

perfect repair. It is now the property of John Thomas Mott, Esq,\* and is called Baconsthorp Hall. We were very kindly received at the rectory, and at the house, by those having charge of the premises, were politely shown over the grounds, and physically refreshed by an offering of bread, milk, and wine. The old ruins had a special interest for us from the fact that they had been the home of the Heydons for many generations, and of *no other family*, they having built them from 1440 to 1495, and lived in them until 1613, when the interior wooden portions of them were destroyed by fire.

In Mr. Daniel Gurney's "Record of the House of Gourney," the pedigree of the Heydons is given at some length, and nearly complete. He states that he has in his possession several original letters of the second Sir Christopher and Sir William, his son, bearing dates from 1579 to 1602, and prints several of these in full in his work (London, 1848 and 1858). I find also that younger sons of the family appear frequently in the history as rectors in various parishes in the county, and one of the line, though deceased 250 years ago, is still remembered and spoken of in the neighborhood as "the great Sir Christopher."

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#### CHAPTER IV.

##### THE WATFORD BRANCH.

The exact connection of this branch with the Norfolk line is nowhere distinctly stated in the authorities consulted, but from a careful comparison of names and dates, with attendant circumstances, appears to be as follows:—

Sir Richard Heydon, second son of Simeon Heydon, the fourth heir of the Norfolk line, lost his life, it would seem, pretty well advanced in age, in the wars which Edward III and the Black Prince waged in those days against France. At that time the Manor of Cassiobury, at Watford, was a royal domain. The Black Prince died in 1376, and Edward himself died the next year, June 1377. We find no record of the Heydons at Watford until the year 1400, when John Heydon, the first of the Watford branch, died there, *possessed of that portion of the old Manor of Cassiobury which is known as the Grove*, and which is

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\*John Thomas Mott, son of G. Thurston, had inherited and was in possession when we were there.