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WAKEMAN'S WANDERINGS

THE OLD HOME OF THE CATESBYS.

An Interesting Description of the Beautiful Stambrook Rock in Northamptonshire Where the Famous "Guy Fawkes' Gunpowder Plot" Was Concocted.

Birmingham, Eng., Sept. 18.—Special Correspondence of the Deseret News.—Dear Editor: Perhaps a personal sketch of original discovery is the best for topic, which at place to all Mormon where the great American guide-book has not a copy, and where book is always grossly misrepresented everybody and everything, with a long number of open to suspicious memory, charged of a point of the object or shrine for his collection, made and a down more with a super-gender pen. But future generations can do better and the date of Lady Day seems available woodcuts about the spot, or otherwise left in dark, and then with "Nibs" and "ups" pouring out in more profusely thereon space to the most powerful or tolerant spirit of interest.

I have found one spot in Great Britain where time is at least no local measure of the spacious. The fact is a noteworthy one and the place itself possesses extraordinary interest. It is called Ashby St. Ledgers. To be very definite regarding a locality so distinctive for its so far quite unknown beauties and interest, it is but a city "Village Green" miles south from Coventry, and less from Northampton, in the midland sun of the county of Northampton, located of Faversley, pretty western of Oxford and county court district of Daventry, rural deanery of Daventry, archdeaconry of Northampton and diocese of Peterborough."

The inquirers of the crown have that absolutely located the village and parish, and to make it perfectly definite to those who "do" Northamptonshire, England and England to one work or two it should be added that Ashby St. Ledgers is but 3½ miles "afoot" walk westward from Weedon station, on the main line of the London and Northwestern railway from London to the noted school town of Rugby, and that the famous "Stambrook Rock" of English history, popularly known as "Guy Fawkes' Gunpowder Plot," was concocted within the towering, stonehouse grounds of its lone crumbling and ivy covered walls.

To the casual student of history the chief incidents of the plot may properly be recalled. Stripped of their usual romantic verbiage, it was a plot originated by the Robert Catesby, lord of this very manor, and other conspirators, including Thomas Percy, Christopher and John Wright, Thomas and Robert Winter, one Bates, and their leader and, finally, Guy Fawkes, representing the owner of James I, then recently elevated to the throne under the aegis of the English and Scottish crowns, and mostly therefore popularized king of Great Britain—to remove an obnoxious government in the concrete, king, lords and commons, at a single explosion of gunpowder, placed by a great and protracted waste of gunpowder through prolonged and cruel civil war, through which an entire nation is alive all but destroyed.

This was probably the conspirators' one effective and pleasant view of the matter. They stated a ton dollar immediately under parliament, house and succeeded in concealing within it thirty barrels and five hogsheads of gunpowder, "covered with billets and faggots of wood, great iron bars, stones," etc., besides young and ambitious, Mr. Fawkes, "wrapped in a cloak and booted and spurred," and provided with "a dark lantern and a tinder box with which to set off the touch-wood," which, commingling with the thirty barrels and five hogsheads of gunpowder, at the instant of the king's convening parliament, Nov. 5, 1605, was expected to give immediate relief to the political situation.

However, by means of an anonymous letter to Lord Monteagle, whom some one of the conspirators desired to save, the plot was discovered, young Mr. Fawkes, which the picture represents as having his arms thus neglected his hair and beard, was dragged out of his mysterious surroundings, upon a memorable night, "shivering with cold," and shortly after hung, while Percy, Catesby, Winter and the two Wrights were shot down, then cut up through Warwickshire to Holbeach in Lincolnshire, where they were all slain, fighting to the death, except Winter. He was captured alive, to die on the gallows, and a sufficient number of others, directly or unpremeditatedly connected with the affair, to be hanged, including young Princess Elizabeth, queen in place of James, to suppose the most fulsome and exciting religious fervor being of the time, and more or less of the present day.

Retrospective reminiscence
The Place of Decision.

Shakespeare, Bacon and Fletcher were said to dwell in the Old Globe yard at Westminster and at St. Paul's.

The manor of St. Ledgers, the former home of the anti-conspirator, Sir Robert Catesby, is one of the most ancient in Britain. It possesses an eventful history. I am doubtful for the romantic narrative to be said. The Ashby St. Ledgers, Catesbys, are proprietors and lord of the manor. Ashby lies in peculiar interest, in view of Sir Ledgers' individual historic association, it is proper to state that it is as illustrative of the extraordinary to method, not traditional, age of immemorial English tenure, there frequent occasions, subsistence, and the almost purely classes whose work might be written upon almost any single piece of ancient material property in England.

The manor was granted by William the Conqueror to Hugh de Grentmesnil over 800 years ago. At the time "Domesday Book," the first tax book of England, was prepared (1085-6), Hugh de Grentmesnil held land "Ledgar" of land in Ashby. There were eight acres of meadow, and for which was then valued at sixty shillings. This Hugh accompanied the conqueror on his expedition to England and was assisted for the service with upward of 100 manors in different counties, twenty of which were in Northamptonshire. He was succeeded with the Ledgers, Robert and William Fitzhubert in assisting the King's office of Butlery of England two years after the conquest, and died in 1096, his son about to be assassinated a religious hero.

He was succeeded by his son, Robert, from whom the estate descended in 1131 to Ida de Grentmesnil, his eldest surviving brother and heir. This Ida joined the rebellion in support of Robert, duke of Normandy in the reign of Henry I, but the expedition failing, and being secretly fined for his disloyalty, he applied for protection to Robert, earl of Gloucester, one of the King's chief counselors, at whose request he conferred a priorship in Jersey. Ida was thus prepared his son assumed his name and became Sir Ledgers, by way of security, for himself, his son and his heirs, and, if forfeit by reason, to the King, and