

ART. XV.—*The Will of Edward Knipe, a Tudor vicar of Cliburn and Warcop.*

By H. HORNYOLD-STRICKLAND, F.S.A.

EDWARD KNIPE, who as vicar of Cliburn was said to have uttered a curse upon the family of that name, and who was also vicar of Warcop from 1556 to 1574 (these *Trans.* n.s. xxviii, 210), seems to have been considerably interested in money-lending as a secondary occupation, if we may judge from the long and curiously worded will which he left behind him. One of the three copies made of this will found its way into the Strickland muniments at Sizergh. A reference to it was made in the Inq. p.m. held at Kendal on September 2nd, 1612, after the death of Sir Thomas Strickland of Sizergh, Newby, Letby and Thorntonbridge (Court of Wards Inq. p.m. 46, n. 141). It was therein recited that by indenture of March 30th, 1595, Sir Thomas Strickland—then not yet knighted—had granted to John Bainbridge of Kaber, gentleman, and Barnaby Machell of Kirkby Thore, yeoman, an annuity of £3. 6s. 8d. out of the issues of his manor of Natland, to hold to the uses expressed in the will of Edward Knipe, deceased, and payable in equal portions at the feasts of Pentecost and Martinmas.

In the text of the will that follows I have for the sake of clarity corrected to modern usage the very haphazard sprinkling of capital letters, and a small amount of punctuation has been inserted which was, of course, entirely absent in the original. Also, the usual contractions of syllables and letter omission signs found in writings of this period have been expanded, though the

spelling has been retained. The wording of the will is quite easy to understand, but as a few expressions are not now met, and some of the authors have probably not been heard of for many generations, I have ventured to add a few explanatory notes.

IN DEI NOMINE AMEN. The seaven and twentye daye of December in the yeare of oure Lord God a thousand fyve hundrets seaventye and fower I Edward Knype clarke makethe this Will and Testament as foloweth: first I gyve my soule unto the mercye of Almightye God, and whereas I have offended His goodness by infynite wayes and meanes that it wold please His infynite goodnes not to examyne myne offences unto the straitte rewle of His justice but according to His mercye, and as I have hope at Gods hand to have forgyvenes so I forgyve freelye all those that have offended me; and whosoever I have offended in word or deed or thought I praye them all for Gods sake to forgyve me. Also my will is that my bodye be buryed in the quere of Warcopp. Also my will is that my goodes be dysposed as foloweth:

FIRSTE I gyve to Robert Levens one cow and x^s in monye and my beste frocke. I gyve to George Levens all Sainte Augustine workes and Lyras* his workes. Item I gyve to Phillese Steadman ij^s, to Kater Pewter one cowe and x^s in monye, and to his sister Allice Browne one cowe and x^s in monye, and to ether of his daughters x^s. I gyve to Antony Knype a New Testament *paraphrasis Erasimi*: to Symon Knype one cowe and x^s: to Agnes Wilson xvj^d: I forgyve Adam Loncaster that he oweth me and I will he have his reken croke.† I gyve to William Birkebecke and his brother Jeffray all my Greke bookes and Virgyll with accompaniment. I gyve to the Quenes Colledge of Oxforthe xx^s which they saye is dependinge upon my name althoughe I have a perfite acqytance for the same. I gyve to Edward Smyth clarke one little chyste: I gyve to Thomas Bellingham *Osorius de institutione principis*,‡ to James Bellingham

* Nicholas de Lyra (1270-1340), exegete, born at Lyre in Normandy: became a Franciscan. His championship of the literal meaning of the Bible instead of the allegorical was the source in later years for the saying: *si Lyra non lyrasset Lutherus non saltasset*: i.e. but for Lyra's lying Luther had not danced.

† An iron hook in a chimney for suspending pots over the fire, here used as a pledge.

‡ Jerome Osorio (1506-1580) was a Portuguese ecclesiastic, historian and writer of philosophical and theological treatises.

