

THE
History and Antiquities
OF THE
C O U N T Y P A L A T I N E
OF
D U R H A M ;

COMPILED FROM ORIGINAL RECORDS,
PRESERVED IN PUBLIC REPOSITORIES AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS:

AND

ILLUSTRATED BY ENGRAVINGS
OF ARCHITECTURAL AND MONUMENTAL ANTIQUITIES,
PORTRAITS OF EMINENT PERSONS,

&c. &c. &c.

BY

ROBERT SURTEES, OF MAINSFORTH, ESQ. F. S. A.

VOL. II.

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LAMBTON.

The Manor and Park of Lambton lie on the Wear to the North of Lumley.

No earlier owners of Lambton are on record, than the ancient and honourable family which still bears the local name¹. The regular Pedigree can only be traced from the close of the twelfth century, but the previous residence of the family is well proved by attestations of charters and incidental evidence, from a period approaching very nearly to the Norman æra.

The descent of the estate^m, having never changed its owners, is included in the Pedigree; the tenure is uniformly stated at half a knight's fee.

At Old Lambton, offices only are now standing; the house was dismantled in 1797, and the present splendid mansion erected (after a plan by Bonomi) on the site of Harraton. The house occupies an elevated situation on the North bank of the river, which divides the Parkⁿ into two nearly equal portions, and sweeps swiftly round Lambton, forming several fine reaches, and flowing through deep overhanging banks thickly tufted with wood^o. The view from the West terrace is extremely beautiful, bounded on the North and South by the undulating sides of the river-valley, which gradually close to a point where the blue hills of the Western moors are seen bordering the horizon^p.

The Lambtons from a very early period appear as Patrons of a Chapel within the manor of Lambton, sometimes from its situation called the Chapel of Brugeford, (Bridgeford^q.) Thomalin the Clerk or Priest of Lambton^r, presented two pounds of wax to St. Cuthbert probably before 1200^s; and a regular presentation of John de Pamplesworth by Robert Lord of Lambton to the Chapel of Brugeford, appears in the Register of Bishop Kellaw, 19 Aug. 1314^t. Waleran de Lambton was ordained Clerk^u, on a title granted by Robert de Lambton, 1349.^v

The shell of this little oratory lately stood, near the New bridge on the left of the road, immediately within the entrance of Lambton Park. The East window had some slight remains of tracery; and when Hutchinson wrote, the figure "of a man to the waist, in relief, with elevated hands," was closed up in the wall of the house.

The Lambtons were amongst the first families of the North who embraced the reformed religion, and this chapel of the bridge was probably disused after the dissolution of chantries. The endowment is totally lost; popular tradition, however, connects both the endowment of the Chapel and the figure sculptured on the wall, with the romance of the *Worm of Lambton*.

¹ With the exception of Lumley Earl of Scarborough, the Lambtons are the only family in the County who still retain the seat from whence they derive their local name.

^m The early family estate, besides Lambton, included Tribley and Wodside, a third part of Pykter, part of Pencher, and lands in West Herrington and Oferton; the family probably also possessed some estates in Northumberland, as Robert Lambton, of Lambton, was Sheriff of that County in 1427, 5 H. VI. The manor of South Salcock, in Yorkshire, accrued by marriage with the heiress of that name, about 1380, whose *Brass* (*Lambton* impaling *Salcock*) was lately remaining in Chester Church; the estate was alienated by Sir William Lambton during the distresses of the civil wars. An old MS. calls the early Lambtons Lords of *Wood-Appleton*, in Yorkshire. Certainly in 1421, 9 H. V. Thomas Lambton, Esq. granted lands in the said Wood-Appleton to John of Shipley, Dodsworth.

ⁿ The Park, including the plantations, contains nearly 1200 acres, and has three handsome lodges at the respective entrances, built by the younger Bonomi.

^o The best description is a reference to the beautiful plate, which the Author owes to the liberality of the present owner.

^p A slight ground-plot of Old Lambton (a double house with flanking gavel-ended wings, and the grounds laid out in parterres and terraces,) is preserved in Burleigh and Thompson's plan of the Wear. There is also an old view at Lambton. The date H. L. 1670, remains on a Sun-dial.

There are several good paintings at Lambton, (besides family Portraits, among which are, Bishop James, 1596, Sir John Hedworth, æt. 40, 1627, and William Lambton, Sir Joshua Reynolds, 1768). The principal pieces perhaps are: Portrait of a Priest, Bassano; Portrait of Annibale Caro, Titian; Portrait of a young female, Raphael. These are in the Library. In the Saloon, Glover's beautiful view of Durham Abbey (purchased by Mr. Lambton for 500*l*.) some idea of the style and execution may be derived from the *Plate of Lambton*, engraved from an original painting by the same artist. The Trossacks and Loch Katrine, Glover; A Landscape, Salvator Rosa; Two Landscapes, Domenichino; A Lady dressing, Giorgione. Bow-Window room, Swansea Bay, Pocock; Morning and Evening, Glover; Two Landscapes, Bothe. In other rooms, Woman taken in Adultery, Artist unknown; Madonna and Infant Jesus, Baroccio, Landscape, Breughels; besides several pieces by Reinagle, &c. &c. Lady Anne Lambton and children, by Hoppner; Frances Susan Lambton, 1797, Angelica Kauffman; and William Henry Lambton, Esq. a full length, by the same artist and of the same date.

^q In the Claxton Pedigree, a daughter of Lambton is styled "Margaret, daughter of Thomas Lambton, of *New Brigge*, Esq." and probably there might sometime exist a sort of second Mansion House, or residence for an heir or cadet, near the Chapel.

