

THE HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT

 THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
1509-1558

S. T. Bindoff

I
APPENDICES, CONSTITUENCIES,
MEMBERS A-C

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young poor in the city. Coupland probably died worth over £1,000, for the third of his goods which, with his dwelling house, he left to his wife he valued at 500 marks. There were bequests to three sons and three daughters, two of them married to future sheriffs of the city, and the heir George was made executor and residuary legatee. Coupland added a codicil on 24 Apr 1569, making additional bequests to grandchildren, and the will was proved on 16 *Nov."

¹ | Huntington Lib. Hastings mss Parl. pprs. | York archs. BZX, f. 74. Date of birth estimated from admission as freeman. York Borthwick Inst. R. VII G. 172; e.g. *Freemm: York*, i (Surtees Soc. xvi) 243; *Tor8: wills* 18, f. 122; York pub. lib. R. H Skaife ms civic o coals, York archs. B13-24 passim. | &g *Freemen iork d 243* York Borthwick Inst. R. VII G. 172; *Yorks. &ch. Jnl.* iv. r79; *Yori archs.* Bx2, f. xv; B13, f. 30; B14, f. 3; Brs, f. 3; *York CIGc Recs. IV* (Yorks. Arch. Soc. rec. ser. cviii), 20; vi (ibid. cxii), 123; R179/217 IIO, 1x1. | *York Cille Recs. v* (Yorks. Arch. Soc. rec. ser. cx), 86-99, 109, 110; vi. 41, +2, 132-142; *Gum. Misc.* ix(3), 72; York archs. B21, f. 74; P. Tyler, *Eccles. Conzm. and Catholicism in the 'Vorth 1566-7'*; P. 35. | York wills 18, f. 122; D. M. Pall&r, 'York in the 16th cent.' (Oxf. Fniv. D. Phil. thesis, 1968). 253; *Cuth. Rec. Soc. monogmph ser. ii.* 333 | York pub. lib. R. H. Skaife ms civic officials, i. 182.

D.M.P.

COURTENAY, JAMES (1522/23-92) of Upcott Devon.

DEVON 1554 (Nov.)
DARTMOUTH 1555

b. 1522/23, 1st s. of James Courtenay of 'Boltebery Alden' by Anne, da. of Sir John Bassett of UMBERLEIGH. suc. fa. 20 Sept. 1546. m. at least 1s. 1
J.p. Devon 1554; sheriff 1554-5. 2

James Courtenay was a nephew of Sir William Courtenay I * of Powderham and a cousin of Sir William Courtenay II, with whom he was to sit in the Parliament of 1555. Nothing has been discovered of his life before he succeeded, at the age of 23, to the scattered properties which had been settled on his father at marriage. A minor landowner and a Catholic, he was to play no part in public affairs except under Mary.³

It was probably to his Bassett mother that Courtenay owed his Catholicism, and the influence of his uncle James Bassett* is discernible in his political career. Bassett was his fellow-knight in the Parliament of November 1554 and probably also had a hand in his election for Dartmouth to the following one, in which Bassett was again senior knight: as Courtenay was then sheriff he stretched the rule which forbade the election of sheriffs within their own counties, but his acceptability to the crown was a safeguard against official challenge. Not surprisingly his name appears on neither of the catalogues of dissentient Members of these two Parliaments, those who quitted the first one before its dissolution and those who in the second opposed a government measure. Named an overseer of Bassett's will of 1558, he was also given 'preferment'

in the purchase of the Carew lands which Bassett ordered his executors to sell, but does not appear to have exercised this option.⁴

The accession of Elizabeth meant eclipse for Courtenay. After refusing to subscribe to the Act of Uniformity in 1569 he exposed himself to penalty, and although some of the later references of this nature may be to his son and namesake he clearly suffered considerable hardship. He died on 8 Oct. 1592 and was succeeded by his grandson James, then aged 16 years. ⁶

¹ Date of birth estimated from age at fa.'s i.p.m., C142/84/28 Devon ed. Vivian, 246; C142/234/84, ² CPR 1553-4, p. 18. ³ C142/84/28, 234/84. ⁴ PCC 19 Welles. ⁵ CSP Domt. 1547-80, pp 354-5; 1581-90, p. 279; Cath. Rec. Soc. xviii. 35-36; xxii. 124; C142/234/84.

R.V.

COURTENAY, John (1520/21-60), of London and Tremere in Lanivet, Cornw.

LOSTWITHIEL 1553 (O c t .)

BODMIN 1554 (N o v .)

PENRYN 1555

b. 1520/1 3rd s. of Richard Courtenay of Lostwithiel by 2nd w. Jane, da. of John Boscawen of Tregothnan, educ. New Inn. m. Elizabeth, da. and coh. of Richard Tregrove *alias* Nance of Nance in Illogan, 3s. 2da. ¹ Attorney, common pleas by 1559.2

John Courtenay was a younger son of a cadet line of the influential Devon family seated at Powderham. In his youth he appears to have been attached to Cromwell's household, since the minister's accounts for 1538 include payments for the care of one John Courtenay whose arm had been badly cut, and also for his education at an inn of chancery, where as an attorney Courtenay kept chambers until his death. He prospered in his profession, buying the Tremere estate of 250 acres and consolidating his position in his native county by a fortunate marriage. ³

In the autumn of 1553 Courtenay used his family's connexion with Lostwithiel to have himself elected the town's junior Member in Mary's first Parliament. (The clerk compiling the list of Members for this Parliament inadvertently began to enter Courtenay's name alongside Dunheved but on realizing his mistake he corrected it.) Neither he nor his fellow-Member Christopher Dautesey, opposed the initial measures to restore Catholicism, but he is not known to have been returned to the following Parliament, unless he sat for Penryn, the names of whose Members are lost. His home at Tremere was only four miles from Bodmin and his election there with Ralph Michell for the second Parliament of 1554 met the Queen's wish that local residents should be chosen: his name was inserted, as was Michell's, in a different hand on the indenture. Both men failed to observe

the chancellor's comments in his opening speech on attendance, and for their early departure from the Commons they were informed against in the King's bench during Easter term 1555. Courtenay did not answer his summons to appear until Michaelmas 1556, by which time he had been distrained 16s., and he then asked for judgment to be deferred until the next law term: when the Hilary term came no further process was taken against him and the case was allowed to drop. The action pending against Courtenay did not prevent his further appearance at Westminster in the autumn of 1555, this time as a Member for Penryn, where he presumably owed his election to his fellow-Member Ralph Couche I.4

Courtenay sued out a general pardon at the accession of Elizabeth and died on 1 Mar. 1560, being buried at Lanivet where a monument was erected to his memory. He left a life interest in the Tremere property to his widow, who later married Thomas Arundell*.⁵

¹ Aged 36 in 1557, St.Ch.4/4/28. *Vis. Cornw. ed. Vivian.*, 113-15 C1/1344/49. ² CPR, 1558-60 p. 184. ³ LP Hen. VIII xiv; CPR, 1558-60, p. 184; St.Ch.3/1/66; C1/1332/22-3, 1344/49. ⁴ c219/23/22; KB27/1/176-80. ⁵ C142/129/14; *Paroch. Hist. Cornw.*, iii. 13; *Vis. Cornw.* 52.

J.J.G.

COURTENAY, Sir William I (by 1485-1535), of East Coker, Som. and Ilton and Powderham, Devon.

DEVON 1529*

b. by 1485, 1st s. of Sir William Courtenay of Powderham by Cecily, da. of Sir John Cheney of Pinhoe, Devon. m. (i) by 4 Nov. 1506, Margaret, da. of Sir Richard Edgecombe of Cotehele, Cornw., wid. of William St. Maure, 5s.; (2) by 27 Oct. 1512, Mary, da. of Sir John Gainsford of Crowhurst. Surr. 4s. 3da. *suc. fa.* 1512. Kntd. July 1517/Mar. 1521.1

Esquire of the body by Sept. 1512; commr. subsidy, Devon 1512, 1514, 1515, 1524; other commissions, Cornw. and Devon 1527-d.; j.p. Devon 1513-d.; keeper, North Petherton park, Som. 1513-d.; sheriff, Devon Feb.-Nov. 1522, 1525-6, 1533-4.2

William Courtenay obtained livery of his lands on 11 Sept. 1512. In January of that year he had been bound (as had Richard Cornwall*) in a recognizance of 500 marks not to go two miles from London: the cause of the restriction is not known, but the bond was cancelled three months later. On entering upon his inheritance Courtenay moved from East Coker, where he had lived after his first marriage, to the family seat of Powderham, whence he intervened in the affairs of Devon but also travelled regularly to give attendance at court. His place near the King had probably been found for him by his father or by his kinsman the 9th Earl of Devon. He took part in the military campaigns of 1514 and 1523, and was present at the Field of Cloth of Gold and the King's meeting with Charles V at

Gravelines. It was during these years that he was knighted, although the date and occasion are unknown.³

Courtenay had become intimate with Sir Thomas Denys and had worked closely with him in Devon before the two were returned as knights of the shire to the Parliament of 1529: either or both may have sat in earlier Parliaments for which the Members' names are lost. Among Courtenay's relatives who sat in 1529 was Sir Peter Edgecombe, his brother-in-law, returned as knight for Cornwall at the time when he was serving as sheriff of Devon. Cromwell appears to have thought well of Courtenay and entrusted him with matters of importance, notably in connexion with the visitation of monasteries. Fragments of their correspondence survive: in three letters of the year 1533 Courtenay excused himself from attending the coronation of Queen Anne Boleyn because of an injured leg, discussed a proposed marriage between his daughter-in-law, a kinswoman of the Queen, and Richard Cromwell *alias* Williams*, and successfully solicited the next shrievalty for himself. Shortly before his death Courtenay was granted an annuity of five marks by the city of Exeter.⁴

Courtenay died at Powderham either late on 23 Nov. or early on 24 Nov. 1535. According to John Hussee, when he reported the event to Lord Lisle at Calais, 'some were sorry but for the most part made little moan': the corporation of Plymouth, at least, mourned one who had been 'a special good master to the town'. Courtenay's heir was his grandson William*, his eldest son George having predeceased him. He had made a will on 8 Nov. 1527 in which he provided amply for his wife, to whom he left a life interest at Cadleigh, and for his children, and appointed among others as its supervisors Denys and James Courtenay. It may have been because some of his sons and executors had predeceased him that probate was not granted until 27 May 1541; by then his widow had married Anthony Kingston*. Courtenay's place in Parliament was filled, during the last session, by his nephew George Carew.⁵

¹ Date of birth estimated from first marriage. *Vis. Devon*, ed. Vivian, 246-7; *Vis. Devon* ed. Colby, 73; *CPR*, 1494-1509, p. 477; *LP Hen. VIII*, ii, iii; C142 58/1 ² *LP Hen. VIII* i, iv., vii, viii; *Statutes* iii. 80, 117, 174. ³ *LP Hen. VIII*, i-iv. ⁴ *Ibid.* iv, vi-viii; Exeter act bk. 2, f. 36v. ⁵ C142/ 58/1, 47, 73, 110; *LP Hen. VII*, ix; Plymouth receivers acct. bk. 22; PCC 19 Alenger.

L.M.K./A.D.K.H.

COURTENAY, Sir William II (1529/30-57). of Powderham, Devon, and London.

