

WILL OF THOMAS HORE OF BRISTOL.  
HIS OAKEN CHEST.

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At the annual meeting of the Society, in October, 1903, Vice-President GEORGE F. HOAR said: "I am afraid the Society may think this matter is somewhat trifling and perhaps too personal, but I will take only a few minutes in giving an account of a somewhat entertaining discovery which has lately been made in Bristol, England. The gentleman whose will I am to lay before the Society, Thomas Hore of Bristol, England, was the ancestor not only of the persons of his own name in this country, but of a great many persons in New England, members of this Society and others well known,—the Holmeses, Lowells, Quincys, President Adams and his descendants, General Terry of Fort Fisher, all the Prescotts, Senator Baldwin, some of the Dwights, and so on. There is a great list of descendants who may trace their blood to this man.

"Early in the summer of 1903 Mr. J. Henry Lea, who has succeeded to the work of Mr. Waters in making extensive genealogical researches in England, sent to me a copy of a will of an ancestor of mine, Thomas Hore of Bristol, dated in 1466. The will is in Latin, and very curious. He describes himself as a burgess of Bristol, leaves several bequests for his own soul and the soul of his wife, and leaves a great many silver articles to different persons, salt-cellars, flagons, and the like, of each of which he gives the weight. Some of them are described as being of gold and silver. In the will is the following clause: 'I give to the City of Bristol my large oak chest, bound with iron, to keep their records in.' It occurred to me that it was quite likely that this chest might still be in the possession of the City of Bristol, as there would be no

reason why they should have ever parted with it. Accordingly I wrote to our consul, the Hon. Lorin A. Lathrop, whom I had known formerly, to make inquiry. He reported that the treasurer of the City, who is an antiquary of considerable distinction, had found what is undoubtedly the identical chest in the garret of the Council House, and Mr. Lathrop sent me a photograph of the chest. The City authorities and antiquaries were very much excited by the discovery. The chest was brought down into the Mayor's parlor, and is to be placed in the National Museum. The chief interest, however, in the matter is this: Thomas Hore was Bailiff of the City. He was afterward Sheriff when William Canynges was Mayor.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Hore's name, and that of some of his family, including John Hore and William Hore who was Mayor, appear in the civic records for more than a century preceding and following the date of this will. William Canynges is probably the most eminent character in the civic annals of Bristol. His ancestor of the same name built the Church of St. Mary Redcliffe, in Bristol. When that church was badly damaged by a flood and the tower carried away, it was restored by the younger William Canynges, of whom I am speaking. By his will, made about the same time, Canynges leaves his chest to the Church of St. Mary Redcliffe, for its archives. That chest is also in existence in the tower of that church. It is the chest in which Chatterton—

‘the marvellous boy,  
The sleepless soul that perished in his pride,’

“whose story is so familiar to us all, found the Rowley manuscripts, of which it is believed a very few are genuine, and pretended to find the manuscripts which he himself

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<sup>1</sup> Ricart's Kalendar, p. 40, gives William Canynges as Mayor, and Thomas Hore as Sheriff in the 28th Henry VI., 1450.

Also Thomas Hore as Bailiff, 1438. Page 39.

Also William Hore as Mayor, 1312. Page 33.



forged. The City Treasurer said that undoubtedly these somewhat peculiar bequests, made at about the same time by these two friends and contemporaries, were made by a concert between them.

"I suppose the evidence that Thomas Hore was my own ancestor is strong enough to warrant its being asserted with confidence. The husband of Mrs. Joanna, who came to this country with five children, was Charles Hoare. His oldest son was Thomas, his second son John. His two daughters were Joanna and Margery. The maker of this will, to which I refer, was Thomas Hore. His oldest son was John, his second son Thomas, and his two daughters, Joanna and Margery. He leaves to his oldest son John lands at Wotton-Under-Edge in Gloucestershire, where the family owned lands in several generations. As is well known, the larger part of Bristol is in Gloucestershire, although a small part of it is in Somerset. The river Avon, which runs through the City, separates the two shires."

TRANSCRIPT OF THE WILL OF THOMAS HORE, BURGESS  
OF BRISTOL 1466, IN THE ORIGINAL MONKISH LATIN.

Testm Thome Hoore.

