

Gloucestershire Notes and Queries,

EDITED BY THE

REV. BEAVER H. BLACKER, M.A.

“Vires acquirit eundo.”

“It is not without pleasure, and perchance it may not be without use, that we rescue some quaint old document from the dust of ages; and that we arrest the floating memories of men and things, as they pass down the stream of time toward the ocean of oblivion.”

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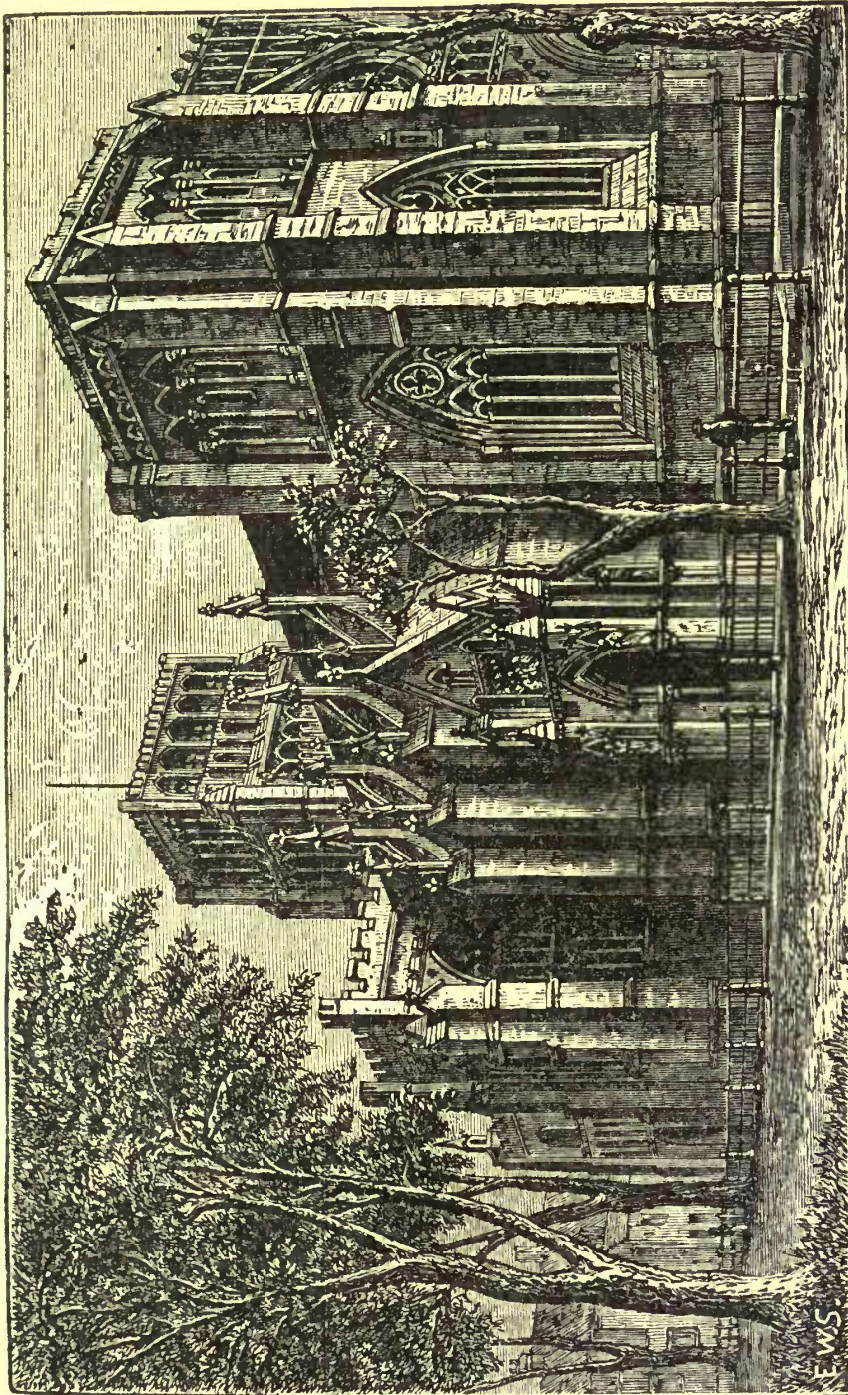
BRISTOL: WILLIAM GEORGE, AND J. FAWN & SON; GLOUCESTER: DAVIES & SON;

CHELTENHAM: GASTRELL & SON; CIRENCESTER: BAILY & SON;

DURSLEY: WHITMORE; TEWKESBURY: NORTH.

