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REPORT

TO THE

JENNINGS ASSOCIATION, U. S. A.

MADE BY

COLUMBUS SMITH, } Agents.
C. M. FISHER, }

A. D. 1863.

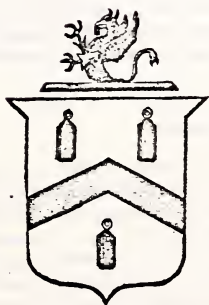
CONTAINING INFORMATION IN THEIR POSSESSION RELATIVE TO THE
JENNINGS PROPERTY IN ENGLAND; THE CREST AND COAT OF ARMS
OF THE FAMILY; LIKEWISE SEVERAL GENEALOGIES OF
DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF THE FAMILY IN AMERICA
AND ENGLAND.

[Published by order of the Jennings Association.]



RUTLAND:
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1863.

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ORGANIZATION.

A meeting of the Jennings family was holden at Walpole, N. H., on the 6th of May, 1863, for the purpose of collecting information relative to the large Jennings' properties in England, said to belong to the Jennings family in America, and to appoint an Agent to look up the pedigree and this property immediately, as chancery proceedings were said to be already in progress in England relative to the property.

The Jennings family when there met formed themselves into an Association under the following Constitution, viz :

THE JENNINGS ASSOCIATION.

PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS, William Jennings died at Acton Place in England, in 1798, leaving Real and Personal property at the time of his death to the amount of more than *ten millions of dollars*; and whereas, the next of kin and heirs to this property are said to be in America, now in order to prosecute the investigation and procure the pedigree of the family in this country so as to connect them with the deceased, we the undersigned do hereby agree to form ourselves into an association under the following

CONSTITUTION.

ART. 1st. This Society shall be called the Jennings Association.

ART. 2d. C. M. FISHER of Vergennes, and COLUMBUS SMITH of Salisbury, Vt., are hereby appointed agents for the purpose of investigating the case in America and England, and are required from time to time to make printed reports of their doings to the members of this Association.

ART. 3d. C. M. FISHER of Vergennes, Vt., is hereby empowered to raise five hundred dollars to cover the necessary expenses of attending to the matter in America, and two thousand more to cover expenses of investigating the case in England, and all other necessary incidental expenses connected therewith by issuing scrip, which said scrip shall be a lien upon the property when recovered.

16 Dec. 1863. C. M. Fisher

ART. 4th. Every Scrip shall be sold for five dollars, entitling the purchaser to fifty dollars out of the first money recovered from said estate by any member of the Association, and no more scrip shall be sold by said agent than shall be necessary to raise the aforesaid sums of five hundred dollars and two thousand dollars, together with the expenses of the sale thereof, which shall in no event exceed ten per cent. of the receipts of the sale of each scrip.

ART. 5th. The said SMITH and FISHER are to be allowed two dollars per day each and expenses out of and from the money received from the sale of said scrip, while engaged in attending to this business, and in addition thereto, we agree to pay them *ten per cent.* of all the money that we or any of us or our heirs, Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, shall ever recover from said property.

ART. 6th. No member of this Association shall be liable to pay more than one dollar as expenses or compensation or otherwise to any person or persons whatever.

ART. 7th. Any member of the Jennings Family, may become a member of this association by paying one dollar to C. M. FISHER, agent as aforesaid, and by signing this Constitution, entitling each member to a printed copy of all information and reports made in the case.

WALPOLE, New Hampshire, May, 1863.

ALBERT KNOWLTON, Mariboro, N. H.	W. S. JENNINGS, 65 Worth St., New York.
ELIAS W. KNOWLTON, Walpole, "	CHAS. H. JENNINGS, 380 Plane St., Newark.
SILAS KNOWLTON, Dublin, N. H.	N. A. JENNINGS, So. 4th St., Philadelphia, of M. Thomas & Son.
MARK WEBSTER, Walpole, "	SARAH HAINES, 449 Coates St., Philadelphia.
MERRITT J. RUSSELL, Harrisville, N.H.	ISAAC JENNINGS, 90 Newark Avenue, Jersey City.
ELIAS GROUT, Ashland, Mass.	JOSHUA POOR, Poultney, Vt.
GEO. W. JONES, Ashland, Mass.	DAVID POOR, Hebron, N. Y.
NATHAN DONDMAN, " "	
PHILA HOPKINS, " "	
MRS. MILLER, " "	
CHAS. W. WENZIELL, " "	
ALBERT W. ANDURY, " "	
JOHN C. JENNINGS, Newark, N. J., 154 Hamilton St.	

NOTE.—Many copies of this Constitution were placed in the hands of different persons to have circulated among various branches of the family in different parts of the country, but have not been returned in season to have the signers names here appear.

TO THE JENNINGS ASSOCIATION :

According to your instructions we submit to you the following report, which, in this state of the case, must be very imperfect, not yet having had time to make many searches relative to the matter.

Our attention was first called to the American Jennings claim in England, by various articles which have appeared from time to time for some years past, in the American papers, among which articles were the following.

From the New York Herald.

"THE JENNINGS ESTATE.—Nashville Tenn., September 18th, 1819. The convention of the Jennings family consisting of 70 delegates from 8 states, (who claim to be heirs to 40,000,000 of dollars worth of property in England,) adjourned yesterday. They had been in session for several days and appointed a committee, who are empowered to obtain all the necessary legal evidence to substantiate their claim, and then to employ a Commissioner to proceed to England to prosecute the suit for the sum they claim as heirs."

From Wilson's Despatch, N. Y., Nov. 5th 1819.

SOMETHING FOR THE JENNINGSSES.—William Jennings is dead. He died a short time ago in England. After his death his executors made an autopsy of his chest and strong box, and also opened his Will and Colicil. The result was, the discovery that this property belonged to his heirs at law, but who his heirs were was a profound mystery, therefore proclamation was issued, inviting the Jenningses generally, to come in, prove property, pay charges and carry off the plunder.

From the New York Knickerbocker about 1852.

WHO WAS YOUR GRANDFATHER ?—Forty millions of dollars are lying idle in England waiting for the advent of heirs bearing the surname of Jennings. There are none in England ; they must be in this country if anywhere, and all the American Jenningses are on the *qui vive*. Jennings, the original stock, was born in London in 1700, and died in 1798. There are no direct heirs, and the searches must go back to descendants of his brothers and sisters, if he had any such kindred ; if not, to relatives of his father and mother. Thus the American Jenningses must be prepared with their genealogy for more than one hundred years, discover the emigrating ancestor who came to the United States, and trace the course of his blood to themselves.

From the New Bedford (Mass.) Daily Mercury, August 8, 1851.

THE JENNINGS ESTATE.—It seems by the papers that in all parts of the country there are claimants for the large Jennings estate which lies in England. The whole value of this property, according to English authority, exceeds £8,000,000, or more than \$40,000,000, a sum which would make its possessor the richest man in the world. William Jennings, who left the principal of it, was an old miser who took great pleasure in accumulating. He was born sometime about 1700 and died in 1798 leaving no issue and intestate.—the question now to solve is, who are the heirs? . In England all claim has ceased and it is certain that the descendants exist on this side of the Atlantic, but as yet unrecognized. Not long ago a whole convention of Jennings's from all parts of the United States sat at Nashville to appoint committees to Institute inquiries and raise funds to investigate the matter. Subsequently a convention sat at Charlotteville for a similar purpose.

From what we can understand, the impression among eminent legal men who have examined the matter, is, that the true heirs are the descendants of Mr. S. Jennings of this city. This gentleman has already been to England to investigate the matter, and intends, we learn, to proceed thither again on the same business.

The British Government has been desirous for a long time to find the owners of the estate. Through English papers

notice has been made by its authority, but finding no response to it, instructions were sent twice to this country for the descendants of Charles Jennings, who came hither from England in 1680. The first inquiry was addressed, some years ago, to the Secretary of State of the United States, and advertisement of this fact we believe was made. More recently, the British consul at Norfolk received from high functionaries at home, directions to proceed to Elizabeth City county to institute similar investigations as to the descendants of this same Charles, who it is believed, is the true heir.

The sacredness with which the British laws are observed with regard to property is beautifully illustrated in this matter. Here is an immense estate which was left fifty years ago, without an owner, and as far as the government know, without a probability, after so great a lapse of time, of one being found, but under the parental care of the laws it is watched and cherished, until we suppose it has tripled its original value. It is still held in trust to be conveyed to the heir, how remote soever, or how far soever removed from allegiance to English sovereignty.

Mr. Emerson, in one of his recent lectures, related a similar incident to show the stability of the English laws. A man died seven hundred years ago, leaving a portion of his property to be invested in such a way as to supply a cart of bread and ale to whomsoever should apply for it. Notwithstanding revolution, civil war and progress and change of all sorts, the bequest is as rigidly observed to-day as it was when it was first made. Mr. Emerson himself, to test the matter, enjoyed the benefit of this strange and remote charity.—*Mobile Paper*.

From the Massachusetts Ploughman, June 12, 1852.

THE JENNINGS ESTATE.—The English papers by the Asia announce that the court of chancery has settled this long litigated case. The property lies principally in Suffolk and was once estimated at £7,000,000, but only one-half has been divided by the late decision. One of the fortunate claimants is a journeyman painter of Maldon, named Longham. The property is divided into seven portions. Longham's share is £500,000.

The house of the Jennings's is an extensive house. It has many branches and this announcement caused them all to stir their stumps. The transatlantic Jennings's pricked their ears; the Jennings's of America cocked their eyes. In Virginia they held a convention and by solemn resolution invited all persons resident in the state claiming to be heirs of William Jennings aforesaid, to face the music. The convention was to re-assemble on the first of this month at Riceville, in the Old Domain, when it is believed the congregation will be more numerous than select.

From the Newark Daily Advertiser, about 1852.

A SUPPOSED WINDFALL.—Quite an interest has recently been excited in Camden and Gloucester, among the families of Lippencott's, Prices, Flanagan's, and Borough's, in consequence of the discovery, as they suppose, that they are the legal heirs of one William Jennings, of Acton Place, London, who died intestate in 1708, leaving an immense estate, in consols, local stocks, annuities, bank deposits, &c., valued according to statements of the British authorities, to £8,000,000, or \$40,000,000. In addition to which there is an

Iron chest deposited with a London banking house, and which has not been opened, said to contain plate &c., of great value. The several claimants have united, and empowered Mr. J. B. Price, of Philadelphia, their agent, who has been in London for some months, acting in concert with able counsel there.—Late advices from the agent state, that the British authorities acknowledge the title to be vested in American heirs; they are therefore in confident expectation of being able to make out the case. The claimants have organized, and appointed J. W. Copper, Esq., President, and Henry Curtis, Esq., Secretary.

