

**Sir James South, F.R.S. / by J.J. Merriman.**

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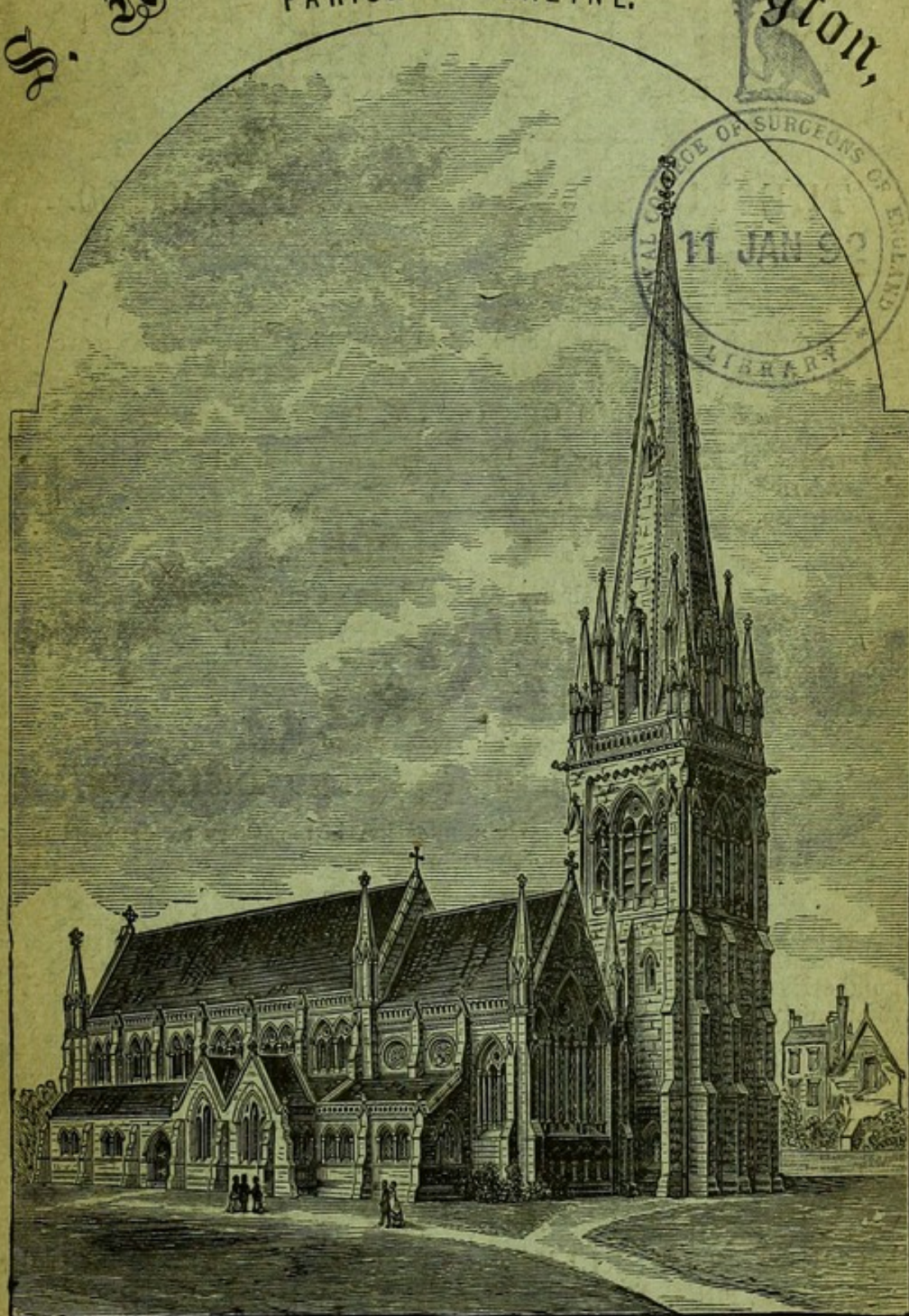


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THE PUBLISHING SEASON, 1889-90.

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# November, 1889.

## CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH.

The Parish Church is open Daily for Private Prayer.

DAILY SERVICES—8 A.M. and 5 P.M.

SUNDAYS—7 and 8 A.M. Holy Communion (and 12.45 P.M. on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays in the Month).

