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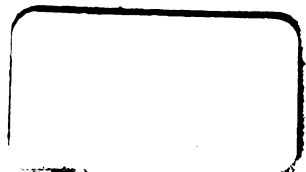


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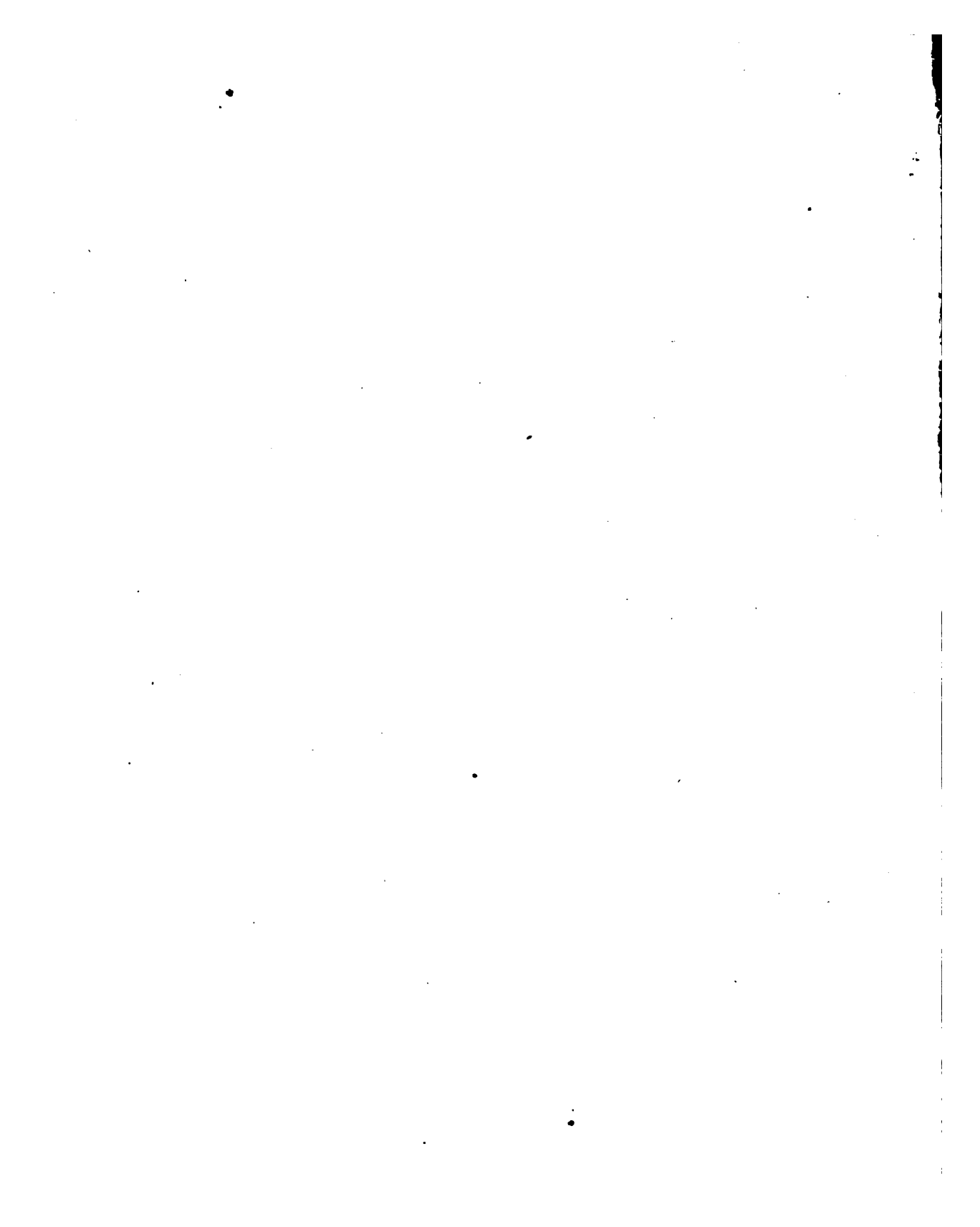
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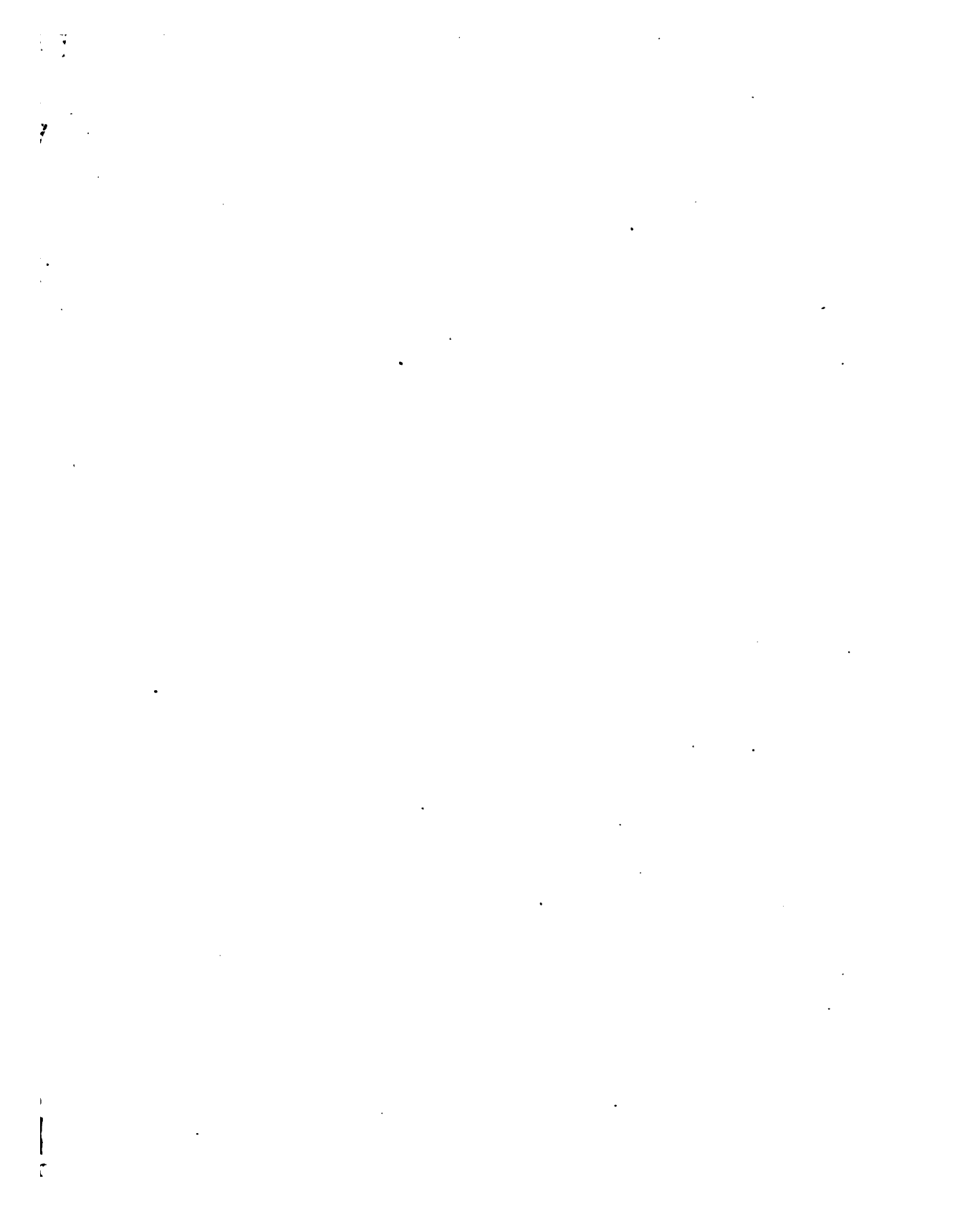
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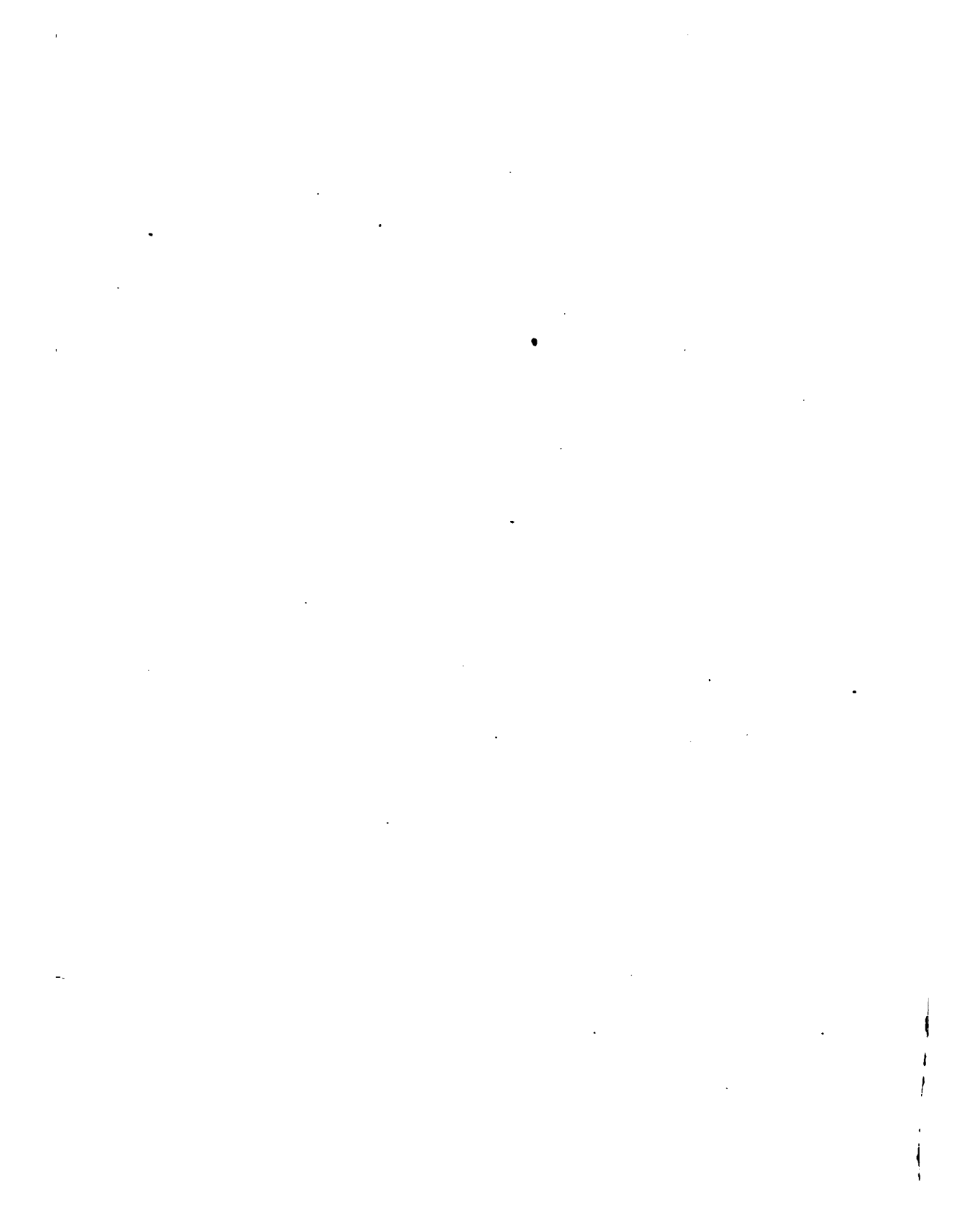
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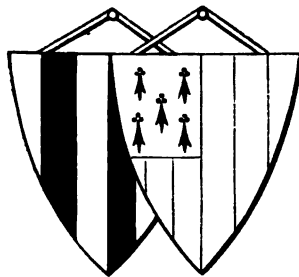






