

The Olivestob Hamiltons

THE powerful and widely spread family of Hamilton traces to Walter Fitz-Gilbert, who as Sir William Fraser in his recent "Memorials of the Earls of Haddington" says, is now admitted by all writers to have been its earliest authenticated ancestor, the current traditions of the family's noble English ancestry having been cast aside. Of Gilbert the father of Walter, Sir William adds, nothing definite is known, but his son lived in the reign of King Robert the Bruce (1274-1329), and in reward for his services received grants of valuable estates, including Cadzow, now Hamilton, and Machan or Dalsersf, in Lanarkshire, and Kinneil and other estates, in Linlithgowshire. The name Hamilton was first assumed, possibly in reference to some previous connexion of the family with a place of that name in England, in the time of David, the grandson of Walter Fitz-Gilbert, and Sir John de Hamilton, the son and successor of this David Hamilton, was the first of the family who assumed the territorial designation of Hamilton or Cadzow. James, the first Lord Hamilton, who married the Princess Mary of Scotland, sister to the reigning King, James the Third, was the grandson of Sir John, and after his elevation to the peerage in 1445, and his alliance with the royal house, the family continued rapidly to increase in dignities and estates. James, the second Lord Hamilton, was created Earl of Arran, and his son, the second Earl, was created Duke of Chatelherault in France. The Duke's second son, Lord John Hamilton, was created Marquis of Hamilton, and James the third marquis, was created Duke of Hamilton. By the marriage of Lady Anne Hamilton, eldest daughter of the third Marquis with Lord William Douglas, Earl of Selkirk, who was created Duke of Hamilton for life, the dukedom about 1656 passed into the Douglas family, the present Duke being William Alexander Louis Stephen Douglas, twelfth Duke of Hamilton, ninth Duke of Brandon, Baron Dutton, Duke of Chatelherault, Marquis of Douglas and Clydesdale, Earl of Angus, Arran, and Lanark, Baron Hamilton, Aven, Polmont, Machanshire,