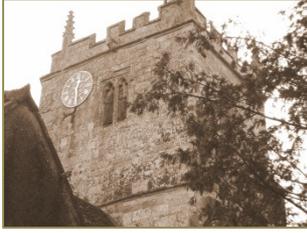


Rev Charles Wrottesley, Rector of East Knoyle 1820 -1848



Ecclesiastical Intelligence

The Rev Charles Wrottesley to the Rectory of East Knoyle, vacant by the resignation of the Rev John Savile Ogle.

Oxford Journal Saturday 23 December 1820

SUICIDE OF A CLERGYMAN.—On Friday morning, an inquest was held at the White Hart Hotel, Salisbury, by R. M. Wilson, Esq., on the body of the Rev. Charles Wrottesley, who committed suicide in his bedroom on Thursday morning, by strangling himself with a handkerchief, which he twisted tightly round his neck with the aid of the handle of a hearth-brush. The deceased was the incumbent of East Knoyle, and uncle to Lord Wrottesley. He was a gentleman of excellent character, and generally beloved by his parishioners; and the melancholy circumstance is deeply lamented by those who were acquainted with him. The following evidence was adduced:—

Thomas Ferris deposed that he was valet to the deceased, and had lived with him for the last 30 years. He had been for the last month or five weeks in a very low way, and had had the attendance of Mr. Crosier, a medical gentleman of East Knoyle, for three weeks. He complained chiefly of inward pain, and his spirits were very bad. He had not performed Divine service for the last three weeks. Before his illness he used to be very cheerful, and attend to his domestic affairs; but latterly he would not order his own dinner. He said he was sure the doctor could not do anything for him, as his illness was of a serious nature. Deceased left Knoyle on Wednesday afternoon, as he (witness) understood, to receive advice from Mr. Tatum, surgeon, of Salisbury, and arrived at the White Hart about half-past five on the same evening. He went twice during the evening to Mr. Tatum's, by Mr. Wrottesley's orders, but he was not at home. Witness did not see any difference in his manner on that night. About ten minutes to eight on the following morning he went to call the deceased, and on entering the room, he first observed the clothes of the bed thrown back, and his master on the floor at the bottom of the bed, quite dead. Without waiting to ascertain the cause, he gave an alarm, and immediately went after Mr. Tatum. Mr. Wrottesley always shaved himself, and witness brought two cases of razors with him, which he put in his bedroom. Miss Wrottesley came from London on Saturday last to stay with the deceased on account of his illness. Witness did not know of any circumstance which could have induced his master to commit the act. The deceased had applied to Drs. Watson and Alexander for advice concerning his eyes, and they had both pronounced them to be perfect.

The Hon. Walter Wrottesley, of 4, Chester Square, London, stated that the deceased was his uncle, his father's brother. He was about 64 or 65 years of age. He saw him last about a month since, at Lord Wrottesley's, in Staffordshire. From his letters, and those of Mr. Seymour, of Knoyle, who represented that he was in a particularly low state, Miss Wrottesley was induced to leave London to attend him. [Mr. Wrottesley here read a letter he received from the deceased, in which he regretted he could not see Miss Wrottesley, as, from the peculiarity of his disease, he thought he was better alone.] Witness had no idea that he had any pecuniary or family embarrassments.

G. Tatum, Esq., surgeon, stated that he was from home when he was sent for on Wednesday evening, and he did not see deceased that night. On Thursday morning he was sent for about eight o'clock, to the White Hart, and on going thither he was taken into a bedroom, where he observed a dead body at the foot of the bed, on his back. He found that life had departed some time, and on further examining the body, he saw a white handkerchief twisted tightly round the neck by means of the handle of a hearth-brush. Death was caused by strangulation. It was possible for a man to have committed such an act himself, but it required a strong determination. Inward piles would have produced depression of the head; and he had known cases where that disease had severely affected the brain, but not to so great an extent as the present. Infection of the eyes led him to believe there was some disease on the brain, the result of which would probably be unsoundness of mind. He should presume the deceased committed the act himself.

The Coroner having recapitulated the evidence, and remarked on it, the jury, after a few minutes' consultation, returned a verdict of "Temporary Insanity."

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 24 February 1848

The Rev. Charles Wrottesley, B.D., late Rector of East Knoyle, Wilts, who died on the 17th February last, had held this valuable living for a period of twenty-eight years. The annual income, by the last returns, is given at £850 and is in the patronage of the Lord Bishop of Winchester.

The deceased, by his will, which was made in July last, has bequeathed to his nephew, Lord Wrottesley, his "Delphin Classics", as well as other specific bequests to his lordship and also to the Baroness, and gives to his great nephew, Charles, the son of Lord Wrottesley, all other his books and library. To his nephew, the Rev. Edward John Wrottesley, incumbent of Tettenhall-Regis, Staffordshire, son of his late brother, Captain Wrottesley, he leaves the plate, pictures and prints, not otherwise specifically bequeathed, and has left several specific bequests as remembrances to his family and others, and one year's wages to each of his servants, and legacies to others employed by him; and to his servant, Thomas Ferris, he leaves his wardrobe, a legacy of £100 and all the saddler and harness, and his term and interest in the two houses and land in the parish of Holloway, Wilts.

Two sums, of £20 each to be laid out in the purchase of blankets for the poor of East Knoyle and of Tettenhall, and distributed at Christmas next, by the minister of each of those parishes, among the poor inhabitants, such as old persons, widows, sick, impotent and laborious housekeepers.

It was his wish that his remains should be borne to the grave by inhabitants of either parish, to each of whom so employed a sovereign was to be given. The residue of his property he leaves to his trustees and executors, Lord Wrottesley, and the Honourable Walter Wrottesley, in trust for his nephew, Hugh Wrottesley, now in India.

Sherborne Mercury Saturday 15 April 1848