History and description of the Parish of Clerkenwell / ... With ... engravings, by J. and H.S. Storer. The historical dept. by T. Cromwell.

Contributors

Cromwell, Thomas, 1792-1870.
J. & H.S. Storer.

Publication/Creation

London : J. & H.S. Storer : Longman, [1828]

Persistent URL

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/q6wc545u

License and attribution

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.

wellcome collection

Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
https://wellcomecollection.org

19172/B

CROMWELL, T. K.

History and description of the Parish of Clerkenwell

London: J. & H.S. Storer. 1828

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29309013

To the

MOST HONORABLE

Charles Marquess of Northampton

Earl Compton &c. &c. &c.

This History of



CLERKENWELL,

Is with his Lordships Permission

Gratefully inscribed by the

Proprietors J. & H. S. Storer.

WELLCOME
HISTORICAL
MEDICAL
LIBRARY

PREFACE.

The parish of Clerkenwell is one of the most interesting and important of the suburban districts, presenting at every point copious matter for the contemplation of the Antiquary and the Historian. Its monastic establishments have been extensive and magnificent; and for a very considerable period it was the fashionable and courtly residence of worth and quality.

In presenting this history to our fellow parishioners, and the public at large, we consider no apology will be required, especially by those who are aware, that the only descriptions of Clerkenwell which have hitherto appeared, are appended to those histories of London by Stow, and by later writers, the plan of whose works admitted only of the most summary account of the districts denominated out-parishes.

We acknowledge that our labors in this undertaking have been accompanied with a satisfaction that will readily be recognized by all who are sensible of the charm with which early associations affect the mind through the subsequent stages of life. The district in which our fathers have resided for nearly

a century presented peculiar claims to our attention; and we received, with pleasure, frequent intimations that its history would constitute a desirable addition to the many works of a topographical character, which have of late been afforded to the admirers of that department of literature.

We were, however, long deterred from the pursuit of this object by suggestions, that the project was by other hands actually commenced; however this might be, it has eventually been our lot to begin the work, which, at considerable charge, we have conducted to its completion.

The large collections towards a history of Clerkenwell made by the late Abraham Rhodes, Esq., were by many regarded as a treasure which would finally be consolidated, and presented to the public; much inquiry has been instituted relative to that gentleman's manuscript, without any satisfactory result. Application being made to his grandson, (A. R. Rhodes, Esq.), he replied, "I have not been able to find any writings of my late grandfather relative to the parish of Clerkenwell. I have been applied to before on the same business."

In proceeding with this history, a few moments of regret have been occasionally indulged, that we are cast upon these latter days, when almost every vestige of architectural magnificence, which once existed here, has given place to erections more consonant with the taste of modern times, and the

occupations of a more enterprising age. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, we have collected, from a variety of sources, subjects of prominent interest; and it having been our endeavour to enrich the work with every attainable and appropriate representation, we commit it to the public, anticipating its favourable reception.

It would exceed our limits to name every individual who has obligingly promoted our views, and aided our researches; but to each we offer our sincere and grateful thanks.

We embrace this opportunity of acknowledging our obligations to the Marquis of Northampton, for the sanction of his name to this undertaking, and for the generous patronage which we have long experienced from his Lordship. We have, also, great pleasure in noticing our personal obligations to several gentlemen, inhabitants of the parish.

Henry Carr, Esq., favored us with the loan of his late father's papers relating to the new church of St. James, together with ground plans, sections, &c., of the ancient Church of the Nunnery. We received similar attentions from James Fisher, Esq., who is in possession of documents referring to the estate now Newcastle Place. J. Caley, Esq., F.S.A. presented us with drawings of the Priory, and Nunnery seals. To Robert Pollard, Esq., we are indebted for much valuable information; this gentleman designed the appropriate sacramental symbols

which adorn the eastern extremity of St. James's Church; without his judicious interference, the altar-place of this Christian temple would have displayed (according to the original intention) emblems only of the Jewish economy. Wm. Cook, Esq., late of Woodbridge House, and many years the Vestry Clerk of our parish, obliged us in many particulars, especially relative to the Woodbridge estate.

