

## THE WILL OF A MEDIÆVAL KENTISH PARSON.

BY A. H. TAYLOR.

WILLIAM MARSHALL, Clerk, an abstract of whose will proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury is here offered to the readers of *Archæologia Cantiana*, was instituted by Archbishop Morton at Lambeth on the 6th November, 1487, to the perpetual vicarage of the Church of Appledore with the chapel of Ebony annexed, vacant by the death of Richard Multon, the last incumbent, and on the presentation of the Prior and Convent of St. Mary and St. Martin New Work at Dover.<sup>1</sup> Some ten years later he was presented by James Peckham, Esq., Patron of the Church of Warehorne, to that benefice to which he was also instituted by the same Archbishop at Lambeth<sup>2</sup> on the 9th June, 1498, holding both livings until his decease in 1523.

He was a man of considerable wealth and appears to have been frequently in London where he had chambers at the Priory of the Holy Trinity, and at Christ Church; besides residences at Canterbury, Warehorne (where he did not spend so much time as the parishioners wished him to) and Appledore. His will also discloses the names of other well-known persons with whom he was acquainted. Beyond this I have not been able to learn much about him, the items which follow being taken principally from the visitation of Archbishop Warham held in 1511. At the visitation of monasteries held in the chapter house of the cathedral on September 18th in that year, under that of the Convent of St. Martin Novi Operis at Dover, it is recorded :

<sup>1</sup> Reg. Archbp. Morton, fol. 132.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, fol. 165.

*Itm.* q<sup>d</sup> ultimus prior obligant dēm moñ in decem libris dñs Will<sup>mo</sup> Marchall pro quadam annã pensioẽ durante vita ejusdem Marschall.<sup>1</sup>

[That the last Prior bound the monastery to the amount of ten pounds to William Marshall for an annual pension during the life of the said Marshall.]<sup>2</sup>

*Itm.* q. dñs Willmũs Marchall Vicarius de Appuldor cogat ad exhibend assignatione pensios sue apud Aldington.<sup>1</sup>

[That Sir William Marchall Vicar of Appledore should be compelled to exhibit the assignment of his pension at Aldington.]<sup>2</sup>

Aldington being named as the forthcoming visitation of the Deanery of Lymne was to be held there.

This pension of £10 was granted by Robert Norbonne who, according to Dr. Haines,<sup>3</sup> was head of the Priory at Dover from c. 1498-1508, and of whom he states "there is little to record of this Prior." Only two items are mentioned, the second of which is that he bestowed this pension on William Marshall, but for what reason does not appear, neither is it recorded if he produced his authority to receive the pension, or whether it was discontinued or not. It may be further noted that at the institution of Marshall to Appledore there is a reference to a pension being paid to Robert Overton, a former Vicar of Appledore who was also Prior of Dover, but the exact nature of these cross-pensions might well form the subject of further research.

The Visitation was continued and for the Deanery of Lymmene, otherwise Lymne, was held in the parish church of Aldington on the 24th September, when the sermon was preached by Master Rowland Phelipp, S.T.B., Vicar of Croydon. The first entry which concerns William Marshall reads :

<sup>1</sup> Reg. Archbp. Warham, fol. 38b.

<sup>2</sup> *British Magazine*, vol. XXIX, pp. 145-146; also *English Historical Review*, vol. VI, p. 24.

<sup>3</sup> *History of the Priory of St. Mary the Virgin and St. Martin of the New Work, Dover*, by C. R. Haines, D.D., p. 297.

## ECCLĪA DE EBNEY.

*Compertu' est.* That the chauncell is not sufficiently repayrd nother above nor byneth nor in the glasse wyndowes.<sup>1</sup>

[On the 23rd March, 1512, the Vicar of Apledor appeared and the Commissary enjoined him to sufficiently repair the chancel and its windows before the feast of the Assumption under pain of sequestration.]<sup>2</sup>

Ebony is a small parish lying midway between Appledore and Tenterden, the living of which, from mediæval times, was attached to the Vicarage of Appledore, but recently (1928) under an Order in Council, has been annexed to the Vicarage of Stone in the Isle of Oxney.

Coming to his benefice of Warehorne we have two unusual but interesting items :—

## ECCLĪA DE WAREHORNE.

*Compertu' est.* That the p̄son is not Resident but ys alway at Apuldore and maynteigneth a chanon in all his lewdnes.<sup>3</sup>

[Sir William Marshall, the rector, appeared and the Commissary enjoined him to reside personally on that benefice under pain of sequestration. The said Sir William also stated that he did not maintain a canon who performed the service at Appledore in misconduct, and would not do so.]<sup>4</sup>

*Itm.* All the s̄vice tyme he walkith at the chauncell dore<sup>5</sup> hatted and capped and will not goo into the choer(*sic*).<sup>3</sup>

[The said Sir William denied the charge. The Commissary enjoined him to be in the choir singing or saying on Sundays and Festivals at the time of divine service and not to be walking outside the choir under pain of excommunication.]<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Reg. Archbp. Warham, fol. 51.

