



LADY BETTY DELMÉ AND CHILDREN.—BY SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS.
From the Picture formerly at Cams Hall, Fareham.

ON A PORTRAIT OF LADY BETTY
DELMÉ, BY SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS,
FORMERLY AT CAMS HALL, FAREHAM,
WITH NOTES ON THE FAMILY
OF DELMÉ.

By REV. G. W. MINNS, LL.B., F.S.A.

A remarkable picture, perhaps one of the finest works of Reynolds, which for more than a century had adorned the mansion of a family in Hampshire, was, on the death of its owner, the last of his line, put up to auction in London, during the past year, when it realized the unprecedented sum of eleven thousand guineas.

Previous to the sale, few persons knew of the existence of this valuable art treasure within the borders of our county, and fewer are perhaps aware that the great artist, and prince of portrait painters, was associated with Hampshire by family and other personal relations; that he received his baptismal name from his uncle and godfather, the Rev. Joshua Reynolds, a Hampshire clergyman and rector of Stoke Charity, in the churchyard of which parish may still be seen a gravestone with this simple inscription:—

J. REYNOLDS,
RECTOR,
OB. 22 DEC., 1734.
ÆT. 66.

The memorial consists of a flat stone lying on the ground, between two high tombs, a few yards from the path leading from the gate to the church porch. The parish furnishes no other record of this rector or his family except the entry of his burial on the 27th of December, 1734, five days after his death.

At this period the entries in registers were not always attested by the signature of the officiating minister, but as we find the burial of William Buckeridge, rector, on 11th of February, 1715; and the name of no other rector occurs till the burial of Joshua Reynolds in 1734, also the entries during that period being in the same handwriting, we conclude that Mr. Reynolds succeeded Mr Buckeridge, and held the living at Stoke Charity for nearly twenty years.

The Rev. Joshua Reynolds (b. 1668), was a brother of Sir Joshua's father, the Rev. Samuel Reynolds (b. 1680) a former fellow of Balliol, and master of the grammar school at Plympton, Devon, and not vicar of Plympton, as some of Sir Joshua's biographers have erroneously supposed. The father of the brothers was the Rev. John Reynolds (b. 1641. ob. 1692) Vicar of St. Thomas's, Exeter, grandfather of the painter, who was born July 16th, 1723.

From some short family notes, written by Sir Joshua himself we learn that he was the seventh child of a family of eleven, and he particularly records that at his baptism, he had as a godfather "uncle Joshua," for whom Mr. Aldwin acted as proxy, the other sponsors were "Mr. Ivie and aunt Reynolds, of Exeter." The long journey to South Devon was good reason for the rector of Stoke Charity being represented by proxy. Whether Sir Joshua in his youth ever visited the parish of his uncle, who remained rector for eleven years after the baptism, we cannot tell, but it is certain that on two occasions at least he visited Hampshire in later years.

In the summer of 1773 France and Spain were concerting measures to strike a blow at the Russian fleet, and a fleet was assembled at Spithead to oppose the designs of the Bourbons. The king reviewed the fleet which was commanded by George, 3rd Earl Mount Edgcumbe, vice Admiral of the Blue, who sat to Reynolds (1761), and offered him the hospitalities of his ship. Travelling from London on the 17th of June, we find from Sir Joshua's diary that he "dined at Godalming; lay at Portsmouth; 18th, at the George at Portsmouth; 19th, landed at Ryde, proceeded to Niton, where he was the guest of Mr. Fitzmaurice, Lord Shelburne's brother; 20th, at Shanklin; 22nd, on board the 'Ocean' for the naval review; 25th, at Newport and Carisbrooke; 26th,

visited Sir Richard Worsley at Appuldurcombe ; 28th, left Niton." During this journey he mentions the names of Greenway, Napier, and Archer, probably friends at Portsmouth.

