PREFATORY NOTICE.

At the close of the year 1885, the Peerage of this Kingdom consisted of 612 Members, of whom 511, including the Scotch and Irish Representative Lords, are in the Upper House; 11 are minors, 7 are Peeresses in their own right, and 63 are Irish and 20 Scotch Peers without seats.

The Peers created during the year are Iddesleigh, Halsbury, Rothschild, Revelstoke, Monkswell, Hobhouse, Lingen, Ashbourne, St. Oswald, Wantage, Esher, and Deramore. Baronies of the United Kingdom have been conferred on Lords Powerscourt and Henley; the Earl of Breadalbane has received a Marquessate; Lord Fife an Earldom of the United Kingdom, and Lord Wolseley a Viscounty. Three very eminent lawyers appear on the list: Sir Hardinge Giffard, Lord Halsbury, the Lord Chancellor, deriving his title of "Halsbury" from the inheritance of his ancestors, the Giffards of Brightly and Halsbury, a family traceable back to the early Plantagenet era; the Right Hon. Sir Baliol Brett, Lord Esher, the very able Master of the Rolls; and the Right Hon. Edward Gibson, Lord Ashbourne, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, distinguished not only as a Jurist, but also as an Orator and Statesman. Two dignities have expired, Strathnairn and Ranelagh, and one, Selkirk, has merged in the Dukedom of Hamilton. The principal peerage incident during the year has been the restitution of the ancient Earldom of Mar, an Earldom whose origin, to quote the words of Lord Hailes, is "lost in its antiquity." This act of justice originated, it is believed, in the especial grace and favor of Her Majesty the Queen, and was received with infinite satisfaction throughout Scotland. The Scottish Lords and Gentlemen felt no little pride in the grand old Earldom of Mar, and were naturally rejoiced at its restitution.

Several Noblemen have passed away, viz., the Dukes of Abercorn, K.G., and Somerset, K.G., the Marquess of Cholmondeley, the Earls of Shaftesbury, K.G., Cairns, Huntingdon, Scarbrough, Morton, Dudley, Buckinghamshire, Dundonald, Wilton, Erne, and Selkirk, the Viscounts Halifax, St. Vincent, Avonmore, and Ranelagh, and the Lords Houghton, O'Hagan, K.P., Stafford, Strathnairn, Teignmouth, and Dunalley.

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The Baronetage has been increased by fourteen titles, viz., Guinness, Martin, Tennant, Millais, Jardine, Bell, Brocklebank, Harland, Fowler, Thornhill, Vernon, Errington, Morris, and Corry.

As years come and go, each edition of my work is subjected to minute revision, and the present, it is earnestly hoped, will be found in all respects complete. That completeness must be mainly attributed to the cordial and continuous co-operation of my numerous correspondents and heraldic confrères, to every one of whom I tender my grateful thanks. It would be difficult to express adequately my sense of obligation to Sir Albert Woods, Garter, or to Mr. George Burnett, Lyon. Garter, at the head of the College of Arms, which is the faithful guardian of hereditary rights and honors, has liberally afforded me the fullest and most satisfactory information on all points connected with England, and Lyon, the very learned King of Arms of Scotland, has contributed to this, as to previous editions, historical details of rare value and importance to Scottish genealogy. I may add that my son, Mr. H. Farnham Burke, F.S.A., Rouge-Croix, zealously assists me in the production of my works.

J. BERNARD BURKE,
Ulster.

Record Tower, Dublin Castle,
December, 1885.

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