We likewise saw several notices of Jennings family meetings, in the Virginia, Tennessee, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Philadelphia papers; also circulars sent to various branches of the Jennings family by agents who have from time to time been employed to investigate this matter in England. Of many of these notices and circulars we have not been able to procure copies.

We are credibly informed that about A. D. 1851, an association was formed in Dublin, Ireland, for the purpose of finding the true heirs and next of kin of William Jennings who died in England about 1796, and left the most part of this property, and after having found such heirs and next of kin, to make a bargain with them to recover the property for them for a percentage of what was recovered. £3000 was raised by the association for this purpose. The circulars of this association (many of which we have seen) were sent all over Great Britain, Ireland and America.

Lord Howe, whom we understand is in possession of the real estate, having ascertained what this association was doing, got out an injunction against the association and on the ground of maintenance stopped their proceedings.

JOHN LYONS, agent of a branch of the New York Jennings family writing from London, June 17, 1852, says (in a Jennings circular:)

"The Jennings estate is, of all others, worth considerable sacrifice to us. I do not view it like a lottery where there is so great a number of blanks to one prize. I think our chances of success are nine out of ten.

First.—The heirs are not in this country as appears very evident.

Second.—The whole ground has been thoroughly gone over, and every point canvassed likely to afford information of the lawful heirs.

Third.—The Association formed in Dublin last August, after spending two or three thousand pounds sterling, concluded that the heirs are in the United States of America.

We have a great work, great encouragement, and the most favorable advantage."

Having our attention thus called to this property and the Jennings claim in America, and believing there must be some truth in the various reports here in circulation relative to the property in England belonging to the Jennings family in America, we concluded to take some trouble to inform ourselves relative to this matter in England; to see what Jennings property there was there which was not in possession of the persons legally entitled.

Therefore while in England, we on various occasions saw

and procured much information relative to the property and family there. Among which we will call your attention to the following:

1st. Copies of advertisements which we collected there relating to Jennings.

IN RE GEO. JENNINGS.—Should this meet the eye of the parties who advertised a few years ago in the *Times* for the next kin of George Jennings, they are particularly solicited to forward their address with a copy of the advertisement to X. Y., 11 Poultry. Any person supplying a copy of the paper containing the above named advertisement will receive a reward of ten shillings.—*Times*, Jan. 1st, 1836.

TO PARISH CLERKS AND OTHERS.—One guinea will be given for the marriage certificate of George Jennings and Prudence Carroll, supposed to have been married in London, about the year 1725. Address J. J., at Mr. Swallow's, 25 Everett Street, Russell Square.—*Times*, June 5, 1857.

LAVINGTON.—If Mrs. Lavington, (who married Mr. Thomas Lavington of Titchfield, Schoolmaster,) whose maiden name was Jennings, of Staines, Middlesex, or if dead her immediate relatives will communicate with the advertiser, she or they will bear of something to her or their advantage. Address J. J., care of Mr. Swallows, 25 Everett Street, Russell Square.—*Times*, April 2d, 1856.

MARGARET JENNINGS WIFE OF PET JENNINGS FORMERLY ALLEN, SPINSTER.—If the said Margaret Jennings who resided several years since in High Street, in the parish of St. Giles, in the Fields and of the Polygon Somerstown, in the County of Middlesex, will apply at the office of Mr. Heales, Proctor, No. 8, Great Carter Lane, Doctors Commons, London, she will hear of something to her advantage, or if she is dead, any person giving information thereof will be rewarded for their trouble.—*London Gazette*, 1824.

JENNINGS PROPERTY.—At a meeting of some of the descendants of Jeffrey Jennings held in Dublin, on Tuesday the 12th of August, 1851, it was resolved that a general meeting of the family of Jennings should be held on Friday the 29th of August inst., at 11 o'clock, at 51 Upper Sackville Street, Dublin, to consider the best mode of proceeding to discover the heir at law and next of kin to considerable real and personal property left by William Jennings of Acton Hall, Suffolk, and Grosvenor Square, London, who died intestate in 1798. It is supposed that the heirs are to be found in Ireland, and all connected with the name are invited to attend with their respective genealogies. The agent appointed by the Jennings family association in America, who has just arrived, will attend the meeting.—*Mann's Historical Almanac*, published in Leeds, Eng. A. D. 1853.

One Ann Jennings died in England many years ago and left property in the Bank of England unclaimed, about £1500. He next of kin advertised for in London *Times*.

MISS JANE JENNINGS DECEASED.—If the next of kin of Jane Jennings, late of Wellington, in the County of Somerset, Spinster, who died intestate the 22d of May, 1834, will apply, either personally or by letter post paid, to Messrs. Norton & Chaplin, Solicitors, 3 Graysin Square, London, or to Mr. Pain, Solicitor, Milverton, Somersetshire, they will hear of something to their advantage.—*London Gazette*, 1834.

Besides the advertisements here given, many others have appeared in England relating to the following named persons: Alexander Jennings, Catherine Jennings, Deborah Jennings, Jennings Family, Humphrey Jennings, James Jennings, John Jennings, Robert Jennings, Thomas Jennings, and William Jennings. We have not been able to procure copies of these advertisements.

It is presumed that nearly all these advertisements relate to the large property left by Humphrey or William Jennings

By these advertisements it will be seen that much stir has

been made in England relative to Jennings property there, and numerous searches made to prove pedigree.

From present appearances there seems to be two Jennings properties in England of immense value, supposed to belong to the Jennings family in America. One is a property left by Humphrey Jennings otherwise Jennens, who died in 1690, and the other by his grandson Wm. Jennings of Acton Place, who died 1798. Both these properties may be found to have merged into one.

The following is an extract from the Annual Register of London, A. D. 1798 :

"Died June 19th, in his ninety-seventh year, William Jennens of Acton Place*, near Long Melford in county of Suffolk, and of Grosvenor-place, London, Esq. He was baptized in Sept. 1701; and was the son of Robert Jennens, Esq., aide-de-camp to the great duke of Marlborough (by Anne, his wife, daughter and heir of Carew Guidott, Esq., lineally descended from Sir Anthony Guidott, Knt., a noble Florentine, employed on sundry embassies by King Edward VI.) and grandson of Humphrey Jennens, of Erdington Hall, in the county of Warwick, Esq., lord of the manor of Nether-Whitacre, in that county in 1690, an eminent iron master at Birmingham.† King William III. was god-father to the late Mr. Jennens; and amongst other valuables discovered in his house, is a silver ewer, which was the present from that monarch at his baptism. He had been page to George I., and during the long period of his life, remained a bachelor more given to penuriousness than hospitality; of course his accumulations magnified even beyond his powers of computation. He was the last annuitant of the exchequer-tontine of £100 a share, for which he had received £3,000 a year for many years past. He had property in almost every fund.‡ And such was his immense wealth that the dividends on most of his stocks have not been received since 1788, nor the interest on his mort-

* Acton-place was formerly the seat of the Daniels; they sold it to Robert Jennens, Esq., who began to rebuild it; his son William finished it, and made it a fine structure. The adownson is in Mr. Jennens, but the monuments of all the former owners of the estate are destroyed, or shut up from public view.

† Who purchased a family seat at Gospal, in Leicestershire; and possessed some very extensive forges at Whitwick, on the edge of Charwood Forest. Bromford-forge and Aston-furnace, also in the county of Warwick, and Hales Owen iron-works, in Shropshire, formed part of his extensive concerns. His house in Birmingham was in High Street now in the occupation of John Ireland, Esq., and Erdington-hall his country residence. The father of Humphrey is supposed to have resided at Hales Owen; and it is conjectured that his predecessors were originally inhabitants of Yorkshire. This family is one among the many who have acquired ample fortunes at Birmingham, where they were equally famous for industry and generosity. John Jennens and his wife were benefactors to the poor there in 1651; and another John Jennens, their descendant, in 1749, built the church of St. Bartholomew, in that town, at his own expense. Anecdotes of Bowyer, p. 616.

‡ The following is an accurate statement of his property :

Routh Sea Stock.....	30,000	Interest on ditto.....	£8,725
Ditto, new ditto.....	30,000	Ditto.....	7,650
Ditto, old ditto.....	40,000	Ditto.....	9,600
India Stock.....	23,890	Ditto.....	18,570
Consols, 3 per cents.....	50,000	Ditto.....	17,250
Ditto, ditto, his mother's.....	10,000	Ditto.....	5,450
Bank Stock.....	35,000	Ditto.....	19,600
Five per Cent. ditto.....	30,000	Ditto.....	17,250
Four per Cent ditto.....	21,000	Ditto.....	11,200
Reduced Annuities.....	50,000	Ditto.....	16,800
Long ditto.....	2,000	per ann. Ditto.....	22,000
Account at the Bank.....	57,719		
Ditto at Child's.....	6,000		
Ditto at Hoare's.....	17,800		
Ditto at Stevenson's.....	19,300		
Ditto at Goslings.....	7,000		
In London Assurance Office.....	400 shares.	Due upon them.....	3,400
New River Concern.....		Dividend due.....	5,000
On Mortgage.....	200,000	Inter-st due.....	
Landed Estate.....	8,000	per ann. Rent due.....	

The Chelmsford Chronicle of July 6, 1798, in giving an account of the funeral of the deceased, states that his age "as specified on the coffin lid," was 96 years and 10 months.

gages for a long time. In his iron chest, the key of which could not be found till after a long search, hid in a mortgage deed, there were bank notes of the year 1758 to the amount of £19,000 and several thousand new guineas. About £20,000 were found in money and bank notes, at his town and country houses, and also a key to the chest containing his mother's plate and valuables, which is deposited at Child's, the bankers, and has never been opened since her decease. He is reported to have always kept £50,000 in his banker's hands, for any sudden emergency, and had not drawn a draft on the bank for the last fourteen years. He never, till very lately, employed a regular steward. Not many years since an eminent attorney of Suffolk, who happened to be present, offered his assistance at his audit, thinking the fatigue too great for Mr. Jennens' age, but he was answered, "What! do you think I can't write?" He was very regular and exact in all his accounts; insomuch that he even noticed his household bills exceeding their usual amount. His expenses were supposed not above £3000 a-year, although his property, it is thought, cannot fail short of two millions. It appears that he has had very faithful servants who will be all well provided for. A will was found in his coat pocket, sealed but not signed, which was owing, as his favorite servant says, to his master leaving his spectacles at home when he went to his solicitor for the purpose of duly executing it, and which he afterwards forgot to do. By this testamentary instrument, in which John Bacon, Esq., of the First Fruits Office, was a residuary legatee, the whole property was intended to be totally alienated from the channels into which it has accidentally fallen.

