

DISCOVERY OF THE LONG-SOUGHT PORTRAIT OF SIR JOHN FORTESCUE, OF SALDEN.

IN the first volume of the RECORDS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, page 92, in an article by the Rev. Thomas Horn, of Mursley with Salden, mention is made, on the authority of Browne Willis, of a full-length portrait of Sir John Fortescue, with an inscription underneath, describing his descent:—"Sir John Fortescue, Knight, Chancellor of the Exchequer and of the Duchy of Lancaster, Master of the Wardrobe, and of the Privy Councillor to Queen Elizabeth and King James. He built Salden House, and was the sonne of Sir Adrian Fortescue, Knight, Gentleman of the Privy Chamber to King Henry VIII., son of Sir John Fortescue, Knight Banneret to King Henry VII., great grandson of Sir John Fortescue, Knight, Governor of Brie, in France, under King Henry V., lineally descended in the ninth generation from Richard Fortescue, Knight, Cupp-bearer to King William the Conqueror."

The portrait disappeared from view for many years, and nothing was known of its site, or even its existence. Lord Clermont, who has written a work, entitled, "An Account of the Family of Fortescue," offered a reward of £50 to any person who should supply such information as might lead to a copy being procured, and a lesser sum for any information that might lead to its discovery. Advertisements were widely circulated, and every means adopted to bring it to light, but for a long time without success.

Lord Clermont's work, printed for private distribution, first appeared in 1869, in two volumes quarto: vol. i. containing the works of Sir John Fortescue, the Chancellor; vol. ii., the general history of the family. His lordship is now on the eve of publishing a revised edition of the second volume only. The following communication has been received from him:—

"The renewed search for the missing portrait of Sir John Fortescue, of Salden, who died in 1607, was begun in July, 1878, and perseveringly and thoroughly conducted by Mr. Richard Sims. It was the Rev. Michael



SIR JOHN FORTESCUE.

Chancellor of the Exchequer to Queen Elizabeth.

*From the original Picture in the possession of
Lord Clermont.*

Dwane, of Weston Underwood, who first ascertained that the picture was still in existence, and where it was to be found. It was shown to have passed from the Fortescues, on the failure of heirs male of Sir Francis Fortescue, the last baronet, at his death in 1729, to the Whorwoods of Weston Underwood, who inherited by marriage one-half of the estate and of Salden House; and it is mentioned by the Rev. William Cole, of Bletchley, who wrote in 1778, as having been seen by him at Mrs. Whorwood's house at Weston Underwood, where it was, no doubt, carried, when that half of Salden House which fell to the share of the Whorwoods was demolished in 1743. From that family it descended by marriage to the Greenwoods of Brize Norton, and from them also by marriage to the Pattersons of Leamington Priors, and it has thus been traced down to the present generation. Having in recent times fallen into the hands of those who did not consider it a family relic, it was parted with, and has become the property of Lord Clermont.

The picture is in a good state of preservation. It is a three-quarters length, and agrees with the Rev. William Cole's description of it. Speaking of this picture, he says:—"I think Mr. Willis is mistaken in calling this picture a full length; at least, I remember to have seen one more than once of Sir John Fortescue, with an inscription of this sort, and only a three-quarters length, down to the knees, at Mrs. Whorwood's, at Weston Underwood." It has been engraved for Lord Clermont, by Mr. Hunt, and copies can be had at Messrs. Graves, printsellers, Pall Mall. His lordship has presented a copy of it in oils to the Bodleian Library, Oxford, to which Sir John Fortescue was a benefactor.

The monument of the same Sir John Fortescue, of Salden, and those of his wife and eldest son in Mursley Church, having become much disfigured by age and injury, were restored by Lord Clermont in 1866, and replaced in the newly-rebuilt chancel in their former positions.
