



ROBERT DARWIN of Elston (1682—1754).

Father of Dr Erasmus Darwin.

As to their ascriptions, see Appendix, Note I. Portraits of the Darwin Family.



? WILLIAM ALVEY DARWIN (1726—1783), as a young man.

Brother of Erasmus Darwin.

The originals of these pictures are at Newnham Grange, Cambridge.

APPENDIX

NOTE I

PORTRAITS OF THE DARWIN FAMILY

PORTRAITS of the more immediate ancestors of Charles Darwin and Francis Galton exist at Creskeld Hall, the seat of Francis Darwin, Esq., and at Newnham Grange, Cambridge, formerly the home of Sir George Howard Darwin. Of the pictures at Creskeld, the most noteworthy are those of Robert Darwin (1682—1754) supposed to be by Richardson about 1717, and of his three sons: William Alvey Darwin (1726—1783) by Wright of Derby, Robert Waring Darwin (1724—1816) aged 51, painted by John Borrige, 1775, and Erasmus Darwin (1731—1802), painted by Wright also. See our Plates VI, VI^{bis} and VI^{ter}. I have heartily to thank Colonel C. W. Darwin for photographs of the pictures of the elder and younger Robert, and Mr William Erasmus Darwin for a photograph of that of William Alvey Darwin. The general resemblance to Erasmus of these portraits is striking.

Some of the Darwin portraits at Elston Hall were sold by William Brown Darwin, and in part have been repurchased by members of the family. Sir Francis Sacheverell Darwin had a copy made of the portrait of his grandfather, Robert Darwin, and he further purchased, about 1850, from a dealer in Newark, a Darwin portrait with which he had been familiar in his youth as part of the Elston collection. These two portraits descended to his grandson, Sacheverell Darwin, by whom they were left to Sir George Howard Darwin. They passed for many years traditionally as those of Robert Darwin (1682—1754), and of his father, William Darwin (1655—1682), and photographs of them formerly in the possession of Sir Francis Galton are so entitled. An examination of the photographs convinced me, however, that the portrait of the so-called William Darwin must be of a later date than that of Robert Darwin, and could not possibly represent his father. By the kindness of Lady Darwin I was enabled to examine both pictures at Newnham Grange, and also to see various correspondence concerning them. Sir George Darwin, I then learnt, had himself felt in doubt as to the William Darwin portrait. The Robert Darwin portrait is rightly ascribed and its ascription agrees with that of the original at Creskeld; the copyist has, however, lost something of the delicacy of the original. The history of the "William Darwin" picture is very definite; it includes a written statement by Reginald Darwin¹ as to his father, Sir Francis, finding the picture at Newark, and its being then identified as "William Darwin." The Director of the National Portrait Gallery has most kindly examined a photograph of this

¹ Letter to George Howard Darwin, Esq., Nov. 5, 1890, and also a footnote to a MS. memoir of the Darwins in the possession of the Rev. Darwin Wilmot.

"William Darwin" for me, and he dates the painting from the wig as belonging to the period 1730 to 1745. The only "Williams" possible are therefore William Darwin of Cleatham (1681—1760), elder brother of Robert Darwin and uncle of Erasmus Darwin, —who would have been 49 in 1730 and rather old for the portrait—William Morgan Darwin, his son (1710—1762)—who would have been much the right age, but little likely to have a portrait at Elston—and William Alvey Darwin (1726—1783), as a very young man. The latter is the only alternative that seems probable, and the portrait is not wholly unlike Wright's portrait of a later date. It seems therefore reasonable to ascribe this "William Darwin" portrait to William Alvey Darwin although probably no certainty will ever now be possible. The Newnham Grange portraits are reproduced on Plate XLII.

There is a miniature at Creskeld Hall of Ann Lascelles, that is, Ann Waring (1664—1722), whose first husband was William Darwin (1655—1682), the mother of Robert Darwin (1682—1754), and grandmother of Erasmus. A portrait of the Rev. John Darwin (1730—1805), another brother of Erasmus and Rector of Elston—artist and date unknown—is at Elston Hall. Finally we may note that there exists in Mr William E. Darwin's possession a very fine portrait, also said to be of a "William Darwin." This portrait, an undoubted Romney, is dated by the Director of the National Portrait Gallery 1780—1783; it represents a very young man. There appears to be no "William Darwin" of this date; and the only Darwins at all of an appropriate age would be the sons of Dr Erasmus Darwin by his first wife. The portrait bears no marked resemblance to Erasmus or Robert Waring, nor is there any knowledge of a portrait of Charles. Its history before purchase appears to be unknown. The difficulties that have arisen in this case may emphasise the importance of returning to the good old custom of painting on the canvas itself the name of the subject.

