

ART. XIII. – *Joseph Williamson and Thomas Lamplugh.*

By A. R. JABEZ-SMITH

THIS is the story of two friends, both orphaned in childhood, both schoolboys at St. Bees and both *alumni* of the Queen's College, Oxford, who by their own abilities and mutual support rose to high office in Church and State respectively. They were, to name the elder first, Thomas Lamplugh 1615-1691 and Joseph Williamson 1633-1701.

Thomas was the son of Christopher Lamplugh and his wife Ann Roper of Octon in the parish of Thwing in the East Riding of Yorkshire and that was where Thomas was born.¹ Christopher died when Thomas was no more than ten years old² and his uncle Thomas, a well-to-do lawyer, took him into his family at Ribton Hall in the parish of Bridekirk, near Cockermouth, and sent him to school at St. Bees.

Joseph, the youngest son of the vicar of Bridekirk, Joseph Williamson, and his wife Agnes Bowman of Brownrigg, was baptised at Bridekirk in August 1633; his father died a year later³ and his mother married John Ardray "clerk" who was probably a curate at Bridekirk.⁴ Joseph, by his outstanding abilities while still a schoolboy at St. Bees, attracted the attention of the lord of the Manor of Bridekirk, Richard Tolson, M.P. for Cockermouth in the "Long Parliament" until 1648, when he was one of the 420 Members excluded in "Pride's Purge". Tolson took the young Joseph to London and sent him to Westminster School. Dr Busby, the Master, recommended him to the favour of Dr Gerard Langbaine, Provost of the Queen's College, who caused him to be admitted as a batteler in 1650.⁵ And when Richard Tolson, Joseph's first sponsor, died in May of that year Dr Langbaine, thinking as highly as Tolson and Busby of the young student's abilities, accepted responsibility for all his necessary expenses.

Thomas Lamplugh matriculated at Queen's in 1634 and was elected a Fellow in 1643 and although he and Joseph must have been acquainted at home in Bridekirk their intimate friendship must date from 1650 when Joseph, a brilliant youth of seventeen, arrived in Oxford to find that Thomas, fourteen years his senior, was to be one of his tutors.⁶ In moments of leisure they must have talked of their mutual friends and acquaintances in Bridekirk, of Thomas's adoptive father or guardian, Thomas Lamplugh of Ribton, himself a Parliamentary Commissioner,⁷ and his children, Richard just embarking on a legal career in Gray's Inn, Grace shortly to marry the Quaker Anthony Pearson⁸ and Frances who would become the third wife of the Royalist Colonel John Lamplugh;⁹ of the Tolson family who would provide another parliamentary representative for Cockermouth in 1660;¹⁰ and of old Lady Lamplugh of Dovenby Hall, a recusant who was reputed to be a hundred years old when she died in 1665.¹¹

As soon as Joseph Williamson graduated, Dr Langbaine sent him abroad as tutor and companion to one or two sons of well-to-do parents, and the copious flow of correspondence from Lamplugh to Williamson which ensued is very illuminative of the former's character as a comparatively young don. It is only Lamplugh's letters which survive, due to Williamson's apparent reluctance to destroy any letters sent to him, so that the collection of *State Papers Domestic* is the repository of one side of his correspondence

