

in the Civil War they stood strongly for loyalty. When Fairfax and the Earl of Newcastle were struggling for the mastery in the Yorkshire cradle of their origin, Sir William, the third baronet, was a conspicuous leader for the King. He was Governor of Sheffield Castle, and after his death the place was stoutly defended by his widow, a daughter of the Lord Keeper Coventry. As valiantly as the Countess of Derby held out at Lathom House did Lady Savile keep the Royal flag flying at Sheffield, and not until the walls were battered in did she authorise the surrender of the place. The grim men of the Parliament could appreciate her quality, and she marched out with

part of his father's house, which he said reminded him of "the rags of Rome," but leaving untouched the fine front of the edifice. Much of the internal adornment belongs to this time. Upon the death of the second and last Marquis a cousin, Sir John Savile, succeeded to the estates and the baronetcy.

The last of the Savile baronets to possess Rufford was Sir George Savile, a great statesman, and a compeer of Pitt and Burke, whom posterity has almost forgotten. He wrought great things for religious liberty by bringing in the Catholic Relief Bill in 1780; he foresaw all the evils of the American War; he was an ardent Parliamentary reformer, opposing the exclusion of Wilkes on the



*THE LONG GALLERY.*

all the honours of war, colours flying and drums beating, to lay down arms, and to be herself conveyed to Rufford, where, her time being come, she gave birth to a boy.

That boy was Sir George Savile, created Lord Savile of Elland and Viscount Halifax, afterwards Earl of Halifax, and then Marquis of Halifax. The famous Marquis loved Rufford dearly, and a letter of his remains, written in July, 1679, when he was detained by Court duties at Windsor, wherein he deplores that the summer was passing, and that he saw no chance of setting eyes on his poor old Rufford. This notable statesman almost rebuilt the mansion, destroying some

ground of its unconstitutional character, and was ever fearless in exposing political immorality and fraud; and he was an energetic supporter of public works, such as the Eddystone and Spurn Lighthouses, and the network of Yorkshire canals. A fine monument of him is in York Minster. On his death, his estates passed to his nephew, John Lumley Savile, younger son of the Countess of Scarborough, and from him the present owner of Rufford is descended.

The house is approached through a fine gateway, its pillars surmounted by heraldic talbots, and by a great lime avenue, forming the green framework through which the old gables and