

recording, not only her many virtues, but, also, her descent from Sir Thomas Fettiplace and his wife Betrice, daughter of the King of Portugal. Her son, Sir William Dunch, married Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Cromwell, and Aunt of Oliver Cromwell, the Protector.

John, the third son, was of the Household of King Henry VI. and a citizen and draper of London. It may here be mentioned that from the time of King Edward III., and onwards, it was a fashion at Court for the nobility and gentry, and even Royalty itself, to become members of one of the great City Guilds. Thus Edward III., Richard II., Henry IV., Henry V., Henry VI., and Edward IV. were all brethren of the Skinners' Company, which also exhibits on its lists the names of twelve Duke, two Earls, a Prince and other important personages. Hence it is probable that John Fettiplace only followed the fashion of his day and, although belonging to the Drapers' Company, was not actually engaged in trade. Quite possibly his position at Court was owing to his mother's influence, or to the acknowledged fact of his connection with the Portuguese Royal House, and to these causes, and his probable acquaintance with the Portuguese language, may be attributed his employment by King Henry in carrying and presenting to the King of Portugal "a certain gilt garter, ornamented with pearls and flowers," for which service he received £40, "which the Lord the King commanded to be paid to the said John for his costs and expenses in carrying the said garter to the King of Portugal." The cost of this garter was considerable, the King paying no less than £66 13s. 4d. (a sum equivalent to about £1,200 at the present day) for it to Matthew Phillips, the London Goldsmith.

John Fettiplace seems to have amassed much wealth during his residence in London, partly derived, no doubt, from his marriage with Joan Fabian, widow of John Horne, Alderman of London. He died in 1464, leaving his manors of East Shefford, Berks, and New Langport, Kent, to his eldest son Richard, and considerable sums of money to all his children. He also left money "for a closure to be made aboute the tombe of my Fader and my Mader to renewe the remembrance of hem"—and out of the residue of my goods, "I wol and biqueth that myn Excecutours therewith after their discrecons shall purchase and bye londs and tennts to the

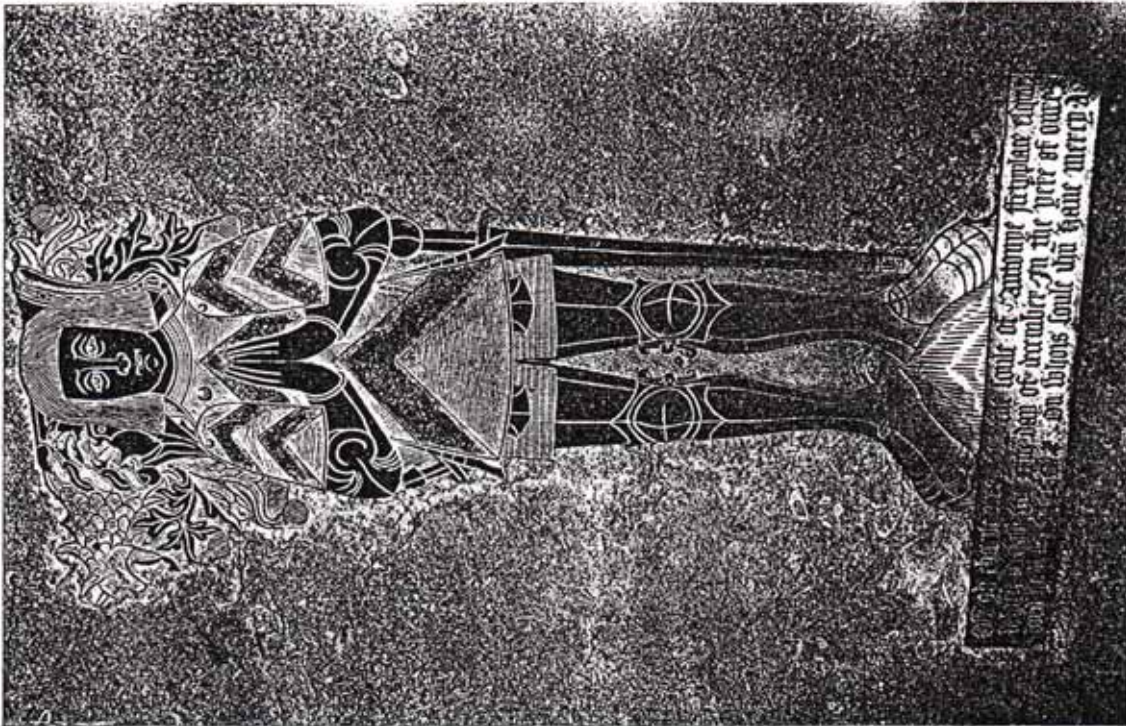
value of V or VII by yere which londs and tennts I wol by the moderacon ordinaunce and adoyse of myn Excecutours shall goo to the encreasing and augmentacion of the parsonage of Shifford yerely for evermore to thentent that the parson ther for the tyme beyng shall pray ppetually for my soule and for all myn Auncestres soules. And also to the Relouyng Refreshyng and to the fyndyng and sustentacon of poor Almesmen ther for evermore to pray for my soule." He seems to have preferred London to the country up to the last, for both he and his wife were buried in St. Margaret's Church, Lothbury, according to his last instructions, where a monument existed to their memory at the time that John Stow wrote his Survey of London. John Fettiplace left four sons, Richard, Anthony, Thomas and William, and a daughter Margaret, married to Marmaduke Beke of Whitknights, Berks, whose family had obtained a grant of this Manor in the time of Henry IV.