IN DEI NOMINE AMEN quarto die mensis Aprilis Anno dni Millimo CCCC<sup>mo</sup> sexage<sup>mo</sup> sexto ET Anno Regni Regis Edwardi quarti post conqm sexto Ego Thomas Hore Burgensis ville Bristoll compos ment mee & sane memorie condo testm meum in hunc modum IN primis lego aiam mea deo omnipotenti beate marie virgini matri sue & omibz sanct eius Corpusqz meu seplend in ecclia sce cruce<sup>s</sup> templi cora altar sci Thome Martiris ibm Itm lego matrieci ecclie Wellen xij<sup>d</sup> Itm lego vicario ecclie sce cruce<sup>s</sup> templi p<sup>r</sup>diet vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> Itm lego Johanni filio meo seniori comorant ap<sup>d</sup> London omia terr & tenta mea cu suis ptin que habeo in villa & Burgo de Wotton subtus Egge in Com Gloucestr sibi et hered de corpe sue legittime pereat impptm Et si contingat dem Johem sine tal exit obire qd absit tunc volo qd omia p<sup>r</sup> diet terr & ten integre remaneant Thome filio meo & hered de corpe suo ltime pereat impptm Itm lego deo Johanni filio

meo vna crater argent & deaurat pond xxx<sup>ta</sup> vnc & dj. Itm lego eidem Johanni vna cratera de argento cum vno Fawcon pond xxxiiij vnc & dimid Itm lego eid Johanni vnu ciphu vocat a Notte stant hernisat cu argent deaurat pond xxvnc Itm lego eide Johanni vnu salariu pro sale de argent & in pte deaurat pond xxij vnc & plus Itm lego eide Johani vna duodena coeliar argent pond xij vnc Itm lego p<sup>r</sup> deo Thome Hore filio meo vna cratera argent & deaurat pond xxiiij vnc Itm lego eide Thome vnu ciphu stant argent & in pte deaurat cum vno cuniclo stant sup<sup>a</sup> dict ciphum pond xxviiij vnc & dj Itm lego eidem Thome vnu ciphum vocat a Nutte stant & coopl hernisat cu argento deaurat pond xix vnc & dj Itm lego eide Thome vnu salariu pro sale de argent & in pte deaurat pond xx vnc Itm lego sup<sup>a</sup> dict Thome mea toga de Blewe penulat cu martrons mea toga de Cremesyn engrayned lyned & mea tema de Scarlette Itm lego Agneti vx<sup>i</sup> mee vna cratera stant de argent & dimid pte deaurat pond xxiiij vnc & iij q<sup>rt</sup> Itm lego eide Agneti quatuor crateras voc Chased pecys cum vno coopculo argent & in pte deaurat pond lxix vnc & dj. Itm lego eide Agneti ij salar pro sale cu vno coopculo de argent ambo pond xix vnc & di Itm lego eide Agneti duas pvas crater de argent & deaurat ponder ambo xj vnc & plus Itm lego eide Agneti duos ciphos voc Nottes stant hnisat cu argent & deaurat pond xl vnc Itm lego eide Agneti vnu ciphum vocat a Maser stant hernisat cum argeto & deaurat pond xvj vnc & dj Itm lego eidem Agneti vna duodena & di coeliar argent pond xviiij vnc Itm lego eide Agneti vnu powderpere de argent & ij fork<sup>a</sup> pro grene gynger de argent pond xj vnc Itm lego eide Agneti mea magna murra vocat saint Jonys hede pond xiiij vnc Itm lego eide Agneti vna flatte m<sup>ra</sup> pond vij vnc Itm lego eide Agneti vtensilia mea videlt in camera in pincerna & in coquina cu omibz eisde ptin neenon xiiij toddes lane & tres mesur daid Itm volo qd meu ciphum vocat le wodefate pond xliij vnc & di & aliu ciphu meu stant voc le Mermayde pond xxxiiij vnc & di ac aliu ciphu meu stant cu vno turr sup<sup>a</sup> coopculo eiusde pond xxvj vnc & di ac duos discos meos vocat spice disshes argent & deaurat ambo pond xxviiij vnc ac vnu ciphu voc a Notte hernisat cu argent & deaurat pond xx vnc & plus ac vna cratera chased voc le Rose cu vno coopculo argent pond xix vnc & iij q<sup>rt</sup> vendant<sup>r</sup> p meos executores meliori modo quo sciu<sup>int</sup> aut pot<sup>int</sup> & q pecunia p eosde Receipt inueniet vnu capellanu idoneu ad celebrand in ecclia see cruc<sup>a</sup> Templi p<sup>d</sup>dict ad altare sei Thome ibm pro aia mea & aiabz Roberti Russell Clement<sup>e</sup> Bagotte & Willi Weston ac p aia Johane vx<sup>is</sup> mee p spaciū triu annores prox post obitu meu sequen & supplusag inde reman post exhibicoem dei