^r *Liber Vila*. Cotton MSS. Mus. Brit. The name of Thomalin stands in company with Henry Pudsey and John fil. Galfrid de Horden; see vol. I. p. 24.

^s Kellaw's Reg. fol. 160.

^t Reg. Hatfield.

^u Joh' Juell ordinat. Presbyt. ad tit. quinque marcar. de Roberto de Lambeton, ix kal. Oct. 1335. Robert de Lambeton, *avouite* at Gateshead, 17 Nov. 1345. Reg. Hatfield.



Engraved by John Day

Printed by J. Chapman & Son, 27, St. Paul's Church-Yard, London.

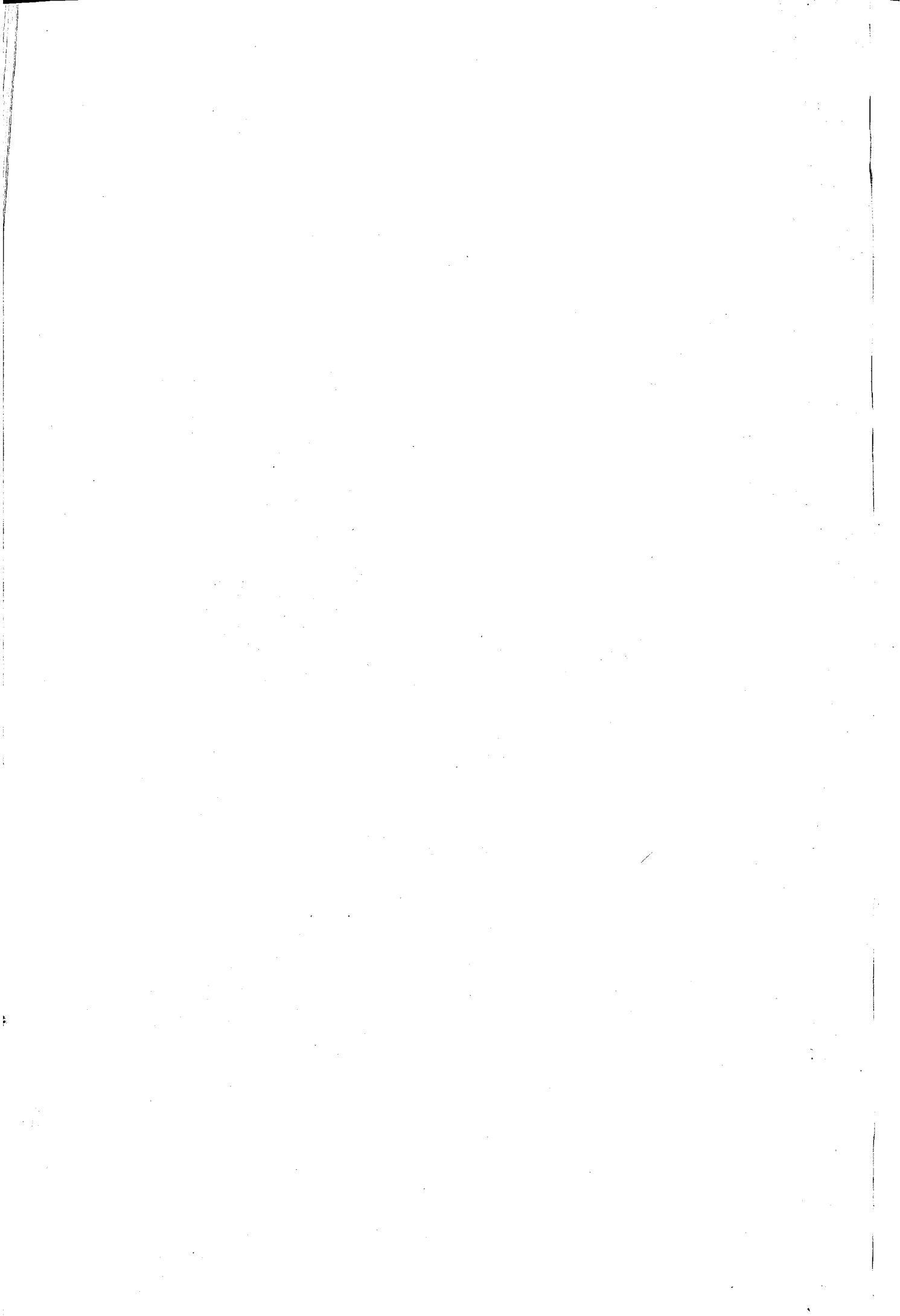
Engraved by J. Day

LAMBTON HALL.

The Seat of John George Lambton Esq. M. P.

Prof.

London: Published by J. Murray, 15, Pall Mall, 1838.