1884.

[*Entered at Stationers' Hall.*]



BRISTOL CATHEDRAL.

recruit his health, at his ancestral seat at Newcastle, Tipperary, (and here the ghost comes in). On the very night of his return home, and having retired to rest, he observed a dim figure, which he readily recognised as that of a deceased retainer, named James Cranwell. "It is well," said J.C., "to be prepared for death. Sir Thomas, you will die upon this day year." The apparition then vanished, but so vividly did the scene impress itself on the general's mind that he made a memorandum of the occurrence in his tablets, and straightway troubled himself no more about the matter. The battle of Malplaquet was fought on the 11th of September. During the previous night Brigadier-General P. remembered the mysterious warning of his faithful retainer, and while others slept in their tents he prepared himself as a devout Christian and gallant soldier for the coming battle. When the morning broke, he mounted his favourite charger, and calmly rode off as one who bade adieu to all that was dear to him. In that day's victory blood flowed in torrents, and in the list of the slain was Brig.-Gen. P. The story is told at full length in the *Court Album* for 1852, in which is the portrait of one of his descendants who was as famous for her beauty as he had been for bravery.

Cheltenham.

W. B. STRUGNELL.

DCCCCLXXX.—"DEWDROP INN," CHELTENHAM.—A correspondent has written in *Notes and Queries* (6th S. ix. 197):—"Some years ago there was—I daresay it is there still—a public-house at Cheltenham called the 'Dewdrop Inn.' The name is a play upon the words 'Do drop in.'" Is it so?

G. A. W.

DCCCCLXXXI.—"A GLOSTER MAN" AND HIS BRIEF.—The following entry in an old account of the churchwardens of Hartland, Devon, is, I think, somewhat quaint and curious:—

1617-18. "Paid a Gloster man who had his house burnt, he having a briefe to gather the countrey...xviij^d."

C. T. D.

DCCCCLXXXII.—THE STIFF FAMILY.—This surname appears in Wiltshire as early as the thirteenth century, for we find from the Hundred rolls that John Stife and Robert Stife were jurors for the hundred of Blacgrove, in that county, about 1272. No such early instance of the name has been traced in Gloucestershire; but it is clear that the Stiffs were settled as yeomen at Hawkesbury before the middle of the sixteenth century, and if at any time the early manor rolls of the parish should be forthcoming, it is probable that the genealogy of the family might be carried still farther back. At present the pedigree here given depends chiefly in its earlier part, as is so commonly the case with families of the yeoman class, upon wills and parish registers. No help has been obtained from the probate registry at Worcester, in which diocese Gloucestershire was until 1540, for the series of ancient wills preserved there

appears to be very imperfect, and contains comparatively few belonging to this county. The earliest Stiff wills at Gloucester are those of Robert Styfe, 1544; Wyll'm Styffe, 1554; and that of the latter's wife, Agnes Styffe, dated 1556. The first-named will being the earliest, we give it at length:—

“In the name of god amen the xxix day of may in the yeare of our lorde god m. fyve hunderd xliij I Robert Styfe of the p'yshe of hawkesbury & within the Dioc' of Gloucest. very syke in bodye notwythstandynge thanks be to god p'fect rem'brans do make my laste wylle in mā' & form folowyng Fyrste I bequeath my soule to almighty god my bodye to be bu[ried] in the p'yshe church of Hauksbury Item I bequeth to my wyfe ij sterys on red the oth[er] yalowe Item I give to my sayde wyfe ij kyne & ij heyfers & one boloke of iiij yere old Item I geve to my sayde w... the on halfe of my detts that be owynge to me Item I geve to my wyfe all my brass....wyth all my bedyngs coffers lying stuffe & all things to the beds aperteyning & belongyng..... the reste of my goods not geven nor bequethyde I geve to Elinor my wyfe who I do ordeyne & my sole executryxe to dyspos the' as she shall think necessary to the laud of god & welthe of my soule & Arthur Crewe to be overseer thes beryng wytness Antony Downe — Styffe Thom̄ [Few?] Edmund Donne wyth oth^r the day & yeare above w'tyn.”

