

THE BRASSES IN PEPER HAROW CHURCH.

BY MAJOR HEALES, F.S.A.

THE several brasses at Peper Harow, though not striking in point of magnitude or design, are not without interest for various reasons.

In the first place, there are two of them which commemorate the same person. In one of these, affixed to the wall, a lady is represented kneeling at a desk; the other is a simple cross upon the floor; their respective inscriptions prove the identity of the person commemorated. That on the mural monument is as follows:—

Ex bestra caritate Orate p̄ aīa Johāne Adderley quōd̄m
 uxor' Johis Adderley quōd̄m Maioris Cibitatis London̄
 et nup uxor' willi Brokes,¹ Armigeri, Patroni istius ecclīe,
 q̄ quōd̄m Johāna obiit xbiij^o die Nobēbr'. A^o dñi
 M^occcc^oLxxxviij^o, cui' aīe propiciet' d'.

That upon the ground runs thus:—

Hic iacet Jhāna Adderley nuper uxor Will^{mi} Brokes¹
 (Armiger *interlined*) Cuius Anīme Propicietur deus
 Amen.

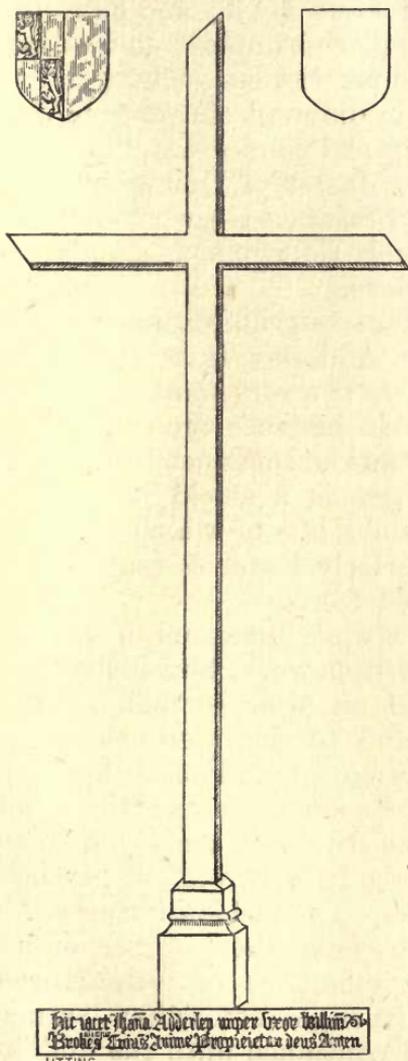
The peculiarity of two memorials to the same person is thus accounted for; that on the floor marks the place

¹ Brokes, *i.e.* Brocas.



BRASS OF JOHANE ADDIRLEY, AFFIXED TO WALL.

of burial, while the other, more conspicuous as a monument, associates the person commemorated with the solemnity of an Eastern sepulchre. The lady's Will, some particulars of which I propose to give presently,



directs that her body shall be buried in the chancel of the church of St. Nicholas, Peper Harow, before the high altar, to which altar she bequeaths 20s. The fact that a gravestone in the church so generally marked the place of burial furnishes a very strong reason against the barbarous practice, shamefully common at "restorations," of tearing up the brasses and fixing in the wall those of them that are not lost in the interval; a practice which deserves the severest reprehension, not only of archæologists, but of all who, as Christians, entertain a respect for the Dead. How frequently loss or injury is thus caused we well know; and, as one instance, we may advert to the numerous brasses (one of which, especially, was, as a palimpsest, of peculiar interest) formerly in Cheam Church, and fully illustrated in our Collections.

Other instances in which there are two brass memorials to one individual occur. At Southfleet, Kent, is a brass to Joan, daughter of Sir John Reskemmer, and wife of Thomas Urban, in which the effigy is represented standing on an elegant bracket: she died in 1414; and subse-

quently, when her husband died in 1420, a brass was put down in the same church, upon which the wife as well as the husband were depicted. At Loddon, Norfolk, 1530 and 1561; Dauntesey, Wilts, 1514 and c. 1530; and Staveley, Derbyshire, 1480 and 1503; and Fairford, Gloucestershire, 1534, are similar examples; and others of the same nature might be mentioned. Then, again, there are sometimes brasses in different churches to one person, on account of some special connection with each place; and Robert Hamsley, Master of University College, who died 1518, had brasses to his memory at University, Merton, and Queen's College chapels, and at Doddington Church, Oxfordshire.

The cross, which with the inscription marks the burial-place of Dame Johanna Adderley, is a plain cross with its arms "slipped": there is a very similar example at Royston, Herts,¹ but in that instance the centre and limbs are marked in the conventional manner to indicate our Lord's five wounds. There is a shield in each of the upper quarters of the slab, one of which is quite illegible; the other bears quarterly 1 and 4 (sa), a lion ramp. (or) (Brocas), 2 and 3 defaced.