In 1778 Reynolds was at Winchester. A panic of French invasion had arisen, and the troops were called out and drilled ; a camp was formed at Winchester ; and a review held by the King. Sir Joshua came from London, and was the guest of Dr. Joseph Warton, head master of Winchester College.¹ His brother, Thomas Warton, poet laureate, and author of "The History of English Poetry," ; David Garrick ; Hans Stanley ; and Henry, second Viscount Palmerston, father of the minister, were the guests of Joseph Warton at the same time. The Wartons were natives of Basingstoke. In the church is an inscription to commemorate Thomas Warton, Vicar, died 1745, "father of two distinguished sons."

Among Sir Joshua's sitters connected with Hampshire, we find, with the dates of their engagements, the following recorded in his pocket books.² (1776), Sir Richard and Lady Worsley the latter was painted in the uniform of her husband's regiment, the Hants Militia. (1777) and (1780) Lady Betty Delmé. (1783), Robert, 2nd Lord Northington, M.P. for Hants, 1768-1772, of "The Grange." (1784), Admiral Lord Rodney, who resided at Alresford. Henry, 5th Duke of Beaufort, who owned the Titchfield estate before the Delmés. Reynolds painted both the Wartons, and their portraits are at Oxford, that of Thomas, at Trinity College, and that of Joseph at the University Gallery. He also painted Sir Henry Englefield and Miss Greenway, of Portsmouth.³

Sir Joshua, as we have seen, was accustomed to record his engagements in pocket books, and from them we find that in 1777 he was occupied on a portrait of Lady Betty

¹ Joseph Wharton, elected head master of Winchester College, 1766, resigned, 1793, died, 1800. He was Professor of Poetry at Oxford and a Canon of St. Pauls.

² These pocket memorandum books, 19 in number, were in the possession of Sir Joshua's great niece, Miss Gwatkin. They contain in his own hand writing a list of all the portraits painted by him from 1755 to 1790, with only a few intermissions.

³ There is a print by Watson after a painting by Sir Joshua, of Miss Greenway, daughter of John Greenway, Esq., keeper of His Majesty's stores at Portsmouth Dockyard, married 1774, the Hon. Francis Napier.

Delmé. In 1780, that lady was again a sitter, during the terrible week (June 2nd—9th) when London was in the possession of Lord George Gordon's riotous mob. Sir Joshua was then living at 47, Leicester Fields, now Leicester Square, and from his windows must have seen the burning of Savile House, on the north side of the square. On account of the disturbed state of the metropolis all engagements had to be cancelled, and, accordingly at this time, we find a pen drawn through the name of Lady Betty and other sitters. The number of sittings Sir Joshua was accustomed to give varied from five or six to sixteen or more. We cannot determine whether in 1780 the picture of 1777 was being retouched, or whether another and different portrait was on the easel. It is certain that the picture from Cams Hall was engraved (1779) in mezzotint, by Valentine Green, and our illustration is a copy of this print.

Lady Betty Delmé, born 1747, was Elizabeth, 3rd daughter of Henry, 4th Earl of Carlisle, and was married in 1769 to Peter Delmé, Esq., "of Titchfield Place," Hants, who had succeeded to the accumulated wealth of his father, also Peter, and his grandfather, Sir Peter Delmé, Knt, a wealthy London merchant, and Lord Mayor 1723. Lady Betty's husband died in 1789, his widow married 2nd 1794 Capt. Charles Garnier, R.N., drowned 1796. Lady Betty died 1813. The children represented in the group are believed to be John Delmé, who acquired Cams Hall, died 1809, and Isabella Elizabeth Delmé died young in 1794.

Lady Betty's brother was Frederic, 5th Earl of Carlisle, born 1748, and succeeded his father at the age of ten. "Of polished mind and graceful manners"¹ he had a taste for art and frequented the painting room of Sir Joshua, to whom he sat in 1767-1769, and his countess in 1770-71. The Earl belonged to a club which Reynolds frequented. He was a wit and a poet, "elegant in his dress and manners he shone as a meteor of fashion."¹

To him in later years Lord Byron, who was his nephew, with fulsome praise dedicated his "Hours of Idleness," but

¹ *Hardy Memoirs of Charlemont*, p. 202.

