

SOME NOTES ON THE FAMILY OF SHIREBURNE OF STONYHURST.

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SOME NOTES ON THE FAMILY OF SHIREBURNE OF STONYHURST.¹

Some twenty-five years ago, when closely studying the condition and persecution of the Roman recusants in the times of Elizabeth and James, more particularly in connection with Derbyshire, and giving some assistance to the late Mr. Foley in compiling his several volumes of the *Records of the English Province of the Society of Jesus*, I came frequently into contact with references to members of the once powerful and influential family of Shireburne of Stonyhurst. As the members of the Institute are about to visit the mother church of Mitton, where the Shireburne memorials abound, it is probable that a few records pertaining to that family will be of interest. In the putting together of these notes the latest editions of the histories of Baines and Whitaker have, of course, been consulted, and more particularly that handsome quarto, *The Centenary Record of Stonyhurst College* (1894), by Father Gerard (a copy of which has been kindly put at my disposal by the Rector of Stonyhurst), as well as various volumes of the Chetham and Surtees Societies. But the greater part of this information is original, and has been recently extracted by me from the prolific stores of the Duchy of Lancaster now preserved at the Public Record Office. Only a trifling portion of one section of the history of the Shireburnes can be now incidentally dealt with, for the materials are so voluminous. For instance, there are 109 distinct sets of pleadings and depositions dealing with the Shireburnes in the single reign of Elizabeth. It is to be hoped that someone will be fired to write a monograph on the subject, or to give a life of the great Sir Richard Shireburne. An immense amount of light would thereby be shed on the life of this part of England, and on the religious struggles and local jealousies of Lancashire. When this comes to be done, certain parts of the hitherto printed pedigrees of Shireburne and ac-

¹ Read at the Lancaster Meeting of the Institute, 25th July, 1898.

counts of the family will have to be considerably modified and corrected. The best pedigree is that in the last edition of Whitaker's *Craven*, but it is faulty in several particulars, as can be proved by inquisitions, wills, and pleadings.

Stonyhurst lies in the valley of the Ribble, close to the boundary between Lancashire and Yorkshire. The parish of Mitton, in which the house stands, is partly in both counties, an arrangement that is quite exceptional. The church is in Yorkshire, but three of the eight townships are in Lancashire, namely, Aighton, Bailey, and Chaigley. Stonyhurst is in Aighton, on the lower slope of Longridge Fell.

Hugh Mitton, of Mitton, at the close of the twelfth century, conveyed his property in the township of Bailey to his brother Otto, who hence acquired the surname of Bailey, dropping that of Mitton. His great-grandson, Walter Bailey, held Stonyhurst, in the township of Aighton, in the reign of Edward I. The great-grandson of Walter, Richard Bailey, married, in 1377, Margaret, daughter and co-heir to Sir Richard Shireburne. Richard took the name of his wife, and her arms (Shireburne) were eventually placed in the first and fourth quarters of the combined coat.

It is generally supposed that the Shireburnes took their name from Shireburne, a township of Norfolk—they were said to have been Saxons, and their estate given by William the Conqueror to Earl Warren, but on their proving that they had not fought against the Normans their estate was restored. At all events, it seems clear that the Lancashire Shireburnes came from the eastern counties. Shireburne, or the stream between shires, is a fairly common-place name in England, and would be a singularly suitable one for the Mitton house of the family. The first Shireburne of the North Lancashire branch of any note was Sir Robert Shireburne, who played a conspicuous part in the history of his time. He was knighted by Edward I in 1294, elected a knight of the shire in 1335, and held the office of steward of Blackburnshire and Clitheroe. He died in 1342, having married the daughter and co-heiress of John Blackburn, of Wiswall, and Margaret Holland. His son, Sir John Shireburne,

“particularly assisted with one knight, three esquires, and the like number of archers on horseback, at the siege of Calais under King Edward III.” He also fought at Crecy under the banner of his cousin, Thomas, Lord Holland. He was elected a knight of the shire of Lancaster in 1336, and on his triumphant return from France in 1346, he was chosen Parliamentary burgess by the citizens of York.

