

SIR FRANCIS BERKELEY OF ASKEATON.

BY THOMAS JOHNSON WESTROPP, M.R.I.A.

Read 11th March, 1902.

In writing a sketch of the life of a man who once played a prominent part in the history of the County and City of Limerick, I have been guided rather by the choice of other members of the LIMERICK FIELD CLUB than by the present bent of my researches. The interest attaching to the members of the great house of Berkeley may excuse me giving at some length the record of a warlike member of that warlike race, who, both in war and peace, put his mark on our district. The Berkeleys sat in the high places of Saxon England under the last saintly king of the line of Cerdic, and fought in nearly all the greatest battles of the succeeding three centuries. Few English families can show a descent as long and as fully authenticated as theirs, or such an invaluable series of monumental remains. These facts will, I hope, acquit me of giving this paper for any mere genealogical motive, for the descendants of Sir Francis Berkeley are found widespread in Limerick and Clare.

If "a man is the sum of his ancestors" it is worth our while to tell the story briefly from the first. The lofty, almost supernatural position to which kingship had been raised in Europe, had changed public opinion very much from the time when the Roman Emperor was only served by slaves to the time when the posts of butler, steward, chamberlain, or head groom of the king were sought after by high-born and influential men, and the lowly office used as a title of high honour. Among the officials of the court of the "bale-less" king, Edward the Confessor, not long before that terrible day—which stands like Aaron between the living and the dead, the Saxon and the Norman rule, on our records—"the day when king Edward was alive and was dead"—the post of "staller" was held by a certain Ednoth or Eadnoth. (1)

(1) See a long appendix on Eadnoth in Professor Freeman's "Norman Conquest." Vol. iv, p. 757.

He was appointed "reeve" of the city of Bristol, and held this important post during the stormy period of the Norman invasion. He accepted the new *regime* loyally, and in 1068 he vigorously repelled the raid of the sons of the ill-starred Harold, who, aided by the king of Leinster, were plundering and wasting the district round Bristol with sword and fire.

It is an interesting comment on the value of early medieval family tradition that Eadnoth should be exalted into an anonymous king of Denmark a few generations later, and so appears even in the inscription on the collegiate church in Bristol. (2)

Harding or Herdyng, (3) son of Eadnoth, was also a man of note and governor of Bristol castle. If, as is said, he fought for William the Conqueror, it may account for the favour shown to his father, Eadnoth. We find that his wife's name was Lyveda and that he died in 1115.

Robert FitzHarding, his son, was the first of the family who was designated by the present name. He was an adherent of the Empress Maud and her son, Henry II., who rewarded his fidelity by a grant of the lordship of Berkeley Herness, which they seized from Roger de Berkeley. The latter was a loyal follower of king Stephen, and had married Eva, daughter of De Estmond, and his wife Godiva, a sister (it is said) of William the Conqueror. When Stephen and Henry came to terms at Wallingford, in 1153, among various greater matters they determined to appease the feud excited by the confiscation. A double marriage was arranged, in which Robert de Berkeley married Helena, sister of Robert FitzHarding, and the latter married Alice, daughter of Roger de Berkeley. Robert FitzHarding had relations of a more friendly kind than those of his grandfather with an Irish prince, for he entertained the notorious Dermot MacMorrrough, king of Leinster, who came to Bristol in 1168 on his way to the court of Henry II. In the subsequent "Iliad of woe" Robert took no part, but John, son of

(2) "Rex Henricus et Dominus Robertus filius Herdingi filii Regis Dacie hujus Monasterii primi fundatores extiterunt," under their effigies.

(3) For Harding FitzEadnod, see Domesday Book. Harding holds Whethenhorst in mortgage from Earl Bucric. See also Corry's "History of Bristol," vol. i, p. 171; vol. ii, pp. 88, 104. William of Malmesbury, vol. iii, p. 254. Harding FitzEadnoth is witness to a charter in Codex Diplomat: vol. iv, p. 234, and probably to one on p. 159. Leland's "Itinerary," vol. vi. Camden's "Britannia," (ed. Gibson) vol. vi, p. 74. The chronicle of Berkeley gives his death on 6 Nov., 16 Hen. I., and those of his son Robert, and grandson Thomas, respectively, on 5 Feb., 17 Hen. II., and 29 Nov., 1243.

his brother Jordan FitzHarding had settled in Dublin not many years later. Robert died in 1170 or 1171, at the age of 75, and was buried in Bristol cathedral where a later tomb commemorates himself and his wife. (4)

Maurice de Berkeley first used the coat of arms with the ten crosses. Robert, his eldest son, was attainted by king John, and died 1219. Thomas, second son of Maurice, however, was granted Berkeley castle in 1223, and married a daughter of Ralph de Somery, lord of Campton; he died in 1243.