The memorial against the wall answered a double purpose: the lower part is of stonework, forming a high tomb (such as is often called an altar tomb, from the form resembling an altar), and to this place the Holy Sacrament and cross were removed on Holy Thursday and watched, with lights, till Easter morning: the ceremonies used, according to the Ritual of the English, as well as the Roman Church, have been heretofore detailed in this Society's publications. The fashion for erecting such structures to answer at once the purpose of an Easter sepulchre and a monument, set in towards the end of the 15th century (though somewhat earlier instances may be found), and continued until the middle of the 16th century; it necessitated the horizontal surface on the top of the tomb being flat, and the monu-

¹ An engraving of it was lately published in the *Evening Meetings' Proceedings* of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society, in illustration of a paper by Mr. Milbourn, on Royston Church.

mental effigy is usually set in the wall-face above, all being generally covered by a stone canopy. Whenever we find a monument of this form and period in this situation, viz. against the N. wall of the chancel, to the N.N.W. of the altar, we may, in absence of positive evidence to the contrary, have little doubt that it was built to answer the double purpose of a monument and an Easter sepulchre.

Of the lady's family we have no information except that it appears by her husband's Will that she was heiress of certain property in Essex. Her first husband was Sir John Adderley, or Hatherle, the son of John Hatherle of Bristol. He was a citizen and ironmonger of London, and resided in Queenhithe, in which neighbourhood there are still many wholesale iron warehouses; in 1431 he served the office of sheriff, and in the year 1442 he was elected to the mayoralty of London. We learn of him that during his tenure of office the citizens took in hand

"Many chargeable but useful and ornamental works; viz., to build divers conduits of fresh water, with standards and other devices, and leaden pipes that ran about three miles both above and under the earth; and also to make a common granary, and to repair the great cross in Cheap, erected in 1290 by Edward I., to memory of Queen Alanora; the King having granted a licence to the Mayor and Citizens, in order to set forward these works, to buy 200 fodder of lead anywhere in the realm, and to hire workmen masons and plumbers, as many as they would, from time to time."¹

These important works may be fairly ascribed to his energy and wisdom: we thus find that two of the most important sanitary questions which have of late years again been brought into prominence were actively met by him; viz. in the water-supply as just mentioned, and in respect to burial in the midst of the crowded city. By his testament, which is dated the 12th April, 1449, although he directs his own body to be buried in the church of St. Michael "ad Ripam Regius, vulgarit^r vocat^r quenehithe," yet he leaves to the said church and Mr.

¹ Strype's *Stow*, book iv., p. 35, from which the note in *Sergeant's Collectanea* is copied, and Nichol's note in his account of the Company of Ironmongers is copied from the Sergeant MS.

William Freestone, the rector, and Henry Derby and William Stevenys, the wardens, and Henry Benet, William Elmet and Richard Holbeche, parishioners, and their successors in future, that "Vestiarium" with stone windows, ironed, glazed, and cemented, and by him newly built, together with a certain tenement called the Gilde, and situated in Trinity Lane, and apparently extending to the north aisle of the said church, and measuring 21 feet 8½ inches, upon trust for the benefit of the church and parish in pure and perpetual alms, and that they, the parishioners, might pray devoutly, as well for his own Soul as for the Souls of Isabelle, Johanna, and Margaret, late his wives, and his parents, relatives, friends, and benefactors, and generally all faithful departed. From this mention of his wives he would appear to have been married four times, since our Johanna was not then his "late wife," for she survived him about twenty-two years. And he left the property under further condition, that the said rector and others should not in future permit the bodies (*corpora et cadavera*) of parishioners and others to be buried in the little cemetery of the said church, as then accustomed, unless for great necessity or for reasonable grounds; but that the same might be buried in the cemetery of the cathedral church of St. Paul; with the object of avoiding the corrupt air arising from the dead in the said little cemetery, and especially in time of pestilence; but retaining to himself and heirs and tenants the right of window-lights and access by the great doors of the church and cemetery.

He was also deeply imbued with the spirit of religion and charity, as appears from the next devise in his testament.

