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In Memoriam.

THE late SIR WILLIAM VERNON GUISE, Baronet, F.G.S., F.L.S., departed this life on Saturday, the 24th September, after an illness of some duration. He was well known in his county, and greatly respected as far as he was known; and the intelligence of his death, though not unexpected by his friends, cast a gloom of sorrow over the whole county.

Sir William was descended from one of the most ancient families in England. His ancestors were probably retainers of Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, and Grand Justiciary of England, for they bore, and still bear, the same arms, differenced only by a canton charged with a mullet. *Gu. seven lozenges vair, 3, 3, and 1, conjoined, upon a canton or a mullet pierced sa.*, and John de Burgh, son of the famous Justiciary, granted to Anselm de Gyse (as the name was then written) for his homage and service all the Manor of Elmore, to be held to the said Anselm and the heirs of his body for ever of the said John and his heirs by the payment, annually at Easter, of one clove (*unum clavum gariophili*); and this manor has continued to be held in the male line by the descendants of the said Anselm, without alienation or forfeiture, from the date of the grant to the present time, nineteen descents. The charter is preserved among the muniments at Elmore, with the heraldic seal of *de Burgh*, in white wax appended. It is undated, but in the Record Office still exists the fine levied for the Warranty of the Charter on the morrow of the Ascension of Our Lord 1274. Previous to this grant the family of Gyse was seated at Apsley Gyse, in Bedfordshire, though for what period we know not, but sufficiently long for the manor to acquire the name of Gyse as a distinction; and this manor the Gysec also held until 1539, when it was exchanged with the King for the Manor and Lordship of Brockworth in Gloucestershire,

Sir Christopher Guise, of Elmore and Brockworth, was created a Baronet in 1661. This title, however, became extinct on the death of his great-great-grandson, Sir William Guise, in 1783, unmarried; but it was revived in the same year in the person of Sir John Guise, of Highnam, the grandfather of the late Sir Wm. Vernon Guise, whose father, Sir John Wright Guise, succeeded his brother, Sir Berkeley, and was a very distinguished officer, and at the time of his death was the oldest General Officer in the service. It may be here noticed that as usual when made a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, General Sir John Wright Guise was granted supporters to his arms, but such supporters are, as a rule, granted for the life of the grantee only. In 1863, however, by the special favour of the present sovereign, these supporters were authorised by Royal Patent "to be borne and used by the said Sir John Wright Guise, Bart., and the heirs male of his body, upon whom the dignity of a Baronet shall descend."

Sir William Vernon Guise was born on the 19th August, 1816. He received the education of a soldier at Sandhurst, and subsequently studied in Germany. After passing through the University of Oxford he was, in 1836, gazetted to an Ensigny in the 75th Regiment, with which he served at the Cape of Good Hope. The routine life of a soldier in time of peace was not consonant to his active and energetic mind. He was fond of study,

especially of Natural History in all its branches, Geology, Botany, &c., and he yearned for more time to devote to them. Accordingly in 1839 he resigned his commission and returned to England. He was immediately placed in his Commission of the Peace for his native County, and two years afterwards was made a Deputy Lieutenant. He took an active part in the business of the county, and in 1872 served the office of Sheriff. For many years before his death he was Chairman of the Petty Sessions at Gloucester, and attended the courts with great regularity until his last illness rendered it no longer possible.

Sir William took a great interest in the Volunteer movement from the commencement. Two companies were formed in Gloucester, denominated the City and Dock Companies, the latter of which, enrolled in 1859, Captain Guise commanded, and though appointed Lieut. Colonel of the Administrative Rifle Battalion he still continued to hold the command of the Dock Company until 1869, when he resigned; and it is gratifying to notice that so greatly was he respected that nearly twenty years after he had ceased to be connected with the Company it was represented at his funeral. In 1868 Sir William was appointed Colonel Commandant of the Royal South Gloucestershire Militia, now the third Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, in which his two sons at present hold commissions. This command he resigned in 1880.

In no way will the loss of Sir William Guise be more severely felt than in the Scientific world. He was a student of Science from his earliest youth. Even when a subaltern at the Cape of Good Hope he devoted all the time he could spare from his military duties to a close observation of nature in her varying forms, especially in the study of marine zoology and the moluscan fauna with which the coasts there abound. The routine of his military duties became irksome to him, and to obtain a greater amount of freedom to pursue these loved investigations he eventually sacrificed his military career, to which, as we have seen above, he was not by any means indifferent. By diligent study, close observation and enlarged experience as time advanced and he became a most accomplished geologist, botanist and zoologist, and with increasing knowledge he pursued his favourite studies with greater ardour. He was a man of the highest mental culture. His was not a mere smattering of science. Every subject he took in hand he completely mastered. He was *thorough* in all things from the least to the greatest.

In 1849 he became a member of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club, in the scientific excursions of which he took great interest and seldom failed to be present. Of this club, some ten years later, he was unanimously elected President, and so continued down to the year of his death, a period of nearly thirty years. During this period, accompanied by friends of like tastes and accomplishments as himself—by Symonds, by Lucy, by Hooker and other naturalists of eminence, he traversed a large portion of the Continent of Europe in the examination of the physical geography of the nations. Among his diversified studies conchology was a favourite one. He made a fine collection of shells, which he presented to the Gloucester Museum, and it is related of him that in five years he captured, within walking distance of Newnham, 500 species of *macro lepidoptera*. At Elmore there is now a fine collection of birds, most of them, we believe, shot with his own gun.

