

An Inventory of Household Goods, 1696

THE Bowly family were well known Friends of the Cirencester district for over two hundred and fifty years. William joined Friends in the early days of persecution, and Besse in his *Sufferings* records several occasions when he was imprisoned for refusing the oath, and his goods distrained upon for tithes. In 1684, for example, "on the first of the month called February", the family "being asleep in Bed about nine at Night, Officers broke the door open and two of them staid in the House all Night, and the next Day carried away Barley and Malt to the Value of 30 Pounds."¹

The following inventory shows a typical simple household of the yeoman class. The "fether bedde" is still the most valuable single item in the house, as appears in all wills and inventories from the mediæval period onwards.

INVENTORY OF ALL AND SINGULAR GOODS, CHATTELS, AND HOUSEHOLD STUFF OF WILLIAM BOWLY, LATE OF CIRENCESTER, MALTSTER, 1696.

In the Hall a table board and frame, one joyned forme, four old chairs, one dresser board, one fire shovel, and tongs, one pair of Bellows and a looking glass, all valued at	17/-
Item in the Parlour one bedstead and curtains and vallens, one chest of drawers, one chest, four boxes, one trunk, silver spoons, one silver Taster ..	£3-2-6
In the Kitchen, one little table, one iron spitt, and a smoothing iron, two pair Andirons, one pair tongs, a dizen of henchers, a trencher racke, some earthenware, twenty-eight pounds of pewter, thirty-two pounds of brass, a spinninge wheele and some tin ware	£3-11-0
At the Backside, one old malt mill, brewing vessells, wood and lumber	£1-8-6

¹ Besse, *Sufferings*, I, p. 225.

AN INVENTORY OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS

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In the Sellar, five barrels, three old wooden horses, powdering tub	18/6
In the Stable, two old horses and a little hay, two shovels, a bridle, saddle, and old pommell ..	£2-16-6
In the Malt Loft, fifty quarters of malt, one bushel, one old coffer, malt dust, some old bagg, and a hanging press	£51-6-0
Item Bedding. One fether bedde wayed three score and seventeen pounds and one feather bolster, two feather pillows weighed four and forty pounds ..	£4-0-8
Two flock bedds, and a flock bolster	£2-6-8
Item, one sett of old curtains and vallens, two old Coverlid, three old ruggs, three old blanketts ..	£1-15-0
Item, thirteen sheets, seven bolster cases, twelve pillow cases, three table cloathes, twelve napkins, three Cupboard Cloths, two towells	£5-4-0
Item in debts abroad (supposed to be good)	£18-7-6
Item in bad debts	£28-1-7
Item Money in the house	£14-6-0
Wearing apparell	£3-0-0
Total	£141-1-5

RUTH BURTT