The will of William Styffe, dated 13 Oct., 1554, is sufficiently interesting to lead us to give an abstract, although we have no means of ascertaining the relation in which he or Robert Styfe stood to Edmonde Stiffe, the ancestor of all those Gloucestershire Stiffs whose pedigree has been traced back to the sixteenth century. The reader will not fail to notice the homely way in which the testator mentions each of his cows by name. Fillpail, and Jet, and Youth would scarcely have their names handed down in a yeoman's will of the nineteenth century. The abstract is as follows:—

“To be buried in Hawkesbury church To Johane my daughter ij kyne one called musse the other called yeuth To same Johane one yong bullocke colleryde of ij yeare old To Annes my daughter ij kyne colered red on called fylpayle the other called jet and one younge taylor heyfer My wife during her life to have all my stuffe of household: after her death the same to be divided between my daughters Johan & Annes Residuary legatee & whole & sole executrix wife Annes to dispose of them to the wealth of my soul Witnesses—Anthony Downes Arthur Wymbolde and Edmund Douns.”

Annes Styffe, the widow of William, died about 1556; for her will at Gloucester, as that of “Agnes Styffe of the p'yshe of Hawkesbury wedowe,” is dated 25 April, 1556. From it we learn that her daughter Agnes had been married to Thomas Wymbold, who, with their children, is named therein.

No further particulars of the name have been met with until we find, towards the close of the century, two brothers, Edmonde and Richard Stiffe, whose parentage and relationship to William and Robert of half a century before are at present unknown. Richard Stiffe, described in his will as "of Milbourne St Powles in the parish of Malmesburie yeoman," was evidently a bachelor, and the very numerous bequests to his kinsfolk indicate that he was a well-to-do man. This document, proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1614 (66 Lawe), has supplied much information, which has been utilized in compiling the following pedigree. His brother, Edmonde Stiffe, was ancestor of several distinct lines of the name, some of which still exist. On the present occasion we shall confine our attention to the line which we may call the Dursley branch, from the circumstance that during their most prosperous days they were chiefly resident in that town. Accordingly we begin with—

1.—Edmonde Stiffe, of Kilcot, in the parish of Hawkesbury, a long straggling hamlet prettily situated in a combe, or valley, about a mile north of Hawkesbury Upton. His will, dated 28 June, 1593, and signed with his mark, was proved in the P.C.C., 7 July, 1593. It is attested by Thomas Hooker, vicar of Hauxbury, and Richard Stiffe, the overseers being Richard Stiffe, his brother, and Raphe Fizar.* There are numerous bequests to his children and grandchildren. His wife Margery was his executrix; and her will was proved 6 May, 1601, her residuary legatee and executor being her son Anthonie, and the overseers her brother Richard Stiffe and son Richard Stiffe. The will names many of her descendants; but although it is a most interesting catalogue of the household goods of a prosperous yeoman family at that date, it is too long to be given here. Their children were,

1. Richard, of Ingleston, in the parish of Hawkesbury, who was bur. at Hawkesbury, 20 June, 1620, having m. Catherine (? Hathway). Her will was proved at Gloucester, 25 Feb., 1625-6. He was ancestor of the Stiffs of Hawkesbury, some of whom seem to have continued there, but in a humble position, as late as 1820.
2. Joan, m. to William Higges, of Kingswood.
3. Ellen, m. to Robert Wyllys, of Wotton-under-Edge.
4. John, of whom below (II.).
5. Isabel, unmarried in 1614, executrix of the will of her uncle, Richard Stiffe, of Milbourne, who referred to her as "my well beloved in Christ Isabelle Stiffe that now dwelleth with me in the house." Possibly the same as Elizabeth mentioned in her father's will.

* There were many of the family of Vizard, as the name is now usually spelt, resident in Hawkesbury and its neighbourhood in the sixteenth century. Edmonde Stiffe also mentions an Arthur Fizar, of Alverton, who owed him twenty shillings; and it is worth observing that Arthur Vizar, bailiff of Dursley in 1612, was ancestor of the present family of Vizard, of Ferney Hill, in that town. It will be remembered that Shakespeare, in his *Henry IV.*, refers to William Visor, of Woncot, a place which has been identified with Woodmancot, the suburb of Dursley. In later days one of the family was executor of the will of Jacob Stiff, who died in 1769.

