

*Battle Abbey*

THE

# BATTLE ABBEY ROLL.

WITH SOME

ACCOUNT OF THE NORMAN LINEAGES.

BY THE

DUCHESS OF CLEVELAND.

*IN THREE VOLUMES.—Vol. III.*

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Sheriff of the same county 14 Henry IV. ; and dying without issue male, his lands went in marriage with his daughter to Basset of Umberleigh, Botreaux, and others. These Peverells are especially memorable here by two crosses of moorstone in the highway, set up by them, still extant, and called Peverell's Crosses."—*Gilbert's Cornwall*. Another Devonshire manor, Aller-Peverell, keeps the name, and in Hampshire we find Burton-Peverell. Andrew Peverell was one of the Hampshire knights summoned to serve against Llewellyn in 1264. "A family of Peverell held Bradford-Peverell in Dorsetshire of the Honour of Boulogne from the time of Edward I. till Henry VIII. : but bore different arms from those of the baronial Peverells.—*Hutchins' Dorset*. Finally, in Sussex, Tarrant-Peverell, and Sompting-Peverell, till late in the fourteenth century, belonged to the owners from whom they received their name.

**Perot.** The genealogy of this family, as given by Burke, is among the choicest curiosities of its genus : and Banks very justly apprehends it to be "the fruit of a disordered mind." It is taken from a pedigree drawn up c. 1650 by a Welsh herald named Owen Griffiths ; and prefaced by the amazing assertion that it had been "collected from the British Annals, which will bear record of the truth, and that it is no fiction, to latest posterity."—It is further dedicated "To the most Noble and Puissant Prince, Sir James Perrot, Marquess of Marbeth, Earl and Viscount Carew, and Baron Perrot :"—titles that never had any existence except in Owen's own deluded brain ; and commences with William de Perrott, who built "Castel Perrott" near a town of that name in Brittany, and came over to England A.D. 957. He obtained some lands in Somerset, where he gave his name to the river Parrott (now the Parret) and laid the foundations of North and South Perrot. He was "constrained to leave the infant city" and return home ; but his grandson accompanied the Conqueror, having married the latter's "nearest relative, Blanche, daughter of Ramiro, King of Arragon," recovered the estate in Somersetshire, and completed the long-interrupted building. In the next generation, Sir Stephen had to wife "the celebrated Princess Ellyn, daughter of Howell Dha, King of Wales, the Lycurgus or law-giver of that land ;" and their son Andrew, as "the descendant of a numerous race of kings, monarchs of Britain," claimed the kingdom, but graciously consented to cede his rights to the King of England, on receiving a sum of money, and the grant of a tract of twenty miles of country. He married "Jonet, daughter of Ralph, Lord Mortimer by Gladdis Dee, daughter of Llewellyn : " and "Lord Mortimer's mother was Maud, daughter of William the Conqueror." As Ralph, Lord Mortimer, died in 1246, this princess, at the time of his birth, cannot possibly have been less than one hundred and twenty or one hundred and thirty years of age. His only daughter Isolda was twice married, but on neither occasion to Sir Andrew Perrott.

The etymologists declare that Perrott simply represents the French diminutive of Peter. "Prince Edward used to call the favourite, Piers Gaveston,

by the familiar title of 'Perot.' Perot Gruer is mentioned in the Rolls of Parliament. Henry Perot in the Writs of Parliament."—*Bardsley's English Surnames*. See also *Lower*. "Peret forestarius" is written in Domesday as the name of a Hampshire baron, but apparently only the Christian name. No Perrots occur in the county history of Somerset, where I only find that the river Parret "was anciently called the Pedred."—In Norfolk, Alan Pirot held six knights' fees under William de Albin; and in 1165 Ralph Pirot (no doubt his son) was the tenant of Robert de Albin of Cainho. (*Liber Niger*). At the same date, a Ralph Pirot held two knights' fees of the Bishop of Ely in Cambridgeshire, four of Geoffrey de Vere, and four of Henry Fitz Gerald in Essex. "If these knights' fees, amounting in the aggregate to fifteen, were holden by one and the same person, they point him out as one of considerable estate and consequence."—*Banks*. His descendant of the same name still held land in Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire of the barony of Cainho in the time of Henry III; as well as Lindsell Hall in Essex; Sauston in Cambridgeshire; and two knights' fees in Kent. One of his sons, Henry Perot, had the custody of the county of Kent 6 Ed. I: "to hold during the King's pleasure:" and Henry's nephew Ralph was among "the Barons made at the Parliament holden at Salesbury 25 Ed. 1." But it does not appear that Ralph's son and heir Simon, who succeeded him 33 Ed. I., ever was summoned to parliament; nor can I find any further notice of his posterity. A Reginald Perrot held Plateford and some other manors in Wiltshire in 1370.

