

INTRODUCTION.

In 1850, I spent a year in England, studying the history of our family and collecting materials for this work, which I had promised in my first volume, the "Dudley Genealogies," published in 1848.

I was very active while in England, and, besides examining all the pedigrees and Heralds' Visitations I could find, I travelled about the various counties, where the Dudleys had resided, and inspected town and city parish registers, wills, local histories, etc. I examined the manuscripts at Lambeth Palace and Doctors' Commons and the British Museum. I saw the great castle ruins and tombs of the Dudleys at Dudley, Kenilworth, Coventry, Clapton, Barnwell, Northampton, Boston, Tattershall, Warwick, etc.

At Northampton, I visited Mr. Geo. Baker, the author of a great history of his county, and he accompanied me to Castle Ashby, the residence of the Comptons, Earls of Northampton.

He also went with me to each of the four parish clerks of Northampton, to see the old registers, but failed to find our Dudley ancestral names recorded therein.

At Clapton, I found the old register containing the Dudley pedigrees, baptisms, etc., written in Latin, and transcribed them.

There was a splendid tomb of the second Edward Dudley in the old church at Clapton. He was of the sixth generation from the first Lord Dudley of that manor. Here is my translation of his

EPITAPH.

This stone is a sign,
That gold lies hidden within;
The remains of Edward Dudley, Esq.
In this chapel he sleeps, forever dead,
Than whom, when alive, none was more watchful;
Who, while he could, by the nobility of his family,
Receive honor, yet he chose rather to receive it by his own,
Not willing his father should appear more loving
Nor a more generous patron of the church,
Nor the lord of any villa more meek.
This is truly novel in our latest age.
Dear to him was God; he to God was dear.
Readers, be mindful to put up prayers for him now dead.
His own prayers were sufficient for him while he lived.
Pray that he may be an heir to estates for his virtues;
That he may see more grandchildren in Clapton,
By the name of Dudley, than he has seen ancestors.
She, who loved him living, and wept him dead,
And adorned this tomb with splendid ornaments,
Was Elizabeth, his wife, most sorrowful.
He died the 6th of May, A. D., 1632,
Aged 72 years.

There are figures carved upon the tomb representing Edward and his wife, with six sons and four daughters.