

of a wood. The meeting-house is a plain old-fashioned building. In the little burial ground we find amongst others the graves of the following Friends: Isaac Pennington, d. 1679; Thomas Ellwood, d. at Hunger Hill near Amersham 1713; William Penn, d. 1718 at Ruscombe near Twyford, in Berkshire, his two wives, and five of his children. There are many names of New Englanders in the Visitors' Book.

Nearer to Chalfont St. Peter than the Grove is *The Grange*. The house is modern. Here lived Alderman Pennington, one of the judges of Charles I. He gave the house to his son Isaac when the latter married Lady Springett, the widow of Sir W. Springett, but after the Restoration the estates were given to the Duke of Grafton, and Isaac was only allowed to remain in the house, by sufferance, until he was sent to Aylesbury Gaol as a Quaker. William Penn's first wife was the daughter of Lady Springett by her first husband, so the families of Penn and Pennington were connected, and Penn after his marriage lived at Rickmansworth, close by on the Hertfordshire border.

(To be continued.)

Ancient Introductions to Wills.

By W. C. Fotcham.

Your readers may perhaps be interested to read a few examples of introductions to Wills made previously to the present century. Up to within the memory of persons still living it was the almost universal custom to commence Wills with formula something to the effect of the following. This custom was not altogether confined to Wills as many ancient deeds and documents were made to commence with invocations to the Deity, such as "In the name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity," &c. We need hardly say, however, that, at least in England, this pious custom has long since gone out of use. The examples given below are from Wills of persons who

formerly lived in the neighbourhood of Wantage beginning with the Will of John Clarke, an ancestor of the Clarkes formerly of Ardington.

JOHN CLARKE, of Ardington, 1568 (ancestor of William Nelson Clarke, ancestor of the History of the Hundred of Wantage).—In the name of GOD amen. The 12th daye of Aprill in the yeare of oure Lorde GODD 1568 I John Clarke of Ardington &c. callynge to my remembrance the slipperye and transytorye estate of this worlde and that we have been heare no permanent abydinge but that as pylgrymes passinge this worlde muste seke for the worlde to come which shall endewer for ever havinge therfore desyer (when yt shall please GODD) to come unto the eternell Cyttie whither nonne comythe but such as desyareth the same being in pfecte healthe of bodye and good remembrance do ordeyne constitute and make this my psente and laste Wyll and testament yn manner and forme followinge Fyrste I give and bequethe my soule unto Almyghtie GODD my Maker and Redeemer and to oure Blessed Ladye Sainte Marye the Virgin and all the blessed companye of Heaven fullye hopinge that through the deathe and passion of the second pson of the Holye Trynitie thonlye sonne of GODD begotten before all worldes borne and incarnat of the Blessed Virgin Marye in this worlde that my synnes shalbe and are fully and whollye blottedde away Item I do give &c.

Sir EDWARD CLARKE, of Ardington, 1630.—Seeinge it is the parte of everie man especially in his sicknes or declyning age to enter into a serious consideration of himselfe to make a preparacon for the setting of his minde upon the bounties and mercies of Allmightie God and to dispose of his temporall estate in such manner as it shall please God to directe him and shalbe most for the settinge forth of his glorie I Edward Clarke of &c. doe in all humilitie cast myself down before the mercifull throne of Almightye God givinge unto his holy name all possible thanks for the infinite blessings and mercies imparted unto me from tyme to tyme makinge my humble supplications and prayers that he will be pleased to pardon and forgive my innumerable sinnes and offences and to directe me in this my makinge of this my last Will wth in the name of God the Father Sonne and Holy Ghoste I do ordayne as followeth First I give and bequeath my soule unto the merciful handes of God assuredly hopinge that by the only merite and passion of our Lord Jesus Christ it shalbe incorporated into the

fellowshippe of all saints in the position of everlasting happiness and my body to be buried in the parish Church of Ardington near my grandfather's bodie wth was buried under my seat in the said Church Item I give &c.

JOSHUA BUNCE (An ancestor of the Bunce's at Letcomb), 1716.—In the name of God Amen the 26th day of January in the year of our Lord God 1716-17 I Joshua Bunce of the Parish of St. Giles' in the Fields in the County of Middlesex being sicke weak of body but in perfect mind and memory (thanks be to God) Do make this my last Will and Testament That is to say Principally and first of all I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it And for my body I recommend it to the earth to be Bureyed in a Christianlike manner nothing doubting that at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty powers of God And as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life I give &c.

