

STAR CHAMBER PROCEEDINGS

Part of the Evidence in a 16th Century
Suit relating to Leicester and the Forest
of Leicester, with an Introduction and
: Notes by S. H. Skillington :

INTRODUCTION

The Star Chamber depositions which follow were found some years ago, in the course of his researches in London, by Mr. George F. Farnham, M.A., F.S.A., who read them through at the time and copied the testimony of John Gladwyn, which furnishes an excellent account of an affray that occurred in the streets of Leicester on a Saturday in the summer of 1525. Within the last few weeks Mr. Farnham has had the rest of the surviving evidence in the suit transcribed by a competent person, and he now presents the whole for publication in the Society's *Transactions*. The depositions, which consist of answers by eye-witnesses and others to interrogations that have not been preserved, form part of the evidence given in a suit between sir Richard Sacheverell, knight, and his wife, Mary lady Hungerford, who periodically lived with a large retinue of servants in the precincts of the Newarke at Leicester, on one side, and Thomas, 2nd marquis of Dorset, of Bradgate House, and his brothers, lords Leonard and John Grey, on the other. As all the recoverable depositions were made by persons who belonged to, or at any rate favoured, the Grey faction, it is not possible to form a complete and just estimate of the case as a whole; but the record so vividly illustrates certain phases of life in Leicester and the adjacent forest in the time of Henry VIII., that it can hardly fail to interest the sort of readers for whom this volume is intended. At Mr. Farnham's request, and with his help, I have supplied a number of footnotes to the text, and these perhaps need to be supplemented by a few brief introductory remarks.

The Hastings family, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Kirby Muxloe, and the Greys, of Groby and Bradgate, were the Montagues and Capulets of Leicestershire. The feud between the two houses probably began at the time of the aggrandisement of William lord Hastings by Edward IV., and it continued, in one form or another, until after the Civil War, during which Henry Hastings, afterwards lord Loughborough, terrorised the county by sorties and raids from his father's royalist stronghold at Ashby, while several of the Greys were active and prominent leaders on the parliamentary side. The immediate cause of the troubles described by the various witnesses in the suit we are now considering seems to have been hit upon by sir William Skeffington, who stated in his evidence that, since the marriage of sir Richard Sacheverell to Lady Hungerford, sir Richard "had used himself in a manner of comparison with the lord marquis of Dorset." In other words, if a vulgar expression may be permitted, sir Richard was suffering from "swelled head." Almost simultaneously with the taking of these Star Chamber depositions, viz., in November, 1525, bishop Longland held a visitation¹ in the chapter-house of the Newarke, to enquire into certain quarrels, jostlings and other irregularities which had arisen in that collegiate area through the ill-feeling between the servants of the Sacheverells and the servants of the dean, who at the time was lord George Grey, the marquis of Dorset's brother. Both lady Hungerford and the dean were clearly persons of a rather arrogant and overbearing disposition, and it is evident from the testimony given at the bishop's enquiry that no love was lost between them. It must be remembered that the leading persons in these disputes were related to each other by marriage. Cicely, widow of the first marquis of Dorset, and mother of the second marquis and of lord George Grey, was step-daughter of William lord Hastings, and therefore step-sister of lady Hungerford's first husband, Edward lord Hastings, who died in 1506. Sir Richard Sacheverell was no doubt unduly exalted in spirit by his marriage, in 1511, to Edward lord Hastings' widow, who was lady Hungerford and de Moleyns in her own right; but the fundamental cause of the events which led to the civil suit, as of those which brought about the

¹*History of the Hospital and New College of the Annunciation of our Lady in the Newarke, Leicester*, by A. Hamilton Thompson, M.A., F.S.A. —*A.S.S. Reports and Papers*, xxxiii., 178—215.

episcopal enquiry, was evidently the family contention, which was so extremely acute that it does not seem to have been possible for a dependant of either side to meet an adherent of the other without instinctively manifesting a desire to do him bodily harm. Perhaps the one redeeming feature of the whole business was the loyalty of every person concerned to his own side.

Many of the encounters described by the various Star Chamber deponents occurred in Leicester forest, in which both the marquis of Dorset, as lord of the manor of Glenfield, and sir Richard Sacheverell, as holder of the manor of Braunston, had definite rights and obligations, as also had those of their adherents who were burgesses of Leicester, or freeholders, copy-holders or cottagers in any of the places within the forest area. The boundaries of the chace or forest of Leicester have never been exactly defined in any published work, and it has not been possible in the time at our disposal to make as careful an investigation into its limits as we should have liked to do. It will, however, be enough for our immediate purpose to say that it extended, roughly, from Braunston on the east to Kirkby Mallory on the west, and from Desford and Glenfield on the north to Potter's Marston on the south. The chace belonged originally to the earls of Leicester, who gave rights in it by charter to the burgesses of Leicester, and made grants out of it to the Turvills of Normanton Turvill, the Champaynes of Thurlaston, and others. The remainder descended with the duchy of Lancaster until 8 Charles I. (1627-8), when the forest was enclosed. The meaning of the term "dryft," referred to by several deponents, is explained in a foot-note to the evidence of John Gladwyn. In the neighbouring forest of Charnwood it was enacted at the manor court at Barrow, 8 May, 1560, and enrolled on the court roll, that "at the hunting in the forest called 'Le Drift' every husbandman shall be there present riding on his horse and every cottager shall be there on foot under penalties 12d. for each husbandman and 6d. for each cottager who is absent."

The Star Chamber was a court, chiefly of criminal jurisdiction, developed in the fifteenth century from the judicial sittings of the king's council in the Star Chamber at Westminster. The officiating judges were the lord chancellor or lord keeper, the

lord treasurer, the lord privy seal, and such peers as chose to attend. The abuse of its procedure under James I. and Charles I. led to its being abolished in 1641. Bacon says of it, in his *History of the Reign of King Henry the Seventh*," this court is one of the sagest and noblest institutions of this kingdom, for in the distribution of courts of ordinary justice, besides the high court of Parliament, in which distribution the King's Bench holdeth the pleas of the crown, the Common Pleas pleas civil, the Exchequer pleas concerning the king's revenue, and the Chancery the pretorian power for mitigating the rigour of the law, in case of extremity, by the conscience of a good man; there was, nevertheless, always reserved a high and pre-eminent power to the king's council in causes that might in example or consequence concern the state of the commonwealth, which if they were criminal the council used to sit in the chamber called the Star-chamber, if civil in the white-chamber or white-hall. And as the chancery had the pretorian power for equity, so the Star-chamber had the censorian power for offences under the degree of capital." It will be recalled that, when Falstaff had "committed disparagements unto" Justice Shallow, that worthy threatened to "make a Star-chamber matter of it."

As sir Richard Sacheverell figures so prominently in our record, it may be as well to say that, according to his will,¹ dated 29 March, 1534, his manors and lands were in Sadington, Lubbesthorp, Braunston, Sapcote, Stony Staunton, Congeston, Broughton Astley, Sutton, Thurlaston, Shilton, Ibstock, Wigston, Wimeswold and Countesthorpe, co. Leicester, and Ratcliffe-on-Soar, co. Notts.

