MEMOIRS
OF THE
PROTECTORAL-HOUSE
OF
CROMWELL;
DEDUCED
FROM AN EARLY PERIOD, AND CONTINUED
DOWN TO THE PRESENT TIME;
AND, ALSO
THE FAMILIES ALLIED TO, OR DESCENDED FROM THEM:
COLLECTED CHIEFLY
FROM ORIGINAL PAPERS AND RECORDS,
Taken from Public Offices, &c. or communicated by several
Persons, many of whom are of the highest Rank.

THE FIRST VOLUME CONTAINS
PROOFS AND ILLUSTRATIONS;
TOGETHER WITH
AN APPENDIX:
AS ALSO THE
LIVES OF SUCH PERSONS AS WERE DISTINGUISHED BY THE
CROMWELLS, BY HONORS AND GREAT EMPLOYMENTS.
EMBELLISHED WITH ELEGANT ENGRAVINGS.

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THE THIRD EDITION, WITH IMPROVEMENTS.

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The history of the Disbrowe family, allied to the Cromwells by the marriage of John Disbrowe, esq. one of Oliver the protector's lords, with Jane, sister to that sovereign.

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The family of Disbrowe are of a genteel, rather than an ancient or honorable descent; it is probable that though they had assumed arms, they were not intitled to that distinction, for in the last visitation of Cambridgeshire, though there is an entry that they had taken, or, on a bend gules, three bears heads couped and muzzled argent, yet there is this memorandum opposite to it: 'Mr. Disbrowe vouches his arms to be or, a sable gules, charged with three bears heads erased argent, muzzled of the second; but, on his gold ring he gives it with a sable between three bears heads erased. Qu. Ergo for no right appears to either bearing *.'

The Disbrowes seated themselves at Eltisley, in Cambridgeshire, which manor and advowson they possessed. — Disbrowe, gent. was the common ancestor of all of those who have risen to eminence; he had at least two sons; from John the eldest, came the major-general, and the lord chancellor.

* Gwillim's 4th edition says, 'Argent a sable between three bears heads couped sable, muzzled or; which is the seal of the hon. John lord Disbrowe, one of his highness's privy council, and major general of the west.' So here are three bearings used, which looks as if they had no right to any.
of Scotland, and from the youngest, a numerous family.

John Disbrowe, gent. the eldest son, was buried at Eltisley, May 24, 1610; he had seven sons and two daughters; 1. William, who died an infant; 2. John, who died at the age of twenty years, and unmarried; 3. James, the father of the two celebrated persons mentioned above; 4. Laurence, who died an infant; 5. Joseph, who, by Ann his wife, had a daughter named Dinah; 6. Isaac, who, by Mary his wife, had six sons and three daughters; 7. Sarah; and 8. Joan.

James Disbrowe, gent. the third, but the eldest surviving son of John Disbrowe, was also lord of the manor of Eltisley, where he was buried Oct. 23, 1638, aged 56: by Eliz. his wife, who also was buried at Eltisley, Jan. 26, 1628-9, he had fifteen sons and five daughters; 1. James, baptized Jan. 4, 1606-7, and who succeeded his father in his estates at Eltisley; 2. John, the major-general, of whom below; 3. Bruno, baptized Aug. 18, 1613, and buried Aug. 27, following; 4. Bruno, baptized Oct. 26, 1616, and buried July 17, 1618; 5. Samuel, who became lord chancellor of Scotland, whose life will be given after that of his brother John's, the major-general; 6. Matthew, baptized Feb. 23, 1622-3, and buried March 1, following; 7. Isaac, baptized March 20, 1624, he was one of the protectors Oliver's adherents of Cambridgeshire; he had a family; 8. Tho. baptized Oct. 25, 1625; 9. Rebecca, baptized May 9, 1615; she married, Nov. 15, 1631, to Mr. Geo. Green; 10. Ann; 11. Sarah; 12. Ann, all of whom died children; and 13. Elizabeth, baptized Jan. 7, 1628-9.

Before I proceed to the life of John Disbrowe, esq. the major-general, who was the second son, I shall say somewhat of James, the eldest. He
was remarkably disaffected to the monarchical, as well as episcopal government, and he rendered Eltisley, the place of his residence, memorable for being an asylum for the most extravagant fanaticism, having placed over that parish Mr. H. Denne, an ambitious time-servant clergyman, whom he had (through the interest of the all-powerful Mr. Cromwell) released from prison; this man, to please his patron, and the lowest of the rabble, fell in with all the ridiculous folly that so much disgraced the æra of liberty. Psalm-singing was as heinous a sin at Eltisley, as bending the knee to Baal, and it was then as much noted for the devout exercises practiced there, as any other canting place in the kingdom; so great a patron of the godly was sure of gaining the friendship of the party; he was appointed a sequestrator, an office he was peculiarly well qualified for; and Oliver nominated him one of the assessors of his monthly payments. Mr. Dibrowe, July 13, 1630, married Ann Proby, by whom he had issue; his descendants remained lords of the manor and patrons of the church of Eltisley, until the beginning of this century, when the Rev. Ja. Dibrowe, of that place, dying in 1703, leaving two daughters his co-heiresses (Eliz. one of them, married the succeeding year to Mr. Rob. Shipsea); they disposed of the manor of Eltisley to —— Barron, of Eversden, in Cambridgehire, esq.