Sir John was succeeded in 1355 by his son, Sir Richard Shireburne, who had married Alice, daughter of Sir William Plumpton, of Plumpton, in 1351. It is not a little remarkable, as stated by Jeremy Collier, that Sir Robert, Sir John, and Sir Richard—father, son, and grandson—were all knights at the same time. Sir Richard had two daughters, Margaret and Joan, the latter of whom died unmarried. Margaret, the heiress, as has been already mentioned, conveyed, in 1377, Stonyhurst and other property to her husband, Richard Bailey, who assumed the name and arms of the older and far more distinguished family.

Richard Bailey, or Shireburne, had only a brief married life, and was succeeded by his infant heir, Richard. This Richard Shireburne was born on October 12th, 1381, and baptised at Mitton church. In 1420, and again in 1421, he was knight of the shire of Lancaster. He married Agnes, daughter of Sir William Stanley, of Hooton, Cheshire, and died in 1441. By his will, dated January 3rd, 1436, he left his body to be buried “in ye Parysh Kirke of Mitton, before ye auter of Seynt Nicholas.” He bequeathed to that altar a vestment of blue velvet, four altar cloths, three towels, a missal, a chalice, a corporas case, a paxbread, a ferial vestment, and a chest to keep all the gear and appurtenances of the altar. He also willed that “a closett be made honestly” about the altar of St. Nicholas. This closet or parclose would be a screen encompassing the altar and providing a seat for those who heard mass at that altar. A few of such closets still remain; there is one at Fenny Bentley, in Derbyshire. There are three remarkable examples of late closets (there termed “cages”) in the neighbouring parish church of Whalley. He provided for a special mass for a year at St. Nicholas’ altar, and left 40*d.* to the ornaments

of the high altar. He further ordered that twenty white gowns were to be furnished to twenty poor men each bearing a torch about his corpse on the day of his burial; thirteen of the torches were to remain at the high altar, three at the Lady altar, and four at St. Nicholas' altar.

The screens to form the closet round the altar of St. Nicholas were erected in 1441, and bore an inscription on the oak cornice asking for the prayers of the faithful on behalf of Richard Shireburne and his wife, Alice Hammerton. When new screens were placed there, about a century later, the 1441 screens were moved to the west end of the church at an entrance to the tower. There they remained with portions of the inscription until they disappeared in an unhappy restoration about thirty years ago.

The will of Agnes Shireburne, widow of Richard Shireburne, is dated November 3rd, 1444, and proved on the 30th of the same month. By it she left her body to be buried before the same altar of St. Nicholas. She left to the Vicar of Mitton a pair (or set) of jet beads "for to mynde my soule and mynde me in his prayers," and to William of Bradley, priest, another like pair for the same object: "and to William of Broughton, my preste, to syng for my soule a hole yere at my said auter of Saint Nicholas vjmarc, iijs., iiijd; and he sal fynde hymselfe bred and wyne and wax."

The young Richard Shireburne had died before his parents, having married Alice, daughter of Lawrence Hammerton, of Hammerton-in-Bowland, by whom he left a son, named Robert, who was 12 years of age at the death of his grandmother, but was already married to Joan, daughter of Thomas Ratcliffe, of Wimmersley!

In connection with finding Richard a married man at 12, it may be remarked that child marriages were far from uncommon. They were usually contracted for reasons pertaining to real property. A recently issued volume of the Early English Text Society, by Mr. Furnivall, should be consulted, wherein he cites a great variety of such cases from the Chester Diocesan Records. The most scandalous of these was a bridegroom of three and a bride of five, the parents making the responses

for the infants, and the priest daring thus to yoke them together!

This Robert Shireburne lived till 1494, Stonyhurst continuing to be the family mansion. Although there was a private chapel connected with the manor house, where mass was said four times a week, the rights of the parish church of Mirton were observed, the family baptisms, marriages, and burials being all performed within its walls.

To Robert succeeded his eldest son, Sir Richard Shireburne, who had married in 1472 his kinswoman, Jane, daughter of Sir Ralph Langton, of Walton-in-the-Dale. Being within the prohibited degrees, a dispensation, granted by Philip Calandrini, Cardinal Bishop of Porto, had to be obtained. He was knighted by Edward IV, and died in 1512.