ALEXANDER PINMORE, Childrey, 1668.—In the name of God Amen the 3rd day of Septr in the year of Our Lord God 1668 I Alexander Pinmore of Childrey in the County of Berks Yeoman being reasonable well in health of body but of ffect (perfect) minde and memory thanks be given unto God therefore and knowing that it is appointed for all men to dye and being willing and desirous to sett things in good order doe make and ordayne this my last Will and Testament in manner and forme following (that is to say) first and principally I give my soule into the hands of God who gave it me and for my body I commend it to the earth to be buried in such decent manner and fitt for a Christian nothing doughting but at the Generall Resurrection I shall receive it again by the Almighty power of God And as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me withall I give &c.

THOMAS SYMMONS, Childrey, 1721.—In the name of God Amen I Thomas Symmonds of Childrey in the County of Berks Yeoman being Aged and Weak of Body but of perfect memory blessed be Almighty God therefore Doe this 19th day of June in the 7th yeare in the reign of or Sovereigne Lord George by the Grace of God of Great Brittain France and Ireland Kinge Defender of the faith and in the yeare of or Lord God 1721 make and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following (that is to say) Imps I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God who gave it me and my body to the earth from whence it came in hopes

of a Joyfull Resurrection through the Meritts of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ And as for that worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God in his mercy to bless me I dispose thereof as follows &c.

ELIZABETH BANTING, Childrey, 1748.—In &c. This 7th day of May in the one and twentieth year of the reign of our Sovⁿ Lord George the 2nd &c. and in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred forty and eight I Elizabeth Banting of Childrey &c. Widow and Relict of Henry Banting late of Childrey aforesaid Blacksmith being of sound and perfect memory thanks to Almighty God but calling to mind the certainty of death and of the uncertainty of the time when and to prevent difference after my decease do make and declare this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say First and principally I recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God hoping thro the merits and intercession of Jesus Christ my most blessed Redeemer to receive remission of my sins and my body I commit to the earth to be decently buried according to the discretion of my Executrixes hereinafter named And as touching my temporal estate such goods and chattels as it hath pleased God to bestow on me do order give and dispose of the same in manner and form as followeth.

THOMAS TAME, of Letcombe Bassett, 1712, 11 Anne.—In &c. I Thomas Tame of Letcombe Bassett in the County of Berks Yeoman being of sound and perfect mind and disposing memory thanks be given to God therefore and calling to mind the certainty of death and uncertainty of time when and to avoid all disputes that may happen after my decease concerning my estate which I shall leave behind me Doe make and ordaine this my last Will and Testament in manner following (that is to say) First I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God who gave it trusting to obteyne Salvacon through the meritts death and passion of Jesus Christ my ever blessed Saviour and Redeemer and my body to the earth from whence itt came to be decently buried att the discrecon of my Executrix hereafter named And as for that worldly estate which God in his Mercy hath bestowed on me I dispose thereof as followeth Imprimis I give &c.

THOMAS LINGEN, of Radbrook Quinton, Glostershire, 1714.—In &c. I Thomas Lingen of Radbrook in the parish of Quinten in the County of Gloucester Esqre being of sound and disposing mind memory and understanding praised be Almighty God do

make this my last Will and Testament in manner following Principally I recommend my soul into the hands of my merciful Saviour trusting in and through the merits and mediation of my blessed Redeemer to inherit eternal life My body I commit to the earth to be privately buried in the nighttime without the least pomp or ostentation and at as small expense as possible as near as I can be laid to a Brass Tomb in the parish church of Quinton aforesaid opposite to a monument lately erected there And in lieu of any unnecessary expense in and about my said funeral (believing it to be a better purpose) I give to the poor of Quinton forty octave books well bound entitled the whole duty of Man and to the parish of Preston-upon-Stewer Twenty of the said Books to be distributed by the Ministers or Curates then officiating in the said respective parishes within three months after my decease one to each poor family provided there is some person in it capable of reading the same Whereas &c.

ROBERT BLANDY, London, 1743 (formerly of East London).—In the Name of God Amen I Robert Blandy of London Mariner now bound on a Voyage to the East Indies and back being in good health of body and of perfect mind and memory praised be God for the same but considering the uncertainty of human life Do make publish and declare this to be my last Will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say First and Principally I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God and my body I commit to the earth or seas as it shall please God to dispose of the same And as to all and every my worldly estate &c.

WILLIAM WESTBROOK, East Hanney, 1683.—In the name of God Amen the 6th January in the yeare of our Lord God 1683. I William Westbrook of East Hanney in the County of Berks Yeoman being of perfect health and memory thanks be given to Almighty God calling to mind the certainty of death and the uncertainty of the time thereof Doe make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner following first I commend my soul unto Almighty God who inspired it hoping and assuredly believing through the alone meritts and passion of my Lord and only Saviour Jesus Christ to be Eternally saved and to inherit a Crown of Everlasting Glory My body I co'mit to the Earth whereof it was made to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executors hereinafter named And as concerning such worldly Estate and substance as it hath pleased God to bless me I give &c.