Plympton ERLE 1555

b. 1529/30, 1st s. of George Courtenay of Powderham, by Catherine, da. of Sir George St. Leger of Annerly in

Monkleigh.educ. I. Temple, adm. 1546. m. lic. 28 Nov. 1545, Elizabeth, da. of John Paulet, 2nd Marquess of Winchester, IS. Sir William+ 1da.sr. fa. by Nov. 1533, gd.-fa. 24 Nov. 1535. Kntd. 2 Oct. 1553. 1

At the inquisition held at Exeter on 27 Oct. 1536 into the property of Sir William Courtenay I* of Powderham, it was found that his grandson and namesake, then aged six, was heir to the extensive lands there enumerated. The wardship seems to have fallen to Cromwell, in whose 'household accounts for 1539-40 Courtenay's name appears among the outgoing, and on his attainder to have reverted to the King, by whom it was granted, with the right of marriage, to Sir John Paulet on 4 May 1545. Within seven months Paulet had obtained the licence for Courtenay's marriage to his daughter, and when a year later Courtenay and William Paulet+ each redeemed for 50s. the obligations incidental to their membership of the Inner Temple they were probably brothers-in-law. Courtenay was to have a namesake at this inn who was admitted in 1551 but was accidentally killed by Nicholas Hare + before 13 May of the following year. Another William Courtenay captained ships in the French war in 1545-6 and was later reported to be involved in privateering in the Channel: it is more likely that he, or yet another namesake, was the yeoman of the guard mentioned in December 1545, than that the 15 year-old heir to wide estates should have served the crown in that modest capacity.²

Courtenay had licence to enter upon his inheritance on 16 Feb. 1553, but he did not use it to support the life of a country gentleman. In 1556 the Venetian ambassador called him a 'cavalier' and 'one of those most in the habit of frequenting the court', and it is there and in London that his progress is to be traced, taking part in the New Year jousts of 1552 and being knighted at Mary's coronation. As a Protestant, however, he was to be restive under the new regime. An incident in December 1555, when with Thomas Butler, Earl of Ormond and Ossory, and a Mr. Bamsby, he quarrelled with and assaulted a priest in a London street, cost the assailants a spell in the Compter, and when in April 1555 he and his friends Sir Arthur Champernon* and Amias Paulett were given passports to travel abroad for four months it was probably with the object of being rid of him for a time. His absence did not prevent Courtenay from being elected to the Parliament which met in November of that year. Although the manor of Plympton Erle had been granted two years before to his distant kinsman Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devon, he is more likely to have been supported by another earl of local prominence, the young Francis

Russell*, 2nd Earl of Bedford. It was his cousin James Courtenay*, a Catholic, who as sheriff returned him, but his affiliations were with relatives such as his step-grandfather (Sir) Anthony Kingston* and his uncle (Sir) John Chichester*. He was one of those who attended the meetings where parliamentary business was discussed and opposition concerted, and he opposed a government bill in this Parliament.³

By the end of January 1556 Courtenay had become involved in the Dudley conspiracy. A messenger caught coming from the Continent made a confession which implicated him and by early April he was in the Fleet prison: he was soon removed to the Tower, where his wife was allowed to visit him. As a grandson-in-law of the lord treasurer he was an embarrassing prisoner and although he was indicted on 4 Nov. 1556 he was not brought to trial. On 8 Mar. 1557 he was pardoned all treasons and felonies committed before 1 Dec. 1556, but it is not known when he was released. By what has been called an 'extraordinary decision' of the House of Lords on 15 Mar. 1831 Courtenay was adjudged to have become *de jure* Earl of Devon during his imprisonment in the Tower.⁴

Courtenay joined the expedition of 1557 against France commanded by the Earls of Pembroke and Bedford. He took part in the siege of St. Quentin, but contrary to tradition he was not killed or, probably, even wounded in action. By an undated will made when he was 'visited with bodily sickness' he bequeathed to his wife the life interest of a third of his property in Devon and to his daughter an annuity of £20 until she was 21, when she was to receive £1000. His executors, Sir William Paulet, Marquess of Winchester, John, Lord St. John (his father-in-law), Sir Giles Strangways II*, (Sir) John Perrot*, Sir John Pollard* and (Sir) John Chichester*, were entrusted with another third with which to settle debts and fulfil bequests, whereupon it was to revert to his heir. 'And for token of remembrance of my heart and goodwill' and in acknowledgment of his 'singular trust and affiance', Winchester was to receive a horse which Courtenay had bought at St. Quentin. The overseers were Sir John Sellynge and (Sir) John Zouche*, and the will was witnessed by Thomas Howard+, Ambrose Dudley, Sir Robert Dudley*, Thomas Heigham and Francis Killinghall*. Courtenay died on 29 Sept. 1557, when his son and heir William was four years and 14 weeks old. His will was proved on 16 Nov. 1557 but the probate was later cancelled so that it does not appear in the register of the prerogative court of Canterbury. Courtenay's widow later married Sir Henry Oughtred+.⁵

¹ Date of birth estimated from age at grandfather's i.p.m., C142/58/1. *Vis. Devon*, ed. Vivian, 246-7; *CP*, iv, 332-3; *Machyn's Diary* (Cam. Soc. xliii), 335; C142/113/4. ² *LP Hen. VIII*, xiv, xx, xxi; *CPR*, 1550-3, p. 284; *APC*, ii, 141, 303; *CSP Span*, 1554, p. 216; C142/58/1. ³ *CSP Ven*, 1555-6, p. 439; *Lit. Rems. Edw. VI*, 384; *Chron. Q. Jane and Q. Mary* (Cam. Soc. xlviii), 33; *APC*, v, 117; *CPR*, 1553, p. 3; 1553-4, p. 250; F. Peck, *Desiderata Curiosa*, i, 19; *SP11*, 8/7, 35; Guildford mus. Loseley 1331.2. ⁴ *CSP Dom*, 1547-8, p. 84; *CSP Ven*, 1555-6, pp. 439, 447, 509; *CPR*, 1555-7, p. 450; *Machyn's Diary*, 104; D. M. Loades, *Two Tudor Conspiracies*, 211-12, 222, 228, 233-4, 266; *CP*, iv, 332, 336. ⁵ *Machyn's Diary*, 143; *Prob.* 10/34; C142/128/63.

A.D.K.H.

THE HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT

THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
1558-1603

P. W. Hasler

I
INTRODUCTORY SURVEY
APPENDICES
CONSTITUENCIES
MEMBERS A-C

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Bedford, Courtenay was named as a deputy lieutenant in Bedford's unissued commission of 1585. He thrice represented Devon. On 14 Dec. 1584 he was named to a committee for the confirmation of letters patent to (Sir) Walter Raleigh*, and he may have attended the subsidy committee on 24 Feb. 1585 to which he was appointed as knight of the shire. In 1589 he was eligible to attend the subsidy committee on 11 Feb. as first knight of the shire. In 1601 he was named to a committee on the penal laws (2 Nov.); as knight of the shire he was on the committee considering the order of parliamentary business (3 Nov.) and the monopolies committee (23 Nov.); as one of the knights for Devon he was on a procedural committee (11 Nov.); and as a knight for a maritime county he was appointed to a committee on 3 Dec. to consider measures against pirates.*

While in London in 1584, Courtenay quarrelled with Richard Champernown*, Lady Courtenay appealing for help to her brother, the 3rd Earl of Rutland Lord Burghley and the lord chancellor investigated the matter and, wrote Courtenay :

In fine, we were made friends and my lords have promised me a letter of their good opinion of me, and justifying my innocence in this cause.

Soon afterwards, both he and Champernown were undertakers in the Munster plantation, which may explain how Courtenay got into the hands of moneylenders, for in 1588 he was one of 12 knights 'of great possessions' suggested for baronies. At this time he commanded 3,000 men in Devon, and a defence force in Dorset. He was one of the deputy lieutenants appointed by the Privy Council to 'advise' the young lord lieutenant of Devon, the Earl of Bath, who was under the thumb of his ex-tutor Thomas Hinson*. Bath's opinion of Courtenay is interesting:

a man who, though he gives himself out to all vice, as drinking, whoring etc., yet he neither wants wit to devise, nor might to practise how to strengthen himself and weaken others.*

By 1586 Courtenay's Catholic religious views were becoming embarrassing. Yet, although his third wife was a Catholic, it was not until James's reign that he resigned his military offices and surrendered his arms. It may have been some compensation that he became deputy warden of the stannaries. Sales of his lands continued throughout his life, but his inquisition post mortem showed that he still retained a score of manors in Devon. He died in London on 24 June 1630, and was buried at Powderham. 5

COURTENAY, Sir William I(1553-1630), of Powderham, Devon.

DEVON 1584, 1589, 1601

b. June 1553, 1st s. of Sir William Courtenay of Powderham by Elizabeth, da. of John Paulet, 2nd Mq. of Winchester. *educ.* M. Temple 1578. m. (1) lic. 18 Jan. 1573, Lady Elizabeth Manners, da. of Henry Manners, 2nd Earl of Rutland, 7s. inc. Sir William II 3da. ; (2) Elizabeth (d. 1598) da. of Sir George Sydenham of Combe Sydenham, wid. of Francis Drake*; (3) Jane, da. of Robert Hill of Yarde, Som. suc. fa. 1557. Kntd. 1576.*

J.p. Devon from c.1561, j.p.q. Som. by 1601; sheriff, Devon 1579-80, dep. It. 1586.2

After the death of his father in France, Courtenay became a ward of his great-grandfather, the 1st Marquess of Winchester, who was granted some of Courtenay's lands in return for his services. The influence of the Catholic Paulet family no doubt partly accounts for Courtenay's own later conversion. Though his religious views would have been repugnant to the 2nd Earl of

† T. Westcote, *View of Devonshire 573-4: Vivian. Vks. Devon. 247* ; Roberts thesis; *Trans. Dev. Assoc.* lxxxviii. 179. ; PRO, Index 4208, p. 42. 3 Wards 9/138/237; *Cam. Misc.* ix(3), p. 56; *Cath. Rec. Soc.* xiii. 89; *Lansd.* 43, anon. jnl. t. 1711; *D'Ewes* 431, 623, 624, 635, 649, 666. 4SP12/179/58; *HMC Rutland*, i. 163, 183; *HMC Hatfield*, xiii. 343; *Lansd.* 104, t. 51 seq.; 134, t. 196; *APC*, xiv. 239. 'CSP Span. 1580-6, pp. 601-4; CSP Dom. 1598-1601, p. 181; 1591-4,

pp. 209, 246; 1611-18, p 254; 1625-6, p p . 342, 394; Reynold, *Ancient Diocese of Exeter* 233; G. Oliver, *Coil. Illus. Catholic Rel. in South West*. 18; *Devon* RO Tingey 1614; E. W. Cleaveland, *Hist. Courtenay Fam.* 301.

P.W.H.

COURTENAY, Sir William II (c.1580-1603), of Powderham, Devon.

Fowey **1601**

b. c.1580, 1st s. of Sir William Courtenay I* of Powderham by his 1st w. *educ.* Corpus, Camb. 1591; ?I. Temple 1602. *unm.* Kntd. 1599.

After leaving Cambridge, Courtenay and his brother Francis accompanied their father to Ireland in the service of the Earl of Essex, each of the brothers in command of 150 men. Courtenay distinguished himself, and was knighted by the Earl in Dublin. Upon his return from Ireland, his father obtained him a parliamentary seat at Fowey, and shortly afterwards admission to the Inner Temple. In February 1603 his father thanked Sir Robert Cecil for his regard for the young man, who died that year *v.p.* and *s.p.*

Vivian, Vis. *Devon*, 247; *CP*, iv. 333; *CSP Ire.* 1600, p. 278; *Trans. Dev. Assoc.* lxxxviii. 177-8.

N.M.S.

THE HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT

THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
1660-1690

Basil Duke Henning

II
MEMBERS
C-L

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COURTENAY, Francis (1652-99), of Powderham Castle, Devon.

Devon 1689, 1690, 1695, 1698-1 Apr. 1699

hap. 27 Feb 1652, 2nd s. of Sir William Courtenay, 1st Bt.* and bro. of Richard Courtenay* and George Courtenay, m. settlement 26 Nov 1670 (with £4,000), Mary da. of William Boevey, merchant, of Little Chelsea, Mdx., 3s. (2 d.v.p.) 9da. 1

Commr. for assessment, Dev on 1677 80, 1689 90, J.P. June July 1688, 1689-96, col. of militia by 1699.'

Courtenay's wife, of Flemish extraction, was a step-daughter of Sir James Smyth*; her half-sister married Sir Levinus Bennet*. As Courtenay was still under age at the time of their marriage, his father promoted a private bill to enable him to settle the estate, to which he had become the heir on his elder brother's death. Sir Charles Harbord* reported that the bill required no amendments, and it received the royal assent in the same session.³

Courtenay joined William of Orange in November 1688, and was elected for the county in 1689 owing to the physical incapacity of his father. He may have been appointed to the committee of elections and privileges in the first session of the Convention, but he left no other trace on its records. In later Parliaments he voted Tory, refusing the Association in 1696. He died before his father on 1 Apr. 1699 and was buried at Chelsea. His son, who succeeded as second baronet, sat for Devon as a Tory (with one interval of two years) from 1701 till his death.⁴

¹Vivian. Vis. Devon, 248-9; A. W. Crawley-Boevey, Mems. Boevey Fam. 19, 156. ²Post Boy, 4 Apr. 1699. 3PC2/76/263; CJ, ix 176; E. Cleaveland, Noble Fam. of Courtenay, 305. ⁴Bodl. Fleming newsletter, 3334; Top. *oxf* Gen. iii. 130; Luttrell, IV, 500.

J.P.F.

COURTENAY, Richard (c. 1655-96), of Colyton, Devon and Fetcham, Surr.

HONTION 1689

b. c. 1655, 4th s. of Sir William Courtenay*, and bro. of Francis Courtenay* and George Courtenay+. m. (1) aft. 26 Mar. 1676, (with £2,000) Jane, da. of Sir Thomas Southwell, 1st Bt., of Castle Mattress co. Limerick [I], 1 S.; (2) Catharine, da. of Sir William Waller II* of Strutton Ground, Westminster, 2da. 1

Capt. of ft. (Dutch army) May 1688-9. 2 Marine Regt. 1692-4

Gent. of privy chamber 1689-d.2

Commr. for assessment, Devon 1689-90.

On his marriage to the sister of Sir Robert Southwell* Courtenay was described as 'a regular, sober and very hopeful man' and endowed by his father with lands worth £1,000 p.a. He remarried after

her death in 1681, and probably accompanied his second wife's father into exile in Holland? where he was commissioned in the regiment of Philip Babington*. Returned unopposed for Honiton in 1689 on his father's interest, Courtenay leaves no certain trace on the records of the Convention, though he was presumably a Whig. He may have been too busy job-hunting to attend often. He fancied himself as collector under the Navigation Act or alternatively surveyor-general of customs, but he was not above applying for a grant of post-groats at a rent of £10 p.a. 'in consideration of his steadfastness to Protestantism'. The King was 'graciously disposed', but Courtenay ended his parliamentary career as he began, a captain of foot. He was drowned with his only son on active service in the Mediterranean in January 1696. 3

¹Vivian Vis. Devon 248 PCC 198 B o n d . ²Carlisle Privy Chamber, 202. 3 H.M.C. Egmont, II. 40-41, Cal. treas. Bks. IX 106, 146; CSP Dom. 1689 90. p. 190; 1696, pp 33, 79.

