

LADY MARGARET BROMLEY.

BY THE REV. W. G. D. FLETCHER, M.A., F.S.A.

CALAMY, in his account of the ministers ejected in Leicestershire in 1662, mentions Oliver Brumskill who was ejected from Loughborough, and states that "he lived with the eminently pious old lady Bromley, widow to Judge Bromley."* The Loughborough Parish Register contains this entry of Lady Bromley's burial:—

"March, 1656-7. The Lady Margerett Bromley was buried 23 day."

A few facts which I have collected concerning this lady, who for sometime resided and who died in Leicestershire, and her husband, may be of interest. Lady Margaret Bromley was the daughter and heiress of Nicholas Lowe, of Tymore in Enville, Staffordshire, and she married Sir Edward Bromley, of Shifnal Grange in the county of Salop, Knight. After his death in 1626, she came to reside at Loughborough. She evidently held strong puritanical views, as she directs by her Will, that none of her relatives should be sent for at her burial except her nephew Abney, and that there should be no solemnity used, nor the ringing of bells.

Her husband Sir Edward Bromley belonged to a good old Shropshire family, whose members frequently held the office of Sheriff of that county, and who traced their descent from Sir Walter de Bromleghe, lord of Bromlegh, living in the reign of King John.† The Bromley family bore for Arms,—Quarterly per fesse indented gules and or, a bordure gobonée argent and azure, over all an escutcheon argent charged with a gryphon segreant vert. Sir Edward Bromley was the second of the four sons of Sir George Bromley, Knight, Chief Justice of Chester *temp.* Elizabeth, and custos rotulorum of Shropshire, by his wife Joan, daughter and heiress of John Waverton (or Warnerton), of Worfield, in the county of Salop, gent. He was baptized at Worfield on the 17th of October 1563. At the age of 43, he was called to the degree of serjeant-at-arms, and appointed a Baron of the Exchequer on 6 February 1609-10, and Knighted at Whitehall on 25 March 1610.‡ He resided at Shifnal Grange, but died without issue on 2 June 1626. By his Will, he directed his body

* *Nonconformists' Memorial*, ii., 392.

† See *Pedigree of Bromley* in *Vis. Salop*, 1623, *Hart. Soc.*, Vol. XXVIII., 71-78. *The Family of Bromley*, by the Hon. and Rev. Canon Bridgeman, in *Shropshire Archaeological Transactions*, 2nd Series, Vol. I.

‡ See *Nichols' Leicestershire*, iii., 893.

to be buried in the night time, two days after his decease, without funeral pomp. He ordered, however, that a Monument costing £100 should be set up in Shifnal Church or elsewhere to him and his wife. This Monument was erected by his widow in Worfield Church. It contains figures of Sir Edward Bromley and Dame Margaret his wife, with exquisite tracery at the back, and shields of Arms. Near the base of the right hand pillar are emblems of mortality,—a skull, spade and mattock; and on the left side an inverted torch. At the foot of the Monument are kneeling figures, now mutilated. The inscription is as follows:—

“Here Resteth the Bodie of Sir Edward Bromley, Knight, second Baron of Exchequer, Being second sonne of Sir George Bromley, Knight, and of Dame Jane his wife, Who married Margaret one of the Daughters and coheires of Michael Lowe, of Tymore, in the County of Stafford, Esquire, and died without issue, the second of June 1626. Dame Margaret his wife according to his will did dedicate this Monument to his memory.”*

Sir Edward Bromley was not the only distinguished lawyer of his family. His father Sir George Bromley Knt. was Chief Justice of Chester, and one of the Council of the Marches of Wales. He died 19 November 1606, and there is a handsome monument erected to his memory in Worfield Church. Sir Thomas Bromley, Bart., a younger brother of Sir George, was Lord Chancellor of England in Queen Elizabeth's reign. Another Sir Thomas Bromley, a distant kinsman, was Chief Justice of England in the same reign. The Bromley family is extinct in the male line, but is represented by the Earl of Bradford and the Davenports of Hallon in the female line.

I append abstracts of the Wills of Sir Edward Bromley and Lady Margaret.

WILL OF SIR EDWARD BROMLEY, KNT.

Will of S^r Edward Bromley Knight, one of the Barons of the Court of Exchequer of the degree of the Coife. Dated 14 October 1 Car. I. 1625. To my brother George, a peece of plate value £10. A monument costing £100. to be set up in Shifnall Church, or elsewhere, to me and my wife Dame Margaret. My body to be buried in the night time, two days after my decease, without funeral pompe. To each of my godsons, Thomas Cotton and

* See Randall's *Worfield and its townships*, pp. 38, 39.