Maurice, son of Thomas, was a warrior of some note in the Welsh wars; he fought for Henry III. against the barons, but subsequently changed sides and his lands were seized by the crown. He had married Isabel, daughter of Robert de Creoun, a baron of Lincolnshire, whose mother was Isabel, daughter of Wm. de Valence, earl of Pembroke, half sister of Henry III., and who, like him, claimed descent from Louis VI., king of France, through the family of Taillefer. (5). Maurice died in April, 1281.

Thomas de Berkeley, son of the unluckily Maurice, contrived to re-establish himself in favour of Edward I. The terrible "Hammer of Scotland" knew and valued a good soldier, and Thomas distinguished himself at the sieges of Kenilworth (1266), Caerlaverock (1300), and the victory of Falkirk (1298). Under the feeble second Edward his fortune changed, and he was taken prisoner at Bannockburn in 1314. He was summoned as a baron to parliament from 1295 to 1321, in which latter year he died, and was buried in the Augustinian church, Bristol. He had married a daughter of De Ferrers, earl of Derby. (6)

(4) Most of the entries relating to Robert FitzHarding and his descendants are collected in the Histories of Somersetshire and Bristol, cited below.

Views of the alleged monument of Robert FitzHarding and the tombs of Thomas, 1st lord Berkeley, and Joan his wife; lord Maurice their son; lord Thomas their grandson, and Thomas (1363) son of Sir Maurice Berkeley, are given in Gough's "Sepulchral Monuments of Great Britain," vol. i, part i, plates xlv and xlv, and part ii, plate v, also vol. ii, part i, plate lxxvii.

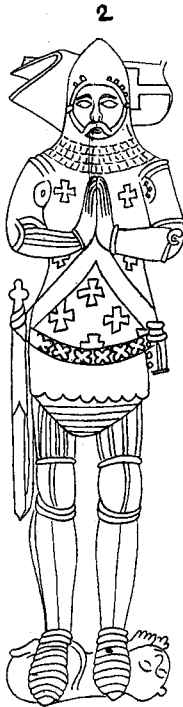
(5) See "The Genealogist," N. S. vol. x, (1893-4) p. 140. Louis, king of the French, died 1 Aug., 1137; his son Peter, lord of Courtenay, died 25 March, 1184; his daughter Alice md. Ademar Taillefer, count of Angoulême, who died 1218; their daughter Isabel married first—John, king of England, and secondly Robert de Creoun, by whom she was mother of Isabel, married to Maurice de Berkeley.

(6) Thomas de Berkeley had 30 marks allotted by the king for a horse killed at the siege of Kenilworth. For his services in the Welsh wars he had a grant "to hunt the fox, hare, badger, and wild cat, with his own dogs in the king's forests of Mendip and Kingswood." (Patent Ed. I. m. 23). He was attended by his sons Maurice and John. (Close Roll. 30 Ed. I. m. 7).



JANE

WIFE OF THOMAS LORD
BERKELEY
c. 1310



THOMAS
LORD BERKELEY
1321.



MAURICE
LORD BERKELEY
1326.



4



5



6

1690

1, 2, 3—MONUMENTS IN BRISTOL CATHEDRAL.

4—ARMS OF SIR FRANCIS BERKELEY (ULSTER OFFICE).

5—SEAL OF ROBERT FITZHARDING.

6—SEAL OF ROBERT TAYLOR, WITH QUARTERED BERKELEY ARMS.

Maurice, second baron of Berkeley, was summoned to parliament as a baron from 1308 to 1321. He was governor of several castles and steward of Aquitaine. He unfortunately joined Thomas Plantagenet, earl of Lancaster, and was taken and imprisoned in Wallingford castle, where he died in prison, 1326. From him descended through his eldest son, Thomas, (7) the direct line of the lords of Berkeley. We are here only concerned with the line of his second son.