NOTE II

ON THE HOWARD ANCESTRY OF CHARLES DARWIN

(See Pedigree Plate E)

While working on the Darwin side of Francis Galton's pedigree, I came across a good deal of material bearing on the noteworthy ancestors of Charles Darwin, and it occurred to me that, as it might be many years before any one else again went through the same material, it would be worth while forming a pedigree of the noteworthy ancestors of Charles Darwin. Accordingly I determined to put together a pedigree for Charles Darwin similar to the one already issued by the Galton Laboratory for Francis Galton. In this task I have received great assistance from letters to me of the late Sir George Howard Darwin touching on points I had asked him about with regard to the latter pedigree, and referring to papers in his possession bearing on family history. Through the kindness of Lady Darwin and Mr William Erasmus Darwin and with the permission of Mr Charles Galton Darwin I have been able to examine a variety of documents bearing on the matter; the most valuable of these documents were drawn up many years ago by Erasmus Darwin, son of Dr Erasmus Darwin; he must have had a very extended antiquarian and historical knowledge of genealogical facts, which more than a century



THOMAS FOLEY (1617—1677).

Founder of Old Swinford Hospital, from the engraving in Nash's *History of Worcestershire* after the painting of 1670 by William Trubert in the Hospital. A direct ascendant of Charles Darwin.

ago¹ was much harder to acquire than at present. His accuracy is often greater than that provided in the more elaboratè pedigrees of the present day. I have had, of course, to judge occasionally between conflicting statements, but if the reader finds my pedigree differs at points from other versions, it has not been done without inquiry and consideration. It is impossible here to defend in detail the version actually provided. Of course the present work differs absolutely in character from the excellent, privately printed, *Pedigree of the Family of Darwin*, 1888, compiled by the Somerset Herald, H. Farnham Burke. The object of that work was to trace as completely as possible all the descendants of William Darwin of Marton (who died c. 1542) without regard to their achievements. The scope of the present pedigree is to follow back from Charles Darwin himself those lines which lead us to persons noteworthy in the history of this country, or noteworthy from the standpoint of European history. It is needless to say that in a certain sense such a pedigree cannot be complete. Further research would be certain to lead us to still further instances of noteworthy men or women. Indeed to keep the pedigree within anything like reasonable bounds I have had to indicate occasionally only final ancestors, and in other cases to entirely omit lines I perfectly well knew to be of distinction, but for which no space was available.

The reader who studies this pedigree alongside that of Francis Galton will be struck with many similarities, but some marked differences. The turning point, of course, lies in the Howard marriage of Erasmus Darwin. That marriage brought into the Darwin stock the sound commercial energy of the Foleys (see Plate LXIII), who like Galtons and Farmers had amassed large wealth by iron-foundries. It gave also to the Darwin stock their share of aristocratic and ultimately royal blood through Pagets and Devereux, an acquisition which the Galtons had made through the Barclays; it supplied also a pleasure pursuing element in Lettice Knollys and Penelope Devereux, which may be paralleled in the Colyear strain of Francis Galton; but it failed to provide anything of the strong religious nature that we find the Quakers contributing to Francis Galton's stock. We largely miss too the strong admixture of Scottish blood, though possibly the Butlers, de Burghs and Fitzgeralds may supply Celtic imagination. It is of interest to note that Galton and Darwin were linked together by common blood in a variety of ways wholly independent of Erasmus Darwin. I should not wish the reader to look upon a pedigree like the present as an amusing *tour de force*. I think, on the contrary, that it illustrates a principle expressed by Galton himself on more than one occasion, namely that those who have chiefly made the history of this country, we may indeed say of Europe, fall into relatively few strains and these strains are closely linked together by blood relationships². Distinguished leaders of men—judges, Speakers of the House of Commons, leaders of commerce, warriors, diplomatists, and men of affairs—are all there in the background and linked by ties of blood with the modern leaders of men—the originators of ideas which govern human progress—with men like Darwin and Galton.