9.30 A.M. (Seats Free), 11.30 A.M. (Seats Appropriated).

4 P.M. (Seats Appropriated), 7 P.M. (Seats Free).

1	F	All Saints. *8.30, †11, ‡11, *11.30 A.M. Holy Communion. *11 A.M. Litany. ††5.45 P.M. Temperance Visitors' Meeting. *8 P.M. Evensong and Sermon.
2	S	10.30 A.M. Blanket Club. **5.45 P.M. Devotional Meeting.
3	†	xx. Sunday after Trinity. *7, *8, †8, ‡8. *9.30, †11 A.M., *12.45 P.M. Holy Communion. *2.45, †3 P.M. Children's Service. *4 P.M. Service for Church Workers.
4	M	8 P.M. Temperance Address.
5	TU	*8.30 A.M. Holy Communion.
6	W	‡8 A.M. Holy Communion. *11.30 A.M. Litany and Bible Reading. ††2.30 P.M. East End Work Society.
7	TH	*11.30 A.M. Holy Communion. *8 P.M. Evensong and Sermon.    8.30 P.M. Temperance Benefit Society.
8	F	†11 A.M. Morning Prayer. *11.30 A.M. Litany. **5 P.M. Bible Society.
9	S	**5.45 P.M. Devotional Meeting. [Juveniles' Meeting. t. t.
10	†	xxi. Sunday after Trinity. *7, 8, †8, ‡8, †11 A.M., Holy Communion. *2.45 P.M. Children's Service. ¶8.15 P.M. Temperance Address.
11	M	¶8.15 P.M. Temperance Concert.
12	TU	*8.30 A.M. Holy Communion.
13	W	‡8 A.M. Holy Communion. *11.30 A.M. Litany and Bible Reading. **4.30 P.M. District Visitors' Meeting. §§6.15 P.M. Band of Hope.
14	TH	*11.30 A.M. Holy Communion. *3 P.M. Service for Communicants. *8 P.M. Evensong and Sermon. *9 P.M. Admission of Temperance Members.
15	F	†11 A.M. Morning Prayer. *11.30 A.M. Litany. Fast.
16	S	**5.45 P.M. Devotional Meeting.
17	†	xxii. Sunday after Trinity. *7, *8, †8, ‡9.30 A.M., *12.45 P.M. Holy Communion. *2.45 P.M. Children's Service.
18	M	8 P.M. Temperance Concert.
19	TU	*8.30 A.M. Holy Communion.
20	W	‡8 A.M. Holy Communion. *11.30 A.M. Litany and Bible Reading.
21	TH	*11.30 A.M. Holy Communion. *8 P.M. Evensong and Sermon. ‡8 P.M. Choral Festival (see paragraph).
22	F	†11 A.M. Morning Prayer. *11.30 A.M. Litany. Fast.
23	S	**5.45 P.M. Devotional Meeting.
24	†	xxiii. Sunday after Trinity. *7, *8, †8, ‡8, †11, ‡11 A.M., Holy Communion. *2.45, ‡3 P.M. Children's Services. §4.15 P.M. Teachers' Prayer Meeting. ¶8.15 P.M. Temperance Address.
25	M	8 P.M. Temperance Debate (see paragraph).
26	TU	*8.30 A.M. Holy Communion. [§§6.15 P.M. Band of Hope.
27	W	‡8 A.M. Holy Communion. *11.30 A.M. Litany and Bible Reading.
28	TH	*11.30 A.M. Holy Communion. *8 P.M. Service for Communicants.
29	F	†11 A.M. Morning Prayer. *11.30 A.M. Litany. Vigil Fast.
30	S	S. Andrew, Apostle and Martyr. Day of Intercession for Foreign Missions. (For Services see paragraph). *8.30, †11, ‡11, *11.30 P.M. Holy Communion.   3.30 P.M. Missionary Meeting for Children. *8 P.M. Evensong and Sermon.

\* Parish Church. † Christ Church. ‡ S. Paul's Church. \*\* Vicarage Parish Room. †† School Committee Room. § Girls' School. §§ Boys' School. || Town Hall. ¶ Mission Hall. |||11, Church Street.



### Names and Addresses of the Clergy.

The Rev. the Hon. E. C. GLYN, M.A..	The Vicarage House.
The Rev. EDWIN G. WOOD, M.A. ..	12, Pitt Street, W.
The Rev. J. L. EVANS, M.A. .. ..	38, Palace Gardens Terrace, W.
The Rev. G. S. POWNALL, M.A.. ..	11, Scarsdale Terrace, W.
The Rev. WILLIAM BRAMWELL, M.A..	9, Stafford Terrace, W.
The Rev. W. PELHAM BURN, M.A. ..	5, Inverness Gardens, W.
The Rev. W. B. F. BLUNT, M.A. ..	4, King Street, Kensington Square, W.
The Rev. N. CHETWODE RAM, M.A..	3, Pitt Street, Campden Hill, W.

Members of the Congregation are requested to communicate cases of sickness or bereavement to any of the Parochial Clergy.

