

Fryday in the Star Chamber was Appilyard brought forth, who dyd confesse he accusyd my Lord of Lecyster only of malycs," &c., that is, out of malice.

Besides printing ten of such documents, Canon Jackson gives fac-similes of two letters of Amy Robsart. From all these facts, it is plain that Scott's romance is not, in any respect, founded upon truth.\*

In 1859, Thomas Joseph Pettigrew, F.R.S., F.S.A., read a paper at the Congress of the British Archæological Association at Newbury (England), entitled, "An Inquiry into the Particulars connected with the Death of Amy Robsart (Lady Dudley), at Cumnor Place, Berks, September 8, 1560, to refute the calumnies charged against Sir Robert Dudley, K.G., Anthony Forster and others."

Mr. Pettigrew first refers to Ashmole's History of Berkshire, where he gives credence to some old wive's tales about the mysteries of Cumnor Hall (which first came from Leicester's Commonwealth), and Sir Walter Scott's novel of Kenilworth, in which he follows Ashmole, but makes the stories more cruel. Then Mr. Pettigrew describes that book of Parsons, the Jesuit (Leicester's Commonwealth), and shows that it must have been the real source of Ashmole's History. All of Ashmole's names and other particulars are found in Parsons's libel, and even the priests' style. In one of the manuscript copies of the libel is an Address to the Reader, summing up Leicester's bad qualities, calling him an Atheist and "Lieutenant and Sovereign Protector of the Puritans." In some of the editions there is a poem containing the events in the *Commonwealth*, and here are a few lines of it:

" My wife first fell downe from a pair of stairs  
And broke her neck and so at Cumnor died,  
Whilst her true servants led with small affaires  
Unto a faire at Abbingdon did ride  
This dismal hap unto my wife betide :  
    Whether yee call it charm or destinic,  
    Too true it is shee did untimely die."

This poem could not have been written by Parsons, as he never was a poet.

Mr. Pettigrew investigated the history of Varney and Forster, and all the persons about Cumnor at the time of Amy's death,

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\* Saturday Magazine, December 14, 1878.