¹ *Annual Biography*, 1826.

afterwards satirized his uncle in "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers."

It was doubtless the influence of this noble and fashionable relative which led Mr. Peter Delmé to commission the President of the Academy to paint the group of Lady Betty and her two children. The composition of the picture bears a close resemblance to Sir Joshua's *Lady Carlisle*. In both pictures the lady is represented under a large tree, a landscape in the distance, with hair dressed high, and a lock falling over the shoulder. Lady Betty is sitting looking to the front, the lock of hair falls to the right,¹ her left foot rests on a square block, her left arm passed round her children, her right hand holds the left hand of the boy, the girl clinging to him, shrinks from a shaggy dog at his feet, to the right a balustrade and wooded landscape in the distance. The canvas measures 93 × 57.

At the period when this portrait was painted (1777-1780) the artist was perhaps at the climax of his artistic power and skill. He had been chosen first President of the Royal Academy when it was instituted in 1768, and had received the honour of Knighthood on the occasion. In 1784 he painted his grand allegorical picture of Mrs. Siddons as the Tragic Muse,² and in 1787 Lord Heathfield,³ one of the finest and most characteristic of his portraits. In 1789 Sir Joshua found his sight so much affected that he determined to paint no more.

The portrait of Lady Betty Delmé was doubtless exhibited at the Academy to which Reynolds contributed about eleven pictures annually, and exhibited two hundred and fifty five works in all. It afterwards found a home at "Place House" Titchfield, a Tudor residence constructed by Lord Chancellor Wriothesley, 1st Earl of Southampton of that name, out of

¹ In the picture of *Lady Carlisle* it is to the left.

² Mrs. Siddons, as the Tragic Muse, has been considered the most characteristic, and the sublimest portrait he ever painted. It was first sold to Mr. Smith, M.P. for Norwich, for £700, and subsequently purchased by the Duke of Westminster for £1,760, in whose gallery it now occupies a distinguished position.

³ Lord Heathfield's portrait now in the National Gallery. Hazlitt says "it is a picture that need not fear any work of Titian." Haydon affirmed "it is astonishing how its breadth and tone comes upon you as you enter the room, it affected me like the explosion of a bomb."

the old abbey church of White Canons or Premonstratensians, but now falling into decay. Mr. Peter Delmé had purchased the estate of Henry, 5th Duke of Beaufort, sometime after 1770. On his decease "Place House" passed to his son, John Delmé; Cams Hall, Fareham, was afterwards added to the family possessions, and removing thither, the picture of Lady Betty was transferred to the newly acquired and more modern mansion, where it hung on the walls of the spacious drawing-room, until the death of the last survivor in the male line, Mr. Seymour Robert Delmé, in 1894. The property had then to be divided, and the grand Reynolds's picture was sold by auction at Christie's on July 7th, 1894, for 11,000 guineas, which exceeds any bidding ever offered by auction for any picture, although higher prices have been paid by private contract.

What the artist may have originally received for this beautiful and important work, we know not. At the beginning of his career his price was forty guineas for a full length. From his price book Reynolds received in 1776, £157 10s. for painting Sir Richard Worsley, and a like sum for the portrait of Lady Worsley. Of this we may be sure that, for the painting of Lady Betty and her children, the sum the artist received bore no comparison with the record price realized at the sale. To such an extent have the works of Sir Joshua increased in esteem, that a really fine work may be reckoned to produce a substantial competency.

The possessor of this prize, Mr. Charles J. Wertheimer, of 7, Norfolk-street, Park Lane, kindly allowed his valuable purchase to be exhibited in London at the Winter collection of Old Masters, at Burlington House (1894), when it was unanimously pronounced "a noble picture. The grouping of Lady Betty and her son and daughter exquisite, the little girl's face bears that quiet *surnoise* expression, the first President alone knew how to give."¹ As usual this high praise is tempered with a little fault finding in some trifling detail, e.g., "the painting of the little boy's right sleeve."¹ Others pronounced it as "a very characteristic work."²

¹ Black and White, Jan, 12, 1895.