LOWER **E**ATINGTON:

ITS MANOR HOUSE AND
CHURCH.



(E. P. S., i.e. Evelyn Philip Shirley)

LONDON:

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THE FOUNDATIONS.
1902

TO SEWALLIS-EVELYN, SELINA, MARY-CLARA,
AND KATHERINE SHIRLEY.

ANNO 1869.



THOUSAND years at Eatington our race hath
lived, I ween,—

That Eatington which many a time your childish
joys hath seen ;

But One hath said, a thousand years appear in His just fight
As yesterday, so quick they pass, as watches in the night !
Away, then, with pride of ancestry—let youthful Christians
seek

That One to please eternally, who loves the pure and meek :
Thus may ye hope some future scribe, ere this short life ye
end,

With the wisest of your ancestors your honour'd names may
blend !

E. P. S.

“I love old houses best, for the sake of old closets, and cupboards, and good thick walls that do not let the wind blow in; and little out-of-the-way polyangular rooms, with great beams running across the ceiling—old heart of oak, that has out-lasted half-a-score of generations; chimney pieces, with the date of the year carved above them; and huge fire-places, that warmed the shins of Englishmen before the House of Hanover came over.”—*Southey to Mr. Bedford, April, 1803.*



NETHER OR LOWER EATINGTON, 1869.

LOWER EATINGTON.



IN a valley, watered by the river Stour, to the north of the Ilmington hills, an outlying spur of the Cotswolds, midway between the Vale of Redhorse in Warwickshire, and the rich plains of Evesham in Worcestershire, is the Manor of Nether or Lower Eatington, in the County of Warwick, comprehending, in the Manor and Parish, the hamlets of Over or Upper

Lower Eatington.

Eatington [whither the Parish Church was removed by Act of Parliament in 1798], Thornton, Fulready, and Lambcote, an extensive district, bounded on the south by the river Stour, and the great parish of Tredington in Worcestershire; on the west, by that of Aldermarston, in the same county; on the north, by Loxley and Walton; and on the east, by Pillerton, Whatcote, Idlicote, and Halford; all in Warwickshire. Lower Eatington proper, the subject of this little memoir, is entirely pasture-land, and for the most part occupied by the Park of Eatington, divided into "the Old Park," "the Downs," and the New, or "Deer Park," comprising some ancient inclosures called "Prior's Close," and "Mill Close," besides "Greenhill," and "Staunch-Hill," remarkable for the hawthorns of large size and great antiquity, which are scattered over these somewhat wild and broken uplands.

“SASUALO holds of Henry [de Feriers] seventeen hides [seventeen hundred acres] in Etendone. The arable employs twelve ploughs, four are in the demesne [or Home Farm], and there are ten bondmen (slaves), there are thirty-two villeins (somewhat superior to slaves), with a priest, twenty-five borders (cottagers), one soldier, and two thanes (freeholders). They have sixteen ploughs and a half: a mill pays eighteen shillings, and there are thirty acres of meadow. It was worth six pounds, and afterwards four pounds, now twenty pounds.”

Such was the state of Eatington in the reign of William the Conqueror, about the year 1085, when the invaluable survey, called Domesday Book, from which the above is an extract, was undertaken by the king's order. This is the earliest notice of the Manor of Eatington, and of Saswalo or Sewallis, the first ascertained ancestor of the House of Shirley,

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who have ever since retained possession of this their original inheritance. For, from the name *Safwalo*, and from the fact that no former Saxon possessor is mentioned in the Survey as owner of Eatington in the time of Edward the Confessor, according to the usual practice of Domesday, we may infer with certainty the Anglo-Saxon origin of the family who have been so long connected with this place.

The notice of a priest in the Survey involves the existence of a Church, and that one was founded and endowed here, dedicated to the Holy Trinity by the *Safwalo* of Domesday, we know by the Register of Kenilworth Priory. Some remains of this original Church still exist at Eatington, though the tower and body of the ancient Church closely adjoining the Manor House here, are of a later date, having been rebuilt about the end of the twelfth century, when the Norman semi-circular arches were united with the pointed

style. This is well exemplified in the windows of the tower of this church. At this period, S. Thomas à Becket was adopted as the patron saint. The village wake is still kept on his day. The mill, mentioned in Domesday Book, as attached to this Manor, has been within the last century removed. "The Mill Close," and "The Mill Ham," still attest its site.

The Manor House of Eatington, or more anciently and correctly Eatendon, derived, says Dugdale, from *Ea* in our old English, signifying water, and *Dune* or *Don*, an ascending ground, "for at the foot of an hill and near the river doth it stand," is built at the extreme end of the parish, on the north-eastern bank of the river Stour (a tributary of the Avon), which is both the division between the Counties of Warwick and Worcester, and of the parishes of Eatington and Tredington. A distinguished philosopher of the present

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day,* has given another derivation to Eatendon; he translates it *Giants-town*, *etten* or *eten*, Danish for "giant," and pronounced *yaten* in Scandinavian, and *don*, always connected with the idea of habitation, being in truth, our "town." That Eatington may lay claim to have been of some note, even before the Conquest, is proved by the Roman remains which are continually found there, such as coins of the Lower Empire, brass ornaments, and great quantities of Romano-British pottery; and from these circumstances [as some think], it might have been the site of a Roman Villa, which the vicinity of the Great Fosse road, passing through the neighbouring village of Halford, renders the more probable.

The following description of the place was written by the antiquary, Sir Thomas Shirley,

* Dr. Romney Robinson of Armagh.

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in the reign of Charles I.:—"There are divers marks in this towne, by which we may judge that it hath been from all antiquitie the seat of a noble and renowned family. [&c.] It hath a very ancient church, sumptuously built, and dedicated to the honour of the blessed Trinity, and likewise a chantry founded, and a large chapel to the honour of S. Nicholas, which was anciently the place of sepulture for the lords of this manor, who had, at their proper cost and charges, built and endowed both these places of prayer and devotion: and close by the church is a very ancient Mansion-House, built by an ancestor of this family, so long ago that the memorie, by the revolution of so many ages, is utterly lost and forgotten; for the antient forme and structure of the house, is a witness beyond all exception of its pristine antiquity, it being covered with so unknown a covering that none can tell with what it is made with, plainly

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shewith it was built in so ancient times, that the very stuff itself whereof the texture was made, is many ages since, not only worn out of the kingdom, but also the very knowledge that ever any such thing was within the realm.”*

Sir Thomas Shirley's description of Eatington, leads at once to an interesting point,—the date of the oldest part of the present house, to which tradition, never to be entirely neglected, has always attributed a very high antiquity. No part, however, appears to be of older date than the period of Elizabeth, and as we know that extensive repairs were undertaken by Sir Charles Shirley, on the termination of the long lease to the Underhill Family, in the year 1641 [hereafter referred to], we may conclude that the greater part of the venerable house, described by Sir Thomas, was then taken down, and a

* Harl. MS. 4928, chapter iii.

