

EXEMPLIFICATION OF ARMS AND GRANT OF CREST, BY
WILLIAM DETHICK, GARTER, AND WILLIAM CAMDEN,
CLARENCEUX, TO GEORGE SMYTHES OF WYKE COURT,
CO. SOMERSET, 1602.

The following is a full transcript taken from the original document now (1912) in possession of Frank Borthwick Smythies (B 55), who is the head of the third branch of the family descended from Francis Smythies (B 41), youngest son of Rev. Palmer Smythies (A 31) by his second wife Elizabeth Brazier. It is probable that the document came into possession of this branch of the family owing to their continuous residence in Colchester, and to the fact that Palmer Smythies made his youngest son Francis, who was a lawyer, executor of his will. Most, if not all, of the family documents must in these circumstances have come into his hands, but the grant itself does not appear to have been referred to in any will :—



"To all and Singuler Noble & Gentlemen of what state dignity or degree bearing Arms William Dethick Garter principal Kinge of Armes and William Camden Clarencieux Kinge of Armes of the South partes send Greeting: Knowe yee that whereas wee have been Credibly informed that George Smithes of y^e Court of Wike in the Countie of Somerset Gent. descended of that name in the Countie of Lancaster hath and may use and beare this shield or Coate of Arms of Argent a Cheveron azure betweene three Oke leaves uert on each an Akorn Or. And forasmuch as the testimony and record for all Matters & Causes of Armes honor & Pedigrees doth apperteyne to our Offices, Wee haue thought good to Blaze and exemplifie the same in due form and colours aforesaid. And forasmuch as there hath not ben any Creast or Cognizance found Anciently perteyning to the same, Wee have devised given & granted & by these p'n'tes doe giue & graunt, viz. a demy arme azure, and hand proper, holding a Branche of Oke leaues with Akornes Or sett in a wreath of his colours, fixed upon a Helmet with Mantells & tassells, as more plainly appeareth depicted in this Margent, To haue & to hold use & enjoy the said Armes & Creast or cognizance with every part & parcell thereof in man'er & forme aforesaid unto the said George Smithes now of London Gent. & to his Children issue & posterity for euer. In witness & perpetuall remembrance wherof Wee haue hereunto subscribed our names and fastened the Seales* of our Offices endorsed with the Signetts of our Armes. Given at the Office of Armes London

* The seals have unfortunately been removed. Mrs. Hawkins (*née* Jane Harriet Smythies, B 62) told the compiler of these Records some years ago that she believed her aunts at Headgate House, Colchester, who collected seals, cut them off the grant to add to their collection.—R. H. R. S.