

THE MILBOURNE ALMS-HOUSES, AND A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE FOUNDER AND HIS FAMILY.

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Probably the reader will recollect the picturesque and characteristic buildings of brick, partly faced with stone, with an arched gateway, and high-pitched roof of red tiles, until lately standing on the right-hand side of Coopers Row, on the way from Crutched Friars to Tower Hill. These were alms-houses, founded by Sir John Milbourne, Knt. Lord Mayor of London in 1521.

On the 24th Nov. 1534, 26 Hen. VIII. Sir John Milbourne purchased of the prior (Edmund Stretham) and Convent of the Crossed Friars a plot of ground next adjoining on the south to the choir or chancel of their conventual church, and for some time within the precinct of the said convent; which plot is described as containing on the east part thereof from north to south, viz. from south-east corner of the said church, along by the highway there, unto the new house of one John Martin, 115 feet and one inch of assize, and in breadth from east to west, viz. from the before-mentioned way to the convent garden, 16 feet 6 inches of assize, etc. etc.; the whole being about one-eighth part of an acre. On this piece of ground he soon after erected thirteen cottages, or tenements of brick and timber, and placed therein thirteen aged poor men—with the wives of such as were married—who were to live rent-free, and to receive 2s. 4d. each the first day in every month for ever. By a deed-poll dated 5th March, 1535 (26 Hen. VIII.), the founder granted the before-mentioned thirteen tenements erected by him, and a void piece of ground, the whole containing one-eighth part of an acre, unto William Dolphin, citizen and draper of London, and his heirs for ever. The purport of this grant is set forth in the will of William Dolphin, dated 24th March, 1535, in which he recites that he was seised in fee by reason of the gift and feoffment of Sir William Kingston and others, bearing date 1st

Jan. 1535 (26 Hen. VIII.), of the premises hereafter-mentioned, viz. five messuages in Thames Street, in the parish of St. Lawrence Pountney, two messuages in the parish of St. Nicholas near Newgate, two messuages against the gate of St. Martin's-the-Great, also of two messuages which he had of the gift and feoffment of Sir John Milbourne, Knt. Dame Joane his wife, and Nicholas and William Chester her sons, in the parish of St. Mary Aldermary, in the ward of Cordwainers Street, and bounded on the east by the King's highway, being in all eleven messuages or tenements; and further recites that he was also seised by virtue of the gift and feoffment of the said Sir John Milbourne of thirteen tenements, gardens, etc. with their appurtenances, of late newly built by the said Sir John Milbourne in the parish of St. Olave's, near the Tower of London, which tenements by the name of an eighth part of an acre, with their appurtenances, the said Sir John recovered by the King's writ in the Court of Hustings, 26 Hen. VIII. 1535. William Dolphin, by his will, devised all these several messuages and premises to the Master, Wardens, Brethren, and Sisters of the Guild or Fraternity of our Blessed Lady of Drapers, and their successors; to the intent that they and their successors, with part of the rents and profits, should repair and re-build the several messuages and the said thirteen tenements from time to time when found requisite; and that, with part of the profits, they should yearly distribute on the first day of every month 32*s.* 10*d.* among thirteen poor men, being householders, married or unmarried, especially such as shall have most need, and shall be brethren and sisters of the said Company, and of good conversation; and that such as were admitted to the said alms should be resident in any of the said tenements appointed to them, and should not sell ale, wine, etc. etc.; the 32*s.* 10*d.* to be divided equally among the said thirteen poor persons at the rate of 7*d.* per week to each; and in case there should not be found a sufficient number of poor householders within the Drapers' Company to receive the said alms, that then the number required to fill up any vacancy or vacancies should be elected from other householders of the parishes of St. Edmund the King in Lombard Street, and St.