The heir of Lambton ^v, fishing, as was his profane custom, in the Wear on a Sunday, hooked a small worm or eel, which he carelessly threw into a well, and thought no more of the adventure. The worm (at first neglected) grew till it was too large for its first habitation, and issuing forth from the *Worm Well*, betook itself to the Wear, where it usually lay a part of the day coiled round a crag in the middle of the water; it also frequented a green mound near the well (*the Worm Hill*), where it lapped itself nine times round, leaving vermicular traces, of which, grave living witnesses depose that they have seen the vestiges. It now became the terror of the country, and amongst other enormities levied a daily contribution of nine cows' milk, which was always placed for it at the green hill, and in default of which it devoured man and beast. Young Lambton had, it seems, meanwhile, totally repented him of his former life and conversation, had bathed himself in a bath of holy water, taken the sign of the cross, and joined the Crusaders. On his return home, he was extremely shocked at witnessing the effects of his youthful imprudences, and immediately undertook the adventure. After several fierce combats, in which the Crusader was foiled by his enemy's *power of self-union*, he found it expedient to add policy to courage, and not perhaps possessing much of the former quality, he went to consult a witch or wise woman. By her judicious advice he armed himself in a coat of mail studded with razor blades, and thus prepared, placed himself on the crag in the river, and awaited the monster's arrival. At the usual time the Worm came to the rock, and wound himself with great fury round the armed knight, who had the satisfaction to see his enemy cut in pieces by his own efforts, whilst the stream washing away the severed parts prevented the possibility of re-union. There is still a sequel to the story: the witch had promised Lambton success only on one condition, that he should slay the first living thing which met his sight after the victory. To avoid the possibility of human slaughter, Lambton had directed his father that as soon as he heard him sound three blasts on his bugle in token of the achievement performed, he should release his favourite greyhound, which would immediately fly to the sound of the horn, and was destined to be the sacrifice. On hearing his son's bugle, however, the old chief was so overjoyed, that he forgot the injunctions, and ran himself with open arms to meet his son. Instead of committing a parricide, the conqueror again repaired to his adviser, who pronounced, as the alternative of disobeying the original instructions, that no chief of the Lambtons should die in his bed for seven (or as some accounts say) for nine generations—a commutation which to a martial spirit had nothing probably very terrible, and which was willingly complied with.

The story, such as it is, full of plot and incident, certainly ranks amongst the most popular traditions of this country, and has been transmitted with very little variation for centuries from father to son, and various facts have been pressed into the service to establish the commination of sudden death that has been supposed to hang over the family. The date of the story is of course uncertain, but nine ascending generations from the late General Lambton (in whom popular tradition affirmed the curse to expire) would exactly reach to Sir John Lambton, Knight of Rhodes, of whom this curious entry stands in an old MS. Pedigree, lately in possession of the family of Middleton, of Offerton:

“Johan Lambeton that slewe y^e Worme was knight of Rhooedes and Lord of Lambeton and Wod Apilton efter the dethe of fower brothers sans esshewe masle. His son Robert Lampton was drowned at Newebrigg.” That the knight ever succeeded to the family estates, however, contradicts the proven Pedigree.

The Worm Hill stands not within the domain of Lambton, but on the North bank of Wear, in the estate of North Biddick, a mile and half, it may be, from *old Lambton Hall*. The Hill is a small artificial cone formed of common earth and river-gravel. The Worm Well lies betwixt the Hill and the Wear ^w. Half a century ago the Worm Well was in repute as a *Wishing Well*, and was one of the scenes dedicated to the usual festivities and superstitions of Midsummer Eve; a *crooked pin* may sometimes be still discovered, sparkling amongst the clear gravel at the bottom of its basin ^x.

The Lambton Worm belongs to a class of household tales, the genuine appendages of ancient families long occupying the same ground and station; and perhaps no other certain deduction can be drawn from such legends, excepting that the families to which they relate are of ancient popular reputation, against whose gentle condition “the memory of man runneth not to the contrary.” Sometimes, indeed, the tale relates to the founder

^v The tradition, however, is not constant as to Young Lambton, the hero of the tale, being the original fisherman. The transgression is sometimes attributed to a wicked *quidam*, with many vulgar additions.

^w The Worm Well had formerly a cover, and an iron dish or ladle.

^x Distance from the Hill to the Well 26 yards; from the Well to the River 48 yards. C. S.

of the family, the true story of whose establishment being long forgotten, tradition has thrown a misty halo round his brows. Like the preux chevalier of Romance, the *homo propositus* of the name goes forth to slay wolf, bear, or wivern, and if on his return he does not marry the King's daughter, he at least receives broad lands and livings as his guerdon. To this class belong the Worm of Sockburn, the Brawn of Pollard's Dene, (both which have faulchion evidence,) the Boar of Kentmere, and that other Brawn of Brancepath, whom Roger de Fery slew treacherously in a pit-fall at Cleves Cross². But the Lambtons were a family of good and valorous repute long before the date of their family legend, (which only ascends to the fourteenth century); and it does not appear that the hero of the tale reaped any thing from his adventure, except the honour of the achievement, and a very singular curse on his descendants to the ninth generation.

As to the matter of fact contained in these legends, it is impossible to deny that when a great part of England lay in moor, morass, and forest, wolves and boars may have been much more troublesome neighbours than any thing of which we have a conception. As to wolves, they were by no means exterminated by King Edgar. The Monks of Fors, in Wensleydale, about 1180, had a dangerous grant from Alan Earl of Richmond, of the flesh of all wild animals torn by wolves² within their own dale². King James the First and Sixth, sometimes took the diversion of wolf-hunting in Scotland, in which kingdom the last wild wolf was killed as late as 1682; and in Ireland proclamations were issued against wolves in Antrim, in the reign of Anne. It is confessed, that it is much more difficult to account for serpents of a magnitude to require the intervention of a hero; and flying dragons are still worse; the possible allegorical meaning is too obvious to be detailed. The subject matter of the exploit may be equally a Danish Rover, a domestic Tyrant, or, as in the well-known case of the Dragon of Wantley, a villainous overgrown Lawyer, endowed with all the venom, maw, and speed of a flying eel, whom the gallant Moor of Moor Hall "slew with nothing at all" but the aid of a good conscience, and a fair young maid of sixteen, to "'noit him o'er night when he went to fight, and to dress him in the morning."

