

THE
Eland Tragedies,

Viz:

The MURDERS of Sir ROBERT BEAUMONT, of CROSLAND ;

HUGH DE QUARMBY, of QUARMBY, Esquire ;

JOHN DE LOCKWOOD, of LOCKWOOD, Esquire ;

Sir JOHN ELAND, Senior, at BRIGHOUSE ;

Sir JOHN ELAND, Junior, AND HIS SON, at ELAND ;

And others.

With the exploits of Wilkin de Lockwood, at Cannon Hall, and of Adam de Beaumont, at Honley, and in Rhodes and Hungary, as recorded in ancient manuscripts in prose and verse, with notes, pedigrees, and evidences recently brought to light.

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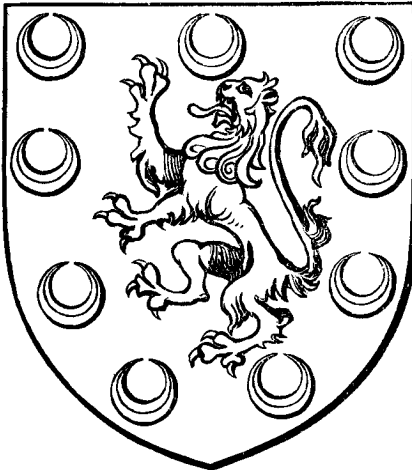
INTRODUCTION.

It was not uncommon for Norman barons to make war on each other, especially in Stephen's reign as shewn by Brady. The great lords of Wakefield and Pontefract—the Warrens and the Lacies, had several quarrels. In 1268 they had each armed their retainers to settle by force of arms a quarrel about a pasture, but were prevented by the king. In 1317, Alice de Lacy, who had been given in marriage to Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, was forcibly carried off in 1317 to Riegate Castle, belonging to the Earl of Warren. The Earl divorced her, and laid siege to the Yorkshire castles of Earl Warren, but again the king interfered. The Dodsworth MSS. (cxlv. folio 107), intimates that the Elland fray originated with this dispute, a man being slain, and Elland sought the murderer at Beaumont's house. The Earl of Lancaster was beheaded in 1322, and Alice de Lacy died in 1348. Sir John Elland was high steward to the Earl of Warren of the manor of Wakefield, &c. The murder of Sir Robert Beaumont is given, 24 Edw. III. The evidence given is from the writings and pedigrees in the possession of John Armytage, of Kirklees, Esquire, 1621, "*and they have a play and song thereof in the country still.*" G. J. Armytage, Esq., has made diligent but unsuccessful search for such writings. It is quite probable that the ballad was acted in the same style as the Peace-egg, or St. George, is still. The story of Percy and Douglas at Chevy Chace is a parallel instance of noblemen's feuds, and the last instance, of any magnitude, was the pitched battle in 1470 at Nibley Green, in Gloucestershire, when the friends and retainers of Lord Berkeley fought against those of Lord Lisle. In 1592, a skirmish on a small scale took place between Mr. Baildon of Baildon and his friends, and certain tenants at Wrose, near Bradford. Of similar clan and family quarrels, local history supplies several instances, whilst ancient history abounds with examples. Such expressions in the Bible as, "I know that my *Vindicator* liveth" had their origin in the *Lex Talionis* principle.

The writer of the Elland ballad does not appear to have discovered the cause of the feud, see verse 14; and, besides the Warren dispute about Alicia de Lacy, the following reason has been assigned. Exley, a near neighbour to Sir John Eland had killed the knight's brother's son, and fled to Sir Robert Beaumont for safety. Compensation was given to Sir John, but the enmity continued and Sir John broke the agreement. From verse 17, we gather that Lockwood had renewed an old quarrel. John de Lockwood, according to the Wakefield Court Rolls, 35 Edw. I., was found guilty of having forcibly ejected Matthew de Linthwaite from his free tenement, and when the greave and bailiff came to take possession, he and others made an attempt to have slain them, so that they narrowly escaped with their lives. This is an indication of the character of the Lockwoods and their neighbours at that time. Another account of the origin of the Elland quarrel is that Exley happened to kill a *sister's* son of Sir John Eland's, for which he gave a piece of land to the Elands for satisfaction; yet Sir John sought to slay him, and he fled to his kinsman Sir Robert Beaumont for protection; on which Sir John called his retainers together, and in the night time, in the month of May, committed the triple murders. Mr. Hopkinson's manuscripts (removed from Bierley Hall to Eshton Hall,) state that besides Sir Robert Beaumont, his brother William, and the runaway Exley, were slain.

In the antiquarian collection of manuscripts belonging to Mr. Wilson, of Broomhead (sold in 1843, to Sir Thomas Phillips, probably), was a copy of the Elland Tragedy, as reported by the Rev. Joseph Hunter, F.S.A., who made a catalogue of the collection. See also Hunter's *South Yorkshire*, ii., 431.

W. Paley Baildon, Esq., has recently discovered in the Record Office, London, that a writ was sent down to Yorkshire on account of the murder of the Ellands, and therefore we may rest assured that as the account is true of the latter half of the story, the former half is equally certain. A few notes respecting the places mentioned will be found incorporated with the index; and such family notes and pedigrees as have been preserved and published are here added.



Beaumont Arms.

BEAUMONT.—
 William de Bello-
 monte lived about
 1206, and is sup-
 posed to have been
 father of William
 de Beaumont, of
 Whitley, who had
 four sons, Sir
 William, Sir R—,
 John, and Adam.
 The eldest died
 about 1323, leaving
 a son Sir Robert,
 who married Agnes
 daughter of John
 de Quernby, about
 1310. He held
 Whitley, Crosland,
 &c. He gave lands
 to Thomas his son,
 18 Edw. II., and
 Sir John de Eland,
 John de Querneby
 and others were
 witnesses. In 1329
 he gave lands in
 Lepton to Nicholas,
 John and Robert,
 three of his sons
 who are mentioned
 in no other deed,
 and his own name
 does not appear in
 deeds after this
 date. Agnes, his

widow, married Henry Deyvile, and was living in 1346. This Sir Robert is also said to have married Grace de Crosland. He is the Sir Robert mentioned in the ballad as having been slain, but Mr. R. H. Beaumont, the anti-
 quary, believed the story to be fiction. In 1350 Sir John
 de Eland is witness to a deed of Adam, (fourth) son