Richard Fettiplace of Shefford, the eldest son, married Elizabeth, the only child and heiress of William Besils, (and his wife Alice, daughter of Sir Richard Harcourt) of Besils Leigh, Berks, whose family had been settled here, as Leland says in his quaint language, "syns the time of Edward the first. The Bessells cam out of Provence in France and were men of activitee in feates of arms as it appeareth in monuments at Legh; how he faught in listes with a straunge knyghte that challengyd hym, at the whiteche deade the kyng and quene at that time of England were present." Richard Fettiplace died in 1510, and was buried in the chancel of the Priory Church at Poughley, leaving property not only to that church, but also certain lands "to be seized to the use of the Parson and his successors of East Shifford for 99 years to keep an obit there for my soul and to yearly keep in order the said parish Church," and to maintain lights there.

Anthony, the second son of John Fettiplace, resided at Swinbrook in Oxfordshire as well as at Childrey, Berks, and was Esquire of the Body to King Henry VII., receiving an annuity of 50 marks from the Exchequer. In the years 1485 and 1486, he was appointed keeper for life of the parks of Berley and Cornbury, Oxon, with the usual wages paid out of the lordship of Woodstock, and about the same time was granted the office of launderer of the Laund of Burford, in the forest of Whichwoode, with wages out of the Lordships of Langley, Burford, and Shipton. In 1488 he,

with others, was commissioned "to summons all Earls, Barons, Knights, and other Nobles in the County of Oxon, to examine how many archers each is bound to find for the king's army, and to take the numbers of those archers preparatory to the expedition for the relief of Brittany, and to make return of the premises to the King in person." He was Sheriff of the County of Berks in 1495, and a few years later was made Steward of "Suffolk's Land" in Co. Oxon, Master of the Hunt in Ewelme Park, as held by Robert Harcourt, and Steward of the Manors of Minster-Lovell, Cogges, Burford, Shipton, Spellesbury, and the hundred of Chadlington, in Oxfordshire, and of the Manors of Buklande, Hatford, Langley, Astonthorold and Westcompton, Berks, forfeited by attainer of Edmund, Earl of Suffolk. Truly Anthony Fettiplace had little cause for complaint! He married Mary, sister of Sir Adrian Fortescue who, after being for many years in great favour with King Henry VIII., was beheaded on Tower Hill for alleged conspiracy, but in reality for his refusal to acknowledge the supremacy of the King over the Church of England in place of that of the Pope. Anthony Fettiplace died in 1510, leaving instructions that he was to be buried in the Church of "Swynbrok afore our Lady in the Chauncell," in which spot is still to be seen a brass bearing his engraved effigy and representing him as habited in armour and tabard of arms.