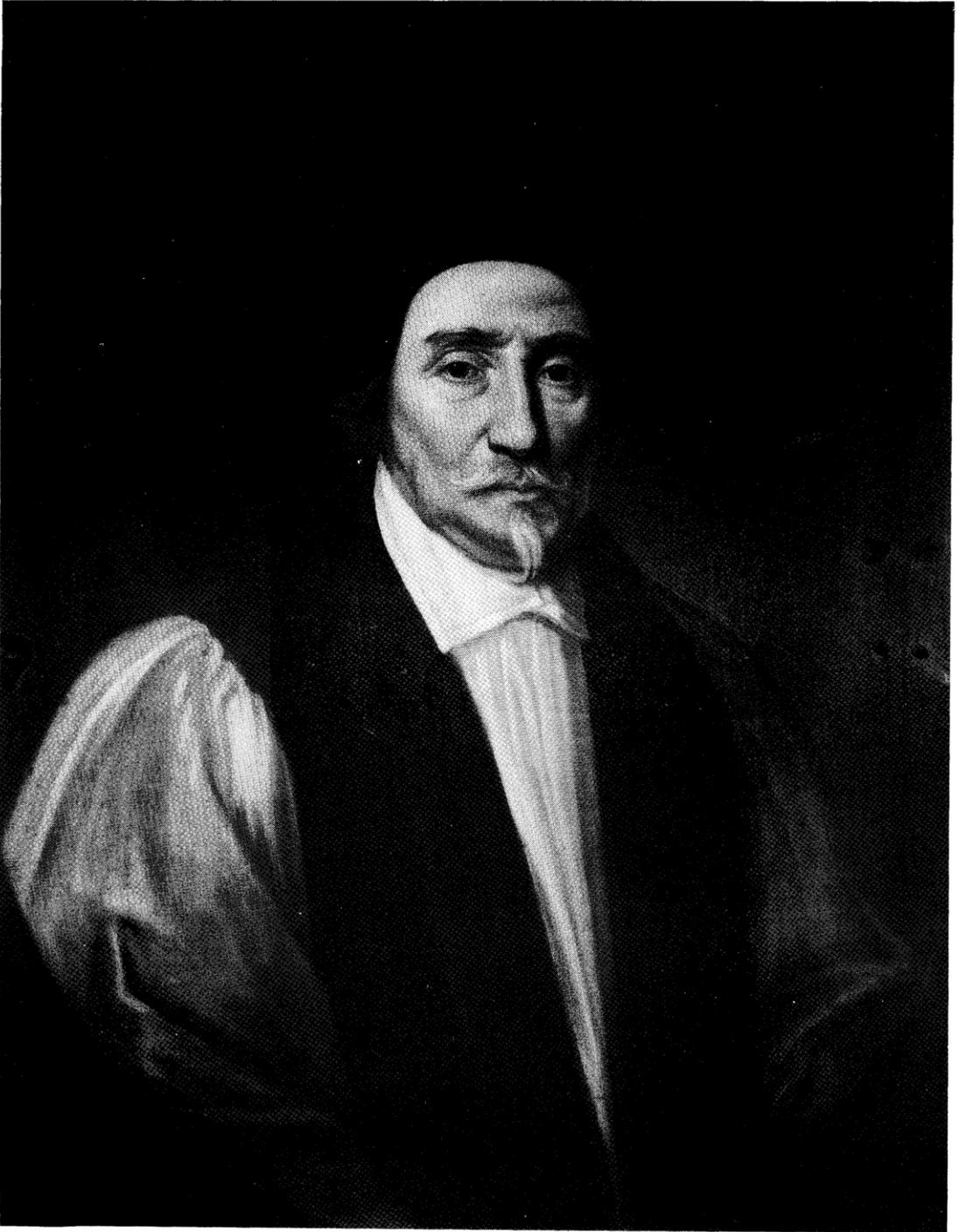


PLATE I. – Archbishop Thomas Lamplugh 1615-1691.

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both official and private. The extracts which follow show Thomas to be a witty, learned and not unworldly academic. In the summer and early autumn of 1655 Thomas was in Gray's Inn, presumably at the chambers of his cousin Richard who had been admitted to the Inn in 1650. It may be that Thomas was contemplating a career in the Law.

From T.L. at Gray's Inn to J.W. at Queen's

18 June 1655

"Let me know whether you will have a public Act¹² at Oxford, and whether the scenes will be as well performed as formerly. If so, I will come and bring a lady or two, for whom you must bespeak handsome chambers in a private house near Queen's for a week or two. Direct to me at the Harrow or the 3 Pigeons, Gray's Inn Lane."

27 June 1655

"You answered my questions at the same time that I asked them, which makes me a Pythagorean to believe the same soul can inform two bodies. I guess the being of your Act (like the *principia* of metaphysics) is very disputable; but the Act or no I hope to find your name on the Buttery books. I shall contract your name into a shorter syncope than ever grammar taught and enjoin you a fast for a week or two. Mr Richard has gone North, having his cousin George Lamplugh's¹³ company to York. The Ladies waver about coming."¹⁴

The flow of letters continued through July and August; in July there is the prospect of a meeting between Joseph and Thomas at which the latter proposes that they sing "Betty, Come kiss me now" without fear of Proctor, Provost or Dean; in August Thomas counsels Joseph "not to quarrel with my former description; it may advance you to a pulpit". Thomas's final letter from Gray's Inn is dated 6 November 1655.

"The Client's greasy purse is yet '*in nubibus*' with me. I have not conversed with one good Angel this term. Good Michael's angel doctrine is not canonical with my student's gown. I will tell you without fee as you sue *in forma pauperis* that your words against Littleton (that worthy sage of the Law)¹⁵ are actionable; therefore expect such an arrest as the proudest fellow in Queen's shall not bail you. You have to wrestle with a shrewd antagonist, who has the law in his own hands."

By December 1655 Thomas was back at Queen's having abandoned any idea, if he ever had one, of becoming a lawyer, and Joseph was about to set forth on possibly his first tour abroad with "gentlemen's sons". There was to be no pulpit for him; that was to be Thomas' vehicle to success, for on December 6th John Beeby,¹⁶ who, in a letter earlier in the year, is described by Thomas as one of "our cronies", writes to Joseph from Queen's "Send cordials to Carfax instead of compliments, or Mr Lamplough will get more by funeral sermons this year than two or three before . . . Whom do you intend by Notre Dame d'Ardelliers?" Dr Langbaine writes on the following day to Joseph with advice concerning his tour which is to have Egypt as its goal; he mentions one of the students in Joseph's charge, Richard Lowther.¹⁷ One of his other charges was a son of Sir Francis Norris of Weston, Oxfordshire.

Thomas seems to have encountered a spot of trouble at the beginning of the next year for on January 18 1655/6 Tim Halton,¹⁸ another of Thomas's and Joseph's "cronies" writes to the latter from Queen's, "After a five hours canvass Lamplough is declared a Fellow by seven votes against five, the Provost being for him." And on February 8th



PLATE 2. - Sir Joseph Williamson 1633-1701.

(Reproduced by kind permission of Queen's College, Oxford)

Thomas writes from Queen's to Joseph at "Mr George's, Ville de Venise, Fauxbourg St. Germain, Paris",

"I have been in a sea of troubles but am now safe in harbour and my resignation is granted. Three of the company came into me, the rest storm and spit venom, but cannot kill. Do not fear but you shall have as good interest in the college as myself, and may live to thank those who have so cross-kindly used you. No election is yet granted. Dr Addison¹⁹ is to be punished but not expelled. Webb is your successor for Greek Lecturer. Rudeness and Coursing are put down by public act from heads of houses. Littleton of All Souls and Bagshawe or Carpenter of Christchurch are to be Proctors. I send your fellow traveller Mr N. the enclosed from his father."²⁰

A fortnight later, on February 25th Thomas is again writing to his "cousin" Joseph Williamson,

". . . My chamberfellow Thomas Denton²¹ plays on his kit daily *a la mode de France*, and I cannot but dance in remembrance of our traveller. Your relations in London are well and wish to hear from you.

P.S. Pardon my brevity, for bells are chiming and Denton will hang me in the bell ropes if I be not punctual."

Almost a month seems to have elapsed before Thomas again wrote to Joseph and on April 22 1656 he excuses himself,

"I have not written lately, but have much college business and little leisure. I advise you:

1. To pay yourself your allowance out of moneys sent you, for if you defer it to be paid in England, it may not be so easily obtained.
2. To see that they ²² have the French tongue, for I would not have it said but that they thrive under you.
3. Order if you can to be at Rome next Christmas.

Dr Wilkins has married Mrs French, the Protector's sister . . . Sir Francis Norris has sent a letter would load a horse."

Evidently that letter crossed one from Joseph because Thomas again writes on April 25,

"I am troubled that you accuse me of neglect. I send another great letter from Sir Fras. Norris, with £60, £50 for the public²³ and £10 for Mr Norris with a token from his mother. Thanks for your French news. Let me hear often."

