

## CHAPTER XIV.

### THE I'ANSONS OF CORFE CASTLE. BRAVE DAME MARY.

CORFE CASTLE,  
The Island of Purbeck, Dorset.



SIR THOMAS I'ANSON, Bart. (fourth Baronet), who owned the estate of New Bounds on the death of his father, married, 27th March, 1723, at Newington Butts, in the County of Surrey, Mary Bankes, only surviving daughter of John Bankes, late of Kingston Hall, Dorset, Esq., eldest son and heir of Sir Ralph Bankes, Knight, who was eldest son and heir of Sir John Bankes, Attorney-General to King Charles I., afterwards Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and later on Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench. The Rev. Sir Thomas Bankes I'Anson (fifth Baronet) was Rector of Corfe Castle and Prebendary of the Church of Wells. He married Mary, eldest daughter of Edmund Hayter, of Creech, in the Island of Purbeck, Dorset, Esq., the marriage taking place at Kingston Chapel, in the parish of Corfe Castle, May 24th, 1753. John, the brother of Sir Thomas Bankes I'Anson, married Mary Fyler, granddaughter of George Gray, of Kingston, Dorset, Esq., at St. George's, Hanover Square, London. He succeeded as seventh Baronet, owing to the death, in 1799, of his nephew, The Rev. Sir John Bankes I'Anson, sixth Baronet.

The government of the Island of Purbeck was anciently exercised by a Lord Lieutenant, generally the Governor of Corfe Castle, who was Admiral of the Island, and Governor of Brownsea Castle, and had power to raise and muster a militia. This power ceased when the Militia Act was passed, 1757, Mr. BANKES not entering his claim.

Sir William Hatton gave the Manor and Castle of Corfe to his Lady Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Cecil, Earl of Exeter, and afterwards second wife to Lord Chief Justice Coke, who, in 1635, sold them to Sir John Bankes, "whose descendant, Henry John Percival Bankes, Esq., a minor, now possesses them" (Hutchins, Vol. I., p. 471).

Lady Bankes's estate in Purbeck, valued at £344 in 1641, was sequestered 1645.

The Lord of the Manor was Lord Lieutenant of the Island, an hereditary office, scarce enjoyed by any private person in the Kingdom.

King Charles II. recites an enrolment of a Charter (18 Elizabeth) in regard to the control and government of the Island:—

"That Edward Dacomb, Esq., be the present Mayor; Edward Osborn. (called Lord Latimer), JEROM BANKES, Anthony Ettrick, Esquires; Anthony Forsman, William Frampton, Philip Bayly, Nathaniel Smith, senior, and James Lommers, Gentlemen, be the present Barons; *that nothing be done prejudicial to the heirs of Sir Ralph Bankes.*"

Amongst the list of Members of Parliament for the Borough of Corfe Castle we find:—

CHARLES I.—

- (16) John Borlace, Esq., afterwards Sir John Borlace, and son-in-law of Sir John Bankes. He attended the Royal Parliament at Oxford, January 22nd, 1644, for which he was declared, by the House of Commons, Westminster, to have forfeited his seat, and his successor appointed—Sir Francis Windebanke, Kut.

CHARLES II.—

- (11) RALPH BANKES, John Tregonwell.  
(12) Do. do.

WILLIAM III.—

- (10) John Bankes, Esq.  
(12 & 13) John Bankes, Richard Fownes, Esqrs.

ANNE—

- (1, 4, 7, 9, 12) John Bankes, Richard Fownes, Esqrs.

GEORGE I.—

- (8) John Bankes, Denis Bond, Esqrs.

GEORGE II.—

- (1, 8) John Bankes, John Bond, Esqrs.  
(15) Henry Bankes, Esq.  
(21) Do.  
(27) Do.

