

## Inventory of Robert Marples, 1676.

BY S. O. ADDY, M.A.



THE inventory which follows these words of introduction has been chosen as illustrative of the manner in which the house of a Derbyshire country gentleman was equipped and furnished two centuries ago. The original document is in the Lichfield Probate Registry.

Robert Marples, whose house and household goods are here described with some minuteness, was a man of considerable estate. He was descended from an ancient family, which was formerly seated at Holbeck Woodhouse, in the parish of Norton Cuckney, in the county of Notts. In 1533, Richard Marples of Holbeck Grange was, with the exception of Sir Wm. Pierrepont, the only freeholder and the largest landowner in Holbeck.\*

By the kindness of Earl Manvers I have had an opportunity of seeing many deeds and documents at Thoresby, to which Robert Marples was a party, affecting lands both in Derbyshire and in other counties. Upon any disposition of the family estates of the Pierreponts being made, his name generally appears as trustee. The inference seems to be that he was steward of the Earl's estates. His family had, at least a century previous to the date of this inventory, been associated with the Pierreponts either as friends, retainers, or relations, and this connection continued down to the year 1716, when Richard Marples, of the city of London, gentleman, "Receiver General" of the Dean and Chapter of St.

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\*Survey Book of Sir Wm. Pierrepont, 1533, *penes* Earl Manvers. The land attached to the Grange was 129 acres. The other holdings were limited to 4 or 5 acres each.

Paul's, as trustee for the then Duke of Kingston, conveyed the Manor of Cromford in Derbyshire, to William Soresby, gentleman.

It appears from Close Roll 1649 (part 52, number 39), that Robert Marples was living at Barlborough on the 10th January, 1649. The Earl of Kingston was killed in the King's service near Gainsborough in 1643. Probably, therefore, it was about that time that Robert Marples removed from Holbeck Woodhouse to Barlborough.\*

It is certain that Robert Marples made no testamentary disposition of his lands, and there can be no doubt that they passed by settlement or deed of entail. He died in August, 1676, and was buried at Barlborough on the 21st of that month. The manner in which some of these properties devolved may be gathered from the following notes of fines, passed a few years after his death. To understand the effect of a fine it must be remembered that the plaintiffs are the purchasers or grantees of the land in question, and the defendants the vendors or grantors.

*Fine Hil. 30 and 31 Car. II., Derby (1679).*—Between John Chambers, *plaintiff*, and Edward Marples, William Marples, Robert Staniford, and Hannah his wife, *defendants*; of one cottage, 14 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture, and common of pasture in *Barlborough*.

*Fine Trin. 30 Car. II., Derby (1679).*—Between Andrew Clayton, gent., and John Greaves, clerk, *plaintiffs*, and William Marples and Ellen his wife, *defendants*; of one messuage, 40 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 25 acres of pasture and common of pasture for all animals in *Barlborough*.

*Fine Trin. 33 Car. II., Derby (1682).* Between John Chambers the elder, John Chambers the younger, and John Taylor, *plaintiffs*, and William Marples and Ellen his wife, John Roper and Elizabeth his wife, William Roper and Mary his wife, and George Kent and Ann his wife, *defendants*; of 30 acres of land in *Barlborough*.

*Fine Hil. 35 and 36 Car. II., Derby (1684).*—Between Ralph

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\* By his will, dated 12 July, 1639, Robert Pierrepont, Earl of Kingston, gave to the said Robert Marples 100 marks.

Heathcote, clerk, John Greaves, and Elihu Hodkyn, *plaintiffs*, and Francis Willoughby, gent., and Mary his wife, Robert Jarvis and Mary his wife, and Elizabeth Marples, spinster, *defendants*; of one messuage, 30 acres of land, 3 acres of meadow, 28 acres of pasture, and common of pasture for all cattle in *Barlborough*.

*Fine Hil. 36 and 37 Car. II., Derby (1685.)*—Between John Renshawe, gent., Henry Bradley, and Francis Marples, *plaintiffs*, and Thomas Spencer and Elizabeth his wife, William Marples, John Heydon and Susan his wife, and Henry Lowe, *defendants*; of one messuage, one garden, 22 acres of land, 2 acres of meadow, 3 acres of pasture, and of the 16th part of the Manor of Darleigh, and other premises in *Darley, Bridgetown, Barlborough, and Staveley*.

