

John Florio Testament, proved in the prerogative court of CANTERBURY QY HELE: 1625.

In the blessed name of God the Father my gracious Creator & Maker, of God the sonne Jesus Christ my mercifull Savyor and in Unity & .Irinity my most loving Comforter and preserver Amen. I John Florio of Fullham in the Countie of Middlesex Esquire, being of good health of sound minde & perfecte memory, hearty thanks bee ever ascribed and given therefore unto Almighty God And well remembring & knowing that nothing is more certayne unto mortal man then death, and noe one thing more uncertayne then is the houre thereof, doe make appoint pronounce and declare this my Testament, therein fully contayning my last direct & unrevocable will and .intention in manner and forme fol- lowing That is to say First & principally as duty and Christianity willeth mee, I most heanily and penetently sorrowfull for all my sinnes committ and recommend my soule into the mercifull hands of Almighty God, assuredly trusting and FayrhfuHy beleeving by the onely meritts bitter passion, precious bloud, and glorious death of the immaculate Lambe Jesus Christ his sonne, to have full remission, and absolute Forgiveness of aH my sinnes whatsoever, and after this transitory life, to live and raigne with him in his most blessed kingdome of heaven. As for my wretched Body, I commit to the same as earth to earth and dust to dust, to bee buried in such decent order, as to my deare Wife, and by my Executors heere undernamcd shalbee thought meete and convenient. And as touching the disposing and ordering of all and whatsoever such goods, Cattle, chattle, Leases, monie, plate, Jewells, bookes, apparrell, bedding, hangins, peawter, brasse, houshold stufte moveables, irnmoveables, and all other things whatsoever named, or unnamed, specifide, or unspecifide wherwith my most gracious Cod, hath beene pleased to endowe mee with, or hereafter shall of his infinite mercy bee pleased to bestowe or conferre upon me in this transitory life, I will appoint, give order dispose, & bequeath all, and evary part, and parcell of the same frmely and unalterably to stand in manner and forme following That is to say, Item, I give and bequeath unto my daughter Aurelia Molins the Wedding Ring wherewith I married her mother, being aggrieved at my . very heart, that by reason of my poverty I am not able to leave her anything els. Item I give and bequeath as a poore token of my love to my sonne in law James Molins, a Faire blacke velvett deske, embroidered with scede pearles, and with a silver and guilt inkehorne and dust box therin, that was Queene Annes. Item, I give and bequeath unto the right honourable, my singulare, & ever honored good Lord William Earle of Pembroke Lord Chambérleine: to the Kings most excellent Majestie, and one oJ bis royall counsell of state (if at my death hee shall then bee living) all my Italian, French and Spanish bookees, as well printed as unprinted, being in number about Three hundred and Fortie, namefy my new and perfict Dictionary. as also my, tenn Dialogues in Italian and English, and my unbound volume oJ diuers written Collections and rapsodies, most heartilie entreating his Honourable Lordshippe (as hee once promised mee) to accept oJ them as oJ a signe and token oJ my service and affliction to his honor, and for my sake to piace them in his library. eyther at Wilton or els at Baynards Castle at London, humbly desiring him to give way and Javourable assistance that my Dictionarie and Dialogues may be printed and the profitt therof accrud unto my wifè. Item, I doe