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smaller one erected with the materials, as indeed appears, from several remains of anciently worked timber and stones, yet extant about the present building, to have been the case.



LOWER EATINGTON MANOR HOUSE, 1738.

Dugdale remarks that Eatington remained the principal seat and residence of the Shirleys, although their possessions in other counties were very large, till the reign of Henry III.

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This, however, is not accurate; the end of the reign of Edward II. is the earliest limit which can be assigned, as we shall learn from the following notices of the place in the history of the family; and indeed, it appears to have continued an occasional residence of its owners till a much later period.

We have already seen that Safwalo, or Sewallis of Domesday, whom Dugdale supposes, from the extent of his estate here and in other counties, to have been a Thane in the Saxon times, founded the Church of Eatington. Henry his son, conferred the said Church, with all the glebe and tithes thereto belonging, on the monks of Kenilworth, which grant was augmented and confirmed by Sewallis, his nephew and heir, son of Fulcher his brother, who was the first of the family who assumed the name of Shirley, from the manor of that name in Derbyshire. It was this Sewallis or Sewall, who, by a curious

agreement with his brother Henry, became possessed of the Manor of Eatington; he having purchased his birthright, an event now commemorated in sculpture on the exterior of this house. He was succeeded at Eatington by his son Henry, who was living in the reign of King John, and founded a Chantry, dedicated to S. Nicholas, in the Church of Eatington. He was father of Sir Sewallis, an eminent Warwickshire knight, who, from his residence here, was called De Eatington, or Ethindon, as it is spelt upon his great seal; the use of which, by the way, is a certain evidence of his consequence in those early times. His son and heir, Sir James, resumed the name of Shirley, and obtained a grant of free-warren, within his Manor of Eatington, at the instance of his father-in-law, Simon de Walton, Bishop of Norwich, in the 39th year of Henry III. The Rolls of Parliament, in the sixth of Edward I. contain a petition

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to the king, from Sir James Shirley, for restitution of his Manor of Eatington, unjustly detained from him by Ralph his son, "who," the petition sets forth, "had kept possession thereof for two years, and then, to the damage of £60, had pulled down and sold the Manor House or Castle (le Chateau), and sold the goods found on the same against the will of the foresaid James, and had the cattle driven into another county and sold, according to his, the foresaid Ralph's will, while James his father was afar off." Before this matter could be accommodated between the father and the son, it would appear that Sir James Shirley died; as we find Ralph his son and heir in possession of the Manor of Eatington, in the seventh year of Edward I., which he held of Edmond Earl of Lancaster, the king's brother, "by the service of two knights' fees, having at that time three carucates of land in demesne here, and twelve

tenants, holding several proportions by fundry services, as also divers freeholders.”

Ralph, afterwards Sir Ralph Shirley, seems to have principally resided at Eatington; and therefore we may conclude him to have rebuilt the mansion house, which he is said to have pulled down in his father's time. He appears to have been a person of great consideration in the county at that period; and not only served King Edward I. as a valiant knight should do in a military capacity, but also as a commissioner and assessor in several important affairs throughout the midland counties. He is remarkable as the first knight of the shire returned, for the county of Warwick, to the Parliament which met at Westminster on the 13th of November, in the 23d year of Edward I. (1294.) He died the 20th and last year of the reign of Edward II. (1327), and lies buried with Margaret Waldershef, his wife, a great Derbyshire heiress, under an altar

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tomb, in the south transept of the church of Eatington, whereon their effigies, although considerably mutilated, still remain. Sir Ralph was succeeded by his son, Sir Thomas Shirley, of whose residence at Eatington there remains a disagreeable proof, in the shape of a pardon under the great seal of Edward III. for his having caused the death of his neighbour, John Wareyne of Loxley, in the 34th year of that reign. The valiant Sir Hugh Shirley succeeded his father Sir Thomas, in the 36th year of Edward III. He sometimes also resided at Eatington, and visited the manor the Sunday before the feast of Easter, 1403, a few months before he gloriously fell at Shrewsbury, clothed in the royal armour of Henry IV. (the 20th of July, 1403).

Sir Hugh was succeeded by his son, Sir Ralph Shirley, who resided principally at his manor of Radcliffe-upon-Sore, in Nottinghamshire. He died about the year 1443. It was Alice,

the daughter of Sir John Cockayne of Ashbourne, knight, the second wife and widow of Sir Ralph Shirley, who, by a deed dated in the 33d of Henry VI. leased the manor of Eatington to Thomas Porter, whose only daughter, Agnes, having married John Underhill, was the origin of the settlement of the latter family at this place, where they continued till the middle of the seventeenth century.

Sir Ralph Shirley, by his first wife, the heiress of Basset of Brailesford, in Derbyshire, left a son of the same name; who, having married the heiress of Staunton, of Staunton-Harold, in Leicestershire, removed his seat and residence thither, and it has ever since continued the principal mansion of the elder line of the family, represented by the Earls Ferrers. John, the elder son of Ralph Shirley, was father of another Sir Ralph, who, in the year 1509, leased the manor of Eatington to the John and Agnes Underhill before

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mentioned, for a term of 80 years. Francis, son of Sir Ralph, by the procurement of Dorothy, his wife, made a fresh lease for a term of 100 years, at the nominal rent of 40 marks, to the Underhill family, in the year 1541; and by so doing caused a succession of lawsuits between the Shirley and Underhill families, which were not finally extinguished till long after the termination of the lease in the year 1641. By some of the pleadings and evidence in these suits, it appears indeed, that the Underhills would have obtained the fee of this ancient Warwickshire property from Francis Shirley, had it not been for John, his son, whose son and heir, Sir George Shirley, did all in his power, but without effect, to break the lease, and obtain possession of his ancient inheritance. Sir George Shirley was succeeded by his son, Sir Henry, in 1622, at

¹ Who married the Lady Dorothy, second daughter of Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex (the favourite of Queen

whose decease in 1633, the inheritance devolved upon his eldest son, Sir Charles; in his time the long lease came to an end, and his feoffees, it seems, took possession of the estate at Michaelmas, 1641; Sir Charles Shirley himself coming to Eatington, and entering possession of all his lands there about Lady-day following (1642).

From this period the Shirley family occasionally visited the place, some rooms being reserved for their residence in the leases,¹ which were granted by Sir Robert Shirley, the brother and heir of Sir Charles; and his son and heir, Sir Robert, who in 1677 succeeded to the Barony of Ferrers of Chartley, and who in

Elizabeth). From this match the title of Ferrers afterwards came to the Shirley family.

¹ William Croft, the celebrated composer of English cathedral music, was born in this house in 1678, and christened here on the 30th of December of that year. His father, Edward Croft, held the lease of the manor house of Nether Eatington from Sir Robert Shirley before the year 1671.

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1711 was created by Queen Anne Earl Ferrers and Viscount Tamworth.

It was this Robert Earl Ferrers who alienated this estate from the elder line of the family, entailing it upon his eldest son by his second marriage, and his great great-grandson is the present proprietor.

About 1740, and again in 1767, considerable additions and alterations were made to the manor house by the Hon. George Shirley. His grandson, the late Evelyn John Shirley, Esq. made still further improvements, under the direction of Messrs. Rickman and Hutchinon of Birmingham, in the year 1824. In 1858 his son, the present Evelyn Philip Shirley, finding the house considerably out of repair, commenced to case and roof it in the advanced early English style from the designs of John Prichard of Llandaff, Esq. These alterations were completed in the year 1862.

Four kinds of stone have been used in the

reconstruction: theyellow oolite from Camden and Blockley, the brown or ferruginous limestone from Edgehill, the blue lias from Wilncote near Stratford-on-Avon, and the white lias from the immediate neighbourhood. The effect from the contrasts between the colours is good, and is much enhanced by the delicacy and richness of the carving representing fruit and flowers, principally executed in white lias, a material, from the fineness of its grain and marble-like whiteness of its colour, well adapted for sculpture. On fourteen panels, in different parts of the exterior of the house, the following subjects, selected from the family history, are carved by Mr. Edward Clarke, from the designs of H. H. Armstead, Esq.

OVER THE ENTRANCE.

1. The foundation of the Church of Eatington, by Safwalo or Sewallis, the ancestor of the Shirley family, in the reign of William the Conqueror.

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He is represented with his family kneeling, and offering a model of the church to the bishop, who is giving him the episcopal blessing. Above is the ancient coat of the family, *paly of six or and sable.*

OVER THE WESTERN BAY WINDOW.