capellani debit<sup>es</sup> meis primitus inde solut volo q distribuant<sup>r</sup> p avisamentu & discrecoem executores in opibz caritatiuis vbi maius necessar est pro aia mea & aiabz p<sup>r</sup> dict Itm volo q sex panni lanei mei complet & j pip gaid continet in se xvj Mesur vendant<sup>r</sup> p executor meos & q ipi de pecun inde recept Itm volo q quinqz olle mee en maior & vna magna patella & unu lanacrum de laton melius ac ecia vnu weyebeame cu ij scales eide ptinen necnon v<sup>o</sup> wight plumb vendant<sup>r</sup> p executor meos & q pecunia inde lenat distribuant<sup>r</sup> in opibz caritatiuis vbi mag<sup>es</sup> necesse est p aia mea & aiabz oim fideliu defunctores Itm volo qd duo mei anuli auri voc lez signettes vendant<sup>r</sup> p executor meos meliori modo quo sciu<sup>r</sup> int & de pecunia inde recept volo q ipi emant sufficient pannos lineos voc Crestecloth & inde fieri fac p paupibz Camisi & smokkes & ill distribuant in elemosinis p aia mea scdm eoresdiscrec Itm lego Johanne filie mee vna murra stant pond vij vnc et quinqz cocliar de argent & vna toga blodij coloris penulat cu Greye & duas virgas de Blackalire ad faciend ipam deinde vna kyrtell & in pecunia numrat xxs xx<sup>s</sup> st<sup>r</sup> ling Itm lego Johani Farewey towker vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> st<sup>r</sup> ling Itm lego cam<sup>r</sup> a ville Bristoll ad imponend evidenc MEA MAGNA SISTA LIGAT CU FERRO Residu vero oim et singlores bonores meoes Jocaliu & catellores supius non legatores post debit mea solut sepultura mea factam & pntem volutate mea pimplet do & lego executor meis subscript<sup>es</sup> ad inde disponend pro aia mea in pijs vsibz & opibz caritatiuis p ut eis melius videbit<sup>r</sup> deo placere & saluti aie mee pficere Et faco ordino & constituo executores meos huius testi mei p<sup>r</sup> dem Johnem Hore filiu meu & Johnem Gourney Burgense & pandoxatore ville Bristollie et lego eide Johani Gourney p labor sue in pmiss habend xxvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> Ac ecia constituo p<sup>r</sup> dem vicariu ecclie see cruce<sup>s</sup> templi p<sup>r</sup> dict supuisore eiusdem testi mei In cuius Rei testimoniu huic pnti testo meo sigillu meum apposui Dat Bristoll die & Anno sup<sup>a</sup> dict<sup>es</sup>.

Probat fuit suprascript testm apud Lamehith xvij<sup>o</sup> die mensis Julij Anno dni Millimo CCCC<sup>mo</sup> sexagesimo sexto ac approbat etc. Et comissa fuit administracio oim et singlores bonores dicti defuncti Johani Hoore executori in deo testo nomiat de bn et fidelit administrand bona hmoi ac de pleno Inuentario bonores hmoi etc. citra festum sei Martini quod erit in Yeme prox futur etc. ac de plano compoto etc iurat Res<sup>r</sup> uat ptate etc.

TRANSLATION BY J. HENRY LEA.