Bartholomew the Little; and he also directs if any of the almsmen die leaving a widow, that she shall remain, receive, and enjoy the said alms as long as she shall remain a widow; and that the thirteen poor men so receiving the said alms of 7*d.* per week shall be called “The poor Bede-men or Almsmen of Sir John Milbourne and Dame Joane his wife.”*

Sir John Milbourne having erected a tomb in his lifetime in the Church of the Crossed Friars, appointed a solemn obit or anniversary to be kept in that church during the lifetime of himself and Dame Joane his wife, and after his and her decease for their souls; he directed that his thirteen bedemen were to come daily unto the said church, where they should in some convenient place near to his tomb remain, whilst the service of God—or at least until the whole mass—which daily should be performed in the said church at 8 o’clock in the morning, should be sung or said for evermore at the altar called “Our Lady’s Altar,” in the middle isle of the said church founded by him; to the intent that the thirteen poor bedemen before the beginning of the said mass “one of them standing right over against the other, about and encompassing” his tomb or burial place, and severally two and two of them together, should say the psalm *De profundis*, and a paternoster, ave, and creed, with the collect belonging to same; which prayers he directs them specially to say for the good and prosperous estate of himself, Dame Joane, and their children and friends living, and after their decease for his soul, the soul of Dame Joane his wife, and the soul of Margaret his first wife, their fathers, mothers, children, friends, and all Christian souls.†

The Master and Wardens of the Drapers’ Company and their successors, for their time and trouble in seeing the 32*s.* 10*d.* monthly distributed, to have yearly 20*s.*, viz. : the Master, 6*s.* 8*d.*; the Wardens, 3*s.* 4*d.* each; the clerk, 3*s.*; the beadle, 2*s.*; and the renter for his labour in paying the almsmen, 5*s.*; and if the Company neglect to pay the alms monthly, they are to forfeit 20*s.* etc. etc.

* Report on Charities, vol. 32, p. 2, pp. 395-6-7, 1838.

† Stowe’s London, vol. i. b. 2, p. 74.

The Report on Public Charities 1838 states that the records of the Drapers' Company do not furnish any direct evidence as to the property they acquired under the will before mentioned, and that no separate account had been kept of the yearly receipts of this charity, but the payments to the almspeople had been charged to the account called the "Charities General." In this Report it is mentioned that the almshouses were then sixteen in number; but that there was not any evidence as to when the three additional houses were added; and it also mentions certain properties of the Drapers' Company which appear to answer the description of those described in the said will. It further states that the revenues derived from the same amounted to £589 13s. 10d., which is carried to the account called "Charities General;" and that five of the people of this charity were then receiving £2 2s., and the remaining eleven £1 11s. 6d. each every month; that £2 was divided among them on the day of the Company's visitation, after the rate of 2s. 6d. each, besides which they had a yearly allowance of coal.

Over the gateway of these almshouses,* previous to their demolition, was an ancient piece of sculpture representing the assumption of the Virgin. On each side of the sculpture were two armorial shields; those on the right-hand side at top being the arms of Sir John Milbourne, and those on the left probably those of his wife Joane Hill. Below were shields of the Drapers and of the Merchants of the Staple.

Beneath was the following Latin inscription :--

"Ad laudem Dei et gloriose Virginis Marie hoc opus crexit dominus Johannes Milbourne miles et alderman' hujus civitatis, A.D. 1535."

This had disappeared long before the demolition of the old buildings, and was replaced by a verse in our mother tongue to the like effect. In another part of these buildings was Milbourne's merchant's mark.

The Drapers' Company, having purchased a small estate at Tottenham, erected thereon, in 1862, a school-house for fifty boys, with suitable accommodation for the masters and attend-

* Of this gateway there is a pretty etching in Archer's "Vestiges of Old London."

ants, and twenty-four almshouses at a cost considerably above £20,000. To these almshouses they removed the sixteen alms-people from Coopers Row, and also eight alms-people from their almshouses in Beech Lane, Barbican.

The new Milbourne almshouses are distinguished by the arms of Sir John Milbourne being affixed on the front of each house, and the ancient pieces of sculpture removed from over the arched gateway of the old buildings are also preserved at Tottenham (see the vignette at the end of this article).

The old almshouses in Coopers Row were demolished very shortly after the removal of their occupants, and extensive warehouses have since been erected on their site.