The Rev. John Blackburn kindly contributed to the interest of this volume, by his useful communications. J. W. Griffiths, Esq., Churchwarden of St. John's, afforded us every facility in examining the ancient crypt, and other objects within his district. His predecessor in office, Mr. A. Bartholomew, gave us very considerable local information, and indulged us with the use of the vestry books, from which some interesting extracts were made.

Wm. Chadwell Milne, Esq., George Palmer, Esq., of the Temple, Richard Baylis, Esq., and J. Booth, Esq., Architect, have claims upon our gratitude.

J. & H. S. STORER.

Pentonville, March 1, 1828.

LIST OF ENGRAVINGS.

The first column of figures shew the page where each subject is described, the second that which the plates are to face.

	Described.	To face.
Frontispiece—Remains of St. John's Priory, as it appeared in 1661	page 123	
St. Mark's Church	444	444
St. John's Church	138	
Northampton House	272	272
Session House	176	
St. James's Church, South View	202	202
——— North View	202	
St. James's Old Church	180	180
Cloisters of St. Mary's Nunnery	171	
St. James's Old Church looking South	184	184
——— East	184	
Ancient Mantle-piece, St. John's Lane	168	168
Remains of the Monument of Lady Owen	386	
Islington Spa	352	352
Sadler's Wells	360	
Bass-relief of Charles I.	162	162
St. John's Gate	126	
Angel Inn	388	388
Old Yard Ditto	388	
Bishop Burnett's House	156	156
Lady Owen's Grammar School	382	
Monument of Sir William Weston	188	188
Claremont Chapel	420	420
Spa Fields Chapel	294	

	Described.	To face.
New River Head in 1753	page 350	350
Ancient Houses, High Street	392	
Crypt, St. John's Church	146	146
Newcastle House	216	216
White Conduit House	436	
Belvidere Gardens	414	414
Bagnigge Wells.....	322	
Seals of St. Mary's Nunnery	186	186
Pentonville Chapel	410	410
———— Schools	410	
Clerkenwell Schools	228	228
———— Workhouse	256	
Bishop Burnett's Monument.....	192	192
New Prison	244	244
Prison, Cold Bath Fields.....	310	
New River Head	332	332
Engine House, Ditto	332	
Plan of the New River Head in 1753	348	348
Ancient Houses, St. John's Street.....	112	112
Old House, Clerkenwell Close	218	
Seals of St. John's Priory	140	140
London Female Penitentiary	412	412
The Friends' School	394	
Cold Bath	308	308
Boundary House, Muswell Hill.....	38	
Fragments of St. John's Gate	128	128
Woodbridge House, and Plan of the Woodbridge Estate	446	446
Plan of the Parish of Clerkenwell		


St Mark's Church
ISLINGTON
CITY ROAD
PAR -ISH OF
GOSWELL
Queen's Place
Friends Schools
Upper Street
HIGH St ISLINGTON
SAINT JOHNS STREET
Chadwell St
Middleton Square
St Mark's Church
INNER POND
NEW RIVER HEAD
Outer Pond
Upper Pond
Claremont Square
Amwell Street
River Street
PARISH OF ISLINGTON
Myddelton Gardens
Lloyd St
Lloyd Square
Parker Street
Wharton St
Penton Place
Weston Street
THE BAGNIGGE WELLS
PARISH
Fleet River
Tunnelld
ST PANCRASS
Hamilton Place
Pentonville Chapel
Drawn & E



of the Parish of Clerkenwell including the Buildings to 1827

the History of Clerkenwell by J. & H. S. Storer

Scale of feet 600

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

OF

CLERKENWELL.

PART I.

HISTORY OF THE SITE.

