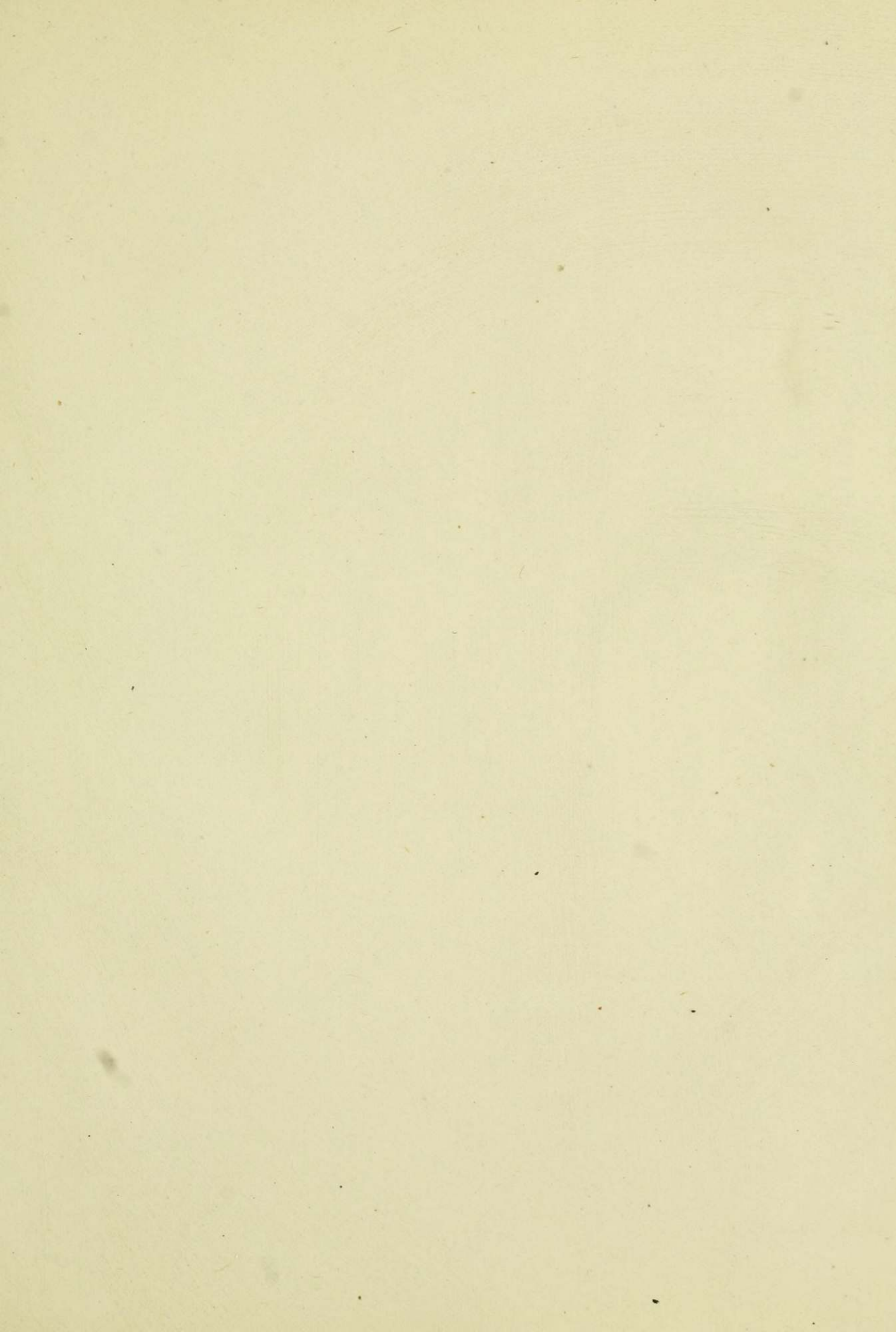




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THE
LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

OF
CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH;

WITH
SOME ADDITIONAL MEMORANDA RELATING TO HIM.

REPRINTED FROM THE "PROCEEDINGS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
SOCIETY" FOR JANUARY, 1867.



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LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT, & c.,

OF

CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH.

Mr. CHARLES DEANE read the "last will and testament"
of Captain John Smith,* of Virginia and New-England

* From this will it seems certain, that Smith left no wife or children; and it is very probable that he was a bachelor. Mr. Charles Campbell, in his "History of the Colony and Ancient Dominion of Virginia," published in 1860, (at p. 83,) cites a recent book entitled "A Year with the Turks," by Warrington W. Smyth, A.M., London, the writer of which claims descent from our Captain Smith. It would seem to be a safe proposition for any one bearing the name of Smith, to say that "John Smith" was his ancestor; but it might be more difficult to demonstrate, that a certain John Smith, who lived two or three hundred years ago, bore that relation.

The following letter from our Corresponding Member, H. G. Somerby, Esq., of London, will find an appropriate place here:—

LONDON, January 22, 1867.

