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THORSBY

RK223(1.43)

# NEWBOLD-VERDON.

The principal land-owners are Cradock Hartopp, esq. and Thomas Pares, esq. sen. of Leicester. The advowson of the church belongs to his Grace the Duke of Norfolk, who has no other church preferment, or any other estate, in this county. He is Baron Verdon of this place.

The village is large, and lies scattered. It may contain about 70 dwellings; adjoining to which is an old hall-house, formerly the residence of the Crews and the Montagues. The present building seems only a part of what it has been, or perhaps a more modern building upon the site of the old.

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The church is among the oddities; it has two bells. I was in it by the light of a candle. It was clean and neat; but I did not remark any grave-ſtones therein.

The regiſter begins in 1556.

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| The firſt five years, | baptized | 7 | | | |
| | buried | 7 | | | |
| The laſt five years, | baptized | 39 | increaſed | baptiſms | 32 |
| | buried | 24 | | burials | 17 |

In this place is a ſchool upon a good eſtabliſhment.

"The celebrated Edward Wortley Montague, eſq. who, on the demiſe of his father, poſſeſſed a very conſiderable eſtate at Newbold, and died ſome time ſince on his return from Venice to England, was remarkable for the uncommon incidents attending his life; the cloſe of that life was no leſs marked with ſingularity. He was early married to a woman who aſpired to no higher character than an induſtrious waſher-woman. As the marriage was ſolemnized in a frolick, Wortley never deemed her ſufficiently the wife of his boſom, to cohabit with her; ſhe was allowed a ſeparate maintenance. Mr. Montague was a perfect patriarch in his manners; he had wives of almoſt every nation. When he was with Ali Bey, in Egypt, he had his houſehold of Egyptian females. At Conſtantinople, the Grecian woman had charms to captivate the heart of this wanderer. In Spain, a Spaniſh brunette—In Italy, the olive-complexioned females.—It may be aſked, what became of this groupe of wives? Mr. Montague was continually varying the ſcene.—Did he travel with his wives? No—he conſidered them as bad travelling companions, and generally left them behind him. It happened, however, that news reached his ears of the death of the original Mrs. Montague, the waſher-woman; he had no iſſue by her, conſequently his large eſtate would have reverted to the ſecond ſon of lord Bute. Wortley, owing the family no obligations, was determined, if poſſible, to defeat their expectations; he reſolved to return to England, and marry. He commiſſioned a friend to advertiſe for a decent woman, who might be in a pregnant ſtate. Several ladies anſwered it; one out of the number was ſelected, as being the moſt eligible object; but, whilſt on his journey, Death very impertinently arreſted him in his career.

"From Weſtminſter-ſchool, wherein he was placed for education, he ran away three ſeveral times: he changed cloaths with a chimney-ſweeper, and

followed,

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followed, for ſome time, that ſooty occupation. He next joined himſelf to a fiſherman, and cried flounders in Rotherhithe. He then ſailed as a cabin-boy to Spain, where he had no ſooner arrived than he ran away from the veſſel, and hired himſelf to a driver of mules. After thus being a vagabond for ſome time, he was diſcovered by the conſul, who returned him to his friends in England. They received him with much joy, equal to that of the father of the prodigal ſon in the Goſpel. A private tutor was employed to recover thoſe rudiments of learning which a life of diſſipation and vulgarity might have obliterated. He was ſent to the Eaſt-Indies; then returned to England; was choſen a member, and ſerved in two ſucceſſive Parliaments. His expences exceeding his income, he became involved in debt, quitted his native country, and commenced that wandering traveller he continued to the time of his death. Having viſited moſt of the Eaſtern countries, he contracted a partiality for their manners: he drank little wine, a great deal of coffee, wore a long beard, ſmoaked much; and, even whilſt at Venice, was habited in the Eaſtern ſtyle. He ſat croſs-legged, in the Turkiſh faſhion, through choice. With the Hebrew, the Arabic, the Chaldaic, and the Perſian languages, he was as well acquainted as with his native tongue. He publiſhed ſeveral pieces; one on "The Riſe and Fall of the Roman Empire:" another on "The Cauſes of Earthquakes." He had great natural abilities, and a vaſt ſhare of acquired knowledge."

"Newbold Verdon, ſo named of the Verdons, formerly lords thereof; who bore, Or, fretty, Gules; whoſe heireſſes-general were married to Furnival, Burney, Crophull, Blunt, Huſſey, and Ferrers. This manor fell to the ſhare of Crophull; for it was found, by inquiſition, taken in the 45th year of the reign of Edward III. that Sir John de Crophull, knight, died ſeiſed thereof.

"Eccleſiæ de Newbold patronus Nich. de Verdon; perſona Elias inſtitutus per Willielmum Archidiac. vacante ſede." BURTON.

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