

"Now as to the Dudleys, such is his bounty, that, when he hath poured out all his flood of scolding eloquence, he saith they are no gentlemen, affirming, that the then Duke of Northumberland was not born so; in truth, if I should have studied with myself of all points of false invectives, which a poisonous tongue could have spit out against the duke, yet would it never have come into my head, of all other things, that any man would have objected want of gentry unto him; but this fellow doth like him, who, when he had shot off all his railing quiver, called one cuckold that was never married, because he would not be in debt to any one evil word." * * * * *

"No man, but this fellow of invincible shamelessness, would ever have called so palpable a matter in question." * * * * *

"I cannot allege his uncharitable triumphing upon the calamities fallen to the house of Dudley, though they might well be challenged of a writer, of whom any honesty were to be expected; but God forbid I should find fault with that, since, in all his book, there is scarce any one truth else.

But our house received such an overthrow; and hath none else in England done so? I will not seek to wash away that dishonor with other honourable tears. I would this land were not so full of such examples; and I think, indeed, this writer, if he were known, might in conscience clear his ancestors of any such disgraces; they were too low in the mire to be so thunder-stricken; but this I may justly and boldly affirm, let the last fault of the duke be buried."

Speaking of Edmund Dudley's father, John of Sussex, he says any man might see his tomb at Arundel Castle.*

* Sampson Erdeswick "heard by one who took upon him to be of good credit (while he lived), that John, father of Edmund Dudley, Privy Counsellor of Hen. VII., was a carpenter, who was called John Dudley, not because his name was so, but because he was born in Dudley town."—See *Erdeswick*, p. 219

Erdeswick, himself, denies that he believes this story. His words are,—“being, myself, ignorant in respect to it, except by hearsay and report;” yet he lived at Sandon, in Staffordshire, and, a few years after the death of Sir John Dudley, duke of Northumberland, devoted his time to collecting materials for a history of that county—*Twamley*. But it is quite evident he did not try to learn the facts.

Another later local antiquary, named Wyley, of whom we never hear in the great histories, added his hearsay testimony about the “dead lion,” John Dudley’s ignoble origin. I wish it had been true, that the Duke of Northumberland Dudley was the grandson and namesake of a carpenter. There is sometimes real nobility in such an origin. There was a John Dudley once in this country, who was, himself, a cooper and the son of a cooper, but no king or kingdom could buy him, or tyrannize over him, and he would have refused a royal crown.

Mr. Twamley seems to credit these myths and lies. He had not read deeply enough on the subject. He did not know that Dugdale rejected the carpenter story in his last great works. He had not seen the documents and pedigrees of the London Society of Antiquaries in London. He makes no references to the Heralds’ College or British Museum Visitations of the Heralds, except to doubt