

Thomas-the-Apostle to his widow, on condition that she should pay £4 annually for the relief of poor prisoners, within the city of London, who were acquitted, but kept in confinement for their fees.

The Earl of Coventry is descended from John Coventry, mercer, of London, and lord mayor in 1425. This worthy citizen was one of the executors of "Richard Whittington, thrice lord Mayor of London."

Laurence des Boveries, fleeing from the intolerance of his father, took refuge in the house of a silk manufacturer at Frankfort on the Maine, who was also under a sort of religious proscription. He became his clerk and overseer; and, marrying his master's niece, inherited his property, with which he came over to England, in the reign of Elizabeth, and laid the foundation of the noble house of Radnor.

The Earl of Essex need seek no truer nobility than that of his ancestor, Sir William Capel, who was lord mayor of London in 1503, and was one of the victims of those infamous favourites Empson and Dudley, who once levied a fine on him of £1600 for a false charge of not punishing some persons brought before him for coining. They next fined him in a sum of £2000, for refusing to pay which he was committed to the Tower; nor was he released until the death of the monarch, and the execution of Empson and Dudley had expiated their crimes.

The ancestor of the Earl of Dartmouth, Thomas Legge or Legget, a skinner, was twice lord mayor, in 1347 and 1354, and member for the city of London. He lent the king, Edward III. no less a sum than £300 towards carrying on the French war; which was more than any citizen advanced, excepting the lord mayor and Simon de Frauncis, who each advanced £300.

Sir William Craven, merchant taylor, who was lord mayor of London in 1610, and who married the daughter of a citizen, was the ancestor of the present Earl Craven; and the Earl of Warwick is lineally descended from William Greville, a citizen of London, and the "flower of the wool-staplers."

Thomas Bennet, mercer, who was sheriff of London in 1594, and lord mayor in 1603, laid the foundation of the fortune of the Earls of Tankerville, who are lineally descended from him.

The ancestor of the Earls of Pomfret was Richard Fermour, a much persecuted individual, who, having amassed a splendid fortune as a merchant at Calais, became, on his return to London, an object for the extortion and rapacity of the creatures of Henry VIII. For relieving a poor priest, of the name of Nicholas Haynes, who had been his confessor when in prison, with eight pence and a couple of shirts, he was committed to the Marshalsea prison, tried and attainted, and his whole property forfeited. This merchant had formerly in his

service Will. Somers, the royal jester, who appears to have had something more valuable in his composition than mere drollery. When Somers, who had become a favourite of the king, heard of the cruelty towards his old master, he took advantage of the king's melancholy towards the close of his life, to remind him of the circumstance. The king, conscience stricken, ordered the restitution of his estate; but he died before this act of atonement was complete; and it was not until the 4th of Edward VI. that Mr. Fermour had even the partial restoration of his property.

The Earl of Darnley owes the first elevation of his family to John Bligh, a London citizen, who was employed as agent to the speculators in the Irish estates, forfeited by the rebellion of 1611, and who became an adventurer himself with £600.

John Cowper, an alderman of Bridge-ward, and sheriff in 1551, was the ancestor of Earl Cowper; and the Earl of Romney is descended from Thomas Marsham, alderman of London, who died in 1624.

Lord Dacre's ancestor, Sir Robert Dacre, was banker to Charles I. and though he lost £80,000 by that monarch, left a princely fortune to his descendants.

Lord Dormer is descended from Sir Michael Dormer, sheriff of London in 1529, and lord mayor in 1541.

Viscount Dudley and Ward's ancestor was William Ward, a wealthy goldsmith in London, who was jeweller to Henrietta Maria, the consort of Charles the First.

Sir Rowland Hill, who was lord mayor in the reign of Edward VI, was ancestor of Lord Berwick, Lord Hill, and "all the Hills in Shropshire."

Were we to extend our notice to more recent times, we should find that our Granthams, Caringtons, and many other titles not a century old, owe their origin entirely to successful commerce.

The kings of England have shewn their respect for the citizens of London in other modes, equally unequivocal. There are few of the principal companies, who have not numbered on their roll many individuals of the royal line, who have owned themselves proud to add this to their other distinctions, and many of noble blood, who were ambitious of being free of the same craft with their sovereign. The merchant tailors boast of, at least, eight kings, eighteen princes and dukes, and one archbishop; besides a long list of earls, viscounts, and barons. The Skinners have had, of their fraternity, six kings and five queens; the Grocers, five kings, and several princes. James the First was a member of both the merchant tailors and clothworkers' companies. When made free of the latter, he had been dining with one of its body, Sir John Watts, who had the honour of filling the civic chair in 1607. As he was about to depart, Sir John, in the