

INTRODUCTION

THE LIFE OF ARTHUR GOLDING

In *Notes and Queries* (vol. x., p. 115) a correspondent seeks for fuller information than we now possess concerning the life of Arthur Golding. "It seems very strange," he says, "that such a celebrated man, and one who had such influential friends and connexions, and was also the owner of such extensive properties, should have suddenly disappeared, and that there should be no record of where he was buried or if he left any family." And yet, in this respect the fate of Golding was not different from that of the great majority of his literary brethren of the Elizabethan age. Unless manuscript sources at present inaccessible should some day throw more light on the subject, it would seem that there is little chance of adding very much to the confessedly scanty details of the life of one of the most important translators of an age when translation was esteemed almost as highly as original composition. The present study cannot pretend to furnish any very important contributions to the subject; its purpose is rather to bring together details from various printed and manuscript sources, and to present them in a more amplified form than has hitherto been attempted.

Arthur Golding was the descendant of a prosperous family which had resided in the County of Essex since the time of the Conquest, for in the Domesday Book we find among the holders of lands in the hundred of Colchester "Goldinc 1 house."¹ The place-name Goldingham—"the town of the Goldings"—occurring as it does in the immediate vicinity of the extensive lands held by the family for many generations, would seem likewise to denote the antiquity and importance of the family.² In the reign of Edward I. we have record of a certain Warin Golding, of the town of Halsted, and in 1306 John Golding, of the same town, was witness to a deed of William de St. Martin.³

¹ *The Victoria History of the Counties of England—The County of Essex* vol. i.

² "Goldingham" is also a family name in Essex. V. Fuller's *Worthies of England*, vol. i. p. 360.

³ Morant's *Essex*, vol. ii, p. 328—Hinckford Hundred—Belchamp St. Pauls.