He leaves to the prior and convent of the Salutation of the Mother of God, of the order of Carthusians in London, his tenements and shops, with cellars, solars, wharfs, and other appurtenances, situate in Sebillane in the said parish, and between Thames Street and the river, charged with 12 marcs per annum, to find a secular chaplain of honest conversation and learned in

sacred theology and preaching of the Word, to celebrate Divine Service continually in the said church for the benefit of the said Souls; and with power of removal and fresh appointment. Also twenty shillings per annum for an anniversary in Queenhithe church on the day of his death; such sum to be applied partly between the chaplains and clerks of the said church for a Placebo and Dirige by note at night, and Missa de Requiem in the morning, with ringing of bells and other offices on anniversaries, according to the use of Sarum; and half the sum to be expended on wax for two anniversaries, and divided between the rector, chaplains, clerks, and bell-ringer; the other ten shillings between poor parishioners, especially "inter pauperes Anglicanos." Also a further sum of forty shillings per annum to be distributed among the poor inhabitants of the ward; a sum of twenty shillings to the prior and convent for their trouble; and six shillings and eightpence in name of a pittance; and the residue of returns from such property to be employed in repair and maintenance of the property, and the balance retained.

We must not pause to state further the particulars of his testament more than to state that he left his shops and gardens in St. Michael Bassisshaw to the convent in perpetual alms; a lately rebuilt tenement or "magnam placeam," and great garden in Trinity Lane opposite his own "hospitium," the proceeds of which latter were to be distributed according to a cedula, indented, between him and the said convent; his great hospitium and his brewery called "le Cok on the Hoop," both in Trinity Lane, to Robert, son of his daughter Agnes, on condition of non-interference with the other dispositions; his lands and tenements in Essex in right of Johanna "nuper uxoris mee," and his tenements in Baynardescastle, to be sold and distributed "pro salute animam meam." He appoints as executors "Reverendum Virum" Nicholas Assheton, one of the king's justices,¹ William Corbet,

¹ One of the Queen's justices would now be surprised at being addressed as "The Rev."

ironmonger, and another, whose name is left blank on the roll; and he nominates as supervisor his son William Hatherle, Prior of Hynton.¹

The testament was proved by William Corbet, in the Court of Hustings, on the feast of St. Agatha the Virgin (Feb. 5), 1465.²

Lady Johanna subsequently married William Brocas, Esq., who had lost his first wife, Agnes, daughter of Thomas Beckingham, about the year 1469. He was the patron of Peper Harow Church, and hereditary master of the buckhounds, in which office he was, upon his death, on 22nd April, 1484, succeeded by his son John, the offspring of the first marriage.³

Lady Adderley, being left a widow, made her will on the 10th Nov., 1487, wherein she calls herself "Dame Johaⁿ Aderle, late the wife of William Brocas, of the Counte of Suth', Esquire, being in my pure Widewod."

There is no source of information respecting persons who lived in England during the later Middle Ages, from which so much can be learnt respecting their individuality and character as from their Wills; even in the present time there is more peculiarity in testamentary dispositions than in any other class of legal documents. Wills also throw more light upon the manners, customs, and mode of thought of the period than any other records. We are fortunate in finding the Will of Lady Adderley. She commences with a commendation of her soul

"unto the m'cifull hands of o^r lord Jhū crist, my maker, and by his moost paynfull passioⁿ Redemer of all the World, and to o^r moost blissid lady his moder and ev'lasting virgiⁿ, and to the suffrages of all blissid company of heviⁿ."

She directs her body to be buried in the chancel of Peper Harow Church before the high altar, to which altar she leaves 20s. Then follows a direction, that before all other things her debts are to be paid. The executors are to order the funeral honestly, to the honour

¹ The Carthusian monastery of Henton, Somersetshire, founded in 1227.

² Hustings Roll, 195.

³ Manning and Bray.

of God and after their discretion, and to expend on the day of burial and at the month's mind a reasonable amount in alms and deeds of charity according to their wisdom. The churchwardens of St. Margaret Patens are to retain for the use of the church a mass-book and chalice then in their possession, and also a corporas and vestment for the priest to sing mass in, to be delivered to them by the executors.¹ Next,

"I bequeth to the said pson and wardeyns, to the use of the said Chirch, a grete maser² with a gilt bonde, and in the botome the printe of the sonne with Jhūs wretin in the said sonne."

She directs her executors to provide for a year a resident chaplain, to sing each week on the day of her death, Placebo, Dirige, and Commendation for the souls of herself, her husband, and all Christians; he also to attend all Divine services in the church, and to have for his salary 10 marcs. Then is the direction that—

"Johan Brocas my god daughter shalhave my best girdill, the cors of Tissue with pecokk³, a ringe of gold with a Turk³,³ and a boke of vij psalmes and latony,⁴ covered with blak velvet."

