

clerk, the photo of the John Shipway will, 1547, asked him to produce me the original, as I had reason to doubt its authenticity. He brought out the volume and we found the original of the photograph, in accordance with the number endorsed, at p. 75 of the volume, the contents of which we found fully agreed with the ancient manuscript calendar, save that Will 64 was stated to be, not John Shipway's, but John Nelme's.

This afforded a clue to the mysterious word "Cam'e," for the Nelme family, as I well knew, long resided in the village of Cam, and accordingly I suggested that as the official manuscript calendar did not give the residences, we should consult the new calendar which I had printed in 1892 for the British Record Society. On being referred to, this showed "John Nelme, Came," as the testator and not John Shipway. In fact no Shipway occurs amongst the Gloucester wills until the year 1628. Strangely enough I had been in the habit of making notes about the Nelme family, and when collating the wills for the purpose of printing the new index I had noticed the existence of this particular Nelme will. It became clear to me that the original Nelme will had been nefariously abstracted and that a forged Shipway will had been inserted in its place. A little study of the internal evidence of the document confirmed this opinion, as we have already seen.

Leaving Gloucester, I proceeded to Worcester, and at that registry asked to see the will of John James Shipway, of 1490, but the officials could not then produce it, and the chief clerk (Mr. T. Wilson) stated that he had never heard of such a document, although, as it happened, Colonel Shipway had at that time a copy of it in his possession. Nor did the calendars reveal the existence of any such document. However, at a subsequent date, both this and the will of a Grace Shipway, dated 1537, were forthcoming, and they formed part of the indictment against "Dr." Davies. It was evident that he had conveyed the impression to the officials here that he was something more than an ordinary searcher, for one of the clerks informed me that only the previous day "Dr." Davies, "from the Herald's College," had paid them a visit.

Some weeks later I visited Hereford Probate Registry, and Mr. Earle, the chief clerk, then showed me the alleged will