

the civil wars their large estates became encumbered, which in some instances led to pecuniary embarrassment.

Notices of them appear so frequently in public documents and private memoirs, and the minuter annals of the British realm, that probably without a great deal of research a voluminous history might be compiled, and a rather full biography given of most of the prominent members of each line.

Thus (as an illustration), on examining the "State Papers," — "Domestic Series," in the British Museum, I found in the four years, 1626, '27, '28, and '29, almost monthly allusions to the Heydons, and the preparations for and results of the expedition of the Duke of Buckingham against France and the Isle of Rhea. The preparations were principally in the hands of Sir William, who was an expert engineer, and commanded the expedition. Experiments were conducted by him with reference to various kinds of artillery and other weapons of offence to be used.

The papers passing between him and the government are frequently mentioned, in some of which he is spoken of with high commendation. His brother John, who seems to have been a captain in the navy, and afterwards became a knight, acted as treasurer, or purser of the expedition; while Miles Heydon, a second brother, had also the command of a company conferred on him. Many interesting facts concerning them may there be learned. The general accounts say that Sir William was *killed* at the battle of Rhea. One report has it that he was *drowned*. While in these papers the details are more fully brought out, from which it appears that the troops fought near the ships on the shore, and being forced back into the water during the battle. Sir William received a shot *while standing in the water*, and being somewhat severely wounded fell into the water and was drowned. So he met his death, the waves finishing what the musket-ball alone might not have accomplished. His brother, Sir John, who was with him, and appears to have had an important command, became his executor, and heir to the estates.

I find also that there was at one time a Barony of Heydon, in the County of York, which became extinct as late as 1764.

. . . It is in these same State papers that we discover that the De-