#### PARISH CHURCH.

*Churchwardens.*—Capt. JAMES, Lexham Gardens, W.; Mr. FREDERICK C. FRYE, 19, All Saints Road, W.

*Organist.*—Mr. H. R. BIRD, 8, Longridge Road, S.W.

*Choirmaster.*—Mr. AVALON COLLARD, 25, Pier Road, Rosherville.

*Vestryman.*—Mr. F. E. BREWER, 6, Sheffield Terrace, W.

#### S. PAUL'S CHURCH.

*Churchwardens.*—Mr. H. C. MALKIN, 2, Percy Villas, W.; Mr. F. W. BURNETT, 6, Vicarage Gate, W.

*Organist.*—Mr. J. MAUDE CRAMENT, Mus. Bac., 10A, Kensington Square, W.

#### CHRIST CHURCH.

*Churchwarden.*—Mr. H. W. SIMPKINSON, 25, Eldon Road, W.

*Organist and Choirmaster.*—Mr. S. STAGOLL HIGHAM, 23, Young Street, W.

### Kensington Worthies.—V.

SIR JAMES SOUTH, F.R.S.,

BY J. J. MERRIMAN.

SIR JAMES SOUTH was the son of a druggist in the Borough, who lived forty years in the same house, in which he had made an excellent business, chiefly through the successful treatment of infantile disorders with very simple remedies; his life-long endeavour was, we read, "to provide for his children, and bring them up in Church and King principles, and, regardless of expense, to give them all an excellent education," which he considered the best he could do for them. "Fortunes I cannot give you," he would say, "but I put tools in your hands, and you must use them for yourselves."

This advice James South followed, and became a Member of the College of Surgeons, and practised his profession in Southwark; in the intervals of business he pursued the study of Astronomy; in 1820 was one of the founders of the Royal Astronomical Society, and became its President in 1829. He had previously been made F.R.S. (1821), and in 1822 and 1823 in conjunction with Sir John Herschell, he compiled a catalogue of 380 double stars. In 1826 he communicated a further series of 458 double and triple stars to the Royal Society, for which he received the Copley Medal.

About this time he removed to Campden Hill, Kensington, having purchased the house in which, first, Mr. Phillimore, and then Mr. Delafield (whose daughter married the Rev. T. Rennell, Vicar of Kensington), had resided. Here he constructed an observatory which achieved European fame; and on the east side of the old house built a large drawing-room which was elegantly painted in the Italian style. Here, in 1829, Lord Ashley (afterwards Lord Shaftesbury) "became acquainted with Sir James South, the eminent astronomer, whose inde-



fatigable ardour in the cause of astronomy inspired Lord Ashley to diligence in the same pursuits. For a time he was completely absorbed in this study, spending day after day in close application to books and instruments, and night after night in the observatory with Sir James South."

On the recommendation of the Duke of Wellington, who was then Prime Minister, the honour of knighthood was conferred on Mr. South in 1830; he had previously (1816) married Ann, niece and sole heiress of the late J. Ellis, Esq., of South Lambeth. Lady South died in 1851.

Among his intimates were Sir Humphry Davy, Lord Rosse, Sir John Herschell, and, during the last fifteen years of his life, when I knew him well, and enjoyed star-lore and his kind hospitality at The Observatory, the more frequent visitors were Dr. Paris, Rev. Dr. Robinson, of Armagh, Dr. Addison, John Flint South, Callcott, Chalon, Bayford, and Dr. Archibald John Stephens, the well-known ecclesiastical lawyer.

Sir James lived at The Observatory for over forty years, and at the time of his death there, on 19th October, 1867, aged 82 years, it was one of the prettiest places round London, the timber being in perfect order, and the surrounding buildings thereby excluded. It has been said, and written too, that he was "a very eccentric man," but he was also a very remarkable man; and if, on the one hand, he was contentious, on the other he was kind almost to affectionateness. His deafness in later years perplexed others as well as himself.

In the equipment of his observatory a large equatorial instrument gave him such dissatisfaction, that he had it broken up and sold by auction. Here is the placard:—

"Observatory, Campden Hill, Kensington.—To Mahogany Door Knob, Drawer Knob, and Ball Turners; Stool, Button, Lucifer Match, Snuff Box, Makers; and Dealers in Fire Wood and Old Iron.—To be sold by hand on the premises, on Monday next July 8th 1839, between 10 & 11 in the forenoon, by Mr. Macleland, a quantity of Mahogany, other Wood and Iron, being the Polar Axis of the Great Equatorial Instrument made for the Kensington Observatory."

