

JAMES HUYSHE,
CITIZEN AND GROCER OF LONDON.

[Paper read at a Meeting of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society,
7th February, 1876.]

I have the honour of exhibiting to the Society some objects relating to James Huyshe, citizen and grocer of London in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Almost all that is known of him by his descendants is stated in the account and pedigree of the family given by Burke in the "History of the Commoners," vol. iv. James Huyshe was the third son of John Huish of Doniford, in the county of Somerset, lived in Cheapside, and was a member of the Grocers' Company. He died 20th August, 1590, and was buried in the church of St. Pancras, Soper Lane. His monumental inscription—quaint Latin verses—is preserved in Stowe's Survey, edit. Strype. His will, dated 7th July, 1590, was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 27th October in the same year. He was twice married; his first wife being Margaret, daughter and heiress of Robert Bouchier, of London, by whom he had issue eleven children. His second wife was Mary, daughter of Moffytt, of Barnet, Herts; she presented him with eighteen more! This extraordinary family is mentioned in Stowe, and is probably equalled in number by none, if we except that of the Highland chieftain who would not count "the lasses;" they went for nothing! Collinson, also, in his History of Somerset, mentions James, and properly, as one of the three most remarkable men of the family, the other two being Oliver de Hywis, Escheator of Somerset, and Alexander Huish, a celebrated divine, who assisted Bishop Walton in the preparation of his Polyglott Bible.

James Huyshe amassed a considerable fortune in trade, and died possessed of landed property in London, Middlesex, Somerset, Essex, Devonshire, Dorsetshire, and Worcestershire. The whole of these estates have long since gone out of the possession of the family, with the exception of those in Devonshire called "Sand," which are now the property of the Rev. John Huyshe, rector of Clyst Hydon, in that county. The ancient mansion on the property (which Risdon in his Survey of Devon describes as a "dainty dwelling") is now occu-

pieced by the farmers of the estate. It was built or enlarged by James himself, or his son and heir Roland; a view of it, published in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1834, is exhibited to the Society. The date 1594 occurs twice on the painted glass remaining in the house. I offer for your inspection one of the designs in painted glass, which represents a pomegranate, surrounded by a wreath of foliage, and surmounted by a royal crown. On each side of the wreath are the letters K.P.

The other objects submitted for inspection are:—

(1.) The silver seal of James Huyshe with his crest; and, quarterly, the arms of *Huyshe*, Argent, on a bend sable three roaches of the field; and *Avenell*: Argent, five fusils in fesse sable between two barrulets gules. For difference, a mullet on a crescent.

(2.) An inventory of James Huyshe's personal property, taken after his decease.

(3.) A schedule, in book form, of his landed property, dated 1587-1589.

(4.) His last will and testament, dated 7 July, 1590.

(1.) The seal, with its ivory handle, calls for no special remark. It is, I am told, a fine specimen of the seal engraver's art of the period.

(2.) The long parchment roll displayed on the walls of the room contains an inventory "of all and singuler the goodes, wares, chattells, howshold stuffe, plate, leasses, readie money, and debts, late belonginge and appertayninge to James Hewishe, cittizen and grocer, of London, deceased, seene, valewed, and apprized by us,

Richarde Wright,
Richard Western, and
Thomas Iken,

Cittizeins of the citie of London, appointed and sworne for the trewe vallowing and appryzing thereof."

The roll is 155 feet long, and its contents remain as yet a mystery, as no one in the family has been bold enough to undertake the task of perusal or transcription. The sum-total is apparently only 5,408*l.* 10*s.*, which at first sight, considering the 50 yards of parchment used in reaching it, is rather disappointing. Allowance must be made, however, for the difference in the value of money at that time.

(3.) The Inventory of James Huyshe's landed property is before

you, in the shape of a MS. book bound in what appears to be part of a missal of the early part of the fifteenth century. On the fly-sheet is written:—

“ 1587.

