

June, 1896, the defendant went to Gloucester, and again in August, with the result that there he discovered the will of John Shipway. This will was a most interesting one for Colonel Shipway, for in it the testator, "of Beverston and Mangotsfield," though apparently *in articulo mortis*, yet found time to recite the details of his arms, received by an ancestor from Richard I. in 1192, through "William de Longchamp, chancellor and justiciary." This was obviously incorrect, for in 1192 Richard was in Palestine and William de Longchamp had been dismissed from office some years before. All these wills were numbered in order, this will being number 75. In 1892, Mr. Phillimore, who, as the defendant wrote to Colonel Shipway, was "a most skilled antiquarian," made a list of these wills, and No. 64 on his list was that of "John Nelme, of Came." The will of John Nelme was now missing, so it was evident that the defendant had stolen this will and substituted a forgery for it, or, as appeared probable, that he had erased the writing from the original paper and forged this will upon it. Traces of earlier writing could still be seen in photographs of the will, and it was a remarkable fact that at the top the word "Came" appeared. In these old wills it was customary to find the name of the testator's parish at the top, and so ignorant was the copyist that here he had actually retained the name of John Nelme's parish on a will purporting to come from Mangotsfield.*

In February, 1897, the defendant went to Worcester, and shortly after wrote to Colonel Shipway to say that he had discovered the will of John James Shipway, who was the father of James Shipway, and who died in 1492. This will stated that the testator was a "man of arms"—an erroneous description, for apparently a man entitled to bear arms was meant—and after reciting the grant of the arms by Richard I. the testator went on to bequeath to his son the papers by which the grant was made 300 years before. The register of wills contained no mention of this document, and it looked as if

* This mysterious word "Came" proved a source of considerable perplexity. One suggestion put forward was that it signified "original." Another opined that it had something to do with "cautio," a word not unknown in the Probate Court, and a legal gentleman connected with the case hazarded the ingenious guess that it related to the Archbishop of Cambridge!