NOTES RESPECTING GROVE PLACE, NURSLING, AND THE MANOR OF SOUTHWELLS.

Read at a Meeting of the Field Club, 8th May, 1895.

By B. W. GREENFIELD, M.A., F.S.A.

Half a mile below the high road at Rownhams, and visible for a moment only from the railway between Redbridge and Romsey, in the Parish of Nursling, stands the old red brick house known for more than 400 years as Grove Place. It is picturesquely placed on a slight eminence at the end of a fine old lime tree avenue, through which appear its octagonal turrets and fine chimneys, and its windows, though modernized, yet a century old. The present house, ancient as it is, was not the first Grove Place of which there is record. The site of the older house lies a short distance to the S.W. between the avenue and the railway.

The early history of Grove Place is involved in much obscurity. The archives of the Dean and Canons of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, who were mesne lords of the tee, have been examined regarding Grove Place, but the Queen's librarian at Windsor cannot discover how they became its possessors, as the Court Rolls date only from 20 H. VI. 1442. Most probably their right and title originated in the endowment of King Edward III., when that monarch, having created in 1344 the military order of Knights of the Garter, founded a collegiate, or free, chapel within his Castle of Windsor (which he dedicated to St. George as patron saint of the order), and as we learn from Froissart, "endowed the canons with a good and liberal revenue."

The first mention that is met with of the manor of Southwells, of which Grove Place was a member, if not identical with it, is in 20 H. VI. 1442, when John Grenefeld was tenant of the manor. In his will, dated 8th June 1448, 26 H. VI., and proved in the prerogative court of Canterbury on 24th of the same month he styles himself of "Southwelles in the county of Southampton, gentylman." He desires to be buried in the church of the Friars Minors (Grey Friars), London, and gives legacies to his brothers, Thomas and William Grenefeld, and to his associates of the society of Clyfford's Inn. He specially gives to Ingram Huet, farmer of Southwellys, his furred gown, and to John Huet, "My farmer of the Grove," his black gown, and devises to John Grenefeld of the Royal household (" de hospicio domini nostri regis)" and to William Pece, whom he appoints as two of his executors, his manor of Roke in the said county for 14 years, to dispose of the rents and issues thereof for the good of his soul and fulfilment of his will. Roke house is about a mile N.W. from the town of Romsey. As he makes no disposal of Southwells, nor of his "farm of the Grove," we may conclude that he had only a leasehold estate for life therein.

In 1480, at which time King Edward IV. was building the present fabric of St. George's chapel, we find that John Hammond was lessee of Grove Place.

In 1513 the Dean and Canons granted a lease of the manor to the abbess and convent of Romsey for 45 years, with a covenant to grant a further lease for 50 years at the expiration of the former lease.

At the dissolution of the monastery, the unexpired remainder of the lease was granted by H. viii. to John Uttoft, or Huttoft, and Bridget his wife, who took another lease of 50 years.

In the reign of king Edw. VI. however, one Robert (? James) Pagett paid the rent to the Dean and Canons.

In 1561 a lease for 81 years was granted to James Pagett of Poulton, Wilts. This place must not be confounded with Paultons in Hampshire. From 1570 to 1604 on the Court Rolls of the manor of Southwells James Pagett is styled joint Lord with the Dean and Chapter.

1 Register Luffnam, 35.

The Priory of Pulton (now Poulton), Wilts, about 5 miles E. from Cirencester, was founded by Sir Thomas St. Maur, Kt., in 1347 for a Prior and three Canons of the Gilbertine Order; and after its dissolution the site, manor and advowson were, in 1544, granted to James Pagett and others.

In 1561 this James Pagett, who is then styled of "Grove Place in the County of Southampton," granted a lease, dated the last day of December 4 Eliz. 1561, to Thomas Marshall gentleman, and Bridget his wife, of the manor and rectory of Powlton, Wilts, at a rent, of £80 per annum.

In his Will, dated in 1595, and again in 1599, in a bill which he filed in chancery, as complainant, against Edward Abarrowe and others, he is styled "James Pagett of Powlton, in the County of Wilts, Esq." This is repeated in the Inquisition, taken in August, 1604, after his death.

