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A
TRUE COPY
OF THE
Last Will and Testament

Of the Right Reverend Father in God,

THOMAS

Lord Bishop of *Rochester*,

AND

Dean of the Cathedral and Collegiate
Church of St. PETER'S *Westminster*.



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A
TRUE COPY
OF
Bishop SPRAT'S
Last Will and Testament.

Ex Registro Curiae Prerogativæ
Cant. Extract.

In the Name of GOD, Amen.
I THOMAS, Bishop of Ro-
chester, and Dean of *Westminster*,
do make my last Will and Testa-
ment in manner following.

A 2

First,

First, I recommend my Soul to the Mercy of the Great God of Heaven and Earth who gave it, beseeching his Divine Majesty to Pardon and Forgive my manifold and grievous Sins of Omiffion and Commiffion, through the Merits and Interceffion of my blessed Saviour and Redeemer, the only Mediator between God and Man *Christ Jefus*.

Next, my Body I leave to be deposited in some place in *Westminster Abbey*, as my Executors shall think fit, with as moderate Expence on my Funeral as is confiftent with the moft private Decency.

As to my fmall Eftate, I give it entirely to my two Executors whom I here nominate and appoint

point to be, my dear Wife Mrs. *Helen Sprat*, with whom I have lived these thirty five Years in faithful Conjugal Affection, and my only Son *Thomas Sprat* Arch-Deacon of *Rochester*: I could heartily wish that what I now bequeath to them, had been much more ample and more proportionable to the abundant Tenderness and Good Will I bear them: But neither the Frankness of my own Nature, nor their Generosity and Liberal Way of living would permit it; besides the several private Channels of Friendship and Charity by which my poor Store has been always liable to be exhausted. However, as inconsiderable as it is, I intreat my foresaid Executors kindly to accept it, not doubting but God will Bless and Prosper it in their Hands; the rather,

ther, because I assure them it has been gathered only by Ways Honest, Fair, and Honourable; not by the least Injustice, Bribery, Hardship, Oppression, or any the like mean or undue Methods of heaping Riches, which in the several Advantages of my Conditions in this World my Soul has always abhorred.

I intreat my Executors, that out of all my Goods and Chattels, Debts, Rents, Arrears of Rents, and other Profits whatever belonging to me, after they shall have Discharged my just Debts, and cleared my Servants Wages, they will pay to each of them moreover half a Years Wages, and bestow on Forty of my nearest Friends, Dependances or Relations (as they shall chuse) Forty good Mourning Rings. After this,
I say,

I say, I desire that they will reduce the whole Surplusage of what remains into one general Sum, whereof the Right and Property to continue in my Son, but the Interest and Produce of it to be for the Support of his Mother during her Life: I desire my dear Wife may take out of my poor Furniture and Household Stuff, and the Ornaments she has in her keeping, what shall be sufficient to furnish her a Bed-Chamber according to her Quality. My Books I give to my Son, to be added to those I have already given him, except what *English* Books his Mother shall likewise chuse for her own Use: All my Papers I consign to his Disposal, but still with a tender Regard to my Reputation.

I earnest-

I earnestly request my Son to continue a sincere and hearty Affection to my poor Relations, and to Assist and Relieve them upon occasion, as indeed his Mother has been always most ready to do: I the rather pray this of my Son, because I my self am not now able to supply them as I was always inclined, and as I formerly did. For I must own, that since the time I received one Farthing out of my Father's Estate, which I absolutely left to my Mother for the Maintenance of her and hers, since that time I have given to my Mother, my Brother, and Sisters, and their Children, much above Two Thousand Pounds out of my own Pocket and private Acquisitions.

I far-

I farther beseech and oblige my Son, that he will continue a perpetual Kindness, Friendship, and Gratitude to all those Persons, their Families, and Descendants, who have been my Friends, Well-wishers, Patrons, or Benefactors. Which Work, I thank God, is made more easy to him, because by God's Blessing I am able with all Humility to affirm ingenuously, that I scarce ever in all my Life, to the utmost of my Remembrance, received any Favour, Bounty, or good Office, from any Person whatsoever, great or small, but God put into my Power one time or other to make them, or theirs, one way or other an abundant Return and Compensation, with a Measure fill'd up, pressed down, and sometimes running over.

B

Which

Which Reflection carries me to look back a little on the many other signal Favours, Loving-kindnesses, and Protections, my gracious God has vouchsafed me, tho' most unworthy; for which, *praise the Lord, O my Soul, and all that is within me bless his holy Name.* Particularly (to mention only some few out of very many) that from an obscure Birth, and Education, in a far distant Country, where I was the Son of a private Minister, God brought me to stand before PRINCES, and raised me to so Eminent a Station in the Church, without my seeking, and even contrary almost to my Endeavours. Then, that in an Age of so great Corruptions, Temptations, and Prevarications, I have still kept my Integrity, and God has made me firm and steddy to the Faith, Doctrine,

Doctrine, Discipline, and true Interest, of the Church of England.

Next, That God has granted me so many remarkable Deliverances from Personal Dangers, and the Malicious Contrivances of Wicked Men, especially that one great Plot *, by the wonderful Discovery of which, God made me Instrumental not only to save my own Life, but the Lives of divers of the Principal Persons in the Kingdom,

Lastly, That after several other Places of Preferment, and Dignity in the Church, some of which I accepted, some refused, I have been long placed at the

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Head

* Blackhead, and Young's Conspiracy.

Head of this Royal Church of *Westminster*; whereby I have had the Opportunity of filling the *School* Twice with Excellent *Masters*, † and of breeding up great Numbers of Eminent Persons in this Noble Institution, (among whom I have just Reason to reckon my own Son); many of whom have already given assured Proof to the World, that in their turns they will exceedingly contribute to the Strength, Support, and Ornament of their Country, both in Church and State.

Finally, I declare this to be my Last Will and Testament, all written with my own Hand, In Witness whereof I have hereto
put

† *Dr. Knipe, and Dr. Freind.*

[11]

put my Hand and Seal, *November, 28. 1711.*

Tho. Roffen.

Signed Sealed and Published in
the Presence of us,

Ch. Battely,

Tho. Moore,

Cha. Lowe.

M A H J A W O

Probatum

PRobatum Londini Coram Venerabili Viro Humphredo Henchman Legum Doctore Surrogato, &c. Viceffimo die Mensis Junii Anno Dom. 1713. Juramento Reverendi Viri Thome Sprat, Archidiaconi Roffen' Filii dicti defuncti &c. unius Executorum, &c. Cui &c. de bene &c. Jurat Reservata potestate similem Comm' faciendi Helene Sprat Relictæ dicti defuncti & alteri Executorum &c. cum venerit eandem petitur Ex.

THO. WELHAM,
Registrarii Deputatus.

F I N I S.