His scientific investigations, however, were of great service to his country: for in 1846, in a vigorous "Report to the Admiralty," printed by order of the House of Commons, Sir James's influence prevented a railway passing under Greenwich Park. He had proved at Kensington, "That with the magnifying power of 250, the tremours arising from omnibuses passing in the high road were perfectly perceptible, although the least distance of the road from my transit circle was about 418 yards. . . . ." He entreated their Lordships' serious attention to this and many other experiments, which would justify them in saying to *present*, as well as to *future*, railroad applicants, "*Within this Park stands the Royal Observatory of England, and within this Park's walls a railroad shall never come.*"

After his death, this report proved useful in placing the new parish church of Kensington on the ancient site, instead of on the north-west portion of the church-yard within a few feet of the Metropolitan Railway as suggested!

No memoir of Sir James South would be complete without allusion to his humane treatment of animals. On one occasion a dog was taken to Youatt, who said "it was useless to do anything for him, as he would certainly die within 24 hours." Sir James therefore "took him under his own care and treated him as if he were a child." He shaved the dog's neck, leeches him, had him in his own bed, and in three or four days the nearly-choked animal recovered, and Youatt was "delighted to see him alive, and it had been to him a very useful lesson." His notes on another dog, "Warwick," who had concussion of the brain, from a kick by my uncle's horse, are too long to quote, but in this case he sat up all night, shaved the dog's head, leeches him freely, and recovery followed. For his last dog "Tiger," whose vocal and dental powers I remember well, he left an annuity of £30! At the trial connected with Sir James's will, counsel applied for £1,000 Consols, but the Vice-Chancellor "held that the rules of the Court, which applied to human beings, did *not* extend to dogs, and said the executor's personal undertaking for the rest of the dog's life would be sufficient."



Although his abhorrence of parish interference is well shown in Loftie's "Kensington," page 258, still, in friendships, his attachments were very firm, even to a third generation. When one of my brothers was going to India as an engineer officer, Sir James sent him a telescope, thus inscribed:—

"Sir James South, to his friend, Charles James Merriman, Esq., 10th October, 1851.

"Video—nec aspera sternent.

"Dulce et decorum est, pro patriâ mori."

The kindly letter which accompanied it, continued—

"Make it your *Compagnon de Voyage, et de Bataille* ;

"May it amuse you in the former, and aid you in the latter ;

"In both—May the Lord of Hosts be with you,

"And the God of Jacob be your refuge.

"Yours, very sincerely,

"J. South."

When, in 1863, I entered the old house where he had known my father and grandfather, he insisted on "warming the house," by sending a dinner for twenty people. To our great surprise and amusement everything was sent (except wine) even to bread, salt, pepper and Scotch ale ! At the last moment, being pretty well, he came himself. At all times his anecdotes were varied and amusing, extending from the time when "he fired the guns at the Tower of London for each of the Duke of Wellington's victories and for Lord Nelson's last," to the feebleness of old age, when he could no longer carry his favourite instruments from the house to the observatory. I select one only, which I have never seen in print. Lord Ashley, after visiting at Strathfieldsaye, dined with Sir James South at Kensington, and related the following:—"The Duke of Wellington said the opposed generals were clever men, Soult especially." "But how was it you, Sir, always had the better of them ?" asked Lord Ashley. "Why, I blundered as well as they, but my *men* got me *out* of scrapes, theirs left them *in*," was the reply. To the end my venerable friend enjoyed the affection of the great philanthropist of our age, who loved all "with a pure heart fervently ;" and I conclude with an extract from Lord Shaftesbury's diary :—"October 24th, 1867, London. Attended funeral this morning of my poor old friend, Sir James South. Many the interesting and profitable hours I have passed in his observatory. He was well stricken in years. There is another gone of the few who, I believe, were sincerely and warmly attached to me."

Sir James died at The Observatory, and the funeral was at Highgate Cemetery. All trace of the house, observatory, and grounds gone in 1883.

### Mission Hall Gymnasium.

THIS Gymnasium is open every Tuesday and Thursday evening. On Tuesdays to any Kensington boys (not members of the Boys' Club), and on Thursdays to the members of the Boys' Club. The managers are desirous of securing some additional plant, but have no funds available, the boys' payments of 2*d.* per night being only sufficient to pay the instructors and current expenses. At present the apparatus consists of—Horse, Parallel Bars, &c. (kindly lent by Schools Committee), and an old fashioned Horizontal Bar, which is really not safe. The cost of the proposed new plant will be between £8 and £9, towards which about £2 has been already received. The managers hope that friends in the parish who are interested in the welfare of Kensington boys will help them to get the extra apparatus which will so greatly add to the enjoyment and advantages of those who use the Gymnasium. Donations will be thankfully received by the Rev. J. L. Evans, 38, Palace Gardens Terrace, or Mr. W. D. Campbell, 50, Ladbroke Road.