“ A booke wherein is contained, and briefly sett downe, All such Manno^{rs}, Messuages, Landes, Teñts, Hereditamentes, and other thinges, w^{ch} I hold, or am possessed of, in ffee simple, or by Leas for terme of yeres or otherwise. And of such Evidences and Writinges as I haue concerning the same, viz.—”

I extract from the Inventory only the property lying in London and Middlesex. At folio 11 we find that James Huyshe held—

“ *In the Citie of London.*

“ ffee simple.

Imprimis My owne dwelling house
Called the Gilden Cock scituat in
Cheepside, in the Parrishe of Sainte
Pancras London.”

On the next folio —

“ ffee simple.

It'm. A message wth thap'ten'nces
and certein Wainscott, and Ymplem'tes
about the same w^{ch} I bought of
Samuel Knowles, scituat in the p'ish
of St' Michaell Pr' nr', al's Whittington
Colledge, in the old Reall.”

At folio 13 is a list of the “Ymplementes” contained in the above “message,” curiously illustrating the interior of an Elizabethan merchant's house, which was dwelling and shop combined, as was the custom of those days.

“ THE IMPLEMENTES.

“ *In the Warehous.*

“ Imprimis, The waniscott there, cont. by estim. 50 yardes, or thereabouts, and a portall of waniscott, wth a dore.

“ In the Countinghous belowe.

“ It'm. A pticon [partition] grated, the shelves, and a table to write upon.

“ In the Kitchen.

“ It'm. A double cubbord, a capon coope, the planke bordes, and shelves there, and certein wooden rackes, to laie spittes on.

“ In the Hall.

“ It'm. The waniscott about the same, cont. by estim. 50 yardes, or thereabouts, and two small cubbordes, wth lockes and keies.

“ In the Parlour.

“ It'm. The waniscott about the same, wth two longe settells theronto, and a faire double cubbord of carued waniscott and a portall.

“ In the Countinghous there.

“ It'm. The waniscott there, a table covered wth grene cloth, a waniscott settell, and the shelves there.

“ In the Buttrie.

“ It'm. The shelues there.

“ In the Lower Chamber.

“ It'm. A faire waniscott portall, and the painted clothes there.

“ In the Presse Chamber.

“ It'm. The painted clothes there, a faire waniscott presse, and a waniscott portall.

“ In the next Chamber thereonto, towards the strete.

“ It'm. A waniscott portall and the hanginge of new painted cloth, about the same.

“ In the next Chamber to the same, towards the strete also.

“ It'm. A new waniscott portall, and the hanginges of grene, and redd saye, wth a border of painting theronto.

“ In the Vpper Chamber.

“ It'm. A portall of waniscott, certein epainted clothes, and the waniscott of the countinghouse there and the shelves, and other necessaries, in the said countinghous.”

Judging from the amount of “waniscott” and “painted clothes” this must have been a fine house.

The remaining London property is described (at fol. 15, as :

“ fee simple,

Item A Corner Messuage, wth
 theap'ten'nces, scituat at the Northend of
 Colmanstrete, over against London Wall, in
 the p'ishe of S^{te} Stephen in Colmanstrete
 in London, in the teanure of Tho. Crompe
 fletcher, w^{ch} I bought of M^{rs} Alice
 Midleton.”

After each of the “ Items ” follows a catalogue of the “ Evidences and Writings ” relating to the same.

In the county of Middlesex James Huyshe held (folio 24):—

“ Leas,

Itm A Leas of A Windemill in
 Endfield Chace vpon Mill Hill, als
 Beacon Hill, nere Monke Hadley Church
 and of a little Plott of grounde thereonto
 graunted by the Queenes Ma^{tie}, under seall
 of the Dutchie Court of Lancaster dated
 the 23 daie of November, A^o Regin
 Eius xxvi^{to} for terme of xxxi yeres
 to ffreman Yonge

The Yerelie Rent thereupon to the quene is xx^s.”