In 1570, at a manor court held 12 Eliz. Dowsabell, daughter of James Pagett, was admitted to three several copyholds of the manor of Southwells. The manor comprised lands of free tenants and copyholders.

There is much intricacy in James Pagett's circumstances which has hitherto baffled inquiry. The confusion is owing, (1) to his connection by marriage with the Fosters of North Baddesley, (2) to his triple marriages, (3) his involved relationship with the Sherington family of Laycock Abbey, (4) his leaving issue by two of his wives, and (5) to the want of a clear apprehension as to his property at *Powlton* in Wiltshire and the residence of his daughter, Dowsabell, at *Paultons* in Hampshire, as widow of William Pawlet, Esq.

He was only son of Robert Pagett, a wealthy merchant and alderman of London, and sheriff of that City in 1536, whose will, dated 19th August 1541 was proved in the P.C.C. 23rd February, 1541-2.3

In the Inquisition on James Pagett's death, taken at Malmesbury, 20th August 1604, wherein no mention is made of his leasehold estate in Grove Place, it was found that he died on 7th May, 1604, seized in fee of the manor and

Chancery Proceedings, Eliz.: Marshall versus Pagett, M. m, 12, No. 70,
 Chancery Proceedings, Eliz. Pagett versus Abarrowe and others.
 P. p. 5, No. 39.

⁸ Register Spert 2.

advowson of the Rectory of Poulton, Wilts, and that William Pagett was his son and heir, aged sixteen years and a half.¹

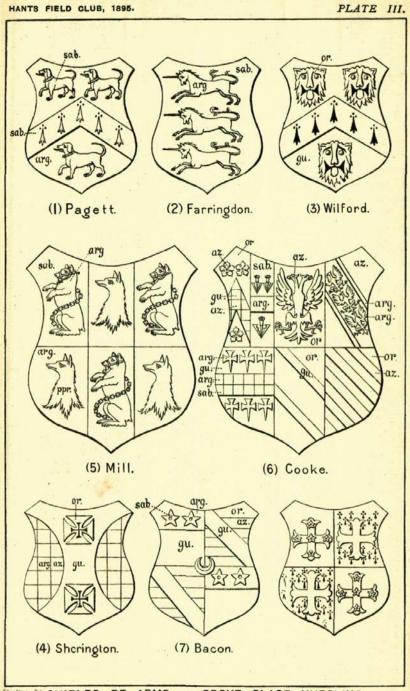
Regarding his three marriages.—In the heralds' visitation of Wiltshire in 1623, edited and printed by the late Sir Thomas Phillipps, Bart., at Middle-hill, it is stated that Olive, sister of Sir William Sherington, Kt., of Laycock Abbey, married James Pagett, Esq., of London, and from the same and other sources we know that Sir William Sherington's third wife and widow, Grace, daughter of John Farringdon of Farringdon, Devon, had been widow of Robert Pagett, alderman of London and was mother of this James Pagett; while Anne, daughter of the said Robert Pagett, and sister of James Pagett, was wife of Sir Henry Sherington, Kt., brother and heir of Sir William Sherington. Their sister Olive Sherington was probably James Pagett's first wife. All this is set forth in the annexed pedigree.

James Pagett's next wife was Bridget, only daughter of John Mill, Esq., of Southampton, merchant, the grantee from the Crown of the site and lands of the dissolved abbey of Quarre, Isle of Wight; also grantee of the manors of Nursling, Millbrook and Langley in Eling, all which descended to his eldest son, George Mill, Esq. This Bridget was aunt of Sir Richard Mill, Kt., of Grove Place (the older house), and widow of Nicholas Thorne of Bristol, merchant, who died in August, 1546: She was living in February, By her, James Pagett had one child, Dowsabell, so named after the wife of her uncle George Mill, Esq., the wealthy merchant of Southampton, viz :- Dowsabell granddaughter and heir of Sir John Burton, Kt. of Kinsley, Thus may be traced the adoption of the baptismal name of Dowsabell in the families of Pawlet, Mill, More, Ford, Fleming, Dunch, Colnett, Knight and others in the neighbourhood.