It appears that it was in 1656 or 1657 that Thomas decided to be ordained in the Church of England. He was over forty and his decision may have been delayed by the unfavourable religious climate of the Interregnum. He was already a popular preacher at St. Martin's (Carfax) in Oxford but he states in his Will²⁴ that it was in Southampton that he first exercised his ministry as a clergyman of the Church of England. He became BD in 1657, the first step on the path that would lead him to a Primate's throne, and he was shortly afterwards appointed curate at Holy Rood, Southampton. In 1659 he was given by Queen's the Rectory of Charlton on Otmoor which he retained until 1685, holding it in plurality with a wide variety of church preferment.

In June 1658 Thomas was in London expecting to greet Joseph on his return from abroad, and telling him that "in Oxford I have some gentlemen's sons in reserve for you."

At the end of the decade neither Thomas nor Joseph had any bright prospects in view;

the sympathies of both, under the abiding influence of their lately deceased mentor and friend, Provost Langbaine, were Royalist. Joseph was still tutoring wealthy young gentlemen and Thomas had the pleasant country living of Charlton on Otmoor a few miles from Oxford.

But at the Restoration of the monarchy fortune smiled broadly on both of them. Joseph was recommended, perhaps by grateful fathers of sons who had become passable linguists under his tutelage, to the then Secretary of State, Sir Edward Nicholas. Sir Edward placed the twenty-seven year old Joseph in the Paper Office as *Custos Archivorum*, and made frequent use of him in interpreting and writing letters and memorials in French. In 1662 Sir Henry Bennet (later Lord Arlington) succeeded Nicholas, and when he gave up the Secretaryship in 1674, Joseph Williamson, who had been created Doctor of Law at Oxford and knighted, was appointed in his stead.²⁵

Thomas, in 1660, was appointed Doctor of Divinity by Royal Mandate and named member of the Royal Commission to reinstate the expelled clergy. In 1661 he was Proctor in Convocation for the clergy of Oxford. But in 1663 his career suffered a temporary setback when his appointment by the King to the Archdeaconry of Oxford was disputed by Dr Thomas Barlow,²⁶ Provost of Queen's, in whose favour the contest was decided in the Assizes of that year. However, in the following year Thomas was amply compensated for his loss by the gift of the Archdeaconry of London; in that year also, 1664, he became rector of St. Antholin, London, and Principal of St. Alban Hall, Oxford. Anthony à Wood, in a typically carping criticism of a northcountryman, says ". . . he had a wife, looked after preferment, neglected the Hall."²⁷ Of these three charges, the first is certainly true, the second is difficult to refute on the evidence and the third is now incapable of proof.

Thomas's marriage in 1663 was no brake on the speed of his rise in the Church; his bride was Catherine, one of the daughters of Dr Edward Davenant, vicar of Gillingham, Dorset, Treasurer of Salisbury Cathedral and nephew of the Bishop of Salisbury. The marriage licence accurately, if somewhat ambiguously, records the ages of the parties, "Thomas Lamplugh of Oxford DD, bachelor, forty and upwards, and Catherine Davenant, Spinster, 20, at Gillingham." Thomas was certainly upwards of forty; he was 48! They had five children and Catherine died in 1671 aged 28. She is buried at Charlton on Otmoor where she and Thomas probably lived when not in London. On the south east wall of the Sanctuary she is commemorated in an elegant epitaph composed by her husband, an accomplished Latinist;²⁸

M S

*Katherinae Lamplugh
Filiae Edwardi Davenantij S T P
Neptis Revdi Johannis Davenanti Epi Saru
Raro exemplo Foeminae
Antiqua Pietate
Summa erga omnes morum integritatae
Prudentia Pari
Liberos enixa quinos
Tres reliquit superstites
Praemissis in coelum duobus
Nata Gillinghamiae in Com Dorcesti*

Ian 31 1632
Denata Kensingtoniae in Com Middlesexi
Maij 18 1671
Conjugi Dilectissimae
Posuit (cum Deo placuerit)
Secuturus
Tho Lamplugh

Whether or not Thomas, in Wood's words, looked after preferment, preferment, with the influential help of Joseph and the Bishop of Salisbury, came thick and fast, In 1669 he was Prebendary of Worcester, in 1670 Vicar of St. Martin in the Fields, in 1673 Dean of Rochester and in 1676 Bishop of Exeter. Some time after the Great Fire of London in 1666 Sir Edmund Berry Godfrey, the London magistrate whose murder during the Popish Plot scare remains an unsolved mystery, gave commemorative silver tankards to some of his friends, one of whom was Thomas Lamplugh.²⁹ In the 1920s three of these tankards were in the possession respectively of Pierrepont Morgan, the Sudbury Urban District Council and a descendant of Thomas Lamplugh. The Lamplugh tankard is engraved on one side with a representation of the Plague of 1665 and on the other a representation of the Great Fire.

The Diarist Evelyn makes the following entry for April 26th 1673. "Dr Lamplugh preached at St. Martin's, the Holy Sacrament following, which I partook of, upon obligation of the late Act of Parliament enjoining everybody in office, civil or military, under penalty of £500 to receive it within one month before two authentic witnesses; being engrossed on parchment, to be afterwards produced in the Court of Chancery or some other Court or Record; which I did at the Chancery Bar, as being one of the Council of Plantations and Trade; taking then also the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy, signing the said Act against Transubstantiation."