Osorius de justitia, I gyve to Mr. Beste *opera Pici Merandulae** and the bookes he hath of myne, I forgyve Faynte wyffe that she oweth me: I gyve to Antonye Garnet *Vicentius Livenensis*† and an old angell: to Thomas Beer ij^s: to mother Allayne xvj^d. I forgyve Perte of Burton that he oweth me; to Pereth and his mother that they owe me. I gyve to Agnes Varaye of the Chapelhouse xx^s: I gyve to Johnson wyffe xij^d: to John Lamberte a carte with wollen‡ wheles and a sleed with iron bound wheles. I gyve to Wardell wyffe xij^d; to William Sponer wyffe iij^s iij^d; to Kateryne Raykestraye xij^d; to William Johnson iij^s and I forgyve him that he oweth me; to James Cooke I forgyve that he oweth me; to John Symson v^s; to Clene wyffe ij^s; to Antonye Knype clarke my best shorte gowne; to Peter Nyxon a cowe; to John Cooke a kowe; to the blynd wenche of Robert Harres ij^s. I gyve to Mychael Steadman vj^s viij^d: to Xxofer Steadman iij^s, and I forgyve him that he oweth me and he to have his gage. I gyve to Ranold Steadman x^s, a sword and a sylver spone, the best quye, § iij wethers and my parte of bees which Adam Corner hath, one fleshe tubbe whiche was his fathers, and I forgyve him all that he oweth me. I gyve to the wyfe of Hornesbye ij^s; to Peter Wreson ij^s; to Robert Atkinson wyffe iij^s and one petecote: I gyve to Robert Sponer v^s; to Richard Mosse iij^s; and to Edwarde my godson and ould cote, and to Adam Corner daughter a petecote and I forgyve him that he oweth me. I gyve to William Ranson wyffe that she oweth me. I gyve to Wryghtson wyffe xvj^d; to Mabell Barow xx^s in monye or other geare at her mariage.

I gyve to the brige at Templesorbye xx^s. I gyve to John Sponer ij^s. I forgyve Thomas Warcopp that he oweth me, and I forgyve to Henry Morland that he oweth me and he to have his gages agayne. I gyve to Ladman ij^s. To Bakon wyffe I forgyve that she oweth me and xij^d. I gyve to William Cooke v^s: to Robert of the Nuke iij^s. I gyve to Mylner of Sandforthe and his mother iij^s; also I forgyve all debtes and debtors that be wrytten in my debt booke, only those excepted whereof there are speciall wrytinges laid up to gether in one great boxe unto the which ether the debtors handes are subscribed or els my owne hand, or

* Pico della Mirandola (1463-1494) was an Italian who from very infancy was a prodigy of learning in all its branches. At the age of ten he was one of the foremost orators and poets of his day.

† St. Vincent of Lerins, theologian, died *circa* 450.

‡ "Wollen" presumably is a misspell for "wodden."

§ heifer.

left in my debytorye subscribed with my owne hand. I forgyve Mr. Andrew Hilton x^s he howeth me and he to have his rynge. I forgyve Mr. James Warcopp x^s, a parte of xx^s he oweth me, and he to have his gages delivered him which ar one litle silver potte and two silver spones. I forgyve Mr. Edward Warcoppe xx^s of that he oweth me so that he wilbe good to myne executors, and I leave to him or whosoever shalbe my successor a brewing lead, mashinge tobbe,* a gylefatte,† a reken croke, a payre of great tonges, a counter‡ and almyere.§ These I had left of my predecessors on this condicion that yf I were good to his executors; all other things that were left I had by covenants of Rychard Tomson for teachinge his sonne untill he was of sufficient learning to take orders. Also my will is that yf Mr. Wharton paye the monye which he oweth me at the day appoynted him, which day I of my owne gentlenes gave him, that it be receyved and he to have his wrytinges delivered him on this condicion that he make Kateryne Machell and Rychard Machell assurance of there farmehold after such sort that they and there heyres be tenants of the said farmehold although it chance the land be sold or changed with some other lord or master. I gyve to Thomas Steadman wyffe iiij^s; to Sir John Murrey iiij^s iiij^d; to Heron iiij^s iiij^d; to Sir Rychard Hall iiij^s iiij^d. To Gervis Dixon I forgyve v^s; I forgyve John Shaw that he oweth me and I will that he have his two silver spones delivered him. I gyve to Thomas Collinge ij^s; I gyve to Margaret Dixon one silver spone and I forgyve John Tomson that he oweth me and that he have his silver spone delivered him.

I gyve to William Knype a gray horse or els a cowe and x^s of monye whether|| he will. I gyve to Henry Lambe *Major Canus*¶ and *Sypperus*** and my beste satten dublett; to Thomas Baynebrige of Kirber *vita apostolorum Justinianus*†† *et opera Mori*;‡‡ to my sister Agnes one silver spone. I gyve to John Nicolson my

* A wooden vat in which the malt was mixed with hot water.