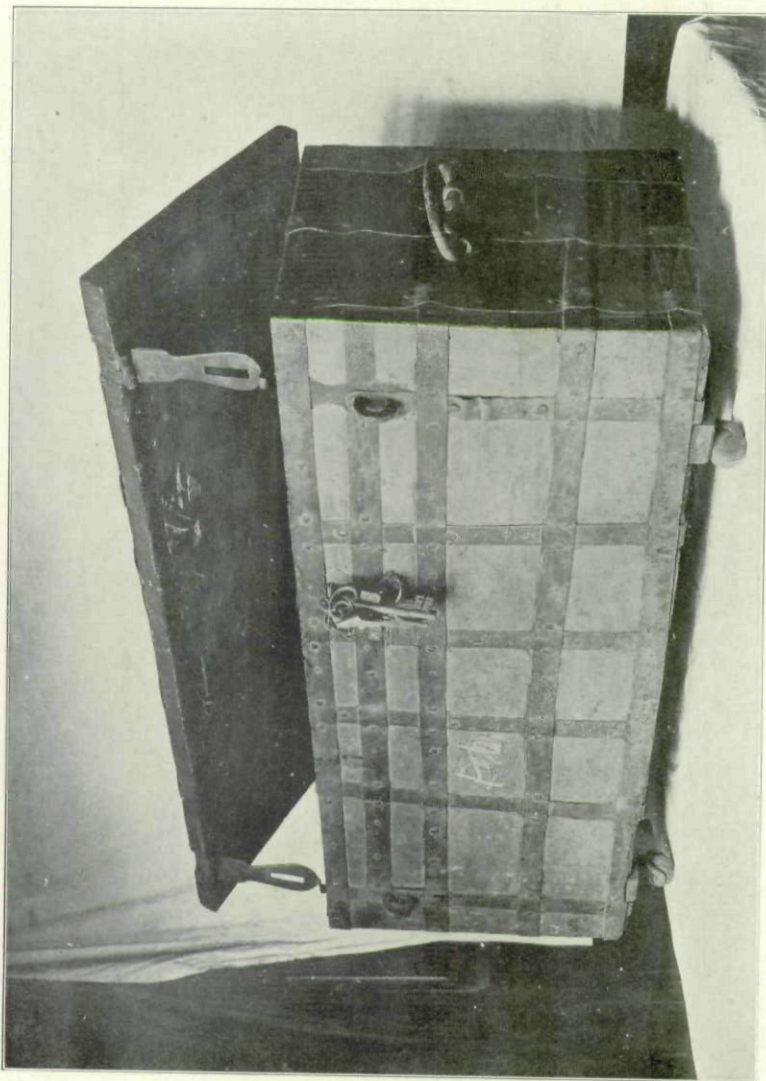
IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN the fourth day of the month of April in the year of our lord one thousand 400 sixty

six AND in the year of the Reign of King Edward the fourth after the conquest the sixth

I THOMAS HORE Burgess of the city of Bristoll (*being*) of sound mind and sane memory do make my testament in this manner IN the first place I bequeath my soul to the omnipotent god the blessed virgin Mary his mother and to all his saints My body to be buried in the church of the holy cross of the temple<sup>1</sup> (1) before the altar of saint Thomas the Martyr in the same ITEM I bequeath to the mother church of Wells (2) 12 pence ITEM I bequeath to the vicar of the church of the holy cross of the temple aforesaid 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> ITEM I bequeath to John my eldest son commorant (3) in London all my lands and tenements with their appurtenances which I hold in the town and Borough of Wotton under Edge (4) in the county of Gloucester to him and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten forever AND in case that the said John should die without issue which (*God*) forbid then I will that all my aforesaid lands and tenements shall remain together to Thomas my son and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten forever ITEM I bequeath to the said John my son a bowl (5) of silver and gilt weighing 30 ounces and one half ITEM I bequeath to the same John a bowl of silver with a Falcon (6) weighing 34 ounces and one half ITEM I bequeath to the same John a cup called a Nut (7) with a foot garnished (8) with silver gilt weighing 20 ounces ITEM I bequeath to the same John a saltcellar for salt of silver and parcel gilt (5) weighing 22 ounces and more ITEM I bequeath to the same John one dozen silver spoons weighing 12 ounces ITEM I bequeath to the aforesaid Thomas Hore my son a bowl of silver and gilt weighing 24 ounces ITEM I bequeath to the same Thomas a cup with a foot of silver and parcel gilt with a rabbit standing (9) upon the said cup weighing 28 ounces and one half ITEM I bequeath to the same Thomas a cup called a Nut with a foot and cover garnished with silver gilt weighing 19 ounces and one half ITEM I bequeath to the same Thomas a saltcellar for salt of silver and parcel gilt weighing 20 ounces ITEM I bequeath to the aforesaid Thomas my Blue cloak trimmed with marten (10), my powdered Crimson (11) lined cloak and my Scarlet cap (12) ITEM I bequeath to Agnes my wife a bowl of silver with a foot and half parcel gilt weighing 23 ounces and 3 quarters ITEM I bequeath to the same Agnes four bowls called Chased pieces with a cover of silver and parcel gilt weighing 69 ounces and one half ITEM I bequeath to the same Agnes 2 saltcellars for salt

<sup>1</sup> The figures in parenthesis (1) refer to the Notes following this translation.