THE SITE CONSIDERED WITH REFERENCE TO DOMESDAY-BOOK—APPEARANCE IN THE REIGN OF THE CONQUEROR, AND A. D. 1190—ETYMOLOGY OF CLERKENWELL—RISE OF ITS FIRST HABITATIONS—PICTURESQUE ASPECT IN THE MONKISH TIMES—CLERKENWELL IN THE REIGN OF ELIZABETH—WHEN STOW WROTE—AND IN 1619—ARBITRARY ATTEMPTS TO REPRESS BUILDING—AUGMENTATIONS OF THE HOUSES AND POPULATION TO THE EXISTING PERIOD—PRESENT GENERAL APPEARANCE—LANDED PROPRIETORSHIP AND MANORIAL HISTORY—PAROCHIAL BOUNDARIES AND EXTENT—RIVER FLEET—ROADS—SOIL AND CLIMATE—PART OF THE PARISH AT MUSWELL HILL.

HAPPY is the historian of any town or parish in England, who can commence his narrative with a transcript from its register in *Domesday-Book!* For topographical details of unquestioned authenticity, he can quote no earlier record. For proof of the existence of the place he has undertaken to describe, at or prior to the Conquest, he can produce no better authority. For a local sketch of the spot, that shall interest every reader by the contrarieties it will present between its former and existing features, he need pursue antiquity no farther.

The district, north of the metropolis, which it is the object of the present work to illustrate, is without the advantage, to the historian and topographer, alluded to. There is no name of a place in that part of the Conqueror's Survey relating to "*Midelsexe*," which even antiquarian ingenuity can torture into a similarity to the appellation immemorially borne by our parish. Neither are there any grounds for imagining that the spot is mentioned under another name, for which the present has been since substituted. It will not appear irrelevant to our subject, to inquire a little into the probable causes of this omission.

The object of Domesday-Book was to present a register of lands, whose value, tenure, and services might be recorded in it, and appealed to, upon its authority, in future judgments. It, therefore, purposely omitted the mention of some cities and burghs, which, from their possessing charters of immunity from all services on condition of a composition in lieu, were without the sphere of its intention; and it was silent with regard to forest land, because that was the undisputed property of the crown. It was silent also with regard to numerous parcels of land, which have long formed manors of themselves, but which at that time were merely parts of those manors whose appellations it records.* On one of these three grounds, the omission of our district must have been founded: it remains only to inquire on which.

The idea will scarcely arise, that this district was confounded with the metropolis itself in the age of the Conqueror; and that, in consequence, it passed

* New manors continued to be created out of the old ones until the statute of "Quia Emptores," 18th Edw. I.

unnoticed along with London, Winchester, Abingdon, and the other towns which were in possession of charters of immunity. It must, therefore, have been either forest land, or comprehended in some extensive manorial tract. If the latter, the *Isendone* of the Survey (the modern *Islington*) occurs as that most likely to have included it: but, perhaps, the notion that it was forest land will be found most probable.

The term *forest* had a wider import at that period than at present. It included desert not less than wooded land; and land, which, though neither marked by more than the ordinary abundance of trees, nor by sterility, was yet unappropriated upon any terms of tenure and service. Of this latter description may be imagined to have been the spot in question at the era of Domesday.

Forming an original portion of that extensive tract, even long afterwards known as the *Forest of Middlesex*, it probably still afforded many traces of the old empire of the woods, although its vicinity to a city already of no inconsiderable size, had occasioned much destruction of its trees for the purposes of fuel. London itself had risen to the importance and magnitude it then boasted, from a few huts built under the very shades of the ancient forest: its earliest spreadings must have been preceded by the walk of the woodman. And in like manner must have originated every town and village of the county, mentioned in the Domesday record: a circumstance, that perhaps explains why the names of places it notices in this county are comparatively few: all, including even a large proportion of the arable and

pasture lands it describes, had been redeemed from forest dominion.

