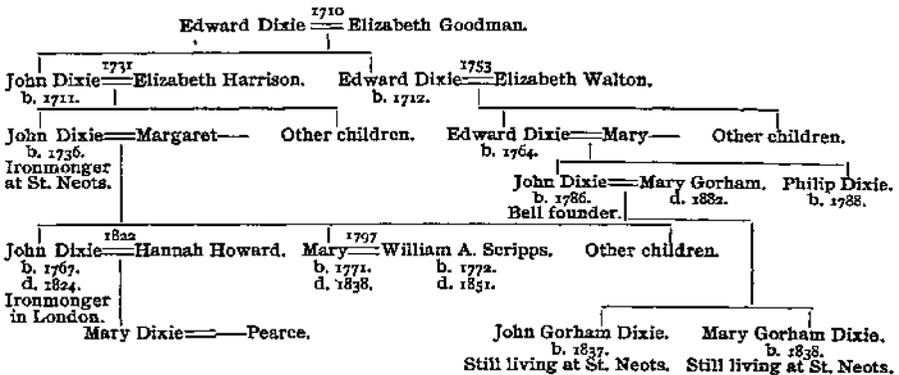


VII. WILLIAM ARMIGER SCRIPPS.

As we have seen, when William Scripps emigrated to America in 1791, his eldest son William Armiger Scripps remained in England. He was then a young man of 19, and held a clerkship which it was thought best he should not abandon. In the following year he entered the office of the True Briton, and soon rose to the position of publisher. In February, 1801, upon the defalcation and flight of the publisher of the Sun, he became also the publisher of that paper. The office of the Sun, at a somewhat later date, if not at that time, was at No. 112 Strand, the rear windows of the premises overlooking the church yard of the Savoy chapel. In August, 1797, he was married at St. Pancras church, to Mary Dixie, who was born at St. Neots, Huntingdonshire, on March 30, 1771.* He seems

*From a careful examination of the parish registers of St. Neots and the neighboring parish of Eynsbury, I deduce the following pedigree of Mary Dixie :



The Dixies of St. Neots are supposed by some to be of the family of Sir Wolston Dixie, of Market Bosworth, Leicestershire, who was created baronet in July, 1660, and who possessed an estate about 10 miles from St. Neots. He was one of the benefactors of Christ's Hospital, and I believe at one time Lord Mayor or Sheriff of the city of London. According to local traditions at St. Neots, however, they were of Scotch origin—refugees at the time of some rebellion in the sister kingdom. They appear to have been as inherently given to metal work-