James Pagett's third and last wife was Barbara, daughter of Andrew Foster, Esq., of North Baddesley, by his wife, Barbara daughter of John Abarrowe, Esq., of North Charford, near Breamore, Hants. They were married in June, 1581.2

1 Inq. p.m. Wilts, 2 Jac. p. 1, No. 81.

² Chancery Proceedings, Eliz.—Pagett versus Abarrowe and others, P. p. 5, no. 39.



Ellen Steven Del SHIELDS OF ARMS AT GROVE PLACE NURSLING.

His will, dat. in 1595, was proved in London by Barbara his widow, 19th May 1604 [Hart. 36].

The tradition that James Pagett built the present fabric of Grove Place which is not on the site of the older mansion, is greatly strengthened by the presence of heraldic shields of families to whom he was allied. These shields are cast in relief in plaster of Paris, and decorate the pargeting in several rooms, more especially in the great dining room in the west wing, and the long gallery on the attic floor extending in one continuous chamber along the centre and both wings of the house. Here we find shields charged with the arms of—

- (1) PAGETT, (argent) a chevron (ermines) between three tallots statant (sable). Of this shield six casts remain: four in the dining room and two in the gallery.
- (2) FARRINGDON, [mother of James Pagett, and last wife of Sir William Sherington, Kt.] (sable) three unicorns courant in pale (argent). Of this two casts in the dining room, and two in the gallery remain.
- (3) WILFORD, [wife of Farringdon and grandmother of James Pagett.] (gules) a chevron (ermine) between three leopards' faces (or.) Of this two casts are found in the gallery.
- (4) Sherington, swife, stepfather and brother-in-law of James Pagett]
 (gules) two crosses-formeé (or) each charged with a cross potent (sable)
 between two flaunches checky largent and azure.) Of this two casts in
 the dining room and one in the gallery remain.
- (5) MILL [wife of James Pagett,] per fesse (sable and argent) a pale counter-changed, three bears sejant-rampant (of the second) muzzled, collard, ringed, and lined (or) between as many foxes' heads erased (proper.) Of this one cast in the dining room and three in the gallery remain. These arms were granted to Mill of Hampton (Southampton) in 25 H. viii. 1533: evidently John Mill, the rich merchant of Southampton, father of James Pagett's second wife.
- It seems strange that he should not have been content with the ancestral arms of his father, Richard Mill, lord of the manor of Pulborough, Sussex, which his descendants in the next generation reassumed.
- assumed.

 (6) Cooke of Gidea Hall, Essex:—quarterly of siz; 1, (or) a chevron checky (gules and azure) between three cinquefoils (of the third,) Cooke, impaling (sable) a fesse between three pheons (argent,) Malpas; 2, (or) a double headed eagle displayed (azure.) Montgomery; 3, (azure) between two bendlets (argent) three eaglets displayed in bend (of the second,) Belknap; 4, (gules) a fesse counter, compony (argent and sable) between six crosses-crosslet pattee fitchee (of the second,) Boteler; 5, (or) two bendlets (gules,) Sudeley; 6, bendy of ten (or and azure,) Mountfort. Of this shield one cast remains in the gallery.

(7) BACON OF REDGRAVE with a mark of cadency; quarterly, 1 and 4. gules on a chief argent two pierced mullets sable, BACON; 2 and 3, barry of six or and azure, a bend gules, in the fesse point a crescent of cadency, KNAPLOD.

This is most probably the shield of the renowned Francis Bacon, afterwards lord chancellor of England and Viscount

St. Albans. He was the only surviving son of Sir Nicholas Bacon, the celebrated lord keeper of the great seal in the reign of Elizabeth, by his second wife, Anne, second daughter of Sir Anthony Cooke of Gidea Hall. Three examples of this shield are in the gallery.

The Crest of Bacon, viz., a boar passant, sable, is still to be seen in the pargeting near one of the dormer windows in the N. W. wing of the long gallery.

(8) There are two examples in the gallery of a shield, the owner of which has not been identified. The charges in both are rendered faint and undefined by several coats of white-wash. The shield appears to bear, quarterly, 1 and 4, on a cross flory fine cinquefoils or mullets; 2 and 3, ermine, a cross flory.

