

moyst as long as I live, for I shall be cold and dry when I am dead.'

* John Selden, esq., would write sometimes, when notions came into his head, to preserve them, under his barber's hands. When he dyed his barber sayd he had a great mind to know his will, 'For,' sayd he, 'I never knew a wise man make a wise will.' He bequeathed his estate (40,000 *li.* value) to four executors, viz. Lord Chiefe Justice Hales, Lord Chief. Justice Vaughan, Rowland Jukes, and . . . (his flatterer)—from Fabian Philips.

Notes.

¹ Sir Thomas Mallet, Justice of the King's Bench 1641-45, 1660-63.

² John Selden matric. at Hart Hall Oct. 24, 1600, aged 15. Giles Mompesson matric. at Hart Hall, same day, aged 16.

³ Henry Grey succeeded as 7th earl of Kent in 1623, died 1639. His widow Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Gilbert Talbot, 7th earl of Shrewsbury, died Dec. 7, 1651, bequeathing her estate to Selden.

⁴ It is not clear whether this is 'Sir J. C.' or 'Sir J. H.' (in a monogram). If the former, perhaps 'Sir John Cotton'; if the latter, as is more probable, then perhaps Sir John Hoskyns, son of Sir Bennet, p. 223.

⁵ Anthony Wood adds the note: 'Vide Collect. ex Convoc. 1653,' i. e. Wood's own Collections ex reg. Convoc. Oxon. (MS. Bodl. 594): see Clark's *Wood's Life and Times*, i. 187, 209.

⁶ Reported slightly more fully by Aubrey, writing April 7, 1673, in MS. Wood F. 39, fol. 199^v:—'Mr. Johnson, minister of the Temple, buried him, secundum usum Directory, where, amongst other things, he quoted "the sayinge of a learned man" (he did not name him) "that when a learned man dies, there dyes a great deale of learning with him," and that "if learning could have kept a man alive our brother had not dyed."'

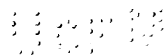
⁷ Charles Louis. 'He received permission from the House of Commons to sit and hear on Oct. 24, (1643), but does not seem to have actually made his appearance till the 28th: when an address of welcome was made by the Prolocutor, Dr. (William) Twisse, who had been at one time chaplain to the princess (his mother), and a reply was made by the prince. Somewhat fragmentary notes of his speech are found in the first volume of the minutes of the Westminster Assembly, which has never been published'—a note kindly sent me by Dr. A. F. Mitchell, Emeritus Professor of Ecclesiastical History in St. Andrews.

William Shakespear (1564-1616).

** Mr. William Shakespear was borne at Stratford upon Avon in the county of Warwick. His father was a butcher,

* MS. Aubr. 8, fol. 81^r.

** MS. Aubr. 6, fol. 109. Aubrey draws, in the margin, a wreath of laurel.



and I have been told heretofore by some of the neighbours, that when he was a boy he exercised his father's trade, but when he kill'd a calfe he would doe it in a high style, and make a speech. There was at that time another butcher's son in this towne that was held not at all inferior to him for a naturall witt, his acquaintance and coetanean, but dyed young.

This William being inclined naturally to poetry and acting, came to London, I guesse, about 18; and was an actor at one of the play-houses, and did act exceedingly well (now B. Johnson was never a good actor, but an excellent instructor).

He began early to make essayes at dramatique poetry, which at that time was very lowe; and his playes tooke well.

He was a handsome, well shap't man: very good company, and of a very readie and pleasant smooth witt.

The humour of . . . the constable, in *Midsomernight's Dreame*, he happened to take at Grendon in Bucks—I thinke it was Midsomer night that he happened to lye there—which is the roade from London to Stratford, and there was living that constable about 1642, when I first came to Oxon: Mr. Josias Howe is of that parish, and knew him. Ben Johnson and he did gather humours of men dayly where ever they came. One time as he was at the tavern at Stratford super Avon, one Combes, an old rich usurer, was to be buryed, he makes there this extemporary epitaph,

Ten in the hundred the Devill allows,
But Combes will have twelve, he swears and vowes:
If any one askes who lies in this tombe,
'Hoh!' quoth the Devill, 'Tis my John o Combe.'

He was wont to goe to his native countrey once a yeare. I thinke I have been told that he left 2 or 300*li.* per annum there and thereabout to a sister. Vide his epitaph in Dugdale's Warwickshire.

I have heard Sir William Davenant and Mr. Thomas Shadwell (who is counted the best comoedian we have

now) say that he had a most prodigious witt, and did admire his naturall parts beyond all other dramaticall writers. He was wont to say (B. Johnson's *Underwoods*) that he 'never blotted out a line in his life'; sayd Ben: Johnson, 'I wish he had blotted-out a thousand.'

His comœdies will remaine witt as long as the English tongue is understood, for that he handles *mores hominum*. Now our present writers reflect so much upon particular persons and coxcombeities, that twenty yeares hence they will not be understood.

Though, as Ben: Johnson sayes of him, that he had but little Latine and lesse Greek, he understood Latine pretty well, for he had been in his younger yeares a schoolmaster in the countrey.—from Mr. . . . Beeston *.

Ralph Sheldon (1623–1684).

* Ralph Sheldon, of Beoley, esq., natus at Weston, Warwickshire, Aug. 4, 1623, about 5 of the clock in the morning.

Memorandum the plott brake out in Oct. 1678. His house was search't; he disarmed; and afterwards a prisoner at Warwick.

Anno . . ., very like to dye of a dropsey—quaere Sir Thomas Millington de hoc.

Faire Madam Frances Sheldon (one of the maydes of honour^b) was born 24 Febr. at 8 or 9 at night. She was 23 last Febr. (167 $\frac{1}{2}$).

Note.

This Ralph Sheldon was Anthony Wood's friend: see Clark's Wood's *Life and Times*, ii. 227, iii. 98.

John Sherburne (1616–1635).

** Sir Edward Shirbourn, knight, natus 18^o Sept. A.D. 1616, hora 10 A.M. A little past halfe an hower after was born his twin brother John, who died anno aetatis 19^o.

* See vol. i. p. 97.

* MS. Aubr. 23, fol. 80.

^b To Catherine, queen of Charles II.

** MS. Aubr. 23, fol. 73^v.