Sir Maurice de Berkeley had, in siding against the Spensers, gained the anger of Edward II. and the approval of his successor. Edward III. accordingly granted him the manor of Stoke Gifford in 1329, and eventually made him a knight banneret. Sir Maurice brought a force of 6 knights, 32 esquires, 30 mounted archers, and 200 foot to the battle of Crecy in 1346, but, after escaping out of the dangers of battle, he, like too many a brave man of later times, died of a fever before the beleaguered Calais in February, 1347. (8)

Sir Thomas, his son, was held in friendship by Edward the Black Prince, and fought for him at Poitiers in 1356. He was knight of the shire for Gloucester, and died at the age of 30 in 1362, having married a daughter of John, lord de Bottetourt. (9)

Sir Maurice, his son, kept up the warlike repute of his ancestors in the ill-starred French wars of the period, and was knighted by Richard II. He represented Gloucestershire in the parliament of 1392 and died 1403.

Sir Maurice was born not long after his father's death; his youth prevented his service under the brilliant Henry V., but he shared in the wars of the "noble duke of Bedford." When the heroic maid had "driven the leopards into the sea," he returned to Gloucestershire and succeeded to the castle of Urley as heir of lord Bottetourt. He died 1465.

(7) The proceedings against lord Thomas for the murder of Edward II. resulted in his complete acquittal, as at the time he was so ill that he went to Bradeslye. Rotuli Parl. 4 Ed. III. m. 16. Cobbett's "State Trials" (1809) vol. i, p. 55.

(8) Dugdale's Peerage, vol. i, p. 349. "Mauritius de Berkeley = Eva filia Eudonis de la Zouche, (filius secundus) Mauritius a quo illi de Stoke Gifford in com Gloucester." See also Collinson's "History of Somerset," lands regranted (2 Ed. III. Rot. Fin: m. 13). Constable of the Tower of London and governor of Gloucester. (Patent Rolls). Grants of Stoke Gifford, &c., ii. Ed. III. patent 3, m. 8. The different calls to arms and his services and forces in France, and the grant of wardship of his son Thomas in the same rolls.

(9) His effigy and tomb remain in fair preservation in Bristol cathedral, and are figured in Gough's "Sepulchral Monuments."

Sir William Berkeley, son of Sir Maurice, was made Knight of the Bath at the coronation of the sinister Richard III., whose defeat he shared at the battle of Bosworth in 1485. He was attainted by Henry VII., but after ten years milder councils prevailed, and he was restored to his estates, which he enjoyed in peace for seven years, and died in 1503.

Sir Richard, his son, seems to have led a quiet undistinguished life and died evidently while still a young man in 1514. From his eldest son John sprang the Berkeleys, of Stoke Gifford, whose descendant, in 1764, claimed and obtained the barony of Bottetourt, but died without issue in 1776.

Sir Maurice, the second son, lived at Bruton, in Somerset. He was standard bearer to Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth. To him Sir Thomas Wyatt surrendered in his rebellion against queen Mary. Sir Maurice lived far down the "spacious times of great Elizabeth," making his will Feb. 10th, 1581, and left issue three sons—Sir Henry Berkeley, of Bruton, from whom the families of Bruton and Pylle descend; Edward, and the subject of this paper, his second son Francis. (10)

Francis Berkeley was born into a stirring world. The times were very critical for England, but they were healthy, manly, cheerful times, undefiled by sentiment or sensational newspapers. Younger sons had many an opportunity for mending or ending their destinies, and apart from a sea life, the war-wasted, seething Ireland seemed to afford the best prospects of fortune and lands, to be won at the sword point. Thither wended their way "the two sons of Sir Morris Berkeley," (11) Francis and Edward. These two young men were soon advanced to captaincies in the armies of the queen. Edward Berkeley first established a connection with the county of Limerick by accepting the post of warden of Askeaton castle.

Askeaton had been strengthened in 1574 by the hapless Gerald, earl of Desmond, in anticipation of his struggle with the forces of the government, at least five years before that terrible civil war broke out. He had, however, benefitted but little by his fortifications, though they

(10) The pedigree in the Visitation of Somerset, 1623, gives Maurice Berkeley living in Ireland as son of Sir Francis, second son of Sir Maurice of Bruton.

