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#### STANLEY MONUMENT IN LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL.

IN the south aisle of the choir of Lichfield Cathedral is a very curious monument representing a knight naked to the waist, below which was formerly a deep skirt painted with the arms of Stanley, the legs being in armour.

This figure is traditionally assigned to a "Captain Stanley," who for some offence against the Church had been excommunicated, but having at length made atonement for his sin, was admitted to sepulture in holy ground on condition that the evidence of his punishment should appear on his sculptured effigy. The monument, however, having suffered greatly from time and desecration (for the cathedral had been occupied during the Civil Wars by a parliamentary garrison), and no trace of colour remaining to bear out the tradition, this singular memorial remained for many years a puzzle and a doubt. A little time ago, however, the writer of this notice had the opportunity of examining the very curious volume of drawings made by Sir William Dugdale and his assistant Sedgewick for Sir Christopher Hatton, created Baron Hatton of Kirby, Northamptonshire, in 1643, containing views of various monuments as they existed in England previously to the demolition effected by the Roundheads. This very valuable book now belongs to the descendant of Lord Hatton, the Earl of Winchilsea; it was sent by his courteous permission for the inspection of our Society, and has been described in the nineteenth volume of this Journal.

Among the drawings of this collection is one of the Stanley monument, from which the sketch of the effigy here given is a copy. The drawing in the original is coloured, and shows very distinctly the upper part of the knight's body *in puris naturalibus*. The skirt has the arms of Stanley, *argent* on a bend *azure* three bucks' heads caboshed *or*; the legs are in armour; under the head is a buck's



Effigy in the South Aisle of the Choir, Lichfield Cathedral :

The Memorial of Sir John Stanley, of Pipe, Staffordshire, *temp.* Henry VII.

From a drawing in the Collections made for Sir Christopher Hatton by Sir William Dugdale, and now in possession of the Earl of Winchilsea, at Eastwell Park, Kent.

horn, and a similar horn is placed beneath the feet. The figure reposes on an altar tomb, in front of which are shields bearing the arms of Stanley (as already given), impaling *or* three chevronels *gules*. Above the figure is a sculptured bracket fixed to the wall, and the whole is surmounted by a depressed arch.

In order that no possibility of doubt might remain as to the prominent feature of this memorial, namely, its being unclothed from the waist upwards, I examined the drawing of the same monument in the Heralds' College volume of Dugdale's Visitation (C. 36). Here the drawing is in Indian ink only, but the muscles and other anatomical points are so clearly made out, that the absence of colour in no way diminishes the confirmation afforded by this evidence. The shields of arms are as before.

Now, as to the person commemorated. Pennant, in his "Journey from Chester to London," arriving at Lichfield, says, among other matters relating to the Cathedral, "I have a singular drawing of a tomb, now lost, of a knight naked to his waist; his legs and thighs armed, and at his feet and head a stag's horn; his hair long and dishevelled; a scroll in his hands, as if he was reading a confession or act of contrition. Across his middle, on his baslet, is his coat of arms, which show him to have been a Stanley. He is called Captain Stanley, and is said to have been excommunicated, but to have received funeral rites in holy ground (having shown signs of repentance) on condition that his monument should bear those marks of disgrace. I find a Sir Humphrey Stanley of Pipe, who died in the reign of Henry VII., who had a squabble with the Chapter about conveying the water through his lands to the close. He also defrauded the prebendary of Statfold of his tythes; so probably this might be the gentleman who incurred the censure of the church for his impiety." Shaw, in his "History of Staffordshire" (vol. i. p. 254), copies the drawing and the words of Pennant; and at pages 249 and 252 also he notices the tomb, adding that "in the base of the monument are four shields, and in the first and fourth this impalement, viz. the arms of Stanley impaling *or*, three chevronels *gules* (*Clare*)." In a note on page 254 he again speaks of the impalement of the Stanley and Clare coats. Dr. Harwood, in his "History of Lichfield," quotes the account of Pennant, adding:—"That Sir