The most material sufferers by Mr. Jennens' dying without a will are the Hamner family, of Bettesfield Park, in Flintshire, and Hoibrook hall, in Suffolk. Mr. Jennens' own aunt was mother to William Hamner, Esq., of the Fennis, first cousin of the late Sir Walden Hamner, of Bettesfield and the Fennis; and his descendants, particularly those residing in Suffolk, have most certainly been in the greatest habits of friendship with Mr. Jennens. The above-mentioned William Hamner, Esq., married his first cousin, Miss Jennens, of Gospal, by whom he had a daughter, Hester, who married Asheton, now Lord Curzon, by whom he had a son (the Hon. Penn Asheton Curzon, M. P. for Leicestershire,) who married Lady Sophia Charlotte Howe, daughter of Earl Howe, and died Sept. 1, 1797, leaving an infant son, George Augustus Wm. Curzon, who was born May 14, 1788, and is now heir at law to all the estate of Mr. Jennens, which he had possessed for seventy-three years. His personal property devolves on his cousins, Wm. Lygon, Esq., M. P., (grandson of Mrs. Hester Hamner, aunt of the deceased,) and Mary, relict of William Howard, commonly called Viscount Andover, (eldest son of Henry Bowes Howard, late Earl of Suffolk and Berks,) grand-daughter of Dame Anne Fisher, also aunt of the deceased. Thus his most incalculable wealth merges into three individuals possessing previous fortunes almost immense. On the 27th, his remains were interred in the family vault, at Acton Church, with much funeral pomp. On opening the vault, the coffins of his father and mother only were found therein, the former of whom had been buried seventy-three, and the latter thirty-seven years.*

We are informed that the real estate left by William Jennings went into the possession of Lord Howe, and some of the

*NOTE.—A similar notice appears in the Gentleman's Magazine of the same date.

NOTE.—WM. JENNENS' father died when he was on the point of completing a most sumptuous and magnificent country house, which for grandeur of its Hall and the massey elegance of its marble chimney pieces, as well as the beauty and extent of the stables and the offices, is unrivalled in that part of the country and is excelled in few others. The stair-case however and one center wing of the house which was to have been principally devoted to a vast and superb ball room were left totally incomplete, and notwithstanding the son, when he attained his majority, found himself possessed in real and personal estate of not less than £200,000, he never added another stroke to the unfinished structure. In this extensive palace Mr. Jennings resided when in the country, until his death. He did not reside in the finished and family apartments, but in the basement floor alone. The value of the furniture was not over £20, nor were the rooms above, although completely finished and magnificently furnished, ever opened by him but once. He was never known during his whole life to exhibit one charitable action. When in London he frequented the gaming tables, not as a gambler, but to accommodate the unlucky with money for the evening, and to draw an enormous profit from the general losses. For one thousand pounds advance the next morning he received 1000 guineas.

personal property went into the possession of Lord Beauchamp and Lady Andover, but the bulk of the personal estate is now in British funds awaiting proper claimants.

There is no doubt but Lord Howe is at this time in possession of the real estate, but he is not thought to be the person legally entitled to it. He is said to be descended from an illegitimate branch of the Jennings family.

A very respectable gentleman of fortune, an antiquarian, formerly of Boston, Mass., but for many years past a resident in England, informed Mr. Smith some years since that he had been on this estate several times; that it comprises a whole village; that he was well acquainted with the steward of Lord Howe, the occupant of the estate. He said that he had dined with him at Acton Hall, and that the people in that neighborhood say it is generally understood and talked of there that Lord Howe is not the real owner of the estate, but that the true heirs and next of kin are in America, and that the personal property is in the Bank of England, and can be recovered.

We find there has been much litigation in England relative to the Jennings property there. In fact Lord Howe cannot be said to have been in quiet possession of the real estate left by William Jennings. We are credibly informed that as recent as 1847 or 48, while Lord Howe was travelling on the continent, an individual in England, claiming to be descended from Humphrey Jennings, the grandfather of William, who left the Acton Hall property, took out administration on an old Jennings estate, and armed with this administration went to Acton Hall and demanded of Lord Howe's steward possession. He was allowed to come in, and in fact took quiet possession.— He seems to have made himself too much at home for his own interest; for he is said to have ordered on Lord Howe's wine bountifully and by a too free indulgence in the sparkling beverage, soon became intoxicated. The steward wrote Lord Howe how matters stood at home. This news brought his lordship soon back to Acton Hall, where he found the new owner of the estate quietly seated in an arm chair in his library making merry over his wine. Lord Howe ordered him to leave immediately which he refused to do. Lord Howe then ordered his servants to forcibly eject him from the house.

They attempted to put him out the door, but, as he was a strong man, they were not able to do it. His lordship then quietly raised a window at his back, and with his lordship's assistance, they succeeded in forcibly ejecting the new claimant from the hall through the open window. This matter might have terminated very differently had this new claimant kept sober and had a sufficient force with him to have kept Lord

Howe from entering the hall; for then Lord Howe would have been compelled to have sued for possession, and to have proved his title, which he might not have been able to have done. This would have left the new claimant in possession, with perhaps no better title than the one under which his lordship holds.

There has been many proceedings in the Court of Chancery in London relative to this property.

We were informed by one of the Registrars of this Court in 1852, that the orders there recorded relative to this property, were very numerous and long; that Bowen & Son of Chancery Lane, were attorneys for certain claimants to this estate; that they had been employed by many persons claiming this estate.

Judge Hoffman of Baltimore, but in about 1850 of Conduit Street, Hanover Square, London, since deceased, an agent for a branch of the Jennings family in America, said he had collected a large amount of information relative to this property and the Jennings family, and was fully convinced that persons entitled to it were in America: that many suits had been instituted in England to recover this property, but no one had yet succeeded in showing the least title.

The following report was taken from the *Times* newspaper of London, April 25, 1833.

VICE CHANCELLORS COURT, APRIL 23d, "ANDOVER V. BEAUCHAMP.—The arguments in this case which have occupied the court for several days, were concluded this morning.

"Sir E. Sugden, Mr. Knight and Mr. Wakefield on behalf of the plaintiffs. The suit was instituted by Mr. Andrews and his wife against Lord Beauchamp and the representatives of the late Lady Andover to establish their claim to a third share of the sum of £750,000, as the personal representatives of a gentleman named Humphrey Jennings, who died in the year 1690 at a very advanced age. Mr. Humphrey Jennings was a great Iron Master, residing at Birmingham, and is supposed to have established the Iron trade in that town. He was a person of such consequence that in the registers of that period which are extant he is the only individual found to have been honored with the distinguished appellation of "Mr." in the town of Birmingham. All his real property was disposed of by his will, but with respect to his personal property, he died intestate. The question in the case was entirely a question of fact—whether Mr. Jennings had eleven children or ten only. The defendants admitted that there were ten, but denied that an eleventh child, under whom the plaintiff claimed, ever had any existence. It would be the object of the plaintiffs therefore, to demonstrate to the court that Mr. Humphrey Jennings had a daughter named Elizabeth, and to establish a pedigree from that child down to the persons of the individual now claiming a share of the fund. For this purpose he should produce a copy of the register of baptisms in which the names of all the ten children admitted by the defendants were to be found, and also the additional entry of a child named "Elizabeth," daughter of "Mr. Humphrey Jennings."

This entry was perfectly consistent with the case made out by the defendants who admitted that at the period Elizabeth was born an interval of three years had taken place, during which period it was fairly to be presumed that in the course of nature another child might have been born of Mr. Humphrey Jennings. It was a most difficult task to procure a satisfactory history of the life of this person at such a remote period of time, but they had obtained evi-

*We think Mr. Bowen & Son might be able to give much information relative to the present situation of this property.

dence which left it beyond a doubt that she eloped from her father's house at the age of 18 or 19 with a gentleman of the name of Reeves, and lived with him in a state of concubinage for thirty years, at Grove Park, in Worcestershire, during which period she had no issue; that she afterwards returned to the neighborhood of Birmingham and married a person named Jeremiah Smith, and at the age of 52 years produced a daughter named Mary. From the evidence of a girl eleven years of age, it would appear that this lady felt a peculiar delicacy on the subject, for whenever she went abroad she took pains to conceal her pregnancy by means of an expansive cloak, which she invariably wore. The remarkable part of the case did not conclude here, for this daughter Mary emulous of her mother's parturient qualities presented her lord with two children, one at the age of 49 and the other at the age of 51. One of these children, named Phoebe, died without issue, the other, Susannah, is the person from whom the plaintiffs are lineally descended. The real question of dispute between them therefore was, who was this Elizabeth? Was she the daughter of Humphrey Jennings or not? He felt no doubt but that the evidence he should produce would satisfy the mind of the Court she was; but if the Court should entertain any doubt on that subject he hoped his Honour would by directing an issue, afford the plaintiffs an opportunity of establishing their case before a jury, when many of the difficulties which necessarily attend a suit in equity would be removed. If therefore, the Court should pronounce a decree in favor of the plaintiffs, then the result would be that the property which had several years since been divided between the families of Lady Andover and Lord Beauchamp, must be subject to the present claim, and they would be made liable to refund one third of the residue, inasmuch as the claim, if admitted, would entitle the claimants to the same share of the fund, as they stood in an equal degree with those noble persons.

Mr. Knight and Mr. Wakefield followed on the same side.

The last learned council thought the case was in no degree prejudiced by the unusual difference which nature had adopted with some of the female links in the pedigree they had established, and proceeded to quote precedents in the persons of the Scepeos and Old Parr, as well as cases from Pliny down to Dr. Paris, to prove that many instances of pregnancy have occurred after the age of 50 years.

The Attorney General on the part of the defendant, Lord Beauchamp, invited the attention of the Court to the magnitude of the property at stake, which being no less a sum than £750,000, could not excite surprise in the mind of the Court that it should be the subject of speculative claims when the Court considered the multitude of unfounded claims that were daily set up where the parties had the smallest prospect of success, and the facilities, encouragement and pecuniary assistance that were offered to persons of humble origin by speculative individuals to prosecute suspicious and unjustifiable claims in cases like the present where the loss is so insignificant compared with the immensity of gain if they should happen to succeed from the difficulty which always existed to rebut these claims.