I have not reproduced fully Mary Howard's immediate relatives. They belonged to a strain almost as physically delicate as the Buttons (see p. 36 above). Charles Howard, Mary Howard's father, died at 64, her mother at 40, their daughter Elizabeth lived

¹ His single pedigrees of various lines do not reach back to the same distant ancestry as mine do, but they have been very helpful.

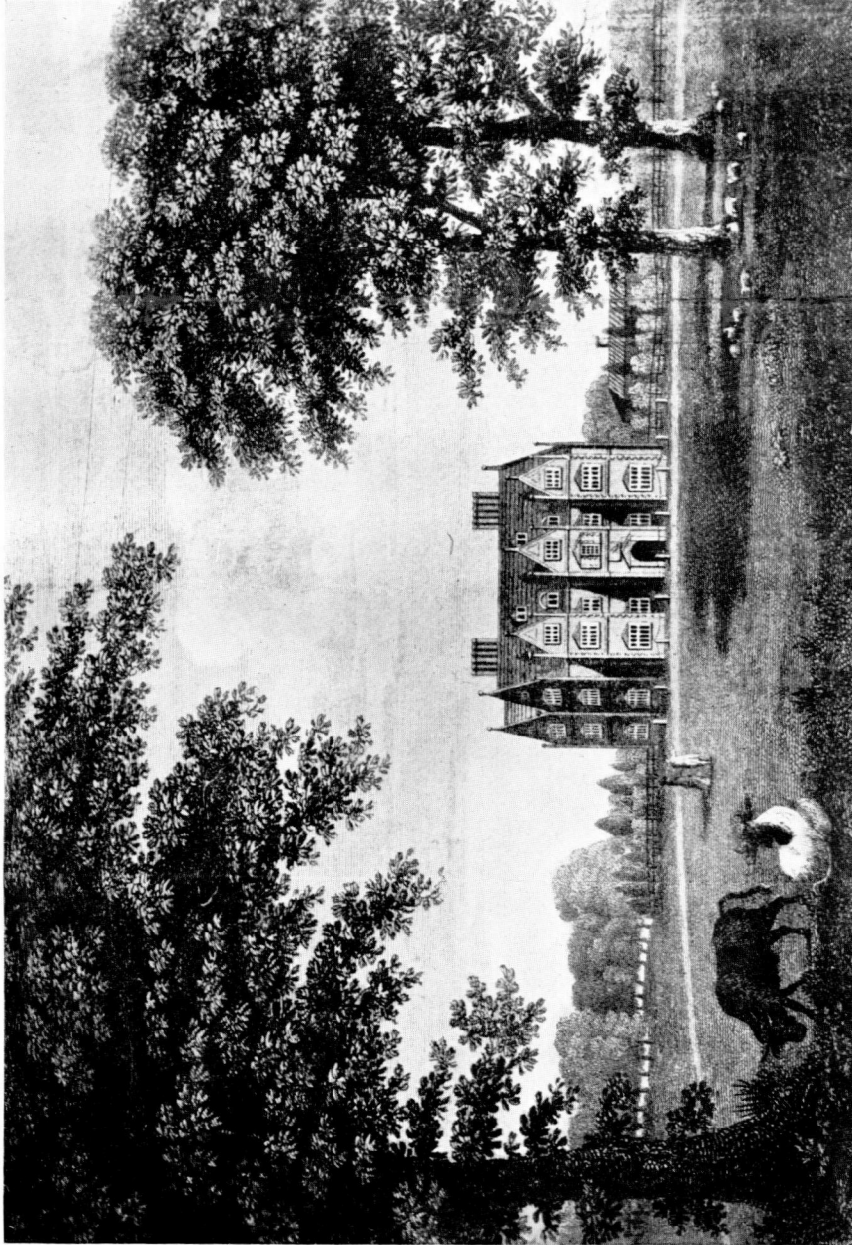
² See the quotation from a letter of Galton's to *Nature* given on p. 6 above.

three years, Penelope one year, Mary herself lived to be thirty, his son Charles died at 48 years, his daughter Frances lived six years and his son Thomas only a few months. The Howard line has been solely preserved through the one child of Mary, Robert Waring Darwin, that survived to have children, and through her brother's child, Mary Ann Howard, who married Sir Robert Wilmot of Osmaston. In both these lines there has been noteworthy achievement.

