A Forgotten Chancellor and Canon.

BY A. S. BICKNELL, F.R.A.S., F.L.S.

AS the records of a private family are seldom of sufficient importance to claim a place in the Proceedings of an Archæological Society, these notes are offered by me with diffidence, and only because I think they may here and there illumine an obscure corner of what I may term the minor Story of Somerset. If I have another object, it is that I hope to show, with singular clearness, how a family, bearing a name derived from a village in Normandy, appropriated for their convenience that of a manor in England, the spelling of both varying thenceforth nearly simultaneously; and that further I believe, though it is rarely possible to point out definitely the first possessor of a particular surname, because generally he has vanished in the mist of time, in this instance I am able to do so; and certainly at least I can give an outline sketch of some forgotten Somersetshire worthies long passed away.

In rather an out-of-the-way spot, about five miles N.W. of Ilminster, beneath a sombre, forest-clad, projecting hill, conspicuous from the environs of Taunton, there are a few scattered cottages and a modern chapel. The height, rising 820 feet above the sea, is popularly known as Beacon Hill, and the country it seems to guard is the ancient manor of Bŷkenhulle. The Exon Domesday calls the place Bichehalda, and

the great Exchequer one says : " William holds of the Earl, Bichehalle ; Aluric held it in the time of King Edward." Bichehalda and Bichehalle, however, are only semi-phonetic renderings by Norman scribes of the Anglo-Saxon word their ears were not attuned to catch correctly : at all events these names appear no more. The derivation of Bỹkenhulle is at once apparent : Anglo-Saxon Bỹcn or Bỹkene, a beacon ; Hulle or Hyll, a hill ; and for centuries after the invasion the spelling scarcely altered. Our knowledge of the holders of the manor goes no farther back than Aluric, no charter or other document of earlier date, giving another name, having come to light, although this much is ascertained from Domesday, that formerly the manor paid customs to Curry Rivell.[1] William the Conqueror had granted the manor to his natural half-brother Robert, Earl of Cornwall, and Earl or Count of Mortain,[2] as an unconsidered trifle in a gift of seven hundred and ninety seven manors ; so it is not surprising that the latter accepted the tenure of William de l'Estre.[3] Sometime after-

(1). Another Bykenhulle, in N. Wilts, however, occurs in the Appendix to a Latin Charter of Athelstan, dated A.D. 931, and a spot called Bacon Hill may be the same place, though I doubt if the name is sufficiently ancient.

(2). He married Matilda, youngest daughter of Roger de Montgomery, earl of Arundel, and died in 1091. Mortain is about twenty miles E. of Avranches in Normandy, and is often confounded with Mortagne in the department of Orne. William, the son of the above Robert of Mortain, succeeded to his father's titles and possessions, but having rebelled against Henry I in 1103-4, was banished. Being taken prisoner in 1106, he was conveyed to England, where his eyes were put out, and after a long imprisonment he was only released on condition that he became a monk. His earldom was given to Stephen of Blois, afterwards king of England. Forty nine of the 797 manors were in Dorset and Somerset. "The Norman People," pp. 137, 145, 243 ; *Banks'* "Baronia Anglia," vol. ii, p. 104 ; Map of Domesday Manors, *Somerset Archæological Proceedings*, vol. v. p. 35

(3). Estre is near Valognes, Normandy. Richard de l'Estre had land in Normandy from the time of the Conquest. In 1165 a Richard de l'Estre held a barony of four knights' fees in Somerset. In 1272 Robert de l'Estre was Viscount of Dorset. " Liber Niger Scaccari " ; " Testa de Nevill " ; " The Norman People," p. 234 ; *Dugdale's* " Baronage of England," vol. i, p. 24 ; " Annals of England," p. 104, supervised by Dr. Stubbs ; Somerset Archæological Proceedings, vol. xxxvi, p. 21.

wards the forfeiture of the earls of Mortain occurred, and then the descendants of William de l'Estre, as a legal consequence, held their part of the land directly from the king *in capite per Baroniam*, till about the year 1260, when Johanne, daughter of another William de l'Estre, married Robert de Pavilly, *anglice* Paveley, bringing the manor to him as her dower. The Paveleys were a baronial family from Pavilly,[4] a town twelve miles N.W. of Rouen, where the lord Amalbert had founded a monastery in 664, and some of them having passed over to England, either with the Conqueror or shortly afterwards, they soon became a powerful race, established in at least twelve counties.[5] Reginald de Paveley joined in the first crusade, and fell, *circa* 1104, at Acre: we find Ralph de Paveley witnessing a charter of William earl of Surrey in the reign of Henry I; and Henry III, in 1241, sent money to Thomas de Paveley [probably son of Thomas de Paveilli, knight banneret, who served in France during the reign of Philip II,] for his journey to join him in Anjou. Another Reginald was summoned as baron in 1260 to attend the king in council: John de Paveley was rector of Hooke, near Beaminster,[6] in 1312; Richard de Pavely and Sir John, who died 1361, were priors of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem; lastly Sir Walter became one of the founder-knights of the Garter. In 1281 John de Paveley, evidently named after his mother Johanne, died seized of Bỹkenhulle, the adjoining Clopton, and eight other manors in Somerset, his heir being his son, also called John.[7] Roger de Clopton however, in 1302-3, is described as holding Clopton

(4). It contains about 1500 inhabitants at present and considerable manufacture of cotton. The monastery was restored by Thomas de Pavilly about 1090: the existing church of the twelfth century is on its site.

(5). Somerset, Devon, Wilts, Hants, Buckingham, Oxford, Herts, Suffolk, Norfolk, Derby, Nottingham, and Northumberland.

(6). *Hutchins'* "History of Dorset," vol. i, p. 495; vol. ii, p. 166.

(7). Inq. P.M. *Calendarium Genealogicum*, 1865.

from John de Bỹkenhulle,[8] but as we know that John de Paveley was at the same date tenant *in capite* of Clopton under the king, it follows manifestly that John de Paveley and John de Bỹkenhulle are the same person. If further proof is necessary that Paveley and Bỹkenhulle are synonymous, we have it in the fact that both Walter and John de Paveley appear in the assessment of 1326-7 as Walter and John de Bỹkenhulle.[9] Nor is the explanation of this metamorphosis difficult to give when we discover that there were several John de Paveleys living at the same time, and that they only followed an established custom in adopting for a junior branch of the family a distinctive surname from one of their manors, to avoid confusion. In feudal times indeed the practice of assuming different surnames was by no means uncommon : a family " chose any appellation they preferred, and it might be taken from the particular castle where the signature happened to be written, or from the superior fee of which the place once formed a portion, or from any name whatever which was most flattering to fancy or ambition."[10] Baldwin, first earl of Devon, used six surnames in his charters, he called himself :

Baldwin Fitz-Gilbert.
„ Vice Comes.
„ de Devoniâ.
„ de Excestre.
„ de Brionis.
„ de Mælis.

And his eldest and second sons, not content with a choice from the above six, signed respectively, Baldwin de Riveriis and Baldwin de Vernon. In Domesday the earl of Brionne bears five surnames :

(8). Supplement to *Kirby's* "Quest." *Somerset Record Society.*

(9). Exchequer Lay Sub. $\frac{169}{5}$

(10). *Wiffen's* " Historical Memorials of the House of Russell," vol. i, p. 8.
Lower's " Patronymica Britannica," 1860.
Dugdale's " Baronage," vol. i, p. 254.

Richard de Tonbridge.
„ Benfeld.
„ Benefacto.
„ de Clare.
„ FitzGilbert.

Consequently here we have eight surnames used by three members of one family, and ten by two. Even at the present day the custom is exemplified in the titles borne by peers' eldest sons.[11]

Before the end of the thirteenth century I know of no mention of Bȳkenhulle except to denote a place, whilst thenceforth it runs also as a surname through many generations, the word gradually being modified in its spelling, and concurrently denoting both the manor or hamlet and the people, till it becomes the Bicknell of to-day. The following table illustrates this :

Place called	*Surname called*
A.D. 1276 and earlier } Bykenhulle.	*circa* A.D. 1260 John de Pavilly (Paveley) married Johanne de l'Estre (de Bykenhulle).
1297, 1316 Bykenhulle or Bikenhulle.	1302 John de Bykenhulle.
1368 Bikenoll.	1351 Bickernoll.
1411 Bykenyll.	1425 Bykenell.
1443 Bikenhill.	1443 Biconyll.
1475 Byconyll.	1451 Byconyll.
1523 Biknell.	1523 Biknell.
1547 Bycknell.	1544 Bycknell.
1597 Bicknell, etc. till 1745	1585 Bicknell, etc.[12] till to day.

(11). The following is an instance of a name being changed twice :—Robert de Mandevill had a son, "Galfrid de Mandevill *scilicet* Galfrid de Cotre," who begat Robert de Mandevill.—R. Hist. Com. Rep. "Wells Cath. MSS.," vol. i, p. 222. (24 May. 8 K. John).

(12) Forty-seven spellings of Bicknell are known to me.

Perhaps it may be asked why the village is now called Bickenhall, which does not appear in the above list. The cause is singular and ridiculous. Till 1745 the name had always been some legitimate variation of Bykenhulle, when at that date the curate in charge, remembering that Bichehalle was in Domesday, and desiring doubtless to earn distinction as an etymologist, suddenly and boldly headed a new register with his invention "Bickenhall," and this hybrid monster has crept into our maps, our books, and upon our signposts, although the pronunciation of the peasantry continues to be "Bicknell" all the same. Strange to narrate, a transformation much resembling this occurred also at Bykenhulle in Warwickshire. The manor likewise misspelt in Domesday, "Bichehella," after Turchil de Warwick possessed it in the Conqueror's time, was in part subsequently assigned to the House of Arden, one of whom assumed the surname of Bickenhull, and whose descendant was the Incumbent in 1416, the family shortly afterwards becoming extinct. We find, however, that the place passed through varieties of name just as the other Bykenhulle in Somerset, till it ultimately became "Bicknell," and quite recently and correctly, "Bickenhill."

A.D. 1187	Thomas de Bikenhull.
1273 to 1464	Bikenhull or Bykenhull.
1535	Bykynhull.
From Elizabeth's reign or earlier,	Bicknell.

I may here mention that all forms of Bignell, Bignold, and Bucknell are in no way connected with Bicknell: they are not Somerset names. The first originally came from Bygenhulle or Bygnelle, in Oxfordshire, and with the second established itself in the eastern counties; while the last, I think, may be traced from Herefordshire. Only in comparatively modern times has Bignell occasionally been written in Somerset by vulgar mistake for Bicknell.

After the adoption of the surname Bikenhulle by Robert de Paveley, there must of course at first have been very few

persons so denominated, and no particulars have come down to us concerning any of them till the year 1425, when William Biconyll (or Byconyll or Bykenel) is recorded as the incumbent of Charlton Mackerell, and later of Mells.[13] His father's name was John, and his mother's Jane or Joane, and he tells us he had one brother John and a sister Elizabeth, but that is all we know of his near relatives. He must, however, have been a man of talent and well connected, or he could scarcely have obtained the offices he held. Pluralists, I daresay, were commoner then than now, and family interest more potent, still, even these alone would hardly have made him at the same time rector of Cliffe at Hoo,[14] near Rochester; rector of Tring[15] with Wigginton, Herts; canon of Lincoln, with the prebend of St. Margaret's, Leicester;[16] canon of Wells; canon of St. Paul's, with the prebendal stall of Eald St.;[17] commissary official of the court of Canterbury, and chancellor of the diocese.[18] Perhaps even a greater proof of his capacity was his being selected by the famous archbishop Chichele to be one of his trustees and executors.

Very likely he drew up the Constitution of All Souls' College, Oxford, founded by Chichele in 1437, or at all events he assisted Lyndwood, to whom I am aware it is sometimes, without proof, attributed. In the college archives his name occurs several times between 1443 and 1446, and he was well known at the University where he had taken his LL.D. degree.

(13) "Somerset Incumbents," by the *Rev. F. W. Weaver.*

(14) Instituted Nov. 16, 1445, on the death of John Prentys.