John Dibrowe, esq. the second son of James Dibrowe, gent. and the brother of the above Ja. Dibrowe, esq. was baptized at Eltisley, Nov. 13, 1608; he was bred an attorney, with which profession he cultivated an estate of 70l. per annum bequeathed him by his father, until the civil wars broke out, when he quitted the pen and the spade for the bustle of the camp. At the age of 28,
he married Jane the daughter of Rob. Cromwell, esq. and sister to Mr. Oliver Cromwell, afterwards so celebrated; he joined the parliament in their dispute with K. Cha. I. and first became a captain in his brother-in-law Cromwell's troop of horse; but he soon discovered that as an officer he deserved a superior post; the parliament was so well pleased with his gallantry at Woodstock, that they gave him 100l. and the thanks of the house; he continuing to merit their favors, obtained a colonel's commission of horse; he rendered the army most important service, by being greatly instrumental in quelling the levellers, and in 1648, he rose to be a major-general; he was one who took up the petition against the eleven members of the house of commons, and was named one of the commissioners of the high court of justice to try the king, but refused to sit.

The commonwealth appointed him governor of Yarmouth; and in 1650, he had the care of the West entirely given to him: Whitlock says he gave great contentment in this post; that he visited in that year, Taunton, and all the garrisons from Weymouth to Pendennis-castle, and put them in a posture of defence; the same author also commends him for a charge he delivered at the sessions at Exeter, which in some measure contradicts the assertion, that he made no proficiency in the law line, and that this had occasioned his going into the army. King Charles II. was near falling into his hands after the battle of Worcester, when his majesty was not far from Salisbury, and at that time disguised as a servant, riding before a female relation of Col. Windham's, conducted by Col. Philips; but though they were obliged to pass through a regiment of horse, and met Disbrowe and four others, and the road was

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full of soldiers, yet Charles escaped even suspicion, either because his person was not known by the colonel, or because the king was so disguised in the servant, that majesty could not be reconnoitred. In the same year he was declared one of the council of state, and a commissioner of the treasury; in Jan. 1652-3, he was appointed and acted as one of the commissioners who tried and condemned Theobald Viscount Mayo, to be shot to death, upon a charge exhibited against him of several murders committed during the rebellion in Ireland: in this year he was, during the Dutch war, declared one of the four generals of the fleet, a member of the council, and he was one of those who were voted to sit in that parliament which gave Oliver the government of these nations; but he was so entirely a republican, that though nearly allied to, and greatly courted by Cromwell, yet he was always an enemy to the office of protector; as to regal dignity, he could not bear the idea of it; and it was chiefly through him that Oliver did not take the crown, as he procured a petition from the army against his assumption of the title of king; which, unknown to the latter, was presented to the parliament: his conscience, however tender it might be, was not so delicate, but that he accepted of many places of trust, as well as of great power and emolument, under Oliver's government: for he was declared one of his privy council in 1653; he was returned a member of parliament for the counties of Cambridge and Somerset, and for Totnes, in the year 1654; one of the Scotch council in 1655; a commissioner with admirals Blake and Montagu, to superintend naval affairs; a commissioner of the treasury; a lord of the Cinque Ports; a visitor of the university of Cambridge;
major-general of the counties of Wilts, Dorset, Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall; in 1656, he represented the county of Somerset, the city of Gloucester, and the town of Lynn; and in 1657, he was removed to the other house, where he took his seat without making any objections. The protector Richard endeavoured to win him to his interest, by appointing him one of his privy-council, and chancellor of Ireland, but without effect. He submitted with unwillingness to Oliver; and as he was conscious his son did not possess his abilities, and that he was courted by Richard only from fear, he joined with the Wallingford junto to dethrone him; add to this perhaps an haughtiness that could not brook to see any other his superior.

Lord Broghill says, that as a means to effect the ruin of the protector Richard, he proposed, in the great council of officers, that as the Lord had been so gracious to them, to secure his favor, they should admit none but the saints; wherefore he would recommend them to purge the army, by proposing a test, 'that every one should swear that he did believe in his conscience, that the putting to death the late king Charles Stuart, was lawful and just:' the lords Howard and Fauconberg deserted the assembly, as fearing no good could be effected; however lord Broghill remained, and defended the government of Richard, which was intended to be destroyed by this proposition: and his lordship, to effectually counteract the other's intentions, proposed an oath to defend the established government under the protector and the parliament, which his lordship said was reasonable, since their political existence depended upon it; and lawful, because it would defend and preserve the present government; declaring,
declaring, that should the proposition be rejected there, he would move it in parliament, where he knew it would be well received; this was so acceptable to colonels Whalley and Gough, persons easily moved, that they in the most forcible manner declared for the last test; which obliged both the major-general and Fleetwood to compromise the matter, and they thought themselves happy in having neither of the engagements insisted upon.

