

CHAPTER XII.

ELTON FAMILY.

THE ELTONS were established in the County of Wilts, England, as early as the sixteenth century, as appears by the wills of various members of the family who were then living in different parts of the country. They were yeomen, and consequently freeholders, occupying a position second only to that of the landed gentry.*

I. ANTHONY ELTON, 1st, of Sowley (now Soley), in the Parish of Chilton Folliatt, County Wilts, yeoman, was the brother of Thomas, of the same place, yeoman, who died without issue in March, 1619, bequeathing three-fourths of his estate to his wife, and the remainder to his brother Anthony, whom he appointed executor.

Anthony Elton, 1st, had issue, among others, a daughter, the wife of ——— Shaddow, and a son, Robert, *of whom hereafter.* †

II. ROBERT ELTON, of Sowley, in the Parish of Chilton Folliatt, County Wilts, yeoman, (son of Anthony, 1st,) resided in a house on the heath, which by his will, dated January (11th mo., O. S.) 13, 1663, he bequeathed to his wife Margery, together with the orchard and six acres of land. With the exception of small legacies to his daughters and grandchildren, the remainder of his property devolved on his son Anthony, who was also his executor. See *Appendix XXIII.*

Mr. Elton died some time about the end of the year 1668, as the inventory of the personal property, which was valued at £60 10s. 0d., was dated January, 1668, though his will was not probated until April (2d mo., O. S.) 20, 1669. †

Robert Elton married, first, Jane ———, who was buried

* Archdeaconry of Wilts, Wills Nos. 16 and 29, Somerset House, London.

† Consistory Sarum, Wills, 1619, Somerset House, London.

‡ *Appendix XXIII.*