6. Anthonie, of Kilcot, bur. at Hawkesbury, 16 Nov., 1607, ancestor of the Stiffs of Cam and Uley, and probably of those of North Nibley.
7. Robert, of Oldbury [-on-the-Hill], yeoman; will proved in the P.C.C., 25 June, 1598 (47 Lewyn). To be buried in the churchyard of Oldbury. Executrix, Margaret my wife. He had two children,
 - i. Edmonde.
 - ii. Elizabeth.

II.—John Stiffe, or Styff, of Wotton-under-Edge, m. there, 17 Aug., 1579, Elizabeth Seburne.* His will is dated 27 Aug., 1604, and was proved at Gloucester, 29 Aug., 1605. He mentions his daughter Jone, and makes his wife Elizabeth sole executrix and residuary legatee. The inventory was appraised at £23 15s. 5d. Their children were,

1. Thomas, bapt. 21 April, 1580; bur. 14 June, 1581.
2. Elizabeth, bapt. 17 Dec., 1581. Perhaps the Elizabeth Styff, m. at Wotton, 27 May, 1605, to Henry Phelps. Elizabeth Felpes was goddaughter of Catherine Stiffe in 1624. The Wotton registers also record the marriages of two others of this name; viz., Elizabeth Styffe, m. 14 June, 1613,† to Giles Wesby; and Elizabeth Styffe, m. 24 June, 1615, to Thomas Bliston.
3. Edward, bapt. 4 May, 1583, dead in 1614. Perhaps referred to in an incomplete entry dated 3 Feb., 1610.
4. Joane, or Jane, perhaps bur. 14 March, 1623-4.
5. Katherine, living in 1614.
6. Edmond, } dead in 1614.
7. Agnes, }
8. Edith, m. at Wotton, 4 June, 1610, to John Hopkins.
9. Thomas, of whom below (III.).

III. Thomas Styffe, of Wotton-under-Edge, b. before 1599. An incomplete entry of burial, dated 7 June, 1659, may refer to him. He m. 5 May, 1618, Mary Parsons; perhaps the Mary Stiffe, widow, bur. 21 Jan., 1676. Their children were,

1. Margaret (?), bapt. 14 Jan., bur. 23 Aug., 1621.
2. Daniel, bapt. 8 Jan., 1627. Mary, his wife, was bur. 28 Oct., 1672. They had issue,
 - i. Mary, } twins, bapt. 26 Feb., 1649.
 - ii. Martha, }
 - iii. Joane, bapt. 16 July, 1652; bur. 26 April, 1659.
 - iv. Thomas, b. 28 Nov., 1653.
 - v. Daniel, bapt. 23 Jan., 1655-6.

* This family was commonly known as Seburne *alias* Plomer, and many of their wills are to be found at Worcester and Gloucester, from the early part of the sixteenth century.

† It should be noted that all dates of baptisms, etc., unless otherwise stated, are taken from the Wotton-under-Edge registers.

3. Jonathan, bapt. 2 Nov., 1628. Will dated 10 March, 1698 ; goods appraised at £57 17s. by Abraham Stiffe, William Fowler, and Samuel Herry. His children were,
 - i. Deborah, bapt. 10 Dec., 1661.
 - ii. Mary, bapt. 27 April, 1664 ; named in her father's will, 1698.
4. Thomas, bapt. 30 Nov., 1630. Mary, wife of Thomas Stiffe, was bur. 17 July, 1664. They had two children,
 - i. Joan, bapt. 1657,
 - ii. Thomas, bapt. 18 March, 1661.
5. John, bapt. 24 March, 1632-3. Evidently the John Stiff, of St. Martins-in-the-Fields, corn chandler, whose will was proved in the P.C.C., 3 June, 1691. Names his wife Mary ; his sisters Jane Oliver and Sarah Coward ; his brothers Abraham and Jonathan ; and Jane Sheppard and Mary Cawdron. He had a daughter, Mary, bapt. at Wotton, 17 Oct., 1665, as dau. of John Stiffe, a Londoner.
6. Joane, bapt. 31 March, 1635. Query m. to ——— Oliver.
7. Samuel, bapt. 27 Dec., 1636 ; bur. 26 May, 1639.
8. Abraham, of whom below (IV.).
9. Elizabeth, bapt. 3 March, 1638-9.