(11) Calendar of State Papers, Ireland (cited as C.S.P.I. infra) 1598, p. 346.

kept out Sir Nicholas Malby in a raid after the battle of Monasteranenagh, in which the English commander destroyed the town and convent of Askeaton, but only made a very feeble attempt on the castle. The English had "only one dismounted culverin" even at the end of the year 1579, (12) so were not well equipped for the pulling down of strongholds, and when Lord Ormonde "cleared" the country, he also was obliged to pass by the castle, as the war department had providently omitted to supply shot for his demi-cannon. The following year after the capture of Carrygoyle, the English advanced on Askeaton with those heavy guns whose very sound had spread a panic far into Thomond, across the river and in the adjoining districts. The garrison of Askeaton felt their hearts sink at the thought of these new terrors of war; the English came on April 3rd, 1580, and that night Desmond's garrison escaped, blowing up part of the outworks. (13) Only a few shots had been fired by the English. Then came a lull, the English had "spent" their horses. The enemy "were too swift of foot for the heavy English men at arms. Castles could not, however, run away," so the English garrisoned Askeaton and appointed Edward Berkeley as warden.

Capt. Francis Berkeley was fighting in another province; he was a personal friend and supporter of Sir John Perrot, the lord deputy, and was appointed high sheriff of Mayo and provost-marshal of Connaught and Thomond. He took out letters of pardon, as was usual, for any errors during his shrievalty on June 12th, 1586. (14) As provost-marshal he was allowed his board at the chief commissioner's table, an escort of 25 horse soldiers, and 4/6 a day. Berkeley was a bitter opponent of Sir Richard Bingham, (15) and had probably, in the wild struggle for advancement and fortune, secured other influential enemies. He was nearly involved in the fall of Perrot in later years, as may be seen below.

During the remainder of Desmond's rebellion Edward Berkeley

(12) Calendar of Carew Manuscripts (1579) pp. 161, 165.

(13) Cal. State Papers, Ireland, 1580, p. 215. Carew Manuscripts, 1579, pp. 240-249.

(14) XV. Annual Report of Deputy Keeper of the Records, Ireland, No. 4,890; The Pardon, No. 4,633, and No. 4,704, Appointment as Provost-Marshal.

(15) "Fras. Barkley and Tibbot Dillon have been overmuch countenanced by Sir John Perrot against Sir Richard" (Bingham), writes Wallop to Walsingham, C.S.P.I., 1586, p. 40, and p. 97. Bingham did not get much support in his complaints against Berkeley in England. *Ibid*, 1586, p. 186; 1587, p. 373.

held Askeaton and made small raids, sweeping up a few captives and much cattle, and occasionally losing a handful of men in an ambushade or more open fight; one of these "regrettable incidents" attracted the attention and appears in a letter of captain (afterwards Sir) Walter "Rawley." (16) Berkeley returned to Bristol in January, 1583, and his deputy, Gregory Morgan, got into trouble with the government, as was then easy, for relieving rebels. On his return, Edward Berkeley served brilliantly against Sorley Boy in 1584. To conclude this history he held Askeaton castle (despite attempts of Sir John Norreys, the president of Munster, to secure it for himself), and then gave up the appointment in exchange for a pension in 1589.

Francis meanwhile may be traced in numerous records, but none of much local interest, he was waiting the "tide in the affairs of men" and it came. (17) The confiscated lands of the earl of Desmond (who had met his last ill fate in Glennageenty many years before), were being distributed among the "undertakers." We find among the grantees the name of Captain Francis Berkeley, who got 7,000 acres. The grant dates October, 20th, 1590. He was a man of conciliatory disposition outside actual warfare. He got pardons for some of the Irish gentry in 1586, (18) and as we shall see was censured for his kindness to his Irish tenants. Berkeley's new found prosperity was nearly blighted before a year had passed. In other histories can be found the story of Perrot's fall. A number of his adherents were arrested, brought to London and imprisoned, among the rest was Francis Berkeley, but in 1591 he was set free, given £100 for his ill-treatment, and restored to his estates, which were now found to amount to 7,250 acres, and on which were settled twenty-one English families as a nucleus for a new colony. (19) He got the manor of Rock-Barkley for ever at a rent of £87 10s. od., and was bound to erect houses for fifty-six families besides his own. He got all the lands and tenements in Askeaton,

(16) C.S.P.I., 1586, p. 97.

(17) For example, "an espial" came to him in 1586 with news that the earl of Leicester was slain and the English overthrown in the Low Countries; that a great Spanish fleet had arrived at Baltimore and two great armies in England, and that "the queen was sick to death." Berkeley sent the messenger to Bingham, who had a rough but efficient way of preserving people from terrifying war news of an unfounded character, and executed the news agent on the spot. (C.S.P.I., 1585, p. 405).