Besides these coats there are other detached heraldic decorations in the pargeting in both apartments, such as the lion passant of England; the fluer-de-lis of France; the double headed eagle displayed of the Holy Roman Empire; the Pawlet crest, viz., on a branch, a falcon with wings expanded, (James Pagett's daughter, Dowsabell, by his wife Bridget Mill having married William Pawlet, son of Lord Chidiok Pawlet,) still appears three times in the dining room and six in the gallery, and that of Bacon as already is noticed.

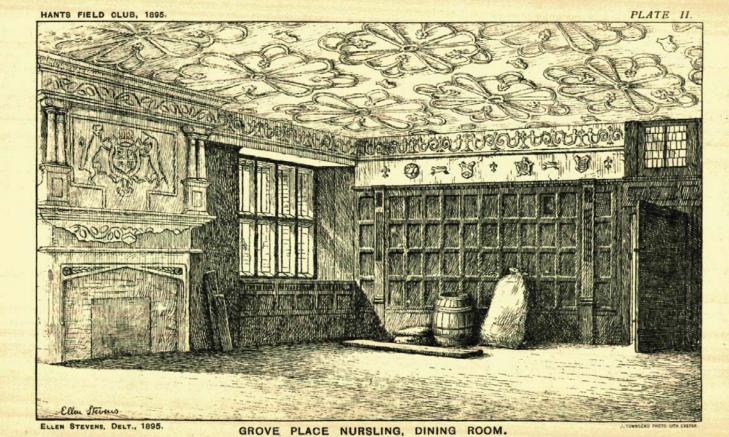
Decay and mutilation have in both apartments destroyed more than half of these shields, and those that remain are injured, or well nigh obscured by coats of whitewash.

The absence from among these shields of the arms of Foster of North Baddesley, viz.—argent a chevron gules between three bugle horns vert, on a chief of the second as many leopards' faces or, is remarkable. We may therefore conclude that this pargeting was done before 1581, in which year Iames Pagett married Barbara Foster, his third and last wife.

As the present double avenue of lime trees is not in line with the site of the older mansion, we may fairly assume that the trees were planted by James Pagett when he built the present mansion, more than 300 years ago.

In the archives of the Dean and Canons of Windsor is a paper, dated 6th July, 2 Eliz., 1560, reciting a former paper of 15 H. viii. 1523, which contains the following item:—

"Thomas Mylle, generosus, tenet unum tenementum in parochia de Nurslinge vocatum *Grove Place* cum domibus et edeficiis eidem tenemento pertinentibus cum curtilagio et gardino continente per estimationem vi. acras."



Doubtless, this was the old manor house, the site of which has been recently traced on the S.W. of the present mansion, between the lime-tree avenue and the railway. The occupation of this house was continued by his only son, 'Sir Richard Mill, Kt. of Grove Place,' at whose death s.p. in 1613, it reverted to the Dean and Canons, and was afterwards pulled down.

This Thomas Mill of Grove Place was second son of John Mill, the Southampton merchant. He was a Barrister at Law, Recorder of Southampton and M.P. for that borough in 1553, sheriff of the same in 1559, and Steward of the New Forest. He died intestate, and administration of his effects was granted at Lambeth Palace, 27th May, 1560, to Roger Tichborne of Romsey, during the minority of his only son and heir.¹

This son was Sir Richard Mill, Kt., of Grove Place (the old manor house) whose sumptuous mural alabaster monument still remains, though much decayed, in the South transept of Nursling Church. As heir of his uncle George Mill, Esq. in 1568, he inherited the site and lands of the dissolved abbey of Quarre and the manors of Nursling. Millbrook, and Langley, &c. He sold to Sir Thomas Fleming, Kt., of North Stoneham, afterwards Chief Justice of England, the site and lands of Quarre, the farms of Arreton, Comeley, Haseley, Redway and Staplehurst in the Isle of Wight. He was baptized at St. Michael's Church, Southampton, 8th February 1556-7; was Sheriff of this county in 1593-4, and one of its representations in Parliament in 1597. His will, dated 2nd May 1610, in which he styled himself ' of Grove Place,' was proved by his widow in the P.C.C., 24th November 1613.2 He died 20th October 1613,3 and was buried at Nursling.