The notes and suggestions of Mr. Farnham have greatly assisted me in preparing this record for publication, and I wish to acknowledge the courtesy of Mr. Riley, of the Municipal Reference Library, whose helpfulness has saved me both time and trouble.

¹Nichols, iii., 508.

TEXT OF DEPOSITIONS

(With Footnotes Below)

**Star Chamber Proceedings, reign of Henry VIII. 12/265
At Olney, xix September, 17 Henry VIII. A.D. 1525**

John Gladwyn¹ of Barrow upon Soar, co. Leicester, servant to my lord marquis,² of the age of 40 years or thereabouts, sworn and examined, sayeth "that about Saint Margaret's day (July 20) last past, on a Saturday, then being market day at Leicester, upon which day there fortun'd to be an affray between a cook of my lord marquis and a servant of Thomas Brokesby's³ called Bradshaw, which cook the said deponent, incontinently at the beginning of the said affray, took by the right arm and held the same cook fast by his hand, and after that came a cook of my lord John Grey⁴ and pressed towards the said Bradshaw, and this deponent seeing that, he caught my said lord John's cook by the arm and so this deponent held both cooks fast that they could not strive, and thereupon this deponent seeing 2 or 3 of my lord marquis' servants coming towards him with swords drawn in their hands and bucklers, whose names he is not remembered of, bade the said Bradshaw take a house and so he did unhurt to this deponent's knowledge, and hereupon such of my lord marquis' servants as were then in the town of Leicester drew together, and came to the place where the said fray began, and this deponent,

¹John Gladwyn was a large farmer, assessed to the Lay Subsidy at £12, tax 6s. Though described as a servant, it is evident that he was not a menial.

²Thomas, 2nd marquis of Dorset, grandson of sir John Grey, of Groby, and Elizabeth Wydville, and grandfather of lady Jane Grey. He completed the building, begun by his father, of Bradgate House in 1501, and died in 1530.

³Thomas Brokesby, 2nd son of William Brokesby, of Shoby, was made recorder of Leicester in 1526, and elected member of parliament for the borough in 1529.

⁴Lord John Grey was the 4th son of Thomas, 1st marquis of Dorset.

suspecting that my lady Hungerford's¹ servants in the town would rise upon my lord marquis's servants, desired them to resort to the sign of the George² in Leicester for their safeguard, and so they, being of the number of 16 or 17 persons went to the said sign of the George and there tarried till the mayor of Leicester, called Henry Gillet,³ came thither with John Rede,⁴ Robert Harold and John West,⁵ of the said town of Leicester, his brethren; which mayor and his brethren commanded my lord marquis's servants to keep the king's peace, who made answer unto the said mayor and his brethren and said "We beseech you that we may go peaceably home to my lord marquis' place to Byrdesnest⁶ up the king's high street of Leicester, for we bear malice to no man."

The said mayor and his brethren made answer and said to the said lord marquis's servants "We require you to tarry here in the sign of the George and make you merry a season till we and other of our brethren have spoken together," saying "my lady

¹Lady Hungerford (b. 1466), mother of George Hastings, 1st earl of Huntingdon, five years after the death of her first husband, sir Edward Hastings, in 1506, married sir Richard Sacheverell, of Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Notts., with whom she lived in the precincts of Newarke College at Leicester. She died before 1534, when her husband's will was proved, and was buried in the collegiate Church of St. Mary. Leland (*Itinerary*, i., 17) says: "Under a pillar in a chapel of the south cross aisle lyeth lady Hungerford, and Sacheverell, her second husband."

²The George inn was in the Swinesmarket (the present High street), near the entrance to Parchment lane (Bond street). It stood to the east of Reynold's House, afterwards called Lord's Place, which was acquired in 1540 by Nicholas Reynold (mayor 1531—32 and 1539—40) and purchased by the earl of Huntingdon, who used it as his Leicester residence, in 1529.

³Henry Gillet (mayor 1524—5, in succession to Robert Staples, who died in office) belonged to a family which, between 1467 and 1600, supplied Leicester with no fewer than six mayors.

⁴John Rede had been mayor in 1516—17.

⁵John West was perhaps the John Westawse (mayor 1526—27), whose name, spelt in various ways, occurs many times in the borough records.

⁶Byrdesnest, otherwise Frith Park or New Park, was the area, now known as New Parks, between Leicester and Glenfield: Nichols (iv., 783) states that in 1571 William lord Cobham was cited to show by what title he held "Frith Park, otherwise called *The new Park of Byrdesnest*." He also says that Henry VI., in his marriage settlement, gave to his intended consort, *inter alia*, the honour of Leicester, including several manors in and about the forest, "*cum agistamento Parcel de la Frith*." The marquis of Dorset, when he died in 1530, was seized of the adjacent manor of Glenfield, through which he had an interest in the chase of Leicester. It appears that at the time of this affray he had a lodge in the frith, probably on the moated site near the Glenfield tunnel.

Hungerford hath sent for all her servants home and that the commons of the town were sore stirred, whom we would bring to rest, and then ye shall depart with good will." Notwithstanding the said mayor and his said brethren seeing my lady Hungerford's servants were gathered together at the High Cross¹ of Leicester to the number of 60 persons and above all in a Livery, and the commons of the town were by to the number of 2 or 300. And then the said mayor and divers of his brethren came again to my said lord marquis's servants at the sign of the George in Leicester saying to them he could not bring the commons of the said town to rest, and thereupon the said mayor and his brethren that were within agreed that John Rede of Leicester, yeoman of the king's crown, should convey my said lord marquis's servants forth on the backside of the said sign of the George and down the back lanes² of the town. To the which John Rede this deponent said with other of my lord marquis's servants "they had rather be slain than it should be said in Leicester they should steal forth on the backside, for it should be dishonor to their mayster and shame to them." And after, this deponent said to the said John Rede "Sir ye be the king's servant and the mayor and ye justices of the peace in the town of Leicester, Sir, ye may command my lady Hungerford's servants to the peace and all the commons of Leicester so as we may have our lawful passage home." And then Anthony Buggegood, my lord marquis's servant, was coming to my said lord marquis's servants, to whom the said John Rede said "Anthony and ye will bring my lord marquis's servants and go with me I will warrant your lives." And so the said Anthony commanded all my lord marquis's servants to follow him and go their ways as they would avoid my lord marquis's displeasure, and so they went with the said Anthony after the said John Rede; and then this deponent told the said Anthony his horse was in

¹The position of the High Cross, which stood where the two main streets of the town crossed each other, is now marked by a symbolic device in the pavement of the road.

²The northern part of Leicester was laid waste in the sack of 1178, and remained a region of orchards and closes for several centuries. The "back lanes" ran through this district, from the neighbourhood of the George towards the North Gate. Had the servants of the marquis been willing to take this route, they could have escaped from the town, in all probability, without attracting the attention of the Hungerford party.

the high street of Leicester at the sign of the Rose¹ and that he would fetch his horse if he were slain for his labour. To whom then the said Anthony said that this deponent should take his adventure; and as this deponent was going into the said sign of the Rose he saw many of my lady Hungerford's and Mr. Sacheverell's servants at the High Crosse of Leicester, and as soon as they saw this deponent going into the said inn, one Humfrey Dunton, William Pykering, Christofer Pykering, Kyrkeham Charnells, and many others of the said Mr. Sacheverell's servants, came running down with swords and bucklers in their hands, and the wife of the sign of the Rose shut the door of the same house till they were passed the door, and so this deponent espied part of them were laid for him beneath the said sign of the Rose, and part at the High Crosse of Leicester, and so this deponent, seeing that, got on his horse and put his spurs to his horse and ran down a back lane in Leicester from thence over a hedge and ditch in Saint Margaret's parish of Leicester and so escaped them.

