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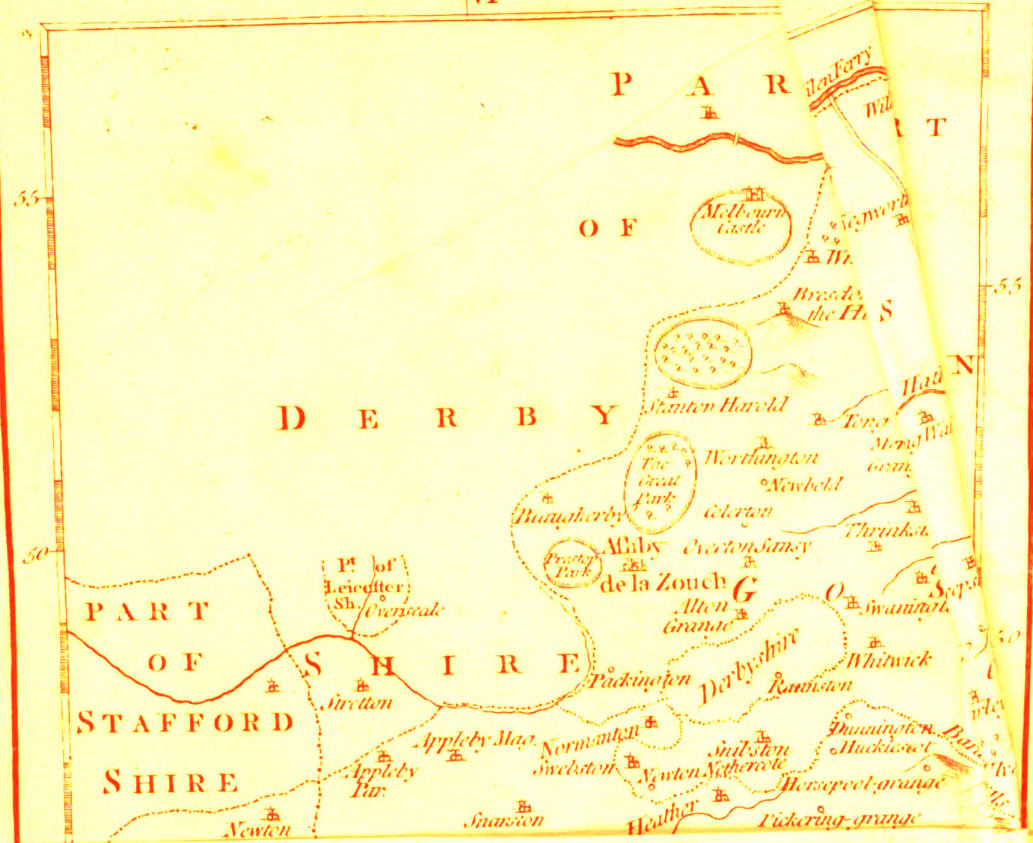
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B. J. 1.

THE
DESCRIPTION
OF
LEICESTERSHIRE:

CONTAINING,
MATTERS of ANTIQUITY,
HISTORY,
ARMOURY, and GENEALOGY.

By the late *WILLIAM BURTON*, Esq.

The SECOND EDITION.
ENLARGED and CORRECTED.



≡ L Y N N : ≡

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AND J. GREGORY, LEICESTER.

MDCCLXXVII.





To the ILLUSTRIOUS and Right HONOURABLE,
G E O R G E V I L L E R S,
Marquis and Earl of *BUCKINGHAM*,
Viscount Villers, Baron Whaddon, Lord High Admiral
of *England, Ireland,* and the Principality of *Wales*;
great Master of his Majesty's Horse, Knight of the Most
Noble Order of the Garter, and one of the Lords of His
Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council.

My LORD,

HAVING undertaken to remove an Eclipse
from the Sun, without Art or Astrono-
mical calculation, to give light to the County
of Leicester, whose beauty has long been sha-
dowed and obscured, I have ventured to sub-
mit the work to your Lordship's Patronage ;
for, by the brightness of those rays, truth will
be discovered, against which many adverfa-
ries will rise up ; and, because she appears
naked and unarmed, and of herself unable
to resist the violence of their furious encoun-
ters ; be pleased, therefore, my Lord, to grant
a protection to her, and to the County, and
take them both under your Lordship's Patron-
age, since by birth, they of right belong to
you ; and no other is equally able to afford
a secure defence, whose word alone can calm
the most malicious assault ; thus will their glo-
rious beams reflect upon yourself, and make
your Merit shine with additional Lustre ; and
in gratitude for so distinguished a favour, I
shall ever remain, with the greatest respect,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

And devoted humble Servant,

WILLIAM BURTON.