2. Henry, grandson of Sewallis, sells his birthright to his brother Sewallis, in the reign of Henry II. Above their heads are the coats of Ireton, *ermine two bends gules*, and Shirley, *paly of six or and azure, a quarter ermine*. From the elder brother the now extinct house of Ireton, and from the younger brother Sewallis, that of Shirley, is descended.
3. Sir Sewallis de Eatendon, kt. grandson of the last Sewallis, represented on his horse with his shield, taken from his great seal. He died in the reign of Henry III., having been to the Crusades. He is here represented with the cross borne before him, and his arms, *paly of six or and sable.*
4. Sir Ralph Shirley, grandson of Sir Sewallis, elected the first knight of the shire for the county of Warwick, in the 23d year of King Edward I. anno 1294. Above is the coat of Shirley, im-

paling Waldershef, for Margaret, his wife, daughter of Walter de Waldershef.

OVER THE EASTERN BAY WINDOW.

5. Sir Thomas Shirley, fon of Sir Ralph, in the Holy Land. His page is bringing him the head of a Saracen, whom Sir Thomas is represented to have vanquished and decapitated. This is the traditional origin of the family crest. Sir Thomas was dead in 1363. Suspended from a palm tree are the arms of Shirley, impaling Basset of Drayton.



6. The death of Sir Hugh Shirley, fon of Sir Thomas, at the battle of Shrewsbury, on Saturday, the 20th of July, 1403. Sir Hugh was one of the four knights who, clothed in the royal armour, successively encountered and fell under the victorious arm of Douglas in single combat, thus immortalized by Shakespeare in

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Douglas's speech to the king in the first part of "Henry IV."—

"Another king! they grow like Hydras' heads:
I am the Douglas, fatal to all those
That wear those colours on them.—What art thou
That counterfeit'st the person of a king?"

And again in Prince Henry's speech to Douglas:—

"Hold up thy head, vile Scot, or thou art like
Never to hold it up again! the spirits
Of valiant SHIRLEY, Stafford, Blunt, are in my arms:
It is the Prince of Wales that threatens thee;
Who never promiseth but he means to pay."

7. Sir Ralph Shirley, son of Sir Hugh, on the eve of his departure for the wars in France with King Henry V. makes over to his mother, Beatrice, the care of Ralph, his infant son and heir, and to Richard Elebet, clerk, and others, the fee of his estates.

OVER THE DRAWING ROOM WINDOWS ON THE
SOUTH SIDE OF THE HOUSE.

8. The expedition of Sir Ralph Shirley, son of Sir Hugh into France with his band of archers, previous to the siege of Harfleur and battle of

Agincourt, in 1415. Sir Ralph is represented taking leave of his mother. The arms of Shirley are conspicuous on the banners of his archers and retainers; on a shield are the arms of Shirley impaling Basset of Brailesford, as also on the last subject.

9. Sir Ralph Shirley, great-grandson of the preceding Sir Ralph, being dubbed a Knight by King Henry VII. on the battle field of Stoke, in 1487. The Royal arms appear on the banner and horse trappings; on one side, are the arms of Shirley, impaling the coat of Sheffield of Butterwick.

Over the great library window are three panels, representing incidents in the lives of the three celebrated Shirley Brothers, the sons of Sir Thomas Shirley of Wiston, in Suffex, the representative of a younger branch of this family.

10. The attack of Sir Thomas Shirley, the younger, the eldest of the "Three Brothers," on the

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Turks, in the Island of Zea, in the Archipelago, in 1603.

11. Sir Anthony and Sir Robert Shirley, the two younger of the "Three Brothers," leading the Persians against the Turks, and teaching them the use of artillery, in the year 1599.
12. The same Sir Robert Shirley's reception at the court of King James I., as Ambassador from Shah Abbas, King of Persia, in the year 1611.

Over the Dining-Room windows.

13. The foundation of the Church of Staunton Harold, in Leicestershire, by Sir Robert Shirley, Baronet, great, great, great-grandson of the last Sir Ralph, in the year 1653. Sir Robert and his wife, Katherine Okeover, and their son Seymour, are represented on one side; on the other, the clerical friends of Sir Robert during the persecution of the Church by Cromwell: Dr. Hammond, Dr. Gunning afterwards Bishop of Ely, Dr. Sheldon afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, and Dr. Dolben afterwards Archbishop of York. Above are the arms of Shirley, impaling Okeover, and the motto,—“He loved our country, and hath built us a synagogue,” being the text from which

the funeral sermon was preached on the death of Sir Robert Shirley, in 1656, by Dr. Sheldon.

14. The committal of Sir Robert Shirley, Baronet, to the Tower of London (where he died) by the Usurper Oliver Cromwell, in 1656, in consequence of his loyalty to his church and king.

On either side of the principal window of the gallery, are two statues carved in stone, representing King Edward the Confessor, and her present most gracious Majesty. They stand in niches beneath angels, bearing shields, charged with their respective arms. These statues are intended to represent the period during which the house of Shirley has flourished at Eatington.

Over the entrance-door is the ancient coat of Sir Sewallis de Ethindon [paly of six or and sable], with the legend "*Sum scutum de auro et nigro senis ductibus palatum,*" and between the windows of the cloister or corridor, on either side of the entrance, are

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heads of the first eight kings after the conquest, carved by Mr. Edward Clarke.

At one end of this cloister, which is roofed with glass, are the following lines on a small tablet:—

“ Four score and four, if God gives strength,
The web of life is spun ;
Four score and four, the Cloister's length,
A statute mile is run.”

The marble pillars which flank the front door, and also those within the hall, are from the Shirley estate near Carrickmacross in Ireland.

THE ENTRANCE HALL.

The mantel-piece is of oak, in the Elizabethan style, and carved by the late Mr. Willcox of Warwick, in 1857. Beneath two large shields, representing the ancient and modern arms of Shirley and the figures of

Faith, Hope, and Charity, is the following legend :—

**These be the Pales of black and gold,
The which Sewallis bore of old :
And this the coat which his true heirs,
The ancient House of Shirley bears.**

Three shields below, bear the arms of Shirley, impaling Stanhope, Shirley impaling Lechmere, and Lechmere impaling Murray.

Opposite to the mantel-piece is the address, signed by the principal noblemen and gentlemen of Warwickshire, to Major-General Horatio Shirley, C.B., on his return from the Crimea in 1856, with their respective arms emblazoned on vellum. Here also, are preserved a rifle, and other relics of the siege of Sebastopol, and the prayer-book carried by the general at the Battle of Alma, in the holster of his saddle, and which was the means, under God, of preserving his life ; a

ball from a miniè rifle having been lodged in the centre of it. Here are the following portraits, three quarters length.

1. A picture said to represent Sir Seymour Shirley, Baronet, ob. 1667.
"R. Walker, pinxit 1656."
2. Sir Robert Shirley, Baronet, afterwards Baron Ferrers of Chartley, and Earl Ferrers in 1711, ob. 1717, by *Kneller*.
3. The Lady Frances Shirley, ob. 1778, third daughter of the first Earl Ferrers, by his second wife, in black velvet.
4. The Lady Mary, second daughter of Robert first Earl Ferrers, by his second wife. She married Charles Tryon, of Bulwick, in Northamptonshire, Esq., and died in 1771, by *Dahl*.
5. Grace, daughter of Colonel Edward Warner, of Antigua, widow of William Fauquier, of Eltham, in Kent. She married first Samuel Byam, Esq., and was grandmother of Phillis Byam Wollaston, wife of Evelyn Shirley, Esq. She died in 1754. Half-length in crayons, by *Rosalba*.
6. Peter Bathurst, of Clarendon Park, in Wiltshire, Esq. and the Lady Selina Shirley, his wife,

with eleven of their fifteen children, copied from the original, ascribed to *Hogarth*, in the possession of Henry Hetley, Esq. Small whole length.

7. A picture of favourite Horses and Hounds, with the portraits of the Huntsman, "Jack Wood," and Whipper-in "Boxall," with Eatington House in the back ground, painted about the year 1824, when the late Evelyn John Shirley, Esq. was Master of the Warwickshire Hounds.
8. A picture of Mr. A. Stanhope's favourite dog "Taffy," painted by *Mr. James Ward, R.A.*, 1816.

THE DINING-ROOM, 37 feet in length,
20 in breadth.

The entrance is by a depressed Tudor arch, recently restored, part of the more ancient house, to which this portion of the Mansion belongs. The ceiling was erected by the Hon. George Shirley, about the year 1740. The wainscot is of teak and walnut, inlaid

with different coloured woods, exhibiting the Saracen's Head, the crest of the Family, with the horse-shoe and knot, the badges of the Ferrers and Bouchiers, now represented by the Shirleys; above is repeated the ancient Devereux motto, "Loyal je suis," and 67 shields, bearing the arms of the principal matches of the paternal ancestors, and of the sons and daughters of the house. There are also two shields with the single arms of Shirley and Lechmere, and the dates 1842, and 1860, being those of the year of marriage of the present Mr. and Mrs. Shirley, and of the wainscoting of the room. Here also are the following portraits, all half lengths.

1. Sir Michael Stanhope, beheaded in 1551, on the fall of his brother-in-law, the Protector Duke of Somers, a curious original picture, formerly at Bretby in Derbyshire, the seat of the Earl of Chesterfield. In one corner is the coat of *Stanhope*, quartering *Maulovel*, *Longvillers* and

Lexington, and an inscription which has greatly puzzled the antiquaries of the present day, but which Mr. Franks of the British Museum appears at last to have conclusively interpreted. He reads the inscription, which he says is unquestionably in cursive Greek, *πιστος και απλανος*, *Faithful and Constant*. See the proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, May 4, 1865.