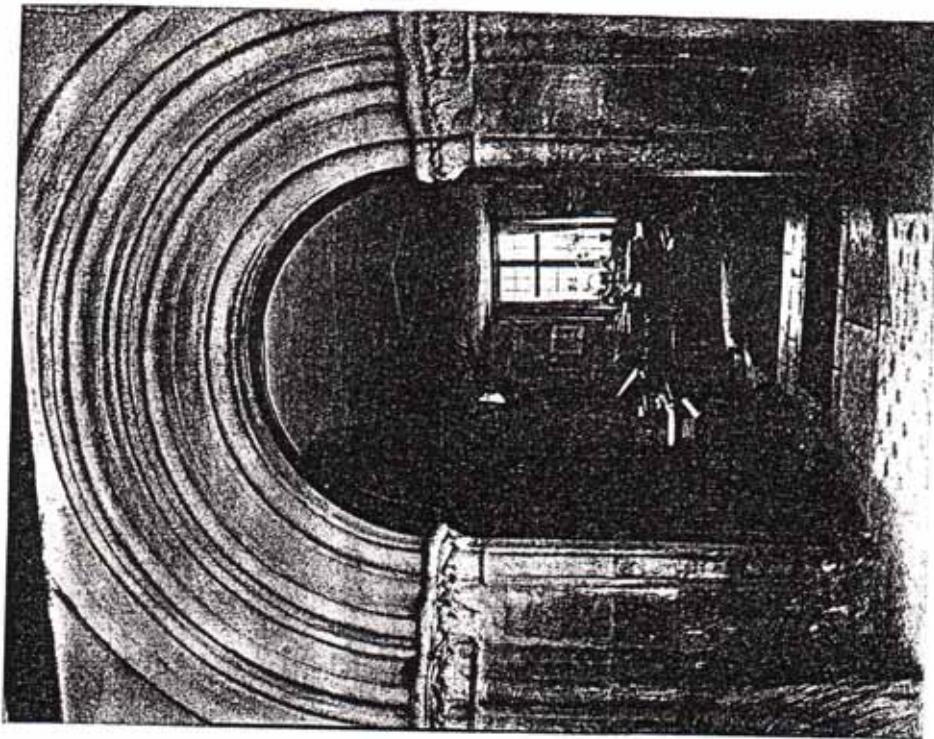
To digress for a moment, it would be interesting to discover the relationship which existed between Anthony Fettiplace and "Armiger John vocatus Croston" who lie side by side in the chancel of this Church. On the stone to which is affixed the figures of the latter and his three wives, only one of the four shields originally existing now remains, but this is at the upper dexter corner of the stone, and is charged with the arms of Fettiplace. Bearing in mind the position of the shield, and the instance already alluded to in this paper of John, son of Richard Fettiplace, assuming the cognomen of Southbury, did John, called Croston, marry a Fettiplace, or is it possible that he himself was a Fettiplace? This latter suggestion is partly confirmed by a note made in the Swinbrook register, attributing the brass to a Fettiplace whose will was proved in the Commons in 1508, but this date creates a difficulty in consequence of the style of the armour of the effigy being of a period not later than 1470—and here the matter must be left.



BRASS OF ANTHONY FETTIPLACE (1510)
SWINBROOK CHURCH, OXON.

