



COAT OF ARMS OF THE BETHUNES

OF PICARDY, FRANCE.

The Fasse, or band, in the shield commemorates their being created "Advoué d'Arras," or defender of the Church of Arras. The sprinkling with Fleurs-de-lis, a mark confined to the Royal family of France, comes from the marriage of Gisle, sister to king Charles the Bald, with Edward Count of Artois. *From the Counts of Artois the Barons of Bethune were descended.* Afterwards Philip Augustus, king of France, confirmed to William second of Bethune this privilege of wearing the Royal Fleurs-de-lis; it has since been hereditary in his family.

The Peacock indicates power and glory; the savages, as supporters, show great antiquity. Their war cry, used in Battle, was the family name: Bethune!

The above explanation is from the French historian André Du Chesne.