

NORFOLK.

At the end of the eleventh century, and early in the twelfth, there was living at North Tuddenham, "William Ponchard, miles." In all probability, as in Hants. and Herts., this new offshoot came from Devonshire, and the founder of the Norfolk line was son or grandson to Robert PUNCHARD, lord of Heanton-Punchardon. John, son of this William, had three daughters; and again, as in Devon and Somerset, the main issue passed to the spindle side. Matilda, the eldest, married Sir Richard Belhus of Tuddenham, whose last male descendant died in 1363. The second girl married Robert de Nerford, Warden of Dover Castle. Having no child, this good couple founded the Priory de Pratis, at North Creyke, in 1206; and afterwards built St. Bartholomew's Chapel, with a hospital for thirteen poor lay brethren, four chaplains, and a master. This they did in honour of the victory over the French fleet, Aug. 24, 1217, by their nephew, Hubert de Burgh; and his brother, Geoffrey, Bishop of Ely, dedicated the chapel. The advowson of the priory was settled on King Henry III. and his heirs for ever; who made it into an abbey, and confirmed its privileges.⁶⁶

Joan, the third daughter of John and Alice Ponchard, married Reyner (or Walter) de Burgh,⁶⁷ and became the mother of a famous race. Her eldest son (Geoffrey) was Bishop of Ely in 1225; the second (William) was Steward to Henry II., and an ancestor of the Butlers, dukes of Ormond, the Earls Clanricarde, the Earls of Ulster, and many other noble houses;⁶⁸ eventually, through Anne Mortimer, providing succession to the English crown. The youngest boy was greatest of all, and is best known by his simple name of Hubert de Burgh.⁶⁹ He rose to be Earl of Kent, Governor of Norwich and Orford, and Grand Justiciar of England. Married four times, his chief posterity are traced from his first wife, Joan, daughter of William de Rivers, earl of Devonshire, widow of de Briose. From their eldest son, John, earl of Kent, the barons of Manchester, lords Fitzwalter, Delaware and Morley descended; the second son, named after his father, Hubert, was ancestor of the lords Borough. The daughter of Hubert de Burgh, by his fourth wife, Margaret of Scotland, was married in 1243, to the young earl of Gloucester, Richard de Clare, without royal permission, and divorced in consequence a few months later. By the union of a great-grandchild (Margaret, daughter of John de Burgh), with her cousin, Richard, the Red Earl of Ulster, the descent of Hubert was joined with that of his elder brother, William, in a posterity allied to the Royal House of York; a splendid destiny, beside which the other records of this family are tame.

⁶⁶ See Blomefield, V. 175.

⁶⁷ Pedigrees.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

⁶⁹ Note on the De Burghs. See Pedigree. William "Tusard" in the time of William I. had several sons; the eldest of which, Gevard, retained that name, and had descendants. Robert (o.s.p.) was succeeded by his brother Rainald. Serlo, a fourth son, built a castle at Knaresborough, in Yorkshire. Rainald was followed by William, whose descent is fabulously traced from Charles, Duke of Ingheim, fifth son of Charlemagne. William's son, Reyner, was the father of Hubert de Burgh. "The family" (says the author of the "Norman People," p. 166) held Burgh, Cawston, &c., in Norfolk,

"by the service of finding a mounted cross-bowman for the King's army, for forty days; and had so held those estates from the time of Henry I." See "Testa de Neville," p. 293.

"Hubert de Burgh, a Norfolk man born, and afterwards Earl of Kent, was made governor of the Castles of Norwich and Orford in 1212." Blomefield's "Norfolk," III., p. 41. And the same, in a footnote, "Whatever others say, Mr. Le Neve proves that this great man was born at Burgh in Flegg, being son of Reyner de Burgh, who married Joan, daughter and coheir of John Ponchard, Lord of North Tuddenham in Norfolk; brother to Jeffrey de Burgh, Archdeacon of Norfolk, and Bishop of Ely." Davy says Maud—not Joan—was the name of Hubert's mother.