This deponent saith that at the assize holden at Leicester after Saint Margaret's tide last passed, he was commanded by the king's precept to serve the king upon a jury, a servant of Mr. Sacheverell, called Richard Hyll, said to one Nut, bailly [*i.e.*, bailiff] appointed to attend upon the jury "Take heed to Gladwyn, for he can play the false knave well I know." To the which Richard Hyll this deponent answered "It becometh such a false knave as thou art full evil so to say or so to embrace² any of the king's jury." This deponent said to the said Richard Hyll there were 40 of his fellows at the said assize to embrace the king's juries "and their master being away, seeing also it was their old custom." Whereof this deponent went to master Conysby³ sitting in assize and made his complaint, and all the jury with him. And what direction he took with the said Hyll for his embracery this deponent cannot tell. But he

¹This is the only record we have of the Rose inn, which probably stood on the side of the Swinesmarket opposite to Reynold's House.

²Embrace = to exercise influence upon jurors, with the object of getting a partial verdict.

³Who "Master Conysby" was is not known. In 1558 a "Mr. Will Cunnyngesbe" became leasehold tenant of the Butt Close, which he had held of the duchy of Lancaster, and declared that he was "content after his decease to surrender to the towne his yere to come in the same lease."

sayeth the said Hyll appeared before the said master Conysby that time. And this deponent says that a servant of sir John Savage, knight, whose name he knoweth not, told this deponent at the said assize that he had been at Newarke of Leicester and there heard say that Mr. Sacheverell had prepared 200 or 300 men in Leicester, Leicester castle and the Newarke to the intent if my lord marquis had come to that assize to have beaten him home.

The said deponent sworn and examined the 21 September at Olney sayeth that at the last "dryft"¹ of the forest of Leycester he was present at the Pynfold in Leicester fryth,² where there was also my lord Leonard Grey³ and my lord John Grey and then came thither one sir Richard Frampton, priest, chaplain to Mr. Sacheverell, and required Mr. Sacheverell's beasts in the said Pynfold; to whom my said lord Leonard said "if he would be sworn after the custom of the forest he should have the said Mr. Sacheverell's beasts," which oath the said priest denied to make, and so he had not the beasts.

And then one Charnelles and one Robert Carter, Mr. Sacheverell's servants, then being present, went into the said pynfold and would have had the said Mr. Sacheverell's beasts; and my lord Leonard Grey said unto them if they depose that the said beasts were Mr. Sacheverell's they should have them. Which they denied to do, and therefore they had not the said beasts. And my said lord Leonard said to every of the said persons as they came "Go to your master Mr. Sacheverell and let him come himself or send one of you or any other of his servants that will swear they be his beasts and no man's else and they shall be delivered."

¹Drift = the driving of the cattle within a forest to one place on a particular day, for the purposes of determining ownership, branding, levying fines, and restoring to their owners animals which had strayed. Attendance on these occasions was obligatory, and tenants who neglected their duty were fined. In some forests the officers "did use to make two drifts of their forest every year."

²Bird's Nest is described by a later witness, Richard Barnes, as "within the fryth of Leicester," *i.e.*, the part of the forest in which the freeholders, etc., of the borough had rights of common for their beast. The actual Leicester frith probably included the area now called New Parks, and extended beyond the Groby road to Anstey lane, or possibly a little further.

³Lord Leonard Grey was the 1st marquis of Dorset's sixth son. He was deputy for Ireland, 1 Jan., 1536, and was beheaded 28 June, 1541.

Item, after this, in the afternoon, there came 12 or 16 persons of the said Mr. Sacheverell's servants with bows and arrows, and some of them shot up and down by the said pinfold, and came within 6 yards of my lord Leonard and did no reverence to him, and there drank a bottle of ale and there tarried an hour or two and went their way without any hurt or harm doing.

By me, John Gladwyn.

And furthermore this deponent sayeth that about Saturday was three weeks or a month, he was in Leicester forest with my lord Leonard, which was the last Saturday that Mr. Sacheverell came last from Assheby De la Zouche, and that my said lord Leonard, when my lord John was met with him in the said forest, they were not all passing the number of 40 persons. And he sayeth no one of my lord's men came into the place called "the Hut" in the said forest that day to his knowledge.

By me, John Gladwyn.

At Amphill the 29th day of September, 17 Henry VIII.

Thomas Dunham, servant of my lord John Grey, of the age of 19 years or thereabouts, sworn and examined the day and year above said, saith that upon the Monday about 4 o'clock in the afternoon next after the Nativity of our Blessed Lady St. Mary the Virgin [Sept. 8] last past he, sent by my lord Leonard, met with Mr. Sacheverell at Bourne¹ bridge beside the town of Kerby in the county of Leicester with the number of 7 score horses or thereabouts, and so this deponent rode in the said company till he came to Kerby town's side, and so the said Mr. Sacheverell and his company stayed and "bode styll." And as this deponent would have ridden out of the said company, there came one Wygley of the same company, household servant with the said Mr. Sacheverell, and bade this deponent come back to Mr. Sacheverell, and this deponent said he would not, and then Wygley said to this deponent "by God's blood knave thou shalt not choose." Notwithstanding, this deponent would not go to Mr. Sacheverell at that time, and thereupon this deponent rode

¹Presumably a bridge over the stream near Kirby Muxloe, where William lord Hastings had built a castle which was hurriedly completed after his execution.

from the said company three or four "landes brede,"¹ and then came one George Villers² galloping on a horse with a crossbow bent and an arrow in it and stepped before this deponent in the highway and bade this deponent "stand, knave, how far wilt thou go?" To which George Villers this deponent said "I have been about my master's business. I trust ye will not stop me in the high way." Whereunto the said George said "by God's blood, knave, thou shalt speak with Mr. Sacheverell ere thou go," having then his crossbow bent upon his thigh with an arrow in it. And so forthwith this deponent rode to the said Mr. Sacheverell and did off his cap to him. And the said Mr. Sacheverell said never a word to this deponent, but nodded his head at him. And then the said George Vyllers and Wygley asked this deponent if he were a spy or not; and whilst they were thus speaking sir John Villers, knight, and sir Richard Parker, commissary, were setting forth 30 men with bows at the pinfeld gate at Kerby town's end. And this deponent after saw 16 of the said men with bows riding up a hill towards the forest of Leicester, and so within the forest gate the said 16 bowmen lighted³ off their horses with their bows bent and arrows "nokked"⁴ ready to shoot, and Martin a Lee, sir Thomas Chipman, priest, and John Grene, servant to the said Mr. Sacheverell walked up and down afore the frith pale with their bows bent; and this deponent lighted amongst them and leaned upon his saddle, and as this deponent thus leaned, the said Martin a Lee, sir Thomas Chypman, priest, and John Grene, of Ayleston, servants to the said Mr. Sacheverell, came to this deponent with their bows bent and arrows in the same, and asked this deponent what business he had and for what intent he lighted. Then this deponent answered he was assigned under my lord Leonard to walk as a keeper there. And by that time was Mr. Sacheverell come with all his company. And then the said Martin a Lee and one Fulwoode, of Leicester, corveser,⁵

¹"Landes brede" = land's breadth. About 160 "lands" went to an acre.