² Standard, Jan. 22nd, 1894.

The leading journal is enthusiastic and bestows unqualified praise. After describing the charming children's portraits by Sir Joshua of Master Crewe (painted 1776), and Miss Frances Crewe, belonging to Lord Houghton, the art critic of the "Times" (Jan. 5th, 1895), says, "Between these two hangs the noble Sir Joshua which brought such a sensational price last season, and which is now exhibited by its fortunate possessor. "Lady Betty Delmé and her children" is a group of a beautiful young mother with a little girl and boy by her side, a rough terrier at their feet, and behind one of the most lovely landscapes that Sir Joshua ever painted. When the picture was sold it was covered with its original varnish, which was in many places stained and discoloured, but this has now been removed with complete success, and the colours have come out as fresh and true as when Sir Joshua painted it. It is one year later than the "Master Crewe," and one year earlier than the famous "Pickaback." These years are about the central moment of Sir Joshua's art, a time when his powers had been exercised by long practice, and were still unfatigued; when he had done with experiments, at least for a time, and when he had settled down upon a scheme of colour, which in all essentials was the rule of his practice for some years."

The Delmé Reynolds which was inaccessible, and comparatively unknown while it existed in our county has been seen and admired by thousands since its removal to London, we are therefore compensated for its loss and it is a matter of pride and congratulation that Hampshire still possesses some of the Sir Joshua's finest works. To Henry, 2nd Lord Palmerston, father of the Minister, Sir Joshua bequeathed "The Infant Academy," which until lately with "The Children in the Wood" might be seen at Broadlands; both have recently been sold. The only Reynolds now there is a portrait group of Mrs. Bouverie and Mrs. Crewe a *replica* of the picture in the possession of Lord Houghton. At Somerley, near Ringwood, Lord Normanton's seat, will be found the finest of his works out of the field of portraits of which Dr. Waagen writes, "No one who has not seen this gallery can judge of the powers of the great English master in their whole extent." Other examples doubtless exist in

the galleries of our nobility and in houses of our county families of which we should be glad to be informed in order that their existence may be recorded.

Since writing the above we find that the Earl of Northbrook has at Stratton the following:—Portrait group of *John Dunning, 1st Lord Ashburton, the 1st Marquis of Lansdowne, and Colonel Barré*.—*Sleeping Girl*, painted for Dr. Wolcot, at whose death it was bought by Rogers the poet. *Richmond Hill*, one of the very few landscapes by Reynolds, bought by Rogers at Lady Thomonds sale.—*Miss Maria Archer*.—*Lady Fenhoulet*.

At the Grosvenor Gallery Exhibition of the works of Sir Joshua, 1883-4, with the *Richmond Hill* Landscape and *Archer* portrait Lord Northbrook exhibited (No. 88) *Venus Chiding Cupid* and (139) *Mrs. Hartley with her child*. The exhibition also contained the following pictures from Hampshire galleries, or connected with county families. From Highclere, Lord Carnarvon's (76) *Infant Bacchus (Lord Porchester as)* (204), *Head of Infant Samuel* (194), *Lady Romney*. Louisa Lady Ashburton contributed (127) portrait of *Mrs Thrale and her daughter*. Lord Mount-Temple (62) *Infant Academy*. Marchioness of Waterford (101) *Sir Francis Delaval*. The Earl of Yarborough sent (141) *Sir Richard Worsley*, and the Duke of Portland (172) *The Marquis of Titchfield*. The Earl of Hardwicke (158) *Philip Yorke, Earl of Hardwicke*, (162) *Marquis of Rockingham*, (167) *Master Philip Yorke*. Sir William Knighton, Bart., of Horndean, possesses (134) *Mrs. Collier as "Callia Lamenting her Dead Sparrow."*