<sup>2</sup> *British Magazine*, vol. XXX, p. 261.

<sup>3</sup> Reg. Archbp. Warham, fol. 52.

<sup>4</sup> *British Magazine*, vol. XXX, p. 421.

<sup>5</sup> i.e., he remained in the nave and would not go through the screen door into the choir.

The first complaint was perhaps natural from the parishioners of Warehorne, but it shows that Marshall preferred living at Appledore, and yet he is charged with maintaining a canon there in a state contrary to ecclesiastical discipline. Was it a case of a priest having an unofficial wife? Following the presentments from Warehorne is one relating to his church at Appledore, but in this case the churchwardens appeared and explained matters.

ECCLĪA DE APULDORÆ.

*Compertu' est.* That the chauncell is not repaired.<sup>1</sup>

[On the 23rd March following the churchwardens appeared and stated that the chancel of the church of Apuldore was undergoing repairs which were nearly completed.]<sup>2</sup>

These conclude the articles of enquiry at this visitation, so far as they relate to William Marshall, and it is perhaps noteworthy that he was concerned in presentments made from four different places.

The oldest parish register of Appledore now existing commences in the year 1700, and contains some notes concerning his predecessors made by the Rev. John Johnson, who was Vicar of Appledore from 1697 to 1725, and of Cranbrook from 1707 to 1725, in which he has written :

“The first and only ancient Vicar whose name I can recover is William Marchall whose name still remains in several panes of glass in the windows of the vicarage house bearing date 1503. 'Tis said that he lived at Tenterden and was a Benefactor to the Schole there.”

He certainly was a benefactor to the School at Tenterden, but whether he ever lived there may be an open question. Perhaps Johnson was confusing him with Peter Marshall, the Vicar of Tenterden, who was his brother.

Dr. F. William Cock, F.S.A., of Appledore, who kindly sends the extract from the register, informs me that he knew

<sup>1</sup> Reg. Archbp. Warham, fol. 52.

<sup>2</sup> *British Magazine*, vol. XXX., p. 421.

the last man who lived in the old Vicarage which he did as a boy, and who told him that it was a "terrible tumble-down old place," a description which may be very true of a timber building after nearly 330 years had passed over it. This old house was latterly divided into three tenements, there being no resident vicar, and became very dilapidated and ruinous and unfit to live in, so that about a hundred years ago, c. 1830, it was pulled down. The registers mention several people as living and dying there.

There is no evidence of any of the dated glass quarries having survived the stress of centuries, and the house of the old time Vicars of Appledore, which in these days might have been restored and preserved by a lover of our ancient buildings, was destroyed.

The will of this liberal-minded parson will be found to be full of interesting details and he certainly attempted to do some good with his wealth.

#### THE WILL OF WILLIAM MARSHALL, CLERK, 1523,

The *xxi*<sup>th</sup> day of January in the yere after the computacon of the Church of Ingland, *m*<sup>l</sup>*v*<sup>c</sup> and *xxiii*<sup>to</sup> I, William Marshall, Clerk, parson of the Parish church of Werehorn in the Countie of Kent . . . first, I comēde my soule to Almighty God . . . and my body to be buried in the conventuall church of the Holy Trinitie in the Citie of London before the awter of Saint Gregory in the same church. And where the Priour and Convent of the same church of the Holy Trinitie ben indetted unto me in one hundred pounds & for sure payment thereof ben bounde unto me by their writing obligatory, I will & bequeth thereof unto the necessary bildings, repācons & uses of the same, fyfty pounds.

And I will & bequeth that one Regular Chanon of the said conventual church at the assignement of the Prio<sup>r</sup> for the tyme being, shal say masse & pray for the soules of me & of my brother Maister Peter Marshall and of our frends benefactours & of all faithfull people, ev'y day in the weke by all the terme of *xii* yeres next after my decesse, the first day of the first weke thereof to begynne on the

Sonday next after my decesse & so to contynue daily in the weke except only the thursday, fryday, & saterday in every yere next after the Palme Sonday by all the said terme. To the which chanon soe saying the vii masses at the said awter having in Remembrance the said soules at every such masse, I bequeth for every weke xiiij<sup>d</sup> to be paide by the priour or his successours as parcell of the residue of the said 100<sup>li</sup>.