As a proof of the avidity of the Birmingham operatives to taste this immense fund, he could inform the Court that other claims had been set up to a share, and that the present was not the last, for that another was manufacturing if this should not succeed. It was also a circumstance that ought to excite some suspicion that this claim had lain dormant for a period of nearly thirty years. He was persuaded that there was no foundation whatever for this suit, and that such a person as Elizabeth Jennings, daughter of Humphrey Jennings, under whom his noble clients enjoy the property in question, had never existed, for he was prepared with evidence to show that there were no less than two other persons of the name of Elizabeth Jennings whose registers are to be found at the period the children of Humphrey Jennings were born, and one of them from parents of the same names, except the notable distinction of "Mr." That an Elizabeth Jennings, who afterwards married Jeremiah Smith, had existed he did not doubt, but from the evidence of one Mr. Walker, it was proved that if she had been 52 years old when she gave birth to her first child, she must have born three afterwards and been 64 years of age when she produced the last. It would also appear from an instrument to which she was a party, that she was a Markswoman, and he would ask if the credulity of the Court could be so imposed upon as to be led to suppose that this Humphrey Jennings, the greatest and most opulent man in Birmingham, having a fashionable town residence in Grosvenor Square, and who obtained alliances for his children with wealthy, and in some cases noble families, should so neglect the education of a daughter as that at the age of woman she should be unable to write her own name, or that he should make the unnatural distinction with any particular child as it would be seen that all the rest wrote

fine Italian hands. He should also produce abundance of documentary evidence to show that her name was not once mentioned by any branch of the family, though the daughters were mentioned by the distinguishing term "three daughters," without the most distant allusion to the existence of a fourth. He was persuaded that when the court was put in possession of the real facts of the case, it would not for a moment countenance the claim, and would by the decree that would be pronounced, unless it should think fit to send it to a jury, inform the plaintiffs that while it administered justice with an equal hand, both to the rich and the poor, yet that the wealthy because of their wealth, should not be harassed with frivolous and unrighteous attacks upon what was their own legitimate right, without inflicting upon the plaintiffs that measure of punishment which it was unfortunately all that was in the power of the Court of equity to award."

Sir C. Wetherell followed on the part of Lord Beauchamp, contending that the case of the plaintiffs was an infraction of all moral, physical and logical probability, and could never impose itself upon the wisdom and judgment of any judge.

His learned friend, Mr. D. Wakefield, had ransacked ancient and modern physical lore, from Pliny down to Dr. Paris, but with all his fractifying ingenuity he had entirely failed of producing a single case that bore out his position. He protested against the introduction of miracle, and that miracle supported by a miracle, in a case like the present, where nothing but a miracle could account for such an unnatural species of parturition. An abundance of cases could be adduced to refute such absurdities, but it was unnecessary. The learned gentleman nevertheless made several classical allusions and modern instances, one of which, a case of a lady at Dundee, produced a great effect upon the court.

Mr. Phillimore followed on the same side.

Mr. Pepps addressed the court on behalf of the personal representatives of Lady Andover.

His Honor desired several documents to be handed to him, and said he would pronounce his judgment on a future day."

May 6th, in Times of 7th May, 1833.

JUDGMENT.

His honor the Vice Chancellor, pronounced judgment in the case this morning, which it will be recollected, is a suit instituted to establish the claim of the plaintiffs to one-third share of the sum of £750,000, which had been divided many years ago between the two noble families of Beauchamp and Lady Andover, who administered as the only surviving representative of Humphrey Jennings, a great Iron Master at Birmingham who left that immense sum of personal property undisposed of by his will.

His Honor said that the bill had been filed by persons who claimed to be entitled by representation as some of the next of kin of W. Jennens who died in 1798, (printed W. James) and the bill as originally filed represented that Humphrey Jennings and Mary, his wife, had ten children. A plea was put in which represented that Humphrey Jennings had only nine, but did not mention their names. This plea was overruled, and then an answer was put in which represented that there were ten. The answer denied that there was a child named Elizabeth, and did not make any mention of a child named Henry. The bill was then amended and stated that there were eleven children.

The question in dispute between the parties was whether the plaintiffs were descended from a daughter of Humphrey Jennings named Elizabeth and what was stated with respect to her was that she was born in the year 1665, and that she eloped from the house of her father in 1685 at the age of 20 with a person of the name of Reeve, and lived with him at Grove Park in Worcestershire without giving birth to any children; that in 1713 she removed to Edgleaston, in the neighborhood of Birmingham; that in October, 1714, she married Jeremiah Smith, and that on the 7th of August, 1715, she appeared from the register to have given birth to a child named Mary. And it further appeared that this daughter Mary was married on the 8th of April, 1735, to a person named Westwood, who died 1746, and she was then married to one Hartwell, who died in 1747, and that she afterwards married a person of the name of Lucock, who died 1749. By her last husband only she appeared to have had children, two of which were daughters and one a son, who lived but a very short time.

Judgment pronounced against the plaintiff.

NOTE.—The Court Records in different places in England where trials have been had relative to this property, must give a large amount of information relative to this property and the pedigree of this family.

We understand this case was subsequently finished in Staffordshire. This was evidently a claim without foundation—a mere trumped up thing.

It seems by the reports that Humphrey Jennings left £750,000 undisposed of by his will. The question arises, to whom does this belong? It is supposed that his next of kin would be the next of kin of William Jennings of Acton Place.

The following is said to be the pedigree of Humphrey Jennings, otherwise the Jennens family, but this is undoubtedly incorrect in some points, for the English pedigrees were got up to suit the interests of persons who claimed to be entitled to the Jennings property.

I. JOHN JENNENS, buried at St. Martins in Birmingham, Aug. 3d, 1575, married and had issue, viz :

II. WM. JENNENS married Joanna Elliot 1559 at St. Martins, and had issue nine children. The 9th child was

III. JOHN JENNENS, baptized at St. Martins Apr. 8th, 1579, Benefactor of St. Martins 1651; will describing him as John Jennens of Birmingham, iron-monger, made 1650, proved 1653, married Mary Jennens 1602 for first wife, and had issue eight children. His 8th child was

IV. HUMPHREY JENNENS, baptized at St. Martins, Birmingham, Aug. 23, 1629. He was of Edrington Hall in the Parish of Aston, in the county of Warwick, purchaser of the Manor of Nether Whitacre, county of Warwick, 1680, died 1690, Will proved July 18, 1690. He married Mary, one of the six daughters of Col. Milword of county of Derby, who died at Whitacre 1708. They left issue

V. 1. JESTIN or JUSTINE JENNENS, baptized at St. Martins Jan. 29, 1659, buried Feb. following. 2. CHARLES JENNENS, baptized same place July 28, 1662, died July 4, 1747, buried at Whitacre; Will proved 1747 by Charles, his son, sole executor. He married 1st, Mary, and had issue; 2d, he married Elizabeth Brumcote and had issue. 3. JOHN JENNINGS, Esq., of Gopsal, baptized at St. Martins Sept. 5th, 1667, and died at Bath 1733, (??) 4. HUMPHREY, in the county of Warwick, Will proved 1795, burned at St. George the martyr. 5. ROBERT, of whom hereafter. 6. WILLIAM JENNENS, baptized at Aston Nov. 10, 1676, died without issue 1744. 7. HENRY, buried at Aston 1676. 8. ANN. 9. MARY. 10. ELIZABETH. 11. FELICIA. 12. ESTHER, married William Hanmer of the Fenns, in the county of Flint. (Some pedigrees give another child.) 5th. ROBERT JENNENS, above named, married Ann Guidott 1770, she died 1761, he died 1725, and was buried at Acton, leaving issue only one child, viz :

VI. WILLIAM JENNENS, of the county of Suffolk, who

was baptized 1701, died at Acton a bachelor, immensely rich, intestate, June 9th, 1798.

THE JENNINGS FAMILY OF VA.

This family of Jennings have claimed to be descended from Humphrey Jennings, the great Iron-master of Birmingham, who died A. D. 1690, and claimed to be entitled to the property left by William Jennings of Acton Place.

They say they are descended from John Jennings, who was the grand son of Humphrey and the son of John. John Jennings, with Ann, his wife, (then pregnant) and their children, Elizabeth, (about 10 years old) Luke and John, and perhaps Grace and Dolly, with a nurse called Marjory, embarked at Whitehaven, England, for America, and landed about the 1st of December, 1754, at Fredericksburg, Va. Thomas, their eldest son and next child to Elizabeth, having been left behind with a rich uncle supposed to be named Cenors, Cenos or Zenos. This family became very numerous in Va., and their descendants there are among the most noted families in the Old Dominion. Some of this family intermarried the families of Wise and Reyden, formerly of D. C.

Thomas G. Clinton, of Washington, D. C., made an investigation for this branch of the family, and in his report to them in 1852, says, first, giving the following pedigree of the Humphrey Jennings family :

HUMPHREY JENNINGS FAMILY.

ANNE—Married Sir Clement Fisher, of Packington, Warwick Co., and had issue ; Mary who married Heneage Finch, Earl of Aylesford, and their daughter Mary became Viscountess Andover, and mother of the Earl of Suffolk.

JUSTIN—Died in infancy.

CHARLES—Married twice, and left issue ; Charles of Ormond Street, London, and Gopsall, Leicestershire, and Elizabeth who married her first cousin Wm. Hanmer. Charles of Ormond Street, left his property to his sister's grandson Penn Asheton Curzon, and £1000 to one Abraham Jennings. Penn Asheton Curzon married Sophia Charlotte Baroness Howe, and left issue Earl Howe, &c. Baroness Howe afterwards married Sir Jonathan Walter Waller.

N. B. The guardian of Earl Howe (a minor at the time of the death of William of Acton,) took out letters of administration.

MARY—Baptised 1664.

ELIZABETH—Married Jeremiah Smith, at Handsworth, 1714, and had issue.

JOHN—Married twice ; 1st, Mary Green ; 2d, Elizabeth Fisher, and left issue Anne, Mary, John and Jonathan. Anne died during her father's lifetime. Mary married E. Daugre-

field, and through this branch a claim is set up to the estate of William of Acton.

Those who have investigated the matter touching this estate say "that they cannot see how the Daugerfields can be kept out of a portion of it."