²George Villers, of Hoby, younger brother of sir John Villers, knight, of Brooksby.

³Lighted = alighted, dismounted.

⁴Nokked = notched, *i.e.*, set in the string.

⁵Corveser = shoemaker. This may be the Will Fulwood who was one of the borough leather testers in 1523-4 and 1526-7, and one of the auditors for the South Quarter in 1545-6.

bade this deponent "go, knave, as thy deer are. For it is no walking for thee in the high way." And then this deponent said he would see Mr. Sacheverell and all his company go through the forest, and as they ordered themselves this deponent said he would report their demeanour. And then the said Martin a Lee and other of his company whose names this deponent knoweth not said to this deponent, "Knave, and ever thou come in Leicester thou shalt have thy head broken." And then Mr. Sacheverell, all his company and this deponent with them rode through the said forest of Leicester, and in his riding he talked with one Robert Brokesby, of Grymston, gent., and the same Robert Brokesby said to this deponent he was sorry there was no better love betwixt the lord marquess, his bréthren, my lord Hastings and Mr. Sacheverell. And this deponent said he would not meddle with it. And also he said some lewd¹ knaves bore words betwixt them and made it worse between them than it would be. And then Thomas Coverden, servant to the said Mr. Sacheverell, answered that it was long of false forsworn harlots.² Whereupon this deponent said "it were well done if ye know any such to tell what they be. And then the said Thomas Coverden said to this deponent, "that is thy father and his company;" saying furthermore that the said deponent's father and his company indicted the said Thomas Coverden and his company the last day at Desford: saying also that they should know that if he lived till the next term. And then this deponent did off his cap to Mr. Sacheverell at Doveland³ gate going out of the said

¹Lewd = worthless, as in "lewd fellows of the baser sort."

²Harlots = villains. In 1517 Will Prowdlof, a vintner, was "comytted to ward and ther puneshyd viii. days," and compelled to ask forgiveness on his knees, for telling the Leicester Bench that "he hadde as reddy xx nobles in his porse as eny.....of the best churles or herlotts of them all."

³The elder Simon de Montfort, son of Amicia, sister and joint-heiress of Robert FitzParnel, earl of Leicester, gave to the abbey of St. Mary de Pratis at Leicester "a wood called Doveland; and land and wood towards Ansty, which was called Ossulves-hawe, and one piece of land that William de Belgrave held." (Nichols, i., 259.) Miss Bateson (iii., 453-4) publishes "A tetter of 22 landes lyinge in the West Fields belonging to St. Mary's Collidge in Leicester," which describes certain strips in the West Fields of Leicester. There are in this several references to "Doveland field," the most preceise being:—"Item 2 in the Cowclose at Doveland corner being the 6 and 7 from the hedge between Mr. Danyt late Mr. Poltnis [Pulteney's] land and West Cotes." Danet's Hall was on the north, and Westcotes on the south, of the Hinckley road, in the old manorial district of Bromkinsthorp, which lay between the borough and the forest of

forest, and departed. And in his so departing with his cap in his hand John Rede came riding by this deponent and had almost thrown him down; but whether the said John Rede knew this deponent or not, he cannot tell. And more he rememberth not.

Thomas Dunham.

Item, this deponent, "better remembred," saith that, after the said 16 bowes that entered into the said forest gate, a person, whose name he knoweth not, came thither and drew his sword out of his sheath and held it naked in his right hand and his buckler in his left hand, whereof this deponent was afraid. Howbeit the said person did no hurt.

Star Chamber Proceedings, Henry VIII., vol. 12, No. 265

4th November, 17 Henry VIII. [1525]. The examination of sir William Skevington,¹ knight, unto 13 articles of interrogatories laid in by my lord marquis Dorset.

To the first article interrogatory he saith that he heard not my lord Cardinal² gave such commandment to them, Howbeit he saith in his conscience he thinketh that it is true. For he said that immediately or soon after upon that commandment my lord marquis lived with him and shewed him of the same and said unto him that he well trusted that the same sir William and other justices of the shire would diligently apply themselves for the administration of indifferent justice for the weal and quiet of the King's subjects, and albeit that it was his natural contrary³ he was well content with that order rather than the country should be inquieted by his and their thither coming. Furthermore the said sir William saith that my lord marquis and his brother have forborne to come to any sessions or assize in the country since the

Leicester. These *data* lead me to think that "Doveland Gate" may have been an entrance to the forest from a part of the West Field near the Hinckley road. "Ossulves-hawe" was perhaps the Whyseley" mentioned in Henry iii.'s confirmation to Simon de Montfort and his heirs of the moiety of the honour of Leicester (Jan. 24, 1236): "*Et quod habeant liberam chaceam suam de Whyseley et de Wynberchholth et capcionem venacionis in boscis illis, etc.*"

¹Sir William Skeffington, of Skeffington, knight, served as deputy in Ireland for the duke of Richmond from 1529 to 1532.

²Thomas Wolsey, chancellor of England. Wolsey had evidently ordered the marquis and sir Richard to refrain from attending assizes and sessions in Leicestershire.

³The marquis meant that, though naturally he did not like the order, he was willing to obey it for the sake of peace.

said commandment, to his remembrance, but only to the sessions holden the Monday after Michaelmas last past at Leicester, and another sessions at Desford there holden little before that. Moreover the said sir William saith that sir Richard Sacheverell to his remembrance followed the commandment by the space of two years or thereabouts, and since, as far forth as the same sir William knoweth, and as he heareth by report the said sir Richard hath seldom been from any sessions and assizes.

To the second article he saith that he knoweth that the lord marquis hath followed the said commandment, without it be for him being at the said two sessions expressed in the first article.

The third article concerning the coming of sir Richard Sacheverell to sessions and assizes the said sir William hath answered the same in the first article he saith. But he furthermore saith that he knoweth not by what amount the said sir Richard hath used to come to sessions and assizes since the said commandment.

To the 4th article he saith that he thinketh it clearly that at all times when the said sir Richard was absent there was much better order and quiet at sessions and assizes than since the coming of the same sir Richard to the assizes and sessions again. And over this the said sir William saith that by the space of 4 years he hath not been in that country but now of late at two sessions holden at Leicester and Desford before specified, and for that space he saith he can say nothing but by hearsay.