The unpublished records of the Duchy show that there was much jealousy between this Sir Richard of Stonyhurst and some of his neighbours. Two or three of the previous generations of Shireburne had been stewards of the neighbouring and important fortress of Clitheroe. But during most of Sir Richard's lifetime Sir Peter Legh was Steward of Clitheroe, though Sir Richard was the most influential of the local magistrates, and apparently held the position that was soon afterwards termed deputy-lieutenant. The latter, in 1505, lodged a complaint before the Chancellor of the Duchy, the pleadings of which are of no little interest. The complaint of Sir Richard set forth that Sir Peter Legh, Knight, on October 23, 1505, did, without any cause shown or known, commit one John King, household servant of the complainant, to the Castle of Clitheroe, and there keepeth him in prison; that bail has been refused for his release; and that he asks for a fair trial or that John King should be immediately set at liberty. The pleading, in writing, of the Steward of the Castle puts a different complexion on the matter.

Sir Peter Legh said that most of the matter contained in the bill of complaint of Sir Richard Shireburne was untrue and malicious; that Sir Richard Shireburne, the Sunday next before the exaltation of the Holy Cross, caused divers proclamations to be made in divers

churches in the counties of Lancashire and Yorkshire, commanding generally the king's subjects in those parts to muster and appear before the said Sir Richard the following Wednesday "in harnesse and fensable arraye," in a place called Whalley Moor; that on the Tuesday proclamation was made at the king's court, held at the Castle of Clitheroe, that none of the king's subjects should make muster, insurrection, or unlawful assembly contrary to the king's mind and his laws; that at that proclamation John King, porter of Clitheroe Castle was present; that contrary to that proclamation John King assembled on Wednesday at Whalley Moor "with many other not wise persons," to the number of about 300, and mustered before Sir Richard Shireburne; that afterwards Sir Peter Legh, being the king's steward at Clitheroe, examined him of his misdemeanour and contempt of the king's court, and because he could make no reasonable answer he committed him to ward until such time as he knew of the king's pleasure: that immediately after this was done Sir Peter proceeded to inform the king's grace of his action and "to knowe his Highnesse's mind in the matter."¹

Unfortunately, as is so often the case, the conclusion of this litigation is not known. John King was probably not resident as porter at Clitheroe Castle, which was a position of some little importance, giving a right to certain lucrative perquisites. The office was most likely filled by a deputy, so that it was possible for King at the same time to be a household servant at Stonyhurst. Probably Sir Richard Shireburne was in the right: it is hardly possible to conceive his calling this array of arms unless he had authority, and it may be that Sir Peter Legh had also some justification, no special warrant having been addressed to him as steward of Clitheroe. Altogether it forms a very pretty little quarrel, sufficient to whet our appetite for more.

To Sir Richard succeeded his son Hugh Shireburne, who married Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Talbot, of Bashall. Hugh made very considerable additions to the existing mansion of Stonyhurst, most of which was then of the date of Edward III. Some portions of his work

still remain. The minstrel's gallery of the refectory bears his name and the year 1523.

The chantry of St. Nicholas in the parish church of Mitton is described by the commissioners as being of the foundation of Hugh Shireburne, Esq. Richard Gradwell was the incumbent, and he was maintained by lands and tenements in Aighton, Chaigley, and Bailey. It is declared that the duties of the chantry priest were not only to pray for the souls of the founder, and to celebrate mass at the altar of St. Nicholas, but also to help in divine service in the church itself, and to help the curate (or vicar) in times of necessity to administer the sacraments to the parishioners of this wide and scattered parish. This affords yet another proof that the ordinary English incumbent of a chantry was not a mere mass priest, but practically an assistant curate for the parish at large. But yet, on the plea of superstition, the Crown under Edward VI seized all the lands which had been given for parochial purposes but a few years before under Henry VIII. The parish is described by the commissioners themselves as "wyde," and as having 1,200 "houselyng folk" or communicants. Richard Gradwell, the unhappy chantry priest, was 51 years of age, and is mentioned as "indifferently learned, but hath none other lyving than the said chantrie." Hugh was, after all, only the re-endower of an older chantry founded by the same family in the same place about two centuries earlier; he assigned for definite endowment 80 acres of land in Aighton, Bailey, and Chaigley.

Hugh Shireburne died in 1527, leaving his estates to his son, Thomas Shireburne, who married Jane, daughter of Sir John Townley, of Townley. Soon after his accession to the estates, the young Thomas Shireburne, who farmed certain parts of the adjacent Royal forest of Bowland, got into trouble through certain charges of poaching which were made to the Chancellor with much detail.