Sir Michael Stanhope was a Gentleman of the King's Bedchamber, and as such is represented in this portrait, bearing a kind of medal or badge, suspended by a blue riband; he also holds in his hands one of the newly invented watches.

2. Thomas Ratcliff, 3rd Earl of Suffex, K.G. ob. 1583, on panel, by *Sir Antonio More*. A duplicate of this picture is engraved in Lodge's "Portraits of Illustrious Personages of Great Britain."
3. Sir Philip Sidney, an old picture on panel, marked "1583, æt. 29." It belonged to Dr. Turton, late Bishop of Ely, 1864. Sir Philip died in 1586.

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4. Portrait of a Gentleman in a ruff, marked with a coat of arms (perhaps a garb or?), and this inscription : " Ætatis 52, anno 1592."
5. Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Effex, K.G., beheaded 1600-1. Ascribed to *Zucchero*.
6. Sir Robert Shirley, Count Palatine of the Empire, Ambassador from Abbas, Shah of Persia, to all the princes of Europe, died in Persia in 1628, and is buried in the Church of S. Maria Della Scala at Rome. On this portrait is an inscription in Persian, which has been thus translated :—"The Protection of the Universe [meaning the King], has graciously condescended to cast his light on the portrait of his ambassador of Frangistan" [Europe]. Half length on panel, in oriental costume, probably painted by the Dutch painter, *John the Fleming*, who served Shah Abbas, King of Persia, for twenty years.
7. Teresa Countess Shirley, wife of Sir Robert Shirley, Count Palatine of the Empire, and daughter of Ismael Khan, described as a Circassian Prince, a curious portrait on panel, exquisitely finished; in one part of this picture is the representation of a labyrinth, and the motto, "Concessit gratia filium." This is supposed to allude to the birth of her son, to whom

- Henry Prince of Wales stood godfather, anno 1611, the presumed date of the portrait.
8. Another smaller portrait of the Countess Teresa, on panel, in a dress embroidered with flowers, by *M. Garrard*.
 9. Sir Robert Shirley, Baronet, father of the first Earl Ferrers, ob. 1656.
 10. Katherine, widow of Sir Robert Shirley, and daughter of Humphry Okeover, of Okeover in Staffordshire, Esq. She died in 1672. This and the portrait of Sir Robert are copied from originals at Staunton Harold.
 11. Philip Stanhope, 2nd Earl of Chesterfield, K.G., ob. 1713, by *Sir Peter Lely*.
 12. Philip Stanhope, 5th Earl of Chesterfield, K.G. ob. 1815, and his
 13. First Countess Anne, daughter of the Rev. Robert Thistlethwayte, ob. 1798. Both by *Gainsborough*.
 14. Evelyn Shirley, of Lower Eatington, Esq. ob. 1810.
 15. Phillis Byam, widow of Evelyn Shirley, Esq. and daughter of Charlton Wollaston, M.D. She died in 1836. Painted by *Jackson* in 1825.
 16. King George III. in the Windsor uniform, and
 17. Queen Charlotte, by *Gainsborough*, presented by his Majesty himself to the late Arthur Stan-

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hope, Esq. The following note accompanied the pictures, which are original portraits:—

WINDSOR CASTLE, Dec. 15, 1804.

“The King desires his friend, Mrs. Stanhope, will, in his name, deliver the accompanying pictures to Mr. Stanhope, and hopes they may find shelter in Tilney Street,¹ and be looked on by the owners of that house as a mark that he thinks any token of regard from him will be kindly received by them. GEORGE R.”

18. Arthur Stanhope, Esq. ob. 1836, grandfather of the present Mr. Shirley. Painted by *Pickersgill* in 1822.
19. Evelyn John Shirley, Esq. ob. 1856, father of the present Mr. Shirley. Painted also by *Pickersgill* in 1822.
20. A large picture representing the Siege of Gibraltar, by *Blankoff*.

THE CHAPEL.

Beyond the Dining-Room, and communicating with it by means of a concealed door,

¹ No. 1, Tilney Street was for many years the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Stanhope.

is the small domestic Chapel. On the exterior the two first verses from the hundred and forty-fifth psalm, on a band running round the building, declare its sacred use:—

“I will magnify thee, O God my King, and I will praise thy Name for ever and ever. Every day will I give thanks unto thee, and praise thy Name for ever and ever. Amen.”

Within, a brass plate thus inscribed, gives the date of its foundation:—

In the eight hundredth year
from the Norman Conquest of
England, when Saffwalo the Saxon
was Lord of Etendone, his descendant,
Evelyn Philip Shirley, built this
Chapel for the praise and worship
of Almighty God, in whose sight a
thousand years are but as yesterday.

BENEDICAT DEUS. AMEN.

Here are a few pictures:—

1. The Blessed Virgin teaching our Lord to read.

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A curious old picture, by Bernard Van Orley, who died in 1560.

2. The Crucifixion. After *Vandyke*.
3. The Virgin and Child, with a Venetian senator. After *Titian*.

THE LIBRARY, 41 feet in length by 19.

This room was formerly the Entrance Hall, and was built by the Hon. George Shirley in 1740. It was remodelled and made into a Gothic Library by the late Mr. Shirley, under the taste of his friend, the late Archdeacon Owen, in the year 1820. The chimney piece, in the Tudor style, is copied from one in Windsor Castle. The window above was brought from an old chapel near Campden. Here are the following portraits, all half-lengths :—

1. The Hon. Sewallis Shirley, fourth son of the first Earl Ferrers by his second wife, ob. 1765. By *Ramsley*.
2. The Hon. Mary Shirley, daughter of Humphry Sturt, Esq. and wife of the Hon. George

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- Shirley, eldest son surviving, of Robert, first Earl Ferrers. She died in 1800. "Knapton pinxit, 1752."
3. Philip Dormer Stanhope, the 4th and "great" Earl of Chesterfield," ob. 1773. By *Ramsley*.
 4. Captain James Shirley, R.N. son of Dr. Shirley, lost off the banks of Newfoundland. By *Northcote*.
 5. The Hon. John Shirley, fifth and youngest son of the first Earl Ferrers by his second wife. Ob. 1768. By *Hudson*. (?)
 6. Another portrait of the Hon. John Shirley, late in life. Painted at Bath.
 7. Mary, second daughter of the Hon. George Shirley, and wife of John Smith, afterwards Leigh, of Combhay, near Bath, Esq. Painted by Sir W. Beechy, at the time of her marriage in 1782. She died in 1822.
 - 8, 9. Portraits of Colonel Henry Bathurst, fourth son of Peter Bathurst, of Clarendon Park in Wiltshire, Esq. and the Lady Selina Shirley, and of his wife, the daughter of Mr. Ashby of Derby. By *Webber*. (?)
 10. Portrait, supposed to represent the Lady Stuarda Shirley, youngest daughter of Robert, first Earl Ferrers, by his second wife. She died in 1767. By *Ramsley*. (?)

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11. The Hon. Robert Shirley, eldest son of Robert, first Earl Ferrers, by his second wife. Ob. 1738.
By *Hudson*. (?)

During the casing of the northern wall of this room, in August, 1859, on removing part of the old brickwork, a live toad was found in a small recess in the wall, where it is supposed to have been built up in 1740. There was no appearance of the access of air to the place in which it was found. The workmen preserved it alive in a bottle for a period of three months; it declined all food. The reptile is commemorated by a carving in stone near the place where it was discovered.

THE GREAT DRAWING ROOM,
50 feet in length by 24.

This Room was built by the Hon. George Shirley in 1767.¹ The ceiling was decorated

¹ In Mrs. Delany's delightful correspondence incidental mention is made of "a ball given by Mr. Shirley in his great room," in January, 1771.—See Mrs. Delany's "Autobiography," 2nd series, vol. i. p. 321.

in 1843, and the windows altered in 1860. Here are the following pictures :—

1. The portraits of John Morris of Isleworth, in the County of Middlesex, Esq. and of his son Thomas, painted by Vandyke, “anno 1633.” He married Lettice, daughter of Thomas Fitzgerald, Esq. and sister of George, 16th Earl of Kildare, and was son of Peter Maurice, who came over from Magdeburgh, in Germany, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and who, in 1582, erected water-works under one of the arches of London Bridge, as represented in this picture.
2. Portraits of Thomas Morris of Aldershot, in the County of Southampton, Esq. (being the son in the preceding picture) and his son John. Painted by Huyfman or Houfman, in the picture marked “A. HUYSMANS.” Thomas, brother of this last John, left this and the preceding picture to his kinswoman, Mary Sturt, wife of the Hon. George Shirley, at his death in 1747. The waterworks under London Bridge are also represented in this picture.
3. Portrait of the wife of Anflo the Anabaptist, who, in Rembrandt’s celebrated picture at Ashburnham, is represented sitting at a table, explaining the Bible to his wife. She is here represented

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- in the attitude of attention, as in the larger picture, of which the original sketch is in the British Museum. By *Rembrandt*.
4. Lady Selina Shirley, eldest daughter of Robert, first Earl Ferrers, by Selina his countess, married Peter Bathurst of Clarendon Park, in Wiltshire, brother of Alan Lord Bathurst. She died in 1777. She is painted in a Turkish costume, introduced into England by Lady Mary Wortley Montague. The family tradition is that her sister, the celebrated beauty, Lady Fanny Shirley, having been first painted in this dress, and greatly admired, Lady Selina caused herself also to be represented in like costume in the vain hope of rivalling her sister's beauty. Lady Fanny's portrait in the Turkish dress is at Clarendon Park, in Wiltshire, and there is another at Lough Fea House, in Ireland. Painted by *Jervis* in 1724.
 5. Lady Frances Shirley, third daughter of Robert, first Earl Ferrers, by his Countess Selina. She died unmarried in 1778, and was very celebrated for her beauty, as mentioned above. Whole length, by *Jervis*.
 6. Lady Elizabeth Cecil, only daughter of John Earl of Exeter, by Elizabeth, his second wife. She married William Aislaby of Studley Royal,

in Yorkshire, Esq. and died in 1733. Whole length, by *Jervis*.

