

DURHAM.

Thickley—"Punchardon" was so-called early in the twelfth century. The name of Richard de Punchardon, as witness to a deed of Roger de Coigners, during the shrievalty of Ralph Haget (1159—1181), points apparently to some member of the Hampshire line who had been enfeoffed of lands in Durham; and Evayne de Punchardon, of Thickley, is enrolled among the knights who fought at the battle of Lewes in 1264. Surtees, the historian, unaware of these dates, gives a later account of the family in a weird legend, as follows:—"Sir Anthon Bek, Busshop of Dureme, "in the tyme of King Edwarde, the son of King Henry, was the maist prowde and masterful "Busshop in all England, and it was com'only said that he was the prowdest Lord in Christianity. "It chanced that among other lewd persons, this Sir Anthon entertained at his court one Hugh "de Pountchardon, that for his evill deeds and manifold robberies had been driven out of the "Inglische Court, and had come from the south to seek a little bread, and to live by stalinge. "And to this Hughe, whom also he employed to good purpose in the warr of Scotland, the "Busshop gave the lands of Thikley, since of him called Thikley-Punchardon, and also made him "his chiefe huntsman. And after, this blake Hugh dyed afore the Busshop; and efter that the "Busshop chasid the wild hart in Galtres Forest, and sodainly there met him, Hugh de "Pontchardon, that was afore deid, on a wythe horse; and the said Hugh looked earnestly on "the Busshop, and the Busshop said unto him, 'Hughe, what maketh thee here?' and he spake "never worde, but lifte up his cloke, and then he shewed Sir Anton his ribbes set with bones, "and nothing more: and none other of the Varlets saw him but the Bushop only; and ye said "Hughe went his way, and Sir Anthon took courage and cheered the dogges; and shortly after "he was made Patriargue of Hierusalem, and he saw nothing no moe. And this Hughe is him "that the silly people in Gualtres doe call *Le Gros Veneur*, and he was twice seen after that by "simple folk afore yat the forest was felled in the tyme of Henry, father of King Henry "that now ys."

"And still, when autumn shakes the forest sear,
 "Black Hugo's voice upon the blast is borne.
 "Woe to the wight, who shall his ire provoke,
 "When the stern huntsman stalks his nightly round,
 "By blasted ash, or lightning-shivered oak,
 "And cheers with surly voice his spectre hound."⁷³

But, it is clear that Thickley cannot have been granted to this wild huntsman by Anthony Beke; for he only became Bishop of Durham in 1284.

The family name in this county was contracted to Punshon; and distinctive arms were granted, in the following pedigree, by William Flower, Norroy, 6th September, 1575.

Arms: A fess embattled between 3 sheeps' heads erased, or.

⁷³ "The Battle Abbey Roll," by the Duchess of Cleveland," III., p. 24.