And I will that the said Priour & his successours shall yerely from the day of my decesse during the terme of the said xii yeres & nere unto the same day that it shall happen me to decesse, to kepe & cause to be observed in the conventuall church, one obite w<sup>t</sup> dirige and one masse of Requiem solempnely by note at every of which xii obits I will to be distributed by the priour for the tyme being or his deputie in this fourme, that is to say, To the Priour yf he shalbe present & say masse, To every chanon of the same church being prest & saying masse viij<sup>d</sup>, To every other chanon being present albeit he be noe prest, iij<sup>d</sup>, And to pour people iij<sup>s</sup> iij<sup>d</sup>. Residue of the said 100<sup>li</sup> to be distributed for lights etc. necessary to the obits and in works of charity at discretion of the Prior for the time being.

Also I will that two substanciall chalyses shalbe made of all my silver plate, as well gilt or parcell gilt as not gilt, being in my Chamb'r at Crist's Church in London except ij silver candelsticks. And the one of the said chalises so to be made I bequeth to the use of the said parishe church of Werehorn. And the other chaleys to the use of the chauntry lately founded in the parishe church of Tenterden, there to deserve for the masses to be saide by the chauntrye prest as long as it shall endure. And I will that these chalises shalbe delivered by one of my executours as sone after my decesse as it may conveniently be doon to that uses to the custody of the churchwardeyns of either of the said churches of Tenterden & Werehorn there to Remayne to the said uses.

Also I bequeth & wille xx<sup>li</sup> to a vestment & Tunykill w<sup>t</sup> th'appurtenances of one sute correspondent to a cope at Werehorn & hanging of an awter above and beneath of

Saten to be bought by my executours & to be deliv'ed to the churchwardeyns of Werehorn to th'use of the same church as longe as it shall endure.

And I bequeth & wille that iiiij<sup>li</sup> in like mañer to bye a vestment w<sup>t</sup> th'apparell to be delivered to the churchwardeyns of the church of Tenterden to th'use of the said chauntry prest to say his masse therein on the principall & festyvall daies as longe as it shall endure; also I will that ij silver candelsticks which I have in my custody shall by my executours be delivered to the said churchwardeyns of Tenterden there to remayn, and every principall & festyvall day to be sett at the aulter where the chauntry prest useth & shall say his masse, and so to deserve in that mañer as longe as they shall endure.

Item. I bequeth to the payment of fees of prisoners lying in prison only for non-payment of their fees in Kent, Caunterbury, London & Suthwerk, x<sup>li</sup>.

Item. I bequeth to mariages of pour maidens by discrecion of exor's, x<sup>li</sup>.

Item. I will to be distributed amonge pour householders & dwellers in the said parishes of Apuldre and Warehorn, xx<sup>li</sup>.

Also I bequeth to Henry Berugh my nevewe to be kept by the discrecion of my executours xx<sup>li</sup>. To my cosyn Glyn, iii<sup>li</sup> vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>.

Also I will that yf the inhabitaunts or other honest men of Apuldore will cause a conduit of water sufficiently & surely to be erected and conveyed into the Towne nere unto the market place at Apuldore, nere to the place where the maypole hath of late ben sett & to be fully fynyshed w<sup>t</sup>in one yere & half yere next after my decesse, Then my executo's to paye towards the making & charges of the said conduit of water, XL<sup>li</sup>, and yf the same conduit shall not be fynished w<sup>t</sup>in one yere & half yere next after my decesse, then I will that the said fourty pounds shalbe distributed for the making of the high way bitwen Apuldore and ffordmyll to Ryde and goe, And the same to be made by the inhabitaunts of that countre within thre yere next

after my decease and ells to be distributed for the helthe of my soule.

Item. I bequeth to pour people in the parishe of Tenterden, iij<sup>li</sup> vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>.

Item. I bequeth to every godsonne of my said brother, ij<sup>s</sup>.

Item. I bequeth to the mariages of every of the foure eldest daughters of Sir John Scott, Knyght, as yet not married, xx<sup>li</sup>, And yf any of them happen to dye not married, the said sumes of hir & them so decessing not married, to be paid to the mariages of the overlyvers of them, of the which sumes so bequested I will that xxiiij<sup>li</sup> vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> which the lady Dame Sybill Scott, mother of the said Sir John Scotte owes me, and iij<sup>li</sup> vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> which the said Sir John Scott owes to me shall be parcell. And of that xl m̄rcs I will v m̄rcs to every mariage of the said daughters to be parcell of the said xx<sup>li</sup> to every of them bequethed. And ells the twenty m̄rcs residue not to be paid unto the mariage neither any of them.

