

THE WHITE BEAR, CHEAPSIDE.

IN connection with a crypt or cellar under Nos. 46 and 47 Cheapside, the Bursar of Eton College writes that in 1449 King Henry VI granted to Eton the Leper Hospital of St. James in the Fields of Westminster. In 1531 King Henry VIII ordered an exchange whereby the College had to surrender the hospital of St. James, leaving only the White Bear in Cheapside and other properties which had been attached to the Hospital. The property in Cheapside and Bread Street was sold in 1824 to Mr. P. B. Cow. Appended is a copy of an old lease dated 1544-5 belonging to Eton College, and referring to the rebuilding of the upper portion of the White Bear, the ground floor being referred to as a shop.

The White Beare in London. ffulco Skydmore, 1544-5.

This Indenture made the xxth daye of Marche in the xxxvith yere of the reigne of our soverayne lord Henry the viiith Betwene the moste reverend ffather in god Robert (Aldridge) bysshop of Carlisle and Provost of the Kinges Colleage of our blessed Lady of Eton . . . of the one partye And ffulk Skydmore of London mercer of thother partye Witnessyth that the sayde provoste and college . . . have dymysyd graunted betaken and to ffarme letten . . . to the sayde ffulk . . . all those theyr iiij mesuages or tenements adjoynynge with shoppes celleres soleres warehouses and sheddes and all other theyr appurtynaunces set and being in west chepe and bredstrete in the paroches of saynt mary magdalene in mylkestrete and alhalowen in bredstrete of London in the warde of bredstrete there the whiche be nowe in the severall holdinges of the sayde ffulk

Skydmore, Agnes Cavendysshe wydowe William Crompton mercer and bryan Johnson bocher. To have and to holde all the sayde iiij messuages (ul supra) from (Lady Day next) unto thende and tearme of LXX yeres then next insewinge. . . . Yeldynge and payinge therfore yerly . . . xiiij¹¹ vj^s viij^d sterlinge.

Clause as to arrears of rent.

Ande the sayde ffulk Skydmore . . . covenantith promysyth and grauntyth to and with the sayde provost and colleage . . . that he . . . within the space of one hole yere nowe next insewinge . . . at his . . . own proper costes charges and expenses well suffycyently clenly surely and substancyally in all maner of thynges necessaryes shalle bylde and newe make . . . one fframe mete hable and convenyent for the forefront of oone of the sayde iiij messuages or tenements comonly cawlyd the whyt bere whiche fframe shalbe of three storyes of height above the nether fflore or shoppe of the same message.

And further shall within the sayde space make and do . . . all allmaner of soche further necessarye and convenyent byilding and reparacions in and uppon the sayde message . . . callyd the whyte bere as nowe be there nedefull . . . so that the same message . . . as well the fore front kytchin and all other houses chambers scellers solers warehouses and sheddes of the same . . . may be dewly . . . byldyd made repayryd amendyd ffurnysshyd fulfillyd and throughly perfectyd and donne in all maner of carpentary or tymber worke in all maner of plumbery or leade worke brycke and brucklayinge tylinge and coveringe in all maner of glasinge and in all Iren worke in plasteringe dawbinge and paringe and in all other kynde of stuff. . . .

The tenant to retain rent till it amounts to £73 6s. 8d., then to pay £13 6s. 8d. a year.

Clause as to repairs.

Tenant bound in £200 penalty.