IV.—Abraham Stiffe, bapt. 1 Jan., 1637-8 ; became a cardmaker at Dursley. After the fall of Dursley church steeple in 1699, his name appears as one of the signatories to the petition for a brief to raise money for rebuilding it. He seems to have been the last who used a final *e* to the name ; a fashion which was revived by some members of the Bristol family in the present century. His will was proved 5 Jan., 1716. He m. 1st, at Wotton-under-Edge, 19 May, 1662, Anne Saunders, who was bur. 5 Oct., 1677 ; 2ndly, by licence dated 20 June, 1678, Edith Smyth, of Dursley, widow ; and 3rdly, Mary ———, named in his will. His children were,

1. John, bapt. 29 March, 1663.
2. Thomas, bapt. 13 Oct., 1664. Bigland, under *Dursley*, mentions Abraham, son of Thomas and Esther Stiff, d. 10 Sept., 1738.
3. Anne, bapt. 20 May, 1667.
4. Mary, bapt. 17 Jan., 1668 ; m. to ——— Pinkett.
5. Samuel, bapt. 11 March, 1670.
6. Abraham, bapt. 10 Feb., 1672.
7. Isaac, bapt. 20 March, 1674.
8. Jacob, of whom below (V.).
9. Sarah, bapt. 20 Sept., 1677 ; m. to ——— Webb. Perhaps m. 2ndly, to ——— Goulding.
10. Jane.

V.—Jacob Stiff, of Dursley, cardmaker, b. in 1679 ; d. 18 Nov., 1735, aged 56 ; an altar tomb in Dursley churchyard existing in Bigland's time, but since destroyed. Will dated 4 Nov., 1728, and

proved at Gloucester. He m., by licence dated 6 Oct., 1702, Elizabeth Webb, of Rodborough, she being aged about 20. His children were,

1. Jacob (? the eldest), of whom below (VI.).
2. Richard,)
3. Edward,) living in 1728.
4. William,)
5. Thomas, (?) b. after 1728.
6. Ann, d. 24 May, 1735, aged 17.
7. Jane, m. to ——— Stare, and had a son, Jacob Stiff Stare.

VI.—Jacob Stiff, of Dursley, cardmaker, b. about 1713, and said to have built and resided at Eagle House, in the market-place of that town. The initials of himself and wife, with date 1751, are still to be seen there, as well as on the adjoining house. Was bailiff of Dursley, 1740. By will dated 21 Nov., 1759, gave £30 for the benefit of Dursley, the interest of which is now distributed in the form of a dole of bread. He d. 16 Dec., 1769, aged 56, and was bur. in Dursley Church. Upon his monument in Tanner's chapel was a shield bearing—Per chevron embattled sable and or, in chief two estoiles of the last, in base two tilting spears saltirewise gules. This was destroyed during the late restoration, but was subsequently replaced, although unfortunately it now appears as “per chevron raguly” instead of “embattled.” These arms form an effective composition; but it is difficult to account for their origin, as they are not registered at the College of Arms, and no earlier example of their use has been found elsewhere. He m. 1st, Elizabeth ———, who d. 25 Feb., 1760, in her 45th year; and 2ndly, at Stroud, 23 Nov., 1765, Mary Clutterbuck, of Stroud, when he gave a bond, to secure an annuity for her, to Samuel Clutterbuck, of Howcombe, Minchinhampton, clothier (probably her father), and Fream Arundel, of Stroud, clothier. She probably died about 1790, for some “unclaimed dividends” accrued due to Mary Stiff, dec., of Thrupp, near Stroud, widow, in 1791. He left three daughters, coheiresses,

1. Betty, of whom below (VII.).
2. Abigail, m. to Thomas Tanner, of Kingswood, Wilts, clothier.
3. Sarah, m. to Walter Room, of Melksham, Wilts, clothier, and had at least two children, Jacob and Elizabeth.