(18) C.S.P.I., 1586, p. 186.

(19) C.S.P.I., 1591. XVI. Report Records, Ireland, (1884), p. 136.

except the castle, which was reserved to the crown, and if the grant is reliable his estates amounted to 12,000 acres. Gentlemen of position were not then able to settle down in idleness on their estates. Berkeley had much to watch, report, guard against, and improve. There were ruined and desperate men left in hiding and the moonlighter was not unknown in the land, as George Burnell found to his cost and to the horror of Berkeley in 1594. (20)

In 1596 Berkeley strengthened his position by marriage with Jane, daughter of Dr. Adam Loftus, (21) the protestant archbishop of Dublin, who was also lord chancellor and held many another post lucrative or influential. Jane's mother was a member of the Purdon family who had settled in Meath from Cumberland, and of which a branch only recently extinct in the male line were long settled in county Clare, at Tinnerana, on the loveliest reach of Lough Derg.

Berkeley only enjoyed undisturbed prosperity for two years, then the formidable insurrection of the "Sugawn earl," James Fitzgerald, broke out. Berkeley writes from "His majesty's castle of Askeaton, where I am now environed with neighbours that seek always to disadvantage us and preventing all means that may minister us any relief." The revolt was so sudden and unexpected that they had only means sufficient for a private gentleman stored in the castle, when at eight o'clock on the evening of Friday, October 6th, 1598, a crowd appeared at the castle gate. Five hundred of the English neighbours poured into the castle—men, women, and children unprovisioned and flying for their lives. Berkeley had to come to a quick decision, all that he had in his favour was the pause the enemy made to plunder and divide the spoils: a habit, by the way, which has stood the Celtic races in bad stead, has saved Rome and changed the destiny of the world. It was decided as the water way was still open to send off the refugees who, with the aid of an English barque in the Shannon, were safely landed in Limerick and kindly received and provided for by the mayor.

Berkeley kept 120 able men "trained for service and eager to avenge their sufferings" to strengthen the garrison. He asked for 600 more so as to be able to clear the district and bring the cattle and corn

(20) C.S.P.I., 1594, Oct. 15.

(21) MSS. F., 3-23, Trinity College, Dublin. Funeral Entries, Ulster Office, Dublin.

as stores for the castle. For some time the rebels kept aloof, at last they ventured near the castle and called for its surrender, offering "that his wife and others should be safely conveyed to any port or place where he would, without any hurt." He refused, saying that "the castle was as rich and well furnished as ever it was in Desmond's time, bidding them do their worst." They assaulted the place promptly, losing many of their men and then, turning the siege into a blockade, sat down there days, fled precipitately on a false rumour that the lord general was coming, and when that proved unfounded "rallied and returned to their leaguer." (22) This was reported to the government in England and Berkeley's letter forwarded by Loftus and others in November, recommending that Berkeley's services should be utilised and pointing out the importance of Askeaton castle—"much thirsted after by the rebels, Captain Barkley being one of the sons of Sir Maurice Barkley is already well known to your lordships for his good services for many years past."

The danger, however, was not assault, but rather starvation, as in December it was found impossible to provision Askeaton, held by "Sir F. Barkley and 100 tall men of the English," because the Shannon swarmed with "the traitors galleys and other boats," (23) and this state of affairs was unaltered on March 26th, 1599. The despatch reached Elizabeth by the hands of the ruined Edmund Spenser, the poet.

The siege went on languidly, without much record of details, probably little more than a blockade; the difficulty was not so much the strength of the enemy as the difficult country and the fact that the castle stood some miles up a tidal creek and river where all the advantage was with the enemy and their boats.

It was not till June 22nd, 1599, that any serious attempt was made to provision Askeaton. The earl of Essex when in Limerick determined to relieve it, (24) on hearing which the "pretended earl" swore to "impeach" his advance and brought up between 2,000 and 3,000 Connaughtmen and "bonaughts." The first dangerous point on the march was the long narrow bridge (even more narrow than now) across the low

(22) C.S.P.I., 1598, pp. 331-346, &c.

(23) C.S.P.I., 1599, p. 497.