J.P.F.

COURTENAY, Sir William, 1st Bt. (1628-1702), of Powderham Castle, and Ford House, Newton Abbot, Devon.

Ashburton 1660

DEVON 1679 (Mar.), 1679 (Oct.), 1681

hap. 7 Sept. 1628, 1st s. of Francis Courtenay of Powderham by 2nd w. Elizabeth, da. of Sir Edward Seymour, 2nd Bt., of Berry Pomeroy. m. c. 1643, Margaret, da. of Sir William Waller I* of Osterley Park, Mdx. and h. to her gdfa. Sir Richard Reynell of Ford House, 9s. (2 d.v.p.) 8 da. suc. fa. 1638; cr. Bt. Feb. 1645; suc. cos Lady Howard in Fitzford estate 1671, COS. Sir William Courtenay, Bt. at Newcastle, co. Limerick [I] by 1674. 1

Commr. for assessment, Devon 1657, -Aug. 1660-80, 1689-90, militia Mar. 1660, j.p. Mar. 1660-80, July 1688-d., col. of militia horse Apr. 1660, dep. It. 1661-70, 1676-80, ? 1689-d., commr. for loyal and indigent officers 1662, sheriff 1664-5; commr. for inquiry into Newfoundland government 1667; freeman, Exeter 1674, Totnes by 1684, Plymouth 1696; commr. for recusants, Devon 1675; portreeve, Bere Alston 1680-1; commr. for inquiry into recusancy fines, Cornw. Devon, Exeter and Dorset Mar. 1688: 2

'This ancient family', wrote a contemporary, 'of itself is enough to ennoble a county.' Courtenay's ancestor came to England with Eleanor of Aquitaine in 1152, and acquired the great barony of Okehampton. From 1335 to 1556 the head of the family enjoyed the title of Earl of Devon while junior members represented the county regularly from 1377. Courtenay later claimed to have begun political life as a Cavalier 'whic name I own to the last drop of blood ... and there will I stick in spite of fate and all the enemies that I have upon earth'. He

tried to hold aloof from political life in the Interregnum, though he gave shelter to the dean of Exeter at Powderham. When he was 'drawn in to be a grandjurymen', he told Henry Seymour I* in March 1658 that if he could be assured of the King's forgiveness and favour, he would hazard all in his service; he had already undertaken more than any three in his county. Courtenay kept his word, and on 13 Feb. 1660 with Sir John Northcote* and Simon Leach* was arrested for stirring up tumultuous demands in Exeter for a free Parliament. He was elected to the Convention for Ashburton where he owned property. Lord Wharton, perhaps confusing him with his cousin, the recusant leader of the Hampshire Cavaliers, expected his election to be disallowed, but he took his seat, and on 12 July 1660 with Sorthcote was charged to desire George Monck* to withdraw the guard from the House. Otherwise he leaves no trace on the records of this Parliament, being principally engaged in suppressing disaffection in the west country with Sir Coplestone Bampfylde*. Courtenay was named to the projected order of the Royal Oak, with an estate valued at £3,000 p.a., but failed to secure re-election in 1661, though he put up his father-in-law at Honiton, and his characteristic large and shapely signature attests the returns for Devon and Totnes.³

In the following year Courtenay joined Bampfylde and Northcote in searching the guildhall at Exeter for arms in 1662. As sheriff, he secured the release of the deprived rector of Honiton, a Presbyterian and a kinsman by marriage whom he had himself presented during the Commonwealth, and established him in safety at Powderham. He refused the offer of a seat at Plympton in 1667. He formed the triumvirate (with Sir Edward Seymour* and (Sir) John Rolle*) to oppose the court candidate at the by-election for Devon in 1671, declaring that

he would not have stirred in the business if the Earl of Bath had not appeared in opposition to Sir Coplestone Bampfylde, and if he should receive a baffle in this election, he would sell all his estate in Devonshire and leave the country

Courtenay had the satisfaction of defeating Bath not only in the election, but also in the contest for the Inheritance of Lady Howard (mother of George Howard*), consisting of the Fitz property in Devon and Cornwall and over £9,000 personal estate. Shortly afterwards he inherited 35,000 acres in Ireland from his cousin. With his name, his wealth his loathing of 'new damned French tricks', and his friendship with the Hon. William Russell*, he now became the leader of the country party in Devon. 'The present Sir William', wrote Prince, 'hath

wanted nothing but his health to have rendered him as illustrious as most of his ancestors.' Much of his political activity took place behind the scenes, as Sir John Fowell* implies. As lord of the manor, he could nominate the returning officer at Honiton. Though he asserted that he always left people 'to their own dispose', he gave his interest to Thomas Revnell* at Ashburton and to Henry Northleigh* at Okehampton in the 1677 by-elections.⁴

Courtenay was duly returned for Devon to the Exclusion Parliaments. At the first election of 1679 he joined forces with the trimmer, Edward Seymour against the court supporter Bampfylde. A member of the Green Ribbon Club, he was marked 'honest' on Shaftesbury's list. He was inactive in the first Exclusion Parliament, serving only on two committees, those for the security bill and the export of leather, but he voted for exclusion, and was re-elected in September. During the summer of 1680, he tried to organize a petition at quarter sessions for the immediate sitting of Parliament, and acted as host to Monmouth at Exeter during his western progress. He was removed from local office, and Sir Leoline Jenkins* lamented (quite correctly, granted his premisses):

An ancient, noble name will look odd in story, when its glorious ancestors shall appear to have placed their highest honours and merit in serving the crown, and a descendant standing alone with the blemish of having disserved it.

In the second Exclusion Parliament, Courtenay was moderately active, serving on the committee of elections and privileges and on the inquiries into abhorring and the conduct of Sir Robert Peyton*. With Sir Walter Yonge, 3rd Bt.*, he was preparing to present a petition to the King from Devon for the continuation of Parliament, when it was dissolved. He was returned unopposed to the Oxford Parliament, in which he was appointed to the committee for the exclusion bill and is said to have begun a speech on the subject only to be shouted down before he had completed three sentences. He remained active in local politics, exercising 'commanding persuasion' on Richard Duke* to purchase the borough of Ashburton. Courtenay and Samuel Rolle* were the only Devonshire magnates who failed to sign the loyal address approving the dissolution in September 1681.

According to Lord Grey of Warke Courtenay promised Russell to support Monmouth by force of arms. He was implicated by Monmouth's confession in the Rye House Plot, and his old comrade Bampfylde was ordered to take his deposition. It is probable that he was already disabled by the stroke which paralysed one side of his body. Further evi-

dence was provided by William Howard* who stated that he was to be engaged by reynell, and it was not denied that he had received a visit from Walcot, allegedly on private business. Courtenay was summoned to attend the King in Sir Leoline Jenkins's office on 4 July 1683, but he seems to have been allowed to put his disclaimer in writing and no further proceedings were taken.'

Courtenay did not oppose the Honiton charter of 1684, on the assurance that his rights would be reserved. But apparently this condition was not kept, and he lost the right to nominate the returning officer for the 1685 elections. He was ordered to be apprehended during Monmouth's rebellion, but in 1688 he was restored to local office. He was 'supposed to be right' on the repeal of the Test Act and Penal Laws, and was expected to stand for Devon in spite of his infirmity. He was conspicuously inactive when William of Orange landed, even when the prince spent the night in Courtenay's house near Newton Abbot he 'gave no countenance to the enterprise, either in his own name or by his tenants'. However, it was reported on 20 Nov. that his two sons had joined the prince, and in April 1689 he was offered a peerage, 'as one of those who have contributed ... to the settling of the nation'. This was one of William's genealogical blunders, for Courtenay considered himself the rightful Earl of Devon, and would not be satisfied with any title other than this one, which could hardly be granted to him without offence to the Earl of Devonshire (William Cavendish*, Lord Cavendish). Courtenay's loyalty to William III appears to have been doubted, but he signed the Association unlike his eldest son, and was described as 'zealous for the government' in 1696. He died on 1 Aug. 1702 and was buried at Wolborough.'

† *Trans. Devon Assoc.* xxii. 106; *Devon N. and Q.* ii. 8. ‡ *Parl. Intell.* 16 Apr. 1660; *HMC 14th Rep.* IX, 274; *APC col.* I. 433; *A. Jenkins Hist. Exeter.* 178; *HMC 9th Rep.* pt. I, p. 282; *Trans. Devon Assoc.* viii. 367; *Cal. Treas. Bks.* viii. 1804. § *J. Prince Worthies of Devon*, 263; *Devon N. and Q.* IV. 40; *W. G. Hoskins, Devon*, 75; *Eg.* 3330, f. 39; *Cal. Cl. SP, IV.* 19; *CSP Dom.* 1659-60, p. 366; *Trans. Devon Assoc.* xcvi. 212; *D. Underdown, Royalist Conspiracy* 30, 268; *E. Cleveland, Noble Fam. Of Courtenay*, 303. ¶ *A. G. Matthews Calamy Reused*, 452; *SP29/188/22; HMC Popham.* 193; *R. Granville, Hist. granville Fam.* 362; *Trans. Devon Assoc.* xxii. 106; *Eg.* 3330, f. 39; *Dalrymple Mens.* II. bk. vi. 196; *Prince.* 263; *CSP Dom.* 1675-6, p. 512. *SCSP Dom.* 1679-80, pp. 567, 570; 1680-1, p. 199; 1697, p. 90; *Trans. Devon Assoc.* xviii. 327, xciv. 452, xcvi. 234; *HMC 11th Rep.* vii, 13; *HMC 15th Rep.* vii, 106; *HMC Lords.* I. 177; *Bodl. carte mss.* 39. f. 198; *Luttrell.* I. 61; *Grey.* VIII. 432; *HMC Portland.* iv. 122; *HMC Ormonde.* n.s. VI. 148. ¶ *Ford Grey, Secret Hist.*; *Clarke, Jas.* II. 1. 742; *CSP Dom.* Jan.-June 1683, p. 353; July Sept. 1683, pp. 25, 70. ¶ *92. 145-6; State Trials* ix. 373, 380, 403. *7CSP Dom.* 1684-5, p. 259; 1685, p. 157; 1689-90, pp. 49, 122; 1697, pp. 90, 116; *Dalrymple Mens.* II. bk. VI. 195; *HMC Dartmouth.* I. 189; *Bodl. Fleming newsletter* 3334; *HMC 13th Rep.* VI, 39, 41; *Luttrell.* v. 202.

COURTENAY see also COURTNEY

COURTHOPE, **George** (161b-85). of \Whiligh, 'Iicehurst. Suss.'

could not undertake the journey to London without danger to his life. Convinced that 'retiredness is more safe than business', Courthope did not stand again, and applied himself to studying 'the art of dying well'. He died on 18 Nov. 1685, and was buried at Ticehurst. The next member of the family to enter Parliament was Sir George Loyd Courthope, first returned for Rye in 1906 and ultimately Father of the House.⁴

¹This biography is based on Courthope's memoirs (C'am. Mzsc. xl. 93-r 37) : Excluded. 3 Cal. Treas. Bks. I. 647; Beaufort mss. 600-2. 'J.A. Voolndnidge, Danny Arckes, xiv; J Comber, SIN. Genealoges Lmes. 85: CJ, xx. 197,

M.W.H. B.51.C.

COURTNEY (COURTENAY), Humphrey (1641-96), of Tremeer, LANIVET, CORNW.