To the 5th article he saith that he knoweth not how the said sir Richard hath come to the sessions and assizes for the space of 4 years last past. But before those 4 years the said sir William saith that he hath seen the said sir Richard at diverse sessions and assizes come accompanied in number double to all other justices that have come thither and more. For what intent the same sir Richard accompanied himself so, he saith he cannot tell, but rather supposeth to the intent to be a bearer there for the administration of indifferent justice.¹ And to the residue of that article touching the said sir Richard he cannot further say. And touching the said sir Richard's servants he saith that they

¹The meaning of this seems to be that, in the deponent's opinion, sir Richard desired to appear as a strong supporter of the impartial administration of justice. It may, however, mean—and this would be more in harmony with the context—that sir Richard's intention was to exercise an overbearing influence upon the administration of justice.

have taken such room in the shire hall and thereabouts that it hath been annoyance to the justices' officers and jurors that served the King for the time.

To the 7th article he saith that my lord marquess with 6 or 7 justices with him, whereof this deponent was one sat at the sessions at Desford, and he saith that there was sufficient appearance of honest and substantial gentlemen and freeholders of the country which were charged to enquire of diverse misdemeanours, and upon such evidence as they had given to them by Book,¹ others they found as their conscience gave them, and he supposeth none otherwise but truly. For he judgeth them in his conscience to be very honest and substantial men and such as would not be corrupt at any man's desire. And further he saith that he marked well that they were not led by the embracery of any man at that time. Moreover the said sir William saith in all things to the sessions at Leicester as he hath said to the sessions at Desford, except in this point, that there were more justices at the sessions at Leicester, by reason that it was a quarter sessions, than were at Desford.

To the 8th article he saith that the lord marquis did at the both sessions use himself no otherwise but like an equal and indifferent justice, like as he doubteth not but all the other justices that sat and [made] appearance there will report the same if they be called thereunto.

To the 9th article he saith that he hath heard diverse times my lord marquess say that he would have been glad to have had my lord Hastings'² and the said sir Richard's goodwill and favour. And further he saith that he hath heard my lord marquess diverse times say that he hath sought upon them for the same. And this deponent also saith that he often times hath moved my lord marquess to the same because of the nighness of blood between them, wherein he always found him conformable.

To the 10th article he saith that he knoweth little or nothing therein.

To the 11th article the said sir William can make no answer,

¹This appears to mean evidence sworn upon the Bible.

²George, 3rd baron Hastings, steward of the honour of Leicester, created 1st earl of Huntingdon in 1529.

for he saith that he was not there nor in the country at that time.

To the 13th article he saith that for the full of the 20 years he will not be charged with by his oath to make answer. But he saith from such times as the said sir Richard hath married my lady Hungerford, or soon upon, the said sir Richard hath used himself in manner of comparison with the lord marquess; so that the shire ever since hath been in great division by means of the same to the great "perbance"¹ and inquietness of the King's subjects dwelling within the same shire.

Sir John Digby,² knight, of Ketilby, in the parish of Melton, within the county of Leicester, sworn and examined,

Saith to the first article that he knoweth not for truth that any such commandment was given unto them, but he saith that in his conscience he thinketh it of likelihood to be true for such considerations as he shall hereafter declare.

He saith to the second article interrogatory that my lord marquess hath followed the same commandment; for he saith that since the time that he first heard that the said commandment was given unto them by my lord Cardinal my lord marquess hath resorted to neither sessions nor assize, except to the sessions lately holden at Desford to the last quarter sessions at Leicester. And over this the said sir John saith that the said sir Richard followed the same commandment after it was given by the space of two years he thinketh.

To the 3rd he saith that after those 2 years the said sir Richard, if he were in the country, wanted³ neither sessions nor assize, to his knowledge.

To the 4th article he saith that he reckoneth that justice was well ministered in the absence of the said sir Richard, and much better than it had been since his coming to the same, and likewise better quiet and order have been observed and kept.

To the 5th article he saith that he judgeth in his mind that the said sir Richard hath not come to the sessions and assize as

¹"Perturbance" = perturbation (?).

²Sir John Dygby, of Eye Kettleby, knight, 3rd son of Everard Digby, of Tilton. Sir John was sir William Skeffington's father-in-law.

³Wanted = was absent from.

an indifferent justice nor for the maintenance of justice; for he cometh with such a company that he ruleth the whole court.

To the 6th article the said sir John saith that at such times as he hath been at the sessions he hath seen the said sir Richard come with the number sometime of 100 and above and sometime with less, but for what intent the said sir John saith he cannot tell.

To the 7th article he saith that he saw not nor knoweth not of any partial or corrupt dealing used at the sessions at Desford against the said sir Richard or any other; for he saith that he knoweth not the contrary but that all those persons that were sworn for the King in any matter there were honest indifferent and substantial men and such as would not be corrupted at any man's desire as far as he knoweth. And the said sir John saith over this that at the sessions at Leicester were amongst many other justices there sir John Villers, Thomas Brokesby, Fowler¹ and divers other justices of the shire such as favoured the party of the said sir Richard, and they could find no fault in anything that was used there, but thought everything indifferently done, without it were that the said Thomas Brokesby then found default in one John Milling that was summoned amongst others to appear there and so challenged him; which Milling afterwards was found indifferent and sworn in amongst his fellows to his remembrance. So that the said sir John Digby saith to his knowledge there was nothing done at the said two sessions but after a good and indifferent manner.

To the 8th he saith that he saw not the contrary but that my lord marquess used himself uprightly at the said two sessions and like an indifferent justice.

To the 9th article he saith that he hath heard my lord marquis diverse times say that his lordship would be glad to have the good will and favour of my lord Hastings and sir Richard Sacheverell.

To the 11th article he sayeth that he was one of the King's commissioners that sat there with my lord Brudenell² and

¹John Fowler, who had married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Robert Jakes, of Whellesburgh.

²Sir Robert Brudenell, knight, chief justice of the Common Pleas, died in 1581.

Anthony Fitz Herbert¹ and others, and after the commissioners were "sette" came sir Richard Sacheverell with a company to the number of 100 persons and above and within a while after the said sir Richard and Mr. Swillington² had words together, such as my lord Brudenell took displeasure with, insomuch that my lord Brudenell commanded the said sir Richard with his company to avoid and depart; and so the said sir Richard and his company departed out of the hall. But what the words were the said sir John Dygby saith that he hath not them in his remembrance.

[Endorsed]

Sir William Skevington and sir John Dygby upon 13 articles interrogatories put in by my lord marquess.

(Fol. 273)

At Olney the 18th day of September, 17 Henry VIII.

Richard Barnes of the age of 24 years or thereabouts, servant to my lord marquess, sworn and examined the day and year abovesaid, saith that upon a Monday, about 6 or 7 weeks past as he thinketh, my lord marquess was in the forest of Leicester with the number of 20 or 30 persons and hunted there, and about 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day the said lord marquess departed home to dinner to Byrdesnest within the fryth of Leicester, and left this deponent and 6 more persons in the forest to see that no person should hunt there; and this deponent after met with a servant of John Rede beside Marston closes, out of the said forest a bird-bolt shot, and then this deponent asked the said Rede's servant if he saw a black greyhound, and he said "no." And as this deponent and the said Rede's servant departed, the said Rede's servant did off his cap; and within his cap he had a privy cap; and this deponent's fellow that was with him then took off the said privy cap off the head of the said Rede's servant, saying "what havest thou here." And he said "nothing but a watching cap." And this deponent says the said Rede's servant told him that sir Richard Sacheverell was

¹Sir Anthony FitzHerbert, justice of the King's Bench, died in 1539.