I have filled in at the bottom of the pedigree two connections of some interest, namely, first the pedigree of the Earles of Heydon (see Plates LXIV to LXVI) as far as known to me, and secondly a pedigree showing how the Sacheverells, through the Warings, link Darwins, Poles and Howards together. It has been suggested that Erasmus Darwin met Mrs Pole, his second wife, solely as a medical attendant. I think there was a recognised Sacheverell relationship. In the first place Charles Howard, grandfather of Dr Erasmus Darwin's wife, made Mary Sacheverell, the wife of the famous Dr Henry Sacheverell, an executrix of his will. This lady was the sister of Edward Wilson, a former bailiff and (1687) mayor of Lichfield, and is said to have been a first cousin of Charles Howard's wife, Mary Bromley. She first married George Sacheverell, High Sheriff of Derbyshire, 1709, and secondly his distant relative, the famous Dr Henry Sacheverell. Elizabeth Collier's first husband, Edward Sacheverell Pole, was a son of Elizabeth Sacheverell of Morley. Elizabeth Sacheverell and Erasmus Darwin were distant cousins by common descent from Robert Waring, who died in 1662. Thus Erasmus Darwin probably appears as medical adviser to the Poles owing to the Sacheverell or Waring relationship, and in marrying Mrs Pole as his second wife, he was linking himself to a family already connected by marriage with both Warings and Howards. I am inclined to take the view that Erasmus Darwin gave the name of Francis Sacheverell to his second son by Elizabeth Pole, not after her first husband, but after the family, which itself dying out, had yet linked by intermarriages Darwins, Wilmots, Poles, Howards and Warings.

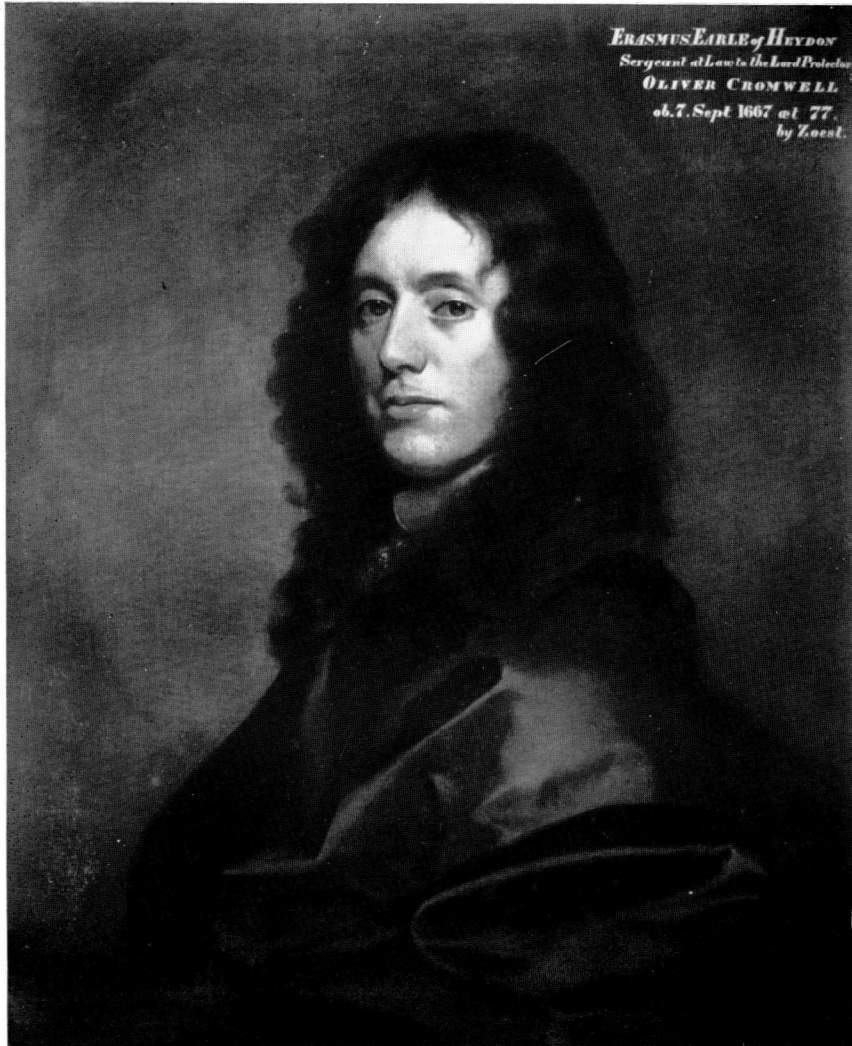


Edward, Emma and Violetta Darwin (mother of Francis Galton, on the right), children of Erasmus and Elizabeth Darwin, Derby, 1800. From a picture in the possession of Mr Wheler Galton at Claverdon.



