

case the grant of the Earldom of Wiltes—which was in the same terms as in the Devon case—was alluded to by the Lord Chancellor. Then, probably for the first time, the attention of the Scropes of Danby was called to their clearly evident claim. A new and most important testimony in favour of the claim to the Earldom of Wiltes, which, by some strange oversight or fatality, appears to have been unknown to Mr. Simon Thomas Scrope of Danby, the Petitioner, and his Counsel, is now in evidence, viz., an autograph letter from Henry IV. to his Chancellor. John de Scarle, in which he alludes by name and title to “William le Scrope, late Earl of Wiltshire.”

Mr. Fleming, the Claimant’s Counsel, often said that if an instance could be found in which Henry IV. actually spoke of Sir William le Scrope as Earl of Wiltes, it would be of the greatest importance. The letter of Henry IV. containing the words the production of which as evidence during the hearing of the Wiltes case would, according to Mr. Fleming, have carried so much weight, was, at the time, not only in a volume of autographs preserved in the Public Record Office, on vellum—see Rymer, viii., 181—but actually in *print* in *Royal and Historical Letters during the Reign of Henry IV.*, edited by the Rev. F. C. Hingeston, M.A., and published by Longman, Green, and Longman, in 1860!

“*Henri, par la grace de Dieu Roy d’Engleterre et de France, et Seigneur d’Irlande, a nostre treschier Clerc, Johan de Scarle, nostre Chancellor, saluz.*”

“*Come a ce que nous sumes enformez Florimont, jadis Sire de Lesparre, feusse tenuz et obligez a William le Scrop, nadgairs Conte de Wiltshire, qui mort est, en une certeine somme, la quelle feut du tresor de Sire Richard, nadgairs Roy d’Engleterre, nostre darrein predecessour (qui Dieux assoille), baillee a l’avantdit William le Scrop pur ses gages, quans il feut seneschal de Guyene pur nostre dit predecessour. . . .*”