As he had no issue by his wife, Mary, sister of Sir John Savage, Kt. and Bart. he, by fine levied in Trinity term 1608, settled his manor of Langley and Langley-wood, in the parish of Eling in feoffees to hold to the use of himself and his wife for their several lives, with remainder to John Mill gentleman

- 1 Register Parker I., folio 171, at Lambeth Palace.
- ² Register Capell, folio 98, at Somerset House.
- ² Ing. p,m. of Sir Richard Mill, Kt. 11 Jac. p. 1, No. 76.

(who married Philadelphia, daughter of Sir Henry Knollys, Kt., of Grove Place), son and heir of John Mill, Esq. of Newton-bury, in the parish of Eling, and of Ann (Fleming), his wife. This John Mill, the father, was first cousin once removed of Sir Richard Mill, and, as John Mill of Camois Court, Sussex, was created a Baronet in 1619, and was ancestor of seven generations of the extinct line of Baronets settled at Mottisfont Abbey.

In 1612, a year before Sir Richard Mill's death, a composition was made by him with the Dean and Canons of Windsor, for such copyhold lands of the manor of Southwells as lie within the parish of Eling.

In 15, Jac. 1., 1617, the agents of the Mill family, and of the Dean and Canons met in the park of Grove Place, and made a Terrier showing the lands of the Deanland Canons, and those of the Mill family; and at a Court, held 20, Jac., I. 1622, this Terrier was presented and recorded. It refers to a prior Terrier of 2, Eliz., 1560, and contains the following words:—

"Including all the New House, Old House, outhouses, orchards, gardens yards; and back sides, arable lands, pastures, meadows and wood-grounds that do lie within all, or any of the bounds aforesaid, as between the East, West, North and South fronts aforesaid, as parcell of the said tenement called Grove Place."

As there were two houses after 1580, the Old and New, it is reasonable to conclude that Thomas Mill, the father, in 1560, and Sir Richard his son, after him, dwelt in the Old House with its six acres.

Between the time of the death of James Pagett in 1604, and that of Sir Henry Knollys in 1638, there is a failure of data as to the lessees of Grove Place, under the Dean and Canons.

Subsequently to the latter date, the following is a list of the lessees of Grove Place, which by the Dean and Canons is called the Southwells estate.

1660. Mr. [Thomas] Knowles.

1667. Sir John Duncombe (no doubt a connection of Anne, wife of Thomas Knollys).

1674. Mr. [Thomas] Knowles (the same as above).

1681, 1687, 1695. Mr. [Robert] Knollys.

1702. The guardians of the children (of Robert Knollys).

1709. Henry Knowles, Esq.

1716, 1723, 1730, 1738, 1745. Henry Knowles (the same).

1752. R. [obert] Knollys, Esq., ob. 8th December 1752, s.p.

1759. Sir Richard Mill, Bart., who married Margaret, daughter of Robert Knollys.

1766. Sir Richard Mill, Bart. (their son).

1773, 1780. Sir John Hoby Mill, Bart.

1787. Sir Charles Mill, 9th Bart. ob. 1792.

1794, 1801, 1808, 1815, 1822, 1829. Sir Charles Mill, 10th Bart., ob. 26th February 1835, s.p.

From these dates it appears that there was a renewal of the lease every seven years, when a fine was probably paid on renewal.

There is evidence to show that on the reversion of the leasehold estate to Sir Richard Mill, Bart, and his eldest son in 1752, by the death of Robert Knollys s.p., the tenancy of the mansion with 88 acres became separated from that of the farm-lands, the latter being retained in the Mill family under a succession of seven years leases till the death of Sir Charles Mill, 10th and last Baronet in 1835, who was succeeded by his nephew and heir John Barker, who thereon, took the name of Mill in addition, and was created a Baronet in 1836

It is not probable that Sir Richard Mill, 5th Baronet, or his successors ever resided at Grove Place, as Mottisfont Abbey was their chief residence.

The following extracts from the rate-books of the parish of Nursling relate to Grove Place and its land.—

Rate made at 2d. in the \mathcal{L} for the years

1758 to 1761. SIR RICHARD MILL, BART., 1/8 (annually), (He died in May, 1760).

Rate made at 2d. in the f for the years

1762 to 1764. JOHN BAKER, Esq., 3/6 (annually).