*Fine Trin. 2 Jac. II., Derby (1687.)*—Between John Kirke, gent., *plaintiff*, and William Marples and Hellen his wife, *defendants*; of premises in *Barlborough*. \*

Hannah Marples, widow and administratrix, died in November, 1676, and on the 20th March, 1685-6 William Marples, of Barlborough, the eldest surviving son, took out letters of administration of the goods of Robert Marples, deceased, "unadministered by Hannah Marples, his mother, likewise deceased." The surety to this bond was Francis Parkes, of Higham, co. Derby, gentleman.

As, during the great rebellion, the Earl of Kingston was on the side of the Royalists, and was, indeed, slain in the service of the King, we may be sure that Robert Marples espoused the same cause, and it is a matter of history that most of those who followed the king suffered in their estate. A notable example of this, was Colonel Wm. Bullock, of Norton Hall, whose monument in the church of Norton declares how his estate was almost frittered away by the civil wars. I think it probable that the estate of Robert Marples suffered in the same way. At all events, it is not easy to understand upon any other supposition why, after his death, his family should have so soon sold their inheritance.

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\* I have little doubt that, by the fine passed in 1687, the house in which Robert Marples lived was conveyed. Possibly this John Kirke was one of the Kirkes of Anston.

William Marples, eldest surviving son of Robert, lived at Moorside, in the parish of Staveley, which adjoins Barlborough. His son, Samuel Marples, married, on the 11th June, 1696, Margaret, daughter of Robert Wilson, of Ecclesall, near Sheffield, and George Jobson Marples, Esquire, of Brinkcliffe Tower, Ecclesall, and of the Inner Temple, barrister-at-law, is the heir-at-law of and the seventh in direct descent from the above-mentioned Robert Marples, as appears by a pedigree of the family entered at the Heralds' College.

Marples is generally written Mapples or Maples in documents earlier than the 17th century. At this period the letter *a* was universally sounded as the *a* in father now is, and in the Barlborough registers the name is written indifferently Marples, Mapples, or Marpulls.

A True and perfect Inventorie of all the goodes and chatles of Robert Marples, late of Barlbrough, in the countie of Darbie, deceased, praised the sixteenth day of September, *anno regni regis Caroli secundi Angliae, &c. vicesimo octavo annoque domini 1676* by us whose names are hereunto subscribed.

		£	s.	d.
Imprimis his purse and apparell	...	6	06	8
<i>Goodes in the house.*</i>				
Itm one landiron† and Gallowbalke,‡ one Recon-	}	0	10	0
hooke,§ a paire of tonges, one fierpan, two				
toosteing Irons, and one longe plate...				

\* The hall, or house-place. In farm-houses, to this day, the principal "living-room," situated between the parlour and the kitchen, is called the "house." It is here analogous to the modern dining-room. The entrance both to the greater and to the lesser manor house of this period was through this room.

† Generally called andiron, but this is the older and better form, being derived from the French *l'andier*. The andiron consisted "of an iron bar, sustained horizontally at one end by an upright pillar or support, usually ornamented or artistically shaped, at the other by a short foot; a pair of these, also called 'fire-dogs,' being placed one at each side of the hearth, or fire-place, with the ornamental ends to the front, to support burning wood."—*Murray's Dict.*

‡ The iron bar in the chimney from which the reckan-hook was hung.

§ A crook, or hook, for suspending a posnet or other vessel over a fire. The Cath. Angl. has a *rekande*. It is derived from the Icel. *rekendr*, a chain. See *Notes and Queries*, 6th S. xi., 157.

	£	s.	d.
Itm One table ... ..	0	03	9
Two seeled* chaires...	0	04	0
One turned† chaire ... ..	0	01	0
One chiste‡ ... ..	0	01	0
Five Buffet stooles§ ... ..	0	04	2
One Dresser   one smale forme ... ..	0	04	0
One paire of pistles ... ..	0	05	0
One Barrell and some salte ... ..	0	08	0
Two Roopes of unwins¶ and one hammer ... ..	0	00	6
Fourteene pewter dishes foure saltes one cupp two sawcers one pewter botle two flagons eight pewter poringers two pewter plates, in weighte 93 pounds at 10d. a pound in all ... ..	3	17	6
Tenn glass botles ... ..	0	01	6
One Jacke** tipped with silver...	0	02	0
One silver flagon†† foure silver spoones ... ..	5	01	0
One paire of snuffers two shealves with other huslements‡‡ ... ..	0	01	6

\* Pannelled. "The wals of our houses . . . are seeled with oke of our owne."—Harrison's *England*, ed. by Furnivall, part i., 235.

† Turned by the turner's wheel, or lathe. A remarkable chair of this kind was formerly in Hazelbarrow Hall, Norton. I may describe it as a great bundle of spindles.

‡ Chest. *Chiste* occurs in *Havelock the Dane*, 220. Lat. *cista*.