We have noticed before that Sir William Guise has throughout his life been omniverous in the acquisition of knowledge. Some forty years ago a Gloucestershire Archæological Society was formed, chiefly through his instrumentality, and he was elected its first President. This scheme was somewhat premature. The study of the science of Archæology had not sufficiently developed to penetrate into this western county. The Society was a weakling from its birth, and eventually it was absorbed into the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club, before mentioned, which from that time included antiquities in the course of its studies; and its Proceedings contain some good papers on Gloucestershire Archæology.

The history of the past as exhibited in its ancient remains, whether written on stone or vellum, asserted its importance in all parts of the world, and nowhere more generally than in England. The two great peripatetic Societies, The Royal Archæological Institute and the British Archæological Association, by means of their annual provincial meetings, brought the value and interest of the local study of the past within the knowledge of the people generally, and the visit of the last mentioned Association to Bristol in 1874 aroused the spirit of enquiry and research among the most active and intelligent of her citizens, and led to the desire for the revival of the old County Society. The suggestion first originated with Mr. John Taylor, then Librarian of the Bristol Museum and Library, to his lasting credit, who was seconded by many of the leading and literary citizens, by whom the proposal was submitted to the Earl of Ducie, Lord Lieut. of the County, Sir William Guise, and other gentlemen. Sir William Guise at once, with the impulsive energy of his nature, took the matter up, and was successful in establishing the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society, of which he was elected the first President, and on the conclusion of his year of office as such he was unanimously elected President of the Council, and he continued to preside over the deliberations of the governing body of the Society until his lamented death. He was a good archæologist, possessing a thorough knowledge of some branches of antiquities, *e.g.* Ancient Armour and Arms, Ecclesiastical Architecture, &c., &c., and the Transactions of the Society are enriched by some beautiful drawings from his pencil, which, with his usual liberality, were engraved at his own expense.

We do not know of any special works with which Sir William Guise has enriched the scientific literature of his period. He was as modest as he was learned, and contented himself, we believe, by contributions to the Journals of the various Societies with which he was connected, especially the Cotteswold Field Club. The summaries of the work done in each year by this club, which he, as President, gave annually at the close of the season, were so lucidly and tersely written as vividly to revive in the minds of the members the scenes they had witnessed, the work in which they had taken part, and the gratification they had experienced in these excursions. So freshly and eloquently, in the most simple language, was it presented to them that these addresses were regarded by them as the treat of the year.

Some people have thought the late Baronet stern and haughty in his manner, but we, after an intimacy of many years, can say we have never seen in him such traits of character. In his family he was unusually gentle

and affectionate, and was beloved and respected by his servants. He was a cordial, true-hearted and sincere friend, whilst his many mental gifts and anecdotal power rendered him a most agreeable companion.

Sir William Vernon Guise married in 1844 Margaret Anna Maria, daughter of the Rev. D. H. Lec-Warner, of Walsingham Abbey, Norfolk, who survives him, and leaves issue to mourn his loss two surviving sons and five daughters: William Francis George who succeeds him as fifth Baronet of the new creation, who has recently married Ada Caroline, second daughter of the late Octavius Edward Coope, Esq., M.P., of Rochetts, Essex, and Christopher Dering.

SAMUEL HIGGS GAEL, Barrister-at-Law, was born in August, 1808, educated at Gloucester, and afterwards at University College, London. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1835, and practised at that Inn as a Conveyancer many years. He was reputed an able lawyer, and was the author of several legal treatises and hand-books: viz., *The Bench Formalist*, *The Constable's Guide*, *Law of Easements*, &c., &c. He was employed by the first Board of Health, the Precursor of the present Local Government Board, and, again some years ago, in drafting of Bills connected with the Sanitation of Towns for Lord Robert Montague's Committee for presentation to Parliament, his knowledge of sanitary law being most valuable at a time when sanitary science was, comparatively speaking, in its infancy. Previous to the passing of the Cheltenham Improvement Act in 1852, Mr. Gael made an able report on the sanitary condition of the town, and many clauses testify to his legal acumen and thorough grasp of the subject.

He was in the Commission of the Peace for the County of Gloucester several years, and took much interest in county and local matters, and also in its antiquities and local history. On the formation of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society in 1876 he was appointed one of the original Members of Council for the Cheltenham District, and was a frequent attendant at the meetings. At the meeting of the Society at Cheltenham in 1879 he acted as guide to Southam de la Bere House, and delivered an address on its antiquities, and at the same meeting he read a paper *On Bishop Hooper's Visitation of the Diocese of Gloucester in 1551-2*. On 7th December, 1880, he was appointed one of the Vice-Presidents of the above-mentioned District.

He edited the continuation of Bigland's *History of Gloucestershire*.

Mr. Gael in 1837 married Annie, daughter of George Hassart, of Skea, County of Fermanagh, Esq., by whom he has left issue. Died 17th Sept. 1887, in the 80th year of his age.