Mitchell 17 Dec. 1689, 12 Nov. 1690, 14 Dec. 1695-Mar. 1696

bap. 4 Aug. 1641, O.S. of Richard Courtney of Tremeer by Philippa, da. of Humphrey Prouze of Chagford, Devon. educ. Balliol, Oxf. 1659; I. Temple 1659, called 1677. m. 27 Dec. 1666, Alice, da. of Sir Peter Courtney # of Trethurfe, Cornw. and h. to her bro. William, 2s. 9da. suc. fa. 1660.-

Commr. for assessment, Cornw. 1665-80, 1689-90, recusants 1675; j.p. Cornw. to 1680, Devon and Cornw. July 1688, Oct. 1688-d.; freeman, Bodmin 1685-Sept. 1688; stannator of Blackmore 1686.-

Courtney came from a junior branch of the Trethurfe family. His father fought for the King in the 'West Country' in the first Civil War, compounded in May 1646 on a fine of £457 at one-sixth, and left him an estate valued at £1,200 p.a., including property in Mitchell. Unlike his uncle Nicholas Courtney*, who arranged for his call to the bar, he does not seem to have been a practising lawyer, though he was described as 'a knowing justice' and 'of great estate' when he was removed in 1680 from the Cornish commission of the peace, after contesting West Looe as an exclusionist. His interest at Mitchell was strengthened when his wife inherited Trethurfe in 1683, and he again became a j.p. under James II. But he gave the same negative answers as Sir John Carew* on the repeal of the Test Act and Penal Laws in 1688, and was removed from local office. Nevertheless Lord Bath recommended him as court candidate for Loswithiel, and suggested that he should be 'treated with' for his interest.³

Courtney stood unsuccessfully for Mitchell in 1689, and petitioned against the return of Charles, Viscount Fanshawe* After Fanshawe's expulsion from the House, he did not prosecute his petition, preferring to fight a by-election. He was defeated by William Coryton* and again petitioned. On 12 Dec. the elections committee reported that Court-

ney had been duly elected and should have been returned, and after two divisions carried by ultra-Whig tellers the House agreed. An inactive Member of the Convention, he was appointed to two committees, one for the sale of the Duke of Buckingham's estates and the other to allow surgeons to administer medicine. He represented Mitchell, after protracted election contests, in the next two Parliaments as a Tory, though he signed the Association shortly before his death. He was buried in the Temple Church on 25 Mar. 1696, leaving his estates mortgaged up to the hilt. His son William was returned for Mitchell in December 1701, but eventually had to sell everything except Tremeer.⁴

¹Vivian, Vis. Cornw. ii. 5; Gilbert, Paroch. Hist. Cornw. iii. 19. 'J. Wallis, Bodmin Reg. 169; PC2 72 235; J. Tregoning, Laws of the Stannaries 57. 3 Gilbert, iii. 11; Cal. Comm. Comp. 1278; M. Coate, Cornw. in Gt. Civil War, 370; PCC 107 Nabbs; Add. 18448, f. 31. '4 & 5 Anne, cap 63.

E.C.

COURTNEY (COURTENAY), Nicholas (c. 1630-1722), of the Inner Temple, and St. Breock, CORNW.

Saltash 1679 (Mar.)
CAMELFORD 1 685

b. c. 1630, 4th s. of William Courtney (d. 1642) of Tremeer, nr. Camelford by Jane, da. of James Bassett of Tehidy, Illorgan; bro. of Hugh Courtney educ. I Temple 1660. m. 28 Apr. 1656, Jane, da. of Sir George Granville of Penheale, wid. of John Tregagle of Trevorder, St. Breock, s.p.1

Commr. for assessment, Cornw. 1664-80, 1689, Mdx. 1677-9, Westminster 1679-80; steward of Helston manor by 1669?-d., East Greenwich 1714?-d.; j.p. Devon and Cornw. 1673-98; attorney-gen. duchy of Cornw. 1673-98; commr. for recusants, Cornw. 1675; bencher, I. Temple 1677, treas. 1694-5; recorder, Saltash 1677-83; freeman. Saltash 1683, Plymouth 1684, Bodmin and Liskeard 1685-Sept. 1688; asst. Camelford to Sept. 1688.-

Courtney, a lawyer 'of a true Cavalier suffering family once steady to the crown', was an uncle of Humphrey Courtney*. He signed the Cornish declaration for a free Parliament in December 1659. At the Restoration he secured the release of his radical brother, who had represented Wales in Barebones's Parliament. A kinsman of the Earl of Bath through his wife, Courtney successfully petitioned for the office of attorney-general of the duchy of Cornwall in 1673 with an annual fee of £20, raised to £50 in the following year. In 1675 he was granted £100 as the King's free gift and in 1677 he was chosen recorder of Saltash on the special recommendation of the King at the time of the renewal of the borough's charter.³

Courtney successfully contested Saltash at the

first general election of 1679. Classed as 'base' by Shaftesbury, he duly voted against the exclusion bill. An inactive Member of the first Exclusion Parliament, he was appointed to the committee of elections and privileges, and those to inspect the poor laws, and to inquire into the causes of the decay of the leather trade. He also acted as a teller in favour of a motion for adjournment during the hearing of the Leicester election case. He was defeated in September and no action was taken on his petition. In 1685 he was given the freedom of Liskeard and Bodmin under their new charters. Returned to James II's Parliament for Camelford as a Tory, he was moderately active, being appointed to two committees on private bills and that to estimate the yield of the proposed tax on new buildings. He was one of the Templars who were reported to have concurred with the King's religious policy 'under the lord chancellor's examination', and in 1688 he was recommended as court candidate for Camelford. But in September he was removed from office in all his boroughs, and he did not stand again. Under William III he was constrained to surrender his duchy office 'to prevent the same being taken from him', presumably as a non-juror. In 1702 he petitioned

before he leaves the stage (being above three score and twelve years old) that his long and steady service to the Crown and Government may be honoured in such preferment as your lordship shall think fit.

In 1709 and 1710 he petitioned unsuccessfully for a reversionary lease of the duty of 4d. per cwt. upon all tin coined in the stannaries, but in 1714 his request for the stewardship of East Greenwich was granted. His anxiety to obtain an office was doubtless increased by his financial difficulties. As early as 1691 the scientist Robert Boyle remitted a debt of £150 and interest which Courtney could not pay. He died on 26 Oct. 1722 and was buried in the Temple Church.⁴

⁴Vivian, Vis. Cornw. i 15; B. Spooner, John Tregagle, 18-19. *Cal. Treas. Bks.* iii. 289; iv. 39, 68; xiii. 69; *CSP Dom.* 1677-8, pp. 182-3, 513; 1685, p. 66; 3. Wallis, *Bodmin Reg.* 169; *Cal. Plymouth Mun. Recs.* ed. Worth, 8; PC2/72 735. 3Vivian 105-18; PCC 107 Nabbs; PC2/55/256; *Cal. Wills Cornw.* (Index Lib. lvi), 75; *Cal. Treas. Bks.* iv. 3 15, 321, 599, 765; *CSP Dom.* 1677-8, pp. 182-3, 578. 4 *Cal. I. Temple Recs.* 206, 215; 80. 86; *Cal. Treas. Bks.* xxiii. 440; xxiv. 30; xxvii. 407, 419; *Cal. Treas. Pprs.* 1708-14. p. 405; W. P. Courtney, *Parl. Rep. Cornw.* 151; PCC 3 Fane.

P.W.

b. c. 1616, 2nd but 1st surv. s. of Edward Courtney of Trethurfe by Elizabeth, da. of Tristram Gorges of Butthead, St. Budeaux, Devon. *educ. Exeter, Oxf. matric.* 21 June 1633, aged 16; L, inn 1636. m. (1) 27 Dec. 1638, Alice (d. 18 Nov. 1659), da. of Jonathan Rashleigh+ of Menabilly, Cornw., 1s. 4da. (2) Amy, da. of Peter Courtney of Penkivel, Cornw., S.P. suc. fa. by 1636; kntd. 28 June 1642.

Commr. of array, Cornw. 1642; portreeve, Mitchell by Apr. 1660- least 1661; J.P. Cornw. July 1660-d., commr. for assessment Aug. 1660-9.

Lt.-col. of ft. (royalist) 1642, col. 1643-746. 2

Courtney was descended from a younger son of the Devonshire Courtenays who married a Cornish heiress in the late 15th century. The family regularly sat for Cornish boroughs from Tudor times. Courtney was knighted on the eve of the Civil War at York, to which he had travelled at great hazard to inform the King of the good affection of the Cornish people. He served under Sir Bevil Granville*, and compounded in 1648 for a fine of £326. An active royalist conspirator during the Interregnum, he was a member of the western association in 1650 and in the following year he was described as 'one that is ready to serve upon any insurrection'. The Cornish committee suspected him of complicity in the Booth rising. He himself claimed that throughout this period he had lost 'some £7,000 by plunder and compositions and undergone 'seven or eight imprisonments'.³

After the Restoration Courtney was added to the Cornish commission of the peace, but his only other reward was a grant of the farm of the Cornish tin customs at a rent of £3,000 p.a., shortly afterwards rescinded on the discovery of an earlier grant to someone else. Returned to the Convention at a by-election for Tregony in October 1660 he was probably a court supporter, but he made no speeches and was appointed to no committees. In 1665 he petitioned for a pension from the tin farm, mentioning his services and losses for the royalist cause and complaining that he was a prisoner for debt in his own house. Nothing seems to have been done for him. His will was proved on 3 May 1670. His only son died without issue in 1683, leaving his estates to his cousin and brother-in-law, Humphrey Courtney*.⁴

³Vivian Vis. Cornw. 117-18. 2 W. H. Black, *Docquets of Letters Patent*, 74. *Cal. Comm. Comp.* 1234; D Underdown, *Royalist Conspiracy*, 35; *CSP Dom.* 1665-6, p. 143, *HMC Portland*, ii. 588 *CSP Dom.* 1665-6, p. 153.

M.W.H. P W

COURTNEY (COURTENAY), Sir Peter (c. 1616-70), of Trethurfe, Ladock, Cornw.

MITCHELL 24 Apr. 1640
TREGONY 22 Oct. 1660

THE HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT

THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
1715-1754

Romney Sedgwick

I

INTRODUCTORY SURVEY,
APPENDICES, CONSTITUENCIES,
MEMBERS A-D

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1970

Administration in all recorded divisions. He was defeated at Honiton in 1747 but re-elected in 1754, continuing to sit for it till his death, 30 Apr. 1763.

E.C.

COURTENAY, Kelland (? 1707~48), of Tremecr, Cornw. and Painsford, Devon.

TRURO 1734-1741
HUNTINGDON 1747-Mar. 1748

b. ?1707, 2nd s. of William Courtenay, M.P., of Tremecr by Susanna, da. of John Kelland, wid. of Moses Gould of Hayes, and h. to her nephew John Kelland of Painsford. *educ.* Oriel, Oxf. 10 June 1724, aged 16; I. Temple 1722. m. 1 Sept. 1737; Elizabeth; da. of Edward Richard Montagu (q.v.), Visct. Hinchingbrooke, is. 2da. *suc.* bro. William 1719.

Courtenay, whose father and grandfather had represented Mitchell, where his family had a 'good natural interest', came in for Truro in 1734 'by compromise with Lord Falmouth' (Hugh Boscawen, q.v.).¹ He voted with the Opposition on the Spanish convention in 1739 and the place bill in 1740, but did not stand in 1741. In 1747 he was brought in by his brother-in-law, Lord Sandwich, for Huntingdon vice Albert Nesbitt (q.v.), who was brought in for Mitchell on Courtenay's interest. He was described by Sandwich as a person 'whose principles I can depend upon', and was classed as a government supporter. Falling ill in the winter of that year,² he died soon after (buried 8 Mar. 1748).

¹ Thomas Pitt's survey of the Cornish boroughs c. Oct. 1740, Chatham mss. ² Sandwich to Pelham, 23 May and 29 Dec. 1747, Newcastle (Clumber) mss.

E.C.

COURTENAY, Sir William, 2nd Bt. (1676-1735), of Powderham Castle, Devon.

DEVON 1701-1710, 22 July 1712-6 Oct. 1735

b. 1 Mar. 1676, 1st s. of Francis Courtenay, M.P., by Mary, da. of John Boevy of Flaxley Abbey, Glos., London merchant. *educ.* ?Exeter, Oxf. 1695. m. 20 July 1704, Lady Anne Bertie, da. of James, 1st Earl of Abingdon, 5s. 8da. *suc.* fa. who d.v.p. 1699; *gd.-fa.* as 2nd Bt. 4 Aug. 1702. *Ld. lt.* Devon 1714-16.

Courtenay's family had been settled at Powderham and had represented Devon in Parliament since the fourteenth century. As lords of the manor of Honiton, about 15 miles from Powderham, they appointed the returning officer, as well as other officials of that borough. Returned as a Tory for the county in 1715 (when he was also elected at Honiton), Courtenay sat for it in every succeeding Parliament till his death. From 1715 all his

COURTENAY, Henry Reginald (1714-63), of AldershotHants.

HONITON 1741-1747, 1754-30 Apr. 1763

B. 8 June 1714, 2nd surv. s. of Sir William Courtenay, 2nd Bt., and bro. of William Courtenay (qq.v.). *educ.* Westminster 1725; Magdalen, Oxf. 1731. m. 14 Apr. 1737, Lady Cathexine Bathurst, da. of Allen Bathurst, M.P., 1st Earl Bathurst, 2s. 2da.

Returned unopposed for Honiton as a Tory on the family interest, Courtenay voted against the

recorded votes were against the Government His name was sent to the Pretender as a Jacobite supporter in 1721, and he was in contact with Atterbury's agents during the plot of 1722. 1 He seconded a motion for a bill to prevent the translation of bishops in March 1731, and one for a **place bill in January 1733. 2 on 16 Mar. 1733**, when Sir William Yonge declared that his constituents at Honiton had signified to him their approbation of the excise scheme, Courtenay replied that

he knew the borough the hon. gent. stood for; he knew almost every man in it, he had but lately come from there, and he knew that they were all against it. The whole people of that country were against and had joined in their solicitations for him to come up of purpose to oppose it. 3

He died 6 Oct. 1735.

1 *Stuart mss 65/16 Rep. from the Cttee appointed by the House of Commons to examine Christopher Layer and others*, App. F. 1.
2 *HMC Egmont Diary*, i. 153 312 3 *Stuart mss Box 1/125*.

E.C.