† A vat in which the brewing mixture was left to ferment.

‡ Desk or table for counting money. § A press.

|| Which of the two.

¶ This probably refers to Juan Cano, a Portuguese navigator, and the discoverer of the Congo in 1484.

** Probably Syperis de Vinevaux whose romantic deeds of valour and chivalry formed one of the poetic chronicles written in the 15th century.

†† Justinianus in this context was probably Bernardo Giustiniani, (1408-1489), procurator of St. Mark's, Venice, who wrote under his name as here altered.

‡‡ Sir Thomas More (1480-1535), lord chancellor of England.

servant v^s; to Rychard Hill v^s; to Rychard Cone v^s; to Robert Jacson ij^s iiij^d. I gyve to my godsonne Edward Steadman ij^s; to Thomas Dixon v^s; to my goddaughter, John Walker daughter, ij^s. I gyve to Thomas Hilton, Robert Hilton, Ranold Steadman, Barnabye Machell, Thomas Baynebrige sonne of Cutbert Baynebrige all my Englyshe bookes which I have not bequested in this my will or hereafter shall not be bequeste. I gyve to Rychard Dockar a cotte, a payre of hose, a petecote and a sharte. I gyve to Mr. Antonye Knype my sylver maser.* Also I gyve to Thomas Baynebrige of Kirber and Antonye Knype, Henry Lambe, William and Nicolas Hilton, James Coke, Ranold Baynebrige, Edward Smyth clarke, Mychaell Lowes, Antonye Morland, George Harryson and George Leavens all my divinity bookes not bequested equallye to be devyded amongst them. Also I gyve to Edward Smyth clarke *Institutiones Calvine*. I gyve to John Smyth ij^s and and old sharte, and to his daughter sonne an old cotte; to Robert Sponer an old cotte. I gyve to Barnabye Machell and his mother the tymber at Kirbythure and I forgyve him that he oweth me, and I gyve him a tubbe and my worste dublet of lether. I gyve to Rychard Machell iiij^s, after the death of my sister Agnes, of the white rente.† I forgyve to Rychard Tomson that he oweth me on this condicion, that he molest not my executors with vayne actions or quarels. I gyve to Rychard Machell my best lether dublett, a stele cote and a byll, and I forgyve him that he oweth me. I gyve to Thomas Steadman xij^d: to Agnes Docker viijⁱⁱ over and besyd her portion of the executorship, and my best gowne facet with silke. I gyve to Kateryne Machell the best cow, the graye meare, an ox, an iron bound carte and that belongeth to it, an iron teme,‡ a sylver spone that was my uncles, a fetherbed that she lyeth upon, the bolster, a payre of sheates one of harden§ the other of lynne, an happen|| that I bought of Bacon wyffe, a plowe shackell, a plowe, a couter, a socke, a swarme of bees that Robert Willyson hath of myne, the two yongest quyres, ij old angels, iij pewter dyshes, a cloke, the

* A drinking bowl.

† White rent was so called, at any rate in the north of England, because it represented a rental paid in silver coin. (Cf. Nicolson and Burn's History of Westmd. and Cumbd. I, 17-18, 268). But in Cornwall and Devonshire it meant the tax of eightpence paid by tanners and tanners to the Duke of Cornwall.

‡ Chain to which oxen or horses were yoked.

§ Harden was a very coarse cloth made from the refuse of flax or hemp.

|| Probably for "happing" = a coverlet.

best ketell save one, a little possenett,* x hogges, a lad saddell,† a girdell, a whele, iij ale potts, a kytte, a stand, a parte of the dyshes, a buttergytt, a blankett, a woden salseller, the great arke‡ in the peathouse, my tynne sponnes, a bedstead or stokes for beddes, ij bolles, § one pecke, a payre of wolle cardes, a chyste which the sheates are in, a bottell, a cowpe|| with wheales the worse the less spece, ¶ a new peare of clothe that I bought of Robert Willison, the worste of the three lard clothes, a sake, a poke,** ij bushels of bygge†† and halfe a pecke of grotes, a quarter of beiffe, hir parte of better and chese and sewet, and I forgyve that she oweth me,