Popular tradition assigns the Chapel of *Brigford* as the spot where Lambton offered up his vows before and after the adventure, (this foundation, however, it has been shewn, existed at a period antecedent to the earliest date assigned to the legend.) In the garden-house at Lambton are two figures of no great antiquity. A knight in good style armed cap-a-pee, the back *studded with razor blades*, who holds the Worm^b by one ear with his left hand, and with his right crams his sword to the hilt down his throat; and a Lady, who wears a coronet, with bare breasts, &c. in the style of Charles II.'s Beauties, a wound on whose bosom, and an accidental mutilation of the hand, are said to have been the work of the Worm. A real good Andrea Ferrara^c, inscribed on the blade 1521, notwithstanding the date, has been also pressed into the service, and is said to be the identical weapon by which the Worm perished.

^v And exactly in point is that Worm of Linton, in Roxburghshire, whom the wily Scotch knight (said to be one of the Somervilles), watching when the wind was in the right quarter, slew, with a sod of blazing peat on the point of his spear, which answered the double purpose of stifling the monster, and preserving the assailant from the effects of its pestilent breath; the achievement is still visible in stone over the South door of Linton Church, "a rude sculpture, representing a knight with a falcon on his arm, encountering with his lance, in full career, a sort of monster, which the people call a *Worm*." *Border Minstrelsy, notes to Kempion.*

"The wode Laird of Lariestoun
Slew the wode worme of Wormistoun,
And wan all Linton paroschine."

The title *Worm* was certainly used with great latitude; Dante calls that venerable quadruped Cerberus *Il gran Verme inferno*.

One would suppose that sometimes the sculpture said to commemorate the legend, has vice versa given rise to the fable. At Kirkby-Stephen, the first Lord Wharton (who won his title by hard blows with the Scotch) sleeps in effigy on an altar tomb, and presses with his feet the family crest, a bull's head; and this bull's head is in popular opinion thought to represent the Devil, and to allude to some very ghastly encounter sustained by the gallant Warden of the Borders, against the common Enemy of Man.

² Dame Julian Berners, Prioress of Sopewell, names the wolf amongst "bestes of venery." She enumerates as such — the Hart, the Hare, "the Boor is one of tho", the Wolf, and no mo." *Boke of St. Alban's*, 1486. Dame Julian lived somewhat earlier.

^a Whitaker's Whalley and Clitheroe, p. 169; and Burton's Monast. Ebor. *Fors Abbey*.

^b The Worm is not represented as a reptile, but has ears and four legs, very much in the style of the dragon on our old Angel coin.

^c That no particle of the ancient superstition may be lost by my laches, I recollect, when a boy, having seen something exhibited at Old Lambton as a part of the *Worm's skin*, like a piece of tough bull's hide.

^{**} I have since met with a full description of the Linton Worm.

"In the Parochon of Lintoun, within the Sherifdome of Roxburgh, ther happened to breed ane hydeous monster in the forme of a Worme, soe called and esteemed by the country people, (but in effect has been a serpent, or some such other creature,) in lenth three Scots' yards, and somewhat bigger then ane ordinary man's leg, with a head more proportionable to its lenth then greatness, in form and collour ("like") to our common muir edders."

Memorie of the Somerville's, vol. I. p. 38.

The family descent is traced on the subsequent page, but the late WILLIAM-HENRY LAMBTON was too distinguished a character to pass unnoticed amidst the mere rank and file of a pedigree". Mr. Lambton was born Nov. 15, 1764, the eldest son of Major-General John Lambton and Lady Susan Lyon, daughter of the eighth Earl of Strathmore. After an education at Eton^b and at Trinity College^c, Cambridge, and after some time spent on the Continent, Mr. Lambton, in 1787, succeeded his father in the representation of the city of Durham, for which he continued to sit till his death. Mr. Lambton, in his Parliamentary career, adhered steadily and honorably to the Whig principles, to which his family had been long attached. He possessed the natural advantages of an elegant figure, a graceful manner, and a clear and articulate delivery. A fluent, yet manly and nervous eloquence, acute powers of reasoning, and a fund of happy allusion and illustration, drawn from a mind stored with classical acquirements, soon distinguished him from the herd of parliamentary speakers, and commanded the respect and attention of the house, even at that bright period when those master-spirits Pitt and Fox, each in his highest ascendant, threw all minor talent far into the shade^d. Mr. Lambton's attention, ever vigilantly awake to subjects of constitutional importance, was directed to no object more steadily than to that of Parliamentary Reform; and in 1792 he signed, as Chairman, the "Declaration and Address of the Society of Friends of the People, associated for the purpose of obtaining a Parliamentary Reform." The views of the association were exposed to much misinterpretation, and Mr. Lambton defended the principles and proceedings of himself and his associates, both in and out of Parliament, with talent and with spirit^e. "From a state of confusion (he observes) I have everything to lose, and nothing to gain; and I must hope that neither my head is so weak, nor my heart so wicked, as to seek the misery of others at so great a personal risk. All I wish is, to see this happy constitution reformed upon its own principles, and that every reparation may be made in the stile of the building^f." The same principles (it is almost needless to add) which actuated the whole of Mr. Lambton's political life, rendered him adverse to the interference of the British Government in the internal affairs of France, and an opponent of several consequent restrictive measures at home; and in 1795 his voice was last heard in Parliament in opposition to the Bills for altering the Laws of Treason and Sedition^g. In the autumn of that year Mr. Lambton's friends were alarmed by his betraying some symptoms of a consumptive tendency. He retired to the country, and was unable to resume his place in Parliament after the Christmas recess. In the following year he was advised to try the effects of a warmer climate, and embarking with his family at Woolwich, in a neutral vessel, reached Naples after a voyage of two months. An Italian air and sky seemed to promise a total renovation of constitution, and Mr. Lambton proceeded with renewed health and spirits to Rome. But there his strength visibly declined, and impressed him with a fixed presentiment of approaching dissolution. He returned towards Tuscany, and after being detained by illness at Sienna, reached Pisa on the 30th of November, and expired four days afterwards, at the early age of thirty-three. His remains were interred at his own request in the English burial-ground at Leghorn. Mr. Lambton's public life has been briefly traced. On subjects of high political importance, on which variety of opinion always has existed, and ever will exist, he differed with many wise and good men, and from the ablest of his opponents he received the tribute of respect due to talent and unblemished integrity. The praises due to his private life are still less disputable. In every domestic relation; in the spring and in the noon of life, moving in the highest rank of British society, he stood untainted by the contagion of vice or of folly, "blameless and pure—and such was his renown." He has left to his descendants the memory of his many virtues, a mirror to reflect their honour or their disgrace, an inheritance purer and richer than the long traced blood, or the ample possessions of their ancient line. May his latest posterity emulate his private worth and public integrity.