John emigrated to America as before explained. Jonathan left issue John and Jonathan. Of these two sons John left issue: Mary, Jonathan, John, Elizabeth, Sarah and Edward; and Jonathan left issue: Ann, Jonathan, John, Elizabeth, Joel, Thomas, Hannah, Mary and William. This branch of the family entered suit against the administrators of the estate of William of Acton, and Earl Howe had the credit of bribing the attorney of Stephen, David and Jonathan Jennings, and destroyed their documentary evidence, &c. These parties if legally barred, can be made witnesses for the American claimants.

HUMPHREY—Will proved his brother William being his executor.

ROBERT—Married Ann Guidot, and left issue William of Acton.

WILLIAM—Said to have had a son John baptised at Acton, Jan. 3d, 1699, but who died young.

HENRY—Died when a child.

FELICIA—Death registered.

ESTHER—Married Willson Hanmer of Bettesfield, Flint Co., and had issue: William, who married his first cousin Elizabeth, daughter of Charles Jennings; and Susannah who married Reginald Pindar Lygon, their son being promoted to the rank of Earl as Earl Beauchamp, and a daughter married to a son of Chancellor Hardwick.

N. B. Viscountess Andover, Earl Howe, and Earl and Lady Beauchamp have all dabbled in letters of administration.

Mr. Robert C. Gist, a lawyer of London, assisted Hon. William Sherwood who went to England for the Jennings' of Connecticut.

Some think the Jennings estate is barred by statute of limitations. The statute of 21 Jac. I, leaves the right of all parties who were beyond seas at the time the right accrued free from the effect of such a bar. And the act of 3 and 4 Wm. IV, which has been supposed to repeal the former, does not affect the saving clause.

(A statement appeared in a Fredericksburg paper in 1831, saying an estate worth £450,000 had been left to a family of Jennings which had emigrated to America, and landed in Fredericksburg.) Robert (son of Humphrey and father of

William of Acton,) is described as an apprentice in his father's will, and left several hundred pounds to trade upon.

This branch of the Jennings family seem to have been very certain that they were entitled to this property, but thus far have not been able to establish their title.

THE JENNINGS FAMILY OF CONN.

The Connecticut branch of the Jennings family, we are informed, have made a thorough trial to prove the title to the William Jennings property.

Augustus Jennings, of 432 Pearl Street, N. Y., informed us that he is of the Connecticut branch of the Jennings family, who are descended from Joshua Jennings, who emigrated to Fairchild county, Connecticut, 1656, or a little before that; that they had looked up their pedigree thoroughly, and several years ago sent a man to England to investigate the matter there, but was not able to connect Joshua to any Jennings family in England, nor could they find from Mass. records, (which were thoroughly examined,) any mention made of the landing of Joshua in America. He said they were not able to connect the Connecticut branch of the Jennings family with any other branch of the family in America.

THE MASS. AND N. H. BRANCH OF THE JENNINGS FAMILY.

This branch of the family are very numerous. They have had several family meetings, and sent agents to England to investigate the matter, but have never come to any certain conclusion respecting their relationship to Humphrey and William Jennings. One of their agents, Mr. Grout, a descendant from Jennings, who went to England, informed us that he made as thorough a search in England relative to the matter as his means and time would allow, but could not satisfy himself relative to it.

He said Mr. Bates of London, one of the firm of Baring Brothers & Co., bankers, informed him that he tried many years ago in England to procure the Jennings property. That he commenced a suit to recover the property. The case was heard in Birmingham and went against him. We do not know what branch of the Jennings family Mr. Bates is connected with. In the history of Framingham, by Barry, may be found the following relating to Jennings :

JENNINGS, STEPHEN, m. in Sud., Hannah Stanhope, Jan. 1, 1685-6; and had, 1. EUNICE, b. 1686, m. William Fiske, of Wat., 1708; 2. STEPHEN; 3. HANNAH, b. Mar. 11, 1690; 4. MARTHA, b. Sep. 18, 1696, m. Samuel Dedman, May 27, 1714; 5. SARAH, b. Sep. 3, '99, adm. to the ch.,

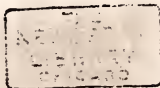
Mar. 3, 1722. Stephen, the f. settled near Saxonville, and d. in Fram., Sep. 3, 1701. His est. was administered by Wid. Hannah, of Fram., and Joseph Stanhope, of Sud.

2. STEPHEN, s. of Stephen (1.) m. Susannah Biglow, June 9, 1715; his w. was adm. to the ch. Mar. 3, '22; he, Feb., '49. Their chil. were 1. STEPHEN, b. Sep. 6, 1716, and d. Jan. 6, 1798, m. Mary Fessenden of Camb., July 5, '37, and f. at Nat. of Sarah, b. July 23, '38; John, b. June 6, '40; Jabez, b. Ap. 9, '42; Mary, b. Ap. 7, '44; Stephen, b. Mar. 12, '46; Martha, b. May 4, '48, m. Sam. Abot, of Fram.; Luther, b. Oct. 26, '50; Lois, b. July 10, '52; Isaac, b. July 17, '55; Jonathan, (at Sud.,) Ap. 29, '58; Molly, (at Nat.,) Nov. 1, '60; 2. DANIEL, b. Feb. 16, 1717-8, m. Elizabeth Cozzens, of Holl., 1739, and f. of Daniel; Martha, b. '48; Patience, '53; Susannah, '61; Abigail, '63; (others d. young.) D., the f., lived after in Walpole; 3. EPHRAIM, b. May 27, 1720, m. Sybilla Rice, 1743, and f. at Nat., of Samuel, b. Mar. 7, '43-4; Isaac, Feb. 28, '46-7; Ephraim, Sep. 6, '49; Sybil, Oct. 28, '52; Olive, Sep. 6, '56; Levinah, Nov. 7, '59; Ethel, Aug. 18, '65; 4. SUSANNAH, b. May 9, 1722; m. Bezaleel Rice, Dec. 2, 1742; 5. ABIGAIL, b. Aug. 28, '24, m. Joseph Manard, May 29, '46; 6. JOSEPH, b. Mar. 7, '26-7. Mr. Stephen, d. Oct. 8, 1763; wid. Susannah, d. Oct. 24, 1768. (T. Rec.)

3. JOSEPH, s. of Steph. (2.) m. Rachel Drury, Jan. 23, 1752, was adm. to the ch., Dec. '52, and his w. Feb. '53. — Their chil. were 1. MARTHA, b. Dec. 14, '52, m. Samuel Abbot, 2d, Noah Eaton, and d. 1834; SUSANNAH, b. Ap. 22, '55; m. Nath. Bigelow; 3. JOSEPH, b. Oct. 24, '57; 4. RACHEL, b. Dec. 18, '59, m. Abijah Abbot, and lived in Paxton; 5. URIAH, b. Ap. 26, '62, moved to Whitestown, m. Ruth Cloyes, of Fram., Dec. 1790; 6. DANIEL, b. Sep. 29, '64, m. Bethsheba Barter; 7. HANNAH, b. Oct. 23, '68, m. Buckminster Rice, July, '86, and d. in Wayland. Joseph, the f. lived at Luther Eaton's, and administration was had on his estate, 1788.

4. JOSEPH, s. of Jos. (3.) m. Sally Eames, Oct. 30, 1781, with w. cov'd, Dec. '82, and had in Fram., 1. NATHAN; 2. JOSIAH, bap. Feb. 1784, d. a young man; 3. SUKEY, bap. Ap. '86. Jos. built near Windsor Moulton's, and moved to Whitestown, N. Y., ab. 1784.

5. STEPHEN, prob. s. of Steph. of Nat., and g. son of Steph. (2.) m. Mary Carter, and had 1. BETSEY, b. Sep. 9, 1772; 2. STEPHEN, b. July 30, '74; 3. ISAAC, b. Oct. 2, '77; 4. POLLY, b. Feb. 28, '80; 5. SALLY, b. Sep. 15, '82. Stephen, the father, moved from town.



WILLIAM, of Charlestown, 1629, was killed by the Pequots, 1633. (Sav. Wint., I. 123.) Stephen's w. was taken captive by the Indians at Hatfield, 1677, and after recovered, with other captives, from Canada. (Hub. Hist. N. E., p. 637.) **STEPHEN** and **BENJAMIN** were killed, while making hay in a meadow, at Brookfield, July 20, 1710. Johnson (W. W. Prov., p. 193) speaks of Capt. Jennings as leader of the Wat. band, but then (1651) in Eng. The name was prob. mistaken for Jennison.

We have collected the following relative to the family in Massachusetts:

1st Congregational Church records of Holliston. Mrs. Elizabeth Jennings admitted a member of said church 31st October, 1779.

Middlesex Register of Deeds. A deed from Jac Cozens to Daniel Jennings of Natic, dated March 19, 1740.

A deed from Daniel Jennings to Isaac Jennings, his son, mention being made of another son named Daniel.

A deed from Abraham Cozens to Daniel Jennings, dated March 20, 1761, consideration £4 for two acres of land.

Holliston Records. In a list of the polls of Holliston dated Sept. 28, 1792, appears Daniel Jennings, Elizabeth Jennings, and Isaac Jennings.

Survey in Framingham 1787, Daniel Jennings and Isaac Jennings.

School house tax 1789, Daniel, Isaac and Elizabeth Jennings.

Deed from Jacob Cozens to Daniel Jennings of Natic, dated March 19, 1740.—Holliston Records:

Daniel Jennings of Framingham, and Elizabeth Cozens of Hollister, were married July 11th, 1780, (Hol. Records.)

Daniel Jennings of Natic, bought his farm in Holliston March 19th, 1760-61. (As per deed.)

Daniel Jennings, Jr., son of Daniel and Elizabeth Jennings, born Oct. 18th, 1756. (Rec. in Walpole, N. H.)

Daniel Jennings, Jr., and Lydia Grout were married June 1st, 1775, by Rev. Joshua Prentis.

Isaac Jennings, son of Daniel, Jr., and Lydia Jennings, born March 15th, 1777. (Hol. Records.)

Daniel Jennings gave a deed to his son, Daniel Jennings, Jr., Nov. 7th, 1786. (As per deed.)

Daniel Jennings died Nov. 29th, 1786, aged 68 years, 9 months and 3 days. (Rec. in Walpole, N. H.)

Isaac Jennings, of Holliston, and Thankful Moore of Sudbury, were married April 19th, 1800.

George Jennings, son of Isaac and Thankful Jennings, born March 17th, 1819. (Now living)

Daniel Jennings removed from Holliston to Walpole, N. H. June 6th, 1827.

Daniel Jennings died in Walpole, N. H., July 7th, 1833.

Isaac Jennings died Oct. 18th, 1851. (Rec. in Walpole, N. H.)

