



The

Visitation of Berkshire

IN THE YEARS 1563 AND 1564,

MADE BY

WILLIAM FLOWER, ESQUIRE,

Barroy King of Arms.

“DENIQUE COELESTI SUMUS OMNES SEMINE ORIUNDI ;
OMNIBUS ILLE IDEM PATER EST.”

Lucretius.

EDITED BY

CHARLES BEST NORCLIFFE, M.A.,

OF LANGTON.

LONDON :

1881.

Preface.

THE HARLEIAN SOCIETY has turned its attention from London to York, and with the publication of this Volume the list of Heraldic Visitations of Yorkshire is complete. It may be useful to place on record the dates of publication of the other four.

That made in 1530 by Thomas Tonge, Norroy, was published by the Surtees Society in 1863, with critical notes such as few persons except its Editor, Mr. W. H. D. Longstaffe, could have furnished. Sir William Dugdale's Visitation of 1664 and 1665 was published by the same Society in 1859, being transcribed from Miss Curren's Manuscript by the late Mr. Robert Davies, F.S.A., sometime Town Clerk of York. Nearly all the proof-sheets were read, and the heraldic descriptions revised, by the Editor of this Work, who was glad to be associated, in however humble a capacity, with the first Visitation of Yorkshire that appeared in print. His share in correcting and revising those of Glover and St. George, made in the years 1584-5 and 1612, and published in 1875 by the commendable enterprise of Mr. Joseph Foster, was still larger; and it is properly acknowledged in the Preface.

No complete copy of this Visitation is to be found in the British Museum. The Manuscript now printed belonged to William Flower, Norroy, Robert Glover, Somerset Herald, Ralph Brooke, York Herald, and Sir Peter Le Neve, Norroy; and in the year 1738 was purchased by Thomas Norcliffe, Esq., of Langton in the East Riding of Yorkshire, and of Heslington near York, a genealogist of considerable accuracy and research.* It has ever since been preserved in his family, is mentioned by William Radcliffe, Rouge Croix, in his proposals to continue Dugdale's

* The copy of Glover's Visitation of 1584, now in the Library of the Dean and Chapter of Durham, and purchased at the sale of books of his great-nephew, the Rev. James Dalton, Rector of Croft, Yorkshire, in 1843, belonged to him; and that copy of the same Visitation which is preserved in the Vestry of Holy Trinity Church, Hull, belonged to his brother, Richard Norcliffe, Esq., Merchant at Frederikshald, Norway, who was buried in that church 16 April, 1757; having been one of the Gentlemen's Society at Spalding, Lincolnshire, and a Benefactor to it. (See Nichols's 'Literary Anecdotes,' 1812, Vol. VI., Part i., pp. 102, 103.)

Visitation to the year 1824; and to Mrs. Norcliffe of Langton the Members of the Society are indebted for the loan of it.*

They are under a still weightier obligation to Sir Albert William Woods, Knight, Garter King at Arms, for his liberality and good-nature in permitting the Editor to collate with it one of the copies of this Visitation preserved in the College of Arms, marked D 2, the additions from which have been throughout printed in Italics. It did not appear worth while to collate the other copy, marked D 5. It seemed to the Editor that a few critical notes, removing some difficulties, and correcting some palpable mistakes, would be labour more wisely bestowed, and more likely to meet with general acceptance. It would have been easy to extend the references to printed authorities, which are inserted in the hope of saving time and trouble to those who mean to use the Book. Without the smallest doubt mistakes, as well as misprints, will be found, and for these the Editor begs to tender his apologies. The field of Northern Genealogy is so wide, that the most careful inquirer may easily lose his way, and be caught tripping.

That eminent Yorkshire Genealogist, the late Rev. Francis John Raines (in his introduction to Flower's Visitation of Lancashire in 1567, published in 1870 by the Chetham Society), tells us that William Flower was born at York about the year 1498, that he made his Will 14 October, 1588, and that it was proved the 22 November of the same year. That he had a brother Robert, and a half-sister Margaret, but that his father's name is unknown. Diligent search in the Archbishop's Registry at York, from the year 1460 to the year 1544, has brought to light only one notice of the name as connected with York. It is the Administration, granted 2 November, 1523, to Margaret his widow, of John Flower of the parish of All Saints upon the Pavement, York, Taylor and Corn-merchant,—a somewhat unusual combination of trades. Had he made a Will, it might have specified his children; but it is highly probable that this was the Herald's father, and that this Margaret was his step-mother, and mother of his half-sister of the same name. The Feoffees of the parish of All Saints at that time possessed, and still hold, an estate at Skirpenbeck, near York, where a family of the name of Flower existed, and were freeholders. There are also Wills at York of persons of the name seated at

* Mrs. Norcliffe died the 19th of August, 1881, before this Preface was printed off. The Editor has this in common with Professor Edward Daniel Clarke (see his 'Life,' by Bishop Otter, I., p. 63), that "his kind parent was no more, and one earthly object of his literary labours was never obtained."