As a preface to the following brief history of Sir John Milbourne and his family, I may mention some early residents in London of the same name. Although I have not as yet been able to connect them, I hope to succeed at some future period in so doing. From what I have already discovered I am led to infer that the several Milbournes hereafter named, as well as Sir John, were descended from the ancient family of Milbourne of Milborne Port, Somersetshire, from which township the family is said to have derived its surname, the name being a compound of two Saxon words, *i.e.* *Myl* or *Mylen*, a mill, and *Burn*, a torrent.*

This family seated at Milborne Port were owners, temp. Edw. III., of the manor of Esher Wateville, in Surrey,† which is to the present time called Esher Wateville alias Melbourne.‡ William de Milbourne of Milborne Port, afterwards of Esher Wateville, served as Knight of the Shire for the county of Surrey, 51 Edw. III.§ and two of the same family served the office of Sheriff of Surrey, 11 John and 50 Edw. III.||

* Collinson's Hist. Somersetshire, vol. ii. pp. 352 and 355.

† Manning and Bray's Surrey, vol. ii. pp. 744, 745.

‡ Sir William de Milbourne, knight, of Milborne Port, obtained this manor by marriage with Margery, daughter of Nicholas de Wynton and granddaughter of Robert de Wateville, early in the reign of Edward III., and it continued in the possession of the Milbourne family until the reign of Henry VIII., when it passed, through failure of heirs male, into the family of Fawkenor.

§ Rot. Claus. 51 Edward III. m. 12 dorso.

|| Manning's and Bray's Surrey, vol. i. pp. xxxi. xxxiv.

With reference to the early Milbournes of London, some were evidently citizens of note, and held important civic and other offices.

The earliest mention of the name in London is that of "Robert Milborne," sheriff in 57 Henry III., 1272, who, with "Peter Cosyn," his colleague in that office, was convicted before the Barons of the Exchequer, on the day of the feast of St. Andrew, for taking "mede" of the bakers of London, and not permitting them to be corrected and justified, wherefore the said sheriffs were deposed from their offices, and John Bedle and Richard Parys appointed in their stead.* In the year 1427, at the first founding of the Grocers' Hall, the name occurs; John Wellys, alderman, being named governor, and John Melborne and John Olyve masters.†

Probably this John was father of Joane Milborne, who is recorded to have married John eldest son of Robert Englefield, of Wotton Basset, Wilts, which John died 26 Feb. 1464.‡ In Michaelmas term, 6 Edw. IV. I find one William Melbourne, citizen and "payntour" of London, engaged in a lawsuit with John Pant, gent. of Yoxhale, in the county of Stafford, Thomas Lanc late of Hadleigh in the county of Essex husbandman, and Sir William Vernon late of London.§ The mention of Hadleigh in this case, and the record of a grant by Henry Raynford to William Melbourne and William Broun of certain lands in Hadleigh, dated 20 April, 1448, 26 Hen. VI.|| may be taken as some proof of his connection with the family of Melbourne, who appear to have resided at Hadleigh from about this period to early in the reign of Henry VIII. Probably he was a son of William Melbourne of London, who is mentioned as father of Margery the wife of William Kirton esquire. Stephen Kirton esquire, of Thorp Maundeville, grandson of the before-mentioned William and Margery, was an alderman of London,

* Lond. Chron. Tyrrell, pp. 25, 26.

† Hist. Grocers' Company, p. 4.

‡ English Baronetage, vol. i. p. 256.

§ Placita de Banco Michaelmas Term, 6 Edw. IV. m. 33 dorso and m. 281.

|| Rot. Claus. 26 Hen. VI. p. 1, m. 9 dorso.

and father of Thomas Kirton, Common Serjeant of the city of London, who died in 1601.* I find the Kirton and Raynsford or Raynford families united by marriage about this time. The Milbourne arms quartered on the Kirton shield are identical with those belonging to the Milbournes of Somersetshire. The said William Melbourne was elected Chamberlain of the city of London; which office he held until the 22 Hen. VII.† Agnes his wife died in the year 1500, and was interred in the parish church of St. Vedast Foster, where the following epitaph is recorded by Weever to have been placed in the church to her memory :—

Lord of thy infinit grase and pitee,
 Haue mercy on me, Agnes sometym the wyf
 Of William Milborne, chamberlein of this citee,
 Which toke my passage fro' this wrechyd lyf
 The year of grase On thousand on hundryd and fyf
 The xii day of July, no longer was my spase,
 It plesyd then my Lord to call me to his grase :
 Now ye that are liuing, and see this picture,
 Prey for me here whyle ye haue time and spase,
 That God of his goodnes wold me assure
 In his euerlasting mansion to haue a plase †

This is described by Stowe as a fair plated gravestone in the middle isle.

