

## The Family of Fynmore.

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(THE patronymic borne by the family whose history is attempted in these pages, belongs to a group of surnames, of which the principal examples existing at the present time are Fynmore, Finnimore, Phillimore, Fillmore, and Filmer, and which is remarkable for numerous variations in spelling, by which their real origin has been much obscured. In proof of the statement that these names are interchangeable, it is only necessary to give here a few instances.)

(The Fynmores of North Hinksey trace their descent from William Fynmore, who was mayor of Reading in 1577 and 1586. Archdeacon Fynmore, a member of this family, was also styled Finmore, though he always signed Fynmore in the Chapter Books at Chester, and to show how unsettled the orthography of the name was, even at a late date, we may mention that the tablets opposite one another in the chancel at North Hinksey, erected in 1677 and 1687, and both commemorating persons of position and education, have respectively Fynmore and Finmore, while the burial of Archdeacon Fynmore's widow, in 1707, was registered as Finnemore.)

(Henry Filmer, churchwarden of Windsor, who was burnt there about 1543 for heresy, is variously described in the earlier editions of Foxe's *Book of Martyrs* as Finmore, Finnemore and Filmer.)

The Filmers of East Sutton, Kent, also appear to derive their name from Finnimore, or some similar form; for Nicholl's *Baronetage*, 1741, states on the authority of the then Sir Edmund Filmer, that "this family formerly wrote their name Finmere, Fylmere, Filmour, and Filmor, temp. Edward III., but of late Filmer, and were seated at Otterinden in Kent, at a place called Finmore." The statement that there is a place called Finmore at Otterinden or Otterden, is, however, an error, nor is there at present any evidence to show that they were settled in Kent at so early a period as the fourteenth century.

At Nether Avon, Wiltshire, where there is said to be still a clan of Phillimores in humble position, Phineas Philamore *alias* Fennymore in 1731 was party to a conveyance, which he, however, signed as Phillomour; while he is entered in the parish register as Phillamore, which was the spelling commonly followed there in the seventeenth century. The will of Philip Philmore, of North Stoke, Oxon, was proved by his widow in 1636, who then styled herself and her late husband Phinmore *alias* Philmore; but his daughter in 1660 took out administration "de bonis non" to her father as Philmer.