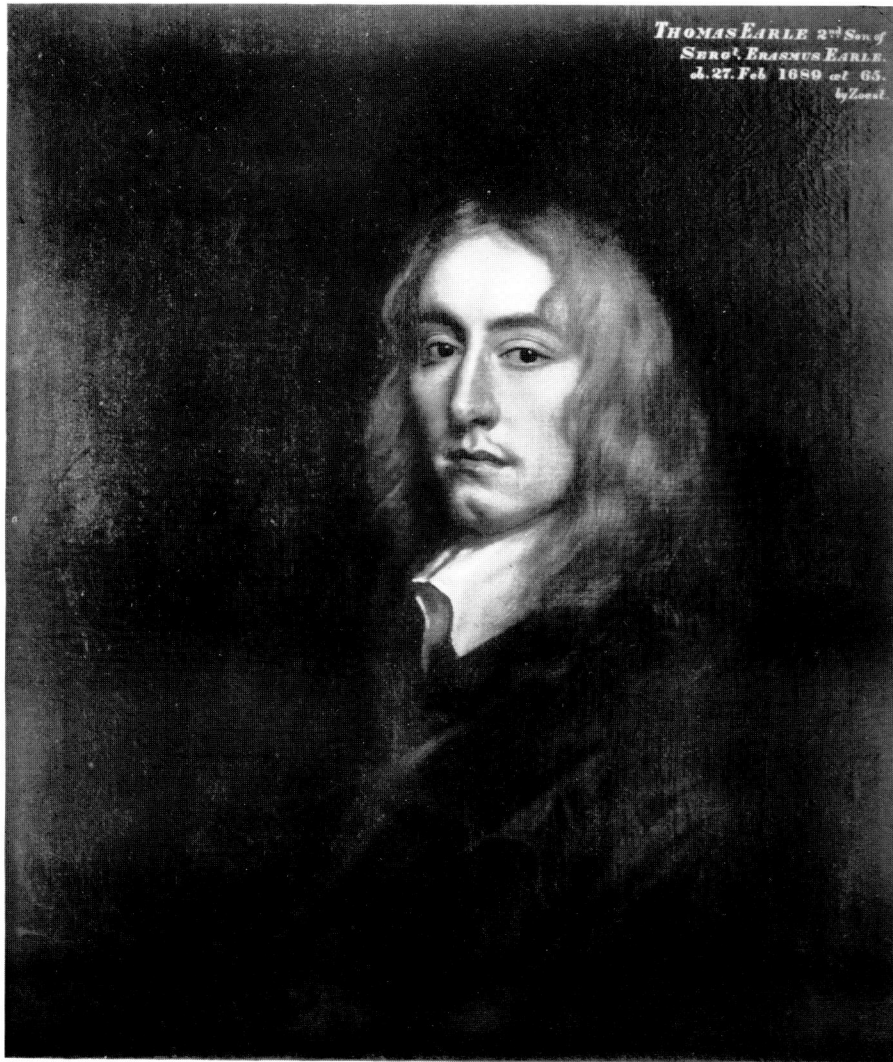
HEYDON HALL.

The home of the Earles, now of the Bulwers, their descendants through the female line (see p. 17).
From an old engraving by W. Ellis of a drawing by F. Repton.



ERASMUS EARLE (1590—1667).

Great-great-grandfather of Erasmus Darwin. From the portrait by Zest at Heydon Hall in the possession of W. D. Bulwer, Esq.



THOMAS EARLE (1624—1689).

Son of Erasmus Earle and Great-great-uncle of Erasmus Darwin. From the portrait by Zoest at Heydon Hall in the possession of W. D. Bulwer, Esq.