

**LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE;
WILLS AND INVENTORIES FROM
THE ECCLESIASTICAL COURT,
CHESTER. THE FIRST PORTION**

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G. J. PICCOPE

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WILLS AND INVENTORIES

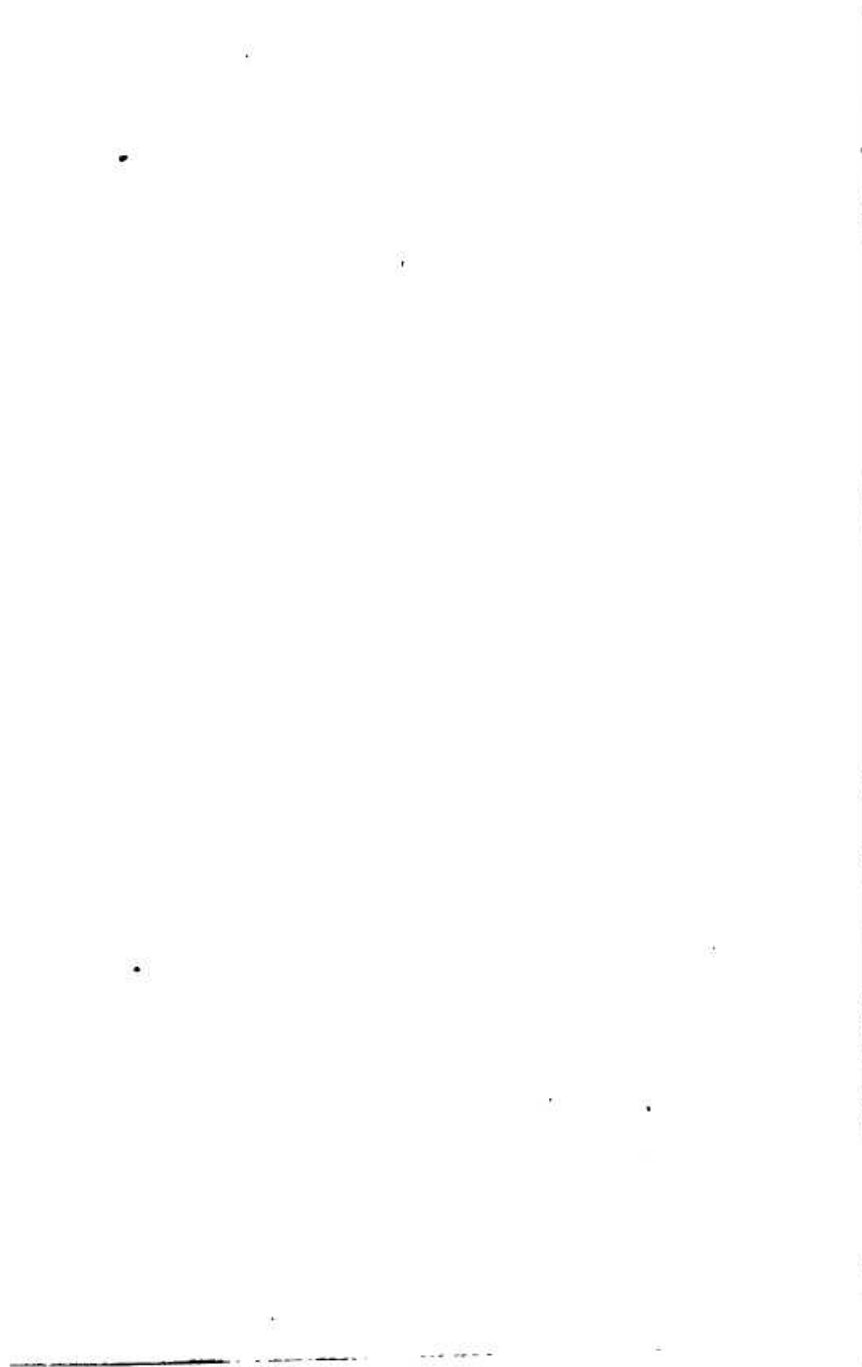
FROM THE ECCLESIASTICAL COURT,
CHESTER.

THE FIRST PORTION.

Ed. by G. J. Piccope
THE REV. G. J. PICCOPE, M.A.,
CURATE OF BRINDLE.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE Wills now submitted to the Members of the CHETHAM SOCIETY were transcribed by the late Rev. JOHN PICCOPE, M.A., Incumbent of Farndon, from the Archives in the Ecclesiastical Court of Chester. By the kind permission of the Rev. HENRY RAIKES, M.A., late Chancellor of the Diocese, he had access to the various documents in the Registry, a privilege of which his peculiar taste for such pursuits and his intimate acquaintance with the pedigrees of Lancashire and Cheshire families, induced him eagerly to avail himself. The entire collection, from which the present volume is taken, consists of nearly three hundred wills and inventories, embracing every class of society in the two counties palatine of Lancaster and Chester. They were originally selected with a view to their future publication by the Society, but a protracted illness unfortunately prevented my father's hopes being realised during his lifetime.

The wills are printed as nearly as possible in extenso, some technical forms and tedious repetitions being, however,

omitted; and, with very few exceptions, every legacy has been inserted. It has been thought desirable to retain the contractions and capricious manner of spelling, so as to give a faithful and literal copy of the original.

My warmest thanks are due to HENRY RAIKES, Esq., the Registrar of the Diocese, not only for permission to collate the MSS., but for previous examinations of the Records in his care. To the Rev. CANON RAINES of Milnrow I am under the deepest obligation for information at all times so liberally afforded, and for his valuable assistance and advice whilst the work was progressing through the press.

G. J. P.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
The Will of Emme late wife of Andrew Carrington of Carrington Esq.	1
The Will of Thomas Stanley of Wever and Alderley	3
Testament. Rob'ti Honford	5
The Will of John Starkey of Aughton.....	6
The Will of John Meoles Esq.....	8
Testamentum Thome Croughton	8
Testamentum Thome Briche.....	9
Testamentum Willielmi Fairbancke.....	10
Testamentum Hugonis Starkey de Olton Armigeri defuncti	11
Testamentum Margarete Relicte Hugonis Starkey	13
Testamentum Johannis Boethe.....	14
The Will of Dr. Thomas Sparke	16
The Will of Richard Starkey of Stretton Esquire	19
Testamentum Laurentii Dutton de Dutton Armigeri	22
Testamentum Hamnetti Harington defuncti.....	29
Testamentum Willielmi Walton	33
The Will of Elizabeth Hurleston of Chester, Widow	35
Testamentum Mathei Becke.....	38
Testamentum Arthuri Scofield de Scofield	39
Testamentum Alexandri Newton de Newton	41
Testamentum Adæ Birom.....	44
Testamentum Anne Tūdisley	47
Testamentum Cicilie Bothe	49
Testamentum Caroli Manwringe de Croxton Armigeri	50