²Ralph Swillington, recorder of Leicester, 2nd husband of Elisabeth Babthorp, of Keythorp and other places, to whom lord Dorset demised the manor of Bosworth in 1519 for their lives. (*Nichols*, iii., 664.)

in the purlieus of the said forest coming toward Marston closes, adjoining to the said forest, with 4 or 5 score persons; and so this deponent departed from the said Rede's servant homewards. And within an hour after that the said Richard Sacheverell's great rough greyhound ran after a deer in the forest which this deponent took up. After the which greyhound 30 or 40 servants of the said sir Richard Sacheverell followed on horseback galloping with bows and arrows, and one William Pykering of that company desired this deponent to deliver the said greyhound to him. But this deponent said he would not deliver the said greyhound except he would go to my lord marquess and ask of him the said greyhound, and so the said William Pykering departed. And one of the company of the said William Pykering followed this deponent to Gregorie's Lodge in the said forest, where this deponent thought my said lord marquess had been; and he was gone. And the said person of the said William Pykering's company desired this deponent to save the said greyhound, for he said it was sir Richard Sacheverell's dog. And so they departed. The said deponent can say no more in this behalf.

[Endorsed]

Witness produced on behalf of the lord marquiss of Dorset :
Richard Barnes

At Olney the 22nd day of September, 17 Henry VIII.

Thomas Wattes, servant to my lord John Grey, of the age of 25 years, sworn and examined, saith that upon a Saturday after the Assumption of our Blessed Lady St. Mary the Virgin [August 15] last past, but certainly what day of the month it was he cannot tell, Mr. Sacheverell made a gathering of men, and some came from Leicester by 4 and by 5 and 6 and 8 persons at once, stragling in such numbre and sort one after another with bows, bills, swords and bucklers, some two and two on a horse, and his horse keepers, being two in number, had each of them a javelin, and so went by Barne Parc;¹ and so they went and came by the space of three hours, the said Mr. Sacheverell then being a hunting beyond Desford town. And about 6 o'clock in the afternoon Mr. Sacheverell came from Whete croft parc where he was

¹Barne Park, two miles south of Desford, of which it is now a hamlet.

hunting, and so came homeward with the number of three score horses, this deponent riding with them, some of them two and two on a horse, some [having] bows and arrows and some "pykforkes" and sword and bucklers and bills. And after the said Mr. Sacheverell came the number of 12 persons on foot with bills and other weapons, whose apparel of some of them was not worth 12d.

And thus they went together to Leicester, and this deponent remembereth no more in this part.

[Endorsed]

Thomas Wattes, a witness produced touching the assembling of divers men with Mr. Sacheverell.

At Olney the 19th day of September, 17 Henry VIII.

Thomas Hynde, bailiff of Lutterworth, co. Leicester, servant to my lord marquess, of the age of 40 years or thereabouts, sworn and examined, saith that about Whitsuntide last past he resorted to Leicester to speak with one Sucley, of London, draper, at Leicester, because he undertook to the said Sucley for a servant of Mr. Sacheverell's for 4 nobles; and so this deponent met as well with the said Sucley as with the said Mr. Sacheverell's servant, called Hersund, and the said Sucley seeing about the number of 28 persons of the servants of the said Mr. Sacheverell at the town's end of Leicester, said to this deponent "Yender be folkes that love you not. I know it, for I have been in their company much part of this day, and I cannot tell how to depart from them yf we shuld go into the towne." Then said this deponent "I know not but they love me well enough, and that you shall see." And with that this deponent went to the said Mr. Sacheverell's servants and took his cap in his hand and said to them these words, "Masters, who of you is disposed to drink? I have a groat to spend upon you for this man's sake," Sucley then being present. And upon this one John Tyrvill, gentleman, Mr. Sacheverell's servant, said to this deponent he would not drink with any such knaves as this deponent was, calling him "sowterly¹ knave" and "begerly knave." And then George Villers and William Bromley, servants to the said Mr. Sacheverell,

¹Sowterly = like a cobbler.

spoke as evil words, or worse, to the said deponent, as the said John Tyrvill did. To whom this deponent said these words "Masters, God be with you." Then the said Bromley said to this deponent "Get thee hence knave, for we will not drink with thee nor with any such knave that weareth the clothing that thou dost." And with that this deponent departed and went his way. Within a fortnight after the said deponent went to Leicester, and there one Edward Howet told this deponent that Mr. Sacheverell's servants would beat this deponent, and so this deponent fortunated to meet with one of the said Mr. Sacheverell's servants in Leicester, the only names of whom he knows being John Byrle, one Cadman, and William Nores, who closed round about this deponent; and he seeing that avoided from them quickly into one John Lane's house, of Leicester, for safeguard of himself, and there remained about 2 hours. And in the meanwhile the said John Tyrvill and William Bromley went up and down before the window of the said Lane's house with swords and bucklers about a dozen times to have murdered and slain this deponent.

Item, this deponent saith that upon Saturday was three weeks or a month, this deponent cannot tell surely "whether" it was, he being then with my lord Leonard and my lord John in the forest of Leicester, which lords had then in their company under the number of 40 persons on horseback, as he thinketh, saw one Richard Daundley, of Pekelton, coming from Leicester, and this deponent "toke"¹ his horse with his spurs and rode to the said Richard Daundley, and this deponent asked the same Richard Daundley what tidings was in Leicester; and the said Daundley said "none but good." Then the said Daundley asked of this deponent what he and my said lords had done all day, and this deponent answered him they had been a hunting and that he heard say that Leicester men were up to pull us out of our lodges. Then the said Daundley said these words "I saw no stirring in Leicester. but a lewd knave, two or three, make brabbling words of no effect, and so they departed."

Thomas Hynd

[Endorsed]

A witness produced on behalf of the lord marquess of
Dorset,

Thomas Hynde

¹Toke = touched.

At Olney the 21st day of September, 17 Henry VIII.

Stephen Aparre, seryant to my lord Leonard, of the age of 24 years, sworn and examined, saith that the day of the drift of cattle last made in the forest of Leicester there came to the pinfold in the frith of Leicester one Charnelles, Mr. Sacheverell's servant, with 2 persons with him, every of them having a sword and a buckler; and by and by came other two persons, one of them having a sword and a buckler and the other a sword and a buckler and a forest bill on his shoulder. And my said lord Leonard asked the two persons that came last whose servants they were, and they answered they were Mr. Sacheverell's servants and came for beasts. And my Lord Leonard bade them go into the pinfold to see them. Howbeit they had none there. Then the said Charnelles came to have his beasts in the pinfold, and my said lord Leonard demanded him whether he were a commoner or not; and the said Charnelles said "Yea, by reason of Bassettes House."¹ And so the said Charnelles went into the pinfold and brought to the pinfold gate a mare and two or three foals; and my said lord Leonard would have had the said Charnelles swear whether the said mare and foals were his or not, and the said Charnelles said he would not swear. Therefore my said lord Leonard would not suffer the said Charnelles to have the said mare and foals. And upon this certain of the tenants and commoners of the said forest of Leicester, whose names this deponent cannot tell, said to the said Charnelles "Why shall you not swear as well as you have made us to swear for our cattle in times past." And after this came there a seryant of the said Mr. Sacheverell, whose name this deponent cannot tell, for his master's cattle, and my lord Leonard asked the said seryant if he would swear for his master's cattle, and he said he would not, and so he had not the beasts. Then my lord Leonard said to the said seryant if any other man or any man of Mr. Sacheverell's house would swear that they were his cattle he should have them. And thereupon the said Charnelles and the said seryant departed home to Mr. Sacheverell; and within a while after there came by 2, 3, 4, and sometimes more, before the said pinfold, to the

