

LORD NORTHBROOK AND THE BARINGS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—Your very interesting account of Lord Northbrook deserves to be supplemented, because his family, that of the Barings, is conspicuous for its administrative and other ability. This was impressed upon me during the course of a recent inquiry into the "Achievements of near kinsfolk of some of the Fellows of the Royal Society," of whom Lord Northbrook was one. For that purpose I sent a circular with a blank schedule to all the Fellows, and received answers from one-half of them, including Lord Northbrook. The results are printed in the little pamphlet that I enclose, which is only nominally "published," being really printed for circulation among past or future contributors to my inquiries. Unfortunately the revision of the MS. by Lord Northbrook of the Baring family reached me just too late for insertion in the pamphlet, although he took much interest in the inquiry, as may be gathered from the concluding words of the letter that accompanied his revision:—"If I can be of any further use to you, pray let me know. If you put the story into print, I shall be happy to correct the proof." I now send to you a revised copy of the MS. that he returned. The abbreviations are easily intelligible. "Fa," "me" "bro," "si," "son," stand for father, mother, brother, sister, son, respectively. Example—"me fa bro Grey 1st Earl," means that Lord Northbrook's mother's father's brother was Grey first earl:—

Northbrook, 1st Earl of, Thomas George Baring (1823-1904), P.O., F.R.S. (son of 1st Baron Northbrook); Under-Secretary of State for India, Home Department, and War; Viceroy of India, 1872-76; First Lord of the Admiralty, 1890-95—"Who's Who").

Fa fa fa, Sir Thomas Baring (1710-1810), founder of Baring Brothers and Co., chairman East India Company, 1792-3, cr. baronet, 1793—(Dict. Nat. Biog. 3 192).

Fa fa bro, Ashburton, 1st Baron, Alexander Baring (1774-1848), financier and statesman; head for many years of Baring Brothers and Co., member of Sir R. Peel's Cabinet, 1835, raised to peerage, 1835, Commissioner to U.S., 1842, for settlement of boundary dispute ("Ashburton Treaty")—(Dict. Nat. Biog. 3 190).

Mé me, Hon. Lady Grey, née Whitbread (1770-1858), "Prominent in every work of Christian philanthropy," during 24 years in the Commissioner's house (her husband's) at Plymouth, afterwards in Ireland—(Record Newspaper, May 26, 1858).

Fa, Northbrook, 1st Baron, Francis Thornhill Baring (1776-1866), double first at Oxford, First Lord of the Admiralty—(Dict. Nat. Biog. 3 193).

Fa bro, Thomas Baring (1779-1873), financier (refused Chancellorship of the Exchequer, also a peerage), head for many years of Baring Brothers and Co.—(Dict. Nat. Biog. 3 193. See also Disraeli's *Life of Lord George Bentinck*, pp. 87-423 and 463).

Fa bro, Charles Baring (1807-1879), double first at Oxford, Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, then of Durham.

Fa fa bro son, Cromer, 1st Earl, Evelyn Baring (b. 1841), P.O. (son of H. Baring, M.P.), passed first into Staff College from Royal Artillery. Services in Egypt, for which he was made successively baron, viscount, and earl—"Who's Who")

Fa fa si son, Taunton, 1st Baron, Henry Labouchere (1798-1869), first class *Lit. Hum.* at Oxford, Cabinet Minister under Lord Melbourne and Lord John Russell, cr. peer, 1859—(Dict. Nat. Biog. 31 367).

Me fa bro, Grey, 2nd Earl, Charles Grey (1764-1845), Prime Minister, carried the Reform Bill—(Dict. Nat. Biog. 23 173).

Me si son, Edward Jenkinson, K.C.B., private sec. to Lord Spencer when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; distinguished services as head of secret police—"Who's Who" and private information).

Descended from fa fa fa bro, Rev. S. Baring-Gould (b. 1884), author of numerous works, theological, poetical, historical, and novels—"Who's Who").

It was my fortune to serve on a council that met frequently during two years, over which Lord Northbrook presided, and I am glad of this opportunity of bearing testimony to his remarkable ability in that office. By the use of happy phrases that clearly summed up what had been said, he had the faculty of preventing useless iteration and verbiage, with the result that after a brief sitting every member of the council felt that all had been said and fairly put that he wished to have been considered. I was informed that this rare combination of thoroughness with quickness was a characteristic of the Baring family. I should greatly have valued Lord Northbrook's views on this particular point, but that opportunity is now gone for ever.

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