XXIX. *Some Account of an antient Painting on Glafs.*
By the Rev. Robert Masters, B. D. F. S. A. Rector
of Landbeach, Cambridgeshire.

Read December 7, 1786.

AS the notice and preservation of such antiquities as relate to the royal families of this kingdom is one of the objects of this Society, I take the liberty of exhibiting to it a curiosity which has lately fallen into my hands, together with some observations I have made thereon, and such others as have been communicated to me by our worthy member Mr. Brooke, Somerset herald.

It is a representation of an ancient piece of glafs, on which is depicted a memorable piece of history of the Stewart family, and was discovered by me in Cambridgeshire, and obtained from a descendant of that house, who said it came from an ancient seat of the family at Stuntney in that county, which was pulled down about the beginning of the present century. The story alludes to an event which possibly took place in the Stewart family some ages ago, and which has before been treated on in the fourth volume of the *Archaeologia* by our deceased worthy president Dr. Milles, and Mr. Brooke, to which I beg leave to refer, being beautifully represented on an elegant seal ring in possession of Sir Richard Worsley, Bart. there engraved; and this glafs is a confirmation of the event, and shews that the family of Stewart were desirous of perpetuating it by various means.

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The size of the glafs is nine inches and a quarter by fix and a half, upon which are well painted in proper colours the same figures as on Sir Richard Worley's seal ring before mentioned, the knight having a shield, and staff raguled. He is dressed in mail, but here his helmet has a gardevifure over the face; the whole within a tressure fleury and counterfleury, and seems to make a much better figure than the other, being upon a larger scale. This history is furrounded with a bordure, making together seventeen inches and a half by eleven; and the part at bottom is three inches and a half deep, on which is represented a figure of Banquo, but much mutilated, sitting on the ground leaning with his right elbow on his helmet, which, with his gauntlets lye by him: from his loins issues a tree which runs up the bordure on his right side, is continued over the top, and down on the left side. On the branches of this tree are fifteen small half-length figures in armour, holding their shields of arms in their left hands, and warlike instruments in the right, in the following order: 1 Fleanchus, 2 Walterus, 3 Alanus, 4 Alexander, 5 Walterus, 6 Alexander, 7 Andreas, 8 Alexander, 9 Joñes, 10 Joñes, 11 Thomas, 12 Ricardus, 13 Nicholas, 14 Nicholas, 15 Wittus, with the names under each. The shields from Banquo to Alanus inclusive are charged with the original coat of Steward, Or a fefs chequè Argent and Azure, and Alexander the son of Alanus is represented as the person to whose arms the escutcheon with the lion was added by a king of France, earlier than Charles VI. as he is the grandson of Walter, who first assumed the name of Steward from his office. This Alexander who died about the year 1199, was founder of the Abbey of Paisley, and probably had been abroad in the Holy Wars, where he might have met with an adventure that gave rise to this representation, and this period agrees well with the form of the helmet. As a further confirmation of this, the
successors

successors of Alexander for seven generations bear in their shields the royal augmentation only, viz. the lion rampant debruised with the bend, after which the original family coat, the fess chequè, is again reassumed without the lion, and Richard the eighth in descent from Alexander, and the second from the top on the left side of the glass, who expunges the augmentation, is represented with a staff raguled in his right hand, allusive to such expulsion.

From Andrew the youngest son of Alexander, grandson of this first Alexander, the families seated in the Isle of Ely and Hampshire descend, whilst the royal line of Scotland was carried on by that of John the eldest, whose son Walter is the person to whom dean Milles and the Baronetages assign the addition of arms, but erroneously; for had this been the case, the family in Cambridgeshire, who branched off two generations before, and were only his cousins-german, could not have been entitled to it.

The order of persons on this glass corresponds with various ancient pedigrees in the Heralds College, one of which, entered by the family at the visitation of the county of Cambridge in 1619, is very copious, and herewith is a copy of so much as concerns the representation on this glass: it also agrees with the extract of the Stewart pedigree given by Mr. Brooke in the *Archaeologia*, vol. IV. p. 189, except in this, that, from the authority of a manuscript there quoted, he assigns to the second Alexander what is here allotted to the first.

From the date on the glass 1574, and the genealogy and effigies ending with William Stewart who lived at that time, we may conclude it was executed for him. He was seated at Ely, being son of Nicholas Stewart of that place by Elizabeth Lucas his wife: he married two wives, 1st, Mary daughter of Fulnetby of Fulnetby co. Linc. Esq. by whom he had three daughters,

daughters, Anne married to Thomas Marsh of Ely, Mildred and Barbara; and 2dly, Catharine daughter of Thomas Payne of Castle-Acre in Norfolk, by whom he had Sir Thomas his heir, Catherine, Elizabeth married to Robert Cromwell of the town of Huntingdon, Helen 1st, to Pooley, 2dly, to Edward Stewart of Lackenheath in Suffolk, Esq. Jane and Winifred. Sir Thomas Stewart, Knt. his son, was sometime high sheriff of the counties of Cambridge and Huntingdon. He married Bridget daughter of John Poole of Poole in Cheshire, Esq. but probably died without issue, as Oliver Cromwell the Protector, son of his sister Elizabeth, is said to have been his heir, and to have succeeded to four or five hundred pounds per ann. of his uncle's estate.

The Stewarts of Stuntney descend from Simeon Stewart, uncle to William of Ely. It is therefore probable, that as being the nearest neighbouring heir male, upon the extinction of the Ely branch, the Protector Oliver, or whoever inherited their property, might present it to them. Thomas Stewart of Stuntney, Esq. was living at that place 1684.

Banquo Thane of Lochaber.

—
Fleance son of Banquo.

—
Walter who assumed the name of Stewart.

—
Alan Stewart, son of Walter.

—
Alexander Stewart, who added the augmentation to his arms.
5th effigy in the genealogical tree.

—
Walter Stewart, bore the augmentation only, and expunged his paternal arms.
6th effigy.

—
Alexander Stewart, 2d son.

—
Andrew Stewart, youngest son. See Archaeol. IV. p. 189.

—
Alexander Stewart.

—
Sir John Stewart, Knt. 2d son settled in England. — Mary da. of Talmache.

—
Sir John Stewart, Knt. son and heir. — Maud da. of Sir Thomas Kiriell, Knt.

—
Thomas Stewart of Soffam, Esq. 14 Hen. VI. — da. of Sir John Hamerton, Knt.

—
Richard Stewart, Esq. son and heir, expunged the augmentation, and reassumed the paternal coat of Stewart. 13th effigy. — da. and heir of John Boreley.

—
Nicholas Stewart of Welle in Norfolk, Esq. — Cecilia da. of Baskerville.

—
Nicholas Stewart of Ely, Esq. buried there 10th of Sept. 1558. — Elizabeth da. of Lucas of Well in Norfolk.

—
William Stewart of Ely, Esq. for whom the glas was painted, Ann. Dom. 1574.

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