

among the collateral descendants: change of bendlet into a bend with charges, the addition of a border to the fess, charges on the fess, the substitution of a chief, the use of both fess and bend, not to mention other quarterings.

The present Baron Clifford of Chudleigh still uses the arms as shown here.

Sir RALPH ASSHETON: fl. 1460-1483

There is more to say about his arms than Sir Ralph himself. He evidently rendered useful (and much rewarded) service to Richard both when he was Lord of the North and King. Buckingham had been Constable of England when Sir Ralph, as Vice-Constable for the occasion, was in charge of the court which tried and sentenced him; and he was to become Vice-Constable again. The records seem very scanty about dates of both birth and death (it is the D.N.B. which contents itself with the above). They also vary about the manner of death and whether or not it was by his own hand. Kendall asserts that he was at Bosworth and was indeed one of Richard's Knights of the body: seemingly the D.N.B. does not agree and other confirmation is hard to find.

The arms *silver with a black mullet, pierced* give opportunity to say something about the mullet: it may puzzle some. The word looks English enough but is derived from the French *molette*, which still means a spur-rowel. Logically, Scots heraldry calls it just that: it is what it looks like. When it draws it without the hole it—again logically—calls it a star. In English heraldry (which is not the same thing as popular usage) it is never called a star but a *mullet* or, as it may be, a *mullet pierced*: either way, it normally has five straight-sided points (other numbers must be specified). If English heraldry has a star at all it is one with (usually six) wavy rays and the French name *estoile*: more rays—even 12 or 16—are often alternatively straight and wavy.

The arms of the present Baron Ashton, although with other charges also, are still entirely tinctured black and silver and the pierced mullet is the most conspicuous feature.

BOOK REVIEWS

RICHARD, THIRD DUKE OF YORK, by Ian Postlethwaite. Published by the Yorkshire Branch of the Richard III Society, 1974, 40 pages, 55p.

This booklet was written by a member of the Society, and published by the Yorkshire Branch. It appears to be the first publication devoted solely to the third Duke of York, father of Richard III. The Duke at his birth was a most unimportant person, the son of the Earl of Cambridge, younger brother of Edward Second Duke of York. He was orphaned at the age of four by the attainder and execution of his father, his mother having died at his birth, but he eventually became the most important magnate in the kingdom after the King, and heir to the throne itself. A change such as this, which took place over the course of some 50 years is covered by a vast mass of documentation, and the present booklet cannot thus be more than a summary of events in the

Duke's crowded life. Within these limits however, the author has, I believe, succeeded in showing how the transformation took place.

The booklet is divided into three parts, the first going from the Duke's birth until he received livery of his lands, the second covers his career in France as Governor General, and the third the beginning of the Wars of the Roses and the Duke's assertion of his claim to the throne. In this third part some interesting details of Richard's career as Lieutenant of Ireland are given, a rather neglected part of his life. The final item in the biography is the interesting contemporary epitaph composed by "Chester the Herald" (Thomas Whiting) to the "*Flower of gentility, the powerful Duke of York.*" There are six plates of people and places connected with Richard (from photographs by Pauline Routh) and three reproductions of seals used by him or his wife (from engravings). The attractive cover was designed by Lawrence Greensmith.

One criticism I must make concerns the references. These are punctiliously given to all the sources used, but in a form which renders it difficult, if not impossible, to find the actual passages in the sources. For example a reference to "Rymer's Foedera" (no volume or page number) or to "Rot. Parl. V" is really not adequate. I hope that this can be remedied in a considerably enlarged second edition, which I am sure will be called for. Perhaps some of the documents relating to the Duke's life could also be printed as an appendix. In conclusion however, an attractive little booklet.

P. W. HAMMOND

Some Recently Published Novels

MARGARET OF ANJOU, by Betty King. Robert Hale, December 1974, £2.50.

A sympathetic account of the life of Margaret of Anjou from her marriage to Henry VI until the defeat of her cause at Tewkesbury.

KING RICHARD'S FRIEND, by Jayne Viney. Robert Hale, January, 1975, £2.25.

This novel follows the life of Francis Lovell from his first meeting with Richard at Middleham in 1464 to his mysterious death after the battle of Stoke. In telling Lovell's story it recounts much of Richard's, since the friend's fortunes were so closely linked with those of his sovereign.

WIFE TO THE KINGMAKER, by Sandra Wilson. Robert Hale, November, 1974, £2.25.

The life story of Anne Beauchamp, sole heiress of a great and proud family, married to Richard Neville. She at first despises, but later comes to love him, despite a brief love affair with her husband's brother John Marquis of Montagu. Through Anne's eyes is seen the rise and fall of the Kingmaker, the great Earl of Warwick.