

GUNPOWDER PLOT, NOVEMBER 5, 1605.

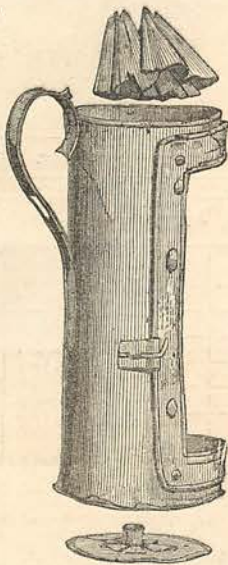
At Ashby St. Leger, near Daventry, remains to this day the gatehouse of the ancient manor of the Catesby family, of whom Robert Catesby was the contriver of the Gunpowder Plot, and is stated to have inveigled, by his persuasive eloquence, several of the other twelve conspirators. They are believed to have met in the room over the gateway, seen in the accompanying view, and the apartment is by the villagers of the neighbourhood called the "Plot Room." Of the thirteen conspirators, five only were engaged in the plot at its commencement; four (probably six) had at one time been Protestants; some took no active part, but furnished part of the money; and three Jesuits, who were privy to the design, counselled and encouraged the conspirators. Catesby was shot with Thomas Percy, by the sheriffs' officers, in attempting to escape at Holbeach, shortly after the discovery of the treason.

Guido or Guy Fawkes was a soldier of fortune in the Spanish service; he was a native of Yorkshire, and a schoolfellow of Bishop Morton, at York. In the Bodleian Library, at Oxford, are preserved the rusty and shattered remains of the Lantern which Fawkes carried when taken prisoner. It is of iron, and a dark lantern; the movement for inclosing the light being precisely the same as in those in use at the present day: the top, squeezed up and broken, is preserved with it in the case, as is also the socket for the candle. The horn or glass which once filled the door is quite gone. On a brass plate affixed to one side of the Lantern, the following Latin inscription is engraved in script hand:—

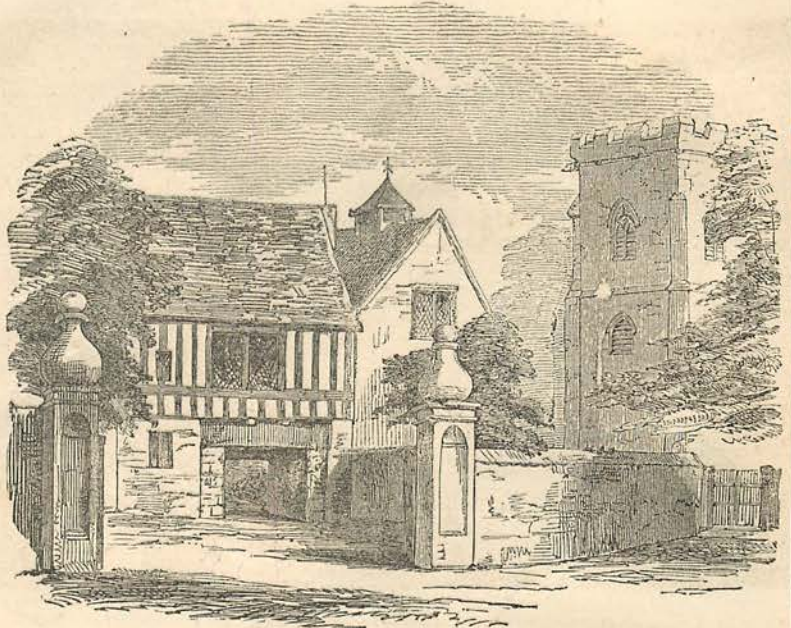
"Laterna ilia ipse quæ usus est et eum quæ deprehensus Guido Faux in Cryptâ subterraneâ ubi domo Parlamenti difflanda operam dabat. Ex domo Rob. Heywood, nuper Academia procuratoris, Apr. 4^o, 1641." And the following is written on a piece of paper, and deposited in the glass case with the Lantern, along with two or three prints and papers relating to the Powder Plot:—

"The very Lantern that was taken from Guy Fawkes when he was about to blow up the Parliament House. It was given to the University in 1641, according to the inscription on it, by Robert Heywood, Proctor of the University."