7. Emily Harriet Shirley, youngest surviving daughter of Evelyn Shirley, Esq. and wife of Edward Harbord, third Baron Suffield, with her daughter Emily, now the wife of the Rev. Randal Burroughes. Whole length, by *Clint*.

ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE ROOM.

8. The repose of the Holy Family. After *Titian*.
9. A large landscape, with figures. By *Artois* and *Van Helewart*.
10. A landscape, with the story of Niobe. By *Wilson*, the figures by *Mortimer*.
- 11, 12. A pair of flower pieces. By *Van Ofs*.
- 13, 14. Two beautifully-finished drawings, by *Mr. George Harding*, representing Sir Robert Shirley, the Persian ambassador, and Teresa, his Circassian wife. Reduced from the original whole lengths by *Vandyke*, at Petworth, in 1825.
15. An exquisite copy in oil of the celebrated picture by *Isaac Oliver* of the Browne family, formerly at Cowdray in Suffex, the seat of Viscount Montacute. The original was painted in 1598, and is supposed to represent Anthony, John, and William, aged respectively 24, 21, and 18,

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who were the grandsons of Anthony Browne, 1st Viscount Montacute, who died in 1592. The motto, "FIGVRÆ CONFORMIS AFFECTVS," alludes to their great personal resemblance. The fourth personage is probably a tutor or friend of the family.¹

16. Diana returned from the chase. By *Rubens* and *Van Kessol*.
17. A large landscape, with figures. "*Swanefelt f^t*."
18. Naked boys with goldfinch. *Arniceni*.
- 19, 20. A pair of small views in Venice. By *Canaletti*, 1740.
21. The burgomaster's family. By *Gonzales Coques*.

ON EITHER SIDE THE BAY WINDOW.

22. Head of an old man. By *Eckhart*.
23. Portrait of an old man, with cap, marked *H*.
24. A group of figures playing at Blind-man's buff. By *Watteau*.
25. A bull and animals, marked "*H. Roos fecit, 1674.*"
- 26, 27. Two small pictures of boys, marked "*F. Hals fecit*" (Frank Hals).

¹ This picture is mentioned in the Description of Cowdray House in the "Gent. Mag." for 1793, ii. 999.

AT THE EAST END OF THE ROOM.

28. A large landscape, representing an avenue of trees. By *Waterloo*.
29. A snow piece, with the chateau of Pinely in the background. By *Avercamp*.
30. A battle piece. By *Borgognone* (Jacopo Cortefe).
- 31, 32. Portraits of Philip II. of Spain, and his Queen, Mary the First of England. By *Holbein*.
- 33, 34. An Austrian General and his wife; a pair of small whole lengths.

THE LITTLE DRAWING ROOM

Contains the following Pictures :—

1. Portrait of Selina Lady Skipwith, eldest daughter of the Hon. George Shirley, and widow of Sir Thomas George Skipwith of Newbold Hall, baronet. She died in 1832, aged 80. Painted by *Sir Thomas Lawrence* in June, 1829, and one of the last pictures painted by him, as mentioned in his life.
2. Portrait of Evelyn Philip Shirley, Esq. Painted by *T. C. Thompson, R.H.A.* in 1839.
3. Portrait of Mary Clara Elizabeth, wife of E. P. Shirley, Esq. and daughter of Sir E. H. Lechmere, baronet, and of her youngest daughter,

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- Katherine Shirley. Painted by *Catterfon Smith, Esq. P.R.H.A.* in 1868.
4. A small head. (*Venetian School.*)
 5. A landscape, with cattle. By *De Marne.*
 6. A view of Twickenham. By *Wilson.*
 7. Portrait of Sir Robert Shirley, Count Palatine of the Empire, ob. 1628. A small whole length, in oriental costume. (*Venetian School.*)

THE GALLERY STAIRCASE,

Within the new high square tower, is of teak and acacia, the latter grown at Eatington. The Saracen's head forms the termination of the banisters. Here and in the Gallery are preserved the original designs by Mr. Armstead for the subjects which have been carved on the exterior of the house.

THE GALLERY

Occupies the space within the high roof on the south-eastern side of the house: it is 70 feet in length by 18 in breadth, and is fitted up in the mediæval style for books. In the

windows in painted glass are seven separate shields of the arms of Shirley, quartered with (1) Ancient Shirley, (2) Basset of Drayton, (3) Braose, (4) Staunton, (5) Lovett, (6 and 7) Devereux. Above each of these shields are views of the seats which were brought into the family by the respective heiresses, whose arms are quartered below, viz. 1. Shirley, in Derbyshire, from whence the name is taken, and which was the ancient residence, after Eatington, of the family; 2. Rakedale, in Leicestershire, derived from the Bassets; 3. Wiston, in Suffex, the principal seat of the Shirleys of Suffex, and inherited from the house of Braose; 4. Staunton Harold, in Leicestershire, which came into the family from the heiress of Staunton; 5. Aftwell, in Northamptonshire, from the heiress of Lovett and Chartley, and Lough Fea, in Ireland, from the marriage of Sir Henry Shirley, baronet, with the co-heiress of Devereux Earl of Effex.

Among the pictures here are :—

- 1, 2. Two of the early Florentine School, representing the Virgin and Child, with angels.
3. A picture of the actor Lacy, in three characters. The following inscription is on the back :—
 “ John Lacy, one of his Ma^{ties} comedians, representing three several parts—Parson Scruple in the play of the ‘ Cheates ;’ Sandy, a Scottish Highland footman in the ‘ Taming of the Shrewe ;’ Monsieur de Vice, in the ‘ Country Captayne,’ M.P. 1670.” A picture, much larger, but otherwise identical, ascribed to *Wright*, is at Hampton Court.
4. A portrait of the child of a Dutch merchant or burgomaster, with a merchant’s mark on a lozenge, and this inscription, “ *Ætatis ¾ anno 1650.*”
5. Full-length portrait of a boy with a dog. Arms, *argent, a chevron between 3 goats’ heads, sable,* “ año 1640.”
6. Portrait of the Rev. William Wollaston, author of the “ Religion of Nature,” and great grandfather of Phillis Byam Wollaston, wife of Evelyn Shirley, Esq. A head, by *Mrs. Hoadley*.
7. A small folding picture, with portraits of the children of Philip le Bel, Archduke of Austria,

viz. Eleanor, who married, first, Emanuel King of Portugal, secondly, Francis I. King of France; Charles V. the Emperor; and Isabella, who married Christian II. King of Denmark. For an engraving and description of this curious portrait see the "Archeologia" for 1869.

8. An original miniature of Ben Jonson, by *Isaac Oliver*, in an exquisitely-carved frame by *Mr. Kendall* of Warwick.

THE SOUTH ROOM.

Over the chimney piece is a picture in crayons, representing the sealing of the general warrant for the arrest of the authors, printers, and publishers of the "North Briton," No. 45, under which Mr. Wilkes was arrested, April 30, 1763. There are portraits of the Earls of Halifax and Egremont, Secretaries of State, and of Lovel Stanhope, Esq. Under-Secretary, who is sealing the warrant, and who caused the picture to be executed. He was uncle to the late Arthur Stanhope, Esq.

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Here is a small collection of pictures, generally of the Dutch school, with a few portraits :—

1. Portrait of General Henry Ireton, by old *Stone*.
“ Bequeathed by Jane Moore to her daughter, Anne Roberts, this portrait of her grandfather Ireton.” Will dated Jan. 15, 1732-3.
2. A small portrait of a gentleman, with the date 1624.
3. Another of a German nobleman, with a shield of arms, quarterly, 1 and 4, G. a lion rampant, A.; 2 and 3, A. 10 billets, G.
4. Sketch of Charles XII. of Sweden, and the great Duke of Marlborough.

THE OAK ROOM.

The following portraits :—

1. Sir Charles Shirley, } Copied by Mr. Keens from
baronet, ob. 1646. } the originals at Lord
2. Sir Robert Shirley, } Vernon's at Sudbury,
baronet, ob. 1656. } in 1847.
3. The Lady Anne Shirley, wife of Sir Robert
Furnese, baronet. She died in 1779. “ *Robt.
Pine, 1740.*” A head in crayons. A portrait

of Lady Anne in oil, after this drawing, is in Hampton Court Palace.