The Milbournes of London were not altogether faultless, for it is recorded on the Patent Roll 22 Hen. VIII. that the King granted a pardon to Elizabeth Milborne, late of London, spinster, for a felony committed on the goods of John Roy at Westminster to the extent of 26s. 8d.§ Among the names of the aldermen and commons mentioned in the Treaty of Commerce between the City of London and the City of Bayonne dated 15 June, 1442,|| occurs that of Johannes Melborne; possibly this is the same John who is before mentioned as Master of the Grocers' Company.

Although I have not ascertained the ancestry of Sir John

* Baker's Northamptonsh. vol. i. p. 719. † Journals, Court of Common Council.

‡ Weever's Ant. Fun. Mon. p. 390. § Pat. Roll, 22 Hen. VIII. p. 1, m. 4.

|| Collect. Gen. of French doc^{ts} to be found in England, p. 262.

Milbourne, beyond the name and residence of his father, I have strong reasons to believe him to have descended from the family anciently seated at Milborne Port, and also think him to have been allied to the family of Milbourne of Great Dunmow, in the county of Essex, my own ancestors. The early historians of London describe *his father as being John Milbourne, of Long Melford, in the county of Suffolk.*

Sir John Milbourne appears to have first resided in the parish of St. Bartholomew the Little, besides St. Anthony's, in the ward of Bread Street, and afterwards and up to the time of his decease in the parish of St. Edmund the King. In 1510 (2 Hen. VIII.) he was made Sheriff of London,* and his name is recorded as one of the commissioners of the King's subsidies in the 5th and 6th of that reign; † he was also appointed 27 August, 1513 (5 Hen. VIII.), one of the commissioners to seize and sell the goods of Scotchmen in London; ‡ he was elected alderman of Baynard's Castle ward, § and was Master of the Drapers' Company in 1514 and 1515. || He seems to have been very fond of litigation, for his name frequently occurs, temp. Hen. VIII. both as plaintiff and defendant in law-suits. Of his first wife Margaret or her family I am unable to say more than that she must have died previous to the year 1518, and was buried in the conventual church of the Crossed Friars, for on the 21st July in that year Sir John and his then wife (late the wife and executrix of John Chester, draper of London), presented the Drapers' Company with a "Beryall-cloth of the value of 1^c marks for the wele of the soul of the said John Chester in especiall and all other his good friends in generall; ¶" a *salve to her conscience for her third marriage, for her second husband (Chester) left her half his goods and chattels, which bequest, he says in his will, he left the larger on condition that she would never marry, as she had promised him.*

* Grafton's Chronicle, vol. ii.

† Statutes of the Realm, Hen. VIII. pp. 118, 172.

‡ Letters, &c. Foreign and Domestic, Hen. VIII. 4581.

§ Harl. MS. Brit. Mus. 1049.

|| Herbert's Hist. of Twelve Great Companies, vol. ii. p. 413.

¶ Herbert's Hist. of Twelve Great Companies, vol. ii. p. 444.