MY DEAR MR. DEANE,—I have much pleasure in sending you an abstract of the will of Captain John Smith's father. I have not a full copy; but I hope to visit Lincoln again before long, when I shall copy it *verbatim et literatim*.

I send also an extract from the parish register of Willoughby, which was given to me by the clergyman there. I have not seen the register myself, which I hope I may do sometime, in order to copy all the entries of the name of Smith.

I remain very truly yours,

CHARLES DEANE, Esq.

H. G. SOMERBY.

"George Smith, of Willoughby, near Alford, County Lincoln. Will dated March 30, 1596.† Desires to be buried in the church of Willoughby. Bequeaths to the Right Honorable my Lord Willoughby, under whom I have many years lived as his poor tenant, as a token of my dutiful good-will, the best of my two years' old colts. Wife Alice, whom he commends to his eldest son, John, to honor and love during his life; younger son, Francis Smith; daughter Alice; kinsman, Robert Smith. Appoints his sons John and Francis executors, and George Mettham supervisor. Witnessed by Thomas Sanbrough and Bartholomew Lawrence."

From the Parish Register of Willoughby.

"John, the son of George Smith, was baptized the sixth day of January, 1579."

† Is there not an error in the date of this will as here given? Smith says "he was about thirteen years of age" when his parents died. In March, 1596, he was in his seventeenth year. "True Travels," pp. 1, 2. — C.D.

memory, from a copy which had been communicated to him by Mr. Henry Brooks Adams, the son and private secretary of our distinguished associate, the Hon. Charles Francis Adams, minister at the Court of St. James from the United States. Mr. Deane said that it would be seen that Captain Smith made his mark, instead of signing his name to this instrument; which must be explained by the fact, that it was executed on the day of his death, namely, the 21st of June, 1631.

The "Last Will and Testament" of Captain John Smith.

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN the one and twentieth daie of June in the seaventh yeare of the reigne of our soveraigne Lord Charles by the grace of God King of England Scotland France & Ireland defender of the faith &c. I *Captain John Smith* of the parish of S^t Sepulchers London Esquior, being sicke in bodye but of perfect mind and memory, thanckes be given unto Almighty God therefore, Revoking all former wills by me heretofore made doe make and ordaine this my last will and testament in manner followinge. First I comēd my soule into the handes of Almighty God my maker hoping through the merittes of Christ Jesus my Redeemer to receive full remission of all my sinnes and to inherit a place in the everlasting kingdome, my body I comitt to the earth from whence it came, to be interred according to the discreõn of myne executors hereunder named, and of such worldlie goodes wherof it hath pleased God in his mercie to make me an unworthie Receiver, I give and bequeath them as hereafter followeth. First I give and bequeath unto Thomas Packer Esq^r one of the clerkes of His Ma^{tes} Privy Seale and to his heires for ever, all my houses landes tenementes and hereditamentes whatsoever scituate lyinge and beinge in the parishes of Lowthe and greate Carleton in the countie of Lincolne together with my coate of armes. Item my will and meaninge is that in consideraõn therof the sayd Thomas Packer shall disburse and paye

all such s̄omes of money and legacies as hereafter in this my will are given bequeathed and reserved not excedinge the s̄ome of fowerscore poundes of lawfull money of England, that is to saie: First I reserve unto my selfe to be disposed as I shall thinck good in my life tyme the some of twentie poundes. Item he shall disburse about my funerall the s̄ome of twentie poundes. Item I give and bequeath out of the residue of the said fourscore poundes as followeth, viz^t I give and bequeath unto my much honored and most worthie freind S^r Samuel Saltonstall knight the s̄ome of fyve poundes. Itm to M^{ris} Tredway the s̄ome of fyve poundes. Itm to my sister Smith the widowe of my brother the some of tenn poundes. Itm to my cosen Steven Smith and his sister the s̄ome of sixe poundes thirteene shillinges and fower pence betweene them. Itm to the said Thomas Packer Joane his wife and Eleano^r his daughter the s̄ome of tenn poundes among them. Item to M^r Reynoldes the say M^r of the goldsmiths Hall the s̄ome of fortie shillinges, all w^{ch} legacies my meaning and will is shall be paid by the said Thomas Packer his heires executors or administrators wthin one yeare after my decease. Item I give unto Thomas Packer sonne of the above sayd Thomas Packer my trunck standing in my chamber at S^r Samuell Saltonstalls house in S^t Sepulchres parish, togeather with my best suite of apparrell of a tawney color viz^t hose doublet jerkin and cloake. Item I give unto him my trunke bound wth iron barres standing in the house of Richard Hinde in Lambeth, togeather wth halfe the bookes therein, to be chosen by the said Thomas Packer and allowed by myne executors, and the other halfe parte of the bookes I give unto M^r John Tredskin and the said Richard Hind to be divided betweene them. Item I nominate apointe and ordaine my said much honored freind S^r Samuell Saltonstall and the said Thomas Packer the elder, joynt executors of this my last will and testament; the marke of the said John Smith. Read acknowledged sealed and delivered by the said Captaine John Smith to be his last will and testament in the p^rsence of us who have subscribed our names: per me Willm^u Keble Sn^r civitatis London, Willm Packer, Elizabeth Sewster, Marmaduke Walker, his marke, witnes.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro Thoma Eden legum doctore surrogati venerabilis viri dni