Item. I will myn executours shall aske Recover & receyve of George Guldeford, esquier, tenne pounds which he owes me, And then I will that the same tenne pounds be distributed & bestowed toward the purchasing, bilding, or making of a convenient house for the said chauntry prest for the tyme being at Tenterden to loige & to teche his scolers accordingly.

Item. I will that the Priour of the said conventuall church shalhave all the beding & hanging of my chamb'r that I occupied within the said church to this entent & upon this condicon that he & his successours shall suffre the same to abide in the said chambers, and also to suffre the fireres myno<sup>r</sup>s of the house of Grenewich at their comyng to London at their will to have resort & logging in the chambers as long as they shall endure.

And I will that John Wyke my serv'nt shalhave my mesuage in Apuldre which James Pycard now occupieth & hath to ferme, so that he bestowe yerely by the space of x yeres next after my decease in one obite to be kept in suche

fourme as my exor's shall seme convenient x<sup>s</sup>, the same obite to be kept the first yere, thirde, v<sup>th</sup>, vij<sup>th</sup> and ix<sup>th</sup> yeres in the church of Werehorn. And the seconde, iij<sup>th</sup>, vj<sup>th</sup>, viij<sup>th</sup> and x<sup>th</sup> yeres in the church of Apuldore. Exors to receive rents & profits of lands in Appledore (not specified) until other lands &c are sold in order to fulfil his bequests. Also I bequeth to John Sely late my serv'nt suche my housholde stuffe as I have at Werehorn. To Roger, late my serv'nt, my household stuffe being in my house of the blak ffreres at Caunterbury. My bedding & other household stuffe in my chamb'r at Hall shall abide & remayn in the said chamb'r.

Item. I will that my boks being in my chamb'r at Christchurch in London shalbe distributed to the colleges in the Universitie of Oxford, and to th'use of the ffreres myno<sup>rs</sup> of Grenewiche by the discrecions of the Priour & of Maister Rowland Philippes, Parson of Saint Mighell in Cornell, that is to say, Som' of the said boks to th'use of the said Universitie and the residue of the same boks to abide in the said chamb'r to th'use of the ffreres myno<sup>rs</sup> at such tyme as they shalhave their resorte thereto.

Item. I bequeth to the ffreres myno<sup>rs</sup> of Caunterbury, iij<sup>li</sup> vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>.

Item. I bequeth to the ffreres prechours of Caunterbury, liii<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>.

Item. I bequeth to Cristofer Hales to th'entent he shall be helping ayding & counceilling my executours, my furre of ffoynes or ells at his election my silver pott, and yf he chose the silver pott, it shalbe deducted out of my bequest made for the chalices. Also to the said Cristofer my horse being in the custody of Thomas Harlakynden.

Item. At my buriall to the Prio<sup>r</sup> of the conventuall church for his labour and observ'nce there, vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>. To every chanon of the said church at that tyme except Sir George, xl<sup>d</sup>. And to every other chanon of that church being noo prest, xx<sup>d</sup>. And to Sir George, chanon of the said house, for that day & other his busynes for me heretofore, iij<sup>li</sup>. The cubbord, tabill, & stolys nowe being in my

chamb'r at Crist's church shall abide & remayn in the same in like mañer as the hangings & bedding of the same. All my other clothes & apparell of my body above not bequested to Sir John Archer, prest.

Item. I bequeth to suche pour scolers as shall determyn this next lent in Oxford to be devided amongs them by the discrecion of the said Maister Rowland, xl<sup>s</sup>. To James Butler, serv'nt of the said Priour, vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>. To the wydowe of John fforde of Apuldore, xl<sup>s</sup>. To the sonne of James Stephen of Apuldore, xx<sup>s</sup>. To the sonne of William Bruer of Apuldore, xx<sup>s</sup>. Residue of all my goodes to John Hales, one of the Barons of the Kyngs Exchequer; Edward Boughton, esq; and Sir John Archer, prest; whom I make & ordeyn exors; & Maister Rowland Philippes, overseer of this my testament whom I beseche to take the payn thereof . . . to the which Maister Rowland & to every of myn exors for the labour & payn of every of them, tenne pounds.

Witnesses:—John, Prior of the said Conventuall church, Maister Rowland Philipps, Mathewe Smyth, principall of the college of Brasenose in Oxford, Xpofer Hales, Henry Lumpneye, Petir Heyman and others.

Probatum . . . in ecclia cath. dñi Pauli London, xii<sup>o</sup> die mensis february Anno dñi Millmo quingentesimo xxiiij<sup>o</sup> jurament executorum . . . etc.

P.C.C. 18 Bodfelde.