

*the Crown to make such a Grant,*" and yet the claim to the Earldom of Wiltes was, after all, disallowed on the ground that the Crown had no such power!

There are six instances in which there have been Grants of English Peerages with limitations to Heirs-Male—the Earldoms of Oxford, Wiltes, and Devon, and the Baronies of Hoo and Hastings, Richmond Grey, and Egremont. In Scottish Peerages such grants are well known.

In a leading article in *The Times*, 9th October, 1884, the writer—an eminent Barrister—thus refers to the Wiltes Peerage case: "None knew for centuries the strength of the claim to the Wiltes peerage, for example, until in recent years the terms of the patent were discovered. An important principle in peerage law favours the industrious or ingenious antiquarian. No statute of prescription runs against a right to a peerage. Estates may pass from family to family by lapse of time. A man loses property which he forgets to claim. But it is not so with dignities and honours, as to the preservation of which the law is solicitous and tender. With reference to the case of the Earldom of Oxford, LORD CHIEF JUSTICE CREW quaintly said, 'I suppose that there is no man that hath any apprehension of gentry or nobleness, but his affection stands to the continuance of so noble a name and fame, and would take hold of a twig or twine thread to uphold it.' In this spirit the right to a peerage has generally been treated by the law. It has not, indeed, been effectual to prevent the utter perishing and decay of many illustrious dignities. 'Time,' said the same Judge, 'hath his revolutions; there must be an end to all temporal things—*finis rerum*—an end of names and dignities, and whatsoever is terrene; and why not of DE VERE? For where is DE BOHUN? Where is MOWBRAY? Where is MORTIMER? Nay, what is more, and most of all, where is PLANTAGENET? These are entombed in the urns and sepulchres of mortality.' . . .