

CHAPTER FIVE.

THE EARLES OF ESSEX.

We have found it convenient, for the sake of clearness, to follow the line of Sir Walter Erle, from the seventeenth generation, down to its termination in a female representative at the twenty-sixth generation. Going back now to the seventeenth generation, we shall follow the line of Christopher Erle, the only brother of Sir Walter who left descendants. There were two other brothers, John and Thomas, who died young.

The line of Christopher I. belongs partly to Dorset and partly to Essex, and to some extent to the West Indies. We have entitled this chapter "The Earles of Essex," but we can do little more than indicate how this branch arose. We can only give here bare pedigrees, but we believe that even these are better than no knowledge, and that they will have an interest for the Earles of America. It is a matter of further regret that even these pedigrees are so meagre and somewhat under suspicion. Our information was derived originally from Hutchins' "History of Dorsetshire," but Hutchins has been convicted of error. So that the best we can do is to give the bare outline supplied by Sir Henry Earle, Bart., with such details from Hutchins as seem reliable.

GENEALOGY OF CHRISTOPHER ERLE I.

R—EIGHTEENTH GENERATION.

FAMILY OF CHRISTOPHER ERLE I. (Q 2), ESQ., OF STURMINSTER MARSHAL, DORSET, Recorder and M. P. for Lyme Regis; married, April 26, 1623, Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Denny, of Stortford, Co. Hertford, Kt., Sheriff of Herts; marriage settlement dated Feb. 17, 20 year of James I. Elizabeth died 1655.

One son:

R 4) CHRISTOPHER ERLE II., of Sturminster, Dorset, and Topsfield, Essex.

S—NINETEENTH GENERATION.

FAMILY OF CHRISTOPHER ERLE II. (R 4), born 1624, living in 1664; married first Mary Barrington, of Hatfield, Essex; one son:

- S 5) ROBERT ERLE, of Sturminster Marshal, Esq.
CHRISTOPHER ERLE II. (R 4), married second Elizabeth Ballet,
at Hatfield, Essex. There were five children:
- S 6) CHRISTOPHER ERLE III., of Topsfield, Essex.
 - S 7) WALTER ERLE.
 - S 8) JOHN ERLE.
 - S 9) ELIZABETH ERLE.
 - S 10) DOROTHY ERLE.

T—TWENTIETH GENERATION.

DORSET.

FAMILY OF ROBERT ERLE (S 5), ESQ., OF STURMINSTER MARSHAL, which he sold in 1688 (Hutchins). Buried at Blandford Forum, July 3, 1737. One son:

- T 2) THOMAS ERLE, living in 1678. (Hutchins).

ESSEX.

FAMILY OF CHRISTOPHER ERLE III., OF TOPSFIELD, ESSEX, living in 1664.

- T 3) EDWARD ERLE, died young.
- T 4) EDWARD ERLE, born 1673; died 1728; married Mary Hare.

U—TWENTY-FIRST GENERATION.

DORSET.

FAMILY OF THOMAS ERLE (T 2), living in 1678; married Ridout; issue, son and daughter:

- U 2) WALTER ERLE, of Blandford, Co. Dorset.
- U 3) JANE ERLE, married at Pimperne, 1751, Nicholas Elliott, Esq., of Winterborne, Wilts. (There seems to be some question about Jane's descent).

ESSEX.

FAMILY OF EDWARD ERLE (T 4), of Totnes and Topsfield, born 1673; died 1728; married Mary, daughter of Timothy Hare, of St. Kitts, W. I.:

- U 4) HENRY ERLE, of St. Kitts, W. I.
- U 5) TIMOTHY ERLE, of Essex.

V—TWENTY-SECOND GENERATION.

FAMILY OF WALTER ERLE (U 2), OF BLANDFORD, DORSET; died 1775; married Sarah, daughter of Rev. Christopher Twynihoe, of Turnworth, Dorset; baptized Feb. 11, 1725. Sarah died at Turnworth, Aug. 9, 1769, aged 43. Issue, two:

V 10) REV. CHRISTOPHER ERLE, baptized Dec. 12, 1760.

V 11) JANE ERLE, married William Bissett, 1789.

ST. KITTS, W. I. *

FAMILY OF HENRY ERLE (U 4), OF ST. KITTS, WEST INDIES, d. 1735:

V 12) JOHN ERLE.

V 13) ANNE ERLE.

V 14) MARY ERLE.

ESSEX.

FAMILY OF TIMOTHY ERLE (U 5), OF ESSEX; married Dorothy Trist:

V 15) TIMOTHY ERLE.