Henrici Marten militis legum etiam doctoris Curiae prerogativæ Cantuariensis magistri custodis sive commissarij legitime constituti primo die mensis Julij A^o Domini 1631 juramento Thome Packer senioris armigeri unius executorum in hujusmodi testamentum nominatorum cui commissa fuit administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum jurium et creditorum dñi defuncti de bene et fideliter administrando eadem ad sancta Dei Evangelia jurat reservata potestate similem commissionem faciend Samueli Saltonstall milit alteri executorum etiam in hujusmodi testamenti nominat cum venerit eandm petitur Ex^r.

Transcribed from the original Register in the
Prerogative Office of Canterbury, June 17,
1862. — C. H.

Mr. Deane said, that, when he was in London last summer, he saw, at the Public-Record Office, the letter addressed to Lord Bacon by Captain Smith, in 1618, referred to on p. 21, No. 42, of Sainsbury's "Calendar of Colonial Papers." The body of the letter was probably not written by Smith; but the signature, of which a fac-simile is here given, is, in all probability, his.

Jo Smith.

Mr. Deane also stated, that he saw, at the library of the Society of Antiquaries, in London, in one of the volumes of "Broad-sides," under the year 1623, a copy of Captain Smith's printed prospectus of his "Generall Historie," first printed in 1624. In this prospectus, after describing the book, and giving a list of its contents, Smith concludes thus:—

These observations are all I haue for the expenses of a thousand pound, and the losse of eighteen yeares of time, besides all the travels, dangers, miseries & incumberances for my countries good, I haue endured gratis; and had I not discovered and liued in the midst of these parts, I could not possibly haue collected the substantial trueth from such an infinite number of variable Relations, that would make a volume of at least a thousand sheetes: and this is composed in lesse then eighty sheetes, besides the three Maps, which will stand me neere in an hundred pounds, which summe I cannot disbursse: nor shall the Stationers haue the cobby for nothing. Therefore I humbly entreat your Honour, either to adventure, or give me what you please towards the impression and I will be both accountable & thankful: not doubting but that the story will give you satisfaction and stirre vp a double new life in the Adventurers when they shall see plainely the causes of all those defailements, & how they may be amended.

And so I humbly rest.

While referring to these memorials of Captain Smith, Mr. Deane took occasion to say, that he paid a visit to St. Sepulchre's Church, in London, under the pavement of which the remains of the hero were buried; but he was not able to see the stone placed over those remains, as the floor of the church at the time was covered with a carpet of "kamptulicon," which concealed all the monuments. The epitaph to his memory, however, it is understood, cannot now be deciphered upon its tablet. It was fortunately preserved by an early chronicler, and was

printed in Munday and Dyson's edition of Stow's "Survey of London," published in 1633, two years after the death of Smith. As the inscription has not been often reprinted in this country, Mr. Deane thought it might not be deemed inappropriate to copy it here, in the precise form in which it was originally printed.

This Table is on the South side
of the Quire in Saint *Sepulchers*,
with this Inscription.

To the Living Memory of his
deceased Friend, Captaine IOHN
SMITH, who departed this mortall
life on the 21. day of Iune, 1631.
with his Armes, and this Motto,
Accordamus, vincere est vivere.

Here lies one conquer'd
that hath conquer'd Kings,
Subdu'd large Territories,
and done things
Which to the World
impossible would seeme,
But that the truth
is held in more esteeme.
Shall I report
his former service done
In honour of his God
and Christendome:
How that he did
divide from Pagans three,
Their Heads and Lives,
Types of his Chivalry:
For which great service
in that climate done,
Brave *Sigismundus*
(King of *Hungarion*)

Did give him as a Coat
 of Armes to weare,
 Those conquer'd heads
 got by his Sword and Speare?
 Or shall I tell
 of his adventures since,
 Done in *Virginia*,
 that large Continnence :
 How that he subdu'd
 Kings unto his yoke,
 And made those Heathen flie,
 as wind doth smoke ;
 And made their Land,
 being of so large a Station,
 A habitation
 for our Christian Nation :
 Where God is glorifi'd
 their wants suppli'd,
 Which else for necessaries
 might have di'd ?
 But what availes his Conquest,
 now he lyes
 Inter'd in earth,
 a prey for Wormes and Flies ?
 O may his soule
 in sweet Elizium sleepe,
 Vntil the Keeper
 that all soules doth keepe,
 Returne to Iudgement,
 and that after thence,
 With Angels he may have
 his recompence.

Captaine *Iohn Smith*, sometime Gover-
 nour of *Virginia*, and Admirall
 of *New England*.



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