Upon the resignation of his nephew, the restored parliament gave him a colonel’s commission; but, as he leaned more to the interest of the army than the parliament, and only meant to make them the dupes of the former, they so far resented his accepting the rank of commissary-general at the time when the army tumultuously declared Fleetwood their general, and were so much alarmed at his conduct, that they deprived him of his regiment: his conduct was so preposterous and so violent, that both he and Fleetwood were ridiculed by all parties; and his own regiment had such a dislike to his person, that it revolted. The parliament, however, fearful of exasperating him too much, elected him one of the council of state, and one of the ten who were to consider of fit ways to carry on the affairs of government, and likewise appointed him governor of the island and fort of Plymouth, all in the year 1659; but he continuing to cabal with the army, the parliament confined him to his fear, farthest removed from the capital, but released him upon his submission and promise to live peaceably; his rudeness, perhaps, as much provoked them as his restlessness; for the former he is thus lampooned in one of the loyal songs:

And
And Defborough's gotten into his Farm,
With a Hey-day, &c.
Until they do him need.
Meant the house no harm,
But took it for a Barn,
His Lord and he's not agreed.

Upon the prospect of the restoration he endeavoured to leave the kingdom, but was arrested by the sheriff of Essex, near the coast, and confined again by the parliament, which excepted him out of the act of indemnity, but not to extend to the forfeiture of life. He was scarce set at liberty, but he was again seized in London, and sent to prison, under a suspicion of being engaged in an assassination plot against the royal family; but as the plot itself never, in all probability, existed, he soon obtained his freedom. Finding himself suspected of disaffection, he wished to spend the remainder of his life upon the Continent in quietness; but in this he was disappointed; the court was still jealous of him, upon an idea that he and others of the old party would assist in reviving the republican spirit; and as the exesses of majesty never were greater than during the reigns of the two royal brothers, Charles and James, we

* It has been before observed, that Disbrowe had employed himself, before the civil wars, in agriculture, which the preceding stanza alludes to, as well as the two following verses of different songs:

Who can gain-say that it was a strong F-rt
Which blew the Lord Defborough back to his Cart,
And taught sily Fleetwood of crying the art,
Which nobody can deny.

Janiizary Defborough then look'd pale,
For, said he, if the Rump prevail,
'Twill blow me back to my plow tail,
Which nobody can deny.

cannot
cannot wonder at their apprehension, that those severe judges would take advantage of their conduct to revive their beloved commonwealth, and especially, as they were encouraged in it by the dutch; the court, to prevent any such designs, determined to secure his person, with the other heads of the party*; to effect which, they set forth a proclamation, in 1665, to require him, with several of his friends, to be in England before july 23, in the following year, and surrender himself into the hands of some justice of peace in that county where he should land in, on pain of being declared a traitor; in consequence of this, he came over from Ostend; yet, although he so readily obeyed the proclamation, he was committed a prisoner to Dover Castle, july 18, 1665, until the king's pleasure should be further known; how long he continued there does not appear, but he regained his liberty, and was again summoned by a proclamation published by k. James II. april 21, 1686, requiring him to return again into this kingdom by july 22 following, or he would be subject to the same penalties as were expressed in the former one.

What became of him after this is uncertain; but, probably, he survived the revolution, and spent the latter part of his old age in his native land: that event must have given him the greatest pleasure; it would not, indeed, come up to his idea of liberty; but to see driven from the throne an unfortunate family, who were particularly odious to him, from the injuries he had done to, and the hardships he had experienced

* The other gentlemen who were commanded to return into England with major-general Dibrowe, in 1665, were colonels Kellay and White, major Grove, sir Rob. Honeywood, jun., and capt. Nichols.

under
under them, must have been such as can only be known to a person of his disposition. Disbrowe possessed a great deal of turbulence, pride, avarice, and ambition, but had not a capacity sufficient to raise himself to the head of a party; his person and address were little likely to inspire respect, or gain affection; Granger says, 'he was clownish in his manners, and boisterous in his behaviour; this also is pointedly expressed in two stanzas of the loyal songs, entitled, 'the committee of safety,' and the second part of 'the Gang, or the Nine Worthies.:'

Desborough's a Clown, of whom it is said,
That to be a statesman he never was bred,
For his shoulders are far better proof than his head,
    Oh blessed reformation!

Desborough was such a country swain,
    With a hey down, down, a down, down.
An Easter sun ne'er see;
    He drove on amain
Without any brain
Such a jolt-head knave was he,
    With a hey down, &c.

There is a portrait of him on horseback, fold by Stent, 4to size, and a wooden cut of giant Disbrowe, a great club in his right hand, jointly with Lambert, leading the meek knight, i.e. Rich. the protector, giving in the comical history of Don Juan Lamberto, and which, perhaps,

* Under the protectors the major-general enjoyed places, whose annual amount was many thousand pounds, and he acquired a prodigious property, considering his slender beginning.

did
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did not a little help to sell the book*. The major-general had, I apprehend, a second wife; as a MS. in the British Museum, says he married Bolton's wife's sister, and with her had 2000l. but probably there was no issue of this marriage: by his first wife, Jane, sister to the eldest protector, he had a daughter, who died unmarried, and seven sons; 1. John, the eldest, was baptized at the church of St. John the Baptist, in Huntingdon, April 27, 1637; it must be he who is thus handsomely spoken of by Lockhart, in a letter to Thurloe, dated from Paris, May 2, 1657: 'Mr. Difbrowe is really a very ingenious gentleman, and I am confident will answer the height of all your expectations concerning him.' It appears he was sent to France, to qualify him for foreign embassages, the protector greatly wanting fit persons for that office, as few of his own relations were in all respects equal to that employment: the other sons are not named, except Rich. and the two youngest, Valentine and Benjamin: I will first speak of the former of these two sons, and his descendants.

