the 18th of January, 1590, at the church of Saint Helen Stonegate, "Phillippe Turner and Edeth Gylminge was maryed." This lady was the mother of William Turner, in remembrance of whom he gave to his daughter Edith her pretty Saxon christian-name, and it cannot be uninteresting to inquire a little about the family to which she belonged. The name of Gylminge is of rare occurrence in our local annals. In Mr. Drake's volume it appears only once; but I believe that the "William Gylmyn" whom the historian[22] places at the head of a list of the freeholders of York who were present at the election of two representatives in Parliament on Oct. 28, 1584, was the father of Edith Gylminge who married Philip Turner, as he unquestionably was of Christian Gylminge, who, at the same parish church, on April 9, 1599, became the first wife of George Ellis, Esq., afterwards Sir George Ellis, Knight, a member of the Council of the North.

William Gylminge was a vintner,—in modern phrase, a wine-merchant. In the sixteenth century the vintners were among the most opulent of the York tradesmen, no person being permitted to sell wine without having an annual license from the Lord Mayor and Aldermen. In the year 1583, William Gylminge was one of the eleven persons to whom this privilege was exclusively granted. Henry Maye, whom Edward Turner names in his will as his cousin, and who was an alderman, and lord mayor in 1586, was another of these eleven vintners.

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William Gylminge died in the year 1591. In his will, dated Jan. 28, 1590-1, he mentions his son James, and his daughters Joan and Christian. The name of his daughter Edith does not appear; and I can only account for the omission, by supposing that she had received her child's portion twelve months before, when she became the wife of Philip Turner. Robert Gylminge, a merchant and goldsmith at York, was the brother of William Gylminge. He died in the year 1580; and from his will[23] it may be inferred that he was engaged in large commercial transactions, as he gives to his wife and children all his goods "on this side the sea, or beyond the seas."

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Soon after the marriage of Philip Turner to Edith Gylminge, I find him living in the parish of All Saints Pavement in York, a part of the city which was then inhabited by many of its principal merchants. In this parish he continued to reside several years, and became the father of a numerous family. The baptismal register contains these entries:—

1592, Oct. 3.—Lancelot, son of Philip Turner.

1593, Nov. 3.—Frances, daughter of Philip Turner.

1594, Feb. 26.—Martha, daughter of Philip Turner.

1796, April 14.—Katherine, daughter of Philip Turner.

1597, June 7.—WILLIAM, son of Philip Turner.

1598, Oct. 9.—Philip, son of Philip Turner.

1603, Dec. 4.—John, son of Philip Turner.

In the spring of 1604, that dreadful scourge, the "Pestilence of the Plague," which, in the preceding year, had almost desolated the metropolis, made its appearance at York, and continued to rage with unabated violence in every part of the city for several months.[24] Edith, the wife of Philip Turner, and three of his children, were victims of this fatal visitation. The mother died first: the register of All Saints Pavement records her burial on July 9, 1604. The death of her daughters, Martha and Katherine, quickly followed. Both were buried on the 23rd of the same month. John, her infant son, did not long survive his mother; he was buried on the 19th of December.

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After this period I have not met with the slightest trace of Philip Turner, or of any of his surviving children, except William, who, we now discover, was not his first-born son. From the christian-name given to Philip's eldest boy, it is pretty certain that he was the godson of his uncle Lancelot, and had he lived to the age of maturity would have been preferred to his younger brother. We must conclude, therefore, that his early death made way for William to become the oldest surviving son of his father, and the heir presumptive of his uncle, who, as we learn from your pages,[25] having no children of his own, ultimately by his will established this nephew in the possession of the bulk of his fortune.

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It was but a short time previous to the occurrence of the calamity which deprived Philip Turner of his wife and three of his children, that Lancelot Turner became the owner of Towthorpe.

An acute critic,[26] who has taken great interest in all matters connected with the genealogy of Pope, suggests, as "more than probable, that Lancelot Turner himself acquired the property which enabled him to make the purchase of the manor of Towthorpe." But the fact seems to be, that he had obtained the means of making that purchase by converting into money part of the property bequeathed to him by his father, in the sale of which he had prevailed upon his brother Philip to join. Prior to the year 1602,[27] they had sold to Robert Waterhouse, Esq., the ancient churchyard of Saint Wilfred, and the buildings that stood upon it; and in January, 1604, "Lancelot Turner and Philip Turner of York gentlemen, sons of Edward Turner late of York gentleman, deceased," conveyed to John Smith and John Sharpe, two York tradesmen, all the remaining property which had belonged to their father, situate in the parish of Saint Helen Stonegate, consisting of nine dwelling-houses which stood in the

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several streets of Stanegate, Ald-Conyng-strete, Blake-street, and Davygate.

About this time Lancelot Turner was making purchases of copyhold cottages and land at Towthorpe; and from his having sold his paternal property in York, to enable him to become the lord of the manor of Towthorpe, and from his manifest desire to enlarge the borders of his domain there, it might be reasonably inferred that he had some ancestral attachment to that place. There can be no doubt that a family of the same name, who were small landed proprietors, had long been settled there. The baptism of John, son of the Robert Turner, of Towthorpe, of whose will you give some account,[28] is entered in the parochial register of Huntington, on Jan. 11, 1600-1. Robert, the testator, was buried at Huntington on Sept. 30, 1626. In April, 1642, Richard Turner, doubtless the son and executor of Robert, surrendered copyhold land at Strensall, the manor to which Towthorpe is appendant, to William Turner, doubtless his son, and the grandchild to whom Robert bequeaths "the little brown whie."

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Nothing can be more probable than that Robert of York, the father of Edward and the grandfather of Lancelot, sprang from this respectable if not opulent family of Turner of Towthorpe, and, according to a practice very common in those days, had been transplanted from the country to be brought up to a trade in the town.