She then bequeaths to Alice, wife of Richard Smyth, forty shillings, and a bed complete, and two pair of sheets, a table-cloth of diaper-work, and a towel of diaper; to her servant, Henry Quynby, the best bed, complete; to Elizabeth Tyrrell, six shillings and eight-pence; and to her servant Isabell Tanner a mattress, pair of blankets, pair of sheets, and coverlet. The executors to provide black cloth to the value of 10 marcs, and divide it between themselves, and her present and former servants, as far as it will go. She appoints as executors, Robert Isham, gentleman, and her said servant, Henry Quynby, to perform their duty truly, as they will answer before Almighty God on the day of Doom (such adjuration was not uncommon); Isham

¹ The possession of ecclesiastical vestments by laics would seem singular, but in fact was a very common thing in the Middle Ages.

² It is presumed that the maser was for parochial festivities.

³ The bodice of tissue with peacocks, and a ring of gold with a turquoise.

⁴ The *Seven Penitential Psalms and Litany*.

to have for his trouble twenty shillings; and Quynby the residue.

The Will, which, as stated, is dated the 10th Nov., 1487, was proved at Lambeth by the executors on the 24th of the same month, she having died on the 18th.¹

It is singular that Lady Adderley does not in her will mention any relatives; it must be presumed that she had no children, and perhaps had outlived her relatives; the god-daughter, Johan Brocas, may have been a daughter of her step-son. The property specifically bequeathed appears to be of quite a trifling value; but it is only of recent date that, for fiscal purposes, the amount of assets left by a testator was stated on the application for probate or administration.

On another brass plate is the following inscription:—

ANNO DÑI 1635. HERE LYETH BURIED HENRY SMYTH GENT. & JANE HIS WIFE, DAUGHTER OF RICH' COVERT ESQ. OF SLAVGHAM IN SVSSEX, WHO WERE OWNERS OF THIS MAÑOR OF PEPPERHARROW & WERE MARRIED 48 YEARES & HAD ISSVE 2 SONNS, 2 DAUGHTERS WILL. RICH. JANE. & ELIZ. SMYTH.

HE LIVED 77	} YEARES	{	DYED MAY 12 1626
SHE LIVED 82			DYED MARCH 25 1635

The arms of this Smyth family are given thus:² Bl. (? az. or sa.), a chevr. engr. between 3 lions pass. gard. or, armed and langued gu. Crest, a Torce or and Bl., a leopard's head erased, collared s., chained or.³

The Coverts were a well-known family on the not very distant borders of Sussex.

This and the following inscription are nailed up in a pew:—

HIC IACET ELIZABETHA WOODES FILIA ROBERTI WOODES HVIVS
ECCLEIE MINISTRI AC PRVDENTIE VXORIS EIVS, OBIIT 14^o AVG.
1621.

There is an interesting monument consisting of a

¹ Prerogative Court. Milles, 6.

² Symm's *Collections*; British Museum, Additional MS., 6167.

³ This is not the Henry Smith who left rent-charges for the benefit of Peper Harow, and a very large number of other parishes in Surrey and the adjoining counties. That Henry Smith died 30 January, 1627, and was buried at Wandsworth. (See May's *Collections* respecting him.)

small mural slab, in which, in a panel, is incised the representation of an old man in ordinary civil costume, kneeling at a desk, and with the following inscription:—

HERE LYETH BVRIED THE BODY OF CHRISTOPHER TONSTALL WHILEST HE LYVED A FAITHFVLL PASTOR OF THIS PLACE. HE DIED FIRST OF FEBR. AÑO DÑI 1616, & LEFT ISSVE BY IOANE HIS WIFE DAUGHTER AND HEIR OF RAPHE CARKIKE OF LONDON, GENT. 2 DAUGHTERS VIZ. SUSAN & ANNE.

At the head is a shield beneath an esquire's helmet, bearing a bend within a bordure engrailed, and with a label for difference.

The Rev. Christopher Tunstall, or Tounstall, left a Will, dated the 19th January, 1616, which was proved in the Archdeaconry Court of Surrey on the 17th April following¹ (*i.e.* 1617), by Joan Tounstall, the widow, the executrix. He directs that his body be buried at Peper Harow, and bequeaths twenty shillings to the poor, and the residue of his property between his wife and daughters Susan and Anne, then minors. He appoints his "cousin" Humfrey Browne, of Wood-street, London, merchant, to be overseer of the will. The attesting witnesses are Val. and Payton Castillion.

A Sir John Tunstall is mentioned by Alleyn as amongst the persons present at Dulwich, when the foundation of his College was finished,² and Penelope his daughter was baptized at Camberwell on 2nd October, 1611.³ These may, not improbably, have been relatives of the Vicar.

One cannot conclude these notes without adverting to the fact that Manning, the indefatigable county historian, was one of the rectors of the church, he having been presented to the living by George, second Viscount Middleton.

¹ Archdeaconry Court of Surrey, 223. 1617.

² Manning and Bray, iii. p. 432.

³ Lyson's *Environs*, iv. p. 582.