The P R E F A C E.

TO THE CANDID READER.

AMONGST the multitude of writers that daily present themselves to the view of the Public, I have now ventured myself amidst the crowd, to write upon a subject hitherto not treated of by any; not through any self conceit or vain desire of glory, for I am one of those who hold, that

Gloria totius res Vanissima mundi.

Not that I entertain so high an opinion of my own knowledge, or ability, or think myself able, or fit to handle a subject which requires a most learned and judicious head, to digest it in proper order; but sincerely confess myself altogether unfit and unfurnished for so great an undertaking. Unfit, as being confined to another study, which is jealous, and will admit of no partner; for all the time that could possibly be employed therein, was not sufficient for so laborious a study, by reason of the difficulty of acquiring, and the various kinds of learning requisite therein. Yet if a partner might be allowed or admitted therein, there is no study or learning so fit and necessary for a Lawyer, as the study of Antiquity and History, which must appear obvious in many respects; and, indeed, I was even impelled to the study of Antiquity by a natural Genius, as those two learned writers *Georgius Brunius*, and *Hieronimus Hennings* (the one the author of *Theatrum Urbium*, the other of *Theatrum Genealogicum*) * affirm of themselves; that though by profession, they were divines, yet being induced by a natural inclination, the one to the love of pictures, perspective, maps, and other Geographical descriptions; the other to the study of Genealogies; therefore no man should cast any imputation upon them, for those their labours; seeing that *St. Hierome*, *Bede*, *Isidore*, *Orosius*, *Aeneas Sylvius*, *Rodericus Toletanus*, and many Fathers of the Church amused themselves with human learning, and each of them published Histories, or some other treatises, expressing the variety of their studies therein. The like I may say for myself; I gave way in some measure to my own inclination, chusing rather to recreate myself in this way of writing, than either to be misemployed, or altogether idle; having ever adhered to the truth of that excellent proverb, *Otium sine literis mors est*; contrary to the vain and idle humour of some illiterate Fops, who hold all learning base, and the lovers thereof equally contemptible; and remembering that old Castilian proverb, *Mas vale saber, que aver*, that knowledge is superior to wealth. Unfurnished, because labouring under a weak constitution of body, and not being able to make that application which my business required; I have now retired myself to a private country life, and may with that conceited, but ingenious, † Poet say:

*Et quoniam mea fit qua scribo penna badilus,
Et faciam drusias fossa cavando manus;*

I am not therefore master of such language as the dignity of the subject requires, being thereby destitute of those helps which the city affords; yet notwith-

* *Prefat. in tom. 3, Theatrum urbium Regni, 2, 3, in 4. Monarchia parte Priori Theatre General. Epist.*
† *Marl. Coecaio: Sonol 1. de Zantonella.*