4. Miss Selina Furnese, daughter of Lady Anne Furnese. She married Sir Edward Dering, baronet, and died in 1757. In crayons by *Pine*.

PORTRAITS ON THE STAIRCASE.

All three-quarters length.

- 1, 2. Robert Shirley first Earl Ferrers, and Viscount Tamworth (ob. 1717), in his robes, and his Countess Selina, daughter of George Finch, Esq. (ob. 1762) both by *Sir Godfrey Kneller*.
3. The Hon. Robert Shirley, eldest son of Robert, first Earl Ferrers, by his first wife, Elizabeth Washington (ob. 1698), and his wife Anne, daughter of Sir Humphrey Ferrers (ob. 1697). They are represented sitting in the gardens at Staunton Harold, and the picture was probably painted on their marriage in 1688. By *Vander Vaart*. (Whole lengths.)
4. Robert Shirley Lord Viscount Tamworth, called "the good Lord Tamworth," eldest son of the Hon. Robert Shirley, and grandson of Robert, first Earl Ferrers (ob. 1714). By *Dahl*. (?)

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5. Mrs. Mary Finch, eldest sister of Selina Countess Ferrers. By *Kneller*. (?)
6. Mrs. Sarah Finch, second sister of Selina Countess Ferrers (ob. 1753). By *Kneller*. (?)
7. Lady Selina Shirley, eldest daughter of Robert, first Earl Ferrers, by his Countess Selina. She married Peter Bathurst, Esq. and died in 1777. By *Jervis*.
8. Anne Countess of Strafford, daughter of John Campbell, the second and "great" Duke of Argyle, and wife of William Wentworth, 2nd Earl of Strafford. She died in 1786. Lady Strafford and her sister, Lady Ailesbury, preserved their beauty so long, that Horace Walpole called them "Huck-a-back beauties, that never wear out." See his Works, iii. 260; by *Dahl*.
9. The Hon. George Shirley, third, but eventually eldest, son of Robert, first Earl Ferrers, by his Countess, Selina. Painted after his return from the siege of Gibraltar (represented in the background), in the year 1727. He died in 1787. By *Jervis*.

Among other pictures preserved in the house may be mentioned :—

1. A curious picture, representing Orpheus charming

the animal creation by the power of music, by *Roland Savory*; remarkable for the dodo being represented together with other birds and beasts. See the "Dodo and its Kindred. By *Strickland* and *Melville*: London, 1848," p. 29, where other pictures of the dodo, by *Savory*, at the Hague, Berlin, Vienna, and Oxford are mentioned.

2. A well-painted picture of flowers, with the figure of a man mowing. By *Teniers*. (?)
- 3, 4. Two other portraits of Lady Frances Shirley, one of them dated 1730; the other by *Richardson*. Both three-quarters length.
5. Portrait of a gentleman (query, Prince Charles Edward?) in a fancy dress, marked "*Ant. David*, p^t. Rome, 1732."
6. The meeting of Jacob and Esau. By "*D. Coleyns*, 1634."
7. Landscape, with sheep, marked "*A. Bega*."
8. View of the City of Antwerp, with booths in a fair, by *Van Vitell*. (?)
9. An old picture representing the romantic military adventures of the Shirley brothers, already referred to, in aid of the Persians against the Turks, at the beginning of the seventeenth century. It was presented to the present Mr. Shirley by the Dowager Duchess of Sforza in 1859.



LOWER EATINGTON CHURCH, NORTH AISLE.

LOWER EATINGTON CHURCH.



LITTLE to the east of the Manor House of Eatington are the remains of the ancient Parish Church, consisting of the tower and south transept, with three arches on the north side, and part of the walls of the nave and chancel; the latter of red sandstone from Kenilworth. It was a large church, measuring 126 feet in length from east to west, and about 75 feet between the extremities of the northern and southern transepts. Of the original Church, built at the period of the Norman conquest, there are some slight remains,—a few stones with zig-zag mouldings, once built into the tower, and part of a cir-

cular arch, at what was once the entrance of the northern transept. The Church was rebuilt, as has been already stated, in the reign of Henry III. whose head appears carved on one of the corbels, on the south side of the nave. There was a northern side aisle, divided by three arches from the nave. At the eastern end a piscina still remains, marking the site of an altar. But whether this was the Chapel of S. Nicholas, founded by Henry the son of Sewallis, in the reign of King John, or the still existing southern transept, which was certainly the burial-place of Sir Ralph Shirley, the great-grandson of Henry, is a doubtful point. If Sir Thomas Shirley, the antiquary, is right in stating that "The large Chapel of Saint Nicholas was anciently the place of sepulture for the lords of this manor," we may perhaps conclude that the south transept was the chantry in question, though from the following account of the Church,

taken the 17th of July 1639 by Sir Simon Archer, it appears that there was at that time, at least *one* curious and ancient monument, which has since disappeared, on the northern side of the Church.

“The Church is a pretty large spacious church, having a cross aisle before the entrance into the chancell; there are only these arms in the uppermost N. window, next the cross aisle, consisting of three lights,—*Stafford* impaling *Hastang*, and *Beauchamp* of *Powick*. In the north side of the wall of the chancell, near about the middle of it, is an ancient raised monument, made of freestone, fixed to the wall. The coffin wherein the corps lay is a pretty height, raised with freestone from the ground; the cover of it is gone, but I conceive it lieth at the entrance of the south door within the Church. I measured it, and it agreeth in length and breadth with the coffin. Upon this coffin is the statue of a

man in stone, having a garment on him much like a gown; for whom it was made is altogether unknown: it may be it was a monument of one of the Shirleys; it seemeth to be antient." (From its position in the chancel, it is more probable that this was the tomb of an ecclesiastic.)

"There are also six other flat grave-stones in the chancell, but who are buried under them appeareth not, because there hath been no inscriptions upon them; some of them have crosses set upon degrees upon them."

(At a subsequent period, as appears by the parish register, there was buried in this chancel, the Rev. John Clarke, formerly Vicar of Eatington. He died in 1674, and is commemorated in the register as "*Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ propugnator fidelis, phaniticorum malleus.*" This inscription has been of late years restored.)

"There are also these monuments in the

cross aisle at the over end of the Church : first, in the south-east corner of the aisle on the south side of the Church, are two statues of a man and his wife lying by him ; the man is in a coat of mail, with a shield on his left arm, and a sword by his right side ; the statues, being of freestone, look very black, which I conceive that lying upon the ground, and the church standing low, the moistness of the earth hath caused them to look so black. I do imagine it may be a monument of one of the Shirleys and his wife. There appears now no arms upon the shield, but it plainly seemeth there hath been arms depicted upon it."

[This is plainly the monument which is believed to represent Sir Ralph Shirley and Margaret Waldershef his wife, and which, after having been disturbed from its ancient site, has been again restored, as commemorated by the following inscription upon a plain

stone altar tomb on the south eastern corner of the transept.]

“EFFIGIES RADVLFI SHIRLEY, DE ETINDON MILITIS
 QVI MORTEM OBIIT A.D. MCCCXXVII.
 ET MARGARETÆ EIVSDEM VXORIS.
 PROAVORVM S. MONVMENTA, EX SITV SVO ANTIQVO
 APVD ALAM HVIVS ECCLESIAE AVSTRALEM,
 HEV DETVRBATA!
 RVINIS VIX TANDEM DETRACTA,
 REPONI CVRABAT. E.P.S.
 MDCCCXXXVI.”

The knight is clad in the shirt of mail and furcoat, and on his left arm he bears a shield, of the small size in use in the reign of Edward II. He has round shoulder pieces, apparently of plate or leather, and wears the basinet in place of the helmet; some faint remains of red paint appear on the lower part of the furcoat, but no appearance of arms either there or on the shield.

The effigy of the lady, much more perfect

than that of the knight, has been once painted white; she is dressed in a flowing garment, gathered up on either side within the elbow, and her head is enveloped in the wimple, introduced into England about the end of the twelfth century; her feet rest upon what appear to have been two dogs. This latter figure, judging from the shape of it, is more ancient than that of the knight, and perhaps was originally placed level with the pavement, forming the lid to the stone coffin beneath.

Sir Simon Archer proceeds to give an account of the tombs of Francis Lady Freckelton, and of the Underhill family, some remains of which still exist, and all of which are recorded in Dugdale's *Antiquities of Warwickshire*, and then describes another ancient tomb which has long disappeared, and which from its situation, evidently near the piscina heretofore referred to, may possibly have been that of the founder of the chan-

try of Saint Nicholas, Henry the son of Sewallis.

“Under an arch on the north side of the body of the church, is a raised monument with the statue of a man upon it: the stone and statue is grown very black with the moisture of the place. Whose monument this may be appeareth not.”

We are obliged also to Sir Simon Archer for having recorded some verses to the memory of one Anthony Underhill, who died in 1587, and which have been ascribed to Shakespeare. They were painted on a wooden tablet, and were afterwards lost, but have been of late years restored. They are as follows—

AN EPITAPH

And true report upon the death of Anthony Underhill, the sonne of Thomas Underhill, of Nether Eatington, who died the xvith day of July An^o. D^{ño}. 1587.