Although Thomas relinquished the Deanery of Rochester, the Archdeaconry of London, the Prebendary's stall at Worcester and the Vicarage of St. Martin in the Fields on becoming Bishop of Exeter in 1676 he retained until 1685 the living of Charlton on Otmoor *in commendam* with his bishopric. And even after 1676 he was not unseen at Court; Dr Edward Lake records in his Diary that on March 31st 1678, being Easter Day, Princess Anne received the Sacrament for the first time at St. James's, the Bishop of Exeter preaching and consecrating. "Her Highness" Dr Lake continued "was not (through negligence) instructed how much of the wine to drink, but drank of it twice or thrice, whereat I was much concern'd lest the Duke should have note of it."³⁰

Lamplugh's conduct as Bishop of Exeter was described as exemplary. A letter in this writer's possession endorsed "What was given in charge to the Clergy by the Official from the Bishop" (Appendix 2) shows his concern for the well ordering of his diocese. A letter from Lamplugh to the Dean and Chapter dated from Westminster 29th January 1679,³¹ evidently in reply to a long and discursive screed of minor troubles and complaints, contains phrases wholly consistent, in their wit, with the letters he wrote to his pupil Williamson a quarter of a century earlier, "I have received a long letter from you by the last Post, by which I gather that you have much more leisure at Exon than I have here, where I have been so long and so unwillingly detained from my Diocese . . ." ". . . and tho' I am extremely out of love with these Scuffles in which time is spent

to no good purpose . . .” “. . . you run away with a conclusion as unquestionable without proving the Premises (contrary to the Rule of Logique) . . .”

While Thomas was progressing at no snail's pace along the path of ecclesiastical preferment, his friend and erstwhile pupil was anything but idle. In 1664 Joseph was admitted to the Middle Temple and, with enviable rapidity, called to the Bar the same day. In 1663 he was elected a member of the Royal Society of which he became, in due course, President. In 1665, as Keeper of the King's Library and Arlington's assistant, he moved with the Court to Oxford, whither it had gone to avoid the Plague. There he directed Henry Muddiman, the most prominent of 17th-century journalists, to inaugurate the *Oxford Gazette* which became, on the return of the Court to London, the *London Gazette*. Joseph's sights now became focused on a seat in Parliament and, after failing to attract the electors of Morpeth, Preston, Dartmouth and Appleby, he was eventually successful at Thetford in 1669, again representing that borough in 1679, 1681 and 1685, becoming Recorder of Thetford in 1682. After the Revolution he represented Rochester, which had become his home town, in 1690 and 1701. In the Irish Parliament he was elected member for Co. Clare in 1692 and for Limerick and Portarlington in 1695.³²

At the age of forty-five Joseph Williamson (neither he nor Thomas Lamplugh rushed into marriage) became the second husband of Lady Catherine Stuart, sister and sole heir of Charles Duke of Richmond and Lennox who had died in 1672. Her first husband was Henry O'Brien, Lord Ibracan (but commonly called Lord O'Brien) son of the Earl of Thomond, whom he predeceased.³³ She brought Joseph "a noble fortune" and there must be a suspicion that his union with her in 1678, within a few months of her first husband's death, may have had more to do with her possession of the Richmond estates than with the personal charms. It was shortly after his marriage that Joseph resigned as Secretary of State, and it has been said that this might have been brought about by the enmity of Lord Danby who had had an eye on the heiress for one of his sons.³⁴ But more probably the resignation was the result of the incident when Joseph was committed to the Tower by the House of Commons after he admitted countersigning commissions to Roman Catholics. King Charles had him released the following day "as a servant of the King, not as a member of Parliament" in which capacity he had been committed.³⁵ Robert Spencer Earl of Sunderland paid him £6,500 for the Secretaryship, Sir William Temple, who had been led to believe that the reversion was his, declining to match this sum. Williamson himself had paid only a little less to Arlington in 1674,³⁶ and he should not be judged, on this transaction, as unduly grasping. It is clear that the office was a highly profitable one and that, by 1678 when he resigned it, Joseph was a wealthy man. Having married a great heiress and now the master of Cobham Hall, it would be no surprise to find that he, at the age of forty-five, was disposed to adopt the life of a country gentleman. But that was not so; his heart was in public service, and field sports were not among his pastimes which consisted of music, heraldry and genealogy. He continued to serve the Crown in the diplomatic and political field.³⁷ When Joseph Williamson surrendered his Secretaryship to the Earl of Sunderland, his *quondam* tutor had been Bishop of Exeter for three years. During his tenancy of that see he earned the reputation of being moderate in his dealings with non-conformists. At the same time he did nothing to offend the King and the Duke of York by showing enmity towards, or supporting the Whigs' proposed measures against, Roman Catholics. A stalwart upholder, throughout his life, of the Established Church, his tolerance towards Catholic recusants on the one

side and Protestant Dissenters on the other may have had its origin in the different persuasions, both political and religious, of the friends and relations at Bridekirk among whom he had been brought up.

Lamplugh's refusal to join the seven bishops in their Petition against the reading of James's second Declaration of Indulgence from the pulpits is consistent with his moderate views. He caused the Declaration to be read throughout his diocese, and so retained the goodwill of the King to such an extent that when, ten days after the Prince of Orange landed at Torbay, Lamplugh presented himself at Court to express his loyalty to James, his Catholic majesty conferred on him the Archbishopric of York,³⁸ which "for reasons not to be approved of"³⁹ had been vacant for more than two and a half years.

There are conflicting accounts of Thomas's behaviour following the Prince's entry into Exeter. The Whig Burnet says, "the Bishop and Dean ran away". The Whig Macaulay embroiders this into, "Lamplugh, the bishop, as soon as he heard that the Dutch were at Torbay, set off in terror for London. The Dean fled from the Deanery." A less politically biased and probably more truthful version is that of Francis Drake who, writing in 1736, says "Upon the landing of the Prince of Orange, and his advancing towards Exeter, Dr Thomas Lamplugh, bishop of that see, in a speech, advised the clergy and gentry of that city and country to stand firm to King James; but finding the tide run too strong for him, he left the place, came to London and presented himself to the King at Whitehall. In a time of almost universal defection from the King's interest, this act of loyalty of the bishop's was taken so kindly, that his majesty immediately translated him to York, where he was enthroned by proxy, December 19 1688, when he was almost seventy-four years of age."⁴⁰ This account blends happily with Macaulay's second reference to Lamplugh, when in a passage, not derived from Burnet, he says, 'Bishop Lamplugh had just presented himself at court on his arrival from Exeter, and had been most graciously received. "My Lord" said the King, "you are a genuine old Cavalier." The Archbishopric of York . . . was immediately bestowed on Lamplugh as reward for his loyalty.'