THE OAK CHEST OF THOMAS HORE.

with a cover of silver both weighing 19 ounces and one half  
ITEM I bequeath to the same Agnes two small bowls of silver and gilt both weighing 11 ounces and more ITEM I bequeath to the same Agnes two cups called Nuts with a foot and garnished with silver and gilt weighing 40 ounces  
ITEM I bequeath to the same Agnes a cup called a Maser (13) with a foot garnished with silver and gilt weighing 16 ounces and one half ITEM I bequeath to the same Agnes one dozen and one half silver spoons weighing 18 ounces  
ITEM I bequeath to the same Agnes a pomander (14) of silver and two forks for green ginger weighing 11 ounces  
ITEM I bequeath to the same Agnes my great Murra (15) called St. John's head weighing 14 ounces ITEM I bequeath to the same Agnes a flat Murra weighing 7 ounces  
ITEM I bequeath to the same Agnes all of my household goods (16) that is to say in the rooms in the cupboards and in the kitchen with all appertaining to the same and also 13 tods (17) of wool and three gail measures (18) ITEM I will that my cup called the wodefate (*Wood Fay*? 19) weighing 43 ounces and one half and another cup of mine with a foot called the Mermaid weighing 34 ounces and one half with another cup of mine with a foot (*and*) with a tower on the cover of the same weighing 26 ounces and one half with two dishes called spice dishes of silver and gilt both weighing 28 ounces with a cup called a Nut garnished with silver and gilt and weighing 20 ounces and more with a chased bowl called the Rose with a cover of silver weighing 19 ounces and 3 quarters shall be sold by my executors to the best advantage of their knowledge or ability and that the money Received for the same shall procure a suitable priest to celebrate (*Mass*) in the church of the holy cross of the Temple aforesaid at the altar of St. Thomas in the same for my soul and the souls of Robert Russell Clemente Bagotte and William Weston also for the soul of Johanna my wife for the space of three years next after my death the remainder and surplusage of the same after payment of the said priest my debts first after that being paid shall be distributed at the wisdom and discretion of my executors in works of charity where there is most need for (*the good of*) my soul and the souls aforesaid ITEM I will that six full bags of wool and 1 pipe of ale (20) containing 16 measures shall be sold by my executors and that with the money so received my debts shall be paid by them ITEM I will that five of my pots of the largest (21) and one of my great dishes and a little dish of latten (22) of the best as well as a weighing beam with 2 scales belonging to the same and also 500 weight of lead shall be sold by my executors and that the money for



the same shall be gradually distributed in charitable works where there is most need for (*the good of*) my soul and the souls of all the dead in the faith ITEM I will that two of my gold rings called the signets shall be sold by my executors to the best advantage of their knowledge and with the money received I will that they put out sufficient linen cloth called Crestcloth and have made of the same Nightgowns and smocks for the poor and distribute the same in alms for (*the good of*) my soul at their discretion ITEM I bequeath to Johanna my daughter a Murra on a foot weighing 7 ounces and five silver spoons and a blood-colored cloak trimmed with Badger (*fur*) (23) and two yards of Black lire (24) to make herself a kirtle and in good money 20 shillings sterling ITEM I bequeath to John Fareway fuller (25) 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> sterling ITEM I bequeath to the (*Council*) Chamber of the city of Bristoll for the keeping of their records my GREAT CHEST BOUND WITH IRON THE Remainder of all my goods Jewels and chattels not above bequeathed after the payment of my debts and my funeral done and ended I give and bequeath to my executors underwritten to be disposed for (*the good of*) my soul in pious uses and works of charity as to them may seem best for the pleasure of God and the health of my soul AND I make order and constitute my executors of this testament my son John Hore and John Gourney Burgess and brewer of the city of Bristoll and I bequeath to the said John Gourney for his labor to be had in the premises 26<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> Also I constitute the aforesaid vicar of the church of the holy cross of the temple aforesaid supervisor of my said testament.

In witness of which thing I have affixed my seal (26) to the foregoing testament Dated at Bristoll the day and year above written

The above written testament was proved at Lambeth the 17<sup>th</sup> day of the month of July in the Year of our lord one thousand 400 sixty six and approved etc. AND Administration was granted of all and singular of the goods of the said deceased to John Hoore the executor named in the said testament to well and faithfully administer the said goods and also to make a full inventory of the said goods etc. before the feast of saint Martin<sup>1</sup> which will be in the next coming Winter (27) etc. and also (*render*) a full account etc. sworn with power Reserved (*to the other executor*) etc. etc.