Also my will is that all my humanitye‡‡ bokes philosophye bookes and historicall bookes, one chest that be of divinitye bookes and Englyshe bookes excepted, be devyded amonge the schollers of my schole, that is to say:—Rychard Dudlaye, John Hilton, Thomas Mosse, Lancelote Hilton, Bartill Barnard, John Musgrave, Leonard Cooke, William Taylor, Thomas Lambarte, John Loncaster, Peter Mosse, Edward Baynebrige, John Warcopp, Thomas Tomson, Hewght Warcopp, Robert of the Nuke sonne, John Rudd sonne; wherein I will this order to be kept that the seniors first have those bookes which ar moste conveniente for them and the minors in like manner; and I will that Rychard Baynebrige the sonne of John Baynebrige of Kirber be one of this number. I gyve to Thomas Wharton my godson an old angell; to Heught Warcopp an olde angell. I forgyve Edward Symson ijs^s that he oweth me: I will that he have his kittell agayne. I gyve to Thomas Baynebrige of Kirber a payre of sylver kylpes§§ for a cloke. I forgyve Clarke wyffe of Ormesyde that she oweth me and that she have hir gage. I gyve to John Chamber iij^s; to Thomas Wilson of Sandforthe ijs^s; to William Levens iiijⁱⁱ; to my sister Agnes Lamberte v markes. Also my will is that my executors yf it please God to call on me at thys tyme that

* A small pot for boiling with handle and three feet.

† Pack saddle.

‡ A bin, usually for meal.

§ A measure for grain.

|| A cowpe seems to have had a variety of meanings, e.g. a cask or tub: a hutch: and sometimes a cart with sides, often capable of being tilted.

¶ i.e. the smaller sort.

** A bag.

†† Bygge, or bigg, was the old name for barley, derived from the Scandinavian.

‡‡ i.e. Latin.

§§ A kylpe, or kelp, was commonly a hook for a dress: presumably the meaning here was an ornamental clip.

imediately and with suche speed as possible they can purchase xx nobles in whyte rent which shal be bestowed upon the poorest of my kynne and the poorest of the parishe of Warcopp and Clyborne: the which I wilbe stowe in suche order as shalbe declared more playnelye in a tripartyte indenture made for the same purpose.

Also my will is yf any repyne at these portions and be not content or with drawe any of the goodes not bequested them, that then there legacye shalbe devided amonge the rest of my poore kynne. The rest of my goodes after my will performed accordinge to the premisses I gyve unto Mr. Antony Knype, John Baynesbrige of Kirber, William Levens, my syster Agnes and my syster daughter Agnes Docker, and them there executors and assignes I make myne executors forever, whom I charge straitlye upon there othes that they see my will trewlye to be performed from tyme to tyme. I gyve to the schole of Appelby my parte of the tenne pounds which I and my ushers should have so that they agree with them. I make supervisors of this my LAST WILL Mr. Allayne Bellingham to whom I gyve *Macrobius** and *Crinitus de honesta disciplina*† with other bookes in it, *Hosius*;‡ Mr. John Wharton to whom I Gyve an old angell; Master Thomas Braithwaite to whom I gyve my better gold ringe; Master parson of Musgrave to whom I gyve a little gold ryng; and Cutbert Baynebrige to whom I gyve an old angell. To these my supervisors there executors successors and assignes and to every one of them I gyve as much autoritye as I can by law to see this my will be trewly performed executed and kepte. And the same autoritye I gyve to there heyres executors and assignes forever, desyringe them for Gods sake to shew deligence for performance of the same yf that they see my executors or any of them be slack in doinge there dewtye. And yf it happen that they do not trewly accordinge to my meanyng and without favor frindship or feare will not sute upon any man that ar bound to paye rent or debtes, then I gyve unto Mr. Allayne Bellingham and Mr. John Wharton and there executors forever that whole autoritye upon thexecutorship that he or they have who is leeters§ or shalbe in the premisses. ||

* Aurelius Macrobius, a philosopher and Latin grammarian of the early fifth century.

† Petrus Crinitus (1465-1505) was a Florentine of considerable learning, and the author of the lives of Latin poets, etc.

‡ Stanislaus Hosius was born at Cracow, became secretary to the king of Poland, bishop of Culm, and was later made a cardinal. He died in 1579 aged 76. His writings achieved considerable popularity in his day.

§ Conceivably a member of a leet or manor court.

|| See *N.E.D.* Premise 3.