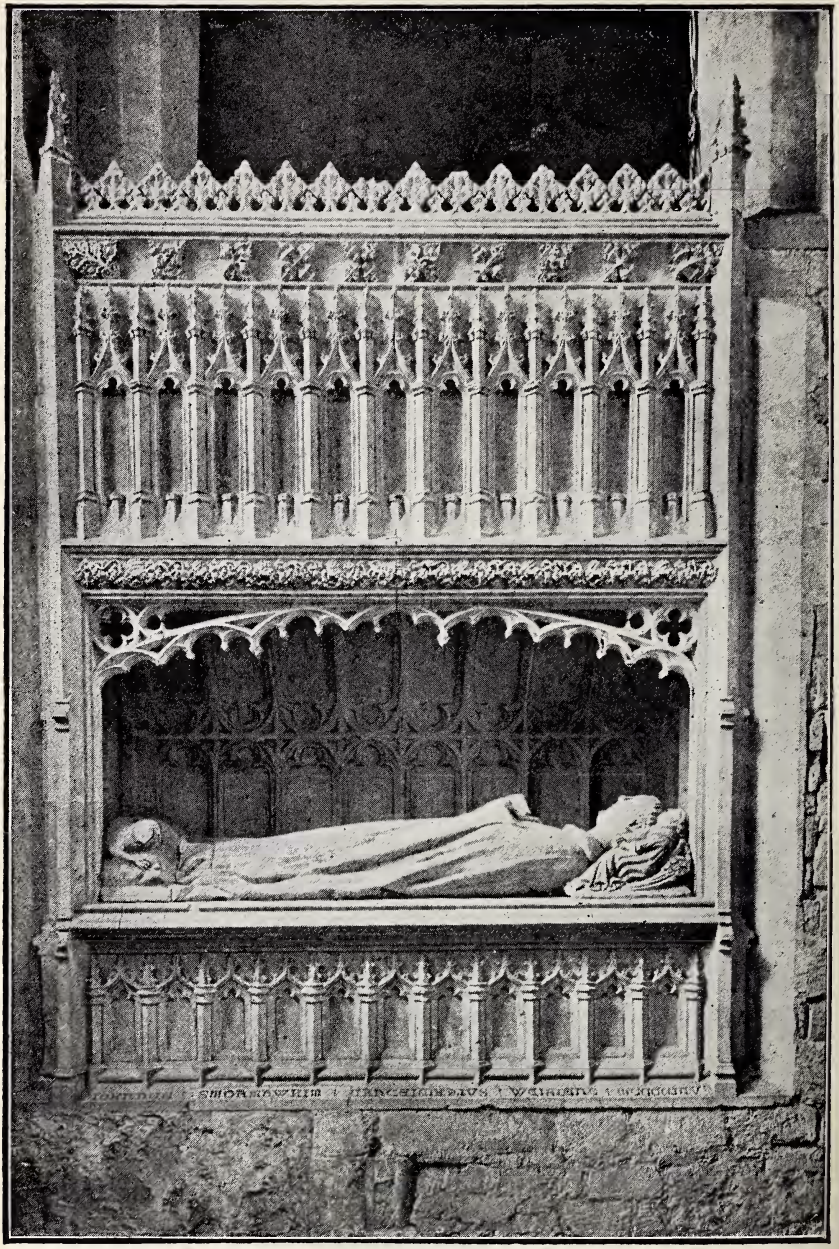
(15) "Register Stafford," fol. 50.

(16) A.D. 1445. In *Le Neve's* "Fasti Ecc. Angl." the name is called "Bricknell," and the date of death wrongly given as 1478.

(17) He succeeded, Nov., 1445, on the resignation of Ap Rice. "Register Gilbert," fol 51; *Le Neve*, vol. ii, p. 386.

(18) Appointed Chancellor, June 14, 1444. Richard Andrew, the first Warden of All Souls, had held the office shortly before. *Thorpe's* "Registrum Roffense," 1769, pp. 174-5. "Archæologia Cant.," vol. xv, p. 218. "Register Stafford," fol. 16. *Spencer's* "Life of Chichele," 1783.

He is mentioned in the records of the diocese of Rochester, April 15, 1448, in connection with the augmentation of the vicar's portion of the parish of Birling, near Maidstone, as well as in other documents. Scotney Castle, Kent, which Chichele obtained early in the reign of Henry V, and bequeathed to a niece, the widow of Sir Henry Peche, passed through his hands as trustee; and no doubt much more might be ascertained concerning the doctor's life and work by following the executorship of the archbishop's will and by examining the records at Canterbury, London, and possibly those of the Cathedrals he was connected with. Dr. Biconyll signed his will on November 3, 1448, and I believe he died the next day, because the appointment of William Cleve, canon of St. Paul's, as his successor at Cliffe Rectory, is dated November 4. Probate was granted November 19. Had it not been for the copy of this will, fortunately preserved in its original abbreviated Latin, at Lambeth Palace Library, we should indeed have known next to nothing of this "forgotten Chancellor;" and I consider it so excellent a specimen of the kind of testament made by a devout Catholic dignitary of the fifteenth century, as well as so directly connected with Somersetshire, that I need scarcely apologise for presently giving it *in extenso*, or for making a few preliminary comments on it. Two things will probably strike the reader at once: that the testator was a man of culture and wealth, and a thorough-going churchman, not oblivious of the worldly advancement of his family and the preservation of his own memory. The bequests indeed are curiously numerous; large and small they are over a hundred in number; five cathedrals, three convents, eight churches, and over thirty friends or acquaintances receiving legacies, amongst which thirty-two cloaks, gowns, or vestments, and a great many chalices, cups, bowls, and ornaments of silver or silver-gilt, are specified, as well as manuscripts, five horses, and nearly £700 in money, without counting annuities.



TOMB OF Dr. BICONYLL, WELLS CATHEDRAL.

To the lover of ecclesiastical jewellery it is consequently vexing in the extreme to think what a loss this church-plate has been, especially when we remember that our own country is now almost entirely denuded of such antique goldsmith's work, though at that period, and till the Reformation, it probably possessed more splendid specimens than any European state.[19] Occasionally the sum left for a special purpose well exemplifies the different purchasing power of money in 1448; for instance, what kind of chalice worthy of the ceremonial of the high altar of Wimborne Collegiate Minster could one now expect to buy for £5? Whereas, on the other hand, £10 would to-day go a long way towards glazing a window in the N.E. aisle of Christchurch.[20] One would also much wish to know what the "beads of gold, enamelled and engraved" for the shrine of St. Thomas were like, and to see the illuminations in the "beautiful bible" sent to St. David's. Time and absence evidently had not caused the doctor to lose his affection for Somerset, because, notwithstanding that his official position must have compelled him to live at a distance, he evinces it by so many of his legacies being to places in his own county, including amongst them Mells and Charlton Mackrell, which he had formerly served as priest. This will, besides narrating in detail the last wishes of a fifteenth century canon, has, by a strange chance which I will now relate, been of actual service to Wells Cathedral to-day. Speaking of his desire to be buried in the Chapel of St. Martin, the testator says: "Et volo quod habita licencia requisita edificetur

(19). Hoping I might discover a trace of some of these bequests, I have taken considerable trouble, but I have only convinced myself that three of the MSS. remain in All Souls College Library, and that perhaps a few more may be at New College. In 1696 Bernard enumerates fifty MSS. as being the total which were at All Souls.

(20). When All Souls College was building, 1438 to 1444, the wages paid were: masons, 8d. a day; carpenters, 6d.; labourers, 4½d.; carvers and image makers, 4s. 8d. a week, with bed, board, and lodging. Allowing for the decrease in the value of money, these prices are about double what they are now. *Skelton's* "Pietas Oxoniensis."

unum monumentum in pariete honestum et demolliatur hostium."[21] When I read this, it naturally struck me that I should most likely find the monument, or part of it, in the spot indicated, and my surprise was great, when, owing to my being unable to visit Wells myself, a friend reported to me, in 1888, that the chapel contained only one important tomb, Chancellor Storthwait's, dated 1458 ; that the verger told him " there were no other inscriptions in the church anything like so old " ; and lastly, that he had not found the name " Biconyll " in the official list of canons. This completely prevented my prosecuting my search any further, at the moment : in fact, I let the matter rest till August, 1893, when, having journeyed to Somerset for the Archæological Society's meeting, I went afterwards in person to examine the chapel. If I had been astonished before, I certainly was more so then, for there was the ancient doorway blocked up, with a canopied altar-tomb of the fifteenth century, " built in the wall " and across the passage, exactly as the will directs. Upon the sloping lower edge of the plinth, in very uncommon semi-Lombardic letters, but of suspiciously modern appearance, cut in five small inserted lengths of stone, I read :

IOHNNES : STORTHWHIT :
CANCELLARIVS : WELLENS :
MCCCCXIV :

At first I thought that possibly *Cancellarius* might have been the only word legible some years back, and the restorers, knowing of no other chancellor connected with the cathedral at the period the architecture denoted, had filled in Storthwait's name and the remainder ; but after a little search I discovered that the strange alphabet was one of the four given without date or place of origin in *Pugin's* " Glossary of

(21). " And I will that, the requisite license being obtained, an honourable monument be built in the wall, and the doorway be demolished."

Ecclesiastical Ornament," published in 1844, at the time of Mr. Ferrey's restoration of the church; and that it had been employed for at least three other tombs of very different dates: moreover, a hunt in Westminster Abbey revealed the fact that it had undoubtedly been copied from the monument of the famous Queen, Eleanor of Castile, A.D. 1290, consequently the Wells inscription, if taken to indicate by its adoption the age of the tomb, pointed to the one hundred and fifty-eighth year before Storthwait died. Though I have met no one able to tell me exactly how old this epitaph is, I am tolerably confident it did not exist more than half-a-century ago, and that the original one was quite different, most likely in small black letter on a bronze band, under two inches wide, fixed between the mouldings of a Purbeck marble slab,[22] now wanting, immediately beneath the effigy, which at sometime has been torn out for the value of the metal, whereby it ultimately came about, from there being nothing to show who was buried there, that Dr. Biconyll passed entirely from recollection. The puzzle of this monument will now, however, no longer exist, because the kindness of the dean and chapter has permitted the following words to be graven in unmistakably Victorian letters, instead of those which recorded a wrong chancellor in the misleading capitals of Edward the First's queen:

WILLELMUS BICONYLL. LLD. CAN. WELLENS.
CANC. CANT. OB. MCCCCXLVIII.

In case I am asked where Storthwait is buried, I cannot reply that I am certain, but I believe he was laid in the chapel of the Holy Cross, used occasionally as the Consistory Court, at the west end of the nave, on the north side. Leland, who visited the cathedral between the years 1538 and 1542, wrote: "*In superiori transepto versus meridiem jacent in elegantibus tumulis* 2 *episcopos et quidam Bikenelle, Canonicus Wellen-*

(22). As seen in the tomb of Bishop Cornish, A.D. 1513.

sis,[23] *Bikenelli cujusdam nobilis consanguineus, in alta tumba: hic Canonicus dedit terras ecclesiæ S. Andreæ*[24] ": and in another passage he says: "*Johannes Storthwaith Cancellar. Wellensis, executor Bubbewith Episcopi Bathon. fecit Capellam & Cantariam in Boreal. parte primi transepti*," which clearly shows that at all events "Bikenelle" and "Storthwaith" were not both buried in St. Martin's Chapel, but in different places, the former on the south side of the main or upper transept, and the latter in the "north part of the first transept," that is, in the chapel of the Holy Cross.[25] To be sure Leland does not expressly say Storthwait was buried there, but it is a legitimate assumption that he was interred where he "made a chapel and a chantry." Besides the monument, even the blocked doorway has had a share in promoting blunders, for it can never have led into Bishop Stillington's Lady Chapel,[26] at a little distance outside, as Murray's *Handbook* asserts, because it was walled up and obstructed by the tomb about twenty-six years before the chapel was built, and

(23). That Dr. Biconyll was Canon of Wells rests, as far as I know, only on this statement, but as the inscription on the monument was intact in 1540, about which date Leland saw it, the cathedral authorities would surely have drawn his attention to any such extraordinary mistake. Moreover, in his will the Dr. leaves a legacy to his tenants at Dultincot (Dulcote), one of the Wells prebends, and speaks of Dr. Carent, the Dean, as his "*confrater*." The words "*Bikenelle cujusdam nobilis consanguineus*," refer to Sir John Biconyll, who, being a knight, was of course entitled to bear arms, and who is called "nobilis vir dominus" in one of the cathedral decrees. [See p. 214, note 120.]

