XI.—*An Identification of the Compiler of a Manuscript in the possession of the Earl of Verulam, relating to a Treaty between King Charles I. and the Parliament, in 1648. In a Letter from JOHN BRUCE, Esq., F.S.A., to C. KNIGHT WATSON, Esq., F.S.A., Secretary.*

Read March 28th, 1867.

MY DEAR MR. WATSON,

On the 29th November, 1860, I had the honour to exhibit to the Society of Antiquaries a folio manuscript belonging to the Earl of Verulam, which contains an account of the Treaty between King Charles I. and the Parliament, held at Newport in the Isle of Wight in the autumn of 1648.

Some observations which I at that time made were afterwards printed in the *Archæologia*.^a In the course of them I stated that there existed three other principal accounts of that Treaty; those written by Clarendon, by Nicholas Oudart, and by Sir Edward Walker—all friends of the King; but that the account contained in the MS. of the Earl of Verulam was that of the Parliamentary Commissioners. I further stated that a passage in Lord Verulam's MS., in which the writer mentioned that the Commissioners gave him a letter they had received from the Speaker, seemed to point to some Secretary or Clerk to the Commissioners as the compiler of the MS.

Since Lord Verulam's MS. was exhibited and my observations were published, I have received from Francis Kyffin Lenthall, Esq., a descendant from Speaker Lenthall, and a gentleman extremely well versed in the history of the Long Parliament, information which clearly establishes who was the compiler of Lord Verulam's MS.

The way in which this fact is made out is somewhat curious.

The Tanner MS. in the Bodleian, No. 57 (2), contains several papers relating to the Treaty of Newport, and among them a series of fragments, evidently leaves torn out of a pocket or memorandum book, and so described in an endorsement. Upon these fragments there are various written notes or memoranda which

^a *Archæologia*, xxxix. 112.

principally intimate that the note-maker had on various specified days written letters addressed to certain persons. Thus :

“ September the 16th. I wrote to the Speaker, and gave him an account of our journey, and what passed to that day; by Hardwicke.”

On Sept. 21st, 25th and 29th there occur similar entries.

On Sept. 30th there is the following :—

“ The 30th I wrote to my uncle Thomas Lenthall, giving him a full account of all the treaty to that day.”

On the

“ 2nd October, I wrote to Mr. Speaker, giving him account of the debate with our ministers &c. to that day; by Capt. Gouge.”

“ 3rd October, I wrote to him again, telling him the whole dispute of that morning, by the post.”

“ 5th October, I gave Mr. Speaker account of all the debates till then, and sent him a copy of the King's scruples, and our Ministers reply thereunto.”

“ 7th October, I wrote to Mr. Speaker, by the post, of all to that day.”

“ 9th October, I wrote to my mother, to my uncle Francis Lenthall, telling him all to that day, and the Monday after, and to Mr. Waller; to my brother Trotman also the same day.”

Omitting several intermediate entries of a similar kind, on

“ 11th November, I wrote to my brother Trotman, my mother, Mr. Waller, Mr. Evelyn, and my sister Frances, and to Mr. Blackborne.”

It is evident from the contents of these memoranda that they relate, 1. To a treaty. 2. To a treaty with the King. 3. Their dates, and the brief allusions they contain to what was passing, establish that the treaty was that of Newport, and therefore that the memoranda have reference to the year 1648. 4. It appears, also, that the writer had uncles of the names of Francis Lenthall and Thomas Lenthall, and a sister named Frances. 5. It is shown by the will of the Speaker Lenthall, contained in the volume of “ Wills from Doctors' Commons ” published by the Camden Society, that the Speaker had two brothers named Francis Lenthall and Thomas Lenthall. It also appears in the Lenthall pedigree (Harl. MS. 1556 fo. 120) that the Speaker had a sister named Anne who was married to Samuel Warcup of Fulbrooke and afterwards of English, co. Oxford, and in a Warcup pedigree contained in the same volume (fo. 80) it is stated that Mrs. Warcup had a family of twelve children, seven of whom were boys, and that among the girls one was named Frances. 6. We find also, that, in the same volume of Tanner MSS. which contains these fragments, there is an original letter of the Speaker,

dated 27th September 1648, and addressed to Sir John Potts, one of the Parliamentary Commissioners at Newport, in which letter the writer states, "I thanke you for kinde acceptance of my nephew. I know by your good instructions he wilbe able to doe you service. What paynes or countenance you bestow shall not be forgotten by your assured freend and humble servant, William Lenthall." 7. It will have been observed that among the persons to whom the writer of the fragments addressed letters on the 11th November, one was "Mr. Evelyn." Now, among the letters of John Evelyn, written under the signature of Aplanos, to his father-in-law Sir Richard Browne, under the pseudonyme of Mr. Peters, there is one dated the 23rd October, 1648, but probably really written on the 23rd November in that year, inasmuch as it commences by acknowledging the receipt of a letter dated the 24th October. In this letter Evelyn states:

"Since my last, I received an express from a correspondent of mine in the Isle of Wight, which gives me great hopes that the treaty may yet produce something like a settlement, which we continually expect in these parts. But what was more than I expected, an enclose from Mr. Warcup (whom Mr. Speaker hath sent thither, to give him an account of proceedings there, and whose letters to him he continually reads in the House), containing many great expressions and tender of service, if in anything there he would be useful to me; adding, withal, that if I desired a safe convey (*sic*) thither, he would readily procure it. To which (after I had returned him many acknowledgments for being so mindful of me at that distance, and after so long a discontinuance of our acquaintance) I replied,"^a &c.

