

£16 13s. 4d. for his horse which he does not keep; but they take fees, as do barristers, for their work and research.

After the battle of Omdurman, Queen Victoria granted Lord Kitchener an honourable augmentation, and then it was found that he had no coat of arms to which he could add this. He was therefore obliged to procure one, for which he paid £76 10s., and then he was asked to pay for the augmentation. This he refused to do, and Queen Victoria is believed to have paid what was required herself.

HUMOUR IN GENEALOGY.

In genealogy one strikes a great deal of humour. The lecturer spoke of an American lady, a certain Mrs. Poole, who told him that she was a descendant of Cardinal Reginald Pole. Sir Algernon pointed out to her that, the Cardinal having been a celibate, this was hardly possible. Quite undefeated she then said that he had made an uncanonical marriage and the daughter of this marriage was a nun and incidentally her direct ancestress.

Sir Algernon next told a romance of the eighteenth century which he discovered when looking up particulars of his own family tree. His paternal grandfather married a Miss Philipps, whose uncle, Thomas Philipps, married Emma Vernon, sole heiress of the Vernons of Harbury in Worcestershire, and so the Vernon arms were added to his own escutcheon of pretence. The story is this. In 1789 a gentleman who called himself John Jones went to live at Bolas, in Shropshire, and took rooms with a family named Hoggins. He did no work, and people became suspicious that he must be a highwayman or a smuggler. He fell in love with the pretty daughter of Farmer Hoggins and after four months married her in the Parish Church. They set off on their honeymoon, she riding pillion. As they rode he pointed out to her various great estates and surprised her by his knowledge of their owners. As they rode up the hill from Stamford to Burleigh House she said: "Oh, if we could ever own a place like that." The gates flew open when they reached it, and she then discovered that she had married Henry Cecil, Earl of Exeter. Sarah died in 1794 after the birth of her third child. Hers had actually been a bigamous marriage, however, as the Earl's wife, Emma Vernon, who subsequently married Thomas Philipps, was still alive and his divorce had not been made absolute. So in 1790 before the birth of their first child he took the precaution of marrying Sarah a second time, but he married her as Sarah Cecil and not as Sarah Hoggins, as she had meantime been re-baptised as Sarah Cecil. Tennyson's poem "The Lord of Burleigh" is based on this story.

If a woman uses an achievement it must be on a lozenge. She cannot use it on a shield because she has never carried a shield in battle, and she never uses a crest for she never wore a helmet. Unmarried ladies use their father's device and place on the top of the lozenge a blue lover's knot. If a woman marries she uses her husband's arms impaled with her own, but without the lover's knot. If she has no brothers she inherits the representation of her family as an heraldic heiress, and if she has sisters they are all co-heiresses. Each passes the paternal arms down to her children as a quartering.

There is an interesting shield in one of the great City Company's Halls. A gentleman named Barty, a City Councillor, and one time Sheriff of London, had to provide himself with arms for the panels of his carriage. He looked up the name and he took the coat of arms of one Admiral Sir Albemarle Bertie, Baronet, a natural son of the Duke of Ancaster, all of which facts were indicated on the coat of arms. The City Councillor swallowed the lot and made himself not only an Admiral and a Baronet but also a natural son of the Duke of Ancaster.

There is really no such thing as a bar sinister; a bar actually is horizontal and occupies one-fifth of the shield. The baton sinister is placed diagonally from left to right

and neither of its extremities reaches the margin of the shield.

It is really now only used by the natural sons of sovereigns. For example some of the descendants of Charles II's natural sons use it, while others use a wavy border.

The lecturer told an interesting story of a window sold recently at Sotheby's. On a small oval at the top was a man on a horse, with a small coat of arms on the horse's cloth. Below was I.H.S. on another oval. At the bottom on the middle one of three diamond panes was engraved, "Mary R. 2 April 1586." The arms on the horse were those of a man named Wulfrid Spot, who in the twelfth century founded the Benedictine Abbey of Burton. I.H.S. indicated that these two fragments of glass had probably come from that Abbey. The Arms below, on either side of the engraving were those of Thomas, Lord Paget, who had to fly the country in 1580 for having held treasonable correspondence with Mary, Queen of Scots. The Benedictine house had by then been transformed into a Manor, and was then known as Burton Manor. Mary stopped three nights there on her journey to Fotheringay, covering the date on the middle diamond. It is surmised that Mary herself did the inscribing with her own diamond ring, and that the fourth Lord Paget being restored in blood and estate about 1601 had his own Arms incorporated in the window.

The next "romance" was the story of the purchase of a Mazer (*i.e.*, a very large wooden bowl with a silver rim, and on a silver stand). Usually a Mazer belonged to the Tudor or Stewart periods, but the dealer who owned it did not consider it a period one when offering it for sale to a friend of Sir Algernon. The purchaser bought it for £200, and brought it to Sir Algernon for inspection. He found on it a maker's mark but no hall mark. Only the King's silversmith was allowed to omit the hall mark, hence its absence presumably in this case. On the base of the stand, underneath, were the Royal Arms of James II, and the label showed the Arms of his eldest son, also a ducal crown without the feathers of the Prince of Wales. It must, therefore, have been made before he was created Prince of Wales, and was possibly his christening bowl.

In lettering on the wood were the words "*Ex dono Roberti Minors, Armiger, 1692.*" Robert Minors was Auditor-General to James II, and his eldest son was baptized in that year, so he may have used that Mazer for the same purpose. An interesting Stewart relic.

Some years ago at a sale in Surrey a fine four post walnut bedstead with a canopy was put up to auction. It had two devices, one with 16 quarterings, which was the achievement of Louise de la Vallière, the first love of Louis XIV "le Roi Soleil." The second shield portrayed a large sun, a small moon, and some stars. This la Vallière probably added as, not being the wife of the King, she could not use the Arms of France.

After buying the bed Sir Algernon wrote to Sir Herbert Samuelson, the previous owner, to ask what he knew of its history and found, that sure enough, it was known as the la Vallière bed. Sir Algernon told the history to the American lady, and as she did not appear to be in the least impressed he mentioned that Lord Kitchener had slept in the bed in 1914 shortly before the Great War. This interested her much more—"How very interesting," she said. "I always understood he was a woman hater."

Sir Algernon wondered if the wealthy American bachelor who now owns the bed has dreams of the marvellous romance of the great Field Marshal and Mademoiselle Louise de la Vallière.

Mrs. Fenwick in thanking Sir Algernon Tudor-Craig for his delightful "Informal Talk" on the "Romance of Heraldry," felt sure his audience thought it had been far too short, which remark was loudly applauded.

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