

Sydenham of Brympton.

In a chapel on the north side of the parish church of Brympton d'Evercy, in the county of Somerset, is a stately marble monument, erected by John Sydenham to the memory of his father, Sir John Sydenham, Kt., who died in 1625, and his ancestors. A Corinthian column at each corner supports the fine canopy, and the whole is adorned with many coats of arms, which, commencing on the north side, illustrate, as it were, the pedigree of the family. On either side the canopy is surmounted by the arms of Sir John Sydenham, on the north impaling those of his first wife, and on the south the arms of his second; each coat is flanked by a small shield supported by a ram. Round the edge of the canopy are thirteen shields, on which are impaled the arms brought in by various matches. On each side of the tomb itself are three large shields: those on the north side bearing the arms of Sydenham, impaling those of Audley, Bruges, and Godolphin, with their various quarterings; on the south are the arms of John Sydenham, who erected the monument, his sister impaled with those of her husband Edward Paston, and another coat in which the sinister side is not filled in. Probably it was meant to await the marriage of Sir Ralph Sydenham, a younger brother of the founder. At the west-end base is the large quartered coat of Sir John Sydenham, impaling the arms of Buckland with its nine quarterings. At the head of the tomb, surmounted by the helmet, crest, and lambrequin, is the Sydenham coat of twelve quarterings, beneath which is the following inscription:—

“ My foundir Sydenham, match'd with Hoby's Heyr,
Badde me inform thee (gentle Passenger)
That what hee hath donne in mee is onlie meant
To memorize his father and s discent
Without wayne glorye but he doth intreat
That if thou comst his legende to repeate
Thou speak him truly as he was and than
Report it so, hee dyed an honest mane—
10 November 1626.”

In the accompanying sketches I have tricked the arms as they exactly appear on the monument, while in the pedigree I have given the arms according to the authority of the *Heralds' College*. There are several errors of the carver and painter, such as substituting choughs for martlets in the Gnilford coat; and a field vert for azure in that of Fitz-James. Many of the quarterings seem to have been brought in without any reason, and contrary to the laws of arms. The coat borne by the family of *Delingrige* seems to have properly belonged to Hertley, whose heir married Thomas Delalynde, and the descendants continued to bear the arms until