In the year 1521 (13 Hen. VIII.), Sir John was elected Lord Mayor of London; and on the 6th of June in the following year he is said by Grafton to have had the honour of receiving King Henry VIII. and the Emperor Charles the Fifth on their visit to the City, on which occasion he is described as meeting the King and Emperor, well horsed, and both himself and his brethren dressed in fine scarlet. Probably it was at this period that he received the honour of knighthood. By his first wife, Margaret, he had issue Gilbert Milbourne; and Marion, who married, first, — Burton, by whom she had issue two sons, Thomas and Ralph Burton; her second husband was Robert Fermer, citizen and leather-seller, of London.* Gilbert, his son, or as he styles him in his will (of which more hereafter), Sir Gilbert, in all probability, was a priest. The second wife of Sir John was Joane, relict (as I have shown) of John Chester; her father was — Hill, of London.† She had been twice married previously to her marriage with Sir John; *i.e.* first to — Wellis, by whom she appears to have had issue a son, Anthony Wellis; and, secondly to John Chester, by whom she had issue Nicholas Chester and Sir William Chester, draper and merchant of the Staple, knighted at Greenwich during his shrievalty by Queen Mary, 7 February 1555-6, and elected Lord Mayor of London in 1560, and Member of Parliament for the same in 1562.‡ By her marriage with Sir John Milbourne there was not any issue. He died the 5th day of April, 1536|| (27 Henry VIII.). By his last will and testament, which bears date the 10th June 1535, in the same regnal year,§ after the then usual and formal bequest of his soul to the Almighty God, the blessed Virgin Mary, and all the holy company of Heaven, he directs that his body should be buried before the altar of our Lady in the midst of the middle isle within the conventual church of the Crossed Friars within Aldgate; at which altar the prior and

* Rot. Claus 28 Hen. VIII. p. 1, No. 76.

† Heralds' Visitation Midd. 1568 (printed for the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society) p. 2.

‡ *Ibid.* p. 4.

|| Harl. MSS. Brit. Mus 897, f. 13.

§ Book Hogen, f. 35. Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Doctors' Commons, Lond.

convent there be bound daily for evermore to say a mass for his soul, the souls of his wives, and for the souls of his and their fathers, mothers, children, benefactors, and all christian souls. He also directs that a tomb shall be made over his body, where it shall be buried according to the discretion of his executors, and bequeaths to the prior and convent of the Crossed Friars for his sepulture there to be had, and to the intent that they shall pray specially for his and the souls above-mentioned, £5. After bequest to the high altars of the parish churches of St. Edmund Lombard Street, St. Bartholomew the Little, and St. Bennet Finck, he bequeaths twenty shillings each to every of the four orders of friars in London, *i.e.* Friar Preachers, Carmelites, Mynours, and Augustins, to the intent that the prior and convent of each order shall come and bring his body to its sepulture, and say in every of their conventual churches a trental of masses for his soul, etc. within seven days next after his decease; and to the said prior and convent of the Crossed Friars for like intent 20 shillings. He then directs his executors within three months next ensuing after his decease to have 1000 masses said and sung for his soul, etc. which masses are to be sung by such priests that have not any benefices or charged to pray for any other; and every priest so employed to have for his labour 6 pence. He also bequeaths to 153 poor men and women* a black gown, a black gown of linen or cotton, and a pair of black beads each, and directs them to be at his burial and mass of requiem, and to pray specially for his soul, etc. Then follow bequests to the convent of the Charterhouse beside London and the convent of the Charterhouse at Shene, the abbess, sisters, and brethren of Sion, and a bequest of 20s. to the brotherhood of 60 priests in London, of which he describes himself a brother, to the intent that they shall come to his burial and pray specially for his soul and the souls above mentioned; he further directs his executors to distribute in bread, drink, and victual to and among the poor prisoners in the prisons of Newgate, Ludgate, the two Compters, King's Bench, and Marshalsea, to

* The number of the miraculous draught of fishes, the same which was fixed by Dean Colet for the scholars of his grammar-school at St. Paul's.