(24). See the Will, page 204, lines 14-16.

(25). One mistake leads to another. Owing to its being supposed that Dr. Biconyll's tomb was Storthwait's, and as it was known from the Cathedral MSS. that Storthwait had endowed a chantry in the chapel of the Holy Cross, it was taken for granted that St. Martin's had formerly been called by that name, and a printed placard not long ago recorded it for the information of visitors. Storthwait is the name of a manor in Yorkshire.

(26). Stillington was bishop from 11th January, 1465-6 to 8th February, 1491. His chapel, built in 1474, and pulled down by Sir John Gates in 1552, replaced one erected as early as the thirteenth century. "Somerset Archæological Proceedings," Vol. 1. p. 87. Plan of Wells Cathedral, *ib.* vol. xix, p. 2; vol. xxxiv, p. 104. *Canon C. M. Church's* "Early History of the Church of Wells."

has never been re-opened. That the door latterly gave direct admission only to some insignificant room, the mark of the low lean-to roof outside declares.

The following is the text of Dr. Biconyll's will, written in full from the copy in abbreviated Latin, preserved in Archbishop Stafford's register, fo. 167, at Lambeth Palace Library.

Testamentum Magistri Willelmi Biconyƚ Officialis curie Canƚ

In nomine summe et individue Trinitatis patris et filij et spiritus sancti Amen. Humani generis prothoplausti rubigine maculata condicio certissime mortalitatis penam posteris pro p[*os*]ito traduxit quam nec ipsemet Dominus noster Jhesus Christus pro humani generis reconsiliatione voluit declinare sua tamen ineffabili potencia morte deuicta resurgens post hanc vitam spem moue[27] resurrectionis nobis reliquit Hoc iuxta sapientis consilium sepius in mentem resoluens[28] Ego Willelmus Byconyƚ indignissimus sacerdos volens bona fortune a Deo michi[29] collata et pusillum peculium meum in salutem anime mee in pios vsus conuerti et in eterna commutari sanus mente grates altissimo tercio die mensis Novembris Anno Domini Millesimo cccc^mo^ xlvıj condo facio et ordino testamentum meum in hunc modum In primis lego et commendo animam meam ineffabili misericordie Domini nostri Jhesu Christi et corpus meum canonice sepulture in Capella sancti Martini in ecclesia Cathedrali Wellensi Item lego ad vsum Capellani mei vel Capellanorum meorum celebraturorum in eadem missale meum nouum quod incipit in secundo folio Lutaꝫ tuum Item lego ad vsum predictum crucem meam argenteam et deauratam Item calicem meum tercium deauratum duas Fiolas argenteas et vestimentum meum album simplex de damasco et vnum vestimentum blodium simplex de veluet super Satynꝫ Et tercium vestimentum meum simplex de brode Alisandꝫ ibidem

(27). Novœ.
(28). Revolvens.
(29). Mihi.

pro perpetuo permansurum Et volo quod habita licencia requisita edificetur unum monumentum in pariete honestum et demolliatur hostium[30] Item lego cuilibet canonico dicte ecclesie Cathedralis interessenti exequijs meis et misse xxd Cuilibet vicario xij Cuilibet clerico vjd et cuilibet choriste iiijd Item lego ecclesie Cathedrali Wellensi predicte vnum par peluium deauratarum vnum par thurribulorum et missale meum paruum ad vsum summi altaris ibidem Item lego glorioso martiri beato Thome Cantuariensi par precularium de auro enameled & graued Item lego ecclesie Cathedrali Sarisburiensi ymaginem meam sancte Marie deauratam Item lego ecclesie Cathedrali Lincolniensi ad reparacionem eiusdem totam firmam prebende mee in eadem anni precedentis C.s̄ inferius relictis ecclesie sancte Margarete Leycestrie dumtaxat exceptis Item lego ecclesie Cathedrali Exoniensi optimum calicem meum deauratum Item lego ecclesie Collegiate de Wymborn̄ Minstre C.s̄ ad emendum vnum calicem ad vsum summi altaris ibidem Item lego ecclesie parochiali de Wollyngton̄ sectam vestimentorum de albo damasco Item lego ecclesie parochiali de Charleton̄ Mackerell'̄ vestimentum meum blodium et volo quod perficiatur sumptibus meis Item lego ecclesie parochiali de Mellys paruam pixidem meam deauratam pro sacramento altaris Item lego summo altari ecclesie parochiali de Tryng̃ cupam meam argenteam et deauratam pro sacramento et sectam vestimentorum nigrorum Item lego ad reparacionem Capelle de Wigington̄ ibidem x.li Item lego ad reparacionem borealis ale ecclesie parochialis de Clyve C.s̄ Item lego ad reparacionem celarij ante crucē in eadem ecclesia xx. marcas Item lego centum parochianis ibidem magis indigentibus centum grossos vltra centum solidos alias donatos ad reparacionem celarij ante crucem eiusdem ecclesie quas[31] debet Benedictus Boucher̄ vel Jus tenementi sui ibidem quod michi promisit in

(30). Ostium.
(31). Quos.



WALLED-UP DOOR BEHIND TOMB OF Dr. BICONYLL

casu quo non solueret michi dictas viginti marcas Item lego ad distribendum inter tenentes meos magis indigentes de Dultingoote xxxiij s iij d Item lego ecclesie parochiali et prebende Sancte Margarete in Leycestria C.s ad edificationem campanilis ibidem Item lego ecclesie Conuentuali sancte Frideswyde Oxonie ad vitriandum vnam fenestram in ala boriali eiusdem ecclesie x.li Item lego ecclesie Conventuali Sancte Marie de Abyndon ad nouum opus ibidem C.s Item lego Abbati et Conuentui de Osney quinque marcas ad orandum pro anima mea Item lego ecclesie Conuentuali sancti Gregorij Cantuariæ C.s ad reparacionen eiusdem Et obsecro in visceribus Jhesu Christi quod in singulis ecclesijs supradictis deuote celebrentur exequie mee cum missa in crastino Item lego Domino meo singularissimo Domino meo Cantuariensi xx.li vt suscipiat intuitu caritatis pauperum Johannem vnicum fratrem meum in seruicium[32] familiaritatem et favorem suum Item lego Magistro Nicholao Carañt dilectissimo confratri meo collobium[33] meum de Scarleto furratum cum gray Item lego preclarissimo meo Willelmo Caraunt vnum ciphum stantem vt respiciat paupertatem Johannis fratris mei et suscipiat eum in favorem in terris et possessionibus perquirendis Item lego Magistro Johanni Reynold togam meam de vyolett engrayned cum capicio et collobio furratis cum menyver et vnum ciphum coopertum chased cum rosis Item lego matri mee xxti li pre manibus soluendas et x. marcas soluendas annuatim ad quatuor anni terminos ad terminum vite sue Item lego eidem iij togas sibi convenientes Item lego Johanni fratri meo cxl.li quas Magister Nicholaus Caraunt Decanus Wellensis michi debet ad perquirendum terras et possessiones sibi et heredibus de corpore suo legitime procreatis Et si obierit sine herede volo quod eedem terre et possessiones remaneant Elizabethe sorori mee et heredibus de corpore suo legitime procreatis Et quod dicta summa cxl.li

(32). Servitium.
(33). Colobium.

remaneat in custodia executorum meorum vsque ad solucionem ex causa premissa faciendam Item lego dicto fratri meo C.ħi in promptam pecuniam Item lego eidem tres togas meas quas voluerit eligere Item lego eidem Johanni quatuor lectos pendentes cum curtinis et costeris Item lego eidem Johanni vj paria de Fustians et xij quysshons Item lego eidem Johanni omnia linthiamina mea inferius non legata et totam napariam meam Item lego eidem Johanni sex ciphos stantes xij bolles deauratos et xij bolles albos duo Salsaria argentea et xxiiij^{or} cocliaria argentea Item patenas ollas verna ad domicilium suum necessaria secundum discrecionem executorum meorum et ij equos optimos cum cellis et uxori sue iij togas Item lego dicte Elizabeth᷑ sorori mee xx^{ti}ħi Item lego eidem iij togas secundum discrecionen executorum meorum Item lego Ibote matertre[34] mee C.s̄ et ij togas Item lego cognatis meis magis propinquis xx^{ti}ħi secundum discrecionem executorum meorum distribuendorum Item lego Domino Johanni Byrkhed᷑ duo volumina mea de vita Christi et fidei sue committo quod post decessum suum eadem volumina restituet Collegio animarum omnium fidelium defunctorum in Oxonia Item lego Magistro Ricardo Hoore vnam honestam togam cum capicio penulatam Item lego Domino Johanni Keling paruam bibliam meam [*et*] vnam togam honeste furratam Item lego Domino Ricardo Stone vnam togam Item lego Vicario de Wollygton᷑ vnam togam Item volo quod dictus Vicarius et quilibet Capellanus Cantariarum ibidem habeant quolibet anno pro termino xx^{ti} annorum si bona mea ad hoc sufficiant vj s̄ viij d ad orandum pro anima mea parentum et benefactorum meorum Et quod illa summa reponatur ibidem in custodia Johannis fratris mei Vicarij et custodis bonorum ecclesie ibidem Et quod solucio predicta incipiat in die Trigentali meo et postea quolibet anno in die anniversarij mei Item lego ad distribuendum inter pauperes magis indigentes ibidem quamcito fieri poterit post obitum meum secundum discrecionem executorum meorum

(34). Materteræ.

xxxiij s iiij d Item lego Magistro Johanni Botteley de Cantuaria unam togam sibi convenientem Item lego Magistri Roberto Aylard vnam togam Item lego Ricardo Row xl s Item lego Magistro Thome Caas portiforium meum vsuale ad terminum vite sue et post decessum suum volo quod deliberetur alicui honesto presbitero in ecclesia Cathedrali Wellensi vt ipse usatur et restituat vlterius forma supradicta Item lego eidem Magistro Thome vnam togam Item lego Willelmo More v marcas et unam togam vt attendat diligencius per debitis meis leuandis Item lego Johanni Fayrechild xl s et equum quem equitare solet Item lego Jacobo Fuller xl s et equum quem equitare solet Item lego Ricardo Toppe servienti meo x.li et unum lectum et unum equum cum cella et unam togam et Johanni fratri suo xx s Item lego Thome Horsley C.s ad exhibendum eum ad gram[*m*]aticam ministrandum eidem per manus executorum meorum prout opus fuerit vnum lectum (*et*) vnam togam sibi convenientes Item volo quod executores mei quamcito poterit constari de morte mea per aliqua signa vel coniecturas cum celeritate possibili provideant pro mille missis celebrandis pro anima mea et quod singuli percipiant ij d Item volo quod executores mei provideant pro vna missa pro anima mea in dicta Capella sancti Martini cotidie celebranda Et onero ipsos sicut respondebunt coram Deo in districto examine vt ipsi perquirant terras et possessiones ad valorem C.s vel amplius pro vno vel pluribus Capellanis in dicta Capella cotidie imperpetuum[35] cursorie celebraturo vel celebraturis pro anima mea Johannis patris mei Johanne matri mee Domini Henrici Chichele et animabus omnium fidelium defunctorum Item lego Collegio animarum omnium fidelium defunctorum in Oxonia Nicholaum de Lira in quatuor voluminibus cum prohemio Item lego eidem Collegio decreta mea (*et*) librum meum decretalium paruum Dumtamen consensus Johannis Ellmeregge senior[*is*] omnino interueniat Item lego eidem Collegio librum meum sextum cum duobus doctoribus et

(35). In perpetuum.

