

ancestry, who had always preserved their name and estate in dignity and honour,' as well as their alliances and property, sufficiently attest their antiquity and importance; whilst the mere enumeration of the dignities which they attained between the reigns of Edward II. and Charles I. proves the high rank they enjoyed. In this period of three hundred years the house of Scrope produced two Earls and twenty Barons, one Chancellor, four Treasurers, and two Chief Justices of England, one Archbishop and two Bishops, five Knights of the Garter, and numerous Bannerets, the highest military order in the days of chivalry." To these may be added many Wardens of the West Marches on the Scottish Border.

Four of them have been immortalized in the plays of Shakespeare (*King Richard II.*, *King Henry IV.*, *King Henry V.*), two in the *Ballad of Flodden Field*, (9) and another in the *Ballad of Kinmont Willie*. (10) Their titles have been Barons Scrope of Masham and Upsall, by writ of summons, 1342; forfeited, 1415; restored, 1426; in abeyance, 1517; Barons Scrope of Bolton, by writ, 1371; in abeyance, 1627; Earl of Wiltes, by letters patent, 1397; forfeited by attainder, 1399; but *illegally*, and, therefore, since that time *dormant*; Earl of Sunderland, 1627; extinct the same year. The principal seats of the family have been—Bolton Castle in Wensleydale; Clifton Castle, Masham; Upsall Castle; Croft-on-Tees; Ellerton-on-Swale; South Kilvington; Spennithorne; Wadworth; Warmsworth; Wensley; Castle Coombe in Wiltes; Cockerington in Lincolnshire, and Danby Hall in Wensleydale, the present seat of the male representative of his historic race, Simon Conyers Scrope, *de jure* 21st Earl of Wiltes.

Eminent in the State and the Church, the Scropes have been no less distinguished and prowessfull in the battle-field.

Sir Geoffrey Scrope of Masham, Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, was equally eminent as a lawyer, a statesman, and a soldier. He was employed in various diplomatic missions, and went to