In searching the town records of the town of Holliston, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, one of the United States of America, I find the following records, to wit :

Isaac Jennings, the son of Daniel and Elizabeth Jennings was born Jan. "24," 1739, 40."

Susannah Jennings, daughter of David and Elizabeth Jennings, was born March ye 16th, 1745.

Martha Jennings, daughter of David and Elizabeth Jennings, was born August 15th, 1748.

Patience Ginnings, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Ginnings, was born March 15th, 1753.

Susannah Jennings, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Jennings, was born April 3d, 1761.

Abigail Jennings, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Jennings, was born Sept. 22d, 1763.

Susannah Jennings, the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Jennings, deceased Oct. ye 19th, 1743.

Isaac Jennings, the son of Daniel and Elizabeth Jennings, deceased Oct. ye 21st, 1743.

In the records of intentions of marriage, I find the following record, to wit :

1779, February 12, Isaac Jennings to Abigal Cozens, both of Holliston.

Isaac Jennings died at the House of Industry February 1st, 1836, aged 77 years.

Calvin Jennings, son of Isaac and Abigal Jennings, was born November ye 21, A. D. 1786.

Calvin Jennings and Phila Knowlton, both of Holliston, intend marriage Oct. 25th, 1804.

Calvin Jennings and Phila Knowlton were joined in marriage November ye 14, 1804.

Sally Jennings, daughter of Calvin and Phila Jennings, was born August 30, 1806.

John H. Miller of Sherburne, and Sarah Alexander of Holliston, were married February 4, 1836.

At the annual Town Meeting of the inhabitants of Holliston, legally warned and assembled March 4, 1744, 5, Daniel Ginnings was chosen (one of the) Tythingmen.

At the annual Town Meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Holliston, legally warned and assembled March the 2d, 1752, Daniel Ginnings was chosen Constable.

At the annual Town Meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Holliston legally warned and assembled March the 3d, 1755, Daniel Ginnings was chosen Surveyor of Highways.

At the annual Town Meeting of the inhabitants of Holliston, legally warned and assembled on March ye 6th, 1758, Daniel Jennings was choosen (one of the) Selectmen.

At the annual Town Meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Holliston, legally warned and assembled March the 4th, 1765, Daniel Jennings was chosen Surveyor of Highways.

At a meeting of the Freeholders and other inhabitants of the Town of Holliston, legally qualified and warned, assembled at the public meeting house in said town, on Monday, the first day of March, A. D. 1773, Daniel Jennings was chosen (one of the) Selectmen.

At the annual Town Meeting of the Freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Holliston, legally warned and assembled on March 7, A. D. 1768, Daniel Jennings was chosen (one of the) Wardens.

Attest,

AUGUSTUS N. CURRIER,

Town Clerk of said Holliston.

Holliston, September 24, 1851.

P. S.—I would say that in the Book of Records of Marriages, there are one or two pages missing.

A. N. CURRIER, *Town Clerk.*

Copied from records in the hands of Mark Webster:

Daniel Jennings died Nov. 24th, 1786, being 68 years and 9 months old, lacking 3 days.

Elizabeth Jennings died Sept. 24th, 1804, being 84 years and 9 months old.

Stephen Jennings of Framingham, and Hannah Stanhope of Sudbury, were married January 1, 1685. He was one of 18 members, who constituted the 1st church of Framingham organized in 1699.

Stephen Jennings died in Framingham Sept. 3, 1701.

Stephen Jennings and Susanna Bigelow, both of Framingham, were married June 9, 1715.

Daniel Jennings, son of Stephen and Susannah Jennings, born Feb. 16, 1717-8. (Fram. Records.)

AFFIDAVIT OF LUTHER KNOWLTON.

I, Luther Knowlton, of Walpole, county of Cheshire, and State of New Hampshire, of lawful age, depose and say that I am now seventy-eight years old, that my mother was Elizabeth Jennings, daughter of Daniel Jennings of Holliston, Massachusetts. I distinctly recollect of seeing my grandfather at my father's house in Holliston, and hearing grandfather and my mother talk about having a rich uncle in England. I have

heard my mother say that her father, Daniel Jennings, and several of his brothers emigrated from England to this country on account of religion. I do not distinctly recollect whether it was grandfather's uncle or my mother's uncle that they spoke of as living in England.

(Signed) LUTHER KNOWLTON.

CHESHIRE SS. } Then Luther Knowlton subscribed and
Dec 20, 1851. } made oath to the above deposition.

Before me,
(Signed)

SAMUEL SLADE, JR.,
Justice Peace.

AFFIDAVIT OF ELIHU CUTLER.

To all whom it may concern :

I, Elihu Cutler of Holliston, County of Middlesex, State of Massachusetts, say that I was acquainted with one Isaac Jennings, of the then Holliston aforesaid. I was also acquainted with his father, one Daniel Jennings. The said Isaac lived with his father until his father's death, and lived on the said place many years after.

(Signed)

ELIHU CUTLER.

Middlesex, Oct. 4, 1851.

Personally appeared the above named Elihu Cutler and made oath that the above declaration by him subscribed was true.

Before me,

(Signed)

ALDEN LELAND,
Justice of the Peace.

AFFIDAVIT OF ABIGAIL JENNINGS.

I, Abigail Jennings, of Ashland, in County of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, aged about eighty-nine years, depose and say and aver that I am the widow of Isaac Jennings formerly of Holliston, in that part which is a part of Ashland aforesaid. Said Isaac Jennings, if now living, would have been about ninety-one years of age. Said Isaac Jennings had one brother older than himself whose name was Daniel Jennings; that their father's name was also Daniel Jennings, and that I, the deponent, lived in the same house with the said Daniel Jennings, senior, and Daniel Jennings, junior. The father and brother of Isaac, my husband, from my marriage until the father's decease, and the decease of the wife of said Daniel, senior, the mother of said Daniel, junior, and Isaac, my husband, and that I took care of them in their last sickness. Said Daniel, sen., used to say that he came from England to Massachusetts, now of the United States of America; that he had a brother in England by the name of William Jennings; that said Daniel Jennings, senior, settled in Holliston, now a part of Ashland aforesaid, before my remembrance; said Daniel, senior, married Elizabeth Cozzens, aunt to the deponent,

and they had a large family of children ; that the aforesaid Isaac, the husband of the deponent, was their youngest male child ; that said Isaac Jennings was lawfully married to the deponent, whose maiden name was Abigail Cozzens, by the Rev. Joshua Prentis of Holliston aforesaid, in the spring of the year. During the revolutionary war, probably about seventeen hundred and seventy-nine; that said, Isaac, my husband, when we married, was about twenty years of age, and we lived with his father, who was said Daniel Jennings, senior, and his wife, our mother, as long as they lived, and that said Daniel, senior, died when my son Calvin was four days old.

her

ABIGAIL ~~X~~ JENNINGS.

mark

CHARLES BENNETT,
JULIA A. BENNETT.

Attest,

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS, }
MIDDLESEX, ss. }

December 16, 1851.

Then the above Abigail Jennings personally appeared, and made oath that the above affidavit by her subscribed was true. And I further certify that the mental faculties of the deponent are as sound, and her recollection apparently as clear as any person of her age, and her moral character is unimpeachable.

Before me,

JOHN WENZELL,

Justice of the Peace.

Mr. Levi James of Philadelphia, informed us that Price of Philadelphia was appointed agent for the Philadelphia Jennings family, and spent much time in England investigating this case, but never coming to any certain conclusion, an Englishman was appointed agent for the Jennings family, and returned to England, but did nothing there only squander the money away given him; that afterwards, by request of the family, he went himself, and investigated the matter there to some extent, but had not time to do much, as the business was all new to him. He informed us that he was informed by the Gov. of the Bank of England, that millions of pounds of the Jennings property was now in the Bank of England awaiting proper claimants.

We have partial pedigrees of the families of many members of the association, but as they are at present very incorrect, we thought it was not best to publish them until we had time to make searches and perfect them. We expect within a few months to be able to have these pedigrees made out correctly and printed.

COLUMBUS SMITH,

West Salisbury, Vt.

C. M. FISHER,

Vergennes, Vt.

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REPORT

TO THE

JENNINGS ASSOCIATION.

1866

To the Members of the Jennings Association :

I here submit to your consideration the following report which I received from England, from Mr. Fisher, some time since :

LONDON, ENGLAND.

COLUMBUS SMITH, ESQ., WEST SALISBURY, VT.

Dear Sir :—I believe the investigation of any case or claim to property never presented so many obstacles, or required so great care and such careful attention and consideration as the Jennings case. The fact of so many of the different newspapers in the United States having published statements in regard to this property, estimated at more than £7,000,000 sterling in the years 1849 1850, 1851, and 1852, and stating that by a late decision "one half of the estate had been divided, that one of the fortunate claimants is a journeyman painter of Maldon, Mass., named Longham, and that his share is £500,000 sterling," or nearly \$2500,000. In addition to which it has been frequently stated that there was an *iron chest* deposited with a London Banking House (supposed to be Messrs. Childs & Co., Temple Bar,) which had not been opened, said to contain plate, &c. of great value. Together with the fact that different agents who have been employed, or who have come here on their own responsibility, have written to the United States substantially as follows :

"The Jennings Estate is of all others, worth considerable sacri-

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fico to us. I do not view it like a lottery where there is so great a number of blanks to one prize. I think our chances of success are nine out of ten. First, the heirs are not in this country as appears very evident. Second, the whole ground has been thoroughly gone over, and every point canvassed, likely to afford information of the lawful heirs. Third, the Association formed in Dublin last August (1851) after spending two or three thousand pounds sterling, concluded the heirs were in the United States America. We have a great work, great encouragement, and the most favorable advantage. And other similar statements, such as the British Government has been desirous for a long time to find the owners of the estate, &c."