This baronial house is never alluded to in the preposterous pedigree already quoted, which treats exclusively of the Welsh family of this name. It was seated at Iystington in Pembrokeshire, till Hester, daughter and heir of Sir Herbert Perrott of Haroldstone, brought the estates to her husband Sir John Pakington, of Westwood in Worcestershire, who died in 1727. Two junior branches remained; one in Brecknockshire; the other at Gellygare in Glamorganshire; and this latter only became extinct in 1779.

One of this Pembrokeshire house, Sir John Perrott, Lord Deputy of Ireland 1583–88, is supposed to have been an illegitimate son of Henry VIII. "If," writes Sir Robert Maunton, in his *Fragmenta Regalia*, "we compare his picture, his qualities, gesture and voice, with those of the King, they will plead strongly" in favour of this suggestion. "His first appearance at Court was early in the reign of Ed. VI. He was arraigned of high treason at Westminster in 1592, and received sentence of death, but did not suffer, for he died five months after in the Tower. He left one son, Sir Thomas, who married Dorothy, sister to the favourite Earl of Essex, by whom he had one or more daughters."—*Nash's Worcestershire*. He had governed Ireland victoriously and successfully; and was "brought unawares to ruin," says Camden, "by some envious persons, who were too powerful for him, together with the licentiousness of his own tongue, for he had thrown out some words against his Sovereign." Leland includes in this

family the celebrated William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, and Lord High Chancellor under Edward III., the priest "who was so much in favour with the King, that everything was done by him, and nothing was done without him." He says in his *Notes concerning William of Wickham*: "William Perrot, alias Wikam, because he was born at Wikam in Hampshire. Some suppose that he was a Bastard, Perot the Parish-Clark's Son of Wikam." His biographers, I observe, do not accept this statement, but assert that "his patronymic, if such indeed he had, was Longe." At all events, he was of humble origin.

**Picard.** This name, which, like Le Gascon, L'Angevin, Le Poitevin, and others, plainly denotes the nationality of the bearer, occurs half a dozen times in the Norman Exchequer Rolls of 1180-95. There is a Robert Pichard of about the same date to be found in the *Rotuli Curie Regis*, and the family is said to have been settled in Herefordshire during the preceding century. "That part of Ocle called Ocle Pichard derived its additional name from a family holding it soon after the Norman Conquest. Roger Pichard is mentioned in the Book of Fees made in the reign of Henry III. as holding of the honour of Webbeley; and in 1232 was a pledge for the fidelity of Walter de Laci, until the kingdom should be settled in peace."—*Duncumb's Herefordshire*. Miles Picard was uninterruptedly Sheriff of the county from 1300 to 1306, and twice served as knight of the shire. It was he who, according to Nash, gave its name to Sapy-Pychard in Worcestershire, which he held of Stuteville. Roger Picard, probably his son, was Sheriff in 1318 and 1327, and must have been the last of the name at Ocle Pychard, where Peter de Clavenhough (Clanowe), who succeeded him, had a grant of free warren in 1334. Another Picard served as Sheriff in 1348 and 1349; and in 1356 Sir Henry Picard, Vintner and Lord Mayor of London, gave a great banquet in honour of the battle of Poitiers, at which both the Black Prince and his Royal captive were present. At a second and still more august entertainment, of even greater splendour, he feasted four crowned heads—his own Sovereign, and the Kings of France, Scotland, and Cyprus, with a great assemblage of the nobles of the realm. "And after," says Stowe, "the said Henry Picard kept his hall against all comers whosoever that were willing to play at dice and hazard. In like manner, the Lady Margaret his wife did also keep her chamber to the same effect." It seems that "the King of Cyprus, playing with Sir Henry Picard in his hall, did win of him fifty marks; but Picard, being very skilful in that art, did after win of the same King the same fifty marks, and fifty marks more; which when the same King began to take in ill part (although he dissembled the same) Sir Henry said unto him, "My Lord and King, be not aggrieved; I court not your gold, but your play; for I have not bid you hither that you might grieve;" and giving him his money again, plentifully bestowed of his own amongst the retinue. Besides he gave many rich gifts to the King, and other nobles and knights which dined with him, to the great glory of the citizens of London in those days." The Picards gave their name to