COURTENAY, William (1710-62), of Powderham Castle, Devon.

HONITON 1734-1741

DEVON 1741-6 May 1762

b. 11 Feb. 1710, 1st surv. s. of Sir William Courtenay, 2nd Bt., and bro. of Henry Reginald Courtenay (q.v.). *educ.* Westminster 1722; Magdalen, Oxf. 1729. *m.* (lic. 2 Apr. 1741) Lady Frances Finch, da. of Heneage Finch (q.v.), 2nd Earl of Aylesford, is. 4da. *suc. fa.* as 3rd Bt. 6 Oct. 1735; *Cl. Visct. Courtenay* 6 May 1762.

Gov. St. Bartholomew's Hospital 1750.

Returned unopposed as a Tory at Honiton in 1734, Courtenay voted against the Administration on-the Spanish convention, 8 Mar. 1739, and the place bill, 29 Jan. 1740. On 13 Feb. 1741 he was among the Tories who withdrew from the division on the motion for Walpole's dismissal. Having been returned unopposed for the county in 1741, he is reported in January 1742 to have been 'mobbed in Exeter for not being up at Parliament to attend to his duty'.¹ He voted against the Hanoverians in 1742 and 1744, but was absent from the division on them in 1746. According to a report sent to the French Government in 1743 he was one of the most considerable of the Pretender's supporters in England, from his vast estates, his income of £14,000 p.a. and the large number of his tenants employed in the woollen manufacture.² He died 16 May 1762, ten days after being made a peer by George III.

HMC Egmont Diary iii. 243-4. 2 *Stuart mss 248/151*.

E.C.

THE HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT

THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
1754-1790

Sir Lewis Namier and John Brooke

II
MEMBERS
A - J

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1964

COURTENAY, Henry Reginald (1714-63), of Aldershot, Hants.

HONITON 1741-1747, 1754-30 Apr. 1763

b. 8 June 1714, 4th s. of Sir William Courtenay, 2nd Bt., M.P., and bro. of Sir William Courtenay, 3rd Bt. (q.v.) *educ.* Westminster 1725; Magdalen, Oxf. 1731. **m.** 14 Apr. 1737, Hon. Catherine Bathurst, da. of Allen, 1st Baron Bathurst, 2s. 2da.

Courtenay was defeated at Honiton in 1747 and returned after a contest in 1754. He was invariably counted as a Tory. In Bute's list of December 1761 he is classed 'Tory-Bute'. But he does not appear in Fox's list of Members favourable to the peace preliminaries, December 1762, which must not, however, be taken to suggest that he was against them.

He died 30 Apr. 1763.

L.B.N.

COURTENAY, John (1738-1816).1

TAMWORTH 1780-1796

APPLEBY 1796-1807, 9 Oct.-Dec. 1812

b. 22 Aug. 1738, 2nd s. of Henry Courtenay, a revenue officer in Ireland, by Mary, da. of Rev. William Major, prebendary of Ballymore, Armagh. *educ.* Dundalk g.s. **m.** c.1765, 2s. 5da.

Ensign 29 Ft. 1756, lt. 1759; sold out 1765.

Commissary of the musters [I] 1765-9; barrack master of Kinsale 1772; first sec. to the master gen. of the Ordnance 1773-82; surveyor gen. of the Ordnance Apr.-Dec. 1783; ld. of Treasury 1806-7.

In 1765, after selling his army commission, Courtenay purchased an appointment as one of the six commissaries of musters in Ireland. But in 1769, in order to pay increasing debts, he sold his office, and began writing for the *Bachelor*, a pro-Castle Administration journal. This brought him to the notice of Lord Townshend, the lord lieutenant, who obtained for him the sinecure place of barrack master of Kinsale, and when Townshend returned to England to become master general of the Ordnance, Courtenay accompanied him as his secretary.

In London Courtenay, who in 1773 published *The Rape of Poloma*, an elegiac poem, was introduced to the literary group frequented by Johnson and Boswell. He became a close friend and adviser of Boswell, who admired his work and found 'his conversation . . . excellent; it has so much litera-

ture, wit, and at the same time manly sense in it', and years later wrote of him as 'a friend to whom I have been much obliged'.2

At the general election of 1780 Courtenay was returned free of expense for a seat at Tamworth which Townshend had sold to Administration. 'Mr. Courtenay' wrote North in 1782, 'returned this favour to Government by supporting them always with great abilities and zeal'3 though from an unorthodox and highly personal viewpoint. He 'never was, nor never would be an advocate for the justice, wisdom, and expediency of the American war',4 but the American alliance with France had convinced him of the necessity for its vigorous prosecution, and he urged this in the House on several occasions. Yet, he said, 28 Nov. 1781 :5

If there was a hope, a gleam of hope., that by acknowledging the independence of America, she could be detached from France, it would demand the serious attention of the House whether such terms should not be granted . . . great commercial and national advantages would be derived from a union between people naturally connected by the same language, manners, and religion . . . great and essential benefits might be mutually received by both countries connected by a federal union and Britain on such a liberal and enlarged system of policy might again become a great and flourishing nation.

In the House Courtenay was a frequent speaker, witty, and uninhibited. Wraxall writes6 that he

possessed a very uncommon and eccentric species of humour, original, classic, even Attic, allied to, and sustained by learning, inexhaustible and often irresistible, in its effects on the muscles, but always coarse, frequently licentious, or at least indecorous, and rarely under a becoming restraint. His wit seemed indeed more adapted to a tavern or to a convivial board than to the grave deliberations of such an assembly as the House of Commons.

He attacked the Opposition scathingly: during the debate of 26 Feb. 1781 on the bill for regulating the civil list revenue he ridiculed their proposals and threw doubts on their motives.' Horace Walpole writes that in reply Sheridan 'demolished Courtenay who old George Cavendish said well, is deputy buffoon to Lord North'. 8 Courtenay was undeterred - on a subsequent occasion he told the House that 'neither his temper, disposition, nor country inclined him to be intimidated, embarrassed or easily put out of countenance',9 and on 8 May 1781, expressing his strong disapprobation of Sir George Savile's motion for diminishing the influence of the Crown, he said ironically that 'as the dangerous influence of the Crown would be increased by our victories, and diminished by our defeats, it was perfectly consistent . . . to hope for the improvement of the constitution, and the extinction of corruption by the ruin of the Empire'. Another example of

Courtenay's 'usual quaint style of serious ridicule and solemn jesting' was his speech of 3 1 May 1781 on Lord Beauchamp's bill to amend the Marriage Act, when he attacked the principle and tendency of the Act while elaborately pretending to defend it: 'the framers of the act . . . wisely threw as many obstacles as possible in the way of matrimony, and considering the miseries usually attending wedlock, the obvious purport of the act was judicious, salutary, and laudable'.¹⁰

Courtenay remained loyal to North till the end, and on 20 Mar. 1782, while the House was in an uproar, with the Opposition clarnouring for the removal of ministers, he obstinately persevered in delivering a warm tribute to North, acknowledging **1**

the unfeigned respect he should ever bear for him . . . He could not form a more sanguine wish for the happiness of his country, than that in this day of difficulty, in this hour of calamity and distress, an Administration might be formed, as able and disinterested, as upright in their intention but more fortunate in the event than the noble Lord's.

After North's resignation he became an ally of Fox, with whom he had been on friendly terms for some time. He strongly disliked and distrusted Shelburne; in July 1782 rejected his suggestion for a meeting;¹² on 11 Dec. 1782 referred to his 'glorious, profitable, talent . . . so to contrive his measures as to make them palatable to all, his language was at all times such that he could explain it either this way or that way, and that every other man might do so too',¹⁸ and subsequently to his 'specious, promising, deluding, janus-faced Administration'.¹⁴ Courtenay did not vote for Pitt's proposals for parliamentary reform, 7 May 1783, though he had spoken in favour of reform on 7 May 1782, nor did he vote for it on 18 Apr. 1785.

He supported the Coalition, and after its dismissal was one of Pitt's most vigorous opponents. On 4 Aug. 1784, declaring that 'the public had very foolishly idolized' Pitt, he said he 'was determined in the most rapid possible manner to undeceive them';¹⁵ and during the next few years harassed Pitt on numerous topics, particularly those concerning finance and the Ordnance. Drawing on his own experience in office, he discussed Ordnance affairs in minute detail, staunchly defended the measures of his former chief, Lord Townshend, while subjecting those of his successor, the Duke of Richmond, to vigorous criticism, repeatedly condemning his fortifications plans. Eventually, on 21 Apr. 1790, he moved for a committee to inquire into and report the expenditure of the money for the past four years, since 'every estimate presented by the noble Duke had . . . been false and fallacious'.¹⁶ Though

Courtenay's caustic humour frequently 'kept the House in a roar of laughter'¹⁷ he continually gave great offence, and on 9 May 1787, during a debate on the prosecution of Hastings, excelled himself in a speech which, writes Wraxall, **18**

as far as my parliamentary experience warrants me in asserting, stands alone in the annals of the House of Commons, exhibiting a violation of every form or principle which has been held sacred within these walls.

In it Courtenay referred to Hood (one of Hastings's defenders) as a 'spectator of the victorious feats of the brave Lord Rodney'; went on to lampoon Wilkes in forthright terms, and concluded with a hint that the King had taken bribes from Hastings. Though he retracted his words about Hood, Members were not satisfied, and on 14 May Pitt demanded a formal apology, pointing out that

those who knew the honourable gentleman would know that it was no very extraordinary supposition to be entertained that this explanation though it might appear an apology, might in fact be meant rather as an aggravation than an extenuation of the injury.¹⁹

Courtenay refused to be drawn that day, but on the next again averred that his words had been misunderstood, and concluded that Pitt

had said that it was hard to know when he was serious or ironical . . . lest the chancellor of the Exchequer should be at a loss for the future . . . Mr. Courtenay begged leave to assure him, whenever he paid him any compliments personally or politically, the right honourable gentleman might be persuaded that he was ironical.²⁰

When, later in 1787, Courtenay's old friend and patron, Lord Townshend, went over to Pitt, Courtenay remained in opposition. By this time his financial position, never very sound, was seriously embarrassed. Boswell noted in his journal on 23 Feb. 1788 that Courtenay had lately told him 'that all that remained to him was an annuity of £40 a year which he was going to sell. I calculated it would yield him £240 It was wonderful to see with what spirit and serenity he lived with a wife and seven children, knowing his situation.'²¹ 'He was in truth of the school of Diogenes' writes Wraxall,

I never remember a more complete cynic in his dress, manners, and general deportment, all which bespoke that inattention to external appearances or forms characteristic of the philosopher of Sinope. But under this neglected exterior lay concealed a classic mind, an understanding highly cultivated and a vast variety of information, and a vigorous intellect . . . Like Diogenes he was poor, but of a high and independent character, that seemed to despise wealth.²²

He died 24 Mar. 1816.

¹ See J. Courtenay, *Incidental Anecs. & a Biog. Sketch* (1809).
² Boswell Pprs. (Isham), xvii. 86; xviii. 171 ³ Fortescue, v. 466.

4 Debrett, ii. 36. 5 Ibid. v. 62-63. 6 Menu, ii. 85. 7 Ibid. ii. 36. 8 Walpole to Mason, 3 Mar. 1781. 9 Debrett, vi. 507-9. 10 Ibid. in. 227-31, 337-9, 451. 11 Ibid. vi. 507-9. 12 To Shelburne, 25 July, Lansdowne mss. 13 Debrett, ix. 83-84. 14 4 July 1783 *ibid.* x. 276. 15 Ibid. xvi. 340. 16 Stockdale, xix. 256. 17 Debrett vii. 135. 18 Mems. v. 5. 19 Debrett, xxii. 341. 20 Ibid. 353-5. 21 *Boswell Pprs.* xvii. 71. 22 Mems. iii. 453.

M.M.D.

COURTENAY, Sir William, 3rd Bt. (1710-62),
of Powderham Castle, Devon.

HONITON 1734-1741

DEVON 1741-6 May 1762

b. 11 Feb. 1710, 1st surv. s. of Sir William Courtenay, 2nd Bt., M.P. for Devon, by Lady Anne Bertie, da. of James, 1st Earl of Abingdon *educ.* Westminster 1722; Magdalen, Oxf. 1729. m. 2 Apr. 1741, Lady Frances Finch, da. of Heneage, 2nd Earl of Aylesford, 1s. 5da. suc. fa. 1735; cr. Visct. Courtenay 6 May 1762.

Courtenay was a Tory. He appears in Newcastle's list of 1761 as 'against', but is not classed in Bute's list of December 1761—he was about to be created a peer.¹ He apparently owed his peerage to Bute who therefore could press him, against Courtenay's own inclination, to give his interest at the ensuing by-election for Devon to John Parker (q.v.).²

Courtenay died 16 May 1762.

¹Jas. Buller to Bute, 20 Nov. 1761, Bute mss. ²Bute to Shelburne, 26 Apr. 1762, Lansdowne mss.

L.B.N.

THE HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT

THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
1790 - 1820

R. G. Thorne

III
MEMBERS
A - F

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March and April 1807 he was granted periods of leave because of the illness of his first wife,¹ who died in May, when he came in again for Newark.