¹Bassett House, formerly extra-parochial, is now in Thurlaston. Freeholders, copyholders and cottagers of this and other places in and about the forest of Leicester had rights of common therein for their horses and beasts.

number of 30 persons or thereabouts, some with bows and arrows, some with swords and bucklers, and some with forest bills, some being on horseback and some on foot, and some did shoot before the pinfold door by the space of an hour or thereabouts to this deponents remembrance, and there drank a bottle of ale; and then certain of them departed into the forest, and some other ways. Yet before they went away, the said Mr. Sacheverell's servant came again for his master's cattle and had another man in his company, whose name this deponent knoweth not, to bear record with the said servant; and my lord Leonard demanded that man whether he would swear that they were Mr. Sacheverell's cattle or not. And he said he would not answer for £100. Then the said servant of Mr. Sacheverell said to my said lord Leonard his master would have his beasts and ask my lord no leave, and yet would not swear for them. And then my said lord Leonard said the said Mr. Sacheverell should not have his cattle with his good will except he would swear they were his cattle, or else some other person for him, if he brought 500 persons at his tail. And after this came a chaplain of Mr. Sacheverell into the said pinfold, and my said lord Leonard asked him if he had any cattle there, and he said "nay," but he came to see his master's cattle there. Then my said lord Leonard said to the said chaplain if he, his master or the worst of his house or any other would swear they were his cattle they should have them with them. For the said lord Leonard said he would keep the custom there used; and this was said before such tenants and commoners as were there, and they say it was the custom to be sworn, and so the chaplain departed. And in the evening, when my lord Leonard was gone, the said Charnelles swore for his own beasts and had them delivered unto him.

Item, this deponent saith furthermore that a poor woman and a lame man dwelling in Bassettes House, in the forest of Leicester, told him that one John Cater, Mr. Sacheverell's servant, had been there and rebuked her for lending my lord Leonard a candle one night, and said she should out of her house therefor, and that the new common men were but knaves. And this was upon a Sunday upon 6, 7 or 8 weeks ago. And the morrow after the said Cater, in the morning came to Toley

lodge¹ with one Anne Sampson and another fellow, whose name this deponent knoweth not, where this deponent Stephen Aparre, John Laurence, David Jones and Griffith, my lord Leonard's servants were. And the said Cater called upon the said John Laurence and told him he heard say he was angry with him; and the said John Laurence said he was not without a cause, rehearsing the words that were told by the said woman; and the said Cater denied them. Whereupon this deponent hearing these words rose out of his bed and put on his doublet and hose and so came "untrussed," lacing his doublet, and told the words that the said woman spoke, which the said lamie man heard. And so the said Cater denied the said words; and then this deponent said to the said Cater "If thou spokest those words thou art but a knave, and if thou did not thou art an honest man." And thereupon the said Anne Sampson said "I would ye well knew it. Ye shall not make any of my uncle's servants either knaves or boys." And this deponent thereunto said "If the said Cater had so said he was but a knave, and if he did not he knewe him but an honest man." And upon this the said Cater called this deponent "errant knave," and saying "ye knaves all;" and the said Cater put his hand upon his dagger and drew it not all out. And thereupon this deponent being untrussed of his belt went away and caught a bill in his hand and was coming towards the said Cater. Howbeit, all the said deponent's fellows above rehearsed, except Laurence, stopped him and the said woman together, and the said Laurence took Cater's end of his staff in his hand, desiring him to be content. And this deponent broke from his said fellows with his bill in his hand, and thereupon the fellow that came with the said Cater struck at this deponent with a plain staff; whose stroke this deponent broke, and the said fellow fell backward upon a little hedge, and this deponent leaving the said fellow followed upon the said Cater with his bill, and the said Cater gave over his staff and got out his woodknife and fled, and turned again; and at his turning again this deponent struck at him with his bill and over-struck him, and the said Cater struck at this deponent with his woodknife and overstruck him. And so this deponent and the said Cater closed together and the said bill and woodknife fell on the ground, and

¹Tooley Park, in Peckleton.

then the company of this deponent came and parted him and the said Cater asunder; and suddenly the said Cater with his naked dagger struck at the said David Jones. And this deponent espying that, put the stroke away, and suddenly the said Anne caught this deponent in her arms and the said Cater struck the said deponent sideways in the head; and Griffith, seeing that this deponent was hurt, struck the said Cater with a bill on the head. And more this deponent cannot remember.

Stevyn ap Parry

[Endorsed]

A witness produced on behalf of the said lord Leonard touching the pinfold and an affray at Tholey lodge :

Stephen Aparre

At Olney the 21st day of September, 17 Henry VIII.

David Jones, servant to my lord Leonard, of the age of 30 years and above, sworn and examined, saith that John Cater, Mr. Sacheverell's servant, came to Tholey lodge, where this deponent was, on a Monday in the morning, and Anne Sampson and another man with the said Cater, and the same Cater called to John Laurence and said to him he heard say that one had reported he had spoken evil words against him and his fellows. Which he denied, and said he had been for to blame if he had spoken them, because of the good cheer John Laurence had made him and his company. And Stephen Aparre, my lord Leonard's servant, coming from his chamber with his hose untrussed, said to the said Cater "If thou hadst spoken the said words thou hadst been an arrant knave in thy seeing, and if thou did not thou art a good fellow as thou wast in times past." Then Anne Sampson said "I would ye should know none of you all shall make any of my uncle's servants knaves nor drewles;"¹ and then the said Stephen Aparre said "If the said Cater spoke the words as was reported on him he is but a knave in his saying." And then Cater said again to the said Stephen "thou art but a knave,

¹"Drewles" is apparently the same word as *droil* (= drudge, menial), used by Beaumont and Fletcher—*Wit at Several Weapons*, ii., 1, 19, and as a verb (= to drudge) by Spenser, *Mother Hubberds Tale*, 157. :—

"Let such vile vassals, born to base vocation
Drudge in the world, and for their living droyle."

and I defy you all knaves;" and thereupon the said Cater drew out almost his dagger. And this deponent said furthermore in everything as John Laurence saith in his deposition, and further he remembereth not.

[Endorsed]

David Jones, a witness produced touching an affray at Toly lodge:

David Jones, servant of lord Leonard.

At Olney the 21st day of September, 17 Henry VIII.