I have now to bring to your notice a remarkable circumstance which occurred in the earlier part of the life of Lancelot Turner.

You need not be reminded of the bitter persecution of Nonconformists that prevailed in the northern counties whilst the Court of York was under the presidency of the Earl of Huntingdon; and the strict watchfulness which the civil authorities were specially required by the Government to exercise over all persons suspected of any attachment to Popery. At the commencement of the year 1594, the magistrates of York were called upon by the Lord President and Council of the North, acting in obedience to instructions received from the Privy Council, to make diligent inquiry as to the number of gentlemen resident within their jurisdiction who were sending, or had sent, their children abroad under colour of learning languages. In the answer which the Lord Mayor and Aldermen returned to the communication from the Lord President, they certified that Martin Turner, son of Edward Turner of York gentleman deceased, went over the seas about three years before—that he was then at Venice at the University, and learning of languages there—and that he was relieved and maintained by one Lancelot Turner of York gentleman, his brother.[29]

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The curious facts thus disclosed appear to me to admit of only one explanation. We discover that in the year 1591, about twelve months after the death of Mrs. Jane Turner, his father's widow, Lancelot Turner took the extraordinary step of sending his brother, a youth of nineteen, into Italy. We have seen the desire of the father, as shown by the testamentary provision he made for his son Martin, whom he probably designed for one of the liberal professions, that this his youngest boy should be brought up at the university. His solemn injunction to his widow, that she should be "a good mother to the boy and see all things ordered for his most benefit," was, no doubt, piously fulfilled. We cannot imagine, that when Edward Turner, an officer of the Council of the North, spoke of the university, he had the most remote idea of his son being brought up at a Popish college. Yet we find that Lancelot Turner, the moment he became the youth's natural guardian, sent him abroad, and placed him at the University of Venice, which was then notorious for being the very centre and hotbed of Jesuitism.[30]

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The conclusion seems inevitable, that Lancelot Turner was himself a Roman Catholic, and adopted the most effectual method of having his brother Martin educated and established in the same faith.

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Nevertheless, we have some evidence that at a later period he outwardly conformed to the religion of the State. One of the important facts you have brought to light concerning him is, that the royal grant of Towthorpe was made to him just before the Queen's death. Had he then been an avowed Roman Catholic, or even suspected of recusancy, he would scarcely have obtained such a grant from the Government of Elizabeth. The documents you refer to, showing his residence at York after the accession of James I., testify that he then stood well with the municipal authorities. I may add, by way of corroboration, that in January, 1612, when the royal treasury was empty, and the Ministers of James resorted to the expedient of raising money for the necessities of the State, by sending privy seals into the country, Lancelot Turner was one of "twenty able commoners" of York, whom the Lord President and the Lord Mayor, upon private conference, selected as persons of sufficient ability to lend money to the Crown upon that security.

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The touching incident recorded in the nuncupative codicil made by Lancelot Turner in his dying moments,[31] shows the close personal friendship which must have subsisted between him and Sir William Alford; and this gives plausibility to a conjecture, that their families were connected by some tie of relationship: possibly the first wife of Edward Turner was an Alford. The christian name of Lancelot, which Edward Turner bestowed upon his eldest son, and which was afterwards given to his eldest grandson, had been a favourite name with the Alfords. The first occupier of Meaux Abbey, after the dissolution of monasteries, was Lancelot Alford, Esq., who died in 1562, and was succeeded by his nephew, Sir Lancelot Alford, who obtained a grant of the site of the monastery in 1586, and was knighted by King James I., at York, in 1603.[32] He was the father of Sir William Alford, Lancelot Turner's friend. But another and perhaps the more probable conjecture is, that the intimacy between

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these two persons had arisen from a community of feeling upon the all-important subject of religious faith; for there can be little doubt that Sir William Alford was a Roman Catholic.

In a petition presented by the House of Commons to King Charles the First, in the year 1626, numerous persons are named, holding places of trust and authority, whom the petitioners accuse of being either Popish recusants, or justly suspected of being such. They do not scruple to charge the Lord President of the North himself^[33] with being ill affected in religion; and, among other instances, they allege—first, that in the preceding year, the Lord President being certified of divers Spanish ships-of-war upon the coast of Scarborough, his lordship went thither, and took with him the Lord Dunbar, Sir Thomas Metham, and Sir William Alford, and lay at the house of Lord Eure,^[34] whom he knew to be a convict recusant, and did, notwithstanding, refuse to disarm him, although he had received letters from the Privy Council to that effect; and secondly, that he gave order to Lord Dunbar, Sir Thomas Metham, and Sir William Alford, to view the forts and munition at Kingston-upon-Hull, who made one Kerton, a convict recusant, and suspected to be a priest, their clerk in that service.^[35]

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It is well known that Lord Dunbar and Sir Thomas Metham were Roman Catholics. Had Sir William Alford not been of the same religious persuasion, he would scarcely have acted as their colleague on these occasions.

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The estrangement of which Lancelot Turner complained, when he revoked his gift of the clock to his “good and worthy friend,” may possibly have been occasioned by Sir William’s dislike of that outward conformity to Protestantism, which Lancelot had found it convenient to assume in his latter days.

Like other country gentlemen, Lancelot Turner had a town-house for his occasional residence, as well as his manor-house of Towthorpe. You show us that in December, 1619, when he executed his last will he is described of Towthorpe; but you think that the codicil, which is dated a few days before his death, was probably made at York.^[36] There is no doubt that in his last illness he was residing in Goodramgate, in the house which his nephew afterwards occupied. Part of the street called Goodramgate is in the parish of Saint John del Pike, which was then, as it is now, united to the parish of the Holy Trinity Goodramgate; and I find in the register-book of the united parishes, an entry of the burial of “Mr. Lancelot Turner” on Jan. 16, 1620.