Valentine Difbrowe, esq. the sixth son of the major-general, was seated at Bocking, in Essex; he was the father of two sons and four daughters: 1. John, who probably died unmarried; 2. Valentine, who died a youth; the names of the two eldest daughters only are known.

Mary, married in Dec. 1694, to Mr. Rob. Davy, by whom she had a son and two daughters; Rob. who died young; Eliz. married to Mr. Ely, of Dedham, in Essex; Mr. Tho. Ely, their eldest son, by miss Peacock, has left many descendants.

* In the 2nd impression of the above book was a 2nd part added, before which was a portrait of Col. Hewson, who had been a cobbler.

Elizabeth,
Elizabeth, the daughter of Mr. Ely, by Miss Davy, married to Mr. Will. Parker, a clothier, of Dedham; Will. their only son, left also an only child, Will. Parker, now a minor. Sarah, the younger daughter of Mr. Davy, married Mr. Bright: from this marriage there were at least two sons and a daughter: one of whom was Mr. Edward Bright, a grocer, at Malden, in Essex; so well known by the name of the Great Bright, as the fattest man that has been known; of this very remarkable man, the best account extant is in this letter, written by Dr. T. Coe, physician at Chelmsford, in Essex, to Dr. Cromwell Mortimer, secretary to the Royal Society, dated from Chelmsford, April 16, 1751, and read to the society, May 9 following:

SIR,

I now send you a plain, but true and authentic account of an extraordinary man, whom you yourself have seen, and whom I have known ever since he was a boy, viz. Mr. Edward Bright, grocer, late of Malden, in Essex, who died there the 10th of November last, in the thirtieth year of his age. He was a man so extremely fat, and of such an uncommon bulk and weight, that I believe there are very few, if any such instances to be found in any other country, or upon record in any books; at least I have never read or heard any genuine account of a man, who was equal, or even came near to him in weight. I know that Dr. Allen, in his Synopsis universae medicinae practicae, quotes Sennertus for a woman of 450 pounds; and for a man, who weighed 600 pounds; and Chambers, in his dictionary, mentions the same precisely the same way; which, therefore, I suppose he took from Allen. But the numbers are falsely printed in Allen; for, as they stand in Sennertus, cap.
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De corpulentia nimia, the weight of the woman is 480 pounds, and that of the man several pounds more than 400.

If the following story of Mr. Bright should exceed the faith of any in the present age, there are a great many witnesses, who can attest it; and if posterity should find themselves at a loss to believe it, upon his bare relation, they may have further evidence, if they will be at the pains to consult a public record of the corporation, made by the order of the present magistrates; and also the register of the parish of All Saints, in Malden, where he was buried; in both which they will find the main facts properly vouched.

Mr. Bright was descended from families greatly inclined to corpulency, both on his father's and his mother's side. Many of his ancestors and relations have been remarkably fat, though very far inferior to him in bulk. He was always fat from a child, and yet very strong and active, and used a great deal of exercise, both when a boy, and after he became a man, which he continued to do till within the last two or three years of his life, when he became too unwieldy. He could walk very well, and nimbly too, having great strength of muscles, and could not only ride on horseback, but would sometimes gallop, after he was grown to between thirty and forty stone's weight. He used to go to London about his business, till the journey of forty miles, and going about there, became too great a fatigue for him; and he left it off for some years before he died. But he was grown to such a size before he left it off, that he was the gazing-flock and admiration of all people, as he walked along the streets. In the last year or two he could walk but a little way, being soon tired and out of breath, and travelled abroad but little, and that in a chaise. He was so large and
I have had the pleasure of knowing three grandchildren of Mr. Blight. They were rather inclined to corpulency, and had a great dread of it. But it is remarkable, that the instances of corpulency have appeared also in Essex, particularly Mr. Thomas Wood a miller at Billericay, whose history is related by Sir George Baker in the 2d Volume of Medical Transactions of the College of Physicians, p. 259.
far a boy, that at the age of twelve years and a
half, he weighed ten stone and four pounds, horse-
man's weight, i. e. 144 pounds*; and he in-
creased in bulk as he grew up, so that in seven
years more, that is, before he was twenty, he
weighed twenty-four stones, or three hundred and
thirty-six pounds. He went on increasing, and
probably in pretty near the same proportion; for,
the last time he was weighed, which was about
thirteen months before he died, his weight was
forty-two stones and twelve pounds, with only his
waistcoat, shirt, breeches and stockings on; and
these cloaths, being afterwards weighed, were found
to be sixteen pounds; so that his neat weight at
that time was forty-one stones and ten pounds, or
five hundred and eighty-four pounds. What his
exact weight was at the time of his death, cannot
be told; but as he was manifestly grown bigger
since the last weighing, which he himself and
every body about him were sensible of, if we take
the same proportion, by which he had increased
for many years upon an average, viz. of about
two stones a year, and only allow four pounds
addition for last year, on account of his moving
about but very little, while he continued to eat and
drink as before (which allowance is, perhaps, less
than might be granted); this will bring him to
forty-four stones, or six hundred and sixteen pounds
neat weight: and that I find by the judgment of
the most rational people, who knew him well,
and saw him often, is reckoned a very fair and
modest computation, and the lowest that can be
made.

