

III. THE REMOVAL TO LONDON.

For the circumstances attending the transplanting of the family from Ely to London, the data are very meager. Rev. John Scripps, speaking of his father's early life, said: "He learned his father's trade (that of carpenter), but standing between William Armiger and an estate, as expectant heir, he was knocked down in the street and left for dead, it was supposed by Armiger, and his whole youth was spent upon crutches. In consequence of this he was bound to the tailor's trade, which he learned but never followed. His wounds, which were principally in one of his legs and ankle bone, growing worse, and making him still more a cripple, brought him up to London to put himself under Sir Astley Cooper; but, when on consultation amputation was resolved on, he gave them the go-by and put himself under a German doctor, who perfectly restored him, after relieving him of several pieces of bone, and he never even limped afterwards."

The question will naturally arise, what estate could have been the cause of his misfortune. His paternal grandmother was Sarah, daughter of John Plowright, apparently a man of some means, as wealth went in those days. Besides this daughter, Sarah, John Plowright left two sons, Thomas and John. Both married, but Thomas seems to have had no children, and at his death left his property to his widow Sarah. She, dying a year later, left it in turn to her nephew, William Scripps, son of her sister-in-law, Sarah, wife of Robert Scripps. To John Plowright and Elizabeth, his wife, we have in the parish registers a record of the birth, in 1728, of a son, also named John, and eighteen years later the record of the marriage of an Elizabeth Plowright, whose birth is not recorded, but who was probably a daughter of John and Elizabeth,