

PEDIGREE A.

THE SMYTHIES OF ESSEX AND SUFFOLK.

(A 1) William Smythies of Gosfields and Walter Belchamp, co. Essex.* The Parish Register of Walter Belchamp, co. Essex, begins in the year 1632 with the baptismal entry of "W^m Smitheis son of William and Ann his wife." A subsequent entry records that this child died and was buried in 1634. In the year 1635 another son was born and named William. The entry is as follows: "1635, Smytheis, William, son of William and Anne his wife. Baptized March 3." The first few entries are followed by a note: "In this year ye Visitors requiring all ye names of children baptized to be written in this (parchment) booke out of ye pap (paper) booke there uppon we goe back to ye yeare 1559," and amongst the entries previous to 1632 is one of the burial of John Smythies, son of William, in 1626. Another entry, recording the baptism of a child named Marie Mathew on 8 October 1643, concludes with the words: "by me William Smythies whoe was inducted July 7th 1623 and left ye Cure this October 8th, 1643." The period during which William Smythies held the living of Walter Belchamp is thus fixed. The Register of Students at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, records that on 4 June 1617 William Smythies was admitted to that College. The date when he took his degree is not mentioned, but the Subscription Book for 1627—44, fo. 78, St. Paul's Cathedral, contains the following entry (translation): "I, William Smythies, Master of Arts, Vicar of Walter Belchamp, admitted to preach and teach God's Word in the church (of Walter Belchamp) and other churches in the Diocese." Signed Gulielmus Smythies, and dated 6 March 1636.

In the return made in 1650 of the Ministers and Elders in the various "Classes" of Essex there is this entry:—

"Gosfield—Rect. Improprate, £40; Possessor, Lord Dacre; Vicarage, £40; Incumbent, Will. Smythies, by sequestration from John Crosse. He is an able Preaching and Godly Minister. Patron, Lord Dacre." (Lansdowne MS. 459, fo. 128.)

The exact date when William Smythies went to Gosfield is not known, but probably it was between 1647 and 1650.† He held the living till his death in 1652. His burial at Gosfield is thus recorded in the Parish Registers: "William Smythes, Minister of this Parish, buried September ye 13th, 1652."

The will of William Smythies of Gosfields in the County of Essex, Clerke, dated 26 March 1652, contains the following: ".... First I give to the poore of Walter Belchamp and Gosfields 20s. I giue to Anne my loving wife all that my tenement and lands which I bought of Robert Plum, situate in the said Walter Belchamp and County aforesaid with th'apertenances during her naturall life and the remainder to Isaac Smythies my sone and his heires for ever, provided that if my said wife deyt this life before my son Willim come to his age of 24

* About 1627 John Raymond, of the Hertfordshire family of that name, bought the Belchamp Hall estate from Sir J. Wentworth, and in 1635 was buried at Belchamp (Berry's "Genealogies," Essex). The families of Smythies and Raymond must therefore have been known to each other at this time, a matter of some interest, having regard to the subsequent intimate connection by marriage between the two families. [See Pedigree A (53, 59, 61, and 66) and Pedigree B (61), also Notes to Pedigree A (61) and Pedigree B (61).]

John Raymond was a member of the County Committee for the selection of "Ministers," and it was probably through him that William Smythies was appointed to Gosfield after his resignation of the living of Belchamp Walter in 1643.

† John Crosse was sequestered in 1644 and his sequestration confirmed before August 1645. The charges against him are set forth in Coles MS., xxviii., pp. 28, 29, Brit. Museum. But between John Crosse and William Smythies there was for a short time an incumbent named John Norton, about whom very little is known. From the following entry in the Gosfield Register it is, however, clear that he was incumbent of Gosfield in 1646: "Mary Norton, the daughter of M^r John Norton, ye Vicor, and Marye, his wife, was baptized ye 9th day of July, 1646." (From "Notes on Gosfield," by Rev. H. L. Elliot, Vicar, Par. Mag., 1889.)