(24) See "Annals of the IV. Masters," 1599, p. 2113; Calendar Carew Manuscripts, vol. iii., 1589-1600, p. 304; Hist. Cathol. Iber. Compend. Tom. III, lib. v, cap. ix.

muddy river and flat, near the castle of Adare. This Desmond allowed Essex to cross unmolested, believing that he had got him into a trap. Essex left seven companies in the abbey near the bridge, and marched on with Bingham and the earl of Thomond, till he fell into an ambuscade among the bogs to the west of the village, near Rower. A smart skirmish, which appears in a much more serious light in the "Annals of the IV. Masters," and in allusions in certain letters among the state papers than in the official statement of Essex, cleared the road, and the English camped at Cappagh castle. The rebels attempted a slight night attack, but with little result, and Essex reached Askeaton with the convoy on Sunday, 10th June, about the 247th day of the siege. The "IV. Masters" say Essex stayed in the camp (? Cappagh) sending on the convoy to Askeaton, but O'Sullivan Beare and the state papers agree in the other version. Berkeley left the castle, which, provisioned and with fresh blood in the garrison, was a thorn in the side of Desmond during the rest of the war, and, coming with Essex to Kilmallock, was there knighted on 12th June, 1599. Sir Francis then "haunted and hunted" Garret Fitz Nicholas and his kerne during July, getting large spoil of horses, cattle, and grain, returned for a few days to Askeaton for some final arrangement, and went northward to fill various commands and commissionerships and take part in the Connaught wars. He was one of the three commissioners who governed Munster during the illness of the lord president Norris. He was at Elphin in August, 1600, where O'Donnell nearly surprised him in a dense fog, but was repulsed with a loss of 80 men.

Later in the year Sir Francis appears at the siege of Kinsale, in which he took an active part, and repelled a fierce night attack of the Spaniards. Individual facts are, however, lacking. The following year ended the war. The Spaniards in Kinsale came to terms early in the year, and the earl was taken in May, 1601. (25)

On July 6th we find Berkeley guarding a convoy with £10,000 to Galway; he commanded 1,000 foot. He returned to Elphin where on a former occasion he had so narrow an escape, and there gathered up more "war correspondence"—about 2,000 Spanish ships bringing trea-

(25) See several entries in "Pacata Hibernia." [Ed. 1819], pp. 34, 94, 138, 153, 280, 316, 327, 331; View of Askeaton, 98, 335, 389, 402, also Carew Manuscripts, 1601, pp. 152, 187. Captains Henry and John Barkley also took part in the siege of Kinsale.

sure and munitions to Killalla, but this deed on a lesser scale was reserved to another nation nearly two centuries later. The fate of the reporter on this occasion is not recorded. (26)

Anxious times continued, and before the country had settled the garrisons were reduced to vanishing point, while everything was done to add to the exasperation of the disaffected, and the government had nothing but the exhaustion of the Irish and old Englishry in their favour in 1606. Even the new Englishry had their grievances against the government, and were worried for illegal assessments and claims above the terms of their respective grants.

Berkeley, who was appointed governor of Limerick castle on Nov. 16th, 1597, (27) found himself left with a constable, a porter, a "cannoneer," and 20 men to overawe a discontented city; his pay was 3/- a day, the porter got 9 pence, the gunner 1/4, and the men 8 pence each. (28) He was discharged from his captaincy in 1608, but was left the use of the castles of Limerick and Askeaton, presumably to save the government the cost of a caretaker.

Sir Francis was at last able to resume the congenial task of improvement and settlement of his estates. He had, as already stated, gained the confidence of the Irish who could understand and trust a fighting enemy better than a truckling one. The Bourkes in 1586 approached him to obtain their pardon. O'Sullivan Beare wrote to entreat him to influence the government to restore the petitioner his lands and the royal favour, (29) and he was censured for harbouring native Irish on his manor in 1611.

In 1610 Berkeley visited Sir Arthur Chichester, the lord deputy, and offered to wall the town and strengthen the castle of Askeaton at his own cost. Chichester accordingly induced king James to grant the castle and government reserve to Berkeley for life, to make his lands a manor, under title of Rock Barkeley, and establish there a fair and weekly markets, and a year later, April 25th, 1611, he granted Morrice Berkeley the constablenesship of Limerick castle after his father's death. (30)

(26) Carew Manuscripts, vol. iv., 1601, pp. 101, 126.