It was noted in 1808 that Cotton 'supports the present cabinet',² but during most of his Commons career he was on active service in the Peninsula as an intrepid and intelligent commander of cavalry. He came home on learning of his father's death in 1809. On 5 Mar. 1810 he voted with government on the question of Lord Chatham's narrative concerning the Scheldt expedition, and three days later he replied in his place to a vote of thanks for his part in the battle of Talavera. The Whigs listed him as 'doubtful' in mid March. He inherited Cheshire estates of almost 9,000 acres, but they were encumbered by his father's debts³ and he continued his military career, which was distinguished by his part in the retreat from Almeida in 1810 at Llerena and, as Wellington's second in command, at Salamanca in 1812 when he was badly wounded in the right arm. Some of his friends floated his name as a candidate for Cheshire at the next general election, but he discounted his chances of being returned without 'trouble or expense' and preferred to come in again for Newark.⁴

Wellington recommended him for a red ribbon, which he duly received, but Cotton, who came home late in 1812, wanted a peerage, which his father had once declined. All the pressure exerted on ministers by Newcastle on his behalf was of no avail, but he was prevailed on to return to the theatre of war and on 11 Mar. 1813 was excused service on an election committee on this account.⁵ He commanded the allied cavalry until the peace of 1814, when he obtained his peerage. He was on almost continuous foreign service from 1813 to 1830, when he returned from India with a handsome fortune.⁶ He died 21 Feb. 1865

¹ *CJ*, lxii. 191, 140. ² *J. Wilson, Biog. Index* (1808), 415. ³ *Dyott's Diary*, ii. 104. ⁴ *Notts. RO, Smith-Godfrey ms. CP5 2 52*. ⁵ *HMC Bathurst*, 196, 202, 204-5, 228-9; *Lady Combermere and W. W. Knollys, Memo. Vict. Combermere*, i. 298-9; *Wellington Supp. Despatches*, vii. 406-7, 414, 515; *CJ*, lxxviii. 297. ⁶ *Dyott's Diary*, ii. 97, 104.

M.H.P.

COURTENAY, **John (1738-1816)**, of 11 Duke Street, Portland Place, Mdx.

TAMWORTH 1780-1796

APPLEBY 1796-1807, 1812-Dec 1812

b. 22 Aug. 1738, 2nd s. of Henry Courtenay, revenue officer, of Newry, co. Down by Mary, da. of Rev. William Major preb. of Ballymore, Armagh *educ.* Dundalk g.s m. c.1765 (his wife committed suicide c.1793), 3s. 5da.

Ensign 29 Ft. 1756, lt. 1759; sold out 1765.

Commr. musters [I] 1765-9; barrack master of Kin

sale 1772; first sec. to master gen. of Ordnance Apr. 1783-Dec. 1783; Id. of Treasury Feb. 1806-Mar. 1807.

An erudite Irish wit 'of the school of Diogenes', Courtenay had graduated from 'deputy buffoon to Lord North' to a Foxite opponent of Pitt's administration. He owed his public career to George Townshend', 1st Marquess Townshend, who returned him for Tamworth and who, when he rallied to Pitt in 1787, 'acted very handsomely by continuing Courtenay in his seat ... though they differed in their politics'. The fact was (as his patron knew) that he was in financial difficulties and needed the security of a seat in Parliament. Townshend could not be expected to bring him in again in 1796, if only because there had for two years been a threat of opposition to Courtenay at Tamworth on political grounds, and this time Fox induced Lord Thanet to come to his rescue by securing his return for Appleby.²

Courtenay had joined Brooks's Club, 13 Feb. 1788, and the Whig Club on 2 Dec. following. He was a staunch attender in the Parliament of 1790, listed favourable to repeal of the Test Act in Scotland in 1791, and laboured to make his opposition biting in his occasional sallies in debate. In 1795 he was described as 'the most pleasant man in opposition', though his wit owed too much to Jo Miller and his chief role was 'lying in ambush and firing off his grapeshot at ministers'. In this he did not always achieve his aim: Pitt's view was that Courtenay should be ignored, but even he sometimes let himself be drawn and the young Canning, ridiculed by Courtenay, gave as good as he got, dismissing contemptuously his contributions to political verse. Apart from an ironical attack on the malt tax, 21 Dec. 1790 a defence of the abolition of the slave trade, 19 Apr 1791, which he further supported in speeches of 22 May 1793 and 18 Feb. 1796; and a defence of lotteries ('private vices, public benefits') 4 Apr. 1792, Courtenay attempted no major speech until 25 May 1792, when he rebuked Pitt for abandoning parliamentary reform. He was then, as he confessed, a Friend of the People; but ten days later seceded with four other Members. This was in deference to Fox.' He remained a Friend of the Liberty of the Press. Apart from his *Philosophic & reflections on the late revolution in France* (1790), addressed to Dr Priestley, Courtenay, a manager of Warren Hastings's impeachment, assailed Edmund Burke* in *A poetical and philosophical essay on the French revolution (1793)*. He had already done so in the House, 15 Dec. 1792. There was clamour on the other side when he reminded Burke 'how he exulted at the victories of the rebel Washington':

he did not wonder at the clamour, because it proceeded from the inarticulate Members, who, never affording any information to the House, adopted this as the only method within their power of causing themselves to be heard.

He then paid tribute to the 'noble ardour' inspired by 'the genius of liberty' in France. He went on to propose a frivolous amendment to the aliens bill, 31 Dec. 1792; to ridicule the number of general officers now gazetted, 21 Feb. 1793, and next day to wax ironical over the purpose of barracks; to deplore the inadequacy of the preparations for the expedition to Holland, 15 Mar., and to criticize the traitorous correspondence bill, 26 Mar., 9 Apr. Only the Ordnance, which he had served under Townshend, was exempt from his criticisms, 10 June 1793 (also 28 Mar. 1797).

As for the war, he insisted that Britain was the aggressor against France and was encompassing her economic ruin by prosecuting it, especially under Pitt, who was no match for his father, 21 Jan. 1794. He ridiculed idolatry of the *ancien regime* in his *The present state of the manners, arts, and politics of France and Italy*, which went into a second edition that year. He advocated the release of General Lafayette, 17 Mar. 1794, and blamed Pitt and his cabinet for the failure of the Dunkirk expedition and of the occupation of Toulon, 10 Apr. He opposed the suspension of habeas corpus, 17 May. Both in April 1794 and March 1795 he was a forthright critic of the Lord's Day observance bill and, with more levity, of the hairpowder bill in the latter month. He called for investigation of prisoners under sentence from ecclesiastical courts, 31 Mar. 1795, after previous attempts to raise the subject. He complained that the privilege of franking letters was abused more by clerks in the public offices than by Members, 13 Apr. On 18 May he contrived to amuse the impatient House by protracting his seconding of Macleod's motion until the secretary at war (who was to reply to it and was late) had arrived. He championed the cause of Governor Des Barres of Cape Breton, who like him had served under Townshend, 15 June. He was an opponent of the bills against sedition, 12 Nov. 1795, and attacked the cavalry augmentation bill a week later: 'to support these bills, these cavalry were designed. That is to perform military execution on the people of this country, in support of these bills.' He criticized the unconstitutional sentiments expressed by the pamphleteer John Reeves, 26 Nov., and thought, 14 Dec., that Reeves should be made to bum his own works. Observing that the Queensferry petition in favour of the sedition bills was signed first by one styling himself 'chife magistrate'

he asked Henry Dundas (whose ability to speak English he had questioned on 22 Jan.) 'whether that was the orthography of Scotland?', 10 Dec. He opposed the tobacco duty as a tax on the poor, 14 Dec. He deplored the cruelty shown to the Maroons in Jamaica, 20 Mar. 1796. On 8 Apr. he was in his element, criticising the confiscation by the War Office of the dung of the dragoon horses, hitherto 'a douceur and prerequisite of the soldiers', for the profit of the state: 'Why was not this extended to the infantry-then a standing army in time of peace would be of the greatest utility'. It was in similar vein that he assailed Dent's proposal for a tax on dogs, which Pitt was obliged to amend, 25 27 Apr. On 2 May he supported, on the evidence of the court martial, the expulsion of John Fenton Cawthorne from the House.

Courtenay was steady in opposition in the first session of the Parliament of 1796, On 1 Mar. 1797 he chaffed the elephantine Dr French Laurence, Earl Fitzwilliam's spokesman, on the question of the Bank stoppage. During the debate on Ireland, 23 Mar., he defended the county of Down against imputations of Jacobinism. Of Members' attendance on the county rate bill, 3 May, he remarked that it was 'much more numerous than usually attended upon the trifling business of voting away 2 or 3 millions of money'. After voting for parliamentary reform, 26 May 1797, he seceded with Fox, returning next session only to oppose the assessed taxes by speech and vote, 14 Dec. 1797, 3, 4 Jan. 1798, and to censure the Irish government by vote, 22 June. On 21 Dec. 1798 he reappeared on a mission of his own: to draw attention to the plight of his friend, Edward Marcus Despard, a state prisoner 'in the Bastille in Coldbath Fields' visited by Courtenay in Sir Francis Burdett's company, who was allegedly being treated like a convicted felon. He bullied William Wilberforce into replying that day, but failed to make good Despard's case on 26 Dec. and found the House reluctant to accept Despard's petition, 20, 25 Feb. 1799. On 21 May he blamed the conduct of the prison governor and complained of the credit given to informers under the suspension of habeas corpus. Two votes only survive from the session of 1800: against the refusal to negotiate with France, 3 Feb., and against the effects on the House of the Irish union, 21 Apr.; but he was credited with the authorship of a satirical poem published that year *The Campaign*, an attack on the Dutch expedition.⁴ When the Irish contingent arrived, he complimented them on their patience with the Irish martial law bill, 16 Mar. 1801, and advocated Catholic relief to complete the Union. He supported Grey's censure motion, 25 Mar.

He had far less to say under Addington's administration, but hinted in supporting the opposition candidate for the Speaker's chair, 10 Feb. 1802, that Addington had never appeared to greater advantage than in the Chair. He opposed him on the civil list and the Prince of Wales's finances, 29, 31 Mar. Soon afterwards he applied for his son Kenneth to be appointed a chaplain to the Prince which came to pass. He distinguished himself on several occasions as an advocate of public reward for scientific discovery, 29 Apr 1793, 28 Feb. 1796, 2, 24 June 1802. William Windham's defence of bull-baiting (24 May 1802) evoked his strongest sarcasm. The fact was that Windham his former crony, had recently revoked Courtenay's qualification, of which he had made him a gift before his first election to the House in 1780. Courtenay's Whig associates hoped that this would not be publicized, or that the 6th Duke of Bedford might 'be tempted to add £100 to the gift of his brother and by giving landed security for it make it a qualification' for him. It seems that the duke felt unable to do more than continue his late brother's legacy of £200 p.a. and that Courtenay's patron Thanet came to his rescue. 5

Courtenay was on form in his speech in defence of the naval commission of inquiry, 15 Dec. 1802. Recalling the abuses he had eliminated at the Ordnance when in office, he said that he had desired then that government might award him a small percentage of the resulting savings and that it was not too late for this administration to do so. He voted for inquiry into the Prince of Wales' finances, 4 Mar. 1803. On 21 Mar. and 4 Apr. he assisted Sir Frances Burdett in his campaign against the St. Pancras workhouse bill. He preferred a farming clergy to one dependent on increased bounty, 22 June 1801, 15, 18 July 1803. He was in the opposition to the adjournment, 24 May 1803, and on 3 June likened Addington's resumption of hostilities with France to Hippocrates's remedy for a broken leg that did not respond to surgery: having discovered the error in this peace, [he] had now broken it, in order to set everything right again'. On 22 July, satisfied that ministers had not acted upon the plan of defence recommended to them by Pitt, he advocated a council of general officers to superintend it, though he was not present for Fox's motion to that effect on 2 Aug. On 21 July he had favoured the compensation of labourers who served as volunteers, and on 12 Dec. he objected strongly to Windham's cavalier attitude to that corps, particularly to his dread of their democratic implications; if the French landed, he assured Windham ironically, he would now offer his services to Pitt, not to him. On 15

Mar 1804 he supported Pitt's naval motion, and was a steady voter with the combined opposition that overthrew Addington. He commented: 'We are the pioneers digging the foundations; but Mr Pitt will be the architect to build the house and to inhabit it'. This was so; and Courtenay resumed opposition with the Foxites, though his votes with them were now silent, 8 June 1804, 12 15 Feb., 6 Mar 8 Apr., 12 June 1805. They raised that year 'a small annual fund to render Courtenay easy for the remainder of his life'. The annual subscriptions, headed by Earl Fitzwilliam with £50, had realized £425 by December 1805 and it was hoped to raise £500. When his friends came to power on Pitt's death, he was further rewarded with a place at the Treasury board, Fox had offered him the option of the Ordnance, but 'a high personage' closed that door. He did not complain and there was evidently some relief that he did not press for a privy councillorship; but Lord Grenville admitted that Courtenay, on his own merits, would probably not have been his choice for the office he obtained. He resumed his seat on 3 Mar. 1806 and on 21 Mar. criticized the spoilsport election treating bill. He voted for the repeal of Pitt's Additional Force Act, 30 Apr. He visited Fox on his deathbed and imparted Fox's gloomy views on peace prospects.⁶

in January 1807, the treasurership of the Ordnance becoming vacant, Courtenay was offered it. He assured Lord Grenville that it was what he would have preferred the year before and, having 'at least saved £50,000 to the public' in that department, felt a claim to it which was readily acknowledged by others qualified to judge. Now his 'embarrassed situation' precluded him from accepting any reduction in his 'present annual income' and that was the only snag. Grenville assured him that it was intended to make his Ordnance emolument (which had been raised the year before and at present stood higher than the Ordnance treasurer's) equal to that of a lord of the Treasury. Then a fresh problem arose: Lord Thanet, to whom Courtenay was indebted for having 'unsolicited behaved to me with the same flattering and liberal attention since Mr Fox's death for which I was originally indebted to my noble and ever lamented friend', had to secure his re-election for Appleby. Before that, Courtenay was anxious to assist in the abolition of the slave trade. So he did, and on 24 Feb. 1807, in his last notable speech, paid tribute to the eloquence expended in that cause by the immortals, Pitt and Fox. On 11 Mar. Thanet wrote to Lord Lowther practically inciting him to make a show of opposing Courtenay's re-election for Appleby, as 'the arrangement proposed is by no means an advantage

to my friend'. If Lowther complied, Thanet would be able to try to frustrate Courtenay's transfer to the Ordnance.' Before this was put to the test, the Grenville ministry was dismissed.