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Upon the death of his uncle, William Turner made Towthorpe^[37] his principal perhaps his only place of abode, and exactly two years after that event, viz., on Jan. 14, 1621-2, his marriage to Thomasine Newton was solemnized at the little church of the parish of Huntington, in which the township of Towthorpe is situate. The extreme youth of the lady was most probably the cause of the postponement of the marriage (which, as you observe, had evidently been contemplated by the uncle) until the expiration of two years after his death. At that time she could not have been more than fifteen years old. Her father, Christopher Newton, was not of age in 1604, when his father, Miles Newton, died;^[38] and it is pretty certain that he was not then married.

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In what creed either of the parents of Edith Pope was educated, we have no means of ascertaining, but we may reasonably suppose that their religious faith would take its colour from that which was professed by him of whom they were the adopted children. If the Roman Catholic tendency were less manifest in them, we see it abundantly developed in their numerous offspring, of whom a considerable proportion, we are told, were avowedly members of the ancient church.

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The origin of that particular regard which Lancelot Turner had for Thomasine Newton remains inexplicable. His having “household stuff at Kilburn,” which he bequeathed to her by his will, would indicate that he had occasionally resided at the house of her parents at that place. The will of either of them might have thrown some light upon these points; but such documents, if they exist, have hitherto eluded our researches.

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About thirteen months after the marriage of William Turner and Thomasine Newton, their first child was born. “Christian Turner,^[39] daughter of William Turner of Towthorpe gentleman,” was baptized at Huntington on Feb. 19, 1622-23. The second child was a son. On March 30, 1624, “George Turner, son of William Turner of Towthorpe gentleman,” was baptized at Huntington. This was doubtless one of the youths whose “gentle blood was shed in honour’s cause.” About two years afterwards, the second daughter was born—Alice, of whom you speak as the wife of Richard Mawhood,^[40] was baptized at Huntington on the 23rd of March, 1625-6. After this time the parochial register of Huntington ceases to yield any information relating to William Turner or his family.

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In the same year in which he was married, William Turner made a purchase, with what specific object it is now in vain to inquire, of a house in Stonegate, York. In the deed (dated Nov. 5, 1622) by which the property was conveyed to him he is described “William Turner of Towthropp in the county of York gentleman.” Whatever may have been his motive for purchasing a house in York, he did not long retain the ownership of it. By a deed dated June 5, 1626, “William Turner of Towthropp gentleman, and Thomasine his wife,” transferred all their interest in the property to William Scott of York merchant, and John Lasinbye of Huntington yeoman. It maybe surmised that Scott and Lasinbye were not purchasers, but merely trustees for effecting some charitable or other purpose not strictly legal, which had

soon afterwards been brought into litigation or dispute. On June 3, 1630, William Turner, who was then at York, joined with William Scott and John Lasinbye in an absolute conveyance of the property to Robert Hemsworth and Thomas Hoyle, aldermen, and several other persons, also members of the corporation of York. This conveyance is stated to have been made in performance of a decree of the Court of Chancery, dated Feb. 20 preceding, in accordance with an act of Parliament passed in the 43rd year of Queen Elizabeth, intituled "An Act to redress the Misemployment of Lands and Tenements theretofore given to Charitable Uses." Of this transaction I will not venture to offer any further explanation.

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A chasm of ten years now occurs in my chronology. I do not again meet with the name of William Turner until the year 1640, when he was once more a resident in York, most probably occupying the same house in Goodramgate in which his uncle Lancelot lived and died. The register of the united parishes of Saint John del Pike and Holy Trinity Goodramgate, contains entries of the baptism of "Judith, the daughter of Mr. William Turner," on July 16, 1640, and of the burial of the same child on Aug. 3 in the same year. The removal of the family from York must have taken place soon afterwards. For an account of the circumstances attending their residence in the West Riding, I need only refer to your valuable tract.^[41]

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I am unable to give any assistance towards dispelling the obscurity in which that period of the history of William Turner is involved, that extends from the month of June, 1626, when he is described "of Towthorpe," until the birth of his daughter Judith at York in the summer of 1640. It is clear that he was at York in June, 1630; but I have met with nothing to show where he passed the preceding four years or the following ten years. During these fourteen years his wife presented him with two sons and seven daughters; but I have failed to discover the entry of the baptism of any of these children, either at York or at Huntington.

Neither have I succeeded in my attempts to ascertain at what time, or under what circumstances, William Turner disposed of the manor of Towthorpe. John George Smyth, Esq. of Heath, near Wakefield, M.P. for the city of York, is the present owner of the estate, which was purchased, in the early part of the last century, by one of his ancestors, from Sir Charles Dalston, Bart., to whom it had descended from his grandfather, Sir William Dalston, the first baronet of that name. The Dalstons were a Cumberland family, and Sir William had most probably acquired the Towthorpe estate by his marriage with Anne Bolles, the eldest daughter and coheir of that singular person, Lady Bolles of Heath Hall, the Baronetess, whose curious history is narrated in your interesting "Antiquarian Notices of Lupset, the Heath, and Charlston."

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You state that William Turner was living in the parish of Saint John del Pike at the time of the Heralds' Visitation in 1665, and was one of the persons whom they summoned to appear. ^[42] The visits of the heralds at York took place in the months of August and September in that year; and perhaps you would not have imputed blame to him for having neglected that opportunity of recording his genealogy, had you been aware that he was then in his last illness, awaiting a more solemn summons. He died within a month after the date of his will, and was buried in the church of the Holy Trinity Goodramgate, on Oct. 3, 1665. Had the heralds made their visitation at York a few months sooner, we should doubtless have possessed their testimony, that the Turners were entitled to take rank among the gentry of York. But it will now, perhaps, be admitted that no such testimony is requisite.