These things altogether—though from them all nothing definite—but all vague and uncertain, and quite unsatisfactory, have tended to make the various branches of Jennings families in America, suppose and believe that this immense fortune might quite easily be recovered for some person or persons in America. For a little more than a year I have been making searches and various enquiries as to this Jennings Property and the Pedigree of the Jennings's, and all I shall state at this or any other time I am prepared to prove by various Court and Parish Records. *William Jennens*, the Intestate in this matter, died a Bachelor on the 19th of June 1795, in the 95th year of his age, and was buried at Acton, in the County of Suffolk, in the same vault with his father and mother. He was the son of Robert Jennings, of the Middle Temple, London, Bedford Row, Middlesex, and Acton, Suffolk, Esq., by Ann Guidott, his wife; his said parents having been married by License on the 17th of October, 1700, and their only child, the said William Jennings was baptized on the 4th of September, 1701, at Westminster Abbey, King William III, having been his Godfather. The said Intestate at the time of his death was possessed of enormous wealth, both real and personal, which had descended to him from, and had been the accumulated fortunes of his father, uncles, grandfather and great grandfather, through a period of one hundred and fifty years, so that he scarcely knew himself what he really was possessed of. Having attained to so great an age he had outlived all his known relations, so that at the time of his death no person came forward to prove kinship to him, and in consequence of that the Crown authorities took possession of his property and advertized for his next of kin. In September 1798, William Lygon, Esq., (afterwards Earl Beauchamp) the son of Reginald Pinder Lygon and Susannah Hamner, his wife, and Mary Finch, Viscountess Andover, the daughter of Honeaye Finch, Earl of Aylesford and Mary Fisher, his wife, cousins, German, once removed to said William Jennens, applied for and received Letters of Administration to his Estate and effects, and under this Letter of Administration they

took possession of the greater part of his property without opposition from any source. In 1817, the widow of the said William Lyon, Earl Beauchamp, (who died in October 1816) as Executor of her deceased husband applied for and received Letters of Administration *de bonis non* to the Personal Estate of the said William Jennens, of the goods, &c., left unadministered by the said William Lygon and Mary Viscountess Andover, and under this Letter of Administration she received considerable sums of money in stocks, and dividends. It is believed that the whole of the Estate of the said William Jennens, was recovered and taken possession of by the above named Administration. The Real Estate of said William Jennens passed into the possession of Lady Sophia Howe, the widow of Penn Ashton Curzon, in trust for the benefit of her son George Augustus Curzon, the eldest son of said Penn Ashton Curzon, by the said Lady Sophia Howe, his wife, as the Heir at Law and first cousin, three times removed to said William Jennens, and as such entitled to the possession of his Real Estate.

It is stated by all the Jennens claimants that the said Penn Ashton Curzon left only three children, or rather had but *three* children, viz. : George Augustus, Marianna and Leicester, and that Leicester died in 1793, and George Augustus died in 1805. But the *Records show that* the said Penn Ashton Curzon had *four* children, *three sons* and *one* daughter, viz. : George Augustus, Marianna, Leicester and Richard William Penn; that George Augustus and Leicester died at the aforesaid dates, and that Richard William Penn Curzon, the youngest son, is the present Earl Howe, and as such son, of said Penn Ashton Curzon and Sophia Baroness Howe, his wife, and as the Heir at Law of William Jennings or Jennens, he came to the possession of all his Real Estate and he and his family still hold it, or at least all that they have not disposed of, and so it has stood from the death of William Jennens to the present time. It may appear very strange that a family which had been so very wealthy through so many generations, could only produce *three* relations as claimants to this Estate, each of them belonging to the Aristocracy, and each of them descended through the female line, but such appears to have been the case at the time of William Jennens death, and not much time was lost by them in obtaining possession of his Estate.

Since the property has been in the hands of these Administrators, claimants have come forward by the hundred—nor do I wonder at it; for on tracing out and examining the pedigree of the said William Jennens' family, we find it to have been a very numerous one.

The direct Pedigree of William Jennens for two hundred years—that is to say—back to his great great grandfather, shows that each of his ancestors left several children, male and female—as is proved by their various Wills and Parish Records. These collater-

al relatives had, of course, lost sight of William's particular line ; but had sufficient time been allowed after Williams death for the different Jennens families to look up their pedigrees, then there would have, quite likely, been plenty of Heirs at Law found in the male line, and in the name of Jennens too ; persons, unquestionably far more justly entitled to the Real Estate (according to the various wills) than those who obtained possession of it.

It appears that the great great grandfather of *the* said *William Jennens* was William Jennings (so spelled) of the Parish of Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, who died in the year 1602, leaving Joan Jennings his widow, and Thomas, William, John, Abraham, Ambrose, Ann and Mary his children, him surviving. It appears that all these children attained maturity, that they married and that each of them had issue, male and female, as is proved by the will of their mother, the said Joan Jennings, who died in 1622.

The Great Grandfather of William Jennens the Intestate, was John Jennings, Jennings or Jennens, son of the before mentioned William Jennings, and Joan his wife, was also of Birmingham, and acquired considerable property in that town and elsewhere in the County of Warwick. He married twice and by his said two wives had issue eleven children, viz. : John, Ambrose, Alice, William, Abraham, Dorothy, Esther, Humphrey, Joseph, Sarah and Edward. Some of these children died young, but the others married and had issue. The said John Jennings, their father, died in 1653, leaving a will. *The Grandfather of William Jennings* or Jennens, the Intestate, was Humphrey Jennings, son of the above John, by Joyce his wife, was also of Birmingham and elsewhere in the County of Warwick. He married Mary Millward, and by her had issue, twelve children, viz. : Ann, Justine, Henry, Charles, Mary, Elizabeth, John, Humphrey, Esther Robert, Philicia and William. Their father, the said Humphrey Jennings, died in 1690, and his widow, the said Mary, died in 1708, both of them leaving wills. *The father of William Jennens* the Intestate, was Robert Jennens, the son of the above named Humphrey Jennings, and Mary, his wife, was of London and elsewhere. He married Ann Guidott in the year 1700, as aforesaid, and had issue only one child, the said William Jennens, who died in 1798, a bachelor, Intestate. His father, the said Robert Jennens, died in 1725, and his mother, the said Ann Jennens, died in 1761. In the year 1726 the said William Jennens made a will in favor of his mother, but having outlived her, such will became void. The above is the direct pedigree of the said William Jennens, as proved by good and sufficient Legal Record evidence ; and the following explains how the aforesaid administrators were connected with him.

Ann Jennens, the eldest child of the aforesaid Humphrey Jennens and Mary his wife, married Sir Clement Fisher and had issue,

among others Mary Fisher who married Heneage Finch, first Earl of Aylesford, and had issue among others, Mary Finch, who married the Viscount Andover, and survived him; she administered to the Estate of William Jennens in 1798, and died in 1803; this Mary Finch Viscountess Andover was therefore Great Grand daughter to Humphrey Jennings, and first cousin once removed to William Jennens.

Esther Jennens, the ninth child of the said Humphrey Jennings and Mary his wife, married William Hamner and had issue, among others, Susannah Hamner, who married Reginald Pinder, who took the name of Lygon, and had issue among others, William Lygon, afterwards Earl Beauchamp, who administered to William Jennens' Estate in 1798, and died in 1816. This William Lygon therefore, stood in the same degree of relationship to Humphrey and William Jennens, as Mary Finch Viscountess Andover did, and he was joined administrator with her in 1798. With regard to the Heir at Law's connection with William Jennens, it is explained thus: Charles Jennens, the fourth child of Humphrey Jennens and Mary his wife. Married Elizabeth Burdett and had issue, among others, Elizabeth Jennings, who married her first cousin William Hamner, (the son of William Hamner and Esther Jennens his wife, the sister of Charles Jennens and daughter of Humphrey Jennings) who had issue, a daughter, Esther Hamner, who married Asheton Curzon, and had issue, a son, Penn Asheton Curzon, who married Sophia Baroness Howe, and had issue, Richard William Penn Curzon, the present Earl Howe, and consequently the present Earl Howe is first Cousin, three times removed, and Heir at Law of said William Jennens the Intestate, and therefore became possessed of the Real Estate.

I have thus briefly stated the Pedigree of the present possessors to this Jennings Estate. I am making a Pedigree with Records, which I will send you as soon as completed. I called upon Messrs. Child & Co., Bankers, Temple Bar, London, in regard to the Chest or Box said to be deposited there. Mr. Barlow, of Philadelphia, had told us about his having called there and that Childs & Co., had told him there was such a box for Jennings as he enquired for, &c., &c., which you will remember, but as you will see before I close is not of much consequence. Mr. James Mangnall of 72 Waterloo street, Bosten, wrote me that this box was deposited in the custody of the Child's Banking Company, Temple Bar, London. Mr. Barlow was supplied with Power of Attorney, and these papers deposing to the events, and with a very great deal of trouble and references, we got introduced to the Director of the Bank, who examined the document and Power of Attorney, and very politely sent for an old Book in which entries was made to all deposites, and we found near the date which these papers gave, that one Robert Jennings did deposite a case or box with said Bank, but we was not

allowed to inspect it, as we could not prove that we were authorized by bonafide relatives to the deceased. Sarah Jennings, and of course Mr. Barlow returned to procure all the documentary evidence he could of the relationship. In 1861 and I had Power of Attorney sent to me with similar particulars to Mr. Barlow and again went to London, and after very expensive exertions again had an audience with the director, which, upon inspection upon what I produced, said that he was really sorry that what I produced did not allow him to let me investigate the Chest, and advised me to write to Mr. William Bartlett, saying he must get all the certificates he can to prove the identity of relation and then make the breach of connection up, attested too upon oath before a Justice of the Peace at Philadelphia, send it over along with a Power of Attorney on my behalf, might induce him to proceed further, &c., &c. I had no difficulty or expensive exertions to get access to the Banking House of Messrs. Childs & Co., Temple Bar, London, which is now and always has been a private Bank. There is no such person as a Director in or about the Bank and never was. They also say that to their best knowledge and belief, they never saw or ever heard of Mr. James Mangnall or Mr. Barlow, and that they never called at their Bank to their knowledge; and further, that there is no such Chest, Box, or other package in their custody for Sarah Jennings, Jennings or Jenings, or for Robert or any other Jennings. I read to him the letter of James Mangnall of 72 Waterloo street, Bolton, and at the time when he says he called there, was not so remote as to have caused the circumstance to have been forgotten, if it was true, which they deny. I was compelled to place the statement with many others, as a fiction. Messrs. Childs & Co., also wrote me a letter which I now have, and of which the following is a copy:

TEMPLE BAR, LONDON, E. C., 1865.

"Messrs. Child & Co., present their compliments to Mr. Fisher, and inform him that they have no box in their possession in either of the names he mentions."

I of course gave them good references, &c., as to my right to make the enquiry, &c., &c., but it was not difficult or expensive to do so. They were extremely civil, and in my presence, although they were satisfied because they examined between my first and second visit, the books were searched, and I looked them over myself and no such thing is there. This was done for my satisfaction and at my request.

