

the deposition of Richard, and although it was shown that the attainder of the Parliaments of Henry IV. were reversed by a Parliament of Edward IV., the somewhat illogical conclusion was come to by the Lords of the nineteenth century, that an Act of Parliament of the fourteenth century should be considered valid, simply because it was an Act of Parliament, even although it was reversed by a subsequent Act. Hence the claim was not admitted, but all the best authorities consider that the title is not extinct but still dormant."—*Historic Yorkshire Families*. See also *History of Hereditary Dignities with special reference to the Earldom of Wiltes*, by W. F. Finlason, Barrister-at-Law, 1869.

The Earldom of Wiltes has far more historical interest than the Earldom of Mar, which for so long a time attracted public attention. The history of the Scropes is for some time the history of Yorkshire, indeed of the North of England. Again and again there was a Scrope of commanding figure, who moved—high in station, powerful in person—across the scene of early English history. In the whole roll of the British Peerage there is, perhaps, no one family whose annals give so many romantic incidents, so many startling episodes. "The house of Scrope," says Burke, "was ennobled in two branches, SCROPE of *Bolton* and SCROPE of *Masham and Upsall*, and its members shared the glory of all the great victories of the Middle Ages. An unbroken male descent from the Conquest, if not from the time of Edward the Confessor, and the emphatic declaration of the Earl of Arundel, given in 1386, as a witness in the celebrated controversy between Sir Richard le Scrope and Sir Robert Grosvenor for the right of bearing the coat 'azure, a bend or,' as well as of numerous other deponents in that cause—including Edmund, Duke of York; John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster; John Holland, Duke of Exeter; the famous 'Hotspur,' and Chaucer the Poet (3)—that the representative of this family 'was descended from noble and generous blood, of gentry and ancient