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It has been shown by unimpeachable evidence that Edward Turner, the great-grandfather of Edith Pope, was the son of a substantial citizen of York, who flourished in the reign of King Henry VII.; that, having advanced a step higher in the social scale, he maintained during great part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth the rank of a gentleman, and associated upon a footing of equality with the best of the inhabitants of a city which was then "the glory of the North"; that, in addition to the property he inherited in the city, he acquired lands of considerable value in the county, and these he transmitted to his descendants; that his eldest son, Lancelot Turner, by means of his paternal fortune, was enabled, at the commencement of the seventeenth century, to purchase the manor and estate of Towthorpe, and thus attain the *status* of a country gentleman; and in that position, dying childless, was succeeded by his nephew, William Turner, who "made choice of, to be the mother of his children,"^[43] of whom Edith Pope was one, a lady who was not only herself of good family, but was (as you have remarked^[44]) allied with several of the higher Yorkshire gentry.

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That genealogical critic must indeed be fastidious, who would deny the Poet's right to assert that his mother was of *gentle blood* and of an *ancient family*.

The baptismal register of William Turner, by which his birth is placed only two or three years earlier than the date you have conjecturally assigned for that event, shows that he was in his sixty-ninth year when he died. His wife survived him nearly sixteen years. "Mrs. Turner, widow," was buried in the church of the Holy Trinity Goodramgate, on Sept. 11, 1681. Administration of the goods of "Thomasine Turner of York," who died intestate, was granted by the archbishop's court to her daughter Mary Turner, spinster, on Dec. 2, 1681. From the circumstance of Mary being the sole administratrix it may be inferred that the only surviving son, William Turner, was then absent from York, and that Mary was the oldest of the unmarried daughters who had remained at home.^[45] But there is no reason to suppose that she had remained there alone. We may presume that Edith was one of her companions, and took part in administering to the comforts of their mother's last hours—in assisting to

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“rock the cradle of reposing age.”

Assuming it to have been soon after the Restoration that William Turner returned to York, his daughter Edith was then just entering into womanhood, so that for nearly twenty years of the bloom of her life she was domesticated with her family within the walls of our venerable city. Their residence stood under the very shadow of the towers of our cathedral, the parish of Saint John del Pike being usually regarded as forming part of the Minster-close. The neighbourhood in which they lived was crowded with the stately mansions of the dignitaries of the church, the higher officers of the ecclesiastical courts, and many of the wealthy families of the county. We cannot doubt that the Turners moved in the best society of which the city could at that period boast; not so brilliant and dignified as when it shone with the splendour of the vice-regal court of the Lords Presidents of the North; but still aristocratic, refined, and intellectual,—a society in which Edith Turner might receive that training which fitted her to hold converse in after-life with Bolingbroke, and Congreve, and Swift.

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When, upon the death of Mrs. Turner, the daughters who had remained under the maternal roof at York had to seek a home with their married sisters in other parts of the kingdom, it was Edith’s lot to remove to London, where she became the wife of Alexander Pope, and the mother of the Poet, whose name you justly designate “one of the greatest among Englishmen.”

It now only remains for me to offer to you my cordial thanks for the valuable information and suggestions with which you have favoured me in the progress of my investigation; and to assure you that I shall feel highly gratified if the additional facts I have brought to light satisfactorily blend with or prove to be in any measure illustrative of those contained in your more important narrative.

I must not conclude without gratefully acknowledging the kindness of my York friends,^[46] who have, with the utmost readiness and liberality, given me free access to the records and documents which form many of my authorities.

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I am, my dear Sir,
with much respect,
most faithfully yours,
ROBERT DAVIES.

THE MOUNT, YORK,
April, 1858.

LONDON:
F. PICKTON, PRINTER,
Perry’s Place, 29, Oxford Street.

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Footnotes:

[1] Johnson is probably in the wrong. They are printed as Lady Mary’s in the collection entitled *The Poetical Works of the Right Honourable Lady M—y W—y M—e*. Dublin: 12mo, 1768, p. 26.

It is rather remarkable that we should find in private documents two ladies whom Pope had made the subject of his severest satire, both manifesting curiosity about the contents of his will. Lady Hervey (Mary Lepell) writes on the 20th July, 1744, respecting one clause in it; but she writes darkly, and the editor of her Letters has not cleared away the obscurity. Lady Mary’s curiosity is expressed in letters perhaps not so well known; at least I copy from the originals. They are addressed to her intimate friend the Countess of Oxford.—“*Avignon, Aug. 10, 1744.*—I hear that Pope is dead, but suppose it is a mistake, since your Ladyship has never mentioned it. If it is so, I have some small curiosity for the disposition of his affairs, and to whom he has left the enjoyment of his pretty house at Twict’nam, which was in his power to dispose of for only one year after his decease.” Again:—“*Avignon, Oct. 15.*—I am surprised Lord Burlington is unmentioned in Pope’s will. On the whole, it appears to me more reasonable and less vain than I expected from him.” It was from Lady Oxford that she had received a copy of the will. In another letter (not of this series) Lady Mary speaks of having converted an old ruined windmill on the heights of Avignon into a belvedere, from which she says there was commanded the finest land prospect she had ever seen; then

recollecting what were perhaps the happiest months of her life (for her happiness is to be counted by months, not years), she adds, "except Wharncliffe." This "belvedere" must have been on the hill on which still stand the cathedral and the Pope's palace, now barracks. The prospect, though magnificent, does not naturally recal the forests and moors of Wharncliffe. No traces of the "belvedere" are discoverable.