the amount of 40 shillings to each prison, and also a further amount of 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for the redemption of the fees only of said poor prisoners. Then follow bequests to the poor people within the Lazar-houses within two miles within and about the city of London, and to every of the 13 poor beadmen of St. Anthony's in London, 12 pence. (This is the only mention of the alms-people in the Will.) To every sister in the Hospitals of St. Mary Spittel without Bishopsgate, Elsing Spittel, St. Bartholomew's Spittel in West Smithfield, and St. Thomas Spittel in Southwark, 12*d.*; and towards the repair and support of the beds for poor people resorting to the said spittels, 100 ells of canvas at 4*d.* or 5*d.* the ell: to the parish church of St. Edmund's in Lombard Street a suit of vestments of red cloth of gold of the value of 40*l.* or 50*l.* sterling or about the same, to be at the discretion of his executors. Next follow bequests of 20*l.*, *i. e.* 6*s.* 8*d.* each, to the marriage of 60 poor maidens of the town or parish of Long Melford, in the county of Suffolk; and to 13 poor people of the same place weekly, every Sunday, during a term of ten years, 13 penny loaves, to the intent that they shall come to the parish church of Long Melford, and there kneel down before the Holy Sacrament at the high altar and say a paternoster, an ave, and a credo, for his soul and the souls before mentioned. To his son, whom he describes as Sir Gilbert Milbourne, he only bequeaths £40 sterling to be paid him after the rate of 13*s.* 4*d.* quarterly until the whole is paid, with reversion of such part of the £40 that may remain unpaid through decease of Sir Gilbert to Thomas and Ralph Burton, sons of his daughter Marion. To this Marion his daughter he bequeaths £500 sterling, to be paid her as he had previously directed his executors, and not in any other manner. To the before-mentioned Thomas and Ralph Burton he leaves 100 mares each. To the master and co-brethren of St. Thomas Acon of London he bequeaths £10, and £10 to the prior and convent of St. Mary Overy in Southwark, to pray specially for his soul and the souls before mentioned; and to the abess and convent of the Minorities without Aldgate he bequeaths 100 mares on condition that the said abess and convent, before receipt of same, shall be bound by deed under their conventual

seal for performing and keeping such obits, anniversaries, and obsequies as they the said abbes and convent by their promises were charged to keep within their conventual church for ever for his soul and the souls of those whose names he had caused to be written down and delivered to the said abbes, and further and to every of the ladies of same convent to pray specially for his soul and souls before mentioned 12*d.* each. He directs his executors, with part of his goods, shortly after his decease, to cause a good, sure, and substantial foundation to be founded within the Fellowship of the Drapers of London, if they will be therewith content, for the performance and sure payment of 4*d.* to every of those thirty of the said Fellowship that shall come and be in his livery yearly, with the master and wardens of the said Fellowship for the time being, to his obit or anniversary which he had founded to be within the conventual church of the Crossed Friars for his soul and souls above mentioned. He bequeaths to the master and wardens of the said Fellowship of Drapers his standing cup of silver with a cover, all gilt, weighing 63½ ozs. To Katherine Smyth, his cousin, and to her heirs for ever he bequeaths all his lands and tenements, with their appurtenances, situate in Long Melford; and the residue of his goods, debts, and chattels, after his debts, burial and funeral expenses paid and his last will and testament fulfilled, he gives to his executors to dispose of according to their discretion, and appoints Dame Johane Milbourne his wife, Bartholomew Linsted prior of the monastery of St. Mary Overy, and Cutbert Becher draper of London, his executors, and his right-trusty friend John Baker, Esq., Recorder of the City of London, overseer of the same, and for his labour in that behalf bequeaths him £4 sterling.

This will is signed "John Milbo'n," and was proved in London 12 May, 1536, by the executors before mentioned.

In accordance with the instructions before described the body of Sir John Milbourne would be buried in the conventual church of Crutched Friars. Stowe, however, asserts that he was buried in the church of St. Edmund the King in Lombard Street. There his widow was certainly interred, as was her son Sir William Chester, Lord Mayor in 1560; and in that church was formerly

a fair monument in the wall on the south side of the chancel,* which bore the following inscription :

D. JOANNI MILBURNO vitrico,
D. JOANNI CHESTERO patri,
D. ROBERTO TEMPESTO genero,
GULIELMUS CHESTERUS posuit.

Elizabetha suo postquam Chestera marito
Sex natos natas octo dedisset, ait :
Non opus in terris nec fas me vivere supra :
Jam sat habes comitum, chare Marite, vale.
Quam quoniam nequii vivam revocare sub auras,
Quod potuit fecit dum fuit ille super.
Illa ex parte suam faciem de marmore duci,
Jussit at ex ista Conjugis ore suæ.
Hac natos, illa natos subjunxit, eodem
Vultu, quippe albos Mors facit esse suos.
Hæc cecidit, manet ille super, quando moriturus
Inscius, at certus quod moriturus erit.