§ The *Prompt. Parv.* has "bofet, a thre fotyde stole." *Buffet* is still used for a stool in Derbyshire.

|| "Dressar where meate is served ou' at."—Palsgrave. "Dressour or bourde whereupon the cooke setteth forth his dishes in order."—Huloet's *Abcedarium*, 1552. Our modern sideboard may be compared with it. In the *Boke of Curtasye*, ed. Furnivall, 1868, p. 195, the clerk of the kitchen is thus directed:

At dressour also he shalle stonde,  
And sett forth mete dresset with honde.

¶ Onions. As the word is derived from the Lat. *uniouem*, acc. of *unio*, this may have been the old pronunciation. I remember a man at Cold Aston being called Onion, though his real name was Unwin.

\*\* A leathern drinking vessel. A vessel of this kind, made of dark leather, tipped with silver, and called a "black jack," was exhibited, amongst other specimens of ancient art, in the Sheffield Cutlers' Hall, in 1885.

†† The value of this silver flagon, probably an heirloom, should be noted. It will appear below that 25 sheep are valued at £5. It was probably a large two-handled cup, like the sconce-tankards used in the colleges of Oxford.

‡‡ Small articles of furniture. The *Cath. Angl.* has "an hustylment, *supellex*, *supellectile*, *utensile*." Long notes on the word will be found both in the *Prompt. Parv.* and the *Cath. Angl.*

*In the kitchen.*

One londiron* one fire pan and tonges one paire of frogest† ... ..	0	12	0
One paire of Cobirons‡ four spitts two drippen pannels	0	07	0
One smother iron§ and other old iron ... ..	0	02	0
Sixe Brasse potts ... ..	2	01	0
Five Brass pannes ... ..	2	01	6
Two dozen of Napkins bein Hugabacks	0	12	0
One dozen more of Hugabacks & 1 dozen & five napkins of Diber¶ .. ..	1	02	0
Eighte linnen pillowbeeres**	0	06	0
Nyne table clothes ... ..	1	10	0
Foure towels and foure cupbordcloths †† ... ..	0	08	0
Thirteene linnen sheets and one paire of hempen sheetes ... ..	2	12	6
One table & a fourme one cupboard ... ..	0	17	4
One Greate Brewen tubb ... ..	0	05	0
One fire pann ... ..	0	01	6
One penn Bowke‡‡ four kitts§§ two bowles one truncke one dish cradle one syle    six piggons¶¶ one Brass Morter one Iron pestle & three dozen of trenches***	0	09	0

\* See *landiron* above.

† I do not understand this word. Possibly it means the irons upon which the tongs, &amp;c., rested.

‡ The irons by which the spit is supported.—*Halliwell*.

§ A flat-iron for "ironing" or smoothing linen, etc.

|| *Huckaback*, a coarse kind of linen.

¶ Diaper.

\*\* Pillowcases. The word occurs in Chaucer as *pillwe-bere*. Palsgrave has "pyllowe bere, *taye doreillier*."†† "A cupboard-cloth or carpet. *Tapes*."—Baret's *Alvearie*, 1580. "Cup-board or dresser. *Abacus*."—Huloet's *Abcedarium*, 1552. "A cupboarde to set plate upon."—Cooper's *Thesaurus*, 1573. A cupboard was a small table upon which bread and wine were placed; a table for cups to stand on. "Cup-bordes layde with carpettes and cuysshyns."—*The Boke of Keruinge*, p. 169. Ed. by Mr. Furnivall for the Early English Text Soc., 1868.‡‡ "*Bouke*, a pail."—Halliwell.

§§ "A wooden vessel."—Halliwell. Still in use, I hear, as a wooden pail, with one handle, for holding milk.

||| A strainer, or sieve, for milk. "A mylke syle. *Colatorium*." *Cath. Ang.*

¶¶ "Small wooden vessels, made in the manner of half barrels, and having one stave longer than the rest for a handle."—Halliwell.

\*\*\* Trenchers.

	£	s.	d.
One brandiron* two lead panns one chaire one old kimble† with other huslements‡ ... ..	0	04	0

*In the Chamber over the kitchen.*

Itm two kimbles ... ..	0	07	0
One pair of Iron Racks ... ..	0	06	8
One Stryke § ... ..	0	01	6
One close stoole pott and three scutles ¶ ... ..	0	01	0

*In the New House. ¶¶*

Two tables and one fourme ... ..	0	18	0
One livery table** one Deske one seeled†† chaire... ..	0	08	0
Three Turned chaires one truncke ... ..	0	05	6
One Green carpit ... ..	0	06	0
One Raper‡‡ ... ..	0	05	0
A Libry of Books ... ..	3	06	8

*In the Well Parlour. §§*

One stand bed with the beding on it being one feather bead two boulsters two pillowes two blankets one Rugg and one paire of sheetes ... ..	2	03	4
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\* "Brandiron, or posnet. Chytra." Baret's *Alvearie*, 1580.