[2] See *Private Memoirs of John Potenger, Esquire*, edited by his Descendant, C. W. Bingham, M.A. 12mo. 1841. The editor confines himself very much to the one member of the family to whom the memoirs relate; and we have no notice of any connection with the name of Pope, or of any collateral branches of the Potengers. The Mr. Potenger, the friend of the Dean of Carlisle, is reasonably supposed to be Mr. Richard Potenger, who was elected three times member for Reading—1727, 1734, and again in 1735, when he was re-elected, having accepted a Welsh judgeship. Beatson informs us that on November 28, 1739, a new writ was ordered on his death.

[3] See, for the Rockleys and Burdets, the *History of the Deanery of Doncaster*, vol. ii. pp. 285 and 376.

[4] I infer this from the following letter of Pope's, possibly the only letter of dry business written by him which has been preserved, printed in the book entitled *Additions to the Works of Alexander Pope, Esq.*, 2 vols. 8vo, 1776, vol. ii. p. 30:—"To John Vanden Bempden, Esq., present. Thursday. Sir,—Upon what you told me when I was last to wait on you, I deferred treating further for the rent-charge till you could be more certain what sum you could conveniently raise in present towards the purchase. If there were only three of [*q.* or] four hundred pounds wanting, we would take your bond; for, as to a mortgage on the rent-charge, my father is not qualified to take it, for by an act of parliament he cannot buy land, though he may sell. However, if you desire to make the purchase soon, I believe I have a friend who will lend you the £1000, on the same security you offer us. If you have any scruple, you'll please to tell it me fairly; but, if this purchase be convenient to you, we shall think of treating with no other, and be ready upon your answer; since I think what I here propose, entirely accommodates all the difficulty you seem to be at. I am, Sir, your very humble servant, A. POPE." I conclude this relates to Ruston, the Vanden Bempd's being then accumulating the estate now enjoyed by their descendant, Sir John Vanden Bempd Johnstone, Baronet, whose beautiful seat is at Hackness, near to Ruston.

[5] The collection of these pieces is usually attributed to Steevens. But I am in possession of a copy which belonged to a person who claims to be the editor. It is handsomely bound, and has this note in his own handwriting on a fly-leaf of the first volume:—"These collections were made by me from the London Museum, &c., and the Preface written by me, W. C." Lowndes gives this account of the book, "culled, says Mr. Park, by Baldwin, from the communications by Mr. Steevens in the *St. James's Chronicle*, and put forth with a Preface by William Cooke, Esq." There is an account of Cooke in the *Biographia Dramatica*, 8vo. 1812. p. 147.

[6] "Perhaps as probable a conjecture as is likely to be made is, that he was connected with the Council of the North, or a successful practitioner in that Court."—*Pope Tract*, p. 29.

[7] Another person of the same name was sheriff of York in 1571.

[8] Among the numerous officers of whom the court consisted were two called Clerks of the Seal.—TORRE'S *MSS*.

[9] The mansion in the street now called Lendal (formerly Aldconyngstrete), which was built by Dr. Wintringham, an eminent physician, in the early part of the last century, and is now appropriated to the use of the judges at the assizes, stands upon part of the ancient churchyard of Saint Wilfred, which in the sixteenth century was the property of Edward Turner.

[10] In his houses at York and Heslington the rooms were hung with costly tapestry, and the buffets laden with gold and silver plate. He states in his will, that his plate weighed 759 oz. The Heslington mansion, a short distance from York, was standing nearly as Mr. Eymis left it, until a few years ago, when it was almost wholly rebuilt by the late owner, Yarburgh Yarburgh, Esq. The principal front still remains without much alteration, and presents an admirable example of the sumptuous style of domestic architecture that prevailed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

[11] The testator was the son of Thomas Eymis, Esq., of Church Stretton, in Shropshire, by Joyce or Jocosa, sole daughter and heir of Humphrey Gatacre, of Gatacre, in the same county, esquire of the body to King Henry VI. The testator's only sister, Margaret Eymis, married Thomas Thynne, Esq., and was the mother of William Thynne, and Sir John Thynne, Knight. She appears ultimately to have become the heir of both her father and her brothers, and thus to have carried all the wealth of the Eymis's and Gatacres into the family of Thynne. From Sir John Thynne, the nephew of Mr. Eymis, who built the magnificent mansion of Longleat, in Wiltshire, the Marquesses of Bath are lineally descended.

[12] On a plain tomb in York Minster was once this epitaph:—

+ "Here lyeth the body of Thomas Eymis, esquier, one of her Majesty's counsell established in the north parties, and secretary and keeper of her Highness signett appointed for the said

Counsell, who married Elizabeth, one of the daughters of Sir Edward Nevill, Knight, and departed out of this life to the mercy of God the xixth day of August, An. Dom. 1578."—*Eboracum*, p. 496.

[13] These Chamberlaynes were a younger branch of the ancient Oxfordshire family of that name. It appears from the pedigree they recorded at the Heralds' visitation in 1584, that the William Chamberlayne named in Edward Turner's will was the first who settled at Thorlby, in Yorkshire. It is very probable that he, or his son Leonard Chamberlayne, was in some way or other connected with the Council of the North, which might account for the circumstance of their having granted an annuity to Edward Turner. Thorlby Hall is in the parish of Bugthorpe, of which Mr. Secretary Eymis was the proprietor. Francis Chamberlayne, Esq., the eldest son of Sir Leonard Chamberlayne, Knight (as he is styled in the pedigree), by his first wife, the daughter of Sir William Middleton, Knight, of Stockeld, near Wetherby, was living at Thorlby in 1584. Sir Leonard's second wife was Katherine, daughter of Roger Cholmeley, Esq., of Brandsby, a sister of Lady Beckwith, the tenant of Edward Turner.