The fact of it is that the administrators of William Jennings took all of his estate into their possession in 1798 and 1818. Why should they not have done so? The Administrators were first cousins once removed of said Intestate. Who is nearer? No one appeared then claiming to be nearer related, and Admon was grant-

ed without opposition. Well now suppose there are some parties nearer related than those were? How will you avoid the following Sections of Law from the Act "entitled An Act for the Limitation of Actions and Suits relating to Real Property and for simplifying the Remedies for trying the Rights thereto." Section Second provides "That no suit shall be maintained but within twenty years after the person has a right to bring the action, or after the person through who he claims had the right." Section Sixteen excepts persons under disability of Infancy, Lunacy, Coverture or Absence beyond seas, and allows ten years after the disability has been removed. And Section Seven provides that the whole time shall not exceed forty years although the person remains under one or more said disabilities for the whole of such forty years." This is as to Real Estate, and the Act of 1859 makes it also applicable to Personal Estate, taken possession of by an Administrator. Mr. Partington says that this last Law was passed in consequence of your Shaul case. Fuller extracts of this last named act I will send you with the Pedigree I am preparing. My own opinion is that the Act of 1859 does not apply in any manner to Admon granted to the Crown. So property may be recovered from the Crown, although more than forty years have elapsed.

I have made very many searches in this matter as to Pedigree, all of which will appear on my Pedigree.

I believe it perfectly useless to spend any more money or time in this case. Partington, whom you know very well, says unhesitatingly, after looking over what I have, that the case is not good, that there is no possible way of avoiding the Statute of Limitations, even though other parties could show they were much nearer related, than those who got the property, to said William Jennings. I am prepared to answer any questions you may suggest, or that any of the parties desire to ask. I can do it at once and with no trouble as I think I have all the searching completed.

I remain yours very truly,

C. M. FISHER.

The foregoing report seems to be full and to take in the whole case.

As I was much disappointed in the result of his investigation, and as I had collected much information in Philadelphia and other places, relative to the case, after Mr. Fisher's departure for England, which he was not in possession of when he made the investigation, I concluded before placing before the Association the foregoing report of Mr. Fisher, to write him what new information I had gathered and request him to investigate certain points and see if it was not possible for him to come to a different conclusion in

this matter. My importunity in this matter seems to have disgusted him, so much so that on the 25th of July last he wrote me as follows :

Jennings : I am surprised at your conduct in this case. I sent you an honest report in this case, &c. I have examined the whole case over and over again and I can see no possible way or reason for changing my mind. I am willing to stand by what I have written you in this matter, &c. But really, when you come to apply a little ordinary common sense to the case and the laws of England to it, it seems to me very plain and simple. Consider with me for one minute. William Jennings died in 1798. Administration was granted to the Crown. In September 1798, this Administration to the Crown was revoked, and Administration was granted to William Lygon, Esq., (afterwards Earl Howe) and Mary Finch Viscountess Andover. These two persons were alleged to be cousins german once removed to the Intestate, and such was then proved to be the facts at that time. Further Administration was granted in 1816 to the widows of said Earl Howe. Now then, whether rightly or wrongly granted is no sort of consequence. *Administration was granted*, and without opposition, (but that is also immaterial.) Well, then, who as administrators did they represent? The Intestate, William Jennings, as a matter of course. And what were the rights and duties? To collect in the personal estate and distribute it according to law. Were they then such fools as not to have all the stocks, funds and monies transferred into their own names, as well as to secure the "Chest" and that "Iron Box" at Doctors Common's (which, by the way, was never there and Ford never pointed it out to anybody and never told or wrote to anybody anything of the kind, and in fact never had heard of the circumstances till I read him your letter.) What do you do when you are made an administrator? What does any one do? What do you suppose these administrators did? They were appointed surely quite early after the death of William Jennings. They had undisputed access to all his papers, books, &c., &c. Would they have been likely to have neglected to collect in these boxes of money? Well when was this? Was it less or more than forty years ago? If more, then Parliament must undo what they have done; or, admitting the administration wrongly granted and the property wrongly held and divided, there is no remedy. Parliament is Supreme here. There is no written constitution, &c.

I now think Mr. Fisher has made a thorough examination of this case in England, and after examining this, his report, I am compelled to arrive at the same conclusion that he does, that no claim to the William Jennings property can ever be substantiated by any American or English Jennings.

I should have been pleased to have sent you this report earlier, but Mr. Fisher's funds were somewhat limited, as he had to pay for exchange over \$260 for \$100 English exchange when he started for England, so he was obliged to practice economy in order to make a thorough investigation of other claims, at the same time he was at work on this. I am disappointed in the final result of the investigation, but I can see nothing which leaves even a hope.

Your obedient servant,

COLUMBUS SMITH.

West Salisbury, Vt., August 16th, 1866.

PEDIGREES.

- I. Humphrey Jennens, baptized at St. Martins, Birmingham, 23 August, 1629, married at Darby Church, Derbyshire, 16 Sept., 1657; buried at Netherwhiteacre.
- II. 1. Ann Jennens, baptized at St. Martins, Birmingham; buried at Packington in 1707; married Sir Clement Fisher, Bart. They had issue, viz:
 - III. Mary Fisher, buried at Bath in 1740; married Heneage Finch, first Earl of Aylesbury. Left issue six children.
 - IV. Mary Finch, baptized 1st May, 1716; married 6 Nov., 1736; buried in 1803. She was joint administratrix with Wm Lygon, of the estate of William Jennens. William Baggott is her personal representative. Married Viscount Andover, son of the Earl of Suffolk; buried 19 July, 1756. She had issue:
 - V. Hon. Richard Howard, buried 1818. Wm. Baggott proved his will. Mary and four other children.
- II. 2. Justin Jennens, buried at St. Martins, Birmingham, 11 Feb., 1659.
3. Henry Jennens, buried January 8, 1676.
4. Charles Jennens, baptized at St. Martins, Birmingham; buried at Netherwhiteacre, 4 July, 1747; married Elizabeth Burdett, 11 December, 1689; buried at Netherwhiteacre in 1708. They had issue,
- III. 1. Burdett Jennens, baptized 9 June, 1692, at Aston; buried July 25, 1705, at Netherwhiteacre
 2. Humphrey Jennens, buried 9 June, 1712, at Netherwhiteacre.
 3. Charles Jennens, buried 20 November 1773, aged 75, a bachelor.
 4. Robert Jennens, buried a bachelor in 1728, at Netherwhiteacre.
 5. Mary Jennens, buried 26 December, 1708, a child, at Netherwhiteacre.
 6. Mary Jennens, buried 10 August, 1725, at Netherwhiteacre, a Spinster.
 7. Elizabeth Jennens, married her 1st cousin, Wm Hanmer, son of Esther Jennens, in 1726, buried in 1777. She had issue,
- IV. Esther Hanmer, buried 21 July, 1764; married Asheton Curzon, created Baron, 1797; Viscount, 1802; had issue,
- V. 1. Pen Asheton Curzon, baptized 31 January, 1757; buried 1797; married Lady Sophia Howe, 27 July, 1787; had issue,
- VI. 1. Geo. Augustus William, baptized May, 1788, at St. Georges, Hanover Square, London; buried 6 January, 1805.
2. Miranda, baptized 30 August, 1790.
3. Leicester, born at Gopshall, 8 November, 1792; buried 25 May, 1793.
4. Richard Wm. Penn, born at Gopshall, December 11, 1796, baptized in the Chapel, 7 January, 1797. *The present Earl Howe.*

- V. 2. Catherine Curzon, baptized 1758; married Sir George Bromley, 1778.
 3. Mary Curzon, baptized 1763; buried 1804; married Baron Stowell, 1779.
- II. 5. Mary Jennens, baptized at St. Martins, Birmingham; buried at Netherwhiteacre, 27 October, 1700. Spinster.
6. Elizabeth Jennens, baptized at St. Martins, Birmingham, 4 January, 1665; buried 22 February, 1737, as Elizabeth, wife of Benj. Bird—Jeremiah Smith, first husband, married 7 October, 1714, at Handworth.—Benj. Bird, second husband.
7. John Jennens, baptized 5 September, 1667, at St. Martins, Birmingham; buried at Bath, 1723; married Elizabeth Fisher, sister to Sir Clement Fisher, in 1694. He had issue,
- III. 1. Ann Jennens died before her father, buried at St. Georges, in the Fields, London.
 2. Mary Jennens, baptized 1698; buried, 1736 at Christ Church, London, a Spinster. Executrix of her father.
- II. 8. Humphrey Jennens, baptized, 1668, at St. Martins, Birmingham; buried September, 1725, a bachelor, of St. Clements Danes. His will proved by his brother William, 1725.
9. Esther Jennens, baptized 24 December, 1670; married 25 November, 1701; died 21 July, 1764; she married Wm. Hammer, of Bett'sfield, Flint, who was buried 2 November, 1734. He had issue, viz:
- III. 1. Thomas Hammer, married, in 1733, Lady Catherine Percival, buried 1748.
 2. Wm. Hammer, married his first cousin, Elizabeth Jennens, daughter of Charles Jennens, 1726.
 3. Humphrey Hammer, married Catherine Quarterman.
 4. Phelicia Hammer, buried 1741, married Rev. Taunton Degg.
 5. Susannah Hammer, buried 1785, married Reginald Pinder. He took the name of Lygon. They had issue, viz:
- IV. 1. William Lygon, baptized 1747; buried 1816.—He was the joint administrator with Mary, Viscountess of Andover, of the estate of Wm. Jennens. She was the grand-daughter of Sir Clement Fisher, by Ann Jennens, his wife.
 2. Elizabeth Lygon, married Hon. John York.
- III. 6. Mary Hammer, buried unmarried
- II. 10. Robert Jennens, baptized 1672; buried at Acton, 25 February, 1725; married Ann Guillott, 17 October, 1700, at Westminster Abbey; buried at Acton, 1761. Had issue, viz:
 William Jennens, baptized 4 September, 1701. King Wm. III, was his God-father, died 19 June, 1798, intestate. The late Mary, Viscountess Andover, and William, 1st Earl of Beauchamp, were his administrators. Catherine, Dowager, Countess of Beauchamp, is now his personal representative.
- II. 11. Phelicia Jennens, baptized 1674; buried 1744, a Spinster.
- II. 12. William Jennens, baptized 10 November, 1676; buried 1744, a bachelor. He was a merchant of London and of North Barnet. Sole executor to his brother Humphrey's Will.

This pedigree shows how the Andovers, the Lygons, (now Beauchamps) and the Howe's administered to the Estate of Wm. Jennens; who died in 1798.

C. M. FISHER.

1922