There are now at Sidney Lodge, Hamble, belonging to Capt. the Hon. J. Yorke, portraits of Hon. Mrs. Chas. Yorke, *neé* Agnetá Johnston, and of her sister, Letitia, Lady Beauchamp. At Farnham Castle, the Lord Bishop of Winchester (Dr. Thorold) has a fine portrait of *Sir John Thorold, 8th Bart.*, noted in the pocket books as painted 1757. In April, 1759, Lady Thorold was a sitter. In connection with the date is this quaint entry: "*Mem. Sir John Thorold Lady Thorold and Mr. Thorold to be sent to the Castle in Wood Street, by the Stamford carrier, directed to Grantham, to be left till called for.*"

THE DELMÉ FAMILY.

With the picture above referred to there passed away from our county the last members of a family which, having found a refuge in England in the latter half of the sixteenth century, had been connected with Hampshire for more than two hundred years. The earliest information about the Delmés is to be found in the publications of the Huguenot Society of London, especially the admirable and exhaustive volume on the Walloons and their Church at Norwich, edited by W. J. C. Moens, Esq., F.S.A.

Norwich, like Southampton, was one of the staple towns for the export of wool, and as early as the middle of the fourteenth century the city owed much of its prosperity to the woollen trade established there by the Netherlanders.

In the reign of Henry VIII. the influx of foreigners greatly increased, owing to the persecution of the adherents of the Reformation movement, who abandoned their homes to escape the ordinances (*plackaerts*) of the Emperor Charles V. Flanders, formerly a province of France, had been ceded to the Emperor in 1529 and his son, Philip II. of Spain, on succeeding to the throne in 1556, renewed and enforced the edicts of his father. The population, more than half of whom were of the reformed religion, at first offered resistance to their Spanish rulers, but on the arrival of Alva with his *barbes noires* (1567) a great migration took place, and thousands of people carried their useful trades into England, Germany, and elsewhere. Many Flemings and Walloons fled for refuge to Sandwich, Canterbury, Norwich, Southampton, and other places, where they had settlements, or at least commercial relations. The Walloon district was not limited to Flanders, but extended to Metz and other places in Lorraine, which appears to have been the original home of the Delmés.

At what period the family came to England we cannot accurately determine. A second great flight of Protestants took place in 1584, on the surrender of the cities of the Southern Netherlands, when all hope was lost. It is soon after this event, in 1589, we find the name of Adrien de le Me recorded as deacon of the Walloon Church at Norwich.

The refugees were received everywhere with favour. In London Edward VI. granted the dissolved monastery of the Austin Friars for the use of the Dutch and Walloon, or French speaking, congregation. On the accession of Queen Mary this privilege was withdrawn, but in Feb., 1560, it was renewed by Queen Elizabeth.

In 1571 "the strangers" at Norwich had increased to 3,925; the number of the Flemish speaking population greatly exceeding the Walloons. The Bishop, Dr. Parkhurst, granted the use of his own chapel for the latter, and the choir of the noble church of the Black Friars, now St. Andrew's Hall, was assigned to the Dutch.

At Southampton the foreign congregation presented a petition to the Corporation in 1567, desiring to have a church assigned to them, and before the close of the year we find a congregation of Walloon strangers settled in the Chapel of "God's House."

The first recorded minister of the Walloon Church at Norwich is Jan Helmich, 1568. Fifth in succession after him we find William de Laune, to whom Philippe Delmé was in 1615 appointed assistant-minister, his father, Adrien Delmé, having served the office of deacon, as noted above. Much information concerning the church its constitution and officers will be found in Mr. Moen's volume, but for our purpose it will be sufficient to note particulars of the Delmés and their descent from this first recorded member of the family in England.