And yf it chance that all my executors be not willinge to performe this my will althoughe some of my executors be but simple and wilbe counsell'd by the rest, then my will is that they have hole the executorship willinge them that they will consyder these of my executors who ar symple and wolde be confirmable to performance of this my will.

ALSO I WILL and straitlye charge my executors upon there othe that they purchase xx nobles of white rent by yeare to be distributed amongste my poore kynne and the poore of the parish of Warcoppe and of the parishe of Clyborne forever, according to this order and forme as foloweth:—FIRSTE I gyve unto William Knype and to his ofspringe forever viij^s, and in lyke manner to John Knype viij^s, and to Agnes Dockar viij^s, to William Levens viij^s, to Robert Levens viij^s, to Kater Pewter viij^s, to Alice Browne his sister viij^s, to Agnes Lambert my sister viij^s untill it please God to call her out of this world, and after her departinge iiij^s of the same to remeane to John Baynebridge of Kirber and to his ofspringe forever; to Kateryn Machell viij^s, to Symond Knype viij^s and there ofspringe forever. Also I gyve to the parish of Warcoppe xl^s to be distributed to the poore of the same parishe forever, and to the parishe of Clyborne xiiij^s iiij^d to be distributed amonge the poore of the same parishe forever. And for the trewe performance of the same I will that my executors keape this order:—first that they shall meate to gether at Warcoppe church on the next Sunday after Sainte Martyne after God shall call upon me to His mercye or els the next Sondag after that at the longeste; and thether they shall call as maynye of my poore kynfolke named before that can convenientlye comme and quyetye they shall divid to every one of them there portion aforesaid without sute or troble, and that they take of them a quyttance or tyckett for the same; and to those that cannot come it shalbe sent, receyvinge ye quyttance or tyckett. And I will that my executors deliver unto the churche wardens of Warcoppe the same tyme xl^s to be devyded amonge the poore of the parishe of Warcoppe, the which they shall devyd the next Sondag imediatlye after the receyte, wherein I will they have a speciall consideration unto such poore householders that laboreth trewlye for there lyvinge and is over charged with children. Also I will that the church wardens shall make a trew certyficate in wrytinge unto my executors the next Sondag imediatlye folowinge how and to whom they have bestowed the fortye shillinges aforesaid; and yf at any tyme they be found negligent or do not trewlye and sincerely distribute the same accordinge to the trew meanyng

of my will that then they shall loose the benefit of the said xl^s, and it shalbe distributed amonge the pooreste of my kynneryd accordinge to the discretion of my executors. And yf it chance that my executors do not agree of the said division I will that they repare unto one or two of my supervisors for ye determination of the same; unto which there judgemt my executors shall stand unto and agree quyetye without further troble. Also my will is that my executors shall take the veray same order with the church wardens of Clyborne and they with the poore of the parishe as is prescribed before with the church wardens and poore of Warcopp.

Also whensoever it shall please God to call any of my executors oute of this worlde, my will is and I straitlye charge that they appoynte there heyres executors successors or assignes to take upon them the execution of my will, and that they shall repayre to some of my supervisors and take a coporall othe for the same before the feast of Sainte Martyne the Byshopp next folowinge the death of there predecessor. And my will is that this order be kepte of them and there successors for ever. And my will is that this order be made up in a tripartyte indenture and that Mr. Antony Knype and his successors shall kepe one parte, and John Baynebridge of Kirber and his successors an other parte, and William Levens and his successors the thred parte forever. Providid alwayes that none of these aforesaid named nor none of there offspringe do ether sett out there portion or make any conveyance from the next of there kynne by any meanes, fraud or gyle that they shall loose and also the byer there interest of the same portion and shalbe devided to the powrest of my kynne at the discretion of my executors.

In witnes wherof I have subscribed my name the day and yeare above written by me Edward Knype. Witnesses: Edward Smyth clarke, Henry Lambe, Ranold Steadman, and Agnes.

The seal appended to the will is that of the diocese of Carlisle, rather damaged, in red wax, but the legend is still legible as (SIG)ILLUM RICARDI BA(RNES).

The will is endorsed to show that it was proved before Thomas Burton, LL.B., vicar general to Richard, bishop of Carlisle, on 30th March, 1575, and administration granted to his executors.

(Thanks are due to Professor Bruce Dickens who has kindly elucidated some of the word meanings).