PREROGATIVE COURT OF CANTERBURY  
Registered Book GODYN, folio 14

## NOTES.

1. The Church of the Holy Cross of the Temple, now called simply the Temple Church, is a fine old structure on Temple Street, Bristol, near the Temple Meade Railway Station, which was erected by the Knights Templars about 1145, much added to in the 15th century, and used as a Parish Church since their dissolution.

2. The Cathedral Church of St. Andrew at Wells, within the jurisdiction of which Bristol then lay.

3. *Commorantis*, from commoror, to stop, tarry, abide. I have usually found it employed in Monkish Latin in the sense of dwelling.

4. Wotton under Egge, often so written for *under Edge*, an ancient town which claims a prescriptive incorporation under a charter of Henry III. It lies about 14 miles northeast of Bristol.

5. *Crater argent. et deaurat.*, a bowl of silver *entirely* gilded, as distinguished from *in pte. deaurat.*, *i. e.* parcel-gilt or only partially so, as in the third bequest below.

6. *Fawcon* should undoubtedly be translated Falcon, probably being chased or engraved on the vessel and in all likelihood heraldic, in which view I am supported by the fact that the Arms of Hoare of Gloucestershire were "An eagle displayed," a bearing characteristic of most of the armigerous families of the name in England and indicating a remote common ancestor for all.

7. *Ciphum vocat a Notte*. A cup called a Notte or Nutt, a small drinking vessel or urn with a foot, resembling a goblet. See an example in *Testamenta Vetusta* by N. H. Nicholas, page 365. I have translated *stant.* as "*with a foot*" in all cases, as more clear in its meaning than "*standing*," which is certainly the more literal rendering.

8. *Hernisat.*, *i. e. harnesiatus*—harnessed or, as we should say, *garnished* with silver.

9. I take this to have been the figure of a rabbit raised or erect (*stant.*) on the cover (although no cover is mentioned), to serve as a handle, as is frequently seen in both ancient and modern silver ware.

10. *Martrons*, *i. e. marteron*, the fur of a marten. See *Test. Vetust.* page 658; see also inventory in *Archæologia*, xxx., 17.

11. *Engrayned*, this is defined, under the spelling of "engreyned" by both Wright and Halliwell as "powdered," and I so translate it. I suppose that the cloak was crimson, powdered or flecked with white or perhaps spangles.

12. *Tema*, an evident error for *tena*, a coif or cap.

13. *Maser*, the old form of *Mazer*, a bowl of wood, probably made originally of maple wood (whence the name), and rimmed with silver or other metal. It was usually without a foot, which does not seem to have been the case with this bequest.

"Bring here, he said, the mazers four,  
My noble fathers loved of yore."

—W. Scott, "Lord of the Isles," C. v., v. 34.

14. *Powderpire*. This word I was inclined to translate "spice-box," but my friend, Mr. J. Challoner Smith, recent Superintendent of the Search Room at Somerset House, reads it as *powder-pece*, meaning a pomander or lady's powder box.

15. *Murra*, a precious stone, probably fluorspar, always referred to as of great value. See a very full definition and derivation of same in the *Cent. Dict.*

16. *Utensilia*, while properly to be defined as utensils or articles of use or necessity, is here probably intended to cover all household goods, furniture, etc.



17. Tod, an old measure of weight, mostly used for wool, of about two stone, or twenty-eight pounds, but differing in different localities.

18. *Gaid* I take to be a misconception for *gail*, a brewing or wort tub, *cf.* ale, from which it is probably derived.

19. *Woodfate*. This is a term which I have never met with before and I would suggest, with some diffidence, that a wood nymph or fay may be intended, *cf.* *Fata Morgana*, or *Morgana* the fay, at that period so popular in British folk lore. I am the more inclined to this belief from the next cup being called the Mermaid, as they were no doubt a pair with representations of the spirits of sea and shore.

20. In this case I am inclined to translate the word "*gaid*," above referred to (note 18), as the *drink* rather than the vessel in which it is brewed, or it may be that it was intended that a gail or brewing vat itself was to be sold, with or without its contents.

21. Olla, a pot or jar. At that period brass, copper and even iron pots were much valued and appear frequently as legacies and directed to be handed down as heirlooms.