† A brewing vessel. The *Prompt. Parv.* has "Kymlyne or Kelare, vesselle. *Cunula*." The word is found in Chaucer. Halliwell gives *Kembing*, a brewing vessel, as a Lincolnshire word. In *Cath. Angl.* the word appears as "a kymmelle, *amula*." Mr. Herrtage, in his note to the *Cath.*, describes the word as meaning "a large tub, made of upright staves, hooped together in the manner of a cask. They are used for salting meat in, for brewing, and such like purposes."

‡ See previous Note.

§ "Stryke, to give measure by, *roulet a mesurer*."—Palsgrave.

¶ A. S., *scutel*, a dish, or bowl. In Baret's *Alvearie*, 1580, is "scuttle, *sportula*."

¶¶ Evidently the Library.

\*\* "A livery," says Way (*Prompt. Parv.*, 308), "denotes whatever was dispensed by the lord to his officials or domestics annually, or at certain seasons; whether money, victuals, or garments." Halliwell gives "a livery cupboard," *q. v.* The *Cath. Angl.* has "lyveray of mete."

‡‡ See previous Note.

‡‡ Rapier?

§§ Probably so called from its proximity to a draw-well. Within a few feet of the window of an oak-panelled room of a house at Cold Aston, in Dronfield parish, called Ockley Hall, was a deep draw-well.

	£	s.	d.
One half headed bed with the beding one feather bed one paire of blankets one bed hilling* one paire of sheetes one boulster one paire of curtaines ...	1	10	0
One Chiste ... ..	0	08	0
One Livery table one deske one paire of tables one carpit ... ..	0	08	0

*In the ould mans chamber*

One seelde bedsteade one boulster two pillowes three coverlets one feather bead one paire of blankets one paire of curtaines ... ..	2	12	0
Two chistes one little table ... ..	0	08	0

*In the Well Chamber*

One seeled bed one featherbed on it, one boulster one paire of sheetes one blanket one Ruggé ...	3	00	0
Two chists one covert chaire ... ..	0	05	6
Two little boxes one lookeing glass with other huslements ... ..	0	02	6

*In the servantes parlour*

One beadstead one featherbead one pair of Sheetes two blankets two coverlets and one boulster ...	1	15	0
One cloose stoole three shelves three Buffet fourmes one plancke with other huslements ... ..	0	05	0

*In the sellour*

One Guyle fatt† three loomes three barrells one soe‡ one piggen one tunnndish§ with other huslements	1	10	0
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*In the New Chamber*

One bedstead one feather bed on it and one boulster	2	00	0
Six chaire frames three buffet frames ... ..	0	09	0
One childe chare with other huslements ... ..	0	01	6

\* Covering.

† A wort tub; the tub in which the liquor ferments.—*Halliwell*.‡ "A large tub, holding from twenty to thirty gallons, and carried by two men on a stang, or pole, is called a *so*."—*Halliwell*. Palsgrave has "soo, a vessel, *cune*." In "Wright's Vocabularies" is "*tina*, a soe." "*Tina*, a great bolle which beyng full of wine every man might drinke as he would."

§ A wooden funnel through which liquor is poured into casks.

					£	s.	d.
<i>In the Deary</i>							
Itm two chearnes	...	...	...	...	0	05	0
Two flesh kitts	...	...	...	...	0	04	0
One cheese tubb	...	...	...	...	0	03	0
Five Butter potts	...	...	...	...	0	01	6
Two Bowles two trunckes	...	...	...	...	0	02	0
Foure Dressors	...	...	...	...	0	07	0
One plate of leade & one grater*	...	...	...	...	0	02	0
One cleaver	...	...	...	...	0	00	6
One voider † with other huslements	...	...	...	...	0	01	6
<i>In the Entry</i>							
One large cupboard	...	...	...	...	0	13	4
One peazehooke ‡ & three pikeforks	..	...	...	...	0	01	4
<i>In the neather parlour</i>							
One table	...	...	...	...	0	04	0
One londiron fyre pann & tonges	...	...	...	...	0	04	0
One coach chaire §	...	...	...	...	0	03	0
Two setworke chaires	...	...	...	...	0	06	8
Foure Buffet stooles	...	...	...	...	0	05	0
One counter table	...	...	...	...	0	03	0
Two Mapps	...	...	...	...	0	01	0
<i>In the Chamber over ye Neather Parlour</i>							
One table	...	...	...	...	0	06	0
One large chiste	...	...	...	...	0	09	0
Woolle	...	...	...	...	0	10	0
One still	...	...	...	...	0	08	0
One paire of hempen sheetes	...	...	...	...	0	06	0
Whyte hangeinges for a bed	...	...	...	...	0	05	0
One hempinge    table cloth	...	...	...	...	0	02	0

