

ON SOME STANLEY CADETS IN THE REIGN OF
CHARLES II.

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THE eldest son, George, of the first Earl of Derby, died in the lifetime of his father, leaving three sons, Thomas who succeeded to the earldom, John, and James. From the last named descended the Stanleys of Bickerstaffe, and in 1627 his great-grandson Edward was created a baronet. By his second wife Isabel, daughter of Sir Peter Warburton of Arley, co. Chester, Sir Edward had, *inter alia*, Thomas his heir, born 1616, and Henry, born 1617.

Sir Thomas, the second baronet, married Mary, daughter of Peter Egerton of Shaw, and dying in 1653, was succeeded by his son Edward, who was born in 1643. This Sir Edward married in 1663 Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Thomas Bosvile of Warmsworth, co. York, and died in 1671 leaving a son Thomas—whose son Edward, born 17 September, 1689, became in 1736 the eleventh Earl of Derby—and three daughters, Mary, Barbara, and Elizabeth. Barbara married the Rev. Zachary Taylor, vicar of Ormskirk, while Mary and Elizabeth are indicated on Foster's pedigree as having died young.

There have recently come to light among the Petitions to Quarter Sessions in the County Record Office, several documents which bear upon the affairs of the Stanleys of Bickerstaffe in the 1680s. The first was presented to the Easter Sessions at Ormskirk, 1681, and is a long document¹ on behalf of Sir Thomas Stanley, Baronet, "an infant about nine years old,"² about taxing or not taxing his demesne lands to the relief of the poor. The only portion which interests us at the moment is that which states that "it may be observed that those that promote the taxing of this demesne are but a small number, and those mostly Papists or Quakers, and now take their opportunity, because the infant's mother hath married a seacnd husband of no fortune

¹ QSP. 534/16.

² He was born 27 Sept., 1670.

nor dares show his face being gone into Ireland and the mother kept on charity by the Earle of Derby, and the infant maintained by his Grandmother."

We learn more of this hitherto unrecorded marriage of the widow of Sir Edward Stanley from a petition¹ presented to the Wigan Sessions in October, 1681. This, "the humble petition of Mary, Barbara and Elizabeth Stanley daughters of Sir Edward Stanley late of Bickerstaffe, bart. deceased, sheweth that at the Quarter Sessions held at Wigan in January last (in pursuance of an Agreement made before your petitioner's marriage with Mr. Davenport) fifty pounds a yeare was ordered out of the Estate of your petitioners' mother for your petitioners' maintenance, the same to be disposed of at the discretion of your petitioners' Grandmother; who for a year and upwards hath taken care for their maintenance accordingly. But your petitioners' mother caused the said order removed before the Judges of Assize, and at the last Assize the same was quashed.

"That thereupon your petitioners' Grandmother haveing given notice to the severall persons with whom she had boarded your petitioners in Ormskirk, that she shall no longer provide for them, who have given like notice to your petitioners, and your petitioners' mother and her said husband being now removed into Ireland, your petitioners applyed themselves to the Overseers of the Poore for reliefe who deny to releive them, alleading that whilst their Grandmother hath an Estate, the Towne or Parish cannot be chargeable with them; and their grandmother alleadgeing aswell that two of them are fourteen yeares of age & therefore she is not chargeable with them, as also their being an estate of their mother's, she is advised that the same is lyable to their maintenance by the consent of the person who hath the present incumbrance upon it. So as your petitioners are utterly destitute of any present habitation or maintenance and several other incumbrances being dayly threatened to be brought upon their mother's estate, your petitioners therefore are constrained humbly to pray that your Worships will take such order as to your Wisdomes shall seem meet and that the same may be disposed of by your petitioners' said grandmother."

¹ QSP. 542/15.

New light is cast upon the younger branch of the Stanleys of Bickerstaffe by a petition¹ presented to the Easter Sessions at Ormskirk, 1683, when "the humble petition of Isabell Stanley, daughter of Henry Stanley, gent., late of Bicarstaffe, decd., humbly sheweth your good Worshippes that your poore petitioner's father beinge lately drowned as hee was cominge out of Ireland, your petitioner beinge distressed and forced to seeke releife, was by an order of this Cort sent to Raineford, the place of my birth, to bee kept and relieved by the Towne, who at my first cominge allowed mee sixpence a weeke to live on, which was a poore allowance, but your petitioner made a handshift with it while shee cold. But for halfe a yeare last past they have allowed mee nothinge, but have urged mee to signe a paper to bee content with foure pence per weeke, which I refused, and they now give mee noe allowance and provide mee noe place to Lodge in, but that poore people out of Charity doe entertaine mee.

"May it therefore please your Good Worshippes to take my poore Condition into consideration, and by your new order compell the said towne to find mee a place to lodge in, and allowe mee a certaine weekly allowance for my mayntenance, otherwise I am like to starve."

Isabel Stanley's request was acceded to, but apparently the officers of Rainford refused to comply, for a further petition was presented at Midsummer in the same year, complaining that nothing had been done. An order was made that the arrears of sixpence a week were to be paid and continued, and that a habitation must be found. No further complaint was laid.

¹ QSP. 570/5.