Courtenay, who paired in favour of Brand's motion against their successors on 9 Apr. 1807, was not anxious to be in Parliament again. He was in Scotland pressing William Adam* for a place or pension for which his maternal grandfather's Scottish birth might qualify him when Lord Lonsdale's vagaries obliged him to put in an appearance at Appleby. In the event Lonsdale decided not to interfere and Thanet, to quote the diarist Farington,

behaved very handsomely to Mr Courtenay, who being very poor, and tired of Parliament, his lordship who had before brought him [in] for Appleby, now gave him leave to dispose of a seat for that borough, which accordingly Courtenay has done ... for £4,000.

Tierney informed Lord Holland, 20 May 1807:

I sent[Thanet] the names of Lord Lismore and Ridley Colborne and pledged myself that £2,000 should be paid by whichever of them he chose to return. I also took it upon myself to pledge Lord Grenville and Lord Howick that Courtenay should not be the less thought of hereafter on account of being out of Parliament.⁶

It would appear that the Whig scheme of 1805 to pension Courtenay had been converted into a pension of £300, but 'to avoid the vacating of his seat, it was made to his three daughters and ... they were to assign it to him for his life'. One of his daughters, the wife of Richard Johnson*, added her husband's financial problems to her father's. In 1808 he published his *Characteristic sketches of some of the most distinguished speaks in the House of Commons since 1780*. About January 1810 he informed William Adam, 'I have been left a legacy in Jamaica-a year ago-but there is some strange delay about it'. He had recently been encouraged to publish his *Incidental Anecdotes* in a further bid to recoup his finances. In 1811 he addressed fulsome *Verses ... to H.R.H. the Prince Regent*. In September 1812 he applied to Adam for a loan of £150 On 12 Oct. he informed him:

Lord Thanet ... has offered to bring me in for Appleby; and I am very sorry that my present situation (owing to disappointments and unexpected incidents) has induced [me] to accept his generous proposal, unsolicited in the slightest degree by me, or even a hint given ... This doubles and trebles the obligation ...⁹

This seat was immediately afterwards solicited for George Tierney whom Courtenay informed that he needed to be in Parliament 'only because of some demands upon him which the sum he had received upon the last arrangement had not been sufficient to cover'. In short, he was to be brought in 'not as a

stopgap, but to secure his person'. A plan was at once hatched by Lords Holland and Grey whereby Lord Ossulston should buy Courtenay out for £2,500 and vacate Knaresborough for Tierney, who at that time jibbed at Appleby. It was at first frustrated by Courtenay, whom Thanet could not induce to part with his berth:

His poverty or rather his apprehension of its consequences is certainly his main plea against retiring but from what has passed I can discover at the same time a strong desire not to forego his-chance of dying in the field which is certainly a good one as he is fully resolved to attend.

Tierney for his part assured Courtenay that 'in the event of any change taking place he should be as much considered by [Lord Grey] as if he was in Parliament at the time'. To Grey, Courtenay admitted, 5 Nov 1812 that he regretted the appearance of keeping Tierney out: 'I am almost worn out ... At best I was only an occasional skirmishing Cossack (as your lordship knows) and now I am not fit even for that light inferior duty.' In the event a subscription being organized by Lord Holland was fully met by the Duke of Devonshire and Lord George Cavendish and, soon after Parliament met, Courtenay vacated in Tierney's favour. In 1813 he suffered an apoplectic stroke. He died 24 Mar. 1816. In his will, dated 16 May 1815, he doubted 'whether what I die possessed of will answer all demands'.¹⁰

¹J. Courteney, *Incidental Anecdotes and a Biog. Sketch* (1809). cf. *DNB*; *N. and Q.* (ser 10), ix. 313; *Genl Mag.* (1816), i. 467. Courtenay's father seems to have written his name 'Courtney' and, before 1790 at least, Courteney himself was often so described. His parents were married at St. Michan's, Dublin, 28 Nov. 1734. ²*Wraxall Mems cd.* Wheatley iii. 453; *Horace Walpole Corresp.* (yale ed.), xxix. 116; *Farington*, i. 132; Townshend mss, Mq. ³Townshend to Courteney, 25 Mar. 1790; *Sheridan Letters cd.* Price, ii. 36. ⁴*Parl. Portraits* (1795), i. 24; *Harewood mss*, Canning jnl 17 May 1799; *Kenning to Rev. Leigh*, 16 May 1794, 2 Jan 1799. ⁵The mss of Courteney's political verse, bequeathed to his daughter Emma are in the Campbell Preston (Ardchattan) mss. Windham summed it up as 'a long joke', *Diary of Madame d'Arblay cd.* Dobson, iv 403; *Minto* ii. 11. 41; *Moore Mems cd.* Russell ii. 301. ⁶*Poetry of the Anri-Jacobin* ed. Edmonds (1854), 65; *Life of Wilberforce* (1838), ii. 320; *Jnl of Lady Holland*, ii. 59-60 ⁷Blair Adam mss, Blair to Adam 23 Mar., Courteney to same, 11 Nov., Thanet to same, 21 Nov. 1802, Bedford to same, 28 Dec. 1812. ⁸*Colchester*, i. 496-7; *HMC Fortescue*, viii. 15; *Add.* 18152, f. 231; ~1595, Adam to Holland 16 Dec. 1805; *Leveson Gower*, ii. 232. ⁹Fortescue mss, Courtenay to Grenville 30 Jan., 17 Feb., Grenville to Courteney, Feb.; *Lonsdale mss*, Thanet to Lowther, 11 Mar. 1807. ¹⁰Blair Adam mss, Courtenay to Adam, [?Mar.], 17 May; Grey mss, Tierney to Grey, 20 May 1807; *Farington Diary* (yale ed.), viii. 3058; *Add.* 51584. ¹¹Blair Adam mss, Blair to Adam 13 Jan., 5 Apr., Courteney to same, 1, 3, 5 Apr. 1808, [?Jan 1810], 12 Oct. [1812], Grey mss, Thanet to Grey, 12, 28 Oct., Tierney to Grey, 14, 16, 19 Oct; Grey to Brougham, 20 Oct., Courtenay to Grey 5 Nov., Grey to Holland, 11 Nov. 13 Dec.; *Add.* 51545 Holland to Grey [7 Nov.], 10 Dec.; 51571, Thanet to Holland, 11 Oct. 1812; *Creveley Pprs.* ed. Maxwell i. 184; *PCC* 353 Wynne.

R.G.T.

COURTENAY, Thomas Peregrine (1782-184 1).

TOTNES 22 Oct. 1811-1832

b. 31 May 1782, 2nds. of Rt. Rev. Henry Reginald Courtenay, bp. of Exeter 1797-1803, by Lady Elizabeth Howard, da. of Thomas, 2nd Earl of Effingham; bro. of William Courtenay*. *educ.* Westminster 1796. m. 5 Apr 1805 Anne, da. of Mayow Wynell Mayow of Sydenham, Kent, 8s. 5da.

Jun. clerk at Treasury 1799-1802 cashier, Stationery Office 1802-13; agent, Ceylon 1804-6; principal registrar, Land Tax Register Office 1806-13; dep. paymaster-gen. Apr. 1807-Oct. 1811; sec. to Board of Control Aug. 1812-May 1828; agent, Cape of Good Hope 1813-33; PC 30 May 1828; vice-pres. Board of Trade May 1828-Nov 1830; commr. Board of Control July 1828-Nov. 1830.

Lt. Lee and Lewisham vols. 1803.

Courtenay, a younger son who saddled himself with a large family, was described in 1815 by his former patron, Charles Long*, as 'one of those persons who will lose nothing for want of asking'. He was certainly a dedicated place-hunter, but he had a modest talent as a political pamphleteer and proved a capable administrator when put to the test.

it was as a junior clerk at the Treasury that Courtenay first came to the notice of Long, joint-secretary under Pitt. His friendship with William Dacres Adams, then a Home Office clerk and subsequently private secretary to Pitt and the Duke of Portland as prime ministers, was later strengthened by their marriages to the Mayow sisters. In September 1801 Courtenay told Adams that 'whatever King may reign, I hope still to be "Vicar of Bray"', but in July 1802 he was not sorry to see electoral evidence of the 'weakness' of the Ad-dington ministry, hoping that the consequence might be the eventual return to power of Pitt, though he admitted that these thoughts, heretical in a Treasury clerk, were basically provoked by 'a private motive'.² A week later he left the Treasury to become cashier of the Stationery Office.

By September 1803 he was 'much in the confidence' of Long and therefore able, so Adams thought, to anticipate obtaining 'something very and permanently advantageous' when the Pittites returned to office. Shortly afterwards, on the strength of a recent 'sensible pamphlet' on a financial question, he was chosen by Rose, Long and Pitt, who did not want anyone 'immediately connected' with him to do the job, to act as Pitt's standard-bearer in the current pamphlet war with government. His *Plain answer* a defence of Pitt and Grenville against the attack made in *A few cursory remarks upon the state of parties* for which he was supplied with materials and advice by Pitt and Long, was published later in the year.³

On Pitt's return to power in May 1804 he was rewarded with the agency for Ceylon.⁴ When Long

went to Ireland as chief secretary in September 1805, Courtenay accompanied him as private secretary, but Pitt's death and the consequent change of ministry seemed to cloud his future prospects. Adams advised him to leave the bargaining to Long: the agency would probably have to be given up, but the Stationery Office was safe and 'as to the possibility of your having any office under the new government, or of being entangled against your will in new connections, I do not conceive that anything of the kind will be done as you know nothing of Lord Grenville yourself'. For his own part Courtenay professed to 'prefer the smallest independency now to the largest income dependent upon any now existing minister'. He surrendered the agency, but Long was able to obtain for him a post at the Land Tax Register Office, which brought £400 a year and a house in Lincoln's Inn Fields. On the formation of the Portland ministry, Long took him to the Pay Office as his deputy, with a salary of £500.⁵

For all this Courtenay, who attacked the government's dealings with America in a series of letters to the *Sun* under the pseudonym of 'Decius' between November 1807 and January 1808, and later in 1808 published *Additional observations on the American treaty*, remained dissatisfied and was constantly trying to improve his position. Long, who later claimed that Courtenay had 'had the modesty' to ask him either to allow him to treat the deputy paymastership as a sinecure, or to make it permanent and lucrative, refused to abet these manoeuvres: 'though it is very true', he reflected, 'that he has shown himself a warm partisan of Mr Pitt and his friends, yet he has been most amply rewarded for it'. While Courtenay remained nominally in possession of the cashiership until 1813 he evidently bartered it in some fashion to a *protégé* of Lord Lonsdale in about 1807. He was presumably compensated (Long said in 1810 that he received £600 a year from the Treasury in addition to his salaries), but in July 1810 he failed in his attempt to use the transaction as a means of putting pressure on Lonsdale to 'obtain for me a small appointment not depending upon political changes': he had in mind, Long thought, the paymastership of Exchequer bills.⁶

Courtenay did not give up easily and in the summer of 1811 Perceval offered him 'an efficient and difficult place', apparently in Ireland, which Adams counselled him not to take 'with no more than £500 a year'. He had already been earmarked by Adams's father to succeed him as Member for Totnes on the family interest at the next general election and his brother-in-law urged him to inform Perceval, 'as such a knowledge might possibly for-

ward your present views'. In the event Adams senior died in harness, 21 Sept. 1811, and Courtenay, having of necessity resigned his deputy paymastership, was returned unopposed the following month. He retained the seat after a contest in 1812 and was undisturbed in 1818.