VII.—Betty, eldest daughter and coheiress of Jacob Stiff, m. about Nov., 1762, to Claver Morris Burland,* of Wotton-under-Edge. Presumably he graduated as Morris Burland at Christ Church, Oxford, B.A. 20 April, 1752, M.A. 12 March, 1755, and B.M. 28 Nov., 1758, but did not proceed to the doctor's degree, although,

* He belonged to an old Dorsetshire family long settled at Steyning, in that county. His father was John Burland, who m. in 1718, Elizabeth, dau. of Claver Morris, of Wells, who graduated at New Inn Hall, Oxford, B.A. 1679, and D.M. 1691. His eldest brother, Sir John Burland, was a distinguished lawyer of the last century, who became a baron of the Exchequer. In 1773 he was created D.C.L. by the University of Oxford, and dying in 1776, was buried in Westminster Abbey. Another brother was William Burland, a fellow of New College, Oxford, where he graduated M.A. 1761. A detailed pedigree of the family is given in Hutchins' *Dorsetshire*.

like many other bachelors of medicine, he was generally known by that title. She d. 17 May, 1778, aged 42, and he 13 Jan., 1801, aged 70, and both were buried at Wotton-under-Edge, where there is an inscription to their memory. Their children were,

1. Morris Burland, d. young. Hutchins' *Dorsetshire* mentions a son named John.
2. Mary Anne, of whom below (VIII.).
3. Betty, m. to Walter Honeywood Yate, Esq., of Bromsberrow Place, grandson of Robert Dobyns Yate, Esq., of Evesbatch, Herefordshire, high sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1765, who, in 1760, assumed by Act of Parliament the surname of Yate on succeeding as heir-general to the property of his great-uncle, Robert Yate, Esq., of Bromsberrow Place. They d. without leaving issue.

VIII.—Mary Ann Burland, m. to James Lloyd Harris, Esq., of Uley, afterwards of Cheltenham, who d. before 1835. Their eldest surviving son was

John Burland Harris, Esq., of New Court, Newent, J.P. for Gloucestershire, who assumed in 1835, by royal license (therein described as of Wotton-under-Edge), the additional surname of Burland, thus becoming John Burland Harris-Burland. This was in compliance with the will, dated 28 Aug., 1804, of his kinsman, John Berkeley Burland, Esq., of Stock Gaylard, Dorsetshire, son of Sir John Burland, who bequeathed to him the bulk of the Burland estates. Mr. Harris-Burland also obtained a grant, dated 3 July, 1835, of the arms of Burland, which are thus blazoned: Argent, five ermine spots in saltire sable, a chief embattled per pale gules and azure, thereon three roses of the field; with crest: Out of a wreath of laurel proper a gryphons' head argent, gorged with a collar gules, charged with three cinquefoils or. He was b. at North Nibley about 1804, and d. in 1872, having married Helen, only daughter of Major William Moore Adey, J.P., of Wotton-under-Edge. Their eldest son,

The Rev. Morris Burland Harris-Burland, of Trinity College, Oxford, B.A. 1857, M.A. 1860, patron and rector of Stanton, near Winchcombe, is the present representative of this branch of the Stiffs, and also of the families of Harris and Burland.

There are several others of the name connected with Dursley, whose exact position in the pedigree has yet to be determined, though it is probable that they are descended from one or other of the brothers of Jacob Stiff, of Eagle House. Richard Stiff, of Blakeney, who was born at Dursley, was, it is said, his nephew. Though he was in humble circumstances, he became well known for his zeal as a local preacher in the Forest of Dean. He died 5 Dec. 1815, aged 71, and was buried at Dursley. An obituary sermon, entitled *The Good Man serving his Generation: a Sermon*

on the *Death of Mr. R. Stiff*, by John Horlick, was published at Ross shortly afterwards; and some particulars of his life are noted in Stratford's *Good and Great Men of Gloucestershire* (1867), pp. 410-11. His son, John Stiff, of Cam, died 30 Dec., 1860, aged 92, and his grandson, John Stiff, also a nonagenarian, is now living at Lower Cam.

There is another family of the name, which we may call the Bristol family, since they are descended from a John Stiff of that city, whose ancestry has not yet been traced. He had seven children, who left many descendants. Amongst his sons was William Stiffe, Esq., of Lodway, St. George's, Somerset, afterwards of Swansea, who m. in Oct., 1827, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Everitt, of Chelsea, high sheriff of Bedfordshire in 1800, who d. in Jan., 1823, aged 64. He d. at Naples, 24 Feb., 1860, and left three sons and two daughters. His sons are,