Thomas Penger, underkeeper of the king's park, of Lagram, in Bowland Forest, testified that about midsummer, 1529, Thomas Shireburne entered the park and killed a deer; that about the Nativity of Our Lady he entered the park and killed a deer; that on the Nativity of Our Lady, 1530, when walking by the pale of the park, he saw the spoor and track of men and dogs, and

presently saw people and dogs making towards the lodge where Thomas Shireburne did usually lie; that he got so near them that as he entered in at one door they entered in at the other with a buck in a sack upon a horse, and one Thomas Bradley and Hugh Asshe, servants of Thomas Shireburne, with the buck; that Thomas Shireburne on St. Thomas's Day last past did come into the park with four or five brace of greyhounds, and they killed two does, one of them in fawn; that on last St. Martin's Day about sunrise he saw four persons in the park cutting up a deer, and when they saw him approaching two of them went their way, and then one Richard Shireburne, servant to Thomas Shireburne, came to meet him and desired him to make no further search and to be his friend, and that he the said person, perceiving they were four and that he was by himself, "and it so tymely in the mornynge," did return again and said he would report what he saw and no further; that on Friday next after last Twelfth Day about sunset he met a dog of Thomas Bradley's running a deer and Bradley and William Shireburne following, and the dog drove the deer into the forest; that Thomas Shireburne and his servants doth hunt the hare with hounds and greyhounds in the park at all times of the year, and specially in the spring "when the deer should resort together and take rest"; that since the time Thomas Shireburne had his last lease and take of the herbage of Lagram he did ryve up the wood and inclosed the lands and coppices with double dyke and hedge which were wont to be kept for the king's game, and now the game is driven down into low carrs and marshes and will soon perish; that Thomas Shireburne hath set up houses and farmholds within the park to the damage of the game; that the pale which he is bound to uphold sufficiently is let down so that horses and beasts come in and out as they please by four or five roads, and the deer go forth into the towns in the winter when they be feeble and weak and are easily destroyed; that Thomas Shireburne and his servants, between Holy Rood Day and Michaelmas Day last past, killed one of the greatest harts that belongeth to the park in a place called Chepyng Cowyngs.

The result of this information was that Thomas Shireburne, farmer; Thomas Bradley, of Chyppyndale, gentleman; Richard Shireburne, of Chadisley, gentleman; William Shireburne, of Chadisley, gentleman; and Roger Shireburne, of Wolfhouse, gentleman, were all summoned to appear before the Chancellor of the Duchy; but the final issue is unfortunately not known.

It was in the time of Thomas Shireburne that the neighbouring great Abbey of Whalley was suppressed, as well as that of Cockersand, to which the church of Mitton was appropriated.

Dying in 1537 Thomas was succeeded by his son, Sir Richard Shireburne, who held the Stonyhurst and adjacent property for fifty-seven years, and was one of the most conspicuous figures in the history of Lancashire and the North during that changing and eventful period. He was but fourteen at the time of his father's death, and when only just twenty-one was knighted in 1544 at Leith, by the Earl of Hertford, for his signal valour against the Scots. He married Maud, daughter of Sir Richard Bold of Bold, when only fifteen years of age. By her he had three sons and three daughters. On the death of his wife in 1588, after half a century of wedlock, Sir Richard married Isabel Wood, a lady of good family, but who had long been his mistress, and by whom he had had three base-born children. The pedigrees uniformly ignore this second marriage, but it is proved by the wills both of Sir Richard and Isabel.

Sir Richard Shireburne was a man of great power and eminence. Though, as we shall presently see, always clinging to the Roman obedience, he was not a man of the strongest religious convictions, or he could scarcely have retained the goodwill of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth. Dods-worth says that in the latter Sovereign's reign his recusancy was winked at, and he was tacitly permitted to have chapel and priest with Roman rites at his great house at Stonyhurst. Canon Baines, in more than one of the Chetham Society series, asserts that Sir Richard was a reformer, but there is no doubt whatever that he is wrong. Father Gerard quotes from the Domestic State Papers, temp. Elizabeth, a report "that he and his family