librum Clementis cum doctoribus in aliqualem recompensam beneficiorum per felicis memorie Dominum Henricum nuper Cantuariensem Archiepiscopum dicti Collegij fundatorem michi collatorum Item volo et onero quod executores mei infrascripti in visceribus Jhesu Christi pro exoneracione anime mee quod fiant restitutiones librorum et soluciones debitorum quemadmodum in quadam cedula seu codicillo presentibus annexa vel annexo plenius continetur nisi easdem restituciones vel soluciones per me fieri contingat Huius autem testamenti mei siue vltime voluntatis facio ordino et constituo executores meos Magistrum Rogerum Keys Magistrum Johannem Reynold' Canonicum residenciarium dicte ecclesie Cathedrali Wellensi et Johannem fratrem meum antedictum Residuum vero bonorum meorum non legatorum do et lego executoribus meis antedictis vt ipsi disponant pro salute anime mee prout coram summo judice voluerint respondere Item lego Magistro Rogero Keys vnum ciphum et quinque marcas Item voluit[36] quod quedam summa CC.li debitarum per Willelmum Bonevyle militem remaneant in custodia predictorum executorum ad perquirendum terras et possessiones prefato Johanni fratri suo[37] et heredibus de corpore suo legitime procreatis Et si obierit sine herede voluit[38] quod eadem terre et possessiones remaneant Elizabethe sorori sue et heredibus de corpore suo legitime procreatis Hiis testibus Domino Roberto Parfyte Domino Roberto Smyth' Domino Ricardo Stone Domino Johanne Kelyng' Ricardo Belyngeham Jacobo Fuller' Johanne Fayrechild' et aliis In primis volo quod soluantur Willelmo Auntres cissori[39] London' per estimacionen xxx li Item volo quod soluantur Thome Gayn' si sit in humanis xlj s Sin autem volo quod distribuantur pro anima eius et benefactorum suorum Item volo quod distribuantur pro anima Willelmi Machon' et

(36). Volo.
(37). Meo.
(38). Volo.
(39). Scissori.

animabus benefactorum suorum lxvj s viij d Item volo quod soluantur Willelmo Uuedale si ipse inueniat securitatem pro euiccione[40] clausure mee de Micheham et molendinorum ibidem et reddat munimenta pro eisdem l s Item volo quod soluantur Gay cissori pro ij virgis de Crymsyñ et pro vna toga de viridi xxxiij s iij d Item volo quod restituatur Abbati et Conventui Monasterii sancte Marie de Abyndoñ Johannes in Novella in ij voluminibus que michi ad vsum meum accomodarunt Item volo quod restituantur Collegio animarum omnium fidelium defunctorum in Oxonia Henricum Bowhik in vno volumine Januens[*is*] in vno volumine Franciscus de Sabarell super Clemente in papiro Petrus de Crescencijs vnus liber habens plura contenta qui incipit 2° fo. Item Bartholomeus de proprietate rerum Item volo quod restituantur executoribus Domini Willelmi nuper Meneuensis Episcopi portiforium magnum notatum in duobus voluminibus Item vna biblia pulcra que incipit 2° folio in Misterio Item quod restituantur eisdem Arch[*idiacon*]us in Rosar qui incipit 2° folio et Johannes in Novella super Sextum qui incipit 2° folio

Probatum fuit presens testamentum coram Domino vna cum quodam pergameno per modum Codicilli eidem consuti apud Lamehith xix° die mensis Novembris Anno Domini Millesimo cccc^{mo}xlviij° et per ipsum virtute prerogatiue sue ac ecclesie sue Cantuariensis approbatum Insinuatum ac legitime pronunciatum pro eodem Commissaque fuit administracio omnium bonorum dictum defunctum et eius testamentum concernencium vbicunque infra Cantuariensem provinciam existencium Magistro Rogero Keys et Johanni Biconyll fratri dicti defuncti executoribus in eodem testamento nominatis de fideli Inuentario omnium et singulorum bonorum huiusmodi conficiendo et Domino citra festum Pasche proximo futurum exhibendo Et Magistro Johanni Storthwayt emanauit commissio ad committendum administracionem bonorum huiusmodi Magistro

(40). Evictione.

Johanni Reynold᷑ coexecutori in dicto testamento nominato penultimo die dicti mensis Novembris et ad certificandum citra festum Purificationis beate Marie Virginis proximo futurum Necnon et Magistro Willelmo Fulford᷑ coniunctim et divisim.

Will of Mister William Biconyll, Official of the court of Canterbury.

In the name of the most high and indivisible Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Amen. The condition of the first created human race being spotted with rust, most surely brought according to the law laid down the penalty of death upon posterity: which neither our Lord Jesus Christ himself for the reconciliation of the human race wished to avoid; yet by his wonderful power, death being conquered, He rising again left us the hope of a new resurrection after this life.

Very often according to the advice of the wise man[41] pondering this in my mind, I, William Byconyll, a most unworthy priest, wishing that the gifts of fortune bestowed upon me by God, and my small private property, should be converted to pious uses for the saving of my soul, and be exchanged for eternal things, being sound in mind, thanks to the most High! on the third day of the month of November, in the year of the Lord One Thousand ccccxlvıj, do frame, make, and order my will in this manner.

First, I bequeath and commend my soul to the ineffable mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, and my body to canonical sepulture in the Chapel of saint Martin in the Cathedral church of Wells. Also I bequeath for the use of my Chaplain or Chaplains celebrants in the same (*chapel*) my new missal, which begins on the second folio Lutar᷑ tuum.[42] Also I bequeath to the use aforesaid my silver-gilt cross, also my third

(41). Or according to the determination of a wise man.

(42). P. Ostende nobis, Domine, misericordiam tuam.
R. Et salutare tuum da nobis.
Roman Missal.

gilt chalice, two silver Vials, and my plain white vestment of damask, and one plain crimson vestment[43] of velvet on Satin, and my third plain vestment of Alexandrian embroidery, to remain there for ever. And I will that, the requisite license being obtained, an honourable monument be built in the wall and the doorway be pulled down. Also I bequeath to each canon of the said cathedral Church taking part in my funeral and mass xxd, to each vicar xıjd, to each clerk vjd, to each chorister ııjd. Also I bequeath to the aforesaid Cathedral church of Wells one pair of gilt basins, one pair of thuribles, and my small missal for the use of the high altar there. Also I bequeath to the glorious martyr, the blessed Thomas of Canterbury,[44] a pair of beads[45] of gold, enamelled and engraved. Also I bequeath to the Cathedral church of Salisbury my gilt image of saint Mary. Also I bequeath to the Cathedral church of Lincoln[46] for the repair of the same all the farm of my prebend there, excepting only Cs of the preceding year left below to the church of saint Margarete, Leicester. Also I bequeath to the Cathedral church of Exeter my best gilt chalice. Also I bequeath to the Collegiate church of Wimborne Minster Cs to buy a chalice for the use of the high altar there.[47] Also I bequeath to the parish church of Wollyngtone[48] a suit of vestments of white damask. Also I bequeath to the parish church of Charltone Mackerelle[49] my

(43). Vestimentum blodium simplex. Anglo-Saxon *Blod*, blood. Blue satin cost 9/- a yard in 1441 : damask 8s. in 1463 : damask embroidered with gold 86s. 8d., and cloth of gold, 80s., both in 1481.

(44). That is, to his shrine. Becket was murdered A.D. 1170.

(45). The old English name for a Rosary.

(46). He was appointed a Canon of Lincoln Cathedral in May, 1445.

(47). At the Dissolution there were six silver chalices here. *Hutchins'* "History of Dorset."

(48). Wellington, Somerset ; or perhaps Wallington. 2½ miles from Croydon, where a small church at that time existed. Bicknells lived at the former, but the testator owned property at Mitcham, near the latter. *Manning's* "Hist. of Surrey," vol. 1, p. 267.

(49). "William Bykenel, Nov. 20, 1425, Incumbent." *Weaver's* "Somerset Incumbents."

crimson vestment, and I desire that it may be finished at my expense. Also I bequeath to the parish church of Mellys[50] my small gilt pyx[51] for the sacrament of the altar. Also I bequeath to the high altar of the parish church of Trynge[52] my silver and gilt cup for the sacrament, and a suit of black vestments. Also I bequeath for the repair of the Chapel of Wigingtone in that place x pounds. Also I bequeath for the repair of the north aisle of the parish church of Clyve Cs[53] Also I bequeath for the repair of the canopy[54] before the cross in the same church xx marks.[55] Also I bequeath to a hundred of the poorer parishioners of that place a hundred groats[56] beyond the hundred shillings otherwise given for the repair of the curtain before the cross of the same church, which Benedict Bouchere owes, or the right to his tenement in that place, which he promised me in case he should not pay me the said twenty marks. Also I bequeath to be distributed among my poorer tenants of Dultingoote[57] xxxiijs iiijd. Also I bequeath to the parish church and prebend of saint Marga-

(50). He was Incumbent of Mells sometime after 1425, and resigned Nov. 21, 1445, on becoming Rector of Clyffe at Hoo, near Rochester.

(51). A box, generally that in which the consecrated host is kept. "1503, June 26, John Aleyne, a Vicar Choral, appeared, and produced before the Chapter certain evidences and muniments 'in quadam pixide,' concerning the chantries of John Biconell, *miles*, which they received." *Reynolds'* "History of Wells Cathedral."

(52). He died Rector of Tring with Wigginton, Herts, which was at that time in the diocese of Lincoln. John Stokes succeeded him both in this living and as Chancellor. Reg. *Stafford*, fo. 50.

(53). At the death of Dr. Biconyll, William Cleve, Canon of St. Paul's, was appointed to Clyffe, Nov. 4, 1448.

(54). *Cellarium.* Celour, sellour, cellar or seller. Fr. *ciel.* "Celour cum iij redels," canopy with three curtains. Wills at Bury St. Edmund's. "Camden Society," p. 230.

(55). £13 . 6 . 8.

(56). £1 . 13 . 4.

(57). Leland mentions Doultingcote [now Dulcote], a hamlet In the parish of St. Cuthbert at Wells (*Collinson*, v. 3, 405), but here it refers to Dultingcot or Dallingcote, otherwise Fingherst, Thingest. or Fingest, in Bucks, of which place the testator was Canon. *Reynolds'* "History of Wells Cathedral." "Liber Ruber," 243. *Lipscomb's* "History of Bucks," v. 3, 564.

rete in Leycester Cs towards building a bell-tower[58] there. Also I bequeath to the Conventual church of saint Frideswyde[59] at Oxford to glaze a window in the north aisle of the same church x li. Also I bequeath to the Conventual church of St. Mary of Abyndone[60] for the new work there Cs Also I bequeath to the Abbot and Convent of Osney[61] five marks to pray for my soul. Also I bequeath to the Conventual church of saint Gregory[62] at Canterbury Cs for the repair of the same. And I beseech in the bowels of Jesus Christ that in every church above mentioned my obsequies may be devoutly celebrated with a mass on the morrow. Also I bequeath to my Lord my most singular Lord of Canterbury[63] xx li that in regard of charity he may take poor John, my only brother, into his service, friendship, and favour. Also I bequeath to Mister Nicholas Caraunt,[64] my dearest colleague, my cloak[65] of scarlet furred with grey. Also I bequeath to my most illustrious William Caraunt[66] a standing cup,[67] that he may look on the poverty of my brother John and take him into favour in acquiring lands and possessions. Also I bequeath to Mister John Reynolde[68] my gown of ingrain violet with hood and cape furred with menyver,[69] and a covered cup chased with roses. Also I bequeath to my mother xx li to be paid at once, and x

(58). The fine embattled tower, over 100 feet high, was begun in 1444. *Nichols'* "History of Leicester."

(59). Now called Christchurch Cathedral.

(60). The celebrated and ancient Benedictine Abbey of Abingdon, Berks.

(61). At Oxford.

(62). A new church has been built after a design by Sir G. Scott, R.A.

(63). John Stafford, created Archbishop 1443; formerly Bishop of Bath and Wells.

(64). Nicholas Carent, LL.D., elected Dean of Wells, 28 August, 1446. Died May 3, 1467.

(65). Colobium, κολοβός, a short tunic or garment without sleeves.

(66). Brother of Nicholas Carent, sometime High Sheriff of Somerset and Dorset, and M.P. for those counties. Died April 8, 1476.

(67). The old name for a cup with a stem.

(68). Residentiary Canon of Wells. Died 1451.