* There is at this time (1751) at Malden, a boy not fourteen
years old (no relation to Mr. Bright), who weighs as much.
Tulpius, Obl. medic. lib. 3, cap. 55, tells us of a boy of vast
bulk and strength, who at five years of age weighed 150
pounds: but does not say what became of him afterwards.
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As to his measure, he was five feet, nine inches and a half high. His body round the chest, just under the arms, measured five feet six inches, and round the belly six feet eleven inches. His arm in the middle of it was two feet two inches about, and his leg two feet eight inches.

He had always a good appetite, and when a youth, used to eat somewhat remarkably; but, of late years, though he continued to eat heartily, and with a good relish, yet he did not eat more in quantity than many other men, who, we say, have good stomachs.

As to his drink, though he did not take any liquor to an intoxicating degree, yet, perhaps, upon the whole, he drank more than might have been advisable to a man of his very corpulent disposition. When he was a very young man, he was fond of ale and old strong beer; but for some years past his chief liquor was small beer, of which he commonly drank about a gallon in a day. In other liquors he was extremely moderate, when by himself, sometimes drinking half a pint of wine after dinner, or a little punch, and seldom exceeding his quantity; but when he was in company, he did not confine himself to so small an allowance.

He enjoyed, for the most part of his life, as good health as any man, except that in the last three years he was two or three times seized with an inflammation in his leg, attended with a little fever, and every time with such a tendency to mortification, as to make it necessary to scarify the part. But, by the help of scarification and fomentations, bleeding largely once or twice in the arm, and purging, he was always soon relieved. I say bleeding largely, for it was always the custom with him to have not less than two pounds of blood taken away at a time; and he was
was no more sensible of the loss of such a quantity, than another man is of 12 or 14 ounces.

He married when he was between twenty-two and twenty-three years old, and lived a little more than seven years in that state; in which time he had five children born, and left his wife with child of the sixth, near her time.

There was an amiable mind in this extraordinary over-grown body. He was of a cheerful temper, and a good-natured man, a kind husband, a tender father, a good master, a friendly neighbour, and a very fair, honest man. So that he was beloved and respected by all who knew him, and would have been as much lamented by his acquaintance, as any man in any station of life ever was, had it not been, that they looked upon him for several years as a man who could not live long; and out of regard and compassion to him, considered his life as a burthen, and death as a happy release to him, and so much the more as he thought so himself, and wished to be released.

His last illness, which continued about fourteen days, was a miliary fever, as I am well informed by the apothecary who attended him. It began with pretty strong inflammatory symptoms, a very troublesome cough, difficulty of breathing, &c. and the eruption was extremely violent. For some days he was thought to be relieved in the other symptoms by the eruption; but it seems to be no wonder at all, that his constitution was not able to struggle through such a disease, which proves so fatal to many, who appear to be much more fit to grapple with it.

His body began to putrify very soon after he was dead; so that notwithstanding the weather was cool, it became very offensive the next day, before they could get a coffin made. As the corpse was of a surprising bulk, the coffin must be
so too. It was three feet six inches broad at the
shoulders, two feet three inches and a half at the
head, twenty-two inches at the feet, and three feet
one inch and a half deep.

'Great numbers of people came to see the cof-
fin while it was making; and at the funeral there
was a vast concourse, not only of the town, but
from the country for several miles round about,
out of curiosity to see how such a corpse could
be got to the ground. It was drawn to the church
on a low-wheel'd carriage by ten or twelve men,
and was let down into the grave by an engine
fixed up in the church for that purpose.

I am, sir,
Your most humble servant,

T. COE.'

There have been engravings of mr. Bright:

Jane, daughter
of mr. Val.
Dibrowe.