This event took place on November 15th. On the same day a warrant issued to prepare a *congé d'élire* to the Dean and Chapter of York and a letter recommending Thomas, Bishop of Exeter. On the following day a warrant issued to prepare a similar document to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter and a letter recommending Jonathan, Bishop of Bristol.⁴¹ On November 17th Thomas was one of the signatories of a Petition to James II to call a Parliament, the other petitioners being the Dukes of Grafton and Ormond, Lords Dorset, Clare, Clarendon, Burlington, Anglesey, Rochester, Newport, Paget, Chandos and Ossulston and the Bishops of St. Asaph, Ely, Rochester, Peterborough and Oxford.⁴² On December 2nd a warrant issued to prepare a Bill containing the royal assent to the election of Thomas Lamplugh as Archbishop of York.⁴³ He was enthroned less than a week before James left the country. On January 29th Lamplugh, with six or seven bishops, voted with the minority in the Lords in favour of a Regency;⁴⁴ the majority having supported the Commons, the Prince and Princess of Orange were declared King and Queen and were crowned on April 11th 1689, the newly elected Archbishop of York assisting the Bishop of London who performed the ceremony in the absence of the Archbishop of Canterbury.⁴⁵ One cannot but admire the expedition with which Thomas's elevation was managed. There is no record of any opposition to his

election which was passed by the Dean and Chapter barely a fortnight after his audience with James.

He did not reign long at Bishopthorpe, dying there in 1691. He had been a widower for twenty years and was survived by one only of his five children. In his will (Appendix 1) he left legacies to his cousins at Bridekirk and Lamplugh, to the sons of the Provosts of the Queen's College at the time of his education there, to his servants and to the poor of the parishes he had served.⁴⁶

Grinling Gibbons' bill for the fine memorial monument he sculpted for Thomas in York Minster is in the Bodleian; the charge was £100. The inscription under the life size upright figure, in elegant latin might well have been composed by Thomas himself,

HIC

In spe refurgendi depositum jacet

Quod mortale fuit

Reverendissimi in Christo patris THOMAE LAMPLUGH

Archiepiscopi EBORACENSIS, S. T. P.

Ex antiqua et generosa LAMPLUGHORUM de LAMPLUGH

In agro CUMBRIENSI familia oriundi.

Qui OXONIAE in collegio reginae alumnus et socius

(Ubi literas humaniores et sacras hausit)

Aulae S. ALBANI in eadem academia principalis

Ecclesiae S. MARTINI juxta WESTMONASTERIUM vicarius,

Decanus ROFFENSIS et anno 1676 episcopus EXONIENSIS consecratus.

Tandem (licet dignitatem multum deprecatus)

In sedem hanc metropolitica[m] evectus est anno 1688 m[en]si Novembri.

Vir (si quis alius) per varios vitae honorumque gradus spectabilis,

Ob vitae innocentiam morum probitatem,

Verbi divini praedicationem, charitatem in patriam,

Et zelum erga domum Dei ecclesiam ANGLICANAM

In memoria aeterna cum justis futurus.

Obdormivit in Dom. 5 Maii an salutis 1691 aetat 76.

Uxorem habuit CATHERINAM filiam EDWARDI

DAVENANT S.T.P. neptem JOHANNIS.

Davenant episcopi SARISBURIENSIS,

E qua tulit liberos quinque,

THOMAS liberorum superstes,

Hoc monumentum

P. M. P.

The 1736 "*History of the Cathedral Church of York*" by Francis Drake does much to correct the Archbishop's detractors, chief of whom was the cantankerous Anthony, self styled 'a', Wood, After categorising some of Wood's alleged strictures as 'spurious', he quotes a passage from the preface to Dr Allestree's ⁴⁷ sermons "that when that great divine undertook one of the lectureships of the city of Oxford, in order to instil principles of loyalty there, in opposition to the contrary infusions of rebel teachers, whose doctrine had been for many years the gospel of that place, and discountenanced by none of the parochial ministers besides Mr Lamplugh, who had the courage and loyalty to own the

doctrine of the church of England in the worst of times . . .” Drake himself adds that when Lamplugh was curate at Southampton, in the height of fanaticism, he got by heart almost the whole Liturgy of the church of England, which he used to speak “off book” to his hearers, in imitation of the zealots of those times, “especially the burial service, with which the people were so taken that the friends and relations desired, when they died to be buried in the same manner; but he acquainted them that it was not his own composition but the words in the Liturgy so much then set at nought and despised.”

Thomas was a substantial benefactor to York Minster; Celia Fiennes, in her description of it in 1697 writes “. . . the table cloth and cushions and books at the Comunion table was crimson velvet and hangings, its embroyder’d very richly with gold of a great depth and gold fringe at the bottom: this was given the church by Doctor Lamplue that was Archbishop whose statue is in white marble in the wall, with Mitre and Shepherds crook . . . and by the aire and mien he looks more like a Soldier or Beau than a Bishop, and so it seems he was in humour.”⁴⁸ Perhaps she had heard the story that he would pause in the midst of a solemn convocation, slap his legs and exclaim with a laugh, “Fancy my being Archbishop of York!” As well he might.

Joseph Williamson survived his friend and *quondam* tutor by ten years, dying in 1701 at Cobham Hall. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.⁴⁹ His last public employment was as a plenipotentiary at the Congress which eventually resulted in the Peace of Ryswick, 1698, which contained an acknowledgment by Louis XIV of William as King of England.⁵⁰

Like Thomas, Joseph had his detractors, one of whom was the diarist Evelyn who, under the date July 22nd 1674, describes him and his appointment as Secretary of State in the following passage, “. . . Sir Jos: Wiliamson now declared Secretary of state was sonne of a meane Clergyman some where in Cumberlandshire, brought up at Queenes Coll: Oxon: of which he came to be a fellow; then traveled with . . . and returning when the King was restord, was received as a Cleark under Mr Secretary Nicholas: Sir Hen: Bennet (now L. Arlington) succeeding, Williamson is transferred to Sir Henry: who loving his ease more than buisness, (though sufficiently able had he applyed himselfe to it) remitted all to his man Williamson, and in a short time let him so into the seacret of affaires, that (as his Lordship himselfe told me) there was a kind of necessity to advance him; and so by his subtilty, dexterity and insinuation, he got now to be principal Secretary; absolutely my L: Arlingtons Creature . . .” The entry continues, in an addition clearly made during one of the diarist’s revisions, “Sir Joseph was a Musitian, could play at *jeu de Goblets*, exceeding formal; a severe Master to his Servants; but so inward with my Lord Obrian, that after a few moneths of that Gent: death he married his Widdow, who being daughter (*sic*) and heire of the Duke of Richmond, brought him a noble fortune; but, twas thought, they lived not so kindly after marriage as they did before: and she was infinitely censur’d for marrying so meanelly, being herself alayed to the royal family . . .”⁵¹ Evelyn’s snobbish reference to Williamson’s family background does no credit to one whose inherited wealth, derived from his grandfather’s profits from the supply of gunpowder to the Government, enabled him to lead the life of a dilettante.