are recusants and do not go to church; or if they do stop their ears with wool lest they should hear; that he kept a priest in Queen Mary's time; had one brought to confess his wife when ill; that he relieves Richard Stastedant, who is conversant with Dr. Allen and other Jesuits, and is suspected to be a Jesuit; that he says he could apprehend missing priests, but will disturb no man for his conscience." To this could be added five or six other pieces of evidence of a similar character that we have collected from the same sources. On the other hand, he was one of the local commissioners of both Edward VI and Queen Mary's Chantry Commission, which are wrongly said by Father Gerard and others to be "quite out of harmony with each other." Had Sir Richard been a very staunch Roman, we readily grant that he would scarcely have acted on Edward VI Commission, but he probably reconciled it to his conscience by thinking he could in such a position abate some of the mischief proposed to be done. The Commission of the second year of Mary was no attempt to undo the work of the previous Commission, but was simply a supplement to it in the matter of bells.

The Duchy depositions show that a Commission was issued by Queen Mary to Sir Richard Shirburne and others on March 1st, reciting a former Commission of 7 Edward VI to inquire what lands, tenements, bells, chalices, plate, jewels, stocks of kine and sheep, money and other things belonged to the chantries in the counties of Lancaster and Stafford, and to deliver the same to Edward Parker for his Majesty's use; but that divers bells in several parishes had not come to his hands, and the parishioners still detained the same, and a further inquiry was to be made and inventory taken of such bells. The result of the Commission was a precise return as to bells from sixty-seven chapels.

Sir Richard held many public appointments. He was member of Parliament for Lancashire in 1553, for Preston in 1554 (which was the Parliament publicly absolved of heresy by Cardinal Pole), and for Liverpool in 1555; Master Forester and Steward of Bowland Forest: Butler and Searcher of Port of Liverpool; Steward of the Manor of Sladeburne; Lieutenant (under the Earl of Derby) of

the Isle of Man; and a most active magistrate and Deputy Lieutenant of Lancashire. He was nominated by the Earl of Derby to accompany him to France as Elizabeth's Ambassador to Henry III, but was excused on account of illness.

As an instance of the boldness or effrontery of Sir Richard may be mentioned the complaint of the bailiffs of Clitheroe against the youthful Richard, then only 19, and a young neighbour of his, which we recently took from the Duchy proceedings:—James Nowell and Hugh Standen, late bailiffs of the town of Clitheroe, on behalf of the whole commons of the town, reciting their incorporation by Henry de Lacy, Duke of Lancaster, complained that last Trinity term Richard Sherburne and John Talbot, esquires, and others, strangers and not inhabitants, entered the town and left a court and made commandment that none of the townsmen should obey the town charter and its conformations, and in order to cancel and frustrate these ancient grants sent for the said James Nowell and Hugh Standen the then bailiffs, to bring with them the authority of the Corporation of the town, and one of them James Nowell, “being a playne man, mynding no deceyte, and trusting on the obediens that every man ought to the kinges autoritie,” came and showed them the ancient charter and other confirming evidences, merely intending them to be inspected: but they detained the writings and still detain them, and divers of them held the bailiffs by force whilst they were being abstracted. The bailiffs asked for Shireburne and Talbot to be summoned before the Duchy Courts at Westminster. Here again we have to acknowledge our failure in trying to obtain the result of the bailiffs' action.

With regard to Bowland Forest, the tables are now turned. It is no longer a youthful owner of Stonyhurst summoned for poaching, but Sir Richard Shireburne, of Stonyhurst, is vigorous as High Forester in preserving the King's game. The following is but an instance of many that we could cite:—

Sir Richard Shireburne, Knight, steward and high forester of the Forest of Bowland, complained in 1564 that Cuthbert Musgrave, Adam Turner, and others, about Holy Rood Day last past, did hunt a stag with hounds in

a place within the forest called Depeclough : that Cuthbert daily kept in his house within the forest a cross bow and a hand gun, as well as greyhounds ; that on the last day of November he did hound two greyhounds at a deer at Birkhill Moor within the forest ; that on the Monday after Holy Rood Day he did strike a great stag with a cross-bow, and pursued after it unto the White Well.