Jane, the daughter of mr. Val. Dibrowe, is an-
cestress of many families; I shall, therefore, be as
particular as possible, fearing the reader may not
otherwise well comprehend me: she was married to
mr. John Walford, a wealthy clothier in Essex, as
were most of his descendants; by whom she had
two sons and a daughter, William, Richard, and
Jane; mr. Will. Walford, the eldest son, was also
a clothier; he married miss Mary Bacon, and died
in 1766, leaving 3 sons and 4 daughters: 1. Wil-
liam, who married miss Ann Ruggles, by whom he
had only the rev. Will. Walford, of Terling, in
Essex, who married miss Sarah Tweed, and has
by her two infant sons. 2. Tho. who died in
1766; by Mary his wife, he had Tho.-Will. and
Mary, who is unmarried. 3. John, who mar-
rried twice; first, miss Maria Sworder; and,
secondly, miss Mary Cook; the issue of these
marriages were, John, Maria-Ann, Isabell-Jane,
and Frances (the only child of the second mar-
riage).
riage). 4. Mary, married to Mr. Arthur Tabrum, by whom she had Mr. Arthur Tabrum, who is married, and has an infant daughter; Will. Tabrum died young; Rob. Tabrum and Jane Tabrum, now unmarried. 5. Jane, married Jos. Green, a merchant in London, by whom she has Greens. Jos. Green (who by Miss Cowell, has an infant son), Will. John; Jane married to Isaac Le Fevre, esq. but has no issue; Mary, married to Mr. Luke-William Walford; Douglas, Fra. Ann and Charlotte are unmarried. 6. Eliz. died young. 7. Fra. married Mr. Rich. Daniel, but died without issue in 1780. I now return to John, second son of Mr. John Walford, and Jane Dibrowe: John was bred to the church, and became vicar of Great Bardfield; he died about the year 1770: by miss Goldstone his wife, he had 2 sons and 4 daughters; 1. Luke-Will. Walford, who by his relation, miss Mary Green, has Will. Jos. John and Jane. 2. John, unmarried. 3. Mary, also unmarried. 4. Jane, married to Mr. Dick, by Dick. whom she has Geo. John, Tho. Jane, Mary, Ann, Eliz. and Fra. 5. Elizabeth, died unmarried. 6. Ann, unmarried. Jane, the only daughter of Mr. John Walford by Jane Dibrowe, married Rob. Tweed, of Halstede, in Essex, esq. she died in 1781; the issue of this marriage was John Tweed, who died young whilst at the university; and Jane, who married J. B. Whalley, of Colchester, esq. by whom she has John, unmarried. Jane the wife of the rev. Pooley, of Box-ead-Hall, in Suffolk, who has one son, an infant; and Ann Whalley, unmarried. Another of the daughters of Valentine Dibrowe, married Mr. Bowdle, by whom she had two daughters, Eliz. Bowdle, and Jane; Eliz. the eldest, married Mr. Martin Lane; their issue is 2 sons and a daughter; 1. Lane. Lionel Lane, who has had no child by either of his wives, miss Ann May, or by the widow of U a mr.
Mr. Parker. 2. Martin Lane, who by Eliz. daughter of mr. Walford, of Witham, has two daughters, Eliz. and Jane, both unmarried; and 3. Eliz. married to mr. Hen. Ray; they have had four children, Hen. Eliz. Jane, and Mary; Eliz. died young, the others are unmarried. Jane Bowtle, the youngest daughter of mr. Bowtle by the daughter of Val. Dibrowe, married mr. Rous, by whom she had Simon, Ja. Jane, Eliz. and Fra. several, if not all, of whom have married.

Of the youngest daughter of Val. Dibrowe, I have not been able to obtain any information.

Benj. Dibrowe, the seventh son of the major-general, received from his father, half of Weft-Thurrock, in Essex, of which county he was sheriff in 1689; he died Feb. 21, 1707-8, and was buried in Downham church, in Essex. He married thrice: 1st. Eliz. daughter of —— Armfield, of Thorelby, in Lincolnshire. 2nd. Sarah, daughter of Rob. Norden, and widow of Andrew Sanc, a merchant of Dort, in Holland (by whom she had an only child named Rob.) and also widow of Cornelius Vanden Anker, of London, merchant; she died Apr. 9, 1692, and is also buried in Downham church. 3rd. Mary Norden, sister of his second wife; she was buried at Downham, April 22, 1728: by the first wife he had one son, and by the last, five daughters. Before I proceed to speak of them, and their descendants, I shall observe, how fortunate this Mr. Dibrowe was in his alliances, for Sarah, his 2nd wife, had, by the will of Mr. Vanden Anker, the whole of his personal estate, and the manor of Trimnalls, or Hennels, in the parish of Downham, which he had purchased for 3100l. and three parts of the manor of Weft-Thurrock, also in Essex; which he had purchased of Sir Rob. Clayton, kn.t. (part of the money had been paid at the time of Mr. Vanden Anker's death, but the deeds had not been sealed; how-
however the purchase was afterwards completed): all these premises were left free of all incumbrances, except the payment of his debts, and 1500l. to the child that she was then bearing, when of age, but it was to be educated at her expence: the posthumous child was Cornelia, who afterwards married Cromwell Disbrowe, Benjamin's heir. Mr. B. Disbrowe, jointly with his wife, levied a fine of the manor of Trinnalls, to the use of Sarah for life, remainder to Cornelia, and the heirs of his body, remainder to Rob. Norden, brother to Sarah, and his heirs and assigns for ever; but he sold the estate of Weft-Thurrock to Caleb Grantham, a gentleman of Yorkshire. It will appear that he must have obtained a very considerable fortune from only one of his three wives; but there is the greatest reason to suppose he had much with the others. I shall now mention his children: they were Mary, Sarah, Eliz. who died a child, Eliz. Jane, and Cromwell, of whom below.