Thomas and Joseph seem to have been rather different in manner; the former urbane, possessed of a ready wit, a true courtier, the latter formal, methodical, punctilious, the model of a higher civil servant. But in their steadfast loyalty to the Church and Crown as legally established they were alike. They were both loyal and generous to the

communities which had served them and which they had served. Thomas left a son for whom he had to provide, so he was not in a position to emulate the munificent charitable legacies of Joseph who had a rich wife and no children. And it was not only by his Will that Joseph benefited those with whom he came into contact. After he came to live at Cobham Hall, he interested himself in the neighbouring towns of Rochester and Gravesend, becoming M.P. for the former and prosecuting a new Charter for the latter.⁵² He befriended the father of Joseph Addison, who was named after him, and sent abroad at his own expense William Nicolson, the future Bishop of Carlisle, mindful, no doubt, that it was to a like generosity by Dr Langbaine that the start of his own career was due. He developed his old Provost's ideas by inaugurating the plan whereby young men of ability were sent to the courts of Europe to qualify them for diplomatic posts. He gave plate, bibles, prayer books and rich altar linen to Bridekirk church, books to the library of St. Bees, where he had his first schooling, and his benefactions both in his lifetime and by will, to the Queen's College were very considerable.⁵³ Both Thomas and Joseph left legacies to the family of their loved and revered Dr Langbaine who must have exercised, before his early death at the age of forty-nine, a strong and abiding influence on each of them.

This paper is an attempt to discover, from such sources as are available, the characters of two Cumberland worthies who, by their own abilities and without compromising their firm beliefs, emerged unscathed and respected from the political and religious turmoil of the seventeenth century.

Appendix I

Will of Thomas Lamplugh, Archbishop of York

*ὄυκ ἔχομευ ᾧδε τὴν μένουσαν πόλιν*⁵⁴

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN I Thomas Lamplugh Arch-Bishop of Yorke considering the frailty of mans life at all times with the certainty of death (which I neither desire nor fear) Revoaking and cancelling all former Wills and Testaments whether nuncupative or written heretofore by me at any time made doe make this my last Will and Testament in manner and forme following first I bequeath my whole self soul and body unto my Almighty and faithfull Creator under the wings of whose providence I have been graciously cherished from my birth protected from many dangers freed from severall difficulties and provided for in the greatest extremities and after I had been above thirty years a public preacher by the same good providence without any desert of mine I became a pastor of the best reformed church in the world the Church of England in the faith of which church (as tis now by law established) as I have lived soe I desire and resolve to dye humbly beseaching Almighty God to heale all her breaches to unite all her members such as have erred and are deceived that they may no longer rend and tear out the bowels of their tender indulgent but now sadly afflicted Mother Amen In the next place I freely and from my heart forgive all men who have in any way offended and wronged me in word or deed earnestly desiring all such as I have any way wronged or offended in like manner to forgive me that wee may all of us find forgiveness at that day at his hands who did not teach us to buy nor promise to grant us any pardon but upon that condition And as for the portion of temporalls wherewith God hath blessed

me above my deserts I thus dispose of them First I give and devote to the service of God to be used by my successors Arch-Bishops of Yorke all my communion plate (viz) a Bason a Chalice with a cover and a patten for bread double gilt to be preserved by the Dean and Chapter of York dureing the vacancy of the See and to be restored to the Chappell of Bishopthorpe when the Arch-Bishops shall be restored to their temporalls. Item I give to the poorer sort of the Clergy of the Diocese of Yorke the sume of three hundred pounds to be distributed as my Executor and my present Chancellor Dr Henry Watkinson shall think fitt Item I give and bequeath for the use of the poor of the parish of Holy Rood in Southampton (the place where I first begun to exercise my Ministry publickly) the sume of twenty pounds to be disposed of as the vicar and churchwardens for the time being shall think fitt Item I give for the use of the poor in the parish of St Martins (alias Carfaxe) in Oxford the sume of five pounds to be disposed of as the Rector and Church Wardens shall think fitt Item I give to the poor of the parish of Charlton upon Otmore in the County of Oxford the sume of four pounds to be disposed of as the Rector for the time being shall think fitt I give to the poor of the parish of Heddington in the County of Oxford the sume of five pounds to be distributed as the Minister and church wardens shall think fitt Item I give to the poor housekeepers (such as doe not take Alms) of the parish of St. Martin Westminster the sume of twenty pounds to be disposed of according to the discretion of the vicar and church wardens for the time being Item I give to my very good Lord and Friend the present Bishop of London⁵⁵ one mourning Ring of the value of Forty shillings which I desire him to accept of as a Testamony of my reall Love and kindness Item I give to my dear Brother Mr James Davenant Fellow of Oriell College in Oxford the sume of ten pounds Item to my cousen Richard Lamplugh of Ribton in Cumberland Esqr his wife his son Richard and his daughter Grace⁵⁶ which he had by his former wife⁵⁷ to each five pounds Item to my cousin Thomas Lamplugh of Lamplugh Esqr and his Wife each five pounds Item to Mr Edward Potter son of Doctor Christopher Potter sometime Provost of Queens Colledge in Oxford and to Mr Gerrard Langbaine⁵⁸ son of Doctor Gerard Langbaine Provost of the same Colledge to each the sume of five pounds in testimony of my thankfulnessse for my education in the same Colledge under the strict and Religious Government of their very worthy Fathers As for my servants I give to my servant Henry Cherry the sume of ten pounds and all my wearing apparrell except all such things as my Executor shall think fitt to dispose of otherwise to Honor Birch the sume of ten pounds to William Fox my coachman who hath served me for many years very faithfully the sume of twenty pounds And I do appoint my only and wellbeloved son Thomas Lamplugh sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament In testimony ehereof I have hereunto sett my seal and subscribed my name this second day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred ninety and one

