

of aged documents, long since burnt, must have been presented to the church by this John Shipway. As the box is now useless as far as its utilisation for parish purposes is concerned, if you would like to have it I feel certain I could readily persuade Mr. Alford to give it you. He is himself thoroughly persuaded of your right to possess it. Please let me know if you would like it. &c., &c.

Colonel Shipway: When I read that letter I was horrified. I did not countenance the removal of any coffin. I said it would not be tolerated, and hoped that such action would be discontinued. The defendant said it was done in his zeal for research.

Mr. Bodkin then brought forward another of Davies' communications, in which he hoped the Colonel would not hurry him in his work of tracing his "eminently honourable and distinguished ancestry." In one of the accounts, that for £12 paid to Willets, Colonel Shipway acknowledged that he was unaware that in this amount was included a guinea for private work done by the firm for the defendant, and something for engraving "Ye gifte of J. S." on the iron hasp.

Colonel Shipway, however, was at this time apparently getting rather suspicious, for he received two letters from the defendant, of which the following are extracts:—

Pierpoint Hotel, Worcester,

Feb. 15, 1897.

Col. R. W. Shipway,—Dear Sir,—Your letter has been brought to me, and I hasten to reply thereto. I am most certain that the will you refer to has had no alteration or substitution made in it. Had such been the case I should have noticed it. I quite fail to see why the College of Arms should not send an expert down to examine the wills. I would suggest for your more perfect satisfaction that some unbiassed person should go down to Gloucester and look at the will if you feel the least unassured. I sincerely hope the College of Arms will send an expert down, for it will be the means of authoritatively showing the illogical and absurd position Mr. Phillimore appears to have assumed. . . . The will was photographed as discovered, and shows not the slightest trace of having been interfered with.

Worcester,

Feb. 19th, 1897.

Mr. Phillimore's doubt respecting the will would be most important if justified, but I am perfectly certain that the will has not been altered in the slightest, or it would show it.

Colonel Shipway said that since July 7, 1897, he had had no letter from or communication with the defendant.