

**THE YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
AND TOPOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION:
RECORD SERIES. VOL. XI, FOR THE
YEAR 1891. INDEX OF WILLS IN THE
YORK REGISTRY A. D. 1514 TO 1533**

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F. COLLINS

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WILLS IN THE YORK REGISTRY.

A.D. 1514 TO 1553.

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VOL. ~~XI.~~ //

FOR THE YEAR 1891. //

INDEX OF
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A.D. 1514 TO 1553.

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PREFACE.

THE present Volume is a continuation of the Calendar to the Wills proved in the Prerogative and Exchequer Courts of York, being an Index to the Registers of Wills now in the District Probate Registry, numbered from 9 to 13, inclusive, covering the years from 1514 to 1553, to all the Administration Acts, in the Act Books, for the same period, and to all the Probate Acts, from 1514 to 1521, which are to be found in the Act Books, but not in the Registers. Altogether the Volume contains upwards of 14,000 references, 12,000 of which are to the contents of the Registers, and the remainder to the contents of the Act Books. The latter will be found printed separately in Appendix I. The writer is responsible for the Index to the Registers numbered 9 to 12, and to the Act Books for the same period; while Registers 12*a* and 13, the latter a huge volume containing 5,000 wills, with the corresponding Act Books, have been carefully indexed by Mr. A. Gibbons, of Lincoln, who has taken up the work where the writer left off, and it is hoped that he will continue to supply the subscribers with a Volume of Index annually.

With this Volume we have reached a period when the Act Books become a great assistance to the indexer, often supplying him with the residence of the testator when not given in the will, and the date of probate when not entered in the Register; and also, in some instances, enabling him to correct discrepancies when the date of probate, as given in the Registers, is *anterior* to the date of the will; this error occurs very frequently, and it is much to be regretted that there are no means, in many instances, of correcting it. Where additions and corrections have been made the information was obtained from the Act Books.

Bound up with the Act Book of the Deanery of Harthill for the years 1558 to 1565, Mr. Gibbons found twenty-two folios belonging to the earliest Act Book, containing the Probate and Administration Acts of that Deanery, from March 1, 1502, to January 8, 1505, which enables the Editor to add fifty-eight Acts to Appendix I., Vol. VI. of this Series, and also to supply a few missing dates of probate to the same Volume. These, with some other corrections, follow in Appendix II. of this Volume.

As in the previous Volume, the references to the "Testamenta Eboracensia" of the Surtees Society are here given, but it is to be regretted that they are so few in number, for the last Volume of that valuable Series does not take us further than A.D. 1534.

With regard to the Registers, it is satisfactory to be able to say that those under consideration are much more perfect than the earlier ones. There is some little confusion in the last three or four folios of Register XI., and here one folio is missing, if not more; and in Register XIII. the folios from 551 to 568 have disappeared. It is a matter of considerable congratulation that owing to the representations of Mr. A. H. Hudson, the District Registrar, a reformation has been worked in the Registry, and that the contents of the Registers and Act Books have been rendered secure by repairing or rebinding such volumes as stood in need of it, therefore with ordinary care they may now be expected to last for some generations to come. While speaking of the Registers it may be mentioned here, that the following interesting note is to be found at the foot of folio 306 of Vol. XI., "*Istud latus scriptum fuit cum pena de argento facta,*" shewing that as early as the year 1538 an attempt had been made to bring metal pens into use. The transcriber, however, if we may judge from the writing, seems soon to have returned to the quill, for the character of the writing changes after two or three folios had been written with the new invention.

It will naturally be supposed by those unacquainted with the York Registry that we are making rapid strides towards the accomplishment of the great work before us, whereas we are, in truth, still at its commencement. It will be observed that while our

previous Volume of Index, Vol. VI. Record Series, covers a period of 125 years, viz., from 1389 to 1514, and contains 11,200 references, this with 3,000 more extends only over 40 years; and as we go on we may expect our progress to become much slower, for we are now arriving at the will-preserving and will-making period. After the Reformation, as the property became more divided, there was a great increase in the number of Testators, and from this period also the copying of wills into Registers seems to have been more faithfully carried out. Our next Volume will not therefore, it is expected, carry our Calendar further than 1570, that is, a period of seventeen years, indeed it is much to be doubted if we shall reach within two or three years of that date.

Nothing remains now for me than to thank the District Registrar, Mr. A. H. Hudson, for his courtesy and his kind assistance whenever occasion required it, and I must not forget to acknowledge the ready and cheerful manner in which Mr. John Dickons and Mr. Prince of the Probate Registry always came to my aid, and to thank them accordingly.

F. COLLINS.

"TESTAMENTA EBORACENSIA"

(SURTEES SOCIETY).

Vol. I. ends in 1429.

Vol. II. extends from 1429 to 1467.

Vol. III. " " 1467 " 1485.

Vol. IV. " " 1485 " 1508-9.

Vol. V. " " 1509 " 1534.