John Laurence, my lord Leonard's servant, sworn and examined the day and year abovesaid, of the age of 28 years, saith that upon a Monday in the morning upon 7 or 8 weeks hence, but certainly he cannot tell, John Cater, Mr. Sacheverell's servant, came to Toly lodge and called to this deponent and showed him it was told him that this deponent and his fellows were angry with him for words which he said he never spoke, and Stephyn Apare, servant to my lord Leonard, hearing the said Cater speak to this deponent came out of his chamber with his hose untrussed, saying to the said Cater he was no honest man if he spoke them, and saying furthermore to him these words "If thou did speak them thou art but a knave, and if thou did not we will take thee for an honest man as we did before." And then Anne Simpson, having with her another person, said "Masters, be content, for ye shall not make my uncle's servants either boys or knaves." And then Cater said to Stephyn Aparre "I defy thee, knave, and the proudest knave of you all." And thereupon Cater drew his dagger half out and defied Stephen Aparre and his fellows [f. 288 b.] then being at the said lodge door calling them knaves all. And thereupon this deponent took the said Cater's staff's end in his hand, and Stephyn Aparre took a bill in his hand, and two of his fellows stopped him; and then John Cater drew out his woodknife, and Stephen Aparre let fly at the said Cater with his bill and the one of them overstruck the other. And this deponent and David Jones came to "departe" them, and in their "departinge" the said Cater had out his dagger and had almost struck David Jones had not Stephyn Aparre been (*sic*). And then Anne Sampson came

and took Stephyn Aparre in her arms, and in her so taking of him in her arms the said Cater struck the said Stephyn Aparre in the head with his dagger, and one John Griffith, servant to my lord Leonard, struck the said John Cater upon the head with his bill; and so this deponent and David Jones parted them, and so they went away. And more this deponent remembereth not.

[Endorsed]

John Laurence, a witness produced touching an affray at Tholy lodge.

At Olney the 18th day of September, 17 Henry VIII.

John Adyngton, of Olney, co. Buckingham, servant to my lord marquess, and of the age of 60 years, sworn and examined, saith that about the first Lady Day last past he came to Leicester to buy him a bow, and as he was going in the street thinking no hurt one William Bromeley, servant to sir Richard Sacheverell, whom this deponent never had seen before, as he saith, shouldered this deponent that he had like to have overthrown this deponent. To the which William Bromley this deponent said, as he saith "Man, why dost thou thus to me; I owe the no evil will." And then the said William Bromley departed and gave this deponent a great look.

Nevertheless this deponent let him have the way and did nothing to the said William. And this deponent saith if he had been as simple as the said William there had been an affray between them.

[Endorsed]

Witness produced on behalf of the lord marquess of Dorset.
John Adyngton

At Ampthill the 29th day of September, 17 Henry VIII.

The lord Leonard Grey examined and sworn the day and year abovesaid saith that upon Monday the 4th day of September, 17 Henry VIII., as far as he supposeth, he saw about the number of 32 persons on horseback with bows and arrows some of them, and some with swords and bucklers, coming down a lane in the chase of Leicester, between Whetecroft Park and the frith park,

and as far as the said lord Leonard suppeth, John Rede of Leicester, was one of the said company. And the said lord Leonard saith he is well assured that one William Pykering was one of the said company. And after the said company with Rede came there another company to the number of 26 or 27 persons on horseback, with bows and arrows some of them, and some of them with swords and bucklers, and in the judgment of the said lord Leonard both the said companies joined together going down a hill not far from the place where the said lord Leonard supposeth he saw the said Rede at the first time; and because the said lord Leonard was in doubt whether it was the said Rede or not, he caused one Geoffrey Griffith and Thomas Dunham and one Ralph Fyssher to go to the intent to know as many of the said company as they could and to bring him word of them again, and at their return to the said lord they shewed to the said lord that the said John Rede was in the said company, and diverse other misruled folks.

Leonard Grey.

At Ampthill the 29th day of September, 17 Henry VIII.

Geffrey Gryffith, servant to the lord Leonard Grey, of the age of 30 years or thereabouts, sworn and examined the day and year abovesaid, saith that upon a Monday, on which day Mr. Sacheverell came out of Assheby, he about Lady Day last past saw one John Rede, of Leicester, between Kerby Park and the frith of Leicester, then being in his company the number of 30 persons or thereabouts, some with bows and arrows, some with swords and bucklers, and some with bills, on horseback, and after them, within a flight shot, came 24 persons or thereabouts, on horseback the most part, parson Fowler¹ being in their company, having some of them clubs, some with bows and arrows and some with bills. And this deponent stood still, and so the said companies passed away towards Assheby, in the county of Leicester. And the said deponent stood still by the space of three hours, between Kerby gate and the forest, and then came upon 30 of the said persons with one Mr. Villers then being there, and Mr. Commissary, about this deponent; and part of

¹Richard Fowler was dean of the Newarke College in 1535.

the said persons, whose names this deponent knoweth not, called him knave, and some said they would put out his eyes, and some said they would cut off his hands and his ears; and many of them had their bows bent, to the number of 16 persons, as this deponent supposeth. And after this came Mr. Sacheverell and my lady his wife, and in company with him about 7 score persons, and of that company about 52 persons lighted on foot and took their bows and arrows in their hands and went about the said Mr. Sacheverell and my lady his wife, and of them were 5 crossbows bent and arrows in them ready to shoot. And so all the said company passed by this deponent and went towards Leicester. And more this deponent remembereth not.

Item, this deponent, better "remembered," saith that my lord Leonard sent him to view the said persons.

[Endorsed]

Geffrey Gryffith, servant of lord Leonard, a witness produced touching the relation of an assembly of men with Mr. Sacheverell.

At Ampthill the 29th day of September, 17 Henry VIII.

Ralph Cox, servant of my lord marquess, of the age of 55 years or thereabouts, sworn and examined, saith my lord Leonard upon the Monday after our Lady Day last past, as he thinketh it was that day, sent him to Toley Park, in the side of the forest of Leicester, to view a pool for store of breams, and in this deponent's ——— coming homewards one John Rede, of Leicester, did overtake him at a new bridge beyond Kerby with 24 persons or thereabouts in company with him, on horseback, having swords and bucklers and bows and arrows, and after them came 10 more persons on horseback that dwelled in Kerby, one of them called ——— Haryngton, Henry Smyth, Roger Bocher, ——— Kyng, and more of their names he knoweth not. And hereupon this deponent resorted to my lord Leonard and told him of this company, and then my lord Leonard sent this deponent to one John Gryffith, his servant, to see the said company with John Rede pass through the forest. And after that this deponent resorted again to my lord Leonard and shewed

he had done his commandment to the said John Gryffith, and the said lord Leonard bade this deponent to go home to his house. And in the way homewards this deponent met with Mr. Sacheverell and my lady Hungerford, having with them about the number of 7 score persons on horseback, with bows and arrows, swords and bucklers and some crossbows. And the foremost of the said company, whose name this deponent knoweth not, came to this deponent and asked him what he was, and he told him. And then the said foremost man asked this deponent why he kept not the highway, and this deponent said it was his way. And thereupon the said foremost man "stroke up his sleeve" and put his arrow in his bow and would have shot at this deponent. And one of the said foremost man's company, whom this deponent knoweth not, took the said foremost man by the arm and pulled him back, saying to him "Man, what dost thou?" and so no hurt was done to this deponent, and he departed and went his way. And more he remembereth not.

[Endorsed]

Ralph Fox, servant of the lord marquess of Dorset, a witness produced touching an assembly of men with Mr. Sacheverell.