22. *Laton*, *i. e.* Latten, a metal often misread as tin, but resembling brass. See an elaborate definition in Cent. Dict. See Chaucer, Cant. Tales, 701; Piers' Ploughman, 7, 462. Shakespeare is said to have given Ben. Jonson's son, his godson, a dozen latten spoons and told him he should translate them. See Halliwell's Arch. Dict.

23. Gray, a badger or the fur of a badger.

24. Lire was a rich and costly fabric manufactured in the 15th century. It occurs as blackalire, greenalire, etc., for attention to which I have again to thank my friend Mr. J. Challoner Smith. Halliwell, Nares and Wright ignore it, but see Cent. Dict.

25. *Towker* is probably intended for *tucker*, a fuller, as I have translated it, but it is possible that *toucher*, an archer, may have been meant.

26. *Camera*, *i. e.* chamber, I have translated as council, *i. e.* the Council Chamber of the City of Bristol, although it is barely possible that the abbreviation may have been designed for *camerarius* or chamberlain. In either event the meaning of the bequest is obvious, and the great chest still remains, a highly prized relic of the past, in the possession of the city authorities and is to be placed in the Bristol Room of the new museum now building there.

27. It is most unfortunate that the original of this interesting will no longer exists, so that we are unable to obtain this impression of the testator's seal.

28. *Yeme* is evidently an error for *hieme*, winter.

#### LETTER FROM THE TRANSLATOR.

At the request of Senator Hoar I have had pleasure in making a translation, as literal as possible, of the very interesting will of his remote ancestor, Thomas Hore, Burgess of Bristol and sometime Bailiff and Sheriff there, who died between April and July of the year 1466, with annotations of the more difficult or obscure passages in the same, which will enable the lay reader to follow the text intelligently.

The will (or rather will *and* testament, as it treats of both real and personal property), is written throughout

in the debased or Monkish Latin of the Middle Ages, interspersed with English words where the scribe's vocabulary failed him. This scribe was, in all probability, the unnamed Vicar of the Church of Holy Cross, the spiritual father of the testator, that being the usual custom of the time, when few except the clergy could write even their names. It is probable that Thomas Hore could not, in spite of his wealth and position, as the document is sealed only and not signed, although this may have arisen from his moribund condition at the making of it.

The absence of witnesses is also noteworthy as characteristic of the loose legal methods prevailing, and was a common feature. In many cases where there was a testing clause, it would read simply "*Et multis alijs testibz*" or "Many other witnesses" (besides the scribe), the actual names seeming to be regarded as superfluous.

The very date of this document must give us a pause of respect—a generation before the discovery of America and in the midst of the turbulent period of the Civil Wars (one would like to know whether the ornament on the bowl "*vocat le Rose*" were Red or White!)—it must carry the birth of the testator back to the reign of Henry IV. and nearly or quite a half millenium from our own times.

The most striking feature of the will is the large quantity—for those days the immense quantity—of plate bequeathed; an invariable index of the wealth and social position of the testator. One of the first and evidently among the most highly prized of these is the "bowl with a Falcon" given to his eldest son and heir. My friend, Mr. J. Challoner Smith, agrees with me in believing this to be heraldic, and it is noteworthy that the arms of Hoare of Gloucestershire are "Sable, an *Eagle* displayed within a bordure engrailed Argent," and, with variations of tinctures, this charge is found on the coat of nearly every armigerous family of the name in England and Ireland, seeming to point to a common ancestor for all at a very remote period, perhaps the Sir William le Hore, one of the Normans who invaded Ireland in 1170.

Among the plate may also be remarked the "two forks for green ginger," being the earliest mention of a fork with which I have ever met in an English will. Their use at the table there was unknown until the reign of



Queen Elizabeth, whose inventory<sup>1</sup> shows her to have had no less than three of them, but, from their bejeweled and ornamental character, probably more for show than service. They did not come into general use in England until towards the middle of the 17th century.

The garments lined and trimmed with furs give another and no uncertain indication of the affluent condition of this worthy Burgess, as do also the costly "Murras" or ornaments of fluorspar, then greatly prized, and of which he leaves two to his wife and one to his daughter. This wife was his second, the first, Johanna, being probably the mother of his children, as the daughter bore her name and no reference is made to the later wife as mother of any of them.

From the bequests I draw the conclusion that Thomas Hore was engaged in brewing, and also traded largely in wool, as did all the merchants at that time. The John Gourney, brewer, who was co-executor with the son, was probably a business partner. John Fareway, fuller, was perhaps a valued customer. John Hore, the son, residing or being in London, may have been in charge of his father's affairs in the metropolis.