Cromwell Disbrowe, esq. this, his only son, by the marriage of Cornelia Vand-en-Anker, enjoyed the estate of Trinnalls; he joined with his wife to suffer a recovery, and bar the intail to their issue, as they by will should appoint, and, in default, to Platt their eldest son; he died March 4, 1717-18, in the 44th year of his age, and was buried in the abbey-church of Bath. His widow survived him many years, and was buried at Downham, April 14, 1750; their issue was seven sons and two daughters; 1. Platt Disbrowe, esq. born in 1699, or 1700, succeeded to the estate of Trinnalls for want of any appointment to the contrary by his father and mother; he died there a bachelor Nov. 22, 1751; and was buried in Downham churchyard. 2. Cha. died young before his father. 3. Benj. died a bachelor, and was buried Aug. 13, 1714.
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NUM. XXIV. 1714, at Downham. 4. John, buried at the same place, Oct. 28, 1722; he also never married. 5. Nehemiah, died young before his father. 6. Cromwell, survived his father, but died before he was of age in the East-Indies, whither he went as a writer in the service of the company. 7. Samuel, died of the small-pox in London, but was brought down and buried at Downham, Sept. 7, 1729. 8. Mary, baptized May 12, 1717, at Downham; she was married to John Cha. Desmadryll, of All-Saints, Barking, in London, Jan. 25, 1741-2; he died at Trimnalls, and was buried at Downham, Oct. 8, 1763, aged 63 years; she died Nov. 12, 1770, and was buried at Camberwell, in Surry; the issue of this marriage was three sons and one daughter. Cha. Desmadryll, a merchant; he died a bachelor at the age of 40, at Coggeshall, where he was buried May 29, 1782. Rich. Desmadryll, went to sea; he died a bachelor at the age of 23, at Chelmsford, and was buried at Downham, Nov. 23, 1767. John Desmadryll, of London, merchant, born in 1748; he married in 1776, Ann Deman, of Hellston, in Cornwall, by whom he has John Desmadryll, an infant; and Louisa Desmadryll, married April 4, 1778, to the rev. Hen du Cane, of Coggeshall, in Essex, by whom she has two daughters, Louisa, and Anna-Maria. 9. Cornelia Disbrowe, the youngest daughter of Cromwell Disbrowe, was a posthumous twin with her sister Mary, I apprehend, as they were both baptized at the same time; she married Will. Lunn, of Cambridge, surgeon, son of Will. Lunn, D. D. archdeacon of Huntingdon, and rector of Ellworth; they had no issue; he died Feb. 2, 1769, aged 69 years; whose integrity and skill in his profession joined to a cheerful, amiable, and pious disposition; justly rendered him respected whilst living, and
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"no less lamented at his death." Cornelia, his wi-
dow, "after a few years bewailing this separation,
was again united to him in Feb. 11, 1775," when
in the 65th year of her age; they are buried in
the church of Elsworth; part of the inscription
upon their grave-stone I have here copied; their
arms are also cut upon it. The estate at Trim-
nalls, valued at 200l. per ann. was sold about 20
years ago for 6000l. for the co-heiresses, Mrs.
Mary Desmadryll, and Mrs. Cornelia Lunn, after
a long, tedious and expensive law-suit *.—Having
taken the life of the major-gen. John Disbrowe, and
what descendants I could obtain, I shall now speak of
his brother Samuel, the lord chancellor of Scotland.

Sam. Disbrowe, esq. was the fifth, but third sur-
viving son of James Disbrowe, of Eltisley, where
he was born Nov. 30, 1619; but little of his life
is known until the civil war had subsided, only
that he resided some years in New-England, whi-
ther he went probably to enjoy his religious opi-
nions; and from whence he returned in 1650-1,
in which year he was sent to Scotland, in some em-
ployment under the state, through the interest of
his brother, and Oliver Cromwell, the general;
when he arrived in Scotland, he sent a pressing
letter to know whether he might expect a perma-
nent settlement there, that he might be certain of
procuring a suitable provision for himself, his
wife, and children; he was chosen to represent
the city of Edinburgh in parlement; and at a council
held at Whitehall, May 4, 1655, he was appoint-
ed by the protector Oliver, one of the nine coun-

*A friend of mine says, the mansion at Trimnalls was large,
surrounding a court: and where he has seen the major-gene-
ral's buff-coat, and hat of the same materials, lined with an iron
plate, with the furniture he left behind him, and also two good
three-quarter portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Vanden Anker.
M E M O I R S O F T H E

NUM. XXIV.

Dishovves.

Iiors for the kingdom of Scotland; in the following
year, he was returned a member of the british par-
lelment, for the sheriffdom of Mid-Lothian: he so
well pleased the protector, that, sep. 16, 1657, he
gave a patent for the office of keeper of the
great-seal of Scotland to him, or his deputy, dur-
ing his natural life, with all fees due from may 1,
preceding, subject only to such regulations, in
respect of fees, or otherwise, as should be made
by his highness, or his successors, with the ad-
vice of the privy-council of England: he was
continued in all his employments by the protector
Richard; he prudently embraced the royal pro-
clamation sent from Breda; in the presence of
general Monk, he signed his submission to his
majesty, may 21, 1660, and he also obtained the
king's warrant, october 24, following, to the at-
torney or solicitor-general, to prepare a bill for
the royal signature, of a pardon of all such of-
fences, but with such restitution of lands and goods,
and such exceptions and clauses in all things, as
were expressed in the form of a pardon prepared
for that purpose, and remaining with them under
the signet and sign manual; and he obtained his
pardon, in consequence of this, dec. 12, in the
same year. After this, he retired to his seat at
Elsworth, in Cambridgeshire, which, with the
manor and advowson of the church, he had pur-
chased of Tho. Wendy, esq. (whose ancestor, Tho.
Wendy, physician to k. Edw. VI. had received a
grant of them from that sovereign, to be held in
capite): he remained here in privacy until his
death, which happened dec. 10, 1690, and was
buried upon the south side of the communion rails
in the chancel of Elswhorh church, over whose re-
 mains is a black marble slab. The rev. mr. Lunn
thinks he had either three or four wives; he mar-
rried his last wife in 1655; she was Rose, widow of
Samuel
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Samuel Pennyer, of London, merchant; prior to Num. XXIV. which, March 26, in the same year, there was a deed executed, by which it was agreed, that both he and she should give 1000l. each, within six months, to the trustees; who were the right hon. John Disbrowe, Will. Hobson, of London, esq. and Will. Pennyer, of London, merchant, to be laid out in purchases to the use of them for life, then to their children, remainder to him in fee, and a bond was given by him in the penalty of 3000l. to perform the agreement. 'This virtuous and pious lady's soul returned to God who gave it,' March 4, 1698, in the 83d year of her age; she is buried on the north side of the communion rails, in Elsworth chancel, opposite to her last husband, Mr. Disbrowe; as appears by her gravestone: the arms upon both hers and his are very erroneously cut. The issue that Mr. Disbrowe had by his former wives, I apprehend, all died unmarried: by his last, he had,

