

The Cause of King Charles

A manuscript of the early seventeenth century speaks of them as making Millom Castle 'still their dwelling place and abode, holding themselves content, that the old manner of strong building there, with the goodly demesns and commodities which both land and sea afford them, and the stately parks full of huge oaks and timber woods and fallow deer do better witness their ancient and present greatness and worth, than the painted vanities of our time do grace our new upstarts.' A fine spirit, well befitting a fine old family; but a little earlier one of the family allowed cheerfulness to break through beyond due measure. He flourished in the age of Queen Elizabeth, was a 'great Swash buckler' and 'great gamester,' and 'lived at a Rate beyond his incomes.' He was asked by a Countess how he lived so gallantly, and he replied. 'Of my meat and drink' - a remark worthy of Touchstone in his deadliest vein. The seventeenth century was not fortunate for the Hudlestons. The Great Rebellion came. Ferdinand Hudleston had nine sons by Jane, daughter of sir Ralph Gray of Chillingham, all of whom became officers and faught in the cause of King charles . Sir William, fourteenth lord of Millom, raised a regiment for Charles. John Hudleston was a colonel of Dragoons. Unfortuhately, Charles was defeated, and Millom was sequestrated and its owners heavily fined. The Restoration brought no return for such loyalties. In the last quarter of the century, two Hudlestons died in debtors' prisons. The family had been steadfast sons of the Roman Catholic Church, and as steadfast followers of their sovereign. But considering this matter of high service rewarded by the debtors' prison, it is not surprising that in 1689 the Hudlestons had become Anglicans and eager partisans of William of Orange.