^a Aye in the catalogue, as all are men

The valued file distinguishes.—MACBETH.

^b The Musæ Etonenses bear testimony to his early classical taste, and to the purity of his Latin verse.

^c Where he formed a friendship with many of the future associates of his public life, in particular Mr. Whitbread and the present Earl Grey.

^d What then would Lambton have been in this twilight of the Gods, when Fox and Pitt and Burke and Wyndham are gathered to the mighty dead?

^e Particularly in reply to Mr. Baker, M. P. for Hertfordshire, in the House of Commons, May 1794; and at a Meeting of the Freeholders of the county of Durham. Mendley's MSS. and Memoir, printed in Monthly Mag. 1796.

^f Letter printed in the Newcastle Chronicle, Dec. 1792. Had Mr. Lambton lived to this day, no one I believe would have more earnestly deprecated the violent measures by which all the best efforts of the real friends of constitutional liberty are paralysed, and new powers of coercion, even of dire necessity, placed in the hands of government. He would have seen with deep regret two parties who deem themselves diametrically opposite, pressing to the same desperate goal, on rapidly converging lines. The one vainly attempting to fetter Prometheus—to arrest by force the progress of intellect, and dreading the words *Reform* and *Retrenchment* as revolutionary talismans; the other pushing their schemes of reform to the verge of rebellion and universal ruin (suffrage I had almost said),

—till with reflection sad,

We deem them irrecoverably mad.

^g It should be stated that Mr. Lambton regularly divided with the friends of humanity on every motion for the Abolition of the Slave Trade.

PEDIGREE of LAMBTON, of LAMBTON.

ARMS: Sable, a fess inter three lambs passant Argent.

Crest: on a wreath a ram's head embosched Argent, attired Sable.

Motto: *Le Jour viendra.*

John de Lamiton, witness to the charter of Wodehens, between 1180 and 1200; also witness to the charter of Robert fil. Thome, at hands in Norton, circ. 1200-1214; and to charter of John de Thorp to Finchale Abbey, temp. Bartram Prioris, 1189-1200.

John de Lamiton, witness to a charter of Alexander, King of Scotland, of lands in Grenclavaes granted to William de Snyburne, dated at Newcastle, 1260.

Richard de Lamiton, witness to charters of Finchale Abbey, circ. 1270-1280. [Heres Ricardi Lambiton, tenet di' food. mill." temp. Antillon. Beke.]

Robert de Lambton, Lord of Lambton, presented to the chapel of Byngesford 9 Aug. 1314. Inq. p. m. 5 Hatf. 1350. William de Lambton, living 1336, 1337, and 1338, ob. viro patre

Robert de Lambton, Lord of Lambton, son and heir of William, son of Robert, by inq. Monday F. of Holy Cross, Katherine, liv. on Saturday next after the Feast of St. Lucia the Virgin, 28 Hatf. 1370.

Robert de Lambton, son and heir to his brother 25 Hatf. then set 18, living and Lord of Lambton. Alice, dau. of Salcock, of Salcock, co. Lanc. living on the F. of Epiph. 1380, Inq. p. m. 24 March 1389, and 9 Langley, 1415, for Chester Ward 24 Langley 1429; died on St. Margaret's 13 Henry VI. 28 Lang. 1434.

Robert Lambton, son of William Lambton, Esq. et. 40. Elizabeth, will dated 27 3. Thomas, and heir, ob. s. p. 1. Jan. 1430-1, ob. before 19 Henry VI. bur. Aug. 1439, buried in the church of St. Helen on the Walls, in the city of York. 4. John. 5. Ralph. 1408.

Thomas Lambton, of Lambton, Esq. heir to his brother, had Elizabeth, livery 3 April, 5 Nevill, and an executor in his will, 1455, Commissioner of Array for Chester Ward 18 Nevill, 1455, and 13 May, 3 Edw. IV. for Easington Ward; ob. 26 Sept. 1473, Inq. p. m. 20 Oct. 16 Booth.

William Lambton, of Lambton, Esq. aged 36, 20 Oct. 16 Elizabeth to whom wardship of her son Thomas Booth, ob. 7 Sept. 1474, Inq. p. m. 27 Sept. 4 Dudley. Lambton was granted 5 Dudley, 1473.

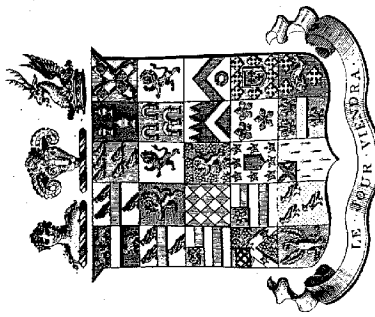
Thomas Lambton, Esq. aged 19, 1480, ob. 12 July, 22 Henry VII. Inq. p. m. 5 Oct. 22 Henry VII. sede vac. daughter of Rokeby, Margaret, wife to John Claxton, of Old Park, Esq. marriage Commissioner of Array for Easington Ward 30 April, 8 Sherwood. settlement 10 Aug. 17 H. VII. 1501, living a widow 1519.