[14] Few persons who have visited our noble Minster will have failed to notice, affixed to the south side of one of the massive piers which support the central tower, a monumental brass engraved with the portraiture of a prim old lady in the starched ruff and pinched-up coif of the days of Queen Elizabeth. The inscription beneath it informs us that this is the effigy of Elizabeth Eymis, widow, late the wife of Thomas Eymis, Esq., deceased, who was one of the gentlewomen of the Queen's privy chamber, and daughter of Sir Edward Nevill, Knight, one of the privy chamber to King Henry the Eighth. Mrs. Eymis, "the singular good mistress" of Edward Turner, did not long survive him. In her last will, which is dated the 31st of January, 1584-5, she desired, if she died at York or Heslington, to be buried in the Minster of York, nigh her late husband; and she ordered her executors to provide a stone of marble to be set upon a platt, with superscription of her descent, and also the arms of her late husband and her own, graven thereupon. Had her injunctions been implicitly obeyed by her executors, her monument would have shared the fate of that of her husband, and of numberless others which have long since disappeared from the nave and aisles of York Minster. Her epitaph, being written in brass instead of marble, has escaped the wear and tear of nearly three centuries. It is not irrelevant to my subject to introduce here a few of the bequests contained in her will. To "my good Lord of Huntingdon" she gives "one portingue of gould"; to "my good ladie his wife," her best silver tankard, double gilt; to her brother, Sir Henry Nevill, Knight, she gives her great goblet of silver with a cover, and to her brother, Edward Nevill, Esq., her "jewell of gould with the unicorne horne in the same, maid licke a shippe, and a gilt canne of sylver"; to her sister "Frogmorton, my best tuftafitie gowne"; to her very good friend, Mr. Pailer, "a tankard of silver, parcel gilt"; to Alice Hall, "one morning gown" and 20s.; and to her god-daughter, Elizabeth Darley, one silver spoon. The residuary legatees and executors are Robert Man, and Francis Nevill, the son of Edward Nevill. Witnesses—William Payler, Anne Payler, Thomas Wanton, Alice Darley, John Stevenson, Katherine Blenkarne. We have here one or two facts showing the intimacy that subsisted between the families of Edward Turner and Mrs. Eymis. Alice Hall, one of her legatees, was the widowed sister of Edward Turner; Robert Man, her executor, was one of the supervisors of Edward Turner's will; Katherine Blenkarne, one of the witnesses of Mrs. Eymis's will, was a daughter of Edward Turner; John Stevenson, another witness, was most probably the person of that name who married Margaret Willowbie, another daughter of Edward Turner.

Mrs. Eymis had reason to be proud of her descent. Her father, Sir Edward Nevill, a younger brother of George Nevill, Lord Abergavenny, was a distinguished ornament of the court of Henry VIII. in its palmiest days. He was one of "the noble troop of strangers" who formed the royal masquing party when the King visited Wolsey, and first saw Anne Boleyn. A few years after that event, he incurred the displeasure of the suspicious Henry, and was brought to the scaffold upon a charge of being implicated in the pretended conspiracy of Cardinal Pole and his brothers.

[15] A monumental brass to the memory of the testator's "very good friend, Mr. Thomas Wood," is still preserved in the church of Kilnwick Percy, near Pocklington, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, where he was buried in the month of October, 1584. The inscription has not, I believe, been printed:—

"Thomas Wood Gentilman, who in warfare hath be,
He fought in Scotland, in Royall armyes thre,
Lyeth now buried, in this grave hereunder.
Of Bulloign when it was English, Clerk comptroller;
Of the Ward Court, sixe and twenty yeres together
Depute Receyvor; of Yorkshire once eschetor;
Clerke of the Statut, in London noble cytye;
Collector of Selby, with tenne pound yerely ffe.
For thought wordes or deeds which to God or man were yll,
Of bothe he askt forgyveness with glad hart and will.
He buylt th'owse hereby, and this churche brought in good case:
God grant his wyfe and sonnes to passe a godly race.—Amen."

In the seventeenth century, Mary Wood, the grand-daughter of this Thomas Wood, and the niece and heiress of his eldest son, Barney Wood, married Sir Edmund Anderson, Baronet, and carried the estate of Kilnwick Percy into that family, by whom it was long enjoyed.

Kilnwick Percy is now the beautiful seat and domain of Admiral the Honourable Arthur Duncombe, M.P. The Rev. M. A. Lawton, vicar of Kilnwick Percy, has obligingly favoured me with a copy of the above inscription.

[16] John Stephenson was the owner of a "capital messuage" in Coney-street, York, which was occupied by himself and Ralph Rokeby, Esq., one of the secretaries of the Council of the North, and which was at one time distinguished by the sign of the Bear, and afterwards of the Golden Lion. In 1614, Margaret Stephenson and her son, John Stephenson (the nephew to whom Lancelot Turner bequeathed all his books, except his song-books), sold the messuage to Thomas Kaye, who established there an hotel which he called the George Inn, a name it retains to this day.

[17] Miles Newton was the name of the town-clerk of York who died in 1550, and was succeeded in that office by Thomas Fale, the first husband of the testatrix. He was very probably the same person who is named in the Newton pedigree of 1585 as the grandfather of the Miles Newton who married Jane Beckwith.

[18] *Pope Tract*, p. 32.

[19] Mr. John Darley, of York, and of Kilnhurst in the West Riding, was a younger son of William Darley, Esq., of Buttercrambe, near York. His wife was Alice, daughter of Christopher Mountfort, Esq., of Kilnhurst. Mr. John Darley bought the manor of Kilnhurst of his wife's brother, Lancelot Mountfort, Esq. *Vide Hunter's South Yorkshire*, vol. ii. p. 49. Mr. Darley's town residence was in Coney-street, and it is very probable that he was officially connected with the Council of the North. His daughter, Elizabeth, the god-daughter of Mrs. Eymis, married, for her second and third husbands, Sir Edmund Sheffield and Sir William Sheffield, sons of the Earl of Mulgrave, who was made Lord President of the North upon the accession of James I.

