

was succored in his discontent and highly valued for his great learning, and with their successors his children remain to this day, in wealth and honor, retaining the titles of Northumberland and Earls of Warwick and Leicester."

In Imhoff's *Regum Pariumque Magnæ Britannicæ Historia Genealogica*, 1890, the author says: "Dugdale informs us concerning Robert Dudley that his father, the Earl of Leicester, is said to have declared him, who really was the sole heir of his great family and fortunes, *illegitimate*, making that declaration out of affection to and in favor of Laetitia Knowles.

Then after mentioning his voyages to America and honors conferred by Essex and Queen Elizabeth, he says: "Sir Robert, failing in a great struggle to establish his legitimacy, left England for Italy, taking with him, dressed as his page, Elizabeth Southwell, daughter of Sir Robert Southwell, a very beautiful woman.

"Sir Robert Dudley afterwards turned Papist and obtained a dispensation from the Pope and married this Elizabeth Southwell." Imhoff further states that "of the children, whom he had by Elizabeth Southwell, Charles inherited the greatest part of his property and took the title of Duke of Northumberland, married a lady of Picardy from the most noble family of the Gaultiers, by whom he had many sons and daughters."

An Italian author, in 1821, published at Florence, in pamphlet form, some account of "Palazzo Di Roberto Dudley Emigrato Inglese." This unknown gentleman says, "Robert Dudley became wealthy and, in 1613, bought an estate of the Rucellai family in the Parish of St. Pancras, and built him there a substantial palace, facing two streets near the lodge of the Tornabuoni." He also says, "Sir Robert planned and executed entirely the Mole or Pier and Port of Leghorn, calling him the 'Earl of Warwick and Duke of Northumberland,' and that he was the confidential friend and adviser of Duke Cosmo II., who employed him to execute all those necessary works and improvements required. "He was also skilled in philosophy, chemistry and physics," says Dr. Carmachini, and perfectly acquainted with all branches of mathematics and the means of applying them for the service and benefit of mankind.

He was not only the favorite of princes, but the admiration of the learned among whom he held a high rank.

He invented several methods for improving ships, introduced new manufactures, induced the merchants to extend their foreign commerce, drew many English merchants to set up great houses at the port of Leghorn, which he had not only raised to a large, splendid town, but procured it to be declared a free port."