GEORGE III.—

- (1) Henry Bankes, Esq., of Lincoln's Inn, one of the King's Counsel, made Commissioner of the Customs, 1762.  
(20) Henry Bankes, Esq.  
(23) Do.  
(29) Do.  
(30) Do.  
(36) Do.  
(40) Do.  
(47) Do.  
(52) Do.  
(53) William Bankes, Esq., in the room of Peter William Baker, Esq., deceased.  
(58) Henry Bankes, Esq.

GEORGE IV.—

- (1) Henry Bankes, Esq., George Bankes, Esq.  
(4) John Bond, Jun., Esq., in the room of George Bankes, Esq., vacated.  
(6) George Bankes, Esq., in the room of Henry Bankes, Esq., who accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.  
(7) George Bankes, Esq.

WILLIAM IV.—

- (1) George Bankes, Esq., vacated and re-elected on his appointment as a Commissioner of His Majesty's Exchequer.  
(1) George Bankes, Esq.  
(2) Do.

The Borough of Corfe Castle was disfranchised as a separate constituency by the Reform Bill and united to Warcham.

In the List of Mayors of Corfe Castle we find:—

1799	Sir J. B. P'Anson, Bart.
1809	George Bankes, Esq.
1817	Rev. E. Bankes.
1819	Rev. Edward Bankes.
1821	Do.
1826	Do.
1834	Do.
1836	William John Bankes, Esq.
1838	George Bankes, Esq.
1840	Do.
1847	Do.
1855	Rev. Eldon Surtees Bankes.
1857	Do.
1859	Do.
1860	Do.
1861	Do.
1862	Do.

In Corfe Castle is what Hutchins describes as "the prison chapel." Some modern arches and stone benches for seats have been inserted in the walls, traditionally by Sir Thomas P'Anson, Rector of the parish, who is said to have made a "summer house" of the prison chapel.

Sir Thomas P'Anson (fourth Baronet), married Mary Bankes, great-granddaughter of the Lady Bankes who so heroically defended Corfe Castle against the Rebels during the Civil War in the reign of Charles I. An interesting account of the siege may be found in "Mercurius Rusticus," and relates how the Right Honourable Sir John Bankes, whose possession and inheritance the Castle was, was commanded by King Charles I. to attend him at York, and Lady Bankes, "a vertuous and prudent lady," resolved, with her children and family, to retire to this castle, there to shelter themselves from "the storme which she saw coming." They remained there until May, 1643, when the Rebels, under the command of Sir Walter Earle, Sir Thomas Trenchard, and others, having captured Dorchester, Lyme, Melcome, Weymouth, Warham, and Poole, found only Corfe Castle remaining to the King. In the castle was an old soldier, one Captain Bond, "whom I should deprive of his due honour not to mention him, having a share in the honour of this resistance."

The "base cowardisme in the assaylants added courage and resolution to the defendants; therefore, not compelled by want, but rather to brave the rebels, they sallyed out and brought in eight cows and a bull into the castle without the loss of a man or a man wounded."

Captain Laurence and the greater part of the soldiers defended the middle ward; Lady Bankes, with her daughters, women, and five soldiers, defended the upper ward, and, by heaving over stones and hot embers, they repelled the rebels, and kept them from climbing their ladders.

"Thus, after six weeks' siege, this castle, the desire of the Rebels, the teares of old Sir Wat, and the key of those parts, by the loyalty and brave resolution of this honourable Lady, the valour of Captain Laurence and some eighty souldiers (by the losse only of two men), was delivered from the bloody intentions of these mercesse Rebels on the 4th of August, 1643."

(The Captain Laurence is Captain Robert Laurence.) In revenge, Sir Walter Earle sent a party to Sir Edward Laurence's house, which he plundered, so that he left only the walls standing, forcing his lady into the woods to save her life.

Corfe Castle was taken by treachery on the night of 26th February, 1645, and plundered and demolished.

KINGSTON HALL was built by Sir Ralph Bankes, grandfather of Dame Mary I'Anson.