1. Francis William Everitt Stiffe, of Lincoln's Inn, Q.C., having been called to the bar 6 June, 1855, who, in compliance with a deed of appointment dated 24 Dec., 1856, assumed the surname of Everitt in lieu of Stiffe, by royal license dated 21 Aug., 1860. He obtained, 23 Feb., 1861, a grant of the following arms for Everitt, and now quarters with them the arms of Stiffe, as granted to his brother: Per chevron argent and gules two chevronels between three escarbuncles counterchanged; with crest: A gryphon segreant argent winged vair argent and gules, supporting a tilting spear erect proper; and motto: In eternum manet.
2. Arthur William Stiffe, formerly a lieutenant in the Indian Navy, who obtained 17 Feb., 1861, for himself and the other descendants of his late father, William Stiffe, a grant of the following coat, which, it will be observed, is very similar to the arms of Stiff in Dursley Church: Per chevron raguly azure and or, in chief two estoiles of the last, and in base as many spears in saltire banded together by a ribband gules; with crest: A demi-eagle rising or winged semée of estoiles azure, in the beak a billet also azure; and motto: Recte et Firme.
3. The Rev. Charles Everitt Stiffe, M.A., of Balliol College, Oxford, who graduated B.A. in 1872, and shortly after discontinued the use of his patronymic. He is now rector of All Saints', Colchester, to which he was presented by his college in 1880.

The name "Jacob Stiff" is a distinctive one, and at once attracts notice. It is therefore worth while observing that in Virginia, U.S.A., which was largely populated with emigrants from the West of England, there are at present many persons of the name of Stiff. The records of that State show that a Jacob Stiff had a grant of land, amounting to 341 acres, in Christ Church Parish, Middlesex County, 25 Feb., 1720. Unfortunately the civil war seriously affected Virginia, and at the fall of Richmond the

greater portion of the early colonial records were destroyed, so that there is little chance of completing any detailed family history of the early American settlers of the name. One of the Virginian Stiffs, Col. Edward Stiff, published in 1840 an extremely interesting work, entitled *The Texan Emigrant*, in which the history of Texas and its condition at that time are very pleasantly narrated.

W. P. W. PHILLIMORE, M.A., B.C.L.

DCCCCLXXXIII.—THE POPULATION OF BRISTOL IN 1752.—A paper on the population of the city at this date was presented to the Royal Society by John Browning, Esq., who formed his calculation upon two principles.

First, from the number of burials over a space of ten years, which gave an average of 1,731 burials in each year. He then calculated that a twenty-fifth of the population died yearly, and thus showed the number of inhabitants to be 43,275.

Secondly, he gave a list of the houses rated in each parish, Michaelmas, 1751, as follows:—

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-----|
| All Saints'..... | 42 | St. Mary's Redcliffe | 420 |
| St. Michael's..... | 375 | St. Thomas' | 209 |
| St. Werburgh's..... | 43 | Temple | 211 |
| St. James'..... | 1,010 | St. Nicholas'..... | 411 |
| St. Mary's-le-port | 106 | St. Ewin's | 25 |
| St. Peter's | 181 | St. John the Baptist's ... | 144 |
| St. Philip's and St. Jacob's | 363 | St. Leonard's..... | 54 |
| St. Stephen's | 375 | St. Augustine's | 410 |
| Christ Church | 160 | The Castle Precincts Ward | 240 |

He then allowed for houses not rated, untenanted, &c., 1,216; and for houses in the "out parishes" 1,200. Having thus made the total of houses to be 7,282, and allowing six persons to each house, he showed the number of inhabitants to be 43,692.

BRISTOLIENSIS.

DCCCCLXXXIV.—RELICS OF MUNICIPAL STATE IN GLOUCESTER.—The following letter is reprinted, for more easy reference, from the *Gloucestershire Chronicle*, May 10, 1884:—

A few days ago a friend sent me a catalogue of a sale which was to take place at Christie and Manson's, in London, on Thursday last, and called my attention to one of the lots, consisting of three enamelled silver plaques, bearing the arms of the city of Gloucester and of Sir Thomas Bell, formerly mayor and member of parliament for the city. I thereupon commissioned him, as one who understood such matters, to purchase them for me, and he did so; and as a brief notice of these ancient relics of municipal state may interest some of your readers (especially now that the custody of the sheriff's maces is, as I understand, matter of controversy), I send you the brief description of them, which is printed on the cardboard inclosing them, and which is evidently from the pen of