[20] George Hervey of Merks in the county of Essex, Esq., married Frances, one of the daughters of Sir Leonard Beckwith.

[21] William Allen married Jane Beckwith, sister of Sir Leonard Beckwith. He was an alderman of York, and Lord Mayor in 1572.

[22] *Eboracum*, p. 358.

[23] The will of Robert Gylminge is dated April 20, 1571. "I bequeath my soule to Almightye God and to all the celestial company of Heaven." He makes his wife, Nicholas his son, Mary, Agnes, Meriall, and Jane, his daughters, his executors; and his brother William Gylminge, and William Alleyne, draper, supervisors. Proved June 25, 1580.

[24] Mr. Drake states, that in the year 1604, the number of persons who died of the plague in York, was 3512. *Eboracum*, p. 121. The parish of All Saints Pavement lost more than one-third of its population.

[25] *Pope Tract*, p. 31.

[26] See *Athenæum*, Nov. 21, 1857.

[27] In his will dated 8th Dec. 1595, Thomas Buskell of York, Esquire, speaks of his "house wherein I do now dwell, which I purchased of Lancelot Turner of York gentleman."

[28] *Pope Tract*, p. 28.

[29] Corporation Archives.

[30] It appears that during the latter part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, many of the Roman Catholics of York and the neighbourhood chose the city of Venice for their place of refuge. In the year 1581, a person named Richard Collinge or Cowling, and his brother Thomas, the sons of Ralph Cowling, a York tradesman, who was a Popish recusant, were sent over sea, and ultimately Richard Collinge found his way into Italy. Several years afterwards he returned to this country, and, apparently whilst he was visiting his friends and relatives in Yorkshire, corresponded with a person abroad, whom he addresses thus:—*Al Molto Magnifico Signori il Signore Giulio Piccioli, a Venezia*. One of his letters to this person, supposed to have been written in the year 1599, which was intercepted by the Government of Elizabeth, and is now preserved in the State-Paper Office, contains the names of several persons connected with York and Yorkshire. The most remarkable passage relates to the arch-conspirator Guye Fawkes, who must have been sojourning at Venice at that time. "I entreat your favour and friendship for my cousin-germane Mr. Guydo Fawkes, who serveth Sir William, as I understand he is in great want, and your worde in his behalfe may stande him in greate steede. — he hath lefte a prettie livinge here in this cuntrye, which his mother, being married to an unthrifty husband, since his departure I think hath wasted awaye, yet she and the rest of our friendes are in good health."

The writer's relationship to Fawkes was most probably through the Harringtons, of whom he also speaks:—"Let him tell my cousin Martin Harrington that I was at his brother Henry's house at the Mounte, but he was not then at home; he and his wife were all well, and have many pretty children." By "the Mounte" is meant Mount St. John, near Thirsk, where a branch of the family of Harrington was then resident, one of whom, William Harrington, a

seminary priest, was executed at Tyburn, Feb. 18, 1594. *Chaloner*, part i. p. 304. Mrs. Ellin Fawkes, the grandmother of Guye, was a Harrington. By her will in 1570, she bequeaths a gold ring to William Harrington, her brother Martin's son. Collinge names several other persons then at Venice to whom he is commissioned by their relatives in England to send messages; some of whom, one cannot doubt, had emigrated from that part of the kingdom to which he himself belonged. He makes special mention of D. Worthington, "whose brother hath sent a letter unto him;" and of D. Kellison, who he wishes to know that "his brother Valentine is in good health." Dr. Worthington, one of the translators of the Douay Bible, and Dr. Kellison, were successively presidents of the English College at Douay. The letter, which is without date, is subscribed "Yours in Christe, Richarde Collinge." I am indebted to my friend Mr. John Bruce, V.P.S.A., for acquainting me with the existence of this document, which Mr. Lemon, of the State-Paper Office, very obligingly allowed me to peruse.

Guye Fawkes was not the only native of York who was implicated in the Gunpowder Plot. Edward Oldcorne the Jesuit, who assumed the name of Hall, and was the companion of Father Garnett at Hendlip and in the Tower, was the son of John Oldcorne, a bricklayer at York. He was sent abroad about the year 1584, and was first placed at the College of Douay whilst it was stationed at Rheims. He was afterwards at Rome, where the General of the Jesuits admitted him into their society. *Chaloner*, part ii. p. 485. He was executed at Worcester, April 7, 1606, as a partaker in the Gunpowder Plot conspiracy. *Jardine*, p. 210. A name in Collinge's letter, partly obliterated, seems meant for Oldcorne, and renders it probable that he was then one of the English residents at Venice.

We may be sure that when Lancelot Turner despatched his youthful brother to Venice, he knew that he was not consigning him wholly into the hands of strangers.

In the list of the Romish Priests and Jesuits resident in and about London in 1624, the name of Turner occurs once.—MORGAN'S *Phœnix Britannicus*, p. 437.

[31] "On Monday next after Twelfth Day, 1620, he revoked nuncupatively the gift of the clock to Sir William Alford, saying, 'he forgets his old friends,' and gives it to his nephew, William Turner. To this were witnesses, Thomasine Newton, Henry Dent, and Alice Atkinson, who depose that William Turner reminded him that there had been much kindness between him and Sir William. This was a few days before his death."—*Pope Tract*, p. 30.

[32] *Collectanea Top. et Gen.*, vol. iv. p. 178.

[33] Emanuel Lord Scrope, afterwards Earl of Sunderland.

[34] At Malton.

[35] *Parl. Hist.*, vol. vii. p. 286.

[36] *Pope Tract*, p. 31.

[37] At a court held by the lords of the manor of Strensall, in April, 1622, William Turner was called as a copyholder of Towthorpe; and again in April, 1624.