We need not enter into Evelyn's answer; but may, I think, upon the information thus gathered together, unquestionably conclude that the writer of the fragments in the Tanner MS. was a nephew of the Speaker, that his surname was Warcup, that he was one of the seven sons of Mrs. Warcup the Speaker's sister, and that he was sent by the Speaker to Newport as Secretary, or in some other confidential capacity, in relation to the Parliamentary Commissioners.

Among the sons of Mrs. Warcup we have not far to seek for the identification of the one who was thus employed. Edmund, the fifth son, of whom we have an account in Anthony Wood's *Fasti* (ii. 325), is the only one who has any claim. This gentleman entered upon life as a Commoner of St. Alban Hall, a little before the commencement of the Civil War, but left Oxford without taking a degree, and passed a considerable time on the Continent, especially in Italy, with which country he became intimately acquainted, and there he probably fell in with Evelyn. During the Cromwellian period we are told that he was engaged in military service, and in 1659 we find him to have been a captain in the regiment

^a Evelyn's *Diary and Correspondence*, iii. 31, ed. 1852.

of Sir Anthony Ashley Cooper which took a leading part in the restoration of the Long Parliament and the reinstatement of the Speaker Lenthall. A recommendation at that time of the House of Commons to the Council of State that Edmund Warcupp should be employed in the public service, was probably a token of the Speaker's affection for his nephew. Warcupp on his part testified his good feeling towards his uncle by publishing, early in 1660, a folio volume entitled "*Italy, in its original glory, ruine, and revival, being an exact survey of the whole Geography and History of that famous Country,*" with a laudatory dedication to the Speaker by his Cromwellian title of William Lord Lenthall. After the Restoration Warcupp distinguished himself as an active magistrate in Middlesex, especially in the time of the Popish Plot. In 1663 Oxford conferred upon him the degree of M.A., and in 1670 that of D.C.L.

Finally, he died on the 1st May 1712, at the patriarchal age of 90. He was interred at Northmoor in Oxfordshire, and in the church of that parish there stands a monument to him erected by his daughter Anna Maria Pryce, widow of Sir John Pryce, Bart., in which she commemorates her father as "*Warcupporum ultimus.*" His honours culminated in a knighthood, which he received at Whitehall from the hand of Charles II. on the 15th December 1684.

This then is the Warcupp mentioned by Evelyn as being with the Parliamentary Commissioners at Newport, and the person to whom the compilation of Lord Verulam's MS. may be confidently attributed.

Lord Verulam's MS. was written by some one who stood in the closest and most confidential relations towards the Commissioners. He knew every thing that passed between the King and them. He was present at their interviews with his Majesty and jotted down the King's sharp and pointed sayings. He was entrusted with the care of the papers of the Commissioners, and, whether or not he had the title of their Secretary, he really and truly fulfilled the duties of that office.

All this is realised in the information we now have respecting Mr. Edmund Warcupp. We find him remaining at Newport throughout the whole treaty, writing every three or four days to the Speaker with details of what had taken place, and occasionally sending him copies of important papers which had passed between the King and the Commissioners. Evelyn tells us that these letters were continually read to the House, and Mr. F. K. Lenthall has pointed out to me, that, besides writing the letters to the Speaker mentioned by Evelyn and commemorated in the fragments from the pocket-book, Warcupp did that which seems to prove most clearly not only his confidential but his secretarial character—he wrote with his own hand official letters—perhaps all the official letters—of the Parliamentary

Commissioners to the Speaker. Two of these letters, dated the 16th and the 21st September, are preserved in the volume of Tanner MSS. above referred to (fos. 294 and 300), and are both, as Mr. F. K. Lenthall informs me, in the handwriting of Edmund Warcupp.

These circumstances lead directly to the conclusion that, to say the least of it, it is in the highest degree probable that the Verulam MS., although not as I think in Warcupp's own handwriting, but in that of an ordinary transcriber, was compiled by him. After his return from Newport he no doubt prepared this narrative of the important transactions in which he had been engaged, and furnished a copy to each one of the Commissioners.

I would beg to add that I am entirely indebted to Mr. F. K. Lenthall for all the information contained in this communication. I have inspected the papers at Oxford myself, but Mr. Lenthall directed my attention to them, and lent me his own copies of them. Nothing in this letter but one or two trifling additions to the facts, and the present statement of their contents, is my own.

Believe me,

My dear Mr. Watson,

Yours very sincerely,

JNO. BRUCE.