

died in the following year : his descendants will be noticed later on. Sir John Stafford died seized of the Manor of Perton in 1428 according to his *inquisitio post mortem*, when Humphrey Stafford was returned as his son and nearest of kin. At Michaelmas 1475 in the king's bench court, Humphrey Stafford sues Sir John Colshull, knight, late of Bouamy Co., Devon, and Elizabeth his wife, Sir John Willoughby, knight, late of Broke Co., Wilts, and Anne his wife, and Thomas Strangeways, esquire, late of Lopton Co., Wilts for unlawfully entering his Manors of Penkrige, Perton, Littlewood, Hyde, Coppenhall, and others in Staffordshire. The defendants appeared by attorney, and stated, as regards the Manors of Perton and Littlewood, that a certain William Smyth, clerk, and John Boeff were seized of the above Manors, and fine was levied in 1421, by which the said William and John gave them to Sir Humphrey Stafford of Hook and Elizabeth his wife, to hold for their joint lives, to revert after their deaths to John Stafford, son of Humphrey and Elizabeth, and the heirs of his body, and failing issue to revert to William Stafford, and his issue, failing which to Thomas Stafford and his issue and failing which to Sir Humphrey Stafford, knight, and his issue; sons of the said Humphrey and Elizabeth, and failing issue of Sir Humphrey, then to Richard Stafford and his issue ; and failing which, to the right heirs of Humphrey Stafford of Hook. The sons John, Thomas, and Sir Humphrey all died issueless, and Humphrey Earl of Devon only son of William also died without issue, so that the inheritance fell to the daughters of Alice, only daughter of Sir Humphrey Stafford of Hook and Elizabeth. Elizabeth the eldest daughter was wife of Sir John Colshull, Anne was wife of Sir John Willoughby de Broke, and Alianora or Eleanor was wife of Thomas Strangeways, the defendants in the above suit. The Manor of Perton eventually fell to the share of the second daughter Anne Willoughby ; her son Sir Robert Willoughby lord de Broke, appears to have been reduced to such straits that he had to mortgage this property for £560 about 1505 and executed in 1509, to Edmund Dudley ; this included the Manors of Penkrige, and Rodbaston : a previous mortgage, however, existed to one Owen Watson. In 1540 there was litigation between Edmund Dudley's son Sir John Dudley knight, and James Leveson of Wolverhampton respecting this manor, for by a Wrottesley deed, Sir John Dudley and Joan his wife release to James Leveson all their claim in the Manor of Perton, and lands in Trescote, which formerly belonged to Robert Willoughby lord de Broke, by an award made by Sir John Porte, knight, justice and serjeant at law, and William Whorwood, esquire, solicitor-general to the king, and William Coningsby, attorney of the Duchy of Lancaster, for the said sovereign; arbitrators between James Leveson and Sir John Dudley ; the sum of £220 to be paid by James Leveson to Sir John Dudley. This deed is dated February 18th 1540, and on the 9th June previous to this, Sir John Dudley had appointed his attornies, Richard Whorwood, and George Colbran, to take possession of Perton and Trescote, formerly his father's, and to expel all others. More light is thrown on this transaction by a deed of July 23rd 1539 which cites how James Leveson, merchant of the staple of Calais, appoints William Norwood of Wolverhampton, his attorney, to receive the Manor of Perton and lands in Trescote, from William Cave of Newcastle-on-Tyne, merchant, (son and heir of Agnes Cave, sister and heiress of Owen Watson), and George Cambye, son and heir of Isabella Cambye (another sister and heiress of Owen Watson), who had released to James Leveson all their claims to the same lands : deed also at Wrottesley. In 1547 Edward Leveson of Shipley Co., Salop, (son and heir of James Leveson); and Elizabeth his wife, grant five marks of annual