John Lambton, Esq. under age 1524, had livery 3 Wolsley, 1526. Agnes, daughter and coheir of Roger Lumley, of Ludworth, Esq. brother of Richard Lord Lumley; will dated 21 Jan. 1564, desires burial at Pittington. Elizabeth, wife to George Smythe, of Nun Stainton, Esq.

Thomas Lambton, of Malton, Catherine, dau. of Sir Ralph de Eure, Knit. sister of Wm. Lord Eure, and grand-dau. to Wm. I. Lord Eure, liv. 1575. Frances dau. of Sir Ralph de Eure, Knit. sister of Wm. Lord Eure, and grand-dau. to Wm. I. Lord Eure, liv. 1575.

Ralph Lambton, Margaret, wife to 1. Alice. 3. Robert. 4. Arthur.

Isabel, bapt. 9 Sept. 1600, ob. inf.



L. E. PER VINDRA.

Issue of John Lambton and Katharine Kirbie.

John Lambton, of the city of... Margaret daughter of 1. Jane, 3d daugh. of Sir Nicholas Curwen...

Margaret Lambton, sole dau. of Sir Alexander Lambton... 1. William Lambton, of Lambton, Esq. bapt. 21 June 1640...

1. William Lambton, of Lambton, Esq. bapt. 21 June 1640, M.P. for co. Pal. Durham 1685, 1688, 1690, 1695, 1701...

1. William Lambton, of Lambton, Esq. bapt. 21 June 1640, M.P. for co. Pal. Durham 1685, 1688, 1690, 1695, 1701...

1. William Lambton, of Lambton, Esq. bapt. 21 June 1640, M.P. for co. Pal. Durham 1685, 1688, 1690, 1695, 1701...

1. William Lambton, of Lambton, Esq. bapt. 21 June 1640, M.P. for co. Pal. Durham 1685, 1688, 1690, 1695, 1701...

Issue of Ralph Lambton and Eleanor Tempest.

Issue of Ralph Lambton and Eleanor Tempest. Alice, bapt. 25 Feb. 1590-I, mar. to John Baynes...

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In this long line of ancient gentry^a, the almost total absence of knighthood is somewhat observable; and were it not for a knight of Rhodes, and for the loyal Sir William, the Lambtons might rival in the untitled simplicity of their descent the silver-spurred^b Coplestones^c of Devonshire. The Knight of St. John may be presumed to have won his style

" In glorious Christian field,
Streaming the ensign of the Christian Cross
Against black Pagans, Turks, and Saracens." Rich. II.

Sir William, if dubbed, perhaps, "with unhacked sword and on carpet consideration," afterwards paid dearly enough for his honours^d. William Lambton, an infant at his father's death in 1593^e, had livery of his lands in 1610. On the breaking-out of the civil wars he distinguished himself by his loyalty, and commanded the Durham troop of Dragoons^f in the levy against Scotland 1640. His estates seem to have suffered severely on the first irruption of the Scots^g; and Lambton is said to have been plundered and fired, and the collieries flooded, when the Bishoprick was occupied by Lesley, after the triumph of the solemn league and covenant on Stella haughs^h. Sir William Lambton was afterwards Colonel of a foot regiment in the Marquis of Newcastle's army, and was killed in the royal serviceⁱ at Marston Moor^j. Henry Lambton, eldest son of Sir William, paid 960*l.* composition to the Parliamentary sequestrators^k for his own or his father's delinquency, and succeeded to the estate, otherwise much injured by the effects of his father's loyalty, and by a plentiful provision carved out of the patrimony for the numerous issue of Sir William's second marriage. William Lambton, eldest son of Henry, represented the County of Durham in seven Parliaments, and was one of the most honourable and independent members of St. Stephen's Chapel^l: his heirs have not degenerated.

. It should perhaps have been observed earlier, that the name of Lambton, written in the earliest instances *Lamiton*, may be equally derived from *Lam**, *latam*, *canam*, *linus*; in which case we must suppose the habitation of the first settler to have been placed almost on the alluvial soil deposited by the Wear (perhaps near the old Chapel of the Bridge): or from *Lamb*, *agnus*, *ovis*, a Saxon shepherd's appellation for a spot affording green early pasturage: or, perhaps still more probably, from the obscure name of its first Saxon occupier: and *Tun*, *villa*, *sedes*, &c.

^a The ancient evidences of Lambton are said with great probability to have been destroyed during the civil wars; and the Treasury at Durham, so curious in evidence on many subjects, contains not the record of one single donation from the family of Lambton. In 1421 *William Lambton, Esq. of Lambton*, occurs (with Thomas Langton, of Wineyard, Esq. Robert Jason, of Sunderland, and Richard Bukley, Clerk,) as an arbitrator betwixt the Prior of Durham and Thomas de Claxton, relative to an outrent of 2*ss.* in Wolveston. The seals of the arbitrators are attached to the award: that of Lambton is a small signet, with the family crest, the ram's head.

^b What might be matter of hereditary pride in one family, was, however, subject of "great grief and reluctance" to the young adventurer. And thus the hot-headed Squire of Marmion exclaims, though guarding a lovely lady,

" Sad office, here to stay;
No hope of gilded spurs to day."

^c "But afterward they grewe unto greatness, and albeit they had great mariages in lands, yeat hath not any of that family bine knighted; and therefore they received the name of *Silver Spurr*." Polc's Devon, p. 225.

^d Sir William was knighted at Newmarket 17th March 1613-14.