Misterton and at Langar, in Nottinghamshire, in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Took Flower, father of St. Robert of Knaresborough, was twice Mayor of York in the reign of Richard the First; and Lawrence Flower was Bailiff in 1299. (Drake's 'Eboracum,' p. 359; Dugdale's 'Monasticon Anglicanum,' New Edition, VI., p. 1565.)

Wherever born, wherever educated, William Flower became Guisnes Pursuivant Extraordinary 10 June, 1536, was made Rouge Croix, then Chester, and finally, on 8 Feb. 1561-2, became Norroy King at Arms. By his wife Helen Davyes he had issue Gilbert, Edward, Elizabeth, wife of Robert Glover, Somerset Herald, Jane, and Eleanor, wife of James Barkstead. The arms he used were "Ermines, a cinquefoil pierced Ermine." Sir William Dugdale (Visitation 1664-5, pp. 185 and 382) says Flower's Visitation was made in the years 1563 and 1564; and no proofs are needed to confirm the express testimony of one so well qualified to speak with authority. But Internal Evidence is not wanting. The Bowes Pedigree (p. 32) furnishes us with the date 2 Aug. 1563; Crake (p. 81), Rokeby (p. 268) with 1563; Kirkbride (p. 179) with 1564. Numerous additions were made, nearly all by the same hand, in later years, and these are duly noticed in the Manuscript. Thus the years 1562, 1566, 1567, 1571, 1572, 1574, 1579, 1582 are noticed on pages 126, 163, 125, 288, 96, 222, 247, 127, 44, 310. These additions explain why the Harleian Catalogue calls MS. 1171 "Part of the Visitation of William Flower, Norroy, 1575, which has some evidence of being Original." Yorkshire was not visited in 1575. (See 'Catalogue of the Heralds' Visitations in the British Museum,' Second Edition, London, 1825, pp. 82, 124.) In 1563 Flower granted crests to John Jackson of Gattonby and John Thornholme of Haysthorpe, and arms to Thomas Dalton of Hull, Arthur Dakins of Linton, and William Horsley of Skirpenbeck. (Visitation 1584, pp. 43, 166, 141, 169, 180.) On 15 Aug. 1563 he granted arms to Roger Sotheby, at Birdsall; on 4 Oct. he was at East Newton, and granted a crest to Mr. Thornton; on 1 Dec. 1563 he was at York, and granted a crest to Mr. Haldenby of Haldenby. (Visitation 1584, pp. 170, 296; Visitation 1530, xl.) On 8 Feb. 1563-4 he granted arms to Alexander Dawson of Spaldingholme. In 1564 he granted a crest to John Lake of Normanton; on 7 Oct. 1564 to John Kay of Dalton; and on 22 Oct. 1564 to George Greene of Awkeley, co. Notts. (Visitation 1584, pp. 184, 318, 323, 342.)

The Visitation of Yorkshire might almost be called a Visitation of the Province of York, since it includes families from Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, Westmerland, and Lancashire,—most of whom were intermarried with Yorkshire families, if they held no land within the County,—besides one or two from Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, and Norfolk. Including these strangers, there are just 111 Pedigrees that do not occur in the Visitations of Glover and St. George, the total number being upwards of 270. But while these Northern gentlemen (who probably were spending the winter in York, either for gaiety, medical advice, or to prosecute some suit before the Lord President and the Council of the North) eagerly embraced the opportunity of recording their Arms and Pedigree, some of the leading houses in Yorkshire disregarded the Herald's summons. It is singular that Hotham of Scarborough, Portington of Portington, Thwenge of Helmsley, Waterton of Walton, Wombwell of Wombwell, and Wortley of Wortley should not appear in these pages.

It may interest some Members of the Harleian Society to learn, that in the house in which this Work has been completed, there lived and died—it being their own freehold—two Yorkshire Worthies, both of them natives of the City of York itself. I mean, first, Henry Swinburne, B.C.L. of Oxford, Author of two well-known books on 'Testaments' and 'Espousals,' who was buried in York Minster 24th February, 1623-4, and whose monument still remains in the North Aisle of the Choir. And secondly, Sir Thomas Herbert, of Tintern, co. Monmouth, and of Middleton Quernhow, co. York, Baronet, baptized at the Church of St. Crux, York, 4th November, 1606, and buried there 3 March, 1681-2; a member of Jesus College, Oxford, and of Trinity College, Cambridge (Wood's 'Athenæ,' ed. Bliss, VI., p. 15); who in 1634 published a folio volume of his Travels in Persia and the East Indies; but who is still more honourably known, as having been the devoted attendant of King Charles the First during several years of imprisonment, and one of the Mourners at the hasty and unworthy burial of his Royal Master.*

C. B. N.

PETERGATE HOUSE, YORK,
21st July, 1881.

* See the 'Life of James the Second,' by the Rev. J. S. Clarke, F.R.S. (London, 1816), II., 667-678.

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