Tho: Ebor.

in the presence of

Hen. Watkinson

Charles Palmer

Willm Pearson

Prerogative Court of Canterbury

Appendix II

The Bishop of Exeter's Charge to the Clergy

Mr Officiall

Both the lawes of the land and the daingerous condicions of the time in which we live call uppon us to be more than ordinary sollicitous for the good of this poor church, formerly the glory of the reformed and the refuge of the afflicted Protestant Church, but now deformed by the wounds of her own children at home, treacherously undermined by her old inveterate enemies from abroad, and what will be the issue of all the wisest man cannot forse, God only knows and to reconcile him to us that he doe not throw us out of his vinyard as unprofitable servants, wee must not bee wanting to performe our duties in those stations in which God hath placed us, and to that purpose wee require you to give in charge to our clergy at the next Chusing of Deans Rurall these three things.

- 1st That they be constantly resident on theyre charges and performe theyre duties (if able) in theyre owne persons, which will be acceptable to God whose servants they are, to the great Shepherd whose flock they watch over, and will gaine upon the affections of the poor people when they are not themselves neglected by them.
- 2ly That the Deans Rurall be more carefull than hitherto they have been about the reparacion of parsonage and vicaridge houses for wee hear many and great complaints from several places (in particular Cornwall) of parsonage and vicaridge houses exceedingly dilapidated and some of them level with the ground, and also that some of the former incumbents haveing so unworthily underhand conveyed away their estates that satisfaction cannot be had to the great damage of the succession; for prevention of this great damage and scandall to the church, wee require you for the future, that what reparacions are fit to be made be made within a convenient time and if it be not done let us know of it.
- 3ly That every minister of a parish make a new perfect Terrier of his parsonage or vicaridge house, how many rooms therein containd, how floored what are wainscoted, how many parlours chambers etc. of what matter the walls of the house are made, wood, stone or mudd, and so for outhouses stables barnes etc., what gardens there are how many acres of Glebe land, meadows pasture or arable, and how bounded, and to whose ground they are adjoynd and how they are commonly knowne and distinguished, and let this be done before our Lady day next and sent into our registry office. Such as shall be deficient herein wee will surely and evenly proceed against at our next Triennial Visitation as careless and if not betrayers of the rights of the church, let them take this as an admonition, and pretend not they had no warning of it, we are but Guardians of the Churches revenues and emoluments and are accountable to God & man for them. Let every Dean Rurall have a copy hereof that he may impart the contents of it to his brethren within his circuit.

Exon August 21 1679

I am your affectionate
Friend and Diocesan
Tho: Exon

Endorsed "These for Mr John Hawkins Minister of Lelant" and further endorsed "What was given in charge to the Clergy by the Officiall from the Bishop"

Appendix III

Extracts from the Will of Sir Joseph Williamson

Dated 16th August 1701

“And tho’ my dear wife hath already a plentiful provision by her joynture out of my Lord Thomond’s estate yet I take soe well her constant kindnesse and care of me and my affaires in all respects that I make thereto these following additions First I give ratifye and confirme unto my wife the third part of my fee farm rents and other reall estate during her life in lieu of her Dower And further alsoe I doe give unto her absolutely all my jewells subject only to such moneys wherewith the same are charged or shall be charged at the time of my decease And also my best Coach and best set of Coach horses which I shall have at my decease to be at (illegible) which of them she shall choose And further that she shall have dureing her life the use of all my household goods and furniture and of such part of my plate as she shall elect not exceeding the value of five hundred pounds she first and before she gett possession thereof giving security to my executors that the same shall be forthcoming and in good condition delivered back to them at the time of her decease (reasonable wear and usage only excepted)”

“I doe give and devise all my lands tenements and hereditaments in the County of Cumberland unto my kinsman Mr Joseph Hornsby for his life...and from and after his decease then to Thomas Hornsby sonn of the said Joseph Hornsby and the heires male of his body . . .”

“. . . I give to the Provost and Schollars of Queens College at Oxford £6,000 to be laid out in further new buildings . . . and otherwise beautifying the said Colledge . . . as also all my Library of printed books and books of Heraldry Genealogy . . .”

“To Christs Church Hospitall in London £300”

“To St. Bartholomews Hospitall in London £300”

“To the Royall Society at Greshams Colledge . . . £200”

“To my executors for building and maintaining a free school at Rochester £5,000”

“For the town of Thetford £2,000 and the debt due from Mr Hevingham to be used for such public purpose as the Corporation shall think fit”

“To each of the children of the late Mr Gerard Langbaine sonn of my dear and worthy friend Doctor Langbaine heretofore Provost of Queens Colledge at Oxford £300 a peice”

“To the Dean and Chapter of Rochester my set of guilt (*sic*) communion plate heretofore the Duke of Richmonds which I redeemed”

“My picture of his present Majestie to be sett up in the Town Hall of Rochester”

“To Mrs Anne Williamson daughter of my cozen german Mr Joseph Williamson 5 shillings”

“To Mr Thomas Williamson my kinsman £200”

“To Mrs Peate widdowe my kinswoman £200 and to each of her two children £100 apeice”

“To the poor of the parish of St. James Westminster £5”

“To the poor of the parish of Bridekirk in Cumberland £5”

“To the poor in the severall parishes of Rochester £20”

“To the poor in the severall parishes of Thetford £15”

“I doe constitute and appoint my said dear wife Captain John Boys Thomas Addison gent and the said Joseph Hornsby the father my kinsman to be my executors”

'All his real estate in the County of Kent' to executors on trust for sale, two thirds of the proceeds to his wife and one third to the said Joseph Hornsby to whose family he left a number of pecuniary legacies and annuities. He also left legacies to his servants. Proved P.C.C. 17th October 1701. PROB 11/462.