Rate made at 2d. in the f for the year

1765. GENERAL, SIR JOHN CLAVERING, 3/6.

Rate made at 2d. in the f for the year

1766. LIEUT. GENERAL CLAVERING, 7/10.

Rate made at 2d. in the £ for the years

1767 to 1771. General Clavering, do. (annually).

Rate made at 2d. in the f for the year

1773. GENERAL CLAVERING, 10/2.

Rate made at 1d. in the £ for the year

1794. RICHARD MEYLER, Esq., 13/101.

Rate made at 1d, in the £ for the year

1798. SIR CHARLES RICH, BART., 13/101.
Rate made 2nd April for the year

1802. SIR CHARLES RICH, BART., OF GROVE PLACE—house, £1 16s.; land, £4 4s. 9½d.; trout fishing, 1/2½—£6 1s. 11½.

Rate made at 1d. in the f on £253 for the year

1804. HERBERT NEWTON JARRETT, Esq., of GROVE PLACE, £1 is. id.

1808 and 1809. Mr. JARRETT is appointed a Churchwarden.

Rate made at 3d, in the £ for the year

1811. JAMES DRUMMOND, ESQ., on £253, £3 3S. 3d.

This was James Andrew J. L. C. Drummond, born in 1767who, upon the restoration, by act of parliament, of the
family honours, which were forfeited in 1746 by his ancestor
for his adhesion to the fortunes of the young Pretender,
became 8th Viscount Strathallan and Baron DrummondHe married Lady Amelia Sophia Murray, daughter of
John, 4th Duke of Athol; and died in 1851.

Rate made at 3d. in the £ for the year

1816: Dr. Edward Middleton, of Grove Place—on a rateable value of £90—£1 2s. 6d.

Rate made (at 4d. in the £) for the year

1821. Dr. Edward Middleton, of Grove Place—rateable value (land, £124 6s.; house, £75), £199 6s.—£3 6s. 5d.

About the year 1775 Grove Place was occupied by James Harris, Esq., afterwards created Earl of Malmesbury.

About the year 1813 Dr. Edward Middleton, M.D., was dwelling at Grove Place, he having taken a 21 years' lease, renewable on payment of a fine, of the mansion and 88 acres of land from the Dean and Canons of Windsor. Dr. Middleton also rented the farm-lands of the Manor of Southwells from Sir Charles Mill, the lessee; and after Sir Charles's death, in 1835, the widow of Dr. Middleton continued to do so from Sir John Barker Mill, Bart.

Dr. Middleton converted the house and premises into a lunatic asylum, and added a long range of buildings in the rear for the accommodation of pauper lunatics. These additions were demolished on Lord Palmerston's coming into possession of the property.

In adapting the mansion for the purpose of a mad-house, permanent injury was done to the interior, especially to the great dining room and long gallery, the latter being divided off into separate chambers by wooden partitions covered with lath and plaster, a narrow passage on one side of the gallery being reserved as a way of approach to these cubicles. Hence, the ornamental tracery, most of the embossed shields and heraldic emblems on the ceilings have been cut through and extensively damaged.

Dr. Middleton died in 1826, and the tenancy and use to which the place had been turned were continued by his widow.

Mrs. Middleton died in 1847, as lessee in possession, when the charge of the place as a lunatic asylum was undertaken, about 1849, by Mr. Pothecary and his partner—Dr. Symes, and so it continued till about 1854, after which time the mansion remained vacant for six years.

In consequence of Sir John Barker Mill's death in February, 1860, who some time before had conveyed to Henry John, 3rd Viscount Palmerston, all his leasehold estate in the farmlands of the manor, the Dean and Canons of Windsor in that year sold, under enfranchisement, the whole Manor of Southwells, including Grove Place and its 88 acres, to Lord Palmerston, in freehold. Since the purchase by Lord Palmerston, the house was occupied by Mr. John Taylor, and latterly by his son, as farm tenants.

Lord Palmerston died in 1865, and bequeathed the property, with other landed estates, to his step-son, the Right Honble. William Francis Cowper (who thereon took the surname of Temple in addition), a younger son of Lady Palmerston by her first husband, the 5th Earl Cowper. Mr. Cowper Temple was a Privy Councillor, and created, in 1880, Baron Mount-Temple. He died in October, 1888, s.p., and was succeeded by his nephew, the Honble. Anthony Evelyn

Ashley, son of Anthony, 7th Earl of Shaftesbury, and stepgrandson of the late Lord Palmerston.