^e "The Inventory of Ralph Lambton, Esq. 10 Jan. 1593."—At Pencher, 21*l.*—Biddicke, 16*l.* 8*s.*—Tribley, 7*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*—Sunderland, 3 Salt Panns, 10*l.*; 2 keiles w^h kables, ankers, and all other firniter, xxx*l.*—At Lambton, farming goods 230*l.* 14*s.*—household, in my Lords chambre; the auld great chamber; the paynted chamber; the dyning chamber, "one dynyng table, one cobborde, one gren carpete, one cobborde cloth, ij chaires, 6 lytle stools covered w^h gren, ij wainskote firmes, a dosen stoales boffet, and 13 quissons:" the white chamber, the haulle, the buttery, the low parlor, the kitching, the parlor;—certaine wine, as clarede and white, viii*l.*—pitche and tarr, 20*s.*

The Inventory presents a curious contrast to the present splendid state of Lambton; yet Mr. Lambton was one of the first gentry in the county, and his wife, sister to a Peer. The roll of the Hiltons' furniture, both at Hilton and in their town house at Newcastle, in 1600, is by no means superior.

^f These Dragoons were a body of light horse raised by the gentry of the Bishopric, see vol. I. cxxxviii.

^g On Thursday the 3d of September there came a warrant in the nature of a summons to Sir William Bellasis, Knight, Sheriff of the County Palatine of Durham, and to Sir William Lambton, Knight, a gentleman of quality in that county, signed by Montross, &c. These two knights and their estates being in the power of the Scots, and having licence from the king, went to General Lesley; the thing proposed was, how to provision the Scots army, &c. Rushworth, vol. II. p. 1255.

^h See vol. I. xev.

ⁱ The family of Lambton was loyal in all its branches. Ralph Lambton of Tribley is represented in "Musgrave muzzled" as a papist and delinquent under sequestration, "and himselfe and twelve children miserably opprest for want." John Lambton (son of Ralph) was killed in the royal service at Bradford, 20 May 1643. Some account of this skirmish may be seen in Rushworth, II. 271. "Sir Thomas Fairfax, with the horse, fell into the town, &c.; in the market-place there stood three troops of horse and Colonel Lambton's Regiment, to whom Major-General Gifford sent a trumpet, with offer of quarter if they would lay down their arms; they answered, they scorned the motion." The horse fell in upon them, beat them out of the town, and took 27 colours, 40 officers, and 1500 soldiers.

^j The following deposition occurs regarding the probaton of the will of Randal Fenwick, Gent. the steward of Lambton, who, it seems, followed his master to the field, and shared his fate:

29^{bris} 1647. Margery Billop, wife of John Billop, of Biddick, declares that "she havinge a husband w^h was servant to Sir William Lampton, Knight, in his Maties service at Hessam al's Long Marston Moore, did goe to Yorke to visitt him, and being at Sr William Lampton his lodgings, then in ye Minster yard ther w^h his lady, the testator Randal Fenwick came wounded from ye said battell to the said Sr William Lampton his said lodgings, being his kinsman, and ther lay sick for ye space of twenty dayes or therabouts, duringe w^h tyme of his said sicknes, &c.—" Mr. Randal Fenwicke buried 22 July 1644." St. Trinity Goodramgate, York.

^k Vol. I. cxxxviii. "Houghton in the Springe, 3 Sept. 1644. Warrant to William Wilson, of Newbottle, Gent. George Ward, of Herrington, and others, to seize and sequester all the estates real and personal, goods, chattells, monies, and household stuffe of Sir William Lambton, late of Biddick, Kat. and Henry Lambton, of Lambton, Esq. at Lambton Biddie, Pencher, or elsewhere." Seq. Books, D. & C. Library.

^l In all the *black* and *white* lists, which it was then the fashion to print, his name stands unattained by place or pension. See a curious anecdote of *old Will. Lambton* in Sharpe's Hartlepool, p. 81.

In 1698 a letter of R. Hilton's (relative to a County Poll August 1698) sums up the numbers for Bowes, for Yane, for Will. Lambton alias *Old true Blue*, 805. It is but justice to add that the mantle has descended, and that its colour has stood wonderfully; Old Will. could not be bluer than his descendants.

* And thus Lambeth, olim *lambhytæ*, luteus portus, lutea statio.

Presentacio ad capellam de Briggeford.

Venerabili in xpo patri domino R. Dunelm. Episcopo suus filius Robertus de Lambeton salutem reverenciam et honorem. Ad capellam de Briggeford vacantem et ad presentacionem meam spectantem paternitati vestre Johannem de Pamplesworth capellanum presento, supplicans et exorans vestram sanctam paternitatem quatenus eum ad eandem capellam caritatis intuitu favorabiliter admittere si placet dignemini. In cuius, &c. Dat. apud Lambeton nono-decimo die mensis Augusti anno Domini millesimo trecentesimo quartodecimo.

Inquisitio capta in Ecclesia B. Nicholai Dunelm. die S. Cuthberti (in Septembri 1314), coram Willemo de Graystock, Vicario de Elvete, et aliis juratis, qui dicunt quod dicta capella de Briggeford vacat per mortem domini Galfridi de Seton, nuper custodis ejusdem, et vacavit a quindena proxima ante Festum Beati Petri ad Vincula ultimo jam effluxum. Dicunt eciam quod Robertus Dominus de Lambeton est verus patronus ejusdem, et ad eam tempore presentacionis ultimo presentavit ut intelligunt, et est in possessione presentandi. Et dicunt quod dicta capella valet sexaginta solidos annuatim, &c.

Reg. Kellaw, fol. 123—4.

Inq. die L. in F. Inv. S. Crucis, 5 Hatfield. Robertus de Lambton tenet manerium de Lambton (exceptis octoginta acris terræ) per homag. fidel. et servitium medietatis feodi unius militis, val. x marcas ultra repris. Robertus de Lambton filius Willielmi Lambton filii predicti Roberti est heres ætat. 24 annorum.