Among the various businesses entrusted to Sir Richard may be mentioned a commission issued from the King in 1547 to Sir Richard Shirburne, Knight, Richard Townley the younger, Esquire, and four others, to inquire of the coal and lead mines in the wastes in the townships of Totyngton and Rossyngdale, and of the intakes or woods taken, stabbed, or felled in the forest of Bowland. Most interesting depositions are annexed to this commission.

The Acts of the Privy Council, that have been lately calendared, also bear witness to the multitudinous affairs entrusted to Sir Richard as a thorough man of business. Such are the orders directing him to inquire into a dispute among the trustees of the Free School at Urswick, Lancashire, or to call one Roger Bradshaw, Esquire, before him, to inquire into his treatment of a poor widow who was one of his tenants.

Towards the close of his life, namely, in 1592, he set about the rebuilding of Stonyhurst on a grand scale, but he only lived to carry out a small part of his conceptions.

At Mitton church he pulled down the old north chancel chapel, and "builded," as Dodsworth says, "a chapel from the ground, with consent of the parish, for a burial place for himself and his successors." This, too, was just at the end of his life. Over the west door of the chapel are the quartered arms of Shireburne and Bailey, and the date 1594. It was in that year that he died.

Sir Richard Shireburne's will is dated October 22nd, 1593. He left his body to be buried in Mitton church "in the mydest of my newe quere." He was spoken of by his contemporaries as a very free liver, and his will bears unblushing evidence to that effect. He leaves £300 each "to Jane and Grace, base daughters of me and Dame Isabel, my wife"; "to John, my base sonne, begotten of

Grace Ryddyngge, one annuity of £10 10s. "; and a further bequest to another base son, Richard. A remarkable curiosity is named in this will, as left to his heir Richard, viz., "one pece called an egge, beyng an oyster's egge, garnished with a cover, garnished with silver!" Probably oyster is a slip of the pen for ostrich. It cannot mean, as has been suggested, a pearl. With regard to the unfinished plan of Stonyhurst, he left to his eldest son "all my iron to build withall, so that he finish the building therewith now already begonne, the leade, buildinge stone, and wrought tymber."

The successor of Sir Richard was his son of the same name, who for many years governed the Isle of Man. He married three times, on each occasion to staunch Romanists; firstly Catherine, daughter of Charles Lord Stourton; secondly, Anne Kighley, widow of Thomas Hoghton; and thirdly, Anne, daughter of John Holden, of Greenacre. He carried on his father's building at Stonyhurst, and, dying in 1629, was buried at Mitton.

There is a curious mural monument to him and his first wife on the north wall of the St. Nicholas quire.

This tomb was evidently erected in his lifetime, for in his will, dated 4th September, 1627, and proved about two years later, he desires to be buried "in my new queare in Mitton Church as neare to my new tombe as conveniently can bee." He directs that the body of his first wife, buried in the Isle of Man, should be disinterred, placed in a new coffin, and buried with him at Mitton.

When William Howitt visited this church in 1836, he was told by the ancient sexton that the nickname by which this Richard Shireburne was remembered as "Old Fiddle o' God," because when he was in a passion that was his word. At all events the will shows that he was fond of music. He leaves to his son and grandchild Richard Shireburne, "a paire of organes standinge in the hall at Stoniehyrst, all my armour and weapons, flagg, and tents, and all my wyndy instruments lyeing in a chest at Lawnd as heirelooms at Stoniehurst." He also leaves to his daughter "a paire of virginalls which was my mother's, and a lute." He was succeeded by another Richard Shireburne, then 46 years of age, who married firstly, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Molyneux, of Sefton;

and secondly, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Walmesley, of Dunkenhalth.

In the Great Rebellion the Shireburnes were staunch loyalists, six of the family shedding their blood for the King; whilst the head of the house is described on his monument as an "eminent sufferer" for the same cause. In 1648 Oliver Cromwell twice tarried at Stonyhurst, namely, before and after the battles at Preston and the immediate neighbourhood. The table below the minstrels' gallery, whereon it is said that Cromwell slept, is still pointed out. The compounding calendars show that Richard Shireburne was frequently and heavily fined for having his children educated abroad as Papists. He died in 1667, aged 81, and was buried at Mitton.