standing

standing, rather than my native country should any longer remain obscured with darknes, I have ventured, in a small degree, to restore it to its proper dignity, being animated thereto by the examples of many judicious and worthy men. As that most learned and justly admired Antiquary, William Camden, Esq. Clarencieux, King at Arms, who has compiled a general account of this Island; and that industrious and very worthy Mr. John Speed, who, in his large and elaborate History of England, has given a detail of every Shire; and by his great travel and expence, has, by way of Ornament thereto, added the maps of each Shire, with the plan of every City and great Town inserted therein, never before performed by any other. And by many more, who have illustrated several counties; as, that grave and sage Lawyer William Lambert, Esq. of Lincoln's-Inn, who from the depth of antiquity has restored the county of Kent. That eloquent and noble Gentleman Richard Carew, Esq. who has very accurately surveyed all Cornwall; and that excellent surveyor John Norden, Gentleman, who has briefly described the counties of Middlesex and Hertfordshire; and since that time, has made chorographical tables of some Western-Shires, and a fine perspective of the city of London. Being also encouraged by many worthy friends, among whom I cannot pass over, unremembered (without a proper acknowledgment,) the kind assistance and direction of my antient and much respected friend and kinsman John Beaumont, Esq. of Gracedieu, in the county of Leicesters; as also of that expert genealogist, my friend and kinsman M. Augustine Vincent, by his office, Rouge-Croix, officer at arms; who very kindly, from the Tower, has imparted to me many useful notes, not elsewhere to be had or found; whose labours also in this kind for the county of Northampton, ere long will come to light. In this description I have run through in every Town, (as occasion offered) the four sections above mentioned in the title page. As for the Topography of this county, at the request of a friend of mine, I rectified (some years ago) Christopher Saxton's map of this county with an addition of 80 towns; which was engraved at Amsterdam, by Jodocus Hondius 1602, and since imitated by M. Speed, in his elaborate History of Britain, with an enlargement of the plan of the Town of Leicester, which is reduced into a lesser form, and here inserted; and of those places which are more eminent by their situation, I have briefly spoken something throughout the whole. Where any passage naturally offered itself to be spoken of, I have there a little digressed, and written what I conceived proper, not thinking it altogether foreign to my purpose to give satisfaction to the Reader in this respect. And to the end likewise, that this narration might give satisfaction in some sort to each, I have industriously used such historical digressions, (where it could be done with propriety) as seemed suitably connected with the present Treatise. Like unto those artificial Cooks and Confectioners, who, in setting forth a feast or banquet, adapt several dishes and dainties to different palates. I have remarked, as near as I could ascertain, the times of the foundation of all Monasteries, Abbies, Religious Houses, Churches, Chapels, Houses of Nobility, or other memorable places of note, which hereafter perhaps may give light to some other passages. Concerning the titles of land herein expressed, where Manors, Lands, or Tenements, did descend by an heir general, or were granted by the King's Letters Patent, or by any such eminent grant, I have there made bold to set down the same, which was done for this purpose; that the antiquity of the continuance of them in one name or family, might be discovered, and the antient owner (so far as could be found) might be known; not intending to derogate any thing from any man's right or title, or to move any doubts or questions touching the same. In setting down of tenures, I have been very cautious, lest by being too positive, I might be justly censured. The soccage tenure I have described, but have spoke of no other with certainty, being unwilling to give any cause of offence; for I well know there are more differences and more strange proceedings in these affairs,

fairs, than in any one thing of so common a nature; yet no doubt they might be rectified, if the truest and most probable records and evidences were admitted. Offices and Inquisitions are very uncertain, sometimes quite contrary to truth, which are passed and concluded with such proofs, as for that time are delivered. Those cases of law which of later times have happened within the Shire, I have briefly recorded; in some, shewing the arguments and reasons of the judgment. As touching the genealogies and arms of the Gentry, I have omitted to write of the modern, only speaking of the old and antient, whose families are now extinct; lest perhaps, by not giving to each one now living a due satisfaction, I might innocently be blamed; only some few of my friends I have remembered, upon whose kindness I have presumed, that they will accept in good part, whatsoever I have delivered. Respecting the state of the Church, I thought proper to set it down in the same manner, as I find it expressed in an old Manuscript, made anno 1220, in the fifth year of Henry the Third, from whence may be learnt, what Churches were Rectories, what were appropriate. If Rectories, who was Patron, who the incumbent, what Chapels belonged to them, and how they were to be served; whether by a Chaplain resident, or on certain days, or *ex gratia*. If appropriate, to what Monastery, or Religious house belonging: and in some, how the Vicar was endowed, and in what manner, and to whom the tythes were to be paid. I have further added out the Records of the office of the Auditors of the Prefs, by the means and help of Sir Francis Goston, Knight, one of the Auditors, what value they are now of in the King's books. And further, I have shewn who are now Patrons of every Church. Concerning the Roman Antiquities, or any other memoirs of Note, I have briefly touched upon all that have come to my knowledge.

Lastly, I have added the Arms in all the Church windows in the Shire, and the inscriptions of the Tombs; which (for the most part) I have taken by my own view and travel; with this design, that perhaps they may rectify Armories and Genealogies, and may give testimony, proof, and also terminate many differences. From my own knowledge, I can affirm, that the antiquity of a Church window, for the proof of a match and issue had, has been delivered in evidence to a Jury at an Assizes, and accepted. I have also added the names to most of the Coats, for which I had any proof or probable conjecture. If the blazon do not give satisfaction, I must confess, I have not followed that conceited blazon of Gerard Leigh, or others of later times, but have delivered them in such terms as I was best acquainted with, and such as are adapted to the capacities of all.

Thus, candid Reader, I have explained my whole intention in the following Treatise, and earnestly request a favourable acceptance of these my labours and well designed endeavours; which, (such as they are) I humbly submit myself and them to the perusal and censure of the Public.

From Falde, near Tutbury, Com. Staff. October 30, 1622.

WILLIAM BURTON.



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