Adrien Delmé de le Me, du Mes, and du Mez, as the name variously appears in the registers,¹ deacon of the Norwich Walloon Church in 1589, the son of Michiel de le Me, or du Mez, was born in 1549, at Nomeny, in Lorraine, between

¹ With regard to the spelling and original form of the name, we were inclined to accept *Delmé* as spelt by the pasteur and Latinized into *Delmeus* in the *Album Studiosorum* of Leyden. In the registers of the Walloon Church at Norwich we have *de Me*, *du Mé*, *du Mez*, and *de le Me*, the variations being accounted for by the fact that the registers were kept, not by the pastors, but by *scribes*, who wrote the names according to a fancied pronunciation. There is a place *Delmé* in Lorraine, near to Nomeny, which may have suggested the form adopted by Philippe Delmé, the pasteur, and his descendants, but it is not found as a family name in early lists. Mr. Moens is disposed to accept *de le Mé* or *du Mez*, and points out that the family of *du Mez* of the district of Cambrai bore arms similar to those adopted by Mr. Peter Delmé by grant 1714.

Nancy and Metz. He died in 1603, leaving four sons and two daughters. His wife (Marguerite Potteau) survived him about a year.

Philippe Delmé, pasteur, 3rd son of the above, was born at Norwich in 1588, and matriculated at the University of Leyden at the age of 20 in 1608. In 1615 he was assistant-minister at Norwich, and on the 29th Dec. in that year married Elizabeth, daughter of Elie Maurois, of Canterbury, to which place he removed on being appointed pasteur of the French Church (1619), there and remained until his death in 1653. His wife died in London 1672, where her will was proved by her two sons, Peter and John.

Peter Delmé I., of London, baptized Pierre at Canterbury 1629, was the 3rd son of the Walloon pasteur, and became merchant and citizen of London. His eldest brother, Elie, named after his grandfather Maurois, was pasteur of the French Church in London in 1653; the 2nd son, Philippe, died young. Peter Delmé I. married in 1664 Sibella Nightingale, by whom he had nine children. He appears to have had relations with Southampton and the French Church there. The burial of an infant daughter (Elizabeth) at the Church of St. John is recorded (1667) in the register of the French Church at Southampton.¹ A little son, Philippe, named after this grandfather, was baptized in 1670 by the minister of St. John's in the absence of the French pastor. His eldest son, Peter, married the daughter of a Southampton merchant. In his will Peter Delmé, of London, mentions "six dear children" who survived him.

Peter Delmé II. (Sir), born 1666-7, was baptized at the French Church, Threadneedle Street. The eldest of the children of the above-named Peter, he added greatly to the importance of the family, and became an alderman of Langbourne Ward. In 1713 he had a grant of arms, was knighted in 1714, and in 1717 became a governor of the Bank of England. In the same year he served the office of Sheriff, and in 1723 that of Lord Mayor. He died suddenly at his house in Fenchurch Street, 4th September, 1728.

¹ *Les Morts*.—1667, Juil, Elizabeth, petite fillette de Mons. Pierre Delmé, de Londres, decedá le Dimanche 14 eme de Juil, et fut ensepuulture le lendemain dedans la Tombe á l'église de St. Jean en cette ville."
—Register of the Walloon Church, Southampton.

Sir Peter Delmé married, 1709 (1st), Anne, daughter of Cornelius Macham, Esq., of Southampton, who appears to have been an honoured townsman engaged in commerce, and served the office of Mayor in 1695. By his first wife Anne, who died Jan. 1st, 1713, aged 26, Sir Peter had two sons, Peter and John, and an only daughter, Anne, who who married Sir Henry Liddell, M.P. for Morpeth, created 1st Baron Ravensworth. By his second wife, Mary Fawcner, he had three sons who died young, and one named Samuel, who died worth £60,000, which descended to his two half-brothers, and his half-sister. The Hampshire line was continued by Peter, the elder son of the first marriage.