He was succeeded by his only son Richard, who married Isabel, daughter of John Ingleby, of Lawkland in Craven, who, through her mother, was heiress of two families—Townley of Royle, and Woodruff of Banktop, in Burnley. This Richard was full of charity, and was the founder of the stately and picturesque almshouses still standing on Longridge Fell, above Stonyhurst. In 1679 the infamous Titus Oates, of ever execrable memory, brought trouble upon Stonyhurst by describing it as the centre of a damnable Jesuit plot, and the son and heir had to fly the realm. The Revolution of 1688 found this Richard Shireburne staunchly on the Stuart side; he was cast into prison at Manchester and died in gaol, but was allowed to be buried at Mitton on August 27th, 1689.

His eldest son, yet another Richard Shireburne, generally described as of Wigglesworth, married Anne, daughter and co-heiress of John Cancefield, of Cancefield. He only held the property for a very short period, dying without issue in April, 1690, and being buried at Mitton.

To these three successive Richards, dying in 1687, 1689, and 1690, and to Isabel, wife of the central one, are four recumbent statues of white marble with elaborate epitaphs. The three men are all represented in coats, breeches, and high-heeled shoes, with a loose gown over all. Each is cross-legged (the last-known instances, and they, at all events, were not Crusaders!), and each has his right hand thrust into the breast of his coat. These four

statues were placed here by Isabel, the wife of Richard Shireburne, who died in Manchester Gaol. Isabel died on April 11th, 1693. The figures were the work of William Stanton, who lived near St. Andrew's Church, Holborn, who was paid £253 for the four. He is described by Walpole in his *Anecdotes of Painting* as a statuary of some eminence, who had wrought a monument in good taste in the church of Stratford-on-Avon.

The last of these three Richards was succeeded by his brother, Sir Nicholas Shireburne, who had been created a baronet by James II, during the lifetime of his father and elder brother, on February 4th, 1685. He married Catherine, third daughter and co-heiress of Sir Edward Charleton, of Hesleyside, Northumberland, her mother being daughter and co-heiress of Sir Edward Widdrington, of Cortington, in the same county. Sir Nicholas, mainly through his marriage, became a man of great wealth. On the death of his mother he came into Stonyhurst, and spent great sums of money on laying out the gardens and grounds in the Dutch style, in adding the two open cupolas or towers, and in much extending the buildings. But his hopes were blighted by the early death of his only son, Richard Francis, who was born on December 3rd, 1693, and died suddenly on June 8th, 1702. Tradition has it that he died from eating poisonous berries, generally said to be yew, which are supposed to be depicted on his tomb. The old sexton's story, related to William Howitt, has a more probable air:—"He went to play in the garden when green fruit was rife, and he eat something that was poison, and died."

Sir Nicholas was a staunch Jacobite. He sent his daughter to be touched for the King's Evil to James II at St. Germain's. Though too old and infirm in 1715 to take an active part, he showed his sympathies. On November 10th, three days before the affair at Preston, there was a supper party of thirty Jacobites at Stonyhurst, who spent the night in casting bullets, and rode off the next morning with seven or eight guns, a blunderbuss, a sackful of pistols, and four of Sir Nicholas's coach horses.

In 1709, his only child Mary married Thomas, eighth

Duke of Norfolk, when there was a most profuse and long-sustained expenditure. Sir Nicholas died on December 16th, 1717, and with him ended the race of Shireburnes, of Stonyhurst. His daughter, left a widow in 1732, contracted a second marriage with her kinsman, Peregrine Widdington, but by neither husband had she any issue.

In the north-east corner of the Shireburne chapel is a mural monument to the memory of Sir Nicholas and his lady. The elaborate epitaph is from the pen of his daughter the Duchess.

“Sir Nicholas Shireburne was a gentleman of great humanity, sympathy, and concern for the good of mankind, and did many good, charitable things while he lived; he particularly set his neighbourhood a spinning of flesy wool, and provided a man to comb the wool, and a woman who taught them to spin, whom he kept in his house, and allotted several rooms he had in one of the courts of Stonihurst for them to work in, and the neighbours came to spin accordingly; the spinners came every day, and span as long a time as they could spare, morning and afternoon, from their families: this continued from April, 1699, to August, 1701. When they had all learn’d, he gave the nearest neighbour each a pound or half a pound of wool ready for spinning, and wheel to set up for themselves, which did a vast deal of good to that north side of Ribble in Lancashire. Lady Shireburne was a lady of an excellent temper and of fine sentiment, singular piety, virtue, and charity, constantly employed in doing good, especially to the distressed, sick, poor, and lame, for whom she kept an apothecaries shop in the house; she continued as long as she lived doing great good and charity; she died Jan. 27th, 1727. Besides all other great charities which Sir Nicholas and Lady Shireburne did, they gave on All Souls’ Day a considerable deal of money to the poor; Lady Shireburne serving them with her own hands that day.”

