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HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS IN LEICS.
J.B. FIRTH. 1926 (Reprint 1969)

p409 NEWBOLD VERDON

"The name of Newbold Verdon .... perpetuates the long lapsed association with the Verdons – who took their name from the French fortress town of Verdun – with the district where once they were lords of the manor. The Devereux followed, then the ubiquitous Hastings, and after them the Crews. Sir Thomas Crewe was one of James I's earliest Baronets before he was ennobled, and Nathaniel, the third and last Baron Crew, enjoys the distinction – though Horace Walpole refers to him as "an abject fool" – of being the first peer of the realm to hold a bishopric. But the Bishopric of Durham in those days was so richly endowed that it was a prize not to be disdained by the most opulent Georgian peer. He gave plate to the parish church of N.V. but is the best known as the founder of the "Crewean Oration" at Cambridge. The Bishop bequeathed the estate to his nephew by marriage, James Montague, and from him it came into the possession of Edward Montague, the husband of the once famous blue stocking. She described it in 1744, in a letter to the Duchess of Portland, as, "one of the most charming and pleasant places I ever saw. The gardens are delightful, the park is very beautiful, the house neat and agreeable, and everything about it is in elegant taste. My brother has made great improvements. It was a very

bad place when Lord Crew left it to him, and had no ornament but fine wood. Now tis is water in great beauty, grand avenues from every point, fine young plantations and in short everything that can please the eye." The glories of N.V., however, are departed; when the Montagues sold the property the manor house was pulled down.