“Anthony Vnderhill lyeth here in stone,
It were but vayne for to obscure his name;

Though no man write the death of him alone,
Yet heaven and earth will still record the same.
Who lived to die, who died agayne to live,
With humble hart did all the world forgive.

Noe speech but prayer, noe mind but Heaven with him,
Noe hope of life, noe word of vayne delight ;
His whole desire to conquere death and sinne,
With hart and voyce, with minde and all his might.
Whose glorious death, and happy end was such,
Which twentie sawe, that did rejoyce them much.

For when the tyme of 's fatal houre drew neare,
Rose up with ioye, a vifion he espyes ;
Behold, quoth he, for yonder doth appeare
My Saviour Christ, I see him wth myne eyes.
A joyfull spectacle was p'fented then
In sight of God, of angells, faints, and men.

And after pawse, to shew his gladsome fitt,
He spoke and sayd, I had a question putt,
Though it were hard, yet I have answered itt ;
Wth that he syhed, and so his eyes he shutt.
Thus sayled he into more quiet coast,
Still praying God, and so gave up the ghoft.

As dreams doe flyde, as bubbles rise and fall,
As fflowers doe fade, and flourish in an hower ;
As smoke doth rise, and vapours vanish all,
Beyond the witt or reach of human power.
As somer heat doth parch the withered grasse,
Such is ðr stay, so lyfe of man doth passe."

Lower Easington.

An epitaph closely resembling the above in style, to the "Ladye Magdalen Hastings," 1596, is printed in Nichol's *History of Leicestershire*, from the original at Ashby de la Zouche. Mr. John Gough Nichols is inclined to think that both were written by the same person.

Besides the tomb of Sir Ralph Shirley, already described, the southern transept also contains the magnificent monument of the first Earl Ferrers, erected by his son, the Hon. George Shirley, in the year 1776. The sculptor was H. Moore, of London. The centre figure in this monument represents the Honourable George Shirley, and on either side are those of his father and mother, the Earl and Countess Ferrers, in their coronation robes. Above is the following inscription:

In compliance to the Will
of the Right Hon^{ble} Robert Earl Ferrers,
His son, the Hon^{ble} George Shirley,
by his second wife,
who is represented by the above figure,
has erected this Monument.”

Beneath,—

“This monument is erected to the memory of the
Right Hon^{ble} Robert Earl Ferrers, and to his second
wife, Selina, daughter of George Finch, of
the City of London, Esq^{re}.

He was called to the House of Lords by King Charles
the Second, by the title of Baron Ferrers of Chartley,
with the Precedency thereto belonging, by writ under
the Great Seal of England, dated the 14th of
Dec^r. anno 1677, and by the same
right, Baron Bouchier, and
Baron Lovain.

He was Master of the Horse to Catherine Queen
Dowager in 1682, and High Steward of her House-

Lower Eatington.

hold; and in 1699 sworn of the Privy Council to King William the III.; and in 1711, was one of the Lords of Council to Her Majesty Queen Anne, who, by patent dated the 3rd of Sept. 1711, advanced him to the dignity of Earl Ferrers and Viscount Tamworth.

He was born at the time his father, Sir Robert Shirley, was imprisoned in the Tower, by the usurper Oliver Cromwell, and died there not without suspicion of poison.

He married to his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter and heir to Lawrence Washington, of Garendon, in the County of Wilts., Esq., by whom he had issue ten sons and seven daughters.

To his second wife, he married Selina, daughter of George Finch, of the City of London, Esq^r, by whom he had issue five sons and five daughters.

He was born in October 1651, and died the 25th of December 1717, aged sixty-seven years, and lies in the family vault in this Church.

This family is descended by an heir female from the ancient family of Devereux, Earls of Essex and Eu, Viscount Hereford, and Lord Ferrers of Chartley,

by the intermarriage with the second sister of the Earl of Essex (the favourite of Queen Elizabeth, who was beheaded about the year 1600), which intermarriage entitles this noble family to quarter the king's arms."

On the north side of this monument is a small tablet, which explains why it was not erected at Staunton Harold.

" THE MONUMENT TO THE MEMORY
OF ROBERT EARL FERRERS AND HIS COUNTESS SELINA
WAS INTENDED AND PREPARED TO BE ERECTED
IN THE CHURCH OF STAUNTON-HAROLD,
IN THE COUNTY OF LEICESTER,
WHERE HE WAS BURIED,
BY THE CONSENT OF WASHINGTON EARL FERRERS,
BUT (AFTER BEING FINISHED) WAS REFUSED
TO BE PLACED THERE.
IT IS ERECTED IN THIS CHURCH AT THE EXPENSE
OF THE HONBLE. GEORGE SHIRLEY,
THE CENTRE FIGURE IN THE MONUMENT."

Lower Eatington.

By an Act of Parliament passed in 1798, the Parish Church of Eatington was removed to a new site in the village of Upper Eatington, where it was rebuilt shortly afterwards, principally at the expense of the late Evelyn Shirley, Esq. At this time a large portion of the ancient Church was taken down, the south transept, the burial place of the family, being the only part which remained with a roof. It was repaired, together with the tower, by the late Evelyn John Shirley, Esq. who, in the year 1825, restored and converted the transept into a domestic chapel. The windows were at that time glazed with ancient painted glass, the greater part of which is believed to have originally formed part of the great "Jesse" window, formerly in the chapel of William of Wykeham's college at Winchester.

Here are also sepulchral inscriptions to the following members of the Shirley family and their relations :—

The Hon. George Shirley, ob. Oct. 22, 1787, and here buried.

The Hon. Mary Shirley, his widow, ob. Aug. 24, 1800, buried in Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, London.

Selina Lady Skipwith, ob. March 28, 1832, buried at Monk Kirby, in this county.

Arthur Stanhope, Esq. ob. August 24, 1836.

Eliza Stanhope, his widow, ob. Feb. 22, 1837, both buried in the Church of Paddington in Middlesex.

George Edward Shirley, 4th son of E. J. Shirley, Esq. ob. March 16, 1832, and here buried.

Sewallis Shirley, 3rd son of E. J. Shirley, Esq. ob. June 10, 1836, buried in the Church of St. Leonards on Sea in Suffex.

Charles Shirley, Esq. 3rd son of Evelyn Shirley, Esq. ob. Dec. 12, 1855.

Anne Charlotte, his widow, ob. Feby. 9, 1858. Both buried at Midhurst in Suffex.

Lower Eatington.

Immediately beneath the great family monument are two large marble slabs, thus inscribed :—

“ IN THE VAULT BENEATH
ARE INTERRED THE REMAINS OF
THE HONBLE. GEORGE SHIRLEY,
THIRD SON OF ROBERT EARL FERRERS, BY SELINA
HIS COUNTESS, WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
OCT. 22, 1787, AGED 82. BY HIS MARRIAGE WITH
MARY, DAUGHTER OF HUMPHRY STURT, ESQ.
HE HAD ISSUE,
GEORGE, EVELYN, SELINA, AND MARY.
GEORGE SHIRLEY, ESQ. HIS ELDEST SON, WAS TWICE
MARRIED, BUT DIED WITHOUT ISSUE, MARCH 19,
1793, AND IS ALSO HERE BURIED :
HIS FIRST WIFE MARY, DECEASED APRIL 20, 1785,
AND WAS BURIED AT ST. JAMES'S CHURCH,
WESTMINSTER.
HIS SECOND WIFE SARAH, SURVIVED TILL FEB. 1, 1848,
AND LIES IN THE VAULT BENEATH.”

“ IN THE VAULT BENEATH
ARE INTERRED THE REMAINS OF
EVELYN JOHN SHIRLEY, ESQ.
FOR MANY YEARS KNIGHT OF THE SHIRE FOR
THIS COUNTY,
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE AT LOUGH FEA IN IRELAND,
ON THE 31ST OF DECEMBER, 1856, IN THE
69TH YEAR OF HIS AGE.

HE WAS THE ELDEST SON OF EVELYN SHIRLEY, ESQ.
(BY PHILLIS, DAUGHTER OF CHARLTON WOLLASTON,
ESQ.) AND GREAT-GRANDSON OF ROBERT
EARL FERRERS.

HERE ALSO LIETH THE BODY OF
ELIZA, WIDOW OF EVELYN JOHN SHIRLEY, ESQ.
AND DAUGHTER OF ARTHUR STANHOPE, ESQ.
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE APRIL 30, 1859,
IN THE 74TH YEAR OF HER AGE.
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE. AMEN.”



PISCINA IN LOWER EATINGTON CHURCH.

STRONG grows the ivy, where before
High toned the notes from roof to floor,
In prayer for those who pray no more.
Roses are clustering where beneath
Lie knight and peasant old in death,
Endured their fight and done their breath,
Yet fair the grave of those who lie,
Old trees between them and the sky,
Friendly the steps that pass them by.
Ended the hurry and the strife,
All the hot restlessness of life.
They lie where summer flowers are rife ;
In kindly neighbourhood they rest,
Near to the home they loved the best,
Oardens and brightness o'er their breast.
To live or die in, sees the sun,
Of hills and woods he shines upon,
No fairer spot than Easington.

F. E. S. G.

1869.



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