(69). Miniver: the fine white fur of the Siberian squirrel.

marks to be paid at the four quarters of the year for the term of her life. Also I bequeath to John my Brother cxl li which Mister Nicholas Caraunt, Dean of Wells, owes me, to obtain lands and possessions for himself and for the heirs of his body lawfully begotten: And if he should die without an heir I will that the same lands and possessions remain to my sister Elizabeth and the heirs of her body lawfully begotten: And that the said sum of cxl li remain in the keeping of my executors until payment be made on the foregoing account. Also I bequeath to my said brother c li in ready money. Also I bequeath to the same three gowns of mine which he shall wish to select. Also I bequeath to the same John four beds hanging with curtains and costers.[70] Also I bequeath to the same John six pairs of fustians[71] and twelve cushions. Also I bequeath to the same John all my sheets not below bequeathed, and all my napery. Also I bequeath to the same John six standing cups, xij gilt bowls, and xij white bowls, two silver salt cellars, and xxiiij silver spoons. Also dishes, pots, and utensils[72] necessary for his house according to the discretion of my executors, and ij best horses with saddles; and to his wife iij gowns. Also I bequeath to the said Elizabeth my sister xx li. Also I bequeath to the same iij gowns at the discretion of my executors. Also I bequeath to my aunt Ibote[73] Cs and ij gowns. Also I bequeath to my nearer relations xx li to be distributed at the discretion of my executors.[74] Also I bequeath to Mister John Byrkhede[75] my two volumes on the life of Christ, and I trust to his word that after his decease he

(70). Side curtains.

(71). Coverings of ribbed cloth used instead of blankets.

(72). Vernum = vas coquinarium, any kind of cooking vessel, A.D. 1405. "Quatuor verna ferrua," A.D. 1476. "Glossarium," by *Ducange*.

(73). Or Ebote; a diminutive of Elizabeth.

(74). A very fruitful source of quarrel I should imagine.

(75). John Birkhede was one of the priests appointed by Archbishop Chichele to buy the site for All Souls College, to which he was admitted a Brother in 1445. He was, I believe, Steward to the Archbishop. *Wood's* "History of the Colleges of Oxford."

will restore the same volumes to the College of all faithful defunct souls in Oxford. Also I bequeath to Mister Richard Hoore[76] a handsome gown with travelling over-cloak. Also I bequeath to Mister John Keling my little bible, [*and*] a gown handsomely furred. Also I bequeath to Mister Richard Stone a gown. Also I bequeath to the Vicar of Wollyngtone[77] a gown. Also my will is that the said Vicar and each Chaplain of the Chantries there have yearly for the term of xx years, if my property is sufficient for this, vjs viijd to pray for my soul (*and the souls*) of my parents and my benefactors; and that this sum be put there in the care of John my brother, of the Vicar, and of the custodian of the church property in that place; and that the aforesaid payment begin on my Trental day, and afterwards every year on the day of my anniversary. Also I bequeath to be distributed among the more needy poor in that place as soon as possible after my death at the discretion of my executors xxxiijs iiijd. Also I bequeath to Mister John Botteley[78] of Canterbury a gown suitable for him. Also I bequeath to Mister Robert Aylarde a gown. Also I bequeath to Richard Row xls. Also I bequeath to Mister Thomas Caas my usual breviary for the term of his life, and after his decease I wish it to be handed over to some honourable priest in the Cathedral church of Wells, to use it himself and restore it further in the form above mentioned.[79] Also I bequeath to the same Mister Thomas a gown. Also I bequeath to William More v marks and a gown that he may more carefully attend to the payment of my debts. Also I bequeath to

(76). Richard Hore was Provost of Wells Cathedral. A copy of his will, dated 22 Nov. 1449, proved Jan. 21, 1450, is in Lambeth Palace Library. The direction in it for his burial is: "Corpus sepeliend. in sepulcro pro me facto juxta gradum chori dictæ ecclesiæ Wellen sub lapide marmoreo ibidem per me posito."

(77). Robert Ayshcombe, M.A., if the place is Wellington in Somerset.

(78). John Boteley was perpetual Vicar of the Parish Church of Northgate, Canterbury, on May 12th, 1444. Reg. Stafford, 123.

(79). That is, to All Souls' College.

John Fayrechilde[80] xls. and the horse he is wont to ride. Also I bequeath to James Fullere xls. and the horse he is wont to ride. Also I bequeath to Richard Toppe, my serving-man, xli and a bed, and a horse with saddle, and a gown ; and to John his brother xxs. Also I bequeath to Thomas Horsley Cs to maintain him at a Grammar (School),[81] the same (Cs) to be administered by the hands of my executors as there shall be need, (*and*) one bed and one gown suitable to him. Also I will that my executors, as soon as the fact of my death can be established by certain signs or conjectures, with all possible speed provide for a thousand masses to be celebrated for my soul, and that they each receive ijd. Also I will that my executors provide for a mass for my soul to be celebrated in the said Chapel of saint Martin every day : and I charge them as they will answer before God in the strict trial that they obtain lands and possessions to the value of Cs. or more, for one or more Chaplains to be quick celebrant[82] or celebrants for my soul daily in the said Chapel for ever, (also for the soul) of John my father, of Joane my mother, of the Lord Henry Chichele,[83] and for the souls of all the faithful defunct. Also I bequeath to the College of all faithful defunct souls in Oxford Nicholas de Lyra[84] in four volumes, with preface.

(80). Described as "literatus" in decree of Archbishop Stafford, 1448. *Thorpe's* "Registrum Roffense."

(81). Probably at the Grammar School of Wells then existing. "Ruber Albus," v. ii, 271, "Wells Chapter Records "

(82). Priests saying low masses quickly without music. In Sir J. Biconyll's will termed "a currant mass."

(83). Chichele died April 12th, 1443. He bequeathed to All Souls' College £133 6s. 8d. and 1,000 marks, and these sums were paid by his executors, who were : Thomas Chichele, grandson of William Chichele, the Archbishop's brother ; Richard Andrews, LL.D., the first Warden of All Souls' and Fellow of New College, afterwards Dean of York, who died 1477 ; John Birkhede, already mentioned ; Robert Danvers, a feoffee of the Archbishop ; John Wraby, who had been entrusted with several sums for the payment of the workmen during the building of All Souls, and who is mentioned in the list of its benefactors ; and lastly Dr. Biconyll.—*Spencer's* "Life of Chichele," 1783.

(84). A converted Jew, and Minorite monk, born about 1270 at Lyre in Normandy, died at Paris, 23rd Oct., 1340. Exegete and theologian.

Also I bequeath to the same College my decrees, [*and*] my little book of decretals, as long as the consent of John Ellmeregge senior altogether lasts. Also I bequeath to the same College my sixth book with two doctors, and the book of Clemens with doctors,[85] as some recompense for the benefits conferred on me by Lord Henry of happy memory, late Archbishop of Canterbury, the founder of the said College. Also I will and charge that my executors [who are] written below, in the bowels of Jesus Christ for the deliverance of my soul, make restitution of books and payment of debts, as in a certain schedule or codicil[86] annexed to these presents is more fully contained, unless it happen that the same restitutions or payments have been made by me. Moreover, of this my testament or last will I make, ordain, and appoint my executors Mister Roger Keys,[87] Mister John Reynolde, residentiary Canon of the said Cathedral church of Wells, and John my brother aforesaid. But the residue of my property not bequeathed I give and bequeath to my executors aforesaid that they may lay it out for the safety of my soul, as they will answer before the most high Judge. Also I bequeath to Mister Roger Keys a cup and five marks. Also I will that a certain sum of cclı owed by William Bonevyle, Knight,[88] remain in the keeping of the aforesaid executors to acquire lands and possessions for the aforesaid John, my brother, and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten: And if he should die without an heir I will that the same lands and possessions remain to Elizabeth, his sister, and the heirs of her body lawfully begotten. These being Wit-

(85). Most likely the other Apostolic Fathers, whose works were often bound with those of *Clemens*.

(86). This Codicil is lost.

(87). He supervised the building of All Souls in the 5th and 6th years; became a Fellow in 1438, and Warden in succession to Andrews, 1442. He obtained the Salisbury Cathedral Prebend of Netherbury, near Beaminster, Dorset, in 1456; and, at the testator's death, succeeded to his Canonry at St. Paul's.

(88). He was created Lord Bonevyle, 23rd September, 1449. A Lancastrian leader, and at one time Constable of Taunton Castle. Beheaded, 19th February, 1460-1.

nesses : Mister Robert Parfyte, Mister Robert Smythe, Mister Richard Stone, Mister John Kelynge, Richard Belyngeham, James Fullere, John Fayrechilde, and others. Especially I will that iiijli by estimation be paid to William Auntres, tailor, of London. Also I will that that xlijs be paid to Thomas Gayn, if he be alive ; otherwise I will that it be distributed for his soul and (the souls of) his benefactors. Also I will that lxvjs viijd be be distributed for the soul of William Machon and the souls of his benefactors. Also I will that ls be paid to William Uvedale[89] if he himself find security for the recovery of my inclosure of Micheham[90] and Mills there, and give up the documents for the same. Also I will that xxxiijs iiijd be paid to — Gay, tailor, for ij yards of crimson and for a gown of green. Also I will that there be restored to the Abbot and Convent of the Monastery of saint Mary of Abyndone, Johannes in Novella,[91] in ij volumes, which they lent me for my use. Also I will that there be restored to the College of all faithful defunct souls at Oxford, Henricus Bowhik,[92] in one volume ; Januens,[93] in one volume ; Francis-

(89). William Uvedale, *armiger*, died 1449, and was buried in St. Mary Overy Conventual church, Southwark. In the French Rolls, Henry VI, Feb. 12th, 1457-8, I find a Protection was granted to the "Marie" of Spain, trading to England, to obtain the ransom of Henry Uvedale, a prisoner in France. The Uvedales were an ancient family in Dorset. *Hutchins'* "Dorset," vol. iii, p. 144.

(90). Mitcham, Surrey, was held of the Priory of St. Mary Overy. *Manning's* "Surrey," vol. i, p. 248.

(91). Giovanni Andrea, Benedictine Monk, an eminent Italian Canonist, born at Bologna about the end of the 13th century. and acquired great reputation as Professor in that city. Died 1348. He called the Decretals "Novella" in imitation of Justinian. The full title of the book referred to would be : "Johannis Andreæ, in Novella, super Sexto [*libro*] Decretalium D. Bonifacii Papæ VIII."—First published at Venice, 1489. "Panzer's Annales."

(92). Henry Bohic, Benedictine monk ; Canonist ; author of a Commentary on the Decretals of Gregory IX. Born at St. Mathieu, Finisterre, 1310; died about 1390. The work on which his fame rests is entitled "In quinque Decretalium libros [Gregorii Papæ IX] Commentaria." First printed 1498. *Nouvelle Biog. Générale.*

(93). Jacobus Januensis or de Janua (Genoa), also known as Giacomo de Varaggio and Jacob de Voragine. Born about 1230 at Varaggio ; died 14th July, 1298, at Genoa. Became a Dominican in 1254, and was Archbishop of Genoa during the last six years of his life. He wrote the first Dictionary of Latin after it became a dead language : printed 1460. He was preacher, historian, and hagiographer. His famous "Legenda Sanctorum," or "Legenda Aurea," was one of the first works printed by Caxton, under the name of "The Golden Legend," 1483, and it was afterwards printed by Wynkin de Worde.

cus de Saberella[94] upon Clemens on paper; Petrus de Crescencijs[95] one book having many contents which begin on the 2nd folio. Also Bartholomeus[96] on the property of things. Also I will that there be restored to the executors of the Lord William, late Bishop of St. David's,[97] a large breviary with notes in two volumes; also a beautiful Bible which begins on the 2nd folio "in Misterio." Also that there be restored to the same Arch[*idiacon*]us in Rosar̃),[98] which begins on the 2nd folio; and Johannes in Novella upon Sextus, which begins on the 2nd folio.

The present testament was proved before the Lord,[99] together with a certain parchment in the form of a Codicil sewn to the same, at Lamehithe,[100] the xixth day of the month of November, Anno Domini One Thousand cccc xlvıj, and by him in virtue of his prerogative and of his church of Canterbury approved,

(94). Cardinal Francesco Zabarella, Archbishop of Florence, born at Padua, 1339; died at Constance, 26th Sep., 1417. Celebrated as Professor of Canon Law, at Florence and Padua. Amongst other works, he wrote "Lectura Super Clementinis," and "Commentaria in Decretales et Clementinas." The volumes of Nicholas de Lyra, Henry de Bohic, and Cardinal Zabarella, the last much injured by damp, still remain in All Souls' Library.