D. JOANNÆ MILBURNÆ secundo marito matri suæ optimæ GULIELMUS CHESTERUS posuit, Anno Domini 1561.

There is some little confusion in these epitaphs as thus given. It is apparent that Sir William Chester commemorated Sir John Milburne his step-father, Sir John Chester his father, Sir Robert Tempest his son-in-law, and Dame Joane Milburne his mother by her second husband. The intervening verses commemorate Sir William Chester's wife Elizabeth,† and they state that she, with her husband, and fourteen children, were represented on the monument. The whole were destroyed at the Fire of London.

Dame Joane Milburne survived her husband Sir John, for nine years, and died 21st September, 1545 (37 Hen. VIII.)‡ By her last will and testament dated 12 November, 1542§ (34 Hen. VIII.) she desires to be buried in the church of St. Edmund, Lombard Street, of which parish she describes herself a parishioner, and bequeaths to the high altar of said church 3s. 4d.

* Stowe's Survey.

† Pedigree of Chester, as before referred to.

‡ Harl. MS. Brit. Mus. 897, f. 13.

§ Book Pynnyng, fol. 36, Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Doctors' Commons.

for tithes forgotten; also to the brotherhood of 60 priests in London to come to her burial to pray for her soul, 10s. 0*d.* She also leaves bequests to the Brotherhood of Pappey and the Brotherhood of Clerks in London, also to come to her burial to pray for her soul; and to the prisoners being in Newgate, Ludgate, the two Compters, the King's Bench and Marshalsea, for bread, drink, and victual to be distributed to the prisoners, to every prison 6s. 8*d.*, and to 80 maiden's marriages £20, viz.: to every maid 5s., to pray for her soul; to her very good friend, Bartholomew Lynsted, sometime prior of St. Mary Overys, near London, she bequeaths 6*l.* 13s. 4*d.* to pray for her soul; to her son Nicholas Chester she bequeaths 400*l.* sterling, to be paid unto him after the rate of 5*l.* sterling every quarter until fully paid, with reversion to his children and the children of his brother William, should he not comply with certain conditions expressed in the will; to the children of the said Nicholas, 200*l.*; to the children of her son William she bequeaths 300*l.*; and, amongst other bequests, to friends and servants, she bequeaths to the 25 wards in London, to be disposed among poor people to pray for her soul, 20s. each; and to the Company of Drapers she bequeaths a cup of the value of 6*l.* 13s. 4*d.* sterling to pray for her soul; to Sir John Baker, Knt.* Under-Treasurer of England, a ring of gold with the five wounds, and to Lady Baker his wife a ring of gold with a tablet diamond; to every sister in the four spittell houses in London, 12*d.* to pray for her soul, and to come to her burial; and she directs her executor, as soon as he conveniently may after her decease, to cause to be "mortised" as many messuages, lands, and tenements as will amount to the clear yearly value above all charges and reprises of £7 10s. 0*d.* to and for the finding of five poor women within the city of London for ever, to each of them 7*d.* per week, to be paid the first day of every month; and for the same intent she bequeaths £250, provided that if she purchased lands for this purpose in her life, then this legacy to be void. The residue of all her goods, debts, jewels, and chattels, after her debts, funeral, and burial expenses paid, and her last will and testament fulfilled, she gives freely

* Her husband's executor.

and wholly unto her son William Chester, for his own use and benefit, and also appoints him sole executor, and her trusty and wellbeloved friend Sir John Baker, Knt. sole overseer, and bequeaths him £20 for his trouble in that behalf. To the will is annexed a codicil, dated 15 July, 1543, in which she reduces the amount bequeathed in will to her son Nicholas Chester, to £300, with the like conditions; this reduction, she says, is owing to her having been, since making of her testament, at divers charges, and also paid divers sums of money for him and for his business. She also directs that an honest priest, of honest conversation and living, shall sing for her soul and the souls of Sir John Milbourne, Knt. and John Chester, and all christian souls, in the parish church of St. Edmund, in Lombard Street; for which she directs the said priest to have a convenient stipend or salary, and the said priest so to sing for the space of two years.

Both will and codicil are signed Jane Milbourne, and were proved the 28th September, 1545, by William Chester her son and executor.



SCULPTURE FROM THE MILBOURNE ALMSHOUSES.