(27) Patent "free of seal because he was son-in-law to the chancellor." *Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniæ*, vol. i.

(28) C.S.P.I., 1606, p. 580; 1607, p. 87.

(29) C.S.P.I., 1586, pp. 97, 182; 1605, pp. 380, 432, 454, 512.

(30) C.S.P.I., 1610, pp. 433, 433, 577.

With curiously mixed motives for pacifying the country, strengthening the influence of the settlers, and (strange to say an object somewhat opposed to the last) to form a government interest in parliament, a number of small boroughs were incorporated—among them Askeaton, on Oct. 20th, 1612, Edmond Drew being the first provost. Berkeley was, of course, at the head of the list of burgesses; he was returned as a representative of county Limerick in the ensuing parliament, and the petition against the undue influence used at his election, even if well founded, at least showed that the other side had been guilty of personation and other corrupt practices.

He kept 900 acres of demesne in his own hand, and used to employ Irish-speaking preachers in Askeaton church, which rendered the people very attentive—even in the few years of peace from 1606 to 1615, he had done much to undo the ravage of the war. He died at Askeaton, December 20th, 1615, being succeeded by his eldest son Maurice Berkeley, who was aged 17 years and 10 months at his father's death. (31) Berkeley was probably buried in the chancel of the parish church, where his descendants, the Taylors of Ballinort and Hollypark, and the Westropps of Ballysteen still hold burial places, but no monument remains.

The inquisition taken at Kilmallock, August 8th, 1616, before Edward Becher, records that Francis Barckley, late of Asketton, co. Limerick, knight, who died at Asketton, 20 December, 1615, held in fee Mone Early, Kilbraghane, Ballymore, Caghersheragh-Lacy; Bollyg × × × Kappyrelane and Ardnegowne, Ballyhomyn, Ballynorthy, Gortshoghane, Ballynekilly, Clone Uragher *alias* the Abbey Land, Laghvane, Lyssvickyrye, Tulloe, Inshymore, Cooletomy *alias* Coolcomyn, Ballyloghane, Ballyshane, Ronahan, Ballinkidall and ffarenkarragh. All premises of the king in free socage; the castle of Limerick worth £90 13s. 4d., under patent of Queen Elizabeth; the manor, castle, and mansion house of Asketton, and 40 acres of land. Courts leet and baron are held in the vill. of Askeaton. Also held in fee, Aghnys and ffawnmore, Ballyne-caharraghe, Ballycollyn and Ballyellinane.

(31) Inquisition Post Mortem. Exchequer Inquisitions of Ireland, 1615, Record Office, Four Courts.

Sir Francis Berkeley left issue by his wife, Jane Loftus, married 1596, (32) who subsequently married Henry Berkeley :—

1. MAURICE, born February or March, 1698. He was granted reversion of governorship of Limerick castle, 1610. His arms and descent are registered in the Visitation of Somerset, in 1623. He married Miss Slingsby, and died s.p. on Sep. 8th, 1622, and was succeeded by his brother.

2. HENRY, born 1606; died unmarried February 21st, 1625. Livery of his possessions having been granted to his sisters—Elizabeth, wife of George Crofton, and Gertrude, wife of John Taylor. (33)

3. CATHERINE married George Courtenay, fourth son of Sir William Courtenay, of Powderham, Devonshire. She died s.p. George held Limerick castle against the confederates in the siege of 1641-42.

4. ELIZABETH, born 1604; married George Crofton, of Moate, Roscommon, and d. s.p.

5. GERTRUDE, born 1605; married John Taylor—as given below.

6. FRANCES, born 1607; married, first, Thomas Blayney, of Tregonan, and secondly, James Purcell, of Croagh, (34) who died 25 May, 1637; she d. s.p.

TAYLOR FAMILY.

John Taylor, of Ballinort, county Limerick, 1626-1660, left issue by his wife, Gertrude Berkeley—

1. RICHARD, d. unmarried.

2. ROBERT TAYLOR, of Ballinort, (35) high sheriff of Limerick, 1670; M.P. for Askeaton, 1692-1695. He married Margaret, only daughter of E. Berkeley, of Pylle, co. Somerset, and died at Ballyneety (? Ballinort), 1697, being buried at Askeaton. His will dates Aug. 23rd, 1693, proved at Limerick, and now at Dublin.