(95). Pietro dei Crescenzi, born at Bologna, 1230; died 1320. A celebrated agronome and the restorer of scientific agriculture in Europe. His great work is called "Opus Ruralium Commodorum." First printed, 1471.

(96). Bartholomew Glanvile, or Anglicus, an English Minorite Monk, c. 1230-1250, who wrote "De proprietatibus rerum," the encyclopedia of the middle ages. First printed, Cologne, 1470.

(97). William Lyndwood, diplomatist, canonist, and distinguished author of the "Provinciale." Archbishop Chichele appointed him 1st August, 1414, to be his official of the court of Canterbury, thus giving him the same preferment afterwards bestowed on Dr. Biconyll: and in 1419 he was collated to the prebend of Taunton. His body was discovered January, 1852, in the crypt of St. Stephen's, Westminster. "Dict. of Nat. Biog." "Archæologia," xxxiv, 418.

(98). Guido di Baisio, one of the most renowned Canonists of the 13th century, and a noble of Reggio, Lombardy; about 1280 was Professor of Civil Law, in Bologna, where he became Archdeacon. In 1300 he finished his intrepretation of the Decretals, giving it the quaint title "Rosarium Decretum"; a work first published in Rome, 1477. *Mazzuchetti's* "Gli Scrittori d' Italia."

(99). Of Canterbury.

(100). Lambeth.

Registered, and legitimately pronounced for the same; and the administration of all the property concerning the said deceased and his testament wherever existing in the Province of Canterbury, was Committed to Mister Roger Keys and John Biconyll, brother of the said deceased, named executors in the same testament, to make a faithful Inventory of all and every property of this kind, and to be shown to the Lord before the feast of Easter next ensuing. And to Mister John Storthwayt[101] was issued a commission to commit the administration of such property to Mister John Reynolde, co-executor named in the said testament, on the last day but one of the said month of November, and to certify within the feast of the Purification of the blessed Virgin Mary next ensuing; Also to Mister William Fulforde,'[102] conjointly and separately.

During the next twenty years a John "Byconyll" is frequently mentioned, and though it is not easy to prove absolutely the exact relationship he bore to the chancellor, yet as the latter in his will left his brother John two sums of money for the express purpose of acquiring land, and we find John Byconyll buying between five and six hundred acres, with other property, near Ashprington, in Devon, in 1451; the three hundred marks spent thereon may well have been a small portion of one of these legacies. The name occurs in 1452-3, and again in 1453-4 in connexion with that of Agnes, daughter of John Lyte,[103] and those of two of the Horsey family, which was

(101). Storthwayt was Precentor of Wells Cathedral, 1426; Executor of of Bishop Bubwith, 1424; Chancellor of Wells, 1439. He founded a Chantry at the altar of the Holy Cross, Nov. 14th, 1451, and he directed (Sep. 16th, 1450) that £10 should be paid annually by Wraxall Church for its maintenance. Died 1454. Storthwayt is the name of a manor in Yorkshire.

(102). He became Canon of Wells with the Cory Prebend, Sept. 15th, 1443. *Ducarel's* "Index to Reg. Stafford," 639.

(103). Som. Arch. Soc. *Proceedings*, vol. xxxviii, pt. II, p. 24. Many of the names mentioned by Mr. Lyte in this account of the Lytes of Lytescary, are familiar to me in the history of the Biconylls.

intimately associated with the Byconylls till the 16th century. On July 7th, 1455, "Johannes Byknell" and Stephen Hatfeld were returned to parliament for Shaftesbury, and in 1456-7, "John Byconyll" served the office of Escheator for Devon and Cornwall, the first inquisition he held being on Elizabeth, wife of Sir John Seyntmaur, Kt., whose grandson afterwards married Elizabeth Chokke (Dame Biconyll).

I pass on now to speak more at length of a member of the family of wholly different type to the chancellor, a man of war instead of a man of peace, resembling him only in one point, in his intense devotion to the Church, but otherwise rather after the fashion of those Condottieri leaders who fought generally for the side where their interest lay. Sir John Biconyll, Kt., played a considerable part in the history of Somerset from 1470 to 1502, and, since he belonged to the Chapter of Wells, I may appropriately call him also a "forgotten canon."[104] With his tomb, oddly enough, certain archæological questions are likewise connected, and just as the monument at Wells has increased our knowledge of the cathedral, so this other has contributed towards a correct understanding of the Abbey of Glastonbury. It seems to me indeed not too much to say, that in time, when the meagre known history of Henry VII's reign is amplified by complete search in the vast stores at the Record Office, we shall learn much more than I am able to tell at present about this prominent character. When parliament was summoned to meet on Oct. 6th, 1472, at Westminster, we find John Biconyll representing the united counties of Somerset and Dorset (which were not separated till 1566), and his seat remained undisturbed as long as that parliament lasted. A dissolution took place March 14th, 1474-5, but when the new house assembled three years later, on Jan. 16th, 1477-8, he was not elected. Whether he ever entered parliament again cannot be ascertained, because the

(104). I believe he was a nephew of Dr. Biconyll. The name of William Carent occurs in the wills of both.

returns are often missing or incomplete, in fact the names of all the members for these counties in the next eleven parliaments are lost. He was also sheriff for Dorset and Somerset in 1472, and again in 1473. The references to Sir John, however, occur in so many places that it would be tedious to enumerate them, and I shall therefore only mention a few. In 1474, he owned the three manors of North Perot, South Perot, and the adjoining Pepilpen, as well as the advowsons of the two first,[105] and in 1472, he was patron, with others, of Brympton, and in 1476, of Nunney[106] and Middle Chinnock in Somerset, and of Batcombe in Dorset: he also took active interest in the religious guild founded in 1482, at Croscombe, three miles from Wells, "in honour of God, the Blessed Virgin, and St. Anne"; various documents between that year and 1489 referring to him.[107] At this time he made up his mind to stake his fortune on the cause of Henry of Richmond, and this ended in his fighting so valiantly at the battle of Bosworth that the triumphant king knighted him on the field, August 22nd, 1485, together with his two friends William Courtney and the Baron of Carew:[108] Somerset consequently took no inglorious share in that hardly-contested victory. Perhaps gratitude now gave a fresh stimulus to the other side of Sir John's character, for directly he returned home, October 4th, he made a curious arrangement with the warden of the Franciscan Minorites at Dorchester, the chief points of which were as follows:—

"1. The devout and venerable man John Byconill, Kt., to be admitted as one of the founders of the Convent on account of his having first established mills on the water running thereby.

(105). The registers of South Perot begin at the unusually early date 1534.

(106). In 1790, a descendant of the Bicknells' held this same living. *Weaver's* "Somerset Incumbents."

(107). MSS. in the Bodleian Library. The guild was dissolved at the Reformation.

(108). *Metcalf's* "Book of Knights." In *Stow's* Chronicle he is called "Sir John Bikenyle," and in the Cotton MSS. "Brikenell."

2. The Conventual High Mass to be principally granted and appropriated to him.
3. The monks to bind themselves for ever to celebrate his decease on the day after the feast of their Holy Father St. Francis.
4. 'The same John, and such as shall by him be recommended,' to be prayed for by name every week in the Chapter House.
5. That these ordinances and decrees of the said John, concerning the mills, be punctually observed, namely:

First. That there be yearly laid up in a chest, secured under three locks, 40s. of the profits of the mills for repairing them: the chest to be in the custody of the guardian or in the porch, one key thereof to be safely kept by the guardian or his assign; another by the discreetest of the brothers; and the third by a special friend chosen by the convent.

Second. That the Brother who is *Hebdomadarius*, appointed for the week, duly frequenting the choir by day and night, and praying for the said John, shall at the end of the week receive 6d.: but if he be negligent in his office, he shall be deprived of the said money either in part or in the whole.

Third. That every priest praying from the beginning to the end of the obsequies and mass for the said John shall receive 4d., and laymen 2d.

Fourth. That all profits, after paying the aforesaid ordinations, shall be laid out towards bringing boys into the order, and their education in good manners and learning; and that the brothers so brought in and educated to the perpetual memory of the said John be called Biconyll's Friars, and that none of them be called by their surnames.

Item. The recommendation of the said John shall be made in this form: 'Pray especially for the happy

> state of the devout and venerable man John Byconill, Kt., and on account of the first erecting of the mills upon our water, the chief founder of this place, and for his soul, when he shall depart this life.'"

The above contract "was kept with great respect," but it gave dire offence to those Franciscans who stood up for the strict observance of the primitive rule of St. Francis forbidding the order to hold property.[109]

Sir Thomas Arundell, K.B.,[110] Oct. 3rd, 1485, appointed Sir John one of his executors, and we find "John Chokke, of Staunton Drew, in the countie of Somerset, Squier," naming his brother "Syr John Byconnel (or Biconell), Knyght," to the same office, April 18th, 1488.[111] Between those two dates he had contracted a second marriage with the widow of John Seyntmaur, who died Oct. 5th, 1485, and whose brass, with effigies of himself and wife, is now before the altar of Beckington Church.[112] John Seyntmaur being descended from Reginald de Paveley, Lord of Westbury, in Wilts, temp. Henry I, A.D. 1100-1135, this lady married into two branches of the same family.[113] No issue, however, proceeded from this second union.

After the accession of Henry VII, Sir John appears to have remained in Somerset and Dorset, a trusty servant of the

(109). *Dugdale's* "Monasticon," vol. viii, p. 1510. *Parkinson's* "Collectanea Anglo-Minoritica," p. 308.

(110). Ancestor of Lord Arundell, of Wardour. *Nicholas'* "Testamenta Vetusta," vol. I, p. 379.

(111). Will in Somerset House.

(112). In his will, at Somerset House dated Oct. 5th, 1485, proved Nov. 19th, he directs that his body may be buried "in the chancel of Bekynton," and he leaves a legacy to his "son yet unmarried." Dame Biconyll's will and engraving of the brass, are given in the Som. Arch. Soc. *Proceedings*, vol. xxxix, pt. I, p. 19. Lord Stawel was descended from her elder daughter; Lord Poltimore and Lord Egmont are from the younger; and Lord Bath from her sister Dame Wroughton.

(113). Her father, Sir Richard Chokke, had married Jane, daughter of William Pavie, of Bristol. If, as is quite possible, the name Pavie may be a variety of Paveley, Dame Biconyll would then not only be connected with the Paveleys, through both her husbands, but be of Paveley blood herself.

crown till his death, and the occasional notices of him refer chiefly to his connexion with various manors, although it is clear that he still took part in politics, because he was commissioned Dec. 23rd, 1488, with others, to examine how many archers the nobles and knights of Somerset were bound to find for the king's army for the expedition to Brittany ; and in Sep. 1497, when Henry marched to Taunton during the rebellion of Perkin Warbeck, "Sir John Bickenell" accompanied his majesty "with a large number of noblemen, knights, esquiers, and valiaunt personages, prepared and readie with all thinges necessary for the fielde and battaille."[114]

Sir John lived at South Perot Court or Manor House, just inside the border of Dorset, which stood in the ground still called in remembrance of it Court Orchard, adjoining the west side of the churchyard.[115] In the 14th century the Maubanks owned the manor, and in 1412-3 Christian, widow of John Crewkerne, of Childhay, and wife of Richard Clopton, was a tenant here of Philip Maubank. Later it belonged to the Carent family, then to the Horseys of Clifton Maubank; in 1449 to John Crokehorn, who held lands of Henry Horsey "as of his manor of South Perrot," and afterwards to the Daubeneys, a small portion, however, being occupied by the Draper family.[116] The next owner was Sir John Biconyll, and through the operation of the bequests in his will at the close of the 16th century the manor was leased to, or it became the property of, William grandson of Robert Gibbes, whose father Robert Gibbes, of Hunningham, Warwick, had settled at Netherbury, in Dorset. Charles I, in his march from the west, on Monday, Sep. 30th, 1644, "lay the night at Mr. Gibbs his howse, the Manor of South Barrett (Perot) Com. Dorset"; but not long afterwards the building was razed and the materials were sold. A porter's

(114). *Grafton's* "Chronicle," vol. II, p. 214.