Peter Delmé III., born 1710, enriched with a large share of his father's fortune, increased by that of his half-brother, added still more to the social position of the family. He married first (in 1737) Anna Maria, daughter of Sir John Shaw, of Eltham, Bart.; she died in 1740. Having removed westward and purchased a country seat, he is described as "of Grosvenor Square and Erlestoke Park, Wilts." The family was still in the ascendant. Threadneedle Street and Fenchurch Street had achieved much. Peter Delmé III. and his sister had both formed alliances with the titled aristocracy. He now desired Parliamentary honours. Accordingly, in 1734, he obtained a seat as M.P. for Ludgershall, a borough which, with a constituency of about seventy persons, formerly returned one member. In 1741, and again in 1747, he was returned for Southampton, his colleague being Mr. Edward Gibbon, father of the historian. As a reward for political discernment, the town on this occasion received from Mr. Delmé a present of £500.¹

The first wife of Peter Delmé died without issue in 1740. By his second marriage with Christiana Payne, also of Eltham, he had 2 sons, John of Erlstoke ob. 1768 and Peter; also 2 daughters. Christiana married 1761 to Mr. Ambrose Awdry of Slend, Co. Wilts, and Anne named after her aunt Anne Lady Ravensworth, married 1761 to the Hon. Seymour Conway. In 1770 Peter Delmé "of Grosvenor Square and Erlstoke Park," died at his London House.

¹ *Hist. Southampton*, Rev. J. S. Davies, p. 206.

Peter Delmé IV., "of Titchfield Place," increased the aristocratic connections of the family still further. He married in 1769, Elizabeth (Reynold's "Lady Betty"), 3rd daughter of Henry Howard, 4th Earl of Carlisle, became M.P. for Morpeth through the influence of his wife's family, the eldest son of the house of Carlisle bearing the title of Lord Morpeth. About the year 1780, he sold Earl Stoke Park to Joshua Smith, Esq., and at some time between 1770 and 1789, the year of his death, Mr. Peter Delmé purchased "Place House," Titchfield, and the estate thereto belonging.

Titchfield, a royal manor from before the Conquest, had been conceded by Henry III. under the influence of Bishop Peter de Rupibus to the Præmonstratensians, or White Canons, who had their Abbey here from 1231-1537. From the dissolution of the Monasteries, 1537-1667, Titchfield Abbey, now called "Place House," was the home of four Wriothesleys, Earls of Southampton. From them Titchfield passed by the marriage of Lady Elizabeth, coheirress of the Wriothesleys, to Noel, 1st Earl of Gainsborough. In the next generation, on the failure of heirs male, Lady Rachel Noel carried it by marriage (1705) with Henry 2nd Duke of Beaufort into that family, and Titchfield was sold by the 5th Duke to Mr. Peter Delmé, who with Lady Betty made his home here. He died in the year 1789, at the age of 41, leaving a son, John, who succeeded, and Emilius Henry, who married the heiress of the Radcliffes, and founded the Delmé Radcliffes of Hitchen Priory. There were also other sons and daughters. Lady Betty married again in 1794, and in two years was again a widow, in which state she remained until her death in 1813.

John Delmé, Esq., "of Cams Hall," born 1772, succeeded to the family estates on the death of his father. He pulled down a large portion of "Place House" and transferred some of the materials to "Cams Hall," Fareham, which, built by General Carnac, became the property of the Delmés by purchase in 1781. He married Frances Garnier, into whose family living at Rookesby near to Titchfield, his mother, Lady Betty, had married. He died 1809, aged 37, "when the improvements he had planned were barely completed." His widow retired to St. Margaret's, in the parish of Titchfield, where she died

in 1841. Of the marriage there were born eleven children, and of the seven sons no male heir survived. They are as follow :—

1.—*John Delmé II.*, born 1793, was 16 at the time of his father's death. He died suddenly in 1815, at the age of 23, unmarried, and his brother succeeded.

2.—*Henry Peter Delmé*, born 1794, served in the Peninsular War, was at the siege of Badajoz, and at the time of his brother's death was serving in the expedition against New Orleans in the American War (1812-1815). He married Mary, daughter of George Gage, Esq. She died in 1871 and her husband in 1883, aged 89.

3.—*George Delmé*, Captain, R.N., born 1795, died 1872.