At folio 25, under date “ 1589,” we find further

“ fee simple

Imp'inis the Manno^r of Shepperton
 wth thap'ten'nces, in the County aforesaid
 w^{ch} I bought of Mr. John Reed and Mr.
 Lawrence Thompson

It'm the Donac'n and P'ronage of the
 Rectorie of Shepperton aforesaid, to me
 and my heires.

It'm about xx. acres of medow, on Surrey
 side, belonging to this Mannor.”

(4.) *The Will* of James Huyshe is dated 7 July, 1590, and was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 27th October following. It consists of 32 folios, each signed by the testator. The only items in it of local interest are:—

“ To the releif of the poore children, in Christes Hospitall, in

London, twentie poundes in money. To the releif of the poore people in St Bartholomewes Hospitall London ffive poundes in money. To the releif of the poore people, in S^{te} Thomas Hospitall, in Southwarke ffive poundes. towards the redeeming out of prison, of poore people, in the two counters, in Woodstrete, and the Poultrie London Tenne poundes. for the releif of the poore Prisoners, in the Prisons of Newgate in London and the Klnges Bench, and Marshalsea in Southwarke ffortie shillings to ech Prison House, to be bestowed, and distributed in victuals, amongst the poore Prisoners there for their Releif, and succor."

The legacy to Christ's Hospital I find is duly entered in the records of the Institution, under the date 1590, in a book which states the donations received since the founding of the hospital in 1552.

The authorities further inform me that James Huyshe was a governor of the House, and was a frequent attendant at the Courts of the Governors. He appears to have been elected to the office on St. Matthew's Day, 21 September, 1582.

Other bequests are, "to my good ffrindes, the right honorable, S^r John Harte, Knight, nowe Lorde Maior of London, S^r George Bonde, Knighte and Alderman of London, and M^r Nicholas ffuller, esquier, Counsellor in Lawe, eu'y one of them, sixe poundes thirtene shillings and fower pence a peice, in money, and to eu'y one of them a Ringe of golde of the value of ffyve Markes a peice."

And, "It'm I bequeath to the Companie of Grocers in London Thirtie Poundes in money, towards the buying of a new hanginges or wainscott, for Grocers Hall, wherein I will that my armes be sett forth in their right cullors So as the same be done wthin Sixe yeres next after my deceas or els the said Thirtie Poundes to Remaine to my Executors."

His "Dwelling house, called or knowen by the signe of the Gilden Cock," he left to his wife "Marie" [Mary Moffytt], who was to "holde and enjoye for her owne use . . . all the vpper parte and Romes . . . with all the back Romes beyonde the yarde . . . with free ingres, egres, and regres to and from the same by and through the shopp and the two cellers under the shopp going in out on the streteside."

The "shopp" itself, "with the two warehouses adioyning thereunto, and the counting-house in the "shopp," were to be held by his son William and his partner Wm. Bennett. William also inherited the Whittington College and Coleman Street properties.

Rowland Huyshe, eldest son and heir of James, received the Devonshire estates, the whole of the title deeds of which are in possession of my uncle. Among them are documents bearing the signatures of Cecil Lord Burleigh, Sir Francis Drake, Sir John Hawkins.

James Huyshe was evidently a staunch Protestant (he had no doubt witnessed many a "burning" at Smithfield in his younger days), for we find in the will the following clause:—"The next heire of my Linage and bloude . . . to whom this Legacie [the Devonshire property] should accrew or growe yf he be a Papist in profession or Religion he and his issues shalbe excluded from this Legacie and Device as if he weare deade without yssue So as the next heire male, being a Professor of the Ghospell according to the profession of Englande or Geneva, maie receive according to such effect as is ment."

WENTWORTH HUYSHE.



SEAL OF JAMES HUYSHE, OF LONDON,

From the original in possession of the Family. ARMS OF HUYSHE: Argent on a bend sable three roaches of the field quartering AVENEL: argent five fusils in fesse sable between two barrulets gules. Over all, for difference, a mullet on a crescent.