(115). His wife, in her will, speaks of her daughter's "owne chambre next the churchyerde" of South Perot. "Som. Arch. Soc. Proceedings," vol. xxxix, pt. I, p. 38; and errors p. 36, lines 16, 17, and note *.

(116). See note 150, p. 218.

lodge was standing in 1680 on the north side of the ruined mansion, with a great court before the north door; and a part of the lodge existed till about 1781, when it was taken down by its owner, Edward Bellamy, of Cheddington.[117] Other less important houses owned by Sir John in this neighbourhood were Pepilpen[118] (now a farm) and North Perot Manor, both in North Perot parish, Somerset, and comprised in the beautiful estate of W. H. Hoskyns, Esq., whose grandfather purchased them from the family of William Pitt, the statesman. The outline of the moat and substructures of buildings of North Perot manor are still recognisable in a field near the road. The farm called Grey Friars and the field Monkwood, close by, most likely indicate some connexion with the Franciscans of Dorchester, whom we know Sir John and his wife held in such great regard. The manor was held by Sir John at one time, for a rent of 2d., of Margaret, countess of Richmond, daughter of the duke of Somerset, and mother of Henry VII.[119]

One of the last acts of his life was to establish and endow, in the spring of 1501, two chantries; one in the Lady Chapel of bishop Stillington, adjoining the cloisters of Wells Cathedral, and the other in the cathedral itself.[120] His death occurred on the 23rd of August, 1502, and his will, written with his own hand,[121] is dated August 15th, 1500, which super-

(117). "Diary of Richard Symonds." Camden Soc. No. 75. *Pulman's* "Book of the Axe," p. 163. *Hutchins's* "Dorset."

(118). In 1547-8 owned by William Horsey. "Piplepan" and "a wood there," are mentioned in 1225-6; again as "Pypelepenne" in 1256-7, and "Pipulpenne," 1404-5, 1446-7. "Somerset Fines," Somerset Record Society. "Cal. Inq. P.M.

(119). Inq. P.M. on Dame Elizabeth Biconyll, at Crewkerne, 24th Jan., 1505.

(120). 1501, Apl. 1. The Chapter of Wells decreed: "Quod ordinacio duarum cantariarum in ecclesia Cathedrale Wellen et in capella beatissimæ Virginis juxta claustrum ejusdem, per nobilem virum dominum Johannem Bicconell fundatas, prout in quadam scedula papiri sit confecta, eorum sigillo communi sigilletur et roburetur." "Liber Ruber, Wells Cathedral." "Valor Eccles," vol. I. p. 125.

(121). So stated in the Inq. P.M. on his wife, held at Crewkerne, 26th Jan. 1506.

seded one of October, 1485, of which Giles (afterwards Lord) Daubeney was a trustee.[122] At the end of this second will we are told it was proved by his step-son Sir William Seyntmaur, K.B., 29th Nov. 1501; but this must be a mistake for 1502, because Sir John was one of the non-residentiary canons assembled in Wells Cathedral, June 8th in that year, before whom Dr. William Cousyn took the oath on his appointment as dean;[123] and the post mortem inquisition held at Blandford, 20th June, 1504, says he died on the day I have affirmed.

The text of Sir John Biconyll's will, which I have transcribed exactly from the copy in Somerset House of the original English, is as follows :

In the name of the moost glorious Trinite Amen: the xiij daie of Auguste the yer̃ of oure lorde god m^{l} v^{c} [124] I John Byconyll knyght in good helth of bodie & mynde dredynge nev̅theless the casualte of this vnsu̅ worlde make my testament & laste will in forme foloyynge ṽz. ffurste I bequeth my sowle vnto Almightie god & my bodie to holy sepulture Where As by his m̅cy I shall herafter declar̃ [125] It I Will that there be saide for my sowle the sowlis of my fadre and modre my godfather my godmother: my Wife Johañ [126] my brother William [127] my suster Elijabeth & all my

(122). The Inq. P.M. on Sir John, held at Exeter, 22nd Nov. 1505, referring to a deed of 12th Oct., 1485, conveying lands in trust to Giles Daubeney and others, says that it was for the performance of his last will.

(123). Liber Ruber.

(124). A.D. 1500.

(125). His burial-place is incidentally mentioned five times in connection with Glastonbury Abbey. See pp. 219, 220.

(126). On p. 219 referred to as "Johañ late my wife." This lady Joan, or Jane, according to Dame Biconyll's will, may have been a daughter of Joan Brympton (Sydenham) who died 1473. The Sydenhams of Brympton d'Evercy were connected with the Daubeneys, Horseys, Audleys, Luttrells, and other persons mentioned in this will.

(127). Perhaps the William Bicknell who built the splendid chantry and porch of Northleach Church, Gloucestershire, who died 1500. [*Rudder's* "Gloucester."] Another William was priest at Bathampton, 1487, and resigned 1493. [*Weaver's* "Somerset Incumbents."]

brothers & susters the sowle of Jamys Ormond[128] somtyme Erle of Wilts. henry horsie[129] henry Bear[130] Richard Pigott Wylliam Carent[131] & All xpen̄ sowlis ml ml[132] massis assone after my deceaste as goodly maie be Done At london & other good townes. Every pste takyng for A masse ijd It. I bequeth to the pisshe church of Northory[133] xli or A sute of vestaments p̄ce of xli to p̃y for the sowle of Thomas Baker somtyme vicar ther̄ & All xpen̄ sowlis It. I Will that the church chauncell & porche of Northperot be pformed & iij bells[134] convenyent ordeyned therto. It I bequethe to every housholder of Southperot & Northperot xx d It I bequethe to Elizabeth my Wife in money C li & in plate the worth of An C li to vse it for her life. It. I bequethe to my curate pson of southperot[135] for tithes not duly done x m̄ke. It. I bequethe to Robert Roper[136] of myddelchynnok xl s. It I bequethe to my said Wife all my Napery shets apparell of chambres stuff of kichyn̄ & All or [137] vtensils & All my quyk catell. Ite I bequeth to the Church of woolauyngton x m̄ke to be enploied vpon som̄ Stok As melch kien̄ or or like thyngs by thencrease whereof ther̄ maie be yer̄ly añ obite kept ther̄ for me & those A boue spified And of this my testamente I make & ordeyn̄ my executors Elizabeth my Wife & Sir John

(128). James Butler, fifth Earl of Ormond in Ireland, was descended from Edward I. Created Earl of Wilts, 8th July 1449. Beheaded 1461. *Burke's* "Extinct Peerages"; *Nicholas'* "Test. Vetusta," 107.

(129). Horsey is about a mile north of Bridgwater. The Horsey family sometimes lived at Clifton Maubank, close to Yeovil Junction Station.

(130). Probably brother of Ric. Bear, who was the last abbot but one of Glastonbury.

(131). See Note 66, p. 201.

(132). 2000.

(133). Northory, or Northcory, now North Curry, held by the Canons of Wells of the king. "Testa de Nevill."

(134). Five new bells were put up about a century ago.

(135). John Saunders.

(136). Robert Roper was fined 20 marks, at Taunton, for aiding the rebellion of Perkin Warbeck.

(137). Other.

Speke knyght & William Sayntmawre[138] her sonne & John More[139] of Columpton Everich[140] of theym to have convenyontly after the labour that they take

And be it knowen that All my lands stande in feoffament[141] to pfo^rme this my laste Will made the xv daie[142] of Auguste the yere A bouesaid of o^r lord m^l v^c and of king henry the vij xvj ye᷑ : And levery of seison[143] made Accordyng to my dedis therof. ffurste I will that my feoffs suffer me to take all thissues & pfitts of all the landes A foresaid whiles I live. And after my deceaste that Elizabeth my Wife have all the saide landes for terme of her life if she live sole w^t owte empechement of Waste. Except such landis as he᷑ after foloeth I do otherwise dispose. she to fynde yerely v scolars at Oxforde to lerne the law dyuyne for techynge xpe᷑[144] people eu᷑ych of theym to haue yerely iij m᷑ke or v if that be to litle. It I will that my manors of Southperot & Northperot & Pepilpeis[145] with the Advowsens thereof & other thappr^tenunc̄s. And all my lands te᷑ts rents reu᷑sions & servyces in the same be ordeyned by my said feoffs therof to remay᷑ After the deceaste of my saide Wife to William Sayntmaure her sonne for terme of his life : for that I truste he wilbe vertuous. And to thentent y^t[146] he do help & socour

(138). "Somerset Archæological Society Proceedings," vol. xxxix, part I, p. 42.

(139). John More, or Moor, of Moorehays, Cullompton, died 4th January, 1509.

There were three ancient families of More in Devonshire, not connected with each other. "Visitation of Devon," 1564; *Polwhele's* "Hist. of Devon"; An excellent article by Mr. A. J. Monday in the "Somerset County Gazette," September 29th, 1883.

(140). Every each.

(141). Held in trust by the deed of 12th October, 1485, and one of 12th August, 1500, executed one day before this will was begun.

(142). At the beginning said to be "the xij daie."

(143). Delivery of possession.

(144). Christian.

(145). See note 118, p. 214.

(146). That.

por̃ people in right at their neds asmoche as shalbe in his pouer̃ and nothyng to take therefor: fyndying yer̃ly ij scolers vnto oxford as he will Aunswere to god for it. And after his deceaste I Will that the saide mañs lands & teñts with yr[147] appurtenaunes Aforesaide be ordeyned by saide feoffs to remayñ to Giles Dawbney[148] knyght & henry his soñ for terme of their lives. the remaynder thereof to the saide William Sayntmawre &[149] theires males of his bodie comyng. & for lak of such issue the remaindr̃ thereof to the said Giles lord Dawbney and to theires males of his bodie comynge. And for defaute of such issue the remayndre of the Manor of Southperot wt the apprtenancs to John horsy of Clifton & to his heires Except A teñte with lands therto pteynyng in which John Draper[150] now dwellith. which I will r̃mayn to the saide William Sayntmawr & his heires: And I will yt the manor of Northperot Afr̃ thastats[151] Aforesaide remyn to Thoms lorde La War̃[152] & his heires Except lands in the same which I prchased of Richard Nele & William Naisshe[153] those I will remayñ to the saide William Sayntmaure & his heires And in likewise I will that the manr of pepilpeis wt all the lands

(147). Their.

(148). Died 21st May, 1508. In the ensuing paragraph, and on page 220, more correctly styled "Lorde Dawbney," as he had been raised to the peerage 12th March, 1486, after the battle of Bosworth. His father was William Daubeney, of South Petherton, who died January 11th, 1445. Henry Daubeney, his son, was created Earl of Bridgwater 19th July, 1538, and for a time was in high favour with Henry VIII. Died April 8th, 1548, buried at South Perot. "Somerset Notes and Queries," vol. i, p. 243; *Rogers'* "Memorials of the West."

(149). This "&" should be omitted.

(150). The family of Draper, of North Down, Haselborough, two miles east of Crewkerne, still held part of this land in 1796. James Draper was minister of the Chapel of Ease to S. Perrot in 1786. In Haselborough church there is a monument to John Draper, who died September 26, 1768, aged 94. *Hutchins'* "Dorset," vol. i, 480; *Collinson's* "Somerset," vol. ii, 333.

(151). The estates.

(152). The eighth Lord Delawarr, died 1525. *Burke's* "Peerage."