The connection with the deceased Robert Russell, Clement Bagott and William Weston is not apparent; one or other of them may have been father of either or both of his wives, the other or others maternal ancestors or benefactors. Perhaps one was his master when an apprentice, a customary tribute of gratitude and affection. It is somewhat singular that, with his evident piety, he makes no provision for the souls of his parents and leads us to the conclusion that this was probably done during his lifetime.

Of all the many legacies in the will, one alone has, so far as we are aware, come down to our own times. I refer to the great oaken treasure chest bequeathed to the City of Bristol, and which remains to this day, a valued memorial, among the possessions of the municipality, as exemplified by Senator Hoar's most interesting paper read at the October meeting of the Society.

I cannot close these remarks without a word of thanks to Mr. J. Challoner Smith, the recent courteous and helpful

<sup>1</sup> See Nichols's "Progresses."

Superintendent of the Literary Search Room at Somerset House, to whom I referred two or three readings regarding which I was in doubt, and to whose unrivalled abilities as a scholar I owe their solution, and to Senator Hoar for the privilege of making this translation for the Society.

J. HENRY LEA,

Elmlea, South Freeport, Maine.

23 June, 1904.

CORRESPONDENCE.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE.

BRISTOL, 15th September, 1903.

Dear SENATOR HOAR:—

I fear that there is not the slightest chance of being able to carry out your wishes with regard to the chest. When I took your first letter over to Mr. Tremayne Lane, the City Treasurer (to whose courtesy we owe the prompt and successful search), the first thing that he said to me almost, was this:—"If we should find this chest, Mr. Lathrop, I suppose there will be no danger of our being asked to give it up." I practically pledged myself that the City should not be asked for it.

No sooner had it been discovered, than the Lord Mayor heard of our quest. At his desire, this interesting relic, doubly interesting now because it had a history, was promptly disinterred from its burial place in the attic, and placed in the Mayor's Parlor. It was pointed out to his lordship that the worms in the chest might get into the new oak of the parlor, whereupon it was removed to a conspicuous place in the main hall. Senator Bard will tell you that he saw it there. He went with me to the Council House one day to look at the interesting manuscript records and regalia.

As there is now special reason for believing the chest to have belonged to one who was associated in the Municipal Government with William Canynges, there is an added local interest. The maritime supremacy of this man, and the grand monument he built for himself in constructing Redcliffe Church, endear him to Bristolians. It may perhaps be said that he added a more brilliant lustre to the annals of Bristol than any other single citizen has added.

Your request is couched in terms of such extreme delicacy that I feel that I must transmit it to the authorities. It is just within the limits of possibility that they may consider your suggestion. They have several volumes of mediæval records which have never been translated or printed. They are sealed books. An offer of a contribution towards the expense of doing with these as has already been done with Ricart's Kalender, and with the little "Red Book," might perhaps tempt the authorities. I am not however hopeful.



I do not think that any expert has as yet examined the chest, but I shall promptly let you know if any opinions are expressed by those qualified to utter them.

I am, with high regard,

Very respectfully yours,

LORIN A. LATHROP.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE.

BRISTOL, September 25th, 1903.

Dear SENATOR HOAR:

I enclose the final decision of the authorities, in regard to the chest. I expect that you were prepared for the decision, from the tenor of my former letter.

Bristol is more tenacious of its mediæval associations than any place I have ever known.

If I can be of any further service to you at any time, either personally or officially, please command me.

I am,

Very respectfully yours,

LORIN A. LATHROP.

The Honorable  
George F. Hoar.

THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BRISTOL,  
CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE.

25th Sepr., 1903.

Dear Sir:

*Ancient Chest.*

I have to thank you for sending me a copy of Senator Hoar's interesting letter.

Having had an opportunity of consulting with the Lord Mayor, I am desired by him to say that while it is easy to understand the desire of Senator Hoar to possess such a relic connected with his family's history, on behalf of the Corporation he could not consent to part with it on any terms.

It will be satisfactory to Senator Hoar to know however that the chest is destined to occupy a prominent place in the "Bristol Room" which is to be a chief feature in the New Museum Buildings rapidly approaching completion.

Yours faithfully,

J. TREMAYNE LANE,

*City Treasurer.*

LORIN A. LATHROP, Esqre.,  
United States Consul,  
Bristol

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