Through the courtesy of Mr. J. C. Hodgson, F.S.A., I am able to give the following abstract of particulars of estates, registered with the clerk of the peace for North-

umberland, according to the Act providing for their registering the lands of Papists:—

CARTINGTON.

Registry and Particulars of the Real Estates in Northumberland of Sir Nicholas Shireburn of Stonyhurst in the co. Pal. of Lanc. Bart. dated 12 Ap. 1717.

	£.	s.	d.
A tenement in Cartington in the parish of Rothbury in the possession of widow Hogg, Isaac Botham and John Buddell of the yearly rent of	27	0	0
A farm in Snitter in the said parish in possession of the same tenant at the yearly rent of	90	0	0
A farm in Snitter in the possession of John Detchon at the yearly rent of	26	0	0
A farm there in the possession of George Lawson of the yearly rent of	8	16	0
A farm there in the possession of Ralph Pratt of the yearly rent of	8	16	0
A farm there in the possession of Robt Grey at the yearly rent of	8	16	0
A farm there in the possession of John Lawson at the yearly rent of	6	7	6
A farm there in the possession of Edward Gibbon and Nesbit at the yearly rent of	8	16	0
A farm there in the possession of Tho. Mangling of the yearly rent of	0	10	0
A farm of the tithes of Netherton in Alwinton in the possession of Ralph Potts and William Buddle upon the yearly rack rent of	30	0	0
A farm in the parish of Alwinton called Newball in the possession of Chr. Robson upon the yearly rack rent of	16	0	0
A farm called Sheepbanks in the possession of John Alder at the yearly rack rent of	15	0	0
A farm at Parkhead in the said parish in possession of Luke Clennell of the yearly rent of	0	10	0
A farm there in the possession of Robt. Storrer at the yearly rent of	0	15	0
Thos. Selby, Esq., for tithes, the yearly rack rent of ...	1	15	0
Two farms in the said parish of Alwinton called Windyhaugh & Dungsburne (?) in the possession of Alex. Potts upon the yearly rent of	65	0	0
A farm in the parish aforesaid called Bygate Hall in the possession of Andrew Henderson and George Potts upon the yearly rack rent of	62	0	0
A farm in the said parish of Alwinton called Langerknow ? in the possession of Robt. Rutterford at the yearly rack rent of	31	0	0

	£	s.	d.
A farm in the parish of Elsdon called Burdhope in the possession of Thos. Riddell upon the yearly rack rent of	17	0	0
A farm in the said parish called Featherwood in the possession of Tho. Story upon the yearly rack rent of	21	0	0
A farm in the said parish called Cottonhope and Middle Quarter in the possession of Ralph Horne [or Home] and Mark Hedley upon the yearly rack rent of	15	0	0
A cottage in Snitter aforesaid in the possession of Tho. Nichols	15	0	0

Of all which premises except some of the Lands holden by lease from the Duke of Somerset the said Sir Nicholas Shireburn is seized on fee, subject to the outgoings after mentioned.

To the Duke of Somerset for Newhall & Sheepbanks the yearly rent of £24.

To the Duke of Somerset for lands in Snitter holden of him by lease for 21 years, the yearly rent of £12 17s. 1d.

To the Crown yearly a Vis-countal rent of 7s.

To the parson of Rothbury yearly for Snitter hay tithe 19s. 6d.

To the parson yearly for other customary rents for lands in Snitter, £5 6s. 8d.

Yearly at Rothbury for assigned (?) Pennies 2s. 8d.

Yearly to Mr. Howard for fee farm rents for Windy Haugh, Dungsburne, Cottonshope, and Burdhope, £10 16s.

Yearly to the parson of Alwinton, £2 15s.

Yearly to the Crown a certain rent due out of Alwinton Rectory of £7 5s.

Yearly to the Widow's Alms House of Cartington, £6.

Signed,

W. SHIREBURNE.