Inq. die L. prox. ante F. S. Greg. Papæ, 25 Hatfield, 1370. Robertus de Lambton, filius Roberti de Lambton, tenet maner. de Lambton, &c.; 1 mess. xviii acr. in Pencher de hered. Roberti Carlele; 1 carucat. ibid. de Episc. per fidel. et vid. Willielmus Lambton frater et heres Roberti æt. 18 et ampl.

Inq. die Sabb. prox. p. F. S. Lucie V. 28 Hatfield, 1373. Ricardus Elys Capellanus tenuit maner. de Lambton, (exc. octoginta acris terræ 2 acris prati et communa ad octo boves) et dedit eadem Roberto de Lambton et Katherine ux. et hered. de corp. Will. est fil. et her. Roberti de Lambton, æt. 21 annor.

Manumissio Nativi sui per Dominum de Lambton.

Sciunt presentes et futuri quod ego Willielmus filius Roberti de Lambeton, Dominus ejusdem villæ, relaxavi et omnino de me et heredibus meis imperpetuum quietum clamavi Thome filio Gilberti de Lambeton totum jus et clameum quod habui, habeo, vel aliquo modo habere potero, in sanguine ejusdem Thome causa nativitatis, aut in ejus sequelis legitime procreatis. Ita quod nec ego predictus Willielmus, nec heredes mei, nec aliquis alius nomine meo, aliquid jus vel clameum in predicto Thoma, vel in liberis suis legitime procreatis, bonis aut catallis, exigere aut vendicare quocumque modo poterimus in futuris, set ab omni actione juris simus exclusi imperpetuum per presentes sigillo meo sigillatas. Hiis testibus, Dominis Roberto de Humfravill, Johanne Darcy militibus, Roberto de Carliolo, Ricardo de Hedworth, Johanne de Seton, et aliis. Dat. apud Lambeton die Dominica in Vigil. S. Jac. Apostoli, A. D. 1373.

Hatfield's Register.

Inq. die L. 1 Januar. 9 H. VI. 1430-1, 25 Langley. Willielmus Lambton cum Alicia uxore supersteite, ex feoffamento Radulphi de Brantyngham et Willielmi de Kellawe capellan. per cartam apud Lambton in F. Epiph. 1380, tenet manerium de Lambton, rem. Roberto filio Willielmi et Alicie, rem. Willielmo fratri Roberti, rem. Thome fratri Willielmi, rem. Johanni fratri Thomæ, rem. Radulpho fratri Johannis et hered. masc. respective, rem. rectis heredibus Willielmi; et Robertus, Thomas, Johannes, et Radulphus, obier. s. p.; idem Willielmus obiit seisis de tertia parte domini ville de Pyktre; item de terris in Pencher et Ufferton, &c. Willielmus Lambton obiit die S. Margarete ultimo preterit. Willielmus filius Willielmi est heres ætatis 40 annor. et amplius.

Inq. 24 Mar. 12 Hen. VI. 143. . . 28 Langley. Alicia que fuit uxor Willielmi Lambton, sen. armigeri, tenet ex dotacione, &c. (ut supr. Inq. 9 H. VI.) Robertus filius Willielmi et Alicie ob. sine herede, et Willielmus filius Willielmi et Alicie habuit exitum Robertum, et Robertus (filius Willielmi fil. Willielmi et Alicie) est heres, &c. æt. 28 annor. et amplius.

27 Aug. 1439, 17 H. VI. Elizabeth Lambton legat corpus sepeliri in Ecclesia S. Helenæ super muros Ebor. juxta fontem. Robertus Lambton, Thomas, Willielmus, filii, Johannes Lambton miles filius, Elizabeth et Alicia filia. Capellanus celebret pro animabus Aliciæ et Willielmi quondam mariti sui. Willielmus Lambton filius, et Alicia L. filia, Executores. Probat. anno supradicto.

11 Mart. 1442, 21 H. VI. Robertus Lambton de Lambton legat corpus sepeliri in Ecclesia domus fratrum Carmelitarum de London, juxta sepulchrum Willielmi Lambton patris sui; fratribus Carmelit. pro sepultura 140s.; uxori sue *cl.* cum omnibus apud Lambton; Joanne Fetherstonhalgh vid. *xl.*; Thome filio ejusdem Johanne *xl.*; item, Odardo Sympton servienti meo *xl.*; item, cuilibet filiolorum meorum *6s. 8d.*; item, lego summo altari de Chester-le-Strete, &c.; Thomasine Bothe *cs.*; item, Alicie Lambton sorori mee *cl.*; item, Johanni Lambton fratri meo *militi de Rodas c. marcas*; Willielmo Lambton fratri meo *xxl.*; Thomæ Lambton fratri meo *cs.*; item, relaxavi dicto Thomæ, &c.; Johanni Nicholson clerico meo *xxs.* Constituit Executores Willielmum Lambton fratrem suum, Johannem Borrell, gen. Robertum Milne clericum, et Odoardum Simpson. Constituit Supervisores Willielmum Episcopum Lincoln. et Radulphum Dominum Cromwell.

Codicil, 12 Mar. 1442. Richardo Blenkensop de Berwick, gen. 10 marcas; legat Joanne uxori sue, Willielmo L. fratri et Odardo Simpson messuag. vocat. Tribley; legat uxori sue pro vita terras vocat. Nynebyerrkes, et fratri Willielmo terras apud Maunby, co. Ebor. pro vita. Probat. per Executores Willielmum Lambton, Johannem Borrell, et Odoardum Simpson, 9 Aprilis 1443.