3. WILLIAM TAYLOR, of Ballinort, and Burton, co. Cork. He was twice married, first to Lucy, daughter of Col. Villiers Harrington, of Wexford, by whom he had two sons and a daughter. 1. Robert, M.P. for Askeaton, 1715; high sheriff of Limerick, 1706. He died s.p. 1735. His will was proved at Dublin. The monument of him and his wife, Judith, remains at Askeaton church. 2. Berkeley, (see next page). 3. Jane, m. Samuel Meynard, of Conglas,

(32) In the subsequent pedigree I use the valuable register of the descendants of Archbishop Loftus, brought down from the 16th to the opening of the 18th century, preserved in Trinity College, Dublin, MSS. F. 3, 23, pp. 95, 97, 99, 101, 102, 103, 111, 115, supplemented by patents, inquisitions and the numerous wills at Dublin.

(33) See Patent Rolls, Ireland, 1626, Roll I., dorso, Nov. 21st. Livery of estates of Henry Berkeley, and inquisition on death of Henry Berkeley, Rolls office, 7th June, 1625.

(34) Funeral Entries, Ulster Office, Dublin, 1637, p. 185.

(35) A letter of his to Sir Robert Southwell, 15 Aug., 1690, on the state and suggested settlement of Ireland is among the MSS., R.I.A., relating to the reduction of Ireland, vol. vi, No. 3. His will is of considerable quaintness and interest.

Cork. William secondly married Debora, daughter of Robert Fowler, of Gloucester, and had issue—1. Richard Taylor, of Ballyglehane (Hollypark); high sheriff, 1715; md. Mary, d. of Thomas Finch, of Cork; she died 1730. His will was proved in Dublin, 1718. He is ancestor of the Taylors now of Hollypark. 2. James Taylor; he was devised Hatterling, in Somersetshire, by his uncle Robert. 3. Anselm. 4. Barry; and three daughters. William died in 1713; his will remains at Dublin. It is dated Nov. 12th, 1712.

4. SUSANNA m. John Peck, of Killane, and d. s.p.

5. JANE married John Gore, of Clonroad, co. Clare, (36) who d. 1694, and from whom descend the Gores of Derrymore and Tyredagh, and the Gore-Hickmans of Kilmore, county Clare; she was buried in the Franciscan monastery, Ennis.

6. FRANCES m. Mountifort Westropp, (37) of Cornborough, and Stainesbye, York, and Kilkerin, Clare; comptroller of Limerick, 1660, and high sheriff of Clare, 1674 and 1697; died, 1698; from whom descend the Westropp of Attyflin, and Mellon, Limerick, and other branches in Limerick, Cork and Clare; she died, 1706. Her will was proved at Killaloe, is now in Dublin; she was buried at Sixmilebridge, Clare.

7. ELIZABETH married Francis Palmes, of Corrig, and left issue.

8. THOMAS, died unmarried.

BERKELEY TAYLOR, son of William, legatee in the will of his uncle Robert, 1697; high sheriff of Limerick, 1724; M.P. for Askeaton, 1723-1727; died, 1736. His will was proved at Dublin, where it remains. By his wife Sarah he left issue—

1. WILLIAM, of whom see below. 2. Richard. 3. Robert. 4. Edward; high sheriff of Limerick, 1727, and M.P. for Askeaton the same year; will proved, 1761-5. 5. Lucy married Arthur Ussher, of Camphire, Waterford, and had issue. 6. Sarah, md. 1729, Thomas Westropp, of Ballysteen, and left issue. 7. Mary, m., 1734, John Westropp, of Attyflin, and d. s.p.

WILLIAM TAYLOR, of Ballinort; M.P. for Askeaton, 1737; died, 1747. He married, first, a daughter of the Very Rev. William Crone, dean of Clonfert, and secondly, Anne, daughter of Richard Maunsell, [who secondly m. John Tunnadine, of Park], and left issue by the first only.

1. EDWARD, drowned shortly after attaining his majority.

2. CATHERINE, m. 1760, Hugh, second baron Massy, from whom descend the barons Massy, the present owners of the Berkeley estates.

3. SARAH, m. 1774, Henry, second earl of Carrick, and d. 1841, leaving issue.

(36) See "Journal Royal Society Antiquaries, Ireland," vol. xxi, 1890-1891; "The Sheriffs of Clare," p. 79, and p. 72 for the seal of their son, Francis Gore.

(37) *Ibid.*, pp. 74, 78. Seal also given.