Mr. Evelyn Ashley has recently (August, 1895) sold the mansion of Grove Place, with 65 acres of land, in freehold, to Capt. B. de Sales La Terrière, who entertains the intention of restoring the house and making it a handsome place of residence.

When the Manor of Southwells was purchased by Lord Palmerston, in 1860, it consisted of:—

	ACRES,	ROODS.	POLES.
Scudamore Farm, Lee	205	I	I
Part of Toothill	149	. 2	29
Street Meadow, North Romsey	. 1	0	22 .
Osborne, House, Church Street, Romsey	0	О	371
Grove Place, house and premises	. 88	I	6
:	444	2	152

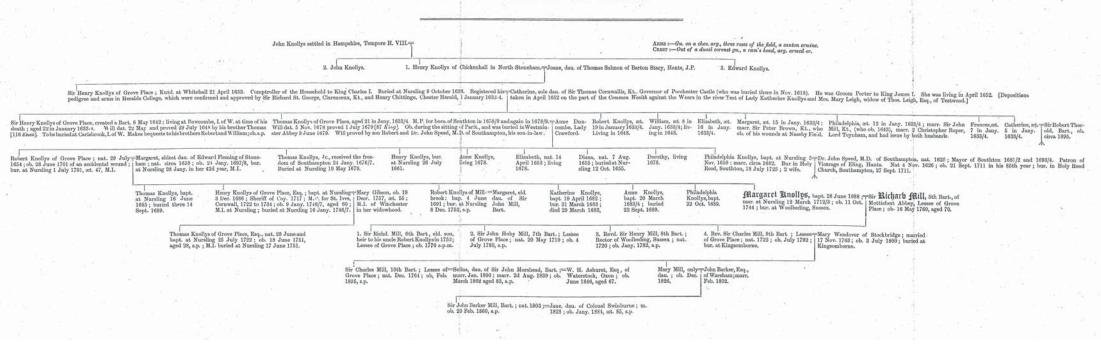
For the information derived from the records of the Dean and Canons of Windsor and for other particulars, I am indebted to the late Charles Cutts Barton, Esq., of Rownhams.

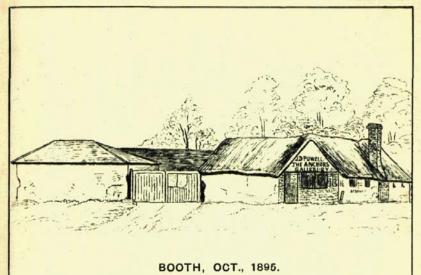
I must also express my thanks to the Rev. G. Cecil White, rector of Nursling, for the extracts from the parish ratebooks.

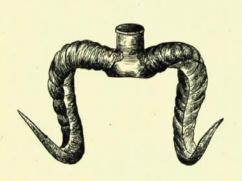
Of the two annexed pedigrees, one traces the connection of James Pagett with the several families whose heraldic shields he had placed in his new mansion of Grove Place; the other is that of the Khollys family, who were lessees of Grove Place for upwards of 100 years.

The plate of shields of arms, and the views of Grove Place which illustrate this paper have been drawn by Miss Ellen Stevens, the latter from sketches made 12th August, 1895.

Pedigree of the Family of Knollys of Grobe Place in the parish of Aursling, Hants, traced from the time of King Henry Biii. to its extinction in moccli.







HORNS USED IN THE CEREMONY OF HORNING THE COLTS.

WEYHILL FAIR.

NOTICE.

Insert the accompanying Pedigree of Pagett after the Pedigree of Knollys to be found, Part II. Vol III. p. 126.

PART II. VOL. III. p. 233.

For "Cancel pages 91-98 Part I. Vol. I." Read "Cancel pages 91-98 Part I. Vol. III."

Scheme sholding the Connection of James Pagett, Esq., Bith the Families Bhose Shields of Arms he setsup in the Dining Room and Long Gallery of the Present Mansion of Grobe Place.