V 16) EDWARD ERLE.

W—TWENTY-THIRD GENERATION.

DORSET.

FAMILY OF REV. CHRISTOPHER ERLE (V 10), bap. Dec. 12, 1760, at Turnworth, Dorset; d. 1817; Fellow of New College, Oxon; m. Margaret Elizabeth Charlotte Bowles (b. 1761, d. 1807); six children:

W 2) CHRISTOPHER ERLE, M. A., Rector of Hardwick, Co. Bucks; b. 1790, d. 1870.

W 3) WALTER ERLE, b. 1792; d. 1870; in Holy Orders.

W 4) RIGHT HON. SIR WILLIAM ERLE, D. C. L., of Bramshott Grange, Hants, late Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, was b. Oct. 1, 1793, bap. at Fifehead, Magdalen, Co. Dorset, June 3, 1794; m., Sept. 30, 1834, Amelia, dau. of the late Rev. David Williams, D. C. L., Prebendary of Winchester Cathedral. "This able and distinguished lawyer, who was called to the Bar in 1819, and practiced for many years with preeminent success, sat in Parliament for the City of Oxford from 1837 to 1841, and became one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas 1844. In 1846 he was transferred to the

Queen's Bench and, in 1859, succeeded Sir Alexander Cockburn as Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, which he resigned November, 1866." Burke.

W 5) PETER ERLE, M. A., bap. Nov. 17, 1796.

W 6) ELIZABETH JANE ERLE, bap. Oct. 18, 1798; m. Capt. William Fenwick.

W 7) MARGARET JANE ERLE, b. 1802; m. John Lucius Damphier, Barrister-at-law.

ESSEX.

FAMILY OF TIMOTHY ERLE (V 15):

W 8) TIMOTHY ERLE, without issue.

W 9) WILLIAM H. ERLE, without issue.

FAMILY OF EDWARD ERLE (V 16):

W 10) HENRY JOHN ERLE, and others.

X—TWENTY-FOURTH GENERATION.

DORSET.

FAMILY OF PETER ERLE (W 5), M. A., bap. at Fifehead, Magdalen, Co. Dorset, Nov. 17, 1796; married Mary, daughter of Rev. J. F. Fearon:

X 4) TWYNIHOE WILLIAM ERLE, ESQ., Barrister-at-law, M. A.

X 5) MARGARET TEMPLEMAN.

X 6) JANE ELIZABETH.

X 7) JESSIE MARGARET, married Rev. Henry Richards.

X 8) FRANCES ELEANOR.

ESSEX.

FAMILY OF HENRY JOHN ERLE (W 10):

X 9) HENRY EDWARD ERLE, d. 1876.

Y—TWENTY-FIFTH GENERATION.

DORSET.

FAMILY OF TWYNIHOE WILLIAM ERLE (X 4), ESQ., Barrister-at-law, M. A.

Y 3) CHRISTOPHER ERLE, and others.

ESSEX.

FAMILY OF HENRY EDWARD ERLE (X 9), died 1876.

Y 4) HENRY PERCIVAL ERLE, and others.

The family history which we have thus traced for twenty-six generations from John de Erleigh, extends over seven centuries, from the middle of the twelfth to the middle of the nineteenth, and through five counties, from Somerset to Wilts and Devon, from Devon to Dorset, and from Dorset to Essex. In Somersetshire we found sixteen successive generations, and branching off at the eleventh, Margaret de Erleigh, we have followed two streams, one in Wilts for eleven generations more, and another in Devon and Dorset through fifteen generations. This main stream, beginning in Somerset and branching off in different directions, we believe to be that from which all the Earles of England and America are descended. There are other important branches of the family in England, but all, we believe, have had their rise from this main stream. We may not be able to show the precise connection, or prove that there was any connection at all, but this is not to be wondered at. The genealogy is not given in full. The records were not always carefully kept, and sometimes not kept at all. As a rule, little attention was paid to younger sons. The estate descended to the eldest son, and the younger were obliged to go out and make their own fortunes. So that there must have been a number of side branches, starting out from the main stem, through younger sons, and reaching into all parts of England. It was precisely in this way that the Devonshire branch began. One of the younger sons of "The White Knight"—just which one is not known—was grandfather of John Erle (L 2), of Ashburton. It is known that the Earles of Winchester, Southampton and Nottinghamshire, had their origin in the same way. It is almost certain that the Lincolnshire branch sprang from Somerset, and when it is remembered that Lincoln touches York, and that York touches Lancaster, it is easy to believe that there was some relationship among the Earles of those counties.