Humphrey was a man of a turbulent spirit may be proved from an anecdote told of him by Pennant. In 1493 a spirit of rivalry had subsisted between the Stanleys of Pipe and the Chetwyndes of Ingestre. Sir Humphrey Stanley was one of the knights of the body to Henry VII. ; Sir William Chetwynde was one of his gentlemen ushers. The former contrived to draw Sir William out of his house by means of a counterfeit letter, and while he was passing over Tixal Heath, caused him to be attacked by twenty armed men and slain on the spot ; Sir Humphrey passing with a train at the instant, under pretence of hunting, but in reality to gratify his revenge with the sight" (p. 98).

The points here recorded are not many, but the errors are abundant. The drawing given by Pennant is totally unlike the monument. The monument itself, so far from being "lost," has never stirred from its ancient site. Sir Humphrey Stanley did not marry a Clare ; and, whether he did or not, he was buried in Westminster Abbey, where his monumental brass remains to this day (as mild-looking a brass as ever came from the hands of a lattener). The only good point about the history is that it helps to confirm the curious fact of the knight being portrayed as naked to the waist.

Failing the terrible Sir Humphrey, the vengeful *miles pro corpore* of King Henry VII.,<sup>1</sup> the next claimant was Sir John Stanley, his son. But here again a bar was found ; for Sir John Stanley did not marry a Clare, neither could it be discovered what Clare had ever married any Stanley. In short, the whole affair was such an imbroglio of Clare and Stanley and Stanley and Clare, of chevrons and bends-azure, of parti-per-pale and bucks' heads caboshed, that Rouge Dragon himself might well have turned pale at the contemplation thereof. However, by dint of search among the stores of the British Museum, in which the assistance of Mr. Sims of the manuscript department was of great value, this fact revealed itself,—that the arms of Clare were also the arms of Gerard. And then, turning to the "Account of the House of Stanley" published by Seacome in 1741, was found, following the notice of Sir Humphrey Stanley above mentioned, the following entry :—

"Sir John Stanley of Pipe married Margaret, the daughter

<sup>1</sup> He died 1505.

of Sir Thomas Gerrard, and by her had issue two daughters only, by which the male line of this most worthy house was extinguished" (p. 175).

This short notice is full of interest for the investigation now in hand. "Sir John Stanley of Pipe." Pipe is a domain about a mile from Lichfield, so that the family of our knight would naturally desire his interment in the cathedral of that city. The Gerards were seated in the north-west division of the county of Stafford, giving name to the village of Gerards'-Bromley, so that the lady was a neighbour of the "Stanleys of Pype;" and the circumstance of Sir John being the last male representative of his family precludes the possibility of any other claimant starting up to dispute possession of the Lichfield tomb. The arms thus assigned to the family of Gerard may be found in Harl. MS., 1458, fol. 135 verso, and again in Burke's Armory.

The last point to be noticed—and it is by far the most interesting—the representation of the knight on his monument as partially divested of clothing, and the facts implied by this representation, I leave to much abler hands than my own. I venture, however, to call attention to a point noticed by Dr. Milner in his description of the glass-picture representing the scourging of Henry II., reproduced in Carter's "Sculpture and Painting," pl. 37; that, in old times, "there was not any ignominy implied in scourging as a public penance: on the contrary, many royal personages have submitted to it, no less than Henry the Second" (p. 51). In the figure given by Carter the king is represented bare to the waist, undergoing flagellation by the monks of Canterbury. And again, in Montfaucon's "Monuments de la Monarchie Française," pl. 23, vol. ii., we have a glass-painting from the church of St. Denis, where Louis IX., in similar guise, is receiving the discipline from his "Dominican confessor." In the text Montfaucon tells us:—"Le dévot Prince se fait donner la discipline. C'est son confesseur Dominicain qui a fouette. Saint Louis a les épaules nues, un genou à terre, nules mains jointes. Il se confessoit tous les vendredis, dit les auteur, et après la confession il se faisoit toujours donner le discipline."

J. HEWITT.