

and Sir William Waldegrave, Knights, of the one party, and Anthony Cooke of Romford in the County of Essex, Esquire, of the other party, witnesseth that to the intent that part of the manors, lands and hereditaments of the said Anthony Cooke may be limited and appointed out in certainty, to be by him the said Anthony Cooke disposed of at his will and pleasure for the payment of his debts, and preferment of his children in marriage or otherwise, according to the tenor and effect and true meaning of an Act of Parliament made in the present five-and-thirtieth year of her Majesty's reign, intituled an Act for giving power and liberty to repeal certain uses of a Deed tripartite therein mentioned of land in certain manors, lands and rents of Anthony Cooke of Romford in the County of Essex, Esquire; now, as well the said Anthony as the said Lord Burleigh, Sir Robert Cecil, Sir Thomas Mildmay, and Sir William Waldegrave, according to the authority and power given unto them by the aforesaid Act of Parliament and by virtue of the same, do hereby limit and appoint out in certainty the manor, lands and rents hereafter mentioned, being part of the lands and hereditaments mentioned in the said Act of Parliament, that is to say, the manor of Great Dasset with appurtenances in the County of Warwick, and all and singular other the lands, rents and hereditaments of the said Anthony Cooke, set, lying and being in the County of Warwick, to be by him the said Anthony at his will and pleasure disposed of for the payment of his debts and for the preferment of his children as aforesaid, according to the true intent and meaning of the said Act. In witness whereof, to each part of this deed indenture tripartite, all the said parties have 'putt' their seals upon the day and year first above written." The year 1593, which is the date of this deed, takes us back into the Shakspearean period. Great Dasset itself, of which the document speaks, is almost Shakspearean ground. It is situate not many miles to the south-east of Stratford. The year 1593 was the 30th of Shakspeare's life. It was in this year that he published what he calls "the first heir of his invention," the poem of Venus and Adonis, and dedicated it to the Earl of Southampton. The hand that subscribed the W. BURGHLEY which we see on the time-stained parchment whose contents I have just deciphered, had often grasped the hand of this Earl of Southampton, if it never grasped that of Shakspeare himself. Southampton, left fatherless in his infancy, had been the ward of Burleigh; and it was the expectation and intention of the prudent