From the Register of *Baptisms* :—

John Bankes, born September 13th, baptised October 14th, 1759; Thomas, born March 31st, baptised May 10th, 1767; sons of Sir Thomas Bankes I'Anson and Dame Mary, his wife.

From the Register of *Marriages* :—

The Rev. Thomas Bankes I'Anson and Mrs. Mary Hayter, May 24th, 1753.

THE RECTORY.—Corfe is a Royal peculiar, formerly exempt from Episcopal visitation or jurisdiction, but the Rector received institution from the Bishop of Salisbury, and induction from the Archdeacon of Dorset.

Under recent legislation, however, all peculiar jurisdictions have been abolished. The Rector was official of this peculiar—proved Wills, determined Causes, and appointed Surrogates.

Hutchins says : " The parsonage house was destroyed in the Civil Wars, and part of the ruins were brought away to repair the Church, damaged in the siege.

" It has since been rebuilt, and stands detached, about one mile from the town, and situated upon an eminence to the south-west of the Castle, in a very pleasant situation, commanding a beautiful picturesque view of that fine ruin, and great part of the Island.

" The gardens and grounds surrounding the house are ornamented with plantations of firs and other trees, and the whole has been greatly improved of late years by the present possessor, the Rev. Sir Thomas Bankes I'Anson, Bart., who constantly resides here."

NOTE.—This gentleman's ancestors were great sufferers in the Civil Wars, in the Reign of Charles I., by their loyalty and attachment to the Royal Cause.

#### CORFE CASTLE.

PATRON.	RECTOR.
John Bankes, Esq. ... ..	Thomas Bankes I'Anson, LL.D., on the resignation of Parker, inst. February 11th, 1748, afterwards Sir Thomas Bankes I'Anson, died January 25th, 1799.
Henry Bankes, Esq. ... ..	John Bankes I'Anson, inst. April 1st, and died October 28th, 1799.

The Church of St. Edward the Martyr was rebuilt, except the tower, in 1859-60.

The stained East Window is a memorial to Lady Charlotte Bankes.

The Rt. Hon. Sir John Bankes, Knt., LL.D. was born at Keswick, in Cumberland, and died at Oxford, December 28th, 1644, aged 55.

His widow, the brave Dame Mary, was only daughter and heiress of Ralph Hawtrey, of Ruislip, Co. Middlesex, Esq. After the taking of Corfe Castle, she resided, until her death, April 11th, 1661, at Damory Court, Blandford.

Dame Mary I'Anson, wife of the Rev. Sir Thomas Bankes I'Anson, was daughter of Edmund Hayter, of East Creech, by his second wife, Mary, daughter of Seth Jermy, of St. Mary, Whitechapel, County Middlesex, Gentleman.

East Creech came into the Hayter family through Edmund Hayter's marriage with Mary, sister and heir of John Francke (baptised at Knoll 18th February, 1612). The Franckes held land at East Creech as far back as the twenty-seventh year of the reign of Edward I.

*Arms of Hayter—*

Azure, an escallop between two annulets argent, and as many faunches gutté de poix.

KINGSTON HALL, KINGSTON LACY, the seat of the Bankes family, commenced building in 1660 on the site of a palace of the West Saxon Kings. Designed by Inigo Jones, originally of red brick with stone quoins, but has been faced with Caen stone in 1834 by Sir Charles Barry, R.A. The hall contains magnificent paintings, which at one time adorned the walls of Corfe Castle. Amongst these are works of Cornelius Jansen. At Kingston Hall are the keys of Corfe Castle, which Lady Bankes never gave up. The portraits of King Charles I., Queen Henrietta Maria, the three children of Charles I.—Charles II., James II., and the Princess of Orange—Prince Rupert, and Prince Maurice, in armour, all by Vandyck, were presented to Sir John Bankes by the King himself. Also by Vandyck are portraits of Sir John Bankes and Lady Borlase, the great-aunt of Lady Mary I'Anson. By Cornelius Jansen are portraits of Ralph Hawtrey and his lady, the parents of the brave Dame Mary.