Thomas Wolrich, plate of the value of £20; and to Dorothy Cotton my niece and god-daughter, £20. in plate. Whereas I have made a deed of gift of all my goods, &c. to Thomas Cotton and Thomas Wolrich, esqs. my nephews*, and to Richard Ridley, John Carsenell, John Tailor, Edward Cheese, and John Langley, gent. my servants, upon the trust to be declared in my will,—I direct that my wife Dame Margaret have the use thereof for her life, with power to dispose of the same to the value of £400. by her will; an Inventory thereof to be made within six months after my decease; and after my wife's death, I give the same to John Bromley,† second sonne to S^r Thomas Bromley. Whereas William Davenport, esq. of Hallen, co. Salop, and Jane his wife, dau. and heir of Francis Bromley, esq. my deceased brother, pretend a right to certain manors, lands, &c. late the inheritance of S^r George Bromley Knt. deceased, my father, which were conveyed to me by a declaration of uses upon a recovery suffered by Thomas Bromley, esq. and others: And whereas the said Thomas Bromley, in consideration that I paid his debts, gave me in fee all his manors, lands, &c. and that I have paid £700. to his creditors;—I devise to John Bromley, sonne of S^r Thomas Bromley, now a scholar at Whitechurch School, the said manors, lands, &c. and all debts due from the said William Davenport about £160. I appoint John Bromley to be executor for the money paid for the debts of the said Thomas Bromley, and for the money owing from the said William Davenport; and to be executrix in all other things, Dame Margaret my wife. I appoint my friends S^r John Denham, Knt. Baron of the Exchequer, and Sir Richard Hutton Knt. Judge of the Common Pleas, my brother in law George Cotton of Cumberm'e, and my three sisters, ladie Susan Pulveston, Cotton, and Wolrich, to be overseers of my Will. To the poor of Worfield, where I was born, and to the poor of Bridgnorth, Shifnall, and Wenlocke, £5. each. To the poor of Sheriffhales five marks. To the poor of Shrewsbury 20 nobles.

Codicil to his Will, recites that S^r Edward Bromley about the end of Easter Term 1626 declared that Dame Margaret Bromley his wife should have all his goods, as he had given to William Davenport and Jane his wife some part of the lands in jointure to the said Dame Margaret.

Will, with Codicil, proved P.C.C. 20 November 1626, by lady Margaret Bromley.

(*Hele 128.*)

* Sir Edward's sisters, Margaret and Mary, were married respectively to Francis Wolrich, of Dodington, and George Cotton, of Combermere. (*Vis. Salop 1623.*)

† He was great-grandson of Sir Thomas Bromley, Lord Chancellor 1581; and afterwards married Elizabeth, dau. of Sir . . . Longeville, of Wolverton, Bucks.

WILL OF LADY MARGARET BROMLEY.

Will of Dame Margaret Bromley, ye widdowe of S^r Edward Bromley, Knt. one of the Barons of the Exchequer. Dated 5 March 1656.

My body to be buried in y^e Chancell by Mr. Trigg in Loughborough Church; but none is to be sent for, but my nephew Abney; and no solemnitie to be used, nor the ringing of bells. To my nephew James Abney, of Wilsley, Esq. £20; and to my nephew Thomas Abney £10. and £10. for cloaths. To my neece mistris Sara Bromskill my arras hangings for life; and then to her second son my nephew Samuel Bromskill. To my nephew Samuel Bromskill, second son of my nephew Oliver Bromskill, all my lease of Blougherby lately taken of Ambrose Pemberton, during the period of such lease, wherewith my nephew Abney is entrusted for his use; and my nephew James Abney of Wilsley, esq. to see that the said Samuel Bromskill enjoys the benefits of the said lease. To my nephews George Bromskill and John Bromskill, £50. each, and to my niece Margaret Bromskill £100 : the said £200. to be paid out of the two first years' profits of the said lease at Blougherbie, which my nephew James Abney is to discharge. My wearing clothes to my neece Bromskill. To my cousin Thomas £4. and to Damaris £5. I appoint my nephew James Abney, of Wilsley esq. and my dearlie beloved good nephew Oliver Bromskill* of Loughborough, and my dearlie beloved neece Sara Bromskill, executors of my Will. I bequeath the residue of my estate to my said nephew Bromskill and his deare wife my neece.

Will proved P.C.C. 28 May 1657, by Oliver Bromskill nephew and one of the executors of the deceased. Power reserved to James Abney and Sara Bromskill.

(*Ruthen 196.*)

* Oliver Bromskell was appointed rector of Loughborough 26 June 1647, by the Leicestershire Committee, in the place of Nicholas Hall who was ejected. This post he continued to hold until 1662, when Hall was reinstated. He was a man of wealth, and in 1654 purchased the Manor House at Loughborough from the Earl of Huntingdon; but his son Samuel Bromskell sold it again in 1708. See *The Rectors of Loughborough*, Nichols's *Leicestershire*, Vol. III., Calamy's *Nonconformists' Memorial*, ii., and Add. MS. 15,670. I should be glad to know what became of Bromskill after his ejection in 1662, also when he died, and where he was buried.