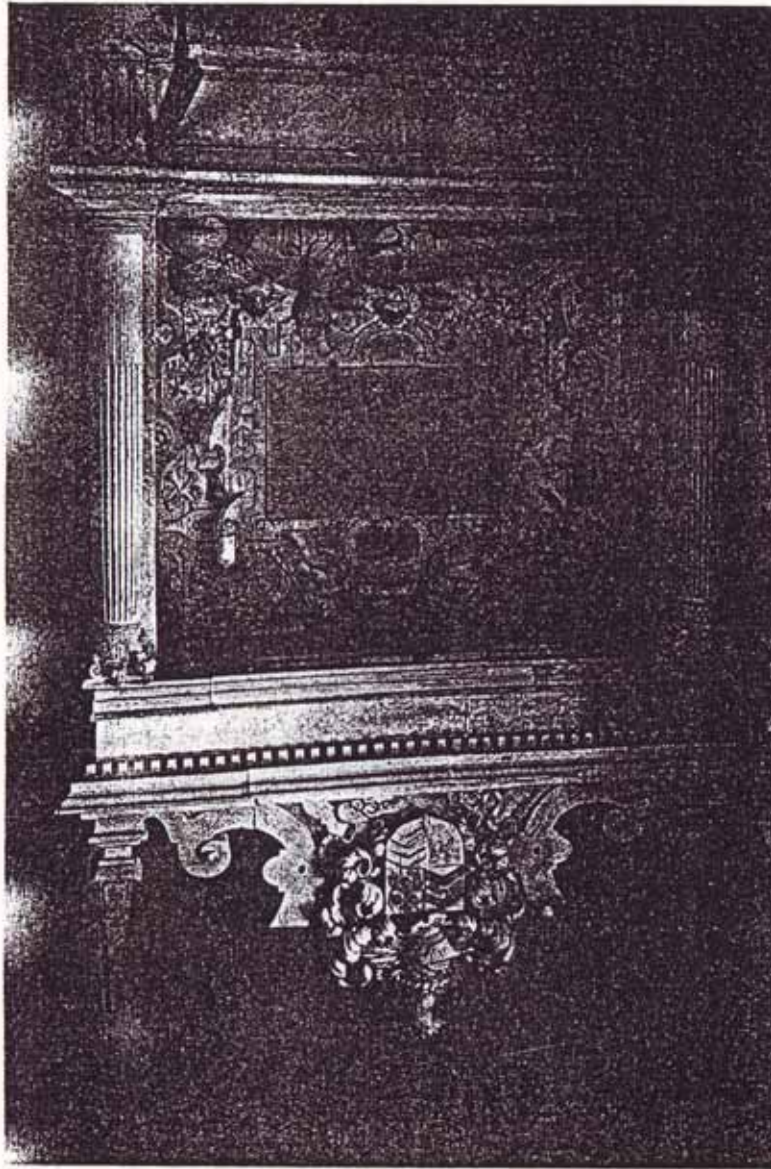
Sir Thomas, the third son of John Fetiplace, was seated at the beautiful old Manor House of Compton Beauchamp, Berks, and like his brother Anthony, seems to have had some connection with the Court. In 1513 he was "granted protection as he was about to serve in the Wars under Richard, Bishop of Winchester," and in 1520 he, together with the Lord Cardinal, the Privy Seal, and great nobility, was appointed one of the King's Council to make arrangements for the meeting of Francis and King Henry VIII. He was in attendance upon the King at the Field of the Cloth of Gold, when he and Lady Fetiplace were, with others, specially selected to attend upon the Queen. A little later he was appointed, together with his brother-in-law Sir Nicholas Carew, and other relatives, to attend upon the King at his meeting with Charles V. at Gravelines, and soon afterwards died seized of the Manors of Stanford-in-the-Vale, Shrivenham, Lamcote, Burton, Ocolt and Bray in Berkshire, and other wealth. He appears to have been twice married, first to a sister of Sir Nicholas Carew, Master of the Horse, who, like Sir Adrian Fortesque, the brother-in-law of Anthony Fetiplace, lost his head on the block at the command of the Sovereign in whose favour he and Sir Adrian had stood so high, and in whose Councils and entertainments they had so often shared; and secondly to Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Norreys (by his wife Jane, daughter of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford), leaving an only daughter and heiress married to Sir Francis Englefield. Sir Thomas was buried in "*ye Abbaye Church of Abingdon*," and by his will he bequeathed a small sum of money to "*ye Church of Lyttle Shifford to be bestowed ther after ye discretion of my nephew John Fetiplace the elder on ye mending of my Grandmother's tombe or otherwise.*"

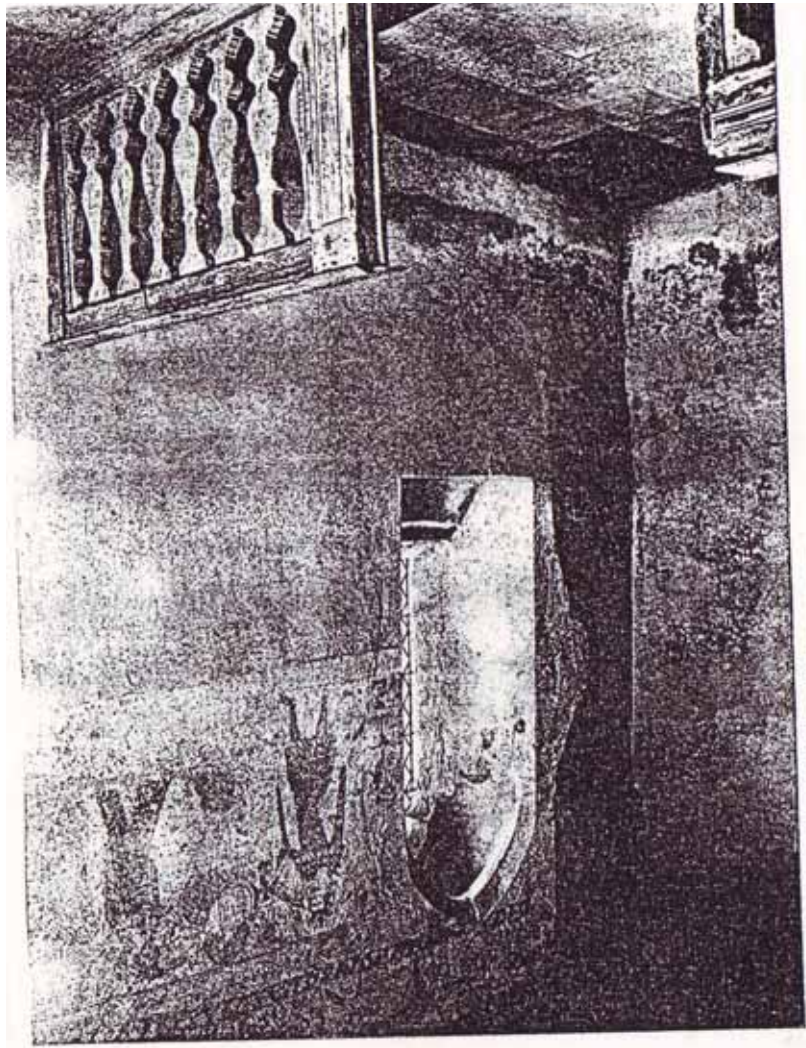
William, the youngest son of John Fetiplace, of Shefford, appears to have been quite as affluent as his brothers, but, unlike them, disinclined to mix to any great extent in public affairs. He resided at Letcombe, Berks, and the whole of his life was spent in the neighbourhood attending to the wants of his tenants and dependents, the re-building of the tower and reparation of Childrey Church, the construction of a chantry, and the formation of the village schools and charities which exist to the present day owing to his generous benefactions. Whom he married is not known, but in all probability, the lady was a great heiress. Her quartered arms on the corbels of the chantry identify her mother