Towthorpe is an insignificant and very secluded village, about four miles north of York, a little off the high road from thence to Sheriff-Hutton. Nothing is now left of the old manor-house; but near to the spot where it may be supposed to have stood, a not uninteresting object still remains, to carry the mind back to the days when Lancelot Turner and his nephew William were the proprietors. This is a sort of pleasance upon a small scale—a quadrangular plot of ground, about fifty yards square, surrounded by a rather broad moat, and thickly planted with fruit-trees arranged with some approach to symmetry—two or three of the outer rows being nut or filbert trees, the rest apple, pear, and plum. The nut-trees are obviously of great age, their stems being strangely contorted, and having attained a thickness seldom seen in this part of the country. The other trees have a less aged appearance; and probably a temple or summer-house may have formerly been placed upon the centre of the little island. A building of this kind, with its accompanying moat, was a favourite ornament in the quaint pleasure-grounds of the Elizabethan mansion. The moat would doubtless form a useful *piscaria*, especially valuable to persons to whom fish was, at certain seasons, an indispensable article of diet. At present, instead of seeing carp and tench, as in former days, quietly gliding through its waters, on approaching the island our ears were greeted with the harsh croaking of innumerable frogs and toads, the sole inhabitants of the moat.

Whilst viewing this now solitary memorial of the past, it was impossible to avoid giving a little license to the imagination, and peopling the tiny pleasance with the forms of William Turner and Thomasine Newton in the happy hours of their courtship and early married life, which were spent at Towthorpe,—she musing over one of the song-books of their uncle Lancelot, which were so significantly reserved by his will for her especial use.

What a contrast is the dull and uninteresting and most unpicturesque plain of the ancient forest of Galtres, in which the countryhouse of Edith Pope's parents stood, to the glorious vale of the Thames, where her illustrious son solaced himself with his trim garden, his grotto, and his quincunx!

[38] Miles Newton, of Thorpe, in the county of York, gentleman, made his will on May 18, 1604. He desires to be buried in the church of Rippon. He gives to his eldest son Richard the

bedstead which was his grandfather Thomas Collins's. To his son Christopher, a bedstead which was his (the testator's) father's. He names his wife, Jane Newton; his son, Henry, and his daughters, Katherine, Johanna, Rebecca (to whom he gives the better of the cushions which was her grandmother Beckwith's), Dorothy, and Elizabeth. He makes his children, Richard Newton and Christopher Newton, executors; and his brother Leonard Beckwith, and George Mallory, supervisors. Proved at York, by Richard Newton only, April 8, 1605.

Richard was the testator's son by his first wife, Eleanor, daughter of Thomas Collins. Christopher and Henry were the sons of his second wife, Jane Beckwith. According to the pedigree of the Newtons, recorded at the visitation of 1585, the grandmother of Miles Newton, was one of the distinguished family of Roos, of Ingmanthorpe.

[39] Afterwards the wife of Samuel Cooper. Your supposition that she was one of the elder daughters, is thus shown to be correct.—*Pope Tract*, p. 40.

[40] *Pope Tract*, p. 42.

[41] *Pope Tract*, pp. 34, 35.

[42] *Pope Tract*, p. 26.

[43] Vide *Pope's Letter to a Noble Lord*.

[44] *Pope Tract*, p. 32.

[45] The two daughters who became Mrs. Mace and Mrs. Tomlinson, most probably formed their matrimonial engagements at York during their mother's widowhood. These are the names of highly respectable York families. The Tomlinsons belonged to the trade aristocracy of the city. The Rev. Henry Mace was sub-chanter of York Minster from 1661 to 1680; Thomas Mace, the author of that curious book, *Musick's Monument*, published in 1676, was his brother. There cannot be any reasonable doubt that the clergyman named Mace, who married one of the daughters of William Turner, either Martha or Margaret, was the Rev. Charles Mace, one of the sons of Henry Mace, the sub-chanter, who had himself a son baptized by the name of Charles, at the collegiate chapel of the sub-chanter and vicars choral, near Goodramgate, in York, on Oct. 29, 1682. Christiana Cooper, in her will made in 1693, mentions her nephew Charles Mace, although she does not give us the christian-name of his mother. *Athenæum*, July 18, 1857. Of the death of the Rev. Charles Mace the father, Thomas Gent, the old York printer, in his *History of Hull*, tells an affecting story. It was, he says, about the year 1711, when the Rev. Charles Mace, Sen., departed this life. "He died in the pulpit; for as he was preaching in York Castle to the condemned prisoners who were to be executed the day following, one of them was so hardened as openly to interrupt and even defy him in that part of his discourse that hinted at his crime. Which unparalleled audacity so deeply pierced the tender minister to the heart (whose melting oratory was pathetically employed in moving the unhappy wretches to repent of their crying sins, whereby to obtain divine mercy), that he instantly fainted away, dropped down, and departed this life, to the great sorrow of all those persons who were witnesses of his holy life and innocent conversation." *Annales Regioduni Hullini*, by Thomas Gent; 1735, p. 194. Charles Mace, the son, was also a clergyman, and was chosen vicar of the Holy Trinity Church at Hull, Dec. 3, 1716.

[46] The Rev. Canon Hey, vicar of St. Helen Stonegate; the Rev. Thomas Myers, vicar of Holy Trinity Goodramgate; the Rev. B. E. Metcalfe, vicar of Huntington; the Rev. James Raine, Jun., M.A.; William Hudson, Esq., and Joseph Buckle, Esq., Registrars of the Court of Probate at York; William Richardson, Esq., Lord of the Manor of Strensall; and Henry Richardson, Esq., my worthy successor in the office of Town Clerk of York.

*** END OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK POPE, HIS DESCENT AND FAMILY CONNECTIONS: FACTS AND CONJECTURES ***

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