

## ROBIN HOOD'S GRAVE.

Mr. John Ardill, of the Leeds Archery Club, writes as follows, in response to the request of "R. S." (CXXV.) for particulars relative to Robin Hood's grave:—

The following quotation is from Hargrove's "Anecdotes of Archery" (date 1792), which contains "some curious particulars of the life of Robert Fitz-ooth, Earl of Huntington, vulgarly called Robin Hood" (with pedigree of same):—

"At length, being closely pursued, many of his followers slain, and the rest dispersed, he took refuge in the Priory of Kirklees, about twelve miles from Leeds, in Yorkshire, the Prioress at that time being his near relation. Old age, disappointment, and fatigue brought on disease. A monk was called in to open a vein, who, either through ignorance or design, performed his part so ill that the bleeding could not be stopped. Believing he should not recover, and wishing to point out the place where his remains might be deposited, he called for his bow, and discharging two arrows, the first fell in the river Calder, the second, falling in the park, marked the place of his future sepulture. He died on the 24th of December, in the year 1247,\* as appears by the following epitaph, which was once legible, on his tomb in Kirklees Park, where, though the tomb remains, yet the inscription hath been long obliterated.† It was, however, preserved by Dr. Gale, Dean of York, and inserted from his papers by Mr. Thoresby, in his 'Ducat. Leod.,' and is as follows:—

"Hear, undornead dis latil stean,  
Laiz Robert Earl of Huntington,  
Nea Arcir ver az his sa geud,  
An pipl kauld im Robin Heud. ;  
Sick utlawz az hi an iz men  
Vil England nivr si agen.

"Obit. 24 Kal. Dekembris, 1247."

The following quotation is also from the same source, and I believe will answer a former question in "Local Notes and Queries":—"The true name of Robin Hood was Robert Fitz-ooth. The addition of Fitz, common to many Norman names, was afterwards often omitted or dropped; the two last letters 'th' being turned into 'd,' he was called by the common people Ood or Hood. It is evident he was a man of quality, as by the annexed pedigree, copied from Dr. Stukeley's 'Palaographia Britanniae':—John Scot, 10th Earl of Huntington, dying anno. 1237, without issue, R. Fitz-ooth was, by the female line, next heir to that title, as descended from Gilbert de Gaunt, Earl of Kyme and Lindsey. The title lying dormant‡ during the last ten years of his life, there could be nothing unreasonable or extraordinary in his pretensions to that honour. The arms of Robin Hood were *gules, two bends engrailed or*. In the old 'Garland'§ he is said to have been born at Loxley, in Staffordshire; and in a shooting match,|| made by the King and Queen, being chose by the latter for her archer, she calls him Loxley, a custom very common in those days to call persons of eminence by the name of the town where they were born."

\* Supposing him twenty-one years of age when on his visit to Abbot Richard at Whitby, he must at this time have been at least in his eightieth year.

† Since Hargrove's book was written, I believe the headstone and inscription have been restored.

‡ The title lay dormant 90 years after Robert's death, namely, till the year 1337, when William, Lord Clinton, was created Earl of Huntington.

§ "The Garland" is a very interesting old poem on this subject, very ancient, author unknown. There is also, I believe, a poem called the "Fitz-ooth," by Mr. Hughes, father of the author of "Tom Brown's School Days."

|| On this occasion we are told that Robin Hood was dressed in scarlet and his men in green, and that they all wore black hats and white feathers.