References and Notes

- ¹ CW2, lxI, 120-30; Francis Drake, *Eboracum or the History and Antiquities of the City of York* (London, 1736), ii, 466.
- ² Memorial inscription to Ann Lamplugh on the floor of the sanctuary in Thwing church, quoted in CW2, xxxviii, 107.
- ³ *Bridekirk Parish Register, 1584-1812*, CW, PRS, ed. J. F. Haswell, 1927.
- ⁴ DNB article on Joseph Williamson.
- ⁵ Nicolson & Burn, *History of Westmorland & Cumberland* (London, 1777), ii, 134.
- ⁶ Magrath, *The Queen's College* (Oxford, 1921), ii, 304.
- ⁷ *Northern History* (University of Leeds, 1970), v, 48.
- ⁸ CW2, lxxxiv, 99.
- ⁹ CW2, xxxviii, 98.
- ¹⁰ N & B, ii, 584.
- ¹¹ Hutchinson, *History of Cumberland* (Carlisle, 1794), ii, 256n.
- ¹² i.e. a play.
- ¹³ Probably George Lamplugh (1612-1674) Lord Mayor of York 1662, youngest son of William Lamplugh d.1626, Lord of the Manor of Lebberston, Yorks.
- ¹⁴ i.e. to see Joseph's play in Oxford.
- ¹⁵ Sir Thomas Littleton (1422-1481), judge, whose '*Tenures*' was the principal authority on English real property law.
- ¹⁶ Fellow of Queen's 1654, rector of Headley, Hants 1670. Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses*; perhaps a son of Nicholas Beeby who followed Joseph's father as vicar of Bridekirk.
- ¹⁷ Of Mauds Meaburn, M.P. for Appleby 1690, second son of Sir John Lowther, Nicolson & Burn *op. cit.*, i, 436.
- ¹⁸ Provost of Queen's 1677-1704, succeeded Thomas Lamplugh as rector of Charlton on Otmoor 1685.
- ¹⁹ Lancelot Addison 1632-1703, Dean of Lichfield 1683, father of Joseph Addison, the essayist. Magrath *op. cit.*, ii, 50.
- ²⁰ The "Sea of Troubles" probably arose from the descent on Oxford of Parliamentary Visitors requiring oaths of loyalty to the *de facto* Government as the price of retaining fellowships.
- ²¹ Thomas Denton (1638-1698) Recorder of Carlisle and Appleby, author of a MS history of Cumberland, Hudleston & Boumphrey, *Cumberland Families & Heraldry* (CW Extra Series xxiii).
- ²² i.e. the pupils.
- ²³ i.e. the common purse.
- ²⁴ Appendix I.
- ²⁵ DNB *op. cit.*
- ²⁶ Provost 1657, Bishop of Lincoln 1675; Boumphrey, Hudleston & Hughes, *An Armorial for Westmorland and Lonsdale* (Gateshead, 1975).
- ²⁷ DNB article on Thomas Lamplugh.
- ²⁸ A shorter and less grammatical version is given in CW2, xxxviii, 112, where it said to have been copied from a MS in T.L.'s own hand.
- ²⁹ Family Tradition.
- ³⁰ per Vaughan Wilkins, *Endless Prelude* (London, 1937), 147. Anthony Wood records another bizarre incident at the communion rail, "1661 Mar 31. Dr T. Lamplugh officiated at Ch. Ch. Oxon in place of Dr Holyday who having the bole of wine in his hands fell down and hurt his face." *The Life & Times of Anthony Wood* (London, 1932).
- ³¹ Exeter Cathedral Library 4725/2/2.
- ³² DNB.

- ³³ This lady was Baroness Clifton of Leighton Bromswold in her own right; the barony and Cobham Park and Hall descended through her daughter by her first husband to the Blighs Earls of Darnley. G.E.C., *The Complete Peerage* (1910-1959).
- ³⁴ DNB.
- ³⁵ David Ogg, *England in the Reign of Charles II* (Oxford, 1955), i, 195.
- ³⁶ DNB.
- ³⁷ He was plenipotentiary at the Treaty of Nimeguen in 1679, which ended the Seven Years War, and, as “a veteran diplomatist” at the Peace of Ryswick in 1698. Macaulay, *History of England*, (Everyman edn., 1906), iii, 516, 629.
- ³⁸ Macaulay *op. cit.*, ii, 89.
- ³⁹ Drake *op. cit.*, ii, 466. It was suspected that James hoped to bestow it on his confessor, Father Petre.
- ⁴⁰ *Ibid.*
- ⁴¹ *Cal. State Papers Domestic.*
- ⁴² *Ibid.*
- ⁴³ *Ibid.*
- ⁴⁴ Macaulay *op. cit.*, ii, 190.
- ⁴⁵ Evelyn, *The Diary* (Oxford, 1935 ed. John Bowle), 373.
- ⁴⁶ P.C.C. 2nd May 1691.
- ⁴⁷ (1619-1681) Dean of Westminster, Provost of Eton, King’s Professor of Divinity.
- ⁴⁸ Christopher Morris ed. *Illustrated Journeys of Celia Fiennes* (London, 1982), 90, 91.
- ⁴⁹ In the Dukes of Richmond’s vault in King Henry VII’s Chapel.
- ⁵⁰ Macaulay *op. cit.*, 629.
- ⁵¹ Evelyn *op. cit.*, 250.
- ⁵² DNB.
- ⁵³ Hutchinson *op. cit.*, ii, 245, 246.
- ⁵⁴ Hebrews 13 v 14. “. . . we have here no continuing city . . .”
- ⁵⁵ Henry Compton (1630-1711) sixth and youngest son of the second Earl of Northampton.
- ⁵⁶ an error for “Jane”.
- ⁵⁷ Frances d. of Sir Christopher Lowther of Sockbridge.
- ⁵⁸ 1656-1692 of University College, “architypographus”. Foster *op. cit.*