\* "Grater to grate bread. *Tyrocnestis*."—Baret's *Alvearie*, 1580. Grated bread was much used in old cookery.

† "A basket, or tray, for carrying out the relics of a dinner or other meal, or for putting bones in."—*Halliwell*. The word is still in use.

‡ Probably a fork for pease straw.

§ Dr. Cox informs me that he has heard "coucher," meaning a settle with a high back. I have seen "coach chair" in other inventories.

|| Perhaps hempen.

	£	s.	d.
One linnen table cloth ... ..	0	03	0
One Dyber table cloth ... ..	0	07	6
One dozen of course Napkins ... ..	0	02	0

*In the Garner Chamber*

Two londirons ... ..	0	05	0
One paire of cobirons six wean* stroaks† with other ould iron ... ..	0	18	3

*Goodes in the stable*

Three horses three mares and the horse geares ...	32	00	0
One beange‡ one hay heackes§ & two bords ...	0	08	0
Two sadles ... ..	0	10	8
Two pykeforkes one shovell ... ..	0	01	4

*Beas in the yarde*

One Gray coulte ... ..	2	10	0
One Blacke filley and one bay coulte ... ..	4	00	0
Six oxen ... ..	30	00	0
Five coves ... ..	15	00	0
One Heffer one Bullocke one Bull calfe and three other calves ... ..	9	00	0
Two younge calves ... ..	1	10	0
One Bull ... ..	2	13	4
Five and twenty sheepe ... ..	5	00	0
Tenn Swyne ... ..	3	00	0

*In the yarde*

Two corne waines ... ..	4	06	8
Two corke   waines ... ..	4	00	0
One corke carte ... ..	3	00	0
Seaven ston troughes ... ..	1	05	0
One great Sled¶ ... ..	0	03	4

\* Wain, wagon.

† The iron hoops by which cart wheels are bound. More frequently written *strake*.‡ A corn bin. The *Prompt. Parv.* has "*bynge. Theca, cumera.*"

§ The bars from which horses eat hay, etc.

|| I do not understand this.

¶ Dray, or sledde, which goeth without wheelles."—*Baret*. Generally used for carrying ploughs to the field.

	£	s.	d.
Two stand Heckes* ... ..	0	03	0
One Oxeharrow† & two horse harrows ... ..	0	12	0
Three ladders ... ..	0	10	0
Three ploughs & the irons ... ..	1	00	0

*In the Beaste houses*

One shelve waine copp‡ three boardes one wean shealven and one litle sled ... ..	0	08	6
Two pair of wean shealvins one swath rake one carte peece and other huslements there ... ..	0	19	6
Hempe ... ..	0	04	0
Tymber and other wood ... ..	2	03	4
One grindlestonn§ ... ..	0	04	0
One myllston ... ..	0	01	6
Foure yoks   & two teames and a pair of lanes¶ ... ..	0	14	0
Two wean ropes ... ..	0	02	0
Three sives one mault shovell ... ..	0	01	0
One window sheete and 3 sacks ... ..	0	05	0

*In the Barne*

Wheate and Barley ... ..	21	13	4
Pease and oates ... ..	28	00	0
For Hay in the Barne and Stacke ... ..	19	03	4
Five acre of Barley earth ... ..	05	10	0
Eleaven acre of Fallowes ... ..	2	15	0
Eight geese 4 hens 1 cocke and one turkey with all other huslemt. whatsoever ... ..	0	11	0
The whole sume ... ..	£265	5	3**

William Johnson	}	prisers
Thomas Chambers		
George Machen		
Joseph Drue		

\* Four-sided racks in a farm-yard.

† Ploughing was at this time, and for many years afterwards, done by oxen.

‡ Top.

§ Grindstone. Cf. Grindleford Bridge, near Hathersage.

|| Yokes. (?)

¶ Perhaps whipping lines for guiding oxen in ploughing.

\*\* By this inventory a cow is valued at £3. Assuming that £22 is now the average price, the total sum represents nearly £2,000 of our money.