

CURIOSITIES AND LAW OF WILLS.

woman has sought by her will to restrain her husband from entering, for a second time, into the holiest of bonds, and he gives what would be a good reason if a correct one, viz., that they have not the privilege of doing so. He may be right in his statement of fact, for *Allen v. Jackson*, 1 Ch. D. 399, in Appeal, which decides the incorrectness of his law, was a case where a man's mother-in-law endeavored to keep him true to her daughter's memory.

We are favored with an extract from a will, which might form a useful precedent in these days, when bulls and bears run riot in the stock exchange; it speaks of heaven as a place "where there are no railways nor monetary panics, nor fluctuations in exchange." The well-known will of the Earl of Pembroke is given *in extenso*: some of the bequests are particularly good, especially where he gives nothing to Lord Saye, knowing that he will faithfully distribute it unto the poor; and to Lieutenant-General Cromwell, one of his (Pembroke's) words, the which he wanted seeing that he (Cromwell) had never kept one of his own; and the conclusion, "Item, I give up the Ghost."

A good portion is given of the first will in the English tongue, registered in Doctor's Commons, that of Lady Alice West, dated "the xv day of the month of Jul in the yer of the incarnation of our Lord Thee Crist, a thousand and thre hundred and foure score and fiftene." She, among other bequests, proceeds as follows: "I devyse to Thomas, my sone, * * * my best fether bed, and a blue canevas and a materas and twey blankettys and a peyre schetes of reynes and sex of my best pilwes." Her Ladyship was religious, and gave £18. 10, "for to synge and saye 4400 masses for my lord Sir Thomas West is soule, and for myne, and for all Cristene soules," to be "done with-in fourtene nights after her deces." Cheap masses these, only a penny apiece!

The Introduction concludes with excerpts from the wills of William Shakespeare and Henry VIII. The poet gave nothing to his wife, save his "second best bed with the furniture."

Our author does not give us any poetical wills, although there have been several such proved. For instance, one of Mr. John Hedges', beginning:

"The fifth day of May,
Being airy and gay,
And to hyp not inclined
But of vigorous mind,
And my body in health,
I'll dispose of my wealth."

M. Darley inserts the date in his in the following words:

In seventeen hundred and sixty nine,
This with my hand I write and sign
The sixteenth day of October.
In merry mood, but sound and sober,
Past my three score and fifteenth year,
With spirits gay and conscience clear;
Joyous and frolicksome, though old,
And like this day serene, though cold.

One widow, Monica Sweeney, got off the following:

For this I never will repent,
'Tis my last will and testament;
If much, or little, nay, my all,
I give my brother Matthew Gall,
And this will hinder any pother
By sister Stritch or Mic my brother.
Yet stop: should Matt die before Mic,
And that may happen, for death's quick,
I then bequeath my worldly store
To brother Mic for ever more.
And should I outlive my brothers,
It's fit that then I think of others.
Matthew has sons and daughters, too,
'Tis all their own, were it Peru.
Pray, Mr. Forest, don't sit still,
But witness this as my last will.

Having whetted the appetites and tickled the palates of his readers by these curious productions, Mr. Proffatt brings on the substantials in his bill of fare—each dish, though highly seasoned, is most pleasant to the taste, very nutritious and easy of digestion; or, to be more literal he gives us eight most readable chapters, in which he treats of the origin and