

brought to light documents of the utmost importance. Some of these show that many a glowing statement or highly wrought sentence of some of our great historians, as Carlyle for example, is only due to a very short memory or a heated imagination.

England has now a society known as the Historical Manuscript Commission, which has been at work for years, and its results are beginning to be seen. Not long ago was published the "Douglas Book," or history of the Douglas family and its branches. This was followed by the publication of the historical documents of the Lennox family, and now the Duke of Northumberland has caused M. de Fonblanque to re-construct the history of the house of Percy. M. de Fonblanque has acquitted himself of the task with great fidelity, and has thrown considerable light not only on the part played by this distinguished family in English history, but also on the manners and customs of feudal times.

The Percy family was originally from Perci, near Villedieu in Normandy, where still exists an old chateau called the "Chateau de Perci." The Percys came over with William the Norman, and received large grants of land in the north of England. Richard de Percy was foremost among the barons who extorted Magna Charta from King John, and defied the pretensions of the Pope of Rome to the overlordship of the English realm. The best known of the Percys was the Duke of Northumberland, mentioned by Shakespeare as the "king-maker." The achievements of his son Hotspur, the fiery border chieftain, have also been immortalized by the world-renowned dramatist. It was one of the Earls of Northumberland who was sent by Henry VIII. to arrest Cardinal Wolsey. The great grief of the Cardinal, his melancholy death soon after, and the promotion of Northumberland to be Knight of the Garter, are all well known historic facts.

Three times have members of the family been permitted by royal decree to assume other names, so that at the present time the Smithsons, the Somersets, and the Brabants have all claims as branches of the house of Percy. It was in the reign of the Tudors that England began that great transformation which has rendered her so different in her institutions from the other nations of Europe. It was in that wonderful epoch that royal decrees gave so many new names and titles to tens of thousands of worthy subjects. In early times it was sufficient to recognize individuals as George and Richard and John, or, if that was not enough, the place of their residence, as Wood or Field or Hill, or the name of their business was added, as Weaver, Baker, Smith, etc. According to these records it was in the age immediately previous and at the time of Shakespeare that men began to be known by a greater diversity of names. At the first glance one is surprised to find that Langtym and Ferryman, Wadsworth and Langford all sprang from

the same family. It is for this reason that these documents, published by the Historical Commission, are of special value, as they afford means by which persons of diverse names can prove that in reality they are descended from the same parents. In these documents we see the origin of many social customs and the causes that led to England's wonderful life.

A world-renowned potentate said that he found his metropolis of brick, and transformed it into one of marble. In like manner Queen Elizabeth might have boasted that she found her realm a poor outlying dependency of Catholic Spain, and that she metamorphosed it into a rich, independent and Protestant nation. In spite of the deadly hatred which existed in the various religious parties, the talisman with which good Queen Bess effected her wondrous work was religious toleration at home and a peace policy abroad. "No war, my lords," she repeatedly explained, and her numberless intrigues, and even the female coquetry which she carried on with half the unmarried sovereigns of Europe, were all parts of a calculated policy. When a famous Protestant preacher denounced from the pulpit the iniquity of image worship, the irate Queen called out from the royal pew, "Leave that alone, Mr. Dean; stick to your text." Most of the Catholics believed that she was Protestant; many of the Protestants declared that she was Catholic. It is the spirit of toleration that lies at the foundation of England's freedom. The cause of Queen Elizabeth's popularity may be found in her own words. She said to her first parliament, "No wordly thing is so dear to me as the love and goodwill of the English people." However, when occasion required it, Queen Elizabeth could swear. As a British wag remarks, "She did not swear in a vulgar manner, but she performed it with a delicate, airy grace, infused into it a luxurious *abandon*, and dressed it up with poetical adjectives until it seemed like the strain of a sweet singer, or rather like a sweet singer straining herself in fact! Queen Elizabeth had red hair, and the delicate shade of her maroon tinted nose contrasted strongly with the alabaster of her bust." Still, the people of England tolerated her deficiencies because of her solicitude for their welfare. The whole population of the country at that time scarcely exceeded five millions, and the burden of all the vessels engaged in commerce in English ports was not more than fifty thousand tons in a year. The size of their vessels then would now seem insignificant; a modern collier brig is probably as large as the biggest merchant vessel which then sailed from the port of London. By far the most important branch of English trade was with Flanders. Antwerp and Bruges were in fact, then, the general marts of the world. It was with the ruin of Antwerp at the time of its siege and capture by the Duke of Parma that the commercial supremacy of London was first

established. A third of the merchants and manufacturers of the ruined city found a refuge on the banks of the Thames. The export trade to Flanders died away and London developed into the general mart of Europe. The rough and wattle farmhouses were superseded by dwellings of brick and stone. Pillows and beds came into use, which had formerly been dispensed by the farmer as fit only for sick women. The lavishness of wealth revolutionized English dress. The Queen's three thousand robes were rivalled by the slashed velvets and jewelled cloaks of the courtiers around her. Men wore the price of a parish on their backs. Gallants gambled away a fortune at a sitting, and then started off to the Indies to make a fresh one. Still the northern part of the island was independent, and the Scottish Queen even disputed Elizabeth's right to her own crown. Elizabeth's council board, at the beginning of her reign, were part Catholic and part Protestant. At the close of her reign they were all Protestant. Silently, almost, unconsciously England accepted the reformed faith. This greater freedom in religious matters brought about greater freedom in secular affairs, and raised Parliament to greater importance than it had possessed during the reign of any previous English Sovereign.

The histories of Britain have heretofore been the histories of her kings and nobles. These documents make it possible for the real history of the British people to be written. The fact that the histories of the Douglas, the Lennox, and the Percy families have been bought by the people, and that hundreds of other "family records" are in course of preparation, shows the interest manifested by the people in this subject. It now seems that documents are in existence which, when published, will prove that for the most part the Anglo-Saxon race is one vast brotherhood. To those who wish to perfect their genealogies these publications will have a deep and abiding interest.

J. H. WARD.

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### BLOATED ARMAMENTS.

Latterly, in consequence of the huge armies which are maintained by the different powers, it has been the custom to speak of Europe as a great military encampment. Since the date of the great Franco-German war the tendency has been steady toward increased armaments. The rivalry has been unintermittent, and the result is that armies and navies have grown to such an extent that peace has become greatly more expensive than war was wont to be.

Most people have a general idea of the bulk of these armaments; but only a very few have anything like an accurate conception of the actual condition of affairs. From a well-prepared table, based upon the most recent official documents and declarations just published, we give some figures which will enable our read-