Dr. James Disbrowe, a physician, who resided at Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire, where he is buried; he married Abigail, the daughter of John Marsh, of Garston, Herts, esq. immediately after whose marriage, March 9, 1678, his father, in consideration of her fortune, which was 1500l. settled the manor and advowson of Elsworth, with a walk for 500 sheep, to Samuel for life, without impeachment of waste, with remainder to James, in fee; and a messuage, with fifty acres of arable, four of pasture, and five of meadow, to Rose, his wife, for her life, with the remainder to James, in fee; and, by a deed of settlement, dated Oct. 14, 1681, the manor, &c. of Elsworth, was settled upon James and Abigail, for their joint lives, and the survivor of them, with remainder to the heirs of their body, in fee; by which limitation the estates at Elsworth, and, I think, at Fenny-Draiton, came to
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Elizabeth, their only daughter, who married to Matthew Holworthy, esq. the dates of their deaths, and those of their descendants, will be seen by the following inscription, which I copied from an elegant mural monument, with the arms of the Holworthys impaling those of the Difbrowes over it, placed above the door of the dormitory, on the north side of Elsworth chancel.

To the Memory

of Elizth. and Matthew Holworthy, late Lord and Lady of this Manor,

whose exemplary Piety, liberal & extensive Charity, Probity, Humanity, & Candour, were equalled by few:

To them and their Descendants, whose Remains are deposited within this Dormitory,

this Monument is erected by Sam'l Holworthy, Esq.

ye 17th of Mar. 1756.

Matthew Holworthy, Esquire,

only Son of Sir Matthew Holworthy, of Great Palgrave, in Norfolk, Knt.

died the 18th of May, 1728, aged 54 years:

Elizabeth Holworthy, Relict of Matthew Holworthy, Esq. & Daughter of James Difbrowe, Esq.

Doctor of Physick,

died the 19th of Aug't 1749, aged 67 years.

Matthew, son of Matthew & Elizabeth Holworthy, died the 4th of June, aged 1 month.

Difbrowe, Son of Matthew & Elizabeth Holworthy, died the 22d of May, 1721, aged 21 years.

Susanna, daughter of Matthew & Elizabeth Holworthy, died the 2d of June, 1721, aged 16 years.

Elizabeth Heathcote, daughter of Matthew & Elizabeth Holworthy,

died ye 6th of May, 1726, aged 27 years.

Mrs. Heathcote, to whom the estates at Elsworth came, having no issue by Mr. Heathcote (who
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(who was a merchant of London), devised them to NUN. XXIV. Matth. Heathcote, esq. son of her sister Susanna, with an injunction, that he would take the name of Holworthy, which he did; his son, Holworthy, esq. is the present possessor: he married a daughter of Mr. Disbrowe, surgeon, of Huntingdon, descended from the family at Eltisley. Mr. Holworthy possesses three portraits of the Disbrowes, who lived in the last century; they are said to be the representations of three brothers; one is certainly the lord-chancellor of Scotland, as it agrees in the likeness to an invaluable miniature of that person by Cooper; by both the portrait and miniature, he appears to have been, when in the middle age of life, of an oval face, with small whiskers, and a lock of hair beneath the lower lip; he has an engaging countenance, and such as be-speaks great sense. There is at Elsworth, the travelling chest of the major-general, as it is called, and there lately was a cloak, also said to have been his; but I suppose they belonged to his brother, the lord-keeper; but what are most observable, are two large chests, that evidently belonged to k. Cha. I. when prince of Wales, and which he brought out of Spain, where they were made; they are most curiously carved, many parts of which are allusive to his reception there, and the intended marriage between him and the infanta. I have dwelt perhaps too long upon the lord chancellor of Scotland's history, especially as he did not ally himself to the blood of the Cromwells; but I thought every particular of so memorable a person worthy recording*.

* The history of the Disbrowe family is taken from the registers and funeral monuments of the churches of Eltisley, Elsworth, and Downham, last visitation of Cambridgeshire, select papers communicated by L. Brown, esq. Holworthy, esq.

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