(153). Two miles south-west of Yeovil, near West Coker, are the remains of Nash Priory.

rents & servycs thereto pteyninge be ordeyned by my feoffs to remayñ to the foresaide William Sayntmawre and to his heires to do therwith & with the pcells[154] Above excepted in southperot & northperot to hym assigned & to his heires as after this I shall with godds mcie deuyse. It I will that my saide feoffs make A state in fee of my lands in Wanteslegh Braudwyndsore Estecoker Westcoker Stokett vnder hamdon & Strete vpon the vosse vnto psonnes of substans sũ spũall sum temporall As the souerayñ[155] of the place where my bodie shall lie shall name to the nombre of xvj to ordeyn & cause to be said Daily A currant masse[156] by oon of his brethren wele disposed of the saide place in ppetuyte & he forto haue wekely xx d paied by the saide souerayn or his Assigne. And I will the feoffs suffer hym̃ to take the pfitts of the saide lands for thentent to pỹ for my sowle The sowles of Elizabeth my wife : Johañ late my wife my father & mother sowle. my godfather & godmother sowle. the sowle of my brother William & all my brethren & suster sowles. the sowles of Jamys Ormond late Erle of Wilts Ric Pigott[157] henry Bear henry horsie John Morton[158] late Cardynall of Cañ & all xpen sowlis. And I will that whenne those vvj feoffs be deceascid to the nũber of iiij : that those iiij make A state to other xvj psonnes tobe named by the said soulayn of the howse whe̅ I shall lie to pforme & contynue the said masse Daily As is Aboue spified. And so sueyngly[159] such feoffament to be renued & made by thassignment & namyng of the said souerayn of the [*house*] whe̅ my bodie shall lie to thentent a bouesaid ppetually to be don̅ & kept Itẽ I will that like feoffament be made by my said feoffs to xvj parsounes or mo of all the residue of my lands wt like

(154). Parcels.

(155). Richard Bear, abbot of Glastonbury.

(156). See note 82, p. 204.

(157). One of the patrons of Nunney Rectory with Sir John and others, November 23, 1476.

(158). Archbishop of Canterbury from 6th Oct., 1486 to 12th Oct., 1500.

(159). Following in succession.

demeañyng theruppon to fynde with the revenues thereof scolars to Oxford eche of theym takỹnge ıı̄j m̄ke by the yer̄ And to pcede in lernỹng of Dyuinite to teache the people of god in such nombre As the saide Revenues will suffise[160] vnto: The said scolers to be named & Assigned by the foresaid souayn of the house wher̄ my bodie shall lie And he to take the saide revenues by suffrans of the feoffes and make payment to the scolars: And for his good ouersight to the masse A boue said daily to be kept and saide. And the labours that he shall susteyn for the scolers A boue spified I will the foresaid souayne of the howse where I shall lie haue yerely C s of the lands Assigned[161] for the masse & Scolers Abouesaid. puyded that he assign the scolars in Southperot Northperot & other my lands in Som̄set shire.[162] It I will that my feoffs of my lands in deuonshire[163] make to the foresaide Giles daubney lorde Dawbney Astat to hym̄ & to his heires malis of his bodie comyng. fynding A scolar to oxford to pray for me & his heires Aforesaide as he & they will Aunswere to god therefor. The remaynder thereof to William Sayntmawre & to theires malis of his bodie coming. he and his said heires to fynde A scolar to Oxforde to pỹ for me my Wifs and my frends as he & they Will Aunswer̄ to god therfor. The remaynder therof to Thomas Wode And his heires fynding A p̄ste to synge for the sowlis of henria Bear & for the sowlis of me & of my frends. yeuen[164] the Daie And yer̄ A boue spified[165]

Probatum fuit prescriptum testamentum una cum ultima voluntate ejusdem xxix° die mensis Novembris A° d̄ni

(160). Ten scholars were sent. *Valor Ecclesiasticus.*

(161). By the Deeds. Note 141, p. 217.

(162). South Perot is in Dorset.

(163). Lord Dawbney, Sir William Courtnay, kt., and John More. See Deed, 12th October, 1485.

(164). Given.

(165). Nevertheless this will cannot have been completed either on the 13th or 15th August, 1500, the dates written at the beginning [pp. 215, 217] and referred to here; because at p. 219 it speaks of the *late* Cardinal Morton, who died Oct. 12th in the same year.

m°ccccc° primo. Juramento Willi Sayntmawre militis executoris personaliter presentis et Magistri Johis Reed notarii publici procuratoris aliorum executorum Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et commissa fuit administracio executoribus de bene et fideliter ac sub unanimo consuensu administrand. Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario Citra festum Natalis dni prox futur exhibend. Ad sancta dei Evangelia in debita juris forma jurat.

The before-written testament together with the last will of the same was **Proved** on the 19th day of the month of November, A.D. 1501.[166] By the oath of William Sayntmawre knight executor personally present and Mr. John Reed public notary procurator of the other executors And it was approved and registered And the administration was committed to the executors to administer well and faithfully and with unanimous consent And to exhibit a full and faithful Inventory Before the next future Natal feast of the Lord. Also to render a full and true account. Sworn on the sacred Gospels of god in due form of law.

It is not easy to guess why Sir John directed that his property should pass in the above manner at his wife's death ; because the Inquisition P.M. held at Exeter 22nd November, 1504, says : "John Brymptun (Sydenham) is his kinsman and next heir, and of the age of 40 years and more." Wherefore then was he disinherited and nowhere mentioned in this testament? I can only suppose that as the Sydenham family already possessed ample fortune he thought it unnecessary to distribute any part of his comparatively small estate where it was so little needed ; still it is certainly very unusual to find the children of a wife's first husband enriched by her second to the exclusion of his own direct descendants.

The will, though very instructive in many ways throughout,

(166). This date is an error of the copyist. See p. 215.

raises no other special question excepting the one connected with Sir John's tomb, to which I have already alluded,[167] and we should have had no trouble with that if the document had been drafted with legal care and not by the testator himself, who at the commencement says he will "hereafter declare" where he desires to be buried, but nevertheless omits to do so. Fortunately, we gather from his wife's will[168] that he was interred in "the sepulture of Glastonbery," and it is concerning the unnamed site of this "Chapelle of Glastonbȳ, late bielded by her husband and herself," that the difficulty arises.

There is in Leland's *Itinerary* a passage, discussed so much as to have become almost famous, which has created the needless doubts about the position and name of the Lady Chapel, and the legitimate ones concerning the situation of the tomb. These are that author's words, copied by me *verbatim* from the original manuscript in the Bodleian Library :

"In capella S. Marie a bor : part chori ĩ sacello
Joanes Biconel, miles et Elizabeth.
Gul : Semar, miles, ĩ eadẽ volta."[169]

The best architectural history of the Glastonbury ruins with which I am acquainted has been written by Professor Willis,[170] nevertheless it requires both explanation and correction. It surprises me, for instance, to notice stated therein only as a probability instead of as an easily ascertained certainty, that "the name 'Joseph's Chapel' had been fixed upon the Lady Chapel even before the Reformation"; because the fact of Sir William Seyntmaur, his mother Dame Biconyll, and her husband Sir John, being all buried together in Leland's Lady Chapel, I should have thought would immediately have led an inquirer to refer to their wills, if he entertained misgivings on

(167). Page 209.

(168). "Somerset Archæological Proceedings," vol. xxxix, pt. I, p. 37.

(169). "In the chapel of St. Mary, out of the northern part of the choir in a shrine (*are*) John Biconel, Knight, and Elizabeth. William Seyntmaur, Knight, (*is*) in the same vault."

(170). The Architectural History of Glastonbury Abbey, 1866.

the subject, when it would have become plain at once that as Dame Biconyll desired to be buried in her husband's tomb, and as her son directed his body to be laid "in Joseh Ahammathia is chapell,"[171] consequently if these three persons were found by Leland in one chantry, in St. Mary's, both names must have been applied indiscriminately to the same structure at the time of the burials, long before the change from the Catholic faith. Following upon this, however, the Professor pronounces an opinion on the position of the chantry tomb which is indeed astonishing. He says: "On the north side of the east part of St. Joseph's Chapel[172] there are manifest indications which shew that an attached building had been added to it between the buttresses, which might well have been one of those parasitical chantries that occur so commonly in such positions"; and again: "Between the N.E. turret and the next buttress the wall is demolished, but a mass of rubble projects beyond the base line of the building, and above this are indications of some subsequent jutting appendages which may have been an oriel chamber or a stair tower." "Leland records a sepulchral chantry chapel in a position which would agree with this point. This chapel may be supposed to have been carried by an arch from buttress to buttress on the outside, so as not to obstruct the crypt window below." I cannot admit that chantries, "parasitical" or any other sort, are common in such a position, for I have never seen or heard of one which—like Muhammad's coffin, suspended between heaven and earth—was built on an arch resting on two buttresses to avoid blocking a window. Is it not also a wildly comprehensive guess and nothing more, to surmise that a very small shapeless fragment of rubble "may have been an Oriel chamber, or a stair tower," or a "parasitical chantry?" A solution of the puzzle where this chantry stood, depends chiefly on the sense implied in Leland's words, "a boreali parte chori." He may have

(171). See his will in Somerset House.

(172). This is misleading: he means the Galilee vestibule.

intended to say that the shrine was built out from or against the wall on the inside of the first bay of the Galilee, where indeed it could well have been ; or that it was outside in the burial ground, and approached from the door in the second bay ; but then it must have been nearly impossible to avoid interfering with the crypt lights, and a covered approach could not entirely advantageously have been constructed. But Leland, who wrote very bad Latin, perhaps only meant after all that the chantry was in the northern part of the choir, calling St. Mary's chapel itself by that name, and thus designating, not the Galilee porch, but more correctly what was strictly also St. Joseph's chapel. From the words "*in* capella S Marie . . . . *in* sacello," as well as from the direction of Sir William Seyntmaur, that he was to be buried *in* St. Joseph's chapel, no one would naturally look for the tomb outside the main wall. It is consequently conceivable, and if St. Joseph's had been a large edifice I should have said it was highly probable, that the shrine was erected at a very short distance from the internal face of the north wall, a little east of the existing doorway, opposite the third bay ; hence its total disappearance is accounted for by the falling of the floor carrying the whole structure with it into the crypt ; the coffins, either before or after this happened, having been rifled and stolen for the value of the lead, whilst the *débris* of the chantry in course of time would have been cleared away when the crypt was emptied of its ruin.

Dame Biconyll survived her husband rather less than two years, for she died June 30th, 1504, and her will is the complement to his.[173]

I have mentioned that Sir John's testament was written with his own hand, and I have shown how his carelessness has caused confusion in certain names and localities at Glastonbury ; but the text being so executed has the partly compensating ad-

(173). In the text published by the Som. Arch. Soc., vol. xxxix, p. 37-42, the date 1500 at the beginning has been copied wrongly for 1504.

vantage of proving that the knight possessed a somewhat unusual accomplishment for that period, in being able to write as well as to fight. The circumstance, moreover, that he and his wife, between them, provided for ten scholars being sent to Oxford, likewise indicates that they were in advance of their day in the value they attached to education, and, in spite of their superstitious devotion to priests and their observances were far from regarding knowledge as useless and profane. One moral, the utter vanity of planning or endowing for ages to come, can scarcely fail deeply, almost painfully, to impress the reader of these wills, especially if perchance he sympathises at all with the earnest spirit of people who lived in such a differently thinking age, whose ways we can realize but imperfectly, and whose like we shall see no more. For do we not find here arrangements establishing chantries, obits, priests, and scholars, legacies to cathedrals, abbeys, churches, with ordinances solemnly enrolled, to last for all future time? And yet, within a few years, the decrees of the rapacious Henry and his "harsh and dogmatic" son,[174] swept everything away. Whatever we may believe concerning the necessity for extensive reform, few will deny it was often a cruel wrong, perpetrated by force, under false pretences, when these pious bequests were utterly annulled in the 16th century, and not merely all the money and artistic treasure, but the very shrines and sanctuaries, wantonly despoiled and ruined. One might almost imagine that these gifts, by what the poet calls their "unfortunate beauty,"[174] involved their donors in one common doom, because thenceforth the history of the wealthy and powerful Paveleys, their descendants, and many of their friends, recedes into a mediæval twilight, obscure to the genealogist.

(174). "Annals of England." Oxford, supervised by Dr. W. Stubbs. Many of the most splendid shrines, including Becket's, were destroyed in 1538, and the operation of the Acts 1st Ed. VI, cap. iv, and 3rd and 4th, Ed. VI, cap. 10, completed the work.

(175). "Dono infelice di bellezza." Filicaja.

During the long reign of Elizabeth, the very name of Paveley came near extinction, whilst the enamelled arms of Sir Reginald, in St. George's Chapel, are to-day the chief visible reminiscence of its old renown.

