

called John Dudley, Esq., "Lord of the Manor of Stoke," although he had a 90 years lease of it. His house was the resort of the persecuted sons of John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, in time of Queen Mary. Elizabeth Tudor perhaps found aid and comfort there too. Leicester and his brother Ambrose had Mr. John Dudley's brother Thomas, for their Secretary.

It has been asserted that Thomas Dudley, brother to John, of Stoke Newington, had been a servant to John, father of Leicester. He was employed by the Earls of Warwick and Leicester. But the Earl of Warwick meant is Ambrose, not his father, who was at one time Earl of Warwick, nor his brother John, who was sometime called Earl of Warwick. If he was ever servant to John, the Duke, I find no evidence of it. The extraordinary familiarity between Queen Elizabeth and these Dudleys, led to much gossip; and when Lord Robert, as I guess, sent a natural son to a private school at Shrewsbury, which affair seems to have been managed by his Secretary and the Stoke-Dudley family, the priest of the parish made an entry that the boy was a son of Leicester and "Elizabeth Tuther." But the priest was so well feed and kept in office so long, that he turned Episcopalian, and tried to erase his libellous record. However it can be read to this day. It was lucky for that ex-priest that "Eliza Tuther" didn't discover that record when she ruled over priests and cut off traitors.

The queen is known to have admired Leicester very much, and on one occasion, the stately Elizabeth wrote the following letter to the Earl of Shrewsbury:

"ELIZABETH. Our very good cousin:

Being given to understand, from our cousin Leicester, how honorably he was not only lately received by you our cousin, and the Countess of Chatsworth, and his diet, by you both discharged at Buxton's, but also presented with a very rare present; we should do him a great wrong (holding him in that place of favor we do), in case we should not let you understand in how thankful sort we accept the same at both your hands, not as done unto him but unto our own self; reputing him as another ourself. And therefore you may assure yourself that we taking upon us the debt, not as his, but our own, will take care accordingly to discharge in such honorable sort, as so well deserving creditors as ye are, shall never have cause to think ye have met with an unthankful debtor.

"Given under our signet, at our manor of Greenwich, the 25th day of June. 1577, and in the 19th year of our reign."

There is a letter in the British Museum written to Leicester when he was "Governor and Captain General of the United Provinces in the Netherlands," which I copied as well as I could, and will here