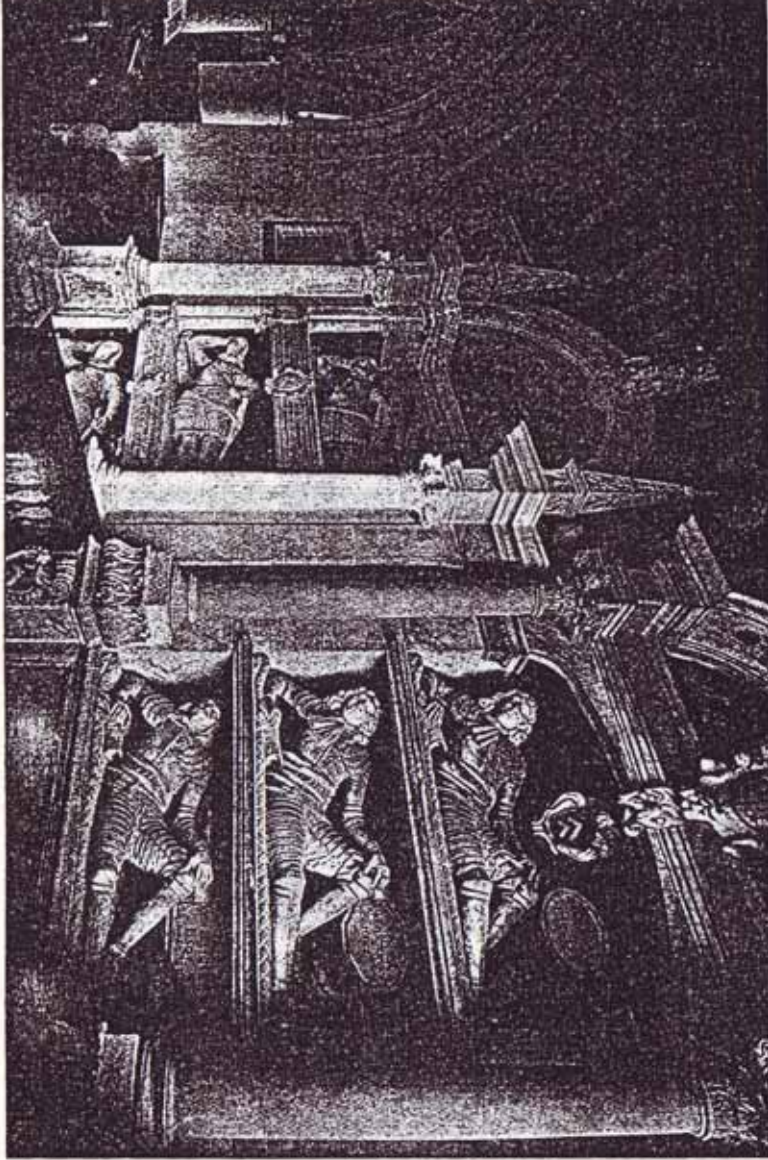


NORMAN DOORWAY
APPLETON MANOR-HOUSE, BERKS.

MONUMENT OF SIR JOHN FETTLIFLACE, OF BESILS LEIGH (1580)
APPLETON CHURCH, BERKS.







THE FETIPLACE MONUMENT
SWINBROOK CHURCH, OXON.