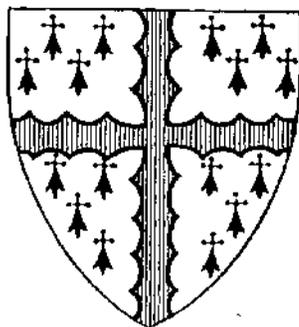


(F.) NORTHWOOD OF KENT. (This comes last in window.)



A genuine Roll, devoted to the biographical and genealogical records of a distinguished family, and bearing date as early as the 14th century, is of rare occurrence. We have the gratification of presenting our readers with the transcript of one, written between the years 1385 and 1405, as is evidenced by the handwriting and by its own statements. There is one circumstance attaching to this Roll that adds greatly to its value. It cites undeniable authority for most of its statements, many of them to this day of easy reference, being still among the records of the different Courts. It was found in the Surrenden Collection, in a box containing the ancient muniments relating to the Manor of Thurnham. This manor being still the property of Sir Edward Dering, the contents of this box are actually legal evidence, being, as the language of the Courts has it, "in right custody." These muniments continue in almost unbroken series, from the time of Henry II. to the present day. They commence with the original grant of the Church of Aldington, in Thurnham, by William Fitz Helte, to the Priory of Camberwell, temp. Henry II. ; they then continue through the De Thurnhams (one of whose co-heirs seems to have brought the estate into the family of Northwood), the Northwoods and the Woltons (to whom the Northwoods alienated), down to Catherine, Lady Stanhope (the daughter and co-heiress of Thomas, Lord Wotton), who, in the middle of the seventeenth century, alienated to Godden, and onward thence to the present day.

Then commences the chronicle of the Northwodes, written in Latin, which we render into English, and to secure ourselves from error, we make the translation a servilely literal one. I shall here copy out a few pages of the Roll, beginning with—

"In the first place, Sir Stephen de Northwood, Knight, was seized of 310 acres of land, 500 acres of marsh in the Isle of Shepeye, and four score and ten acres of marsh with their pertenuencies in Upcherche, and