likewise give and bequeat unto his noble Lordshippe the Corinne stone as a jewell fitt for a Prince which Ferdinando the great Duke of Tuscanie sent as a most precious gift (among divers others) unto Queene Anne of blessed memory; the use & vertue wherof is written in two peeces of paper both in Italian and English bring in a little box with the stone, most humbly beseeching his honor (as I right, confidently hope & trust hee will in charity doe if neede require) to take my poore and deere wife into his protection, & not suffer her to be wrongfully molested by any enemy of myne, as also in her extremity to afforde her his helpe, good word and assistance to my Lord Treasurer, that shee may bee paid my wages, and the arrearages of that which is unpaid or shall bee behinde at my death. The rest, the residue & remainder, of all whatsoever and singular my goods, cattles, chattles, jewells, plate, debts Leases, money, or monie worth, houseould stuffe, utensills, English bookes, moveables, or immoveables, named or not named, and things whatsoever, by mee before not given, disposed or bequeathed (provided that my debts bee paid and my Funerall discharged) I wholly give, fully bequeath, absolutely leave, assigne, & unalterably consign unto my dearly beloved wife Rose Florio, most heartily greiving and ever sorrowing, that I cannot give or leave her more, in requitall of her tender love, loving care, painfull dilligence, and continual labour, to mee, and of mee in all my Fortunes, and many sicknesses, then whome never had husband a more loving wife, painfull nurse, or comfortable consort, And I doe make institute, ordaine, appoint & name the right Reverend Father in God, Theophilus Feild, Lord bishoppe of Landaffe, and Mr Richard Cluet Doctor of divinity, Vicar, and preacher of the Word of God at Fulham, both my much esteemed, dearly beloved, & truly honest good Friends my sole and onely Executors and overseers; And I doe give to each of them for their paines an old greene velvett deske with a silver ink and dust box in each of them, that were sometymes Queene Annes my Sovereigne Mistrisse, entreating both to accept of them, as a token of my hearty affection towards them, and to excuse my poverty which disableth mee to requite the trouble, paines, and courtesie, which I confidently beleieve they will charitably and for Gods sake undergoe in advising directing and helping my poore and deere wife in executing of this my last and unrevocable will and Testament, if any should bee soe malicious or unnaturall as to crosse or question the same; And I doe utterly revoke, and for ever renounce, frustrate, disannull, cancell, and make void, all and whatsoever former Wills, legacies, bequests, promises, gifts, executors or overseers (if it should happen that any bee forged or suggested for until this tyme, I never writt made or finished any but this onely). And I will appoint & ordaine, that this, & none but this onely written all with mine owne hand, shall stand in full force and vigor for my last and unrevocable. Will and Testament, and none other nor otherwise. As for the debts that I owe, the greatest, and onely is upon an obligatory Writing of myne owne hand, which my daughter Aurelia Molins with importunity wrested from of about threescore pound, whereas the truth, and my conscience telleth mee, & soe knoweth her conscience, it is but Thirty Four pound or thereabouts. But let that passe, since I was soe unheedy, as to make and acknowledge the said writing, I am willing that it bee paid and discharged in this forme and manner, My sonne in lawe (as my daughter his Wife knoweth full well) hath in his hands as a pawne a faire gold ring of mine, with thirteene faire table diamonds therein enchased; which cost Queene Anne my gracious Mistrisse seaven and Forty pounds starline, and for which I might many tymes have had forty pounds ready money: upon the said ring my sonne in the presence of his wife lent mee Tenne pounds, I desire him and pray him to take the overplus of the said Ring in parte of payment, as also a leaden Ceasterne which hee hath of myne standing in his yard at his London-house that cost mee at a portersale Forty shillings, as also a silver candle cup with a cover worth about Forty shillings

which I left at his house being sicke there; desiring my sonne and daughter, that their whole debt may bee made up, & they satisfied with selling the Lease of my house in Shoe-Lane, and soe acquitt and discharge my poore wife who as yet knoweth nothing of this debt. Moreover I entreat my deare wife that if at my death my servant Artur [blank] shall chance to be with mee, & in my service, that for my sake shee give him, such poore doublets, breeches, hattes, and bootes as I shall leave, and there withall one of my ould cloakes soe it bee not lyned with velvett. In Witnesse whereofl the said John Florio to this my last Will & Testament (written every sillable with myne owne hand, and with long and mature deliberacon digested, contayning foure shieetes of paper, the First of eight and twenty lynes, the second of nyne & twenty, the third of nine & twenty and the Fourth of six lines), have putt, sett, written and affixed my name, and usual seale of my armes. The rwentieth day of July in the Yeare of our Lord and Savyour Jesus Christ 1625 and in the First yeare of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lord and King (whorn God preserve) Charles the First of that name of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King. By mee John Florio being, thanks bee ever given to my most gracious God in perfect sence and memory.

Proved I June 1626 by Rose Florio the relict, the executors named in the Will for certain reasons renouncing execution.

