

MANOR AND FAMILY OF PERTON.

PARISH OF TETTENHALL, COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

THE very pleasantly situated village of Tettenhall with its quaint and ancient church, was in the time of the three first Edwards, the capital, if not the central figure in an extensive parish, comprising a round dozen of important manors. It was not then, as now, simply a rural suburb of a manufacturing smoke generator, where it stands sentry commanding, and as it were, defending the quiet and rustic tract of picturesque beauty behind it from the more vulgar utilitarian aggressiveness of the smoky black country, and completely shutting off the rural charms of the one from the murkiness and squalor of the other. The stranger journeying from Birmingham through Wolverhampton to Tettenhall by horse, carriage or cycle cannot fail to be struck with the change from bleared cinder heaps, sulphurous air, and begrimed brick hovels to purity and beauty, health and rural bliss.

Tettenhall is said to date the foundation of its ancient college from Edgar the Saxon king, who is popularly but erroneously said to have exterminated the British wolf, and with whose name, in this neighborhood, we naturally associate the ancient though subordinate Manor of Wytherges (Wergs), or the home of the wolves; although on the other hand the name of the old and large town near has no connection with this subject, having derived it from a celebrated Saxon chief named Wolfere who has left several remains of his name in this once very important and powerful district of that race; one of these is the now Manor of Wyken which has for ages been dependant on that of Worfield, though formerly, and as late as Domesday called Wolferesford, in the adjoining County of Shropshire. Tettenhall Manor was at one time composed of two distinct manors,—Tettenhall Regis, and and Tettenhall Clericorum, the first comprising two-and-a-half and the latter two hides of land. The other ten manors in the parish were Perton which is the subject of our enquiry and was supplemented by Trescote, together comprising three hides; Wrottesley two hides; Pendeford two hides; Wightwick which with Compton and the Wergs were subject to Tettenhall of the Canons; Bilbrook; Aldersley; and Bovenhull now Barnhurst, which was manorially subject to Tettenhall Regis: The first five and the last were manors of "ancient demesne of the Crown of England," and as such were implied to have been in *pre* or *proto* Norman days, the property of the Sovereign and by virtue of which they possessed many privileges; such as each manor being entitled to have its own court, and view of frankpledge, &c. These privileges were originally conferred by reason of their being situate in close contiguity to the ancient royal hunting grounds and forests, and thereby more or less game preserving communities. These villis were separately geldable for the war tax, or ancient Danegeld, and some other taxes; and they were also represented at the hundred and county courts by a Provost and four tenants. All these twelve manors were definitely named in the Domesday Survey, except Trescote, the Wergs, Aldersley, and Barnhurst or Bovenhull.

The resident family of the Manor of Perton, which we now attempt to detail is one which, in common with so many others, in our now rich abundance of what are considered more important literary treasures, has its annals