4.—*Frederick William Delmé*, Captain, died 1859 at Chidham, near Emsworth.

5.—*Charles Delmé*, Captain 14th Dragoon Guards, died at Dundalk, Ireland, 1835.

6.—*Edward Delmé* died in 1835.

7.—*Seymour Robert Delmé*, named after his kinsman, Robert Seymour, Lord Conway, married Jane Pearce who died 1866, succeeded to the estates in 1883, died March 12th, 1894, aged 86. Of the four daughters, the following :—

1.—*Frances Amelia* died 1872, unmarried.

2.—*Caroline Margaret*, 2nd daughter died July 14th, 1857, unmarried.

3.—*Elizabeth*, 3rd daughter, married 1831 Rev. C. Radcliffe, now C. Delmé Radcliffe, Rector of Holywell, Beds.

4.—*Julia*, married 1838 to James Arthur Murray, R.N., son of Lord Murray.

On the death of Seymour Robert Delmé, one half the estate went to Colonel Emilius Charles Delmé Radcliffe, son of Rev. C. Delmé Radcliffe and Elizabeth (Delmé) his wife, and the other half to George Delmé Murray, Esq., the son of Capt. James Arthur Murray, R.N., and Julia (Delmé).

It is interesting thus to trace the history of the Titchfield estate and the varying fortune of its possessors. From remote antiquity a royal manor, it was at the instance of Bishop Peter de Rupibus conceded by Henry III. to the Præmonstratensians, or White Canons, in 1231. After the dissolution of the monasteries in 1538, it was granted with

other Church property to Thomas Wriothesley, created Earl of Southampton, and remained in the possession of the Wriothesleys, Earls of Southampton until the death of Thomas the 4th Earl of that name in 1667. By the marriage (1661) one of his co-heiresses, Lady Elizabeth Wriothesley, with Edward 1st Earl Gainsborough, it passed to the Noels who were in possession for two generations, until 1690, when Rachel, co-heiress of 2nd Earl Gainsborough carried it by marriage to Henry, 2nd Duke of Beaufort. At the close of the 18th century it was sold by the 5th Duke of Beaufort to Peter Delmé, in whose family after about a century it again falls to heirs in the female line.

The estate has thus been possessed by powerful sovereigns; by White Canons devoted to the Papacy and by Tudor adherents of the Reformation; by Noels and Somersets representing our older nobility; by wealthy merchants, the aristocracy of commerce, descendants of the Walloon refugees and the pasteur of the Norwich Church. All these have strutted and fretted their hour on the stage and are gone. The scenery, how changed! The Abbot's fish ponds are now run dry—the Cloister garth is rank with weeds—the Church, metamorphosed by Henry's Chancellor into a "goodlie mansion," is hastening to decay—the "pleasaunce" is now a market garden.

On the day that this is penned the newspaper records the sale of Cams Hall and its Park for a sum less than the price paid for Reynold's picture of Lady Betty.¹ Land depreciated, Art enchained in value—verily

Le jours se suivent et ne se ressemblent pas.

Our best thanks are due to the proprietors of the *Illustrated London News* for the loan of the block from which our illustration is produced; also to Mr. B. W. Greenfield, F.S.A., for valuable help most kindly rendered in compiling the accompanying pedigree of the Delmés.

¹ The Cams Hall Estate, at Fareham, Hants, was unsuccessfully offered for sale last year by Messrs. King and King, of Portsea. Since then the East Cams Farm portion has been disposed of, and on Tuesday last the home portion was put up for sale. It comprises the mansion, with grounds and parks, and agricultural land, 256 acres in all, and the Manor of Cams Oysell. The estate realised £10,250.—*Standard*, Saturday, May 4th, 1895.

HANTS FIELD CLUB, 1895.

PLATE I.



ELLEN STEVENS, DELT., 1895.

GROVE PLACE NURSING, SOUTH FRONT.

J. TOWNSEND PHOTO LITH EXETER.