It is constantly asserted by Roman Catholic writers that the priests and others who were executed in the reigns of James I. and Elizabeth were martyrs to the faith; and the inference they would draw is, that the Church of England is as open to the charge of persecution as the Church of Rome. It is certain, however, that Elizabeth's advisers did not consider that they were putting men to death for religion; whilst, on the other hand, the martyrs under Queen Mary were committed to the flames as heretics, not as traitors or offenders against the laws of the land. They were put to death according to the mode prescribed in cases of heresy; whereas the Papists were both tried and executed for treason, which is an offence against the State. The only way in which it can be said that such persons suffered for religion is this, viz. that their religion led them into treason. From the year 1570 to 1600, Queen Elizabeth and the Protestant religion were constantly exposed to the machinations of the active partisans of the Roman See, who were encouraged by the Pope himself. Every Pontiff pursued the same course. There was a settled purpose at Rome, and indeed throughout the whole Romish confederacy, to dethrone Elizabeth and overturn the Anglican Church. Nor is it a libel on the Church of Rome to say, that in all these proceedings she acted on recognized principles—principles which had received the solemn sanction of her councils. To root out heresy by any means within their reach was deemed, or, at all events, was asserted to be, a sacred duty incumbent on all the members of the Church of Rome. The doctrine may be denied in the present day, when circumstances, we hope, do not admit of its being carried into practice; but, unquestionably, it was not merely believed as an article of faith in the days of Elizabeth, for attempts were constantly made to enforce the infamous bull of excom-



GUY FAWKES' LANTERN, IN THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY, OXFORD.



GATEHOUSE OF CATESBY HALL, ASHBY ST. LEGER.

munication of Pius V., from which the treasons in the reigns of Elizabeth and James naturally flowed. James I. succeeded to the throne at a period when the eyes of Romanists were fastened on England as their prey. A conspiracy was in agitation before the death of Elizabeth; and the confessions and examinations of the gunpowder conspirators show that a plot was partly contrived before James's accession.

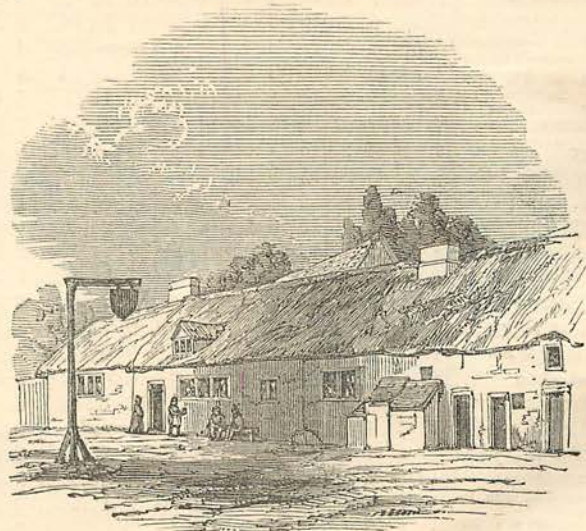
Catesby Hall is otherwise noted than for its association with the Gunpowder Plot. The house formerly belonged to Sir Richard Catesby, one of the three favourites who ruled the kingdom under Richard III.; the others being Sir Richard Ratcliffe and Viscount Lovell, on whom the following humorous distich was made:—

"The Rat, the Cat, and Lovell, our Dog,
Rule all England under the Hog;"

alluding to the King's adoption of a boar as one of the supporters of the Royal arms. After the Battle of Bosworth, this Sir William Catesby was beheaded at Leicester, and his lands escheated; but Henry VII. (1496) restored them to Catesby's son George, from whom they descended, in course of time, to Sir William Catesby, who was convicted, during the reign of Elizabeth (1581), of harbouring Jesuits here, and celebrating mass. His son and successor was the above conspirator, Robert Catesby.

LANDING OF KING WILLIAM III., NOVEMBER 4, 1688.

At Whittington, between Chesterfield and Dronfield, is a small public-house, where, in 1688, certain patriotic noblemen met to concert measures for overthrowing the Popish government, and securing the Protestant establishment by the personal influence of the Prince of Orange. The sign of the public-house was then the Cock and Pynot, now the Cock and Magpie. In the annexed representation, the second window to the right of the door belongs to the room where the patriots met, and is now called the "Plotting Parlour;" there is preserved the chair in which sat the Earl of Devonshire, the president. In 1788, the centennial day was kept with great pomp by the nobility, gentry, and people of the neighbourhood, who visited the Revolution Parlour, and proceeded from thence in grand procession to Chesterfield. The public-house was sold in 1847, for £735.



"THE REVOLUTION HOUSE," AT WHITTINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.