A staunch ministerialist from the outset, he made his maiden speech in defence of the droits of Admiralty, 21 Jan. 1812, protesting against 'the principle of having a mere stipendiary King', but according to Brougham, the author of the critical motion, he 'broke down' in the course of his speech. He voted against attacks on sinecures, 7, 21, 24 Feb. and 4 May 1812, when he condemned the sinecure offices bill as a departure from the true tradition of economical reform established by Pitt and Burke, and was in the ministerial minority who divided against Stuart Wortley's call for a stronger administration, 21 May. He opposed a civil list inquiry, 10 Feb., supported the bill imposing capital punishment for frame-breaking, 18 Feb., though he claimed to sympathise with Romilly's attempts to ameliorate the criminal laws, and spoke in support of the princesses' annuity bill, 17 Apr. 1812.

On Liverpool's confirmation in power he made an unsuccessful bid for the treasurership of the Ordnance, but in August 1812 he was appointed secretary of the Board of Control with a salary of £1,500, which by the 1820s had risen to £2,200 with a retirement annuity of £1,000. Shortly afterwards he arranged with Robert Willimott an exchange of his land tax post for the agency of the Cape, officially worth £600 a year but estimated to bring in £4,000 in practice. On 26 Sept. 1813, considering himself 'the fittest man in the party for the receipt of £4,000 per annum', he staked a claim to the secretaryship of the Treasury currently held by the ailing Richard Wharton, but he did not obtain it when it fell vacant.⁹

As an official man, Courtenay was an utterly reliable supporter of the Liverpool government for the rest of this period, though he voted steadfastly in favour of Catholic relief and in 1816, expressing doubts as to whether he could work under Canning at the Board of Control, claimed to be attached to Castlereagh 'personally rather than to the administration in general'.¹⁰ His few recorded speeches after 1812 were mainly on Indian business, but he made a point of opposing inquiry into the civil list, 27 May 1813 and 8 May 1815, refuted allegations that his secretaryship was a sinecure, 7 May and replied to criticism of the state of the revenue, 31 May 1816. He sat on the committee of inquiry into the Poor Laws in 1817 and the following year published two pamphlets advocating their reform on the

twin principles of encouraging the frugal and limiting relief to the idle. His bill of May 1818 for the encouragement of Friendly Societies was killed by the dissolution, but on 25 Mar. 1819 he obtained leave to introduce a similar measure together with a bill for the establishment of parochial benefit societies. They were subsequently combined into one measure, which reached the statute book on 12 July 1819.

Courtenay, described by Lord Ellenborough in 1829 as 'a man of undignified manners and appearance' but 'certainly a clever man', was an efficient if rather officious secretary to the Board of Control, where he provided an element of stability during his long tenure of the post. Liverpool had Canning's authority for asserting in 1820 that 'no office ever had an individual more completely conversant with every detail belonging to it'.¹¹

He was drowned while bathing at Torquay, 8 July 1841.

¹ Lonsdale mss, Long to Lonsdale, 27 Jan. [1815] ? PRO, Dacres Adams mss 11/1, 3. ³ Ibid. 11/4; *Rose Diaries* ii. 56, 63, 4Add. 38737, f. 37. ⁵ Dacres Adams mss 11/27, 28; Lonsdale mss, Long to Lonsdale, 9 Oct. [1807], 6 Lonsdale mss, Long to Lonsdale, 7, 9 Oct. [1807], 17 Feb. [1809], 3 Aug., Courtenay to Lonsdale, 5 July 1810. ² Dacres Adams mss 11/38 39. ⁸ Creevey mss., Brougham to Creevey [22 Jan. 1812] 'Add. 78248, ff. 16, 216, 227; Dacres Adams mss 11/40 *Black Bk.* (1823), 148 Herries mss, Add. 57415. ¹⁰ Northumb. RO, Wallace (Belsay) mss S76/17/29, *Ellenborough Diary*, i. 390-1; C. H. Philips, *El. Co.* 214, 245; Add. 38288, f. 386.

D.R.F.

COURTENAY, William (1777-1859).

EXETER 1812-Jan. 1826

b. 19 June 1777, 1st s. of Rt. Rev. Henry Reginald Courtenay, and bro. of Thomas Peregrine Courtenay *, educ.

Westminster 789; Christ Church, Oxf. 1794; L. Inn. ¹ 793, called 1799. m. (1) 29 Nov. 1804, Harriet Leslie (d. 16 Dec. 1839), da. of Sir Lucas Pepys, 1st Bt., 4s. Ida.; (2) 30 Jan. 1849, Elizabeth Ruth, da. of Rev. John Middleton Scott of Ballygannon, co. Wicklow, s.p. suc. fa. 1803; 2nd cos. William Courtenay as 10th Earl of Devon 26 May 1835.

Patentee of subpoena office 1778-1852; commr. of bankrupts 1802-17; counsel, Queen Anne's bounty until 1817 master in Chancery 181 7-26; clerk-asst. of the Parliaments 1826-35.

Recorder, Exeter 1814-20; high steward, Oxf. Univ. 1838-d.; ecclesiastical commr. 1842-50.

Lt. Oxford university vols. 1798; vol. London and Westminster 1818; Capt. Roborough vols. 1803.

Courtenay, who was in possession of a sinecure worth £85 per annum before he left the cradle, belonged to one of the oldest families in Devon. His father held the valuable rectory of St. George's, Hanover Square in London for 20 years, was appointed bishop of Bristol in 1794 and translated to

Exeter in 1797. Courtenay eventually stood heir to his second cousin and namesake, the 3rd Viscount Courtenay, who had considerable property in Devon around his seat at Powderham Castle and large estates in Ireland, which were said in 1809 to bring in £90,000 a year.¹ As clerk-assistant of the Parliaments from 1826 to 1835 he was well placed to advance Lord Courtenay's claim to the earldom of Devon which was allowed to him on flimsy grounds by decision of the Lords, 14 May 1831, even though it had hitherto been considered as extinct since 1556. Courtenay succeeded to the title along with his kinsman's estates in 1835.

Bred to the bar, he practised as a bankruptcy commissioner and equity draughtsman on the western circuit until he became a master in Chancery, at £3,000 a year, in 1817. He unsuccessfully contested the venal borough of Honiton, where Lord Courtenay had a minor interest, on a vacancy in March 1805, but a year later, when he was invited to stand for the borough on a new vacancy, he told William Dacres Adams that 'I do not feel any inclination now to be in Parliament, which I cannot do without feeling more dependence somewhere than I choose to owe to anyone'. In the event a Mr Courtenay went to Honiton, but it is not clear whether it was William or his brother Thomas. Whoever it was, his politics were described as being 'diametrically opposite' to those of the 'Talents' and he did not go to the poll.² An invitation in March 1811 from the corporation and 'principal people' of Exeter to stand for the city at the next general election was more acceptable, particularly as it coincided with the disgrace of Lord Courtenay who, long the subject of unsavoury rumours, was forced to go abroad to escape prosecution for homosexual practices. Courtenay's friend from the circuit, the Whig lawyer Francis Horner, commented that 'though he has Tory connexions, he is a very fit person to have a voice in the House of Commons'.³ He was returned unopposed in 1812.

The radical memoirist John Colman Rashleigh described Courtenay as a Canningite⁴ and, while he was not listed as one of Canning's parliamentary squad as it stood in the new Parliament, there was clearly a connexion between them, which may explain why he was not included alongside his brother, recently appointed secretary to the Board of Control, in the ministerial list of Members expected to support government. His vote against the gold coin bill, 14 Dec. 1812, and his opposition to the vice-chancellor bill, 11 and 15 Feb. 1813, were probably inspired by Canning's -example. On 25 Feb. he declared his support for Catholic relief, an opinion 'founded upon and confirmed by con-

nection and acquaintance with Ireland', and notwithstanding the unpopularity of such views at Exeter he was a steadfast supporter of relief throughout this period. He supported Romilly's attempts to ameliorate the Treason Laws, 5 Apr. 1813 and 25 Apr. 1814, opposed the Admiralty registrars bill, 21 May and 8 July 1813, acting as teller for the minority of nine who voted against the bill on the second occasion, and attacked the stipendiary curates bill, 8 July 1813.

Lady Holland, writing to Lord Lansdowne, 30 July 1813, of the reactions of some of Canning's followers to their 'recent manumission' by their leader, reported that Courtenay was 'considered as much aggrieved'.⁵ On 29 Nov. 1813, evidently speaking from the opposition benches, he condemned the bill imposing capital punishment for frame-breaking as 'an instrument of cruelty' and he was a teller for the minority of 20 who divided against its renewal. On 19 July 1814 Canning, detailing to William Sturges Bourne his attempts to place 'my friends in connection with the government' in consequence of accepting the Lisbon embassy, wrote that

Courtenay has (as you know) no political views. I have however recommended him in the strongest terms to Liverpool, with the expression of my good opinion and good wishes, and am happy to find that in doing so, I have done what is not disagreeable to him, and at the same time all he would have liked.⁶

For the rest of this period Courtenay, an active and conscientious backbencher, showed a basic inclination to support the Liverpool government, but he remained prepared to take an independent line on specific issues, particularly on legal matters and some questions of economy.

Having presented a petition from Exeter against alteration of the Corn Laws, 6 June 1814, he expressed willingness to support the proposed new measure 'on the principle of general utility', 27 Feb. 1813, but was not averse to a reduction of the price below which imports were to be prohibited. He accordingly supported the attempted substitution of 7s. for 8s., 6 Mar. and in the end he voted against the third reading of the bill, 10 Mar. Courtenay voted with government on the question of the Spanish Liberals, 1 Mar., and the civil list, 14 Apr., but against them on the Duke of Cumberland's marriage establishment, 28, 30 June and 3 July 1815. He supported the army estimates, 6 and 8 Mar. 1816, though on the second occasion, now speaking from the ministerial side of the House, he paid lip service to the need for economy. His vote for the continuance of the property tax, 18 Mar. 1816, gave a handle to the radical who later in the

year came forward for Exeter and who denounced Courtenay as a servile placeman.' While he had no objection to an inquiry into the employment of children in factories, 3 Apr. 1816, he believed that it was in general well regulated. He supported an investigation of grants-in-aid, 30 May but voted with government on the civil list, 6 May, and the public revenues bill, 17 and 20 June 1816. On 3 June his brother told Sturges Bourne that William still looked up to Canning, recently installed at the Board of Control.*

Courtenay voted with government on the composition of the finance committee, 7 Feb., and against Admiralty economies, 25 Feb. On 26 Feb. he supported the suspension of habeas corpus, professing his belief in 'the existence of extensive associations for the purpose of undermining the principles on which the fabric of society was founded'. He backed the renewed suspension, 23 June, but also spoke and voted for Romilly's motion criticizing Lord Sidmouth's circular letter, 25 June. He voted with ministers in defence of repression and the use of spies, 10, 11 Feb. and 5 Mar. 1818, when he spoke at length in their support, but on 13 Apr. he spoke 'very strongly against the royal marriage grants and voted for Brougham's hostile amendment'.⁹ On 12 Feb. he obtained leave to introduce a surgery regulation bill, but it was lost on its second reading, 10 Apr.

On the hustings at Exeter in 1818 Courtenay refused to repent his more unpopular votes and insisted on a Member's right to exercise his own judgment, regardless of constituency opinion. ¹⁰ Backed by the corporation, the clergy and the city establishment, he won a handsome victory at the polls. In the 1819 session he supported government on the Wyndham Quin* affair, 29 Mar., acting as teller for the majority in both divisions, voted with them against Tierney's censure motion, 18 May, and for the foreign enlistment bill, 10 June, but spoke and voted against the coal duties, 4 Mar. and 20 May. He spoke on a miscellany of other subjects, including Mackintosh's motion for inquiry into the criminal laws, 2 Mar., which he opposed, preferring piecemeal revision to a general investigation; the elector's oath bill, 7 May, which he succeeded in defeating, and the poor rates misapplication bill, which he supported, 17 May and 11 June. Either he or his brother was teller for the minority who voted against the Penryn bribery bill, 22 June.

Courtenay took a strong line against popular unrest in the emergency session of 1819. On 30 Nov. he condemned the Manchester meeting of August as having been 'inconsistent with every form

of government in the civilised world' and called for legislation to 'repress the torrent of sedition and blasphemy'. He conceded that Devon was tranquil, 8 Dec., but supported the seditious meetings bill to protect the county against the incursions of 'itinerant agitators'. He drew the attention of the House to the pamphlet, *A trifling mistake* 9 Dec., pronounced it an outrageous and dangerous breach of privilege the following day and on 13 Dec. successfully proposed the committal of its author, John Cam Hobhouse, to Newgate. He died 19 Mar. 1859.

1*Farington v.* 256, 277. 2 PRO, Dacres Adams mss 1 | 30; Add. 5 i 844, Cavendish Bradshaw to Holland [8 Apr. 1806]. 3*Farington* vi. 147-8, 273; Horner mss 5, f. 23. 4CornwRO, T S, 'Mem. of J. C. Rashleigh', i. 60 i Lansdowne mss. 6 Harewood mss. 7R. Cullum *Exeter and Devon Addresses* (1818), 38, 42. 8 Northumb. RO, Wallace (Belsay) mss S76/17/29. 9Add. 51549, Lady Holland to Grey [14 Apr. 1818] Cullum, 108.

D. R. F.

COURTOWN, 2nd Earl of [I] see STOPFORD, James