There is, however, authority for believing, that the royal rights were neither so preponderant nor exclusive with regard to this forest as the others: the numerical amount of the London citizens, and the importance of their chief magistrate, having established customs in favour of both, beyond the usual privileges of the subject. Thus the monk Fitz-Stephen, who wrote his curious description of London not much more than a century afterwards, informs us of the delight of the citizens in hawks and hounds, and of their *right* to hunt in this forest and other large surrounding tracts: and they appear from the same writer to have pursued their recreations of every kind in this northern district at their discretion. Add to which, the pasturage most immediately contiguous to the city, was used, we may rationally believe, by the nearest inhabitants, in the manner of *common-land* for grazing, &c.: a custom not sanctioned, perhaps, as in the instances of various old towns, by a certain and bounded right of common-age, but growing, along with the practices just alluded to, out of that license to exceed the ordinary restrictions of authority, which, in proportion to their magnitude and wealth, was manifested by most cities of the feudal times.

From considerations such as these, we may perhaps supply the omission of the great Survey, so far at least as to obtain a bird's-eye view of this spot in the reign of William the Conqueror.

For this purpose we must imagine a tract, commencing at a small distance from the most prominent

of the several north-west angles of the city wall, and, as it extends along the north side of the same wall, diverging gradually from it. The space between this tract and the wall itself, we must suppose in great degree occupied by a continuation of that great *moor*, or morass, which, by the wording of its grant from William to the *College of St. Martin-le-Grand*, is proved at that period to have extended from the spot long since named from it *Moorfields*, beyond the termination of the city boundary in this direction. Taking the wall, then, for the station of our imaginary view, we shall see the tract in question swelling into pleasing undulations as we pursue it northwards, and still increasing in eminence till the eye has reached its extremity; there losing itself in that "large forest, in which are woody groves of wild beasts, in the coverts whereof do lurk bucks and does, wild boars, and bulls."* The surface of our tract, unincumbered by habitations, presents a succession of green pastures, intermingled with copses, and smaller groupes of trees, betwixt which we will imagine a citizen's horse or cow to be here and there quietly grazing. On the right, it is terminated by the moor, and the adjoining low lands; but on the left, it stretches widely as it proceeds, taking for its boundary a clear and rapid stream, which long now, alas! has exchanged its ancient honours and character for the offices of a common sewer, and the name by which the Conqueror designated it in the grant before mentioned, the *River of Wells*,—"departing the moor from the wall"—for the vulgar appellation of *Fleet Ditch*.

* Fitz-Stephen.

At the period to which we advert, this stream, since so degraded, must have made, with the accompaniments which nature gave it, an appearance remarkably picturesque. Even yet, from a point in our parochial boundary line, its banks are seen to jut into little wild crags, and break into miniature precipices.* But in the olden time, these banks were but the first risings from the water's bed towards acclivities, that were alternately gentle and abrupt, and that, winding with the river's course, presented the most pleasing intermixture of green slopes with steep ascents crowned by luxuriant forest trees.† Near where it joined the city wall, the view of the western bank must have been particularly pleasing: that boldly rising spot, now proverbial for its congregated abodes of filth and wretchedness, being then divided between meadows and romantic vineyards. *Domesday* mentions a vineyard on this site, namely, the banks of the *Holeburne*; where a brook (or *burn*) descending the hill, and falling into the River of Wells, has bequeathed its name to the street formed over where it flowed.

We will now pass to the era of the "Descriptio Nobilissimæ Civitatis Londiniæ," by the monk of Canterbury, (but native of London) Fitz-Stephen. The date of this interesting sketch is A.D. 1190.

* Since this was written, even these remnants of former rural appearances, which might until then be seen from the west wall of the County Prison, have vanished through the erection of the capacious *sewer*, which now receives the river Fleet near this spot, diverting its ancient course, and, most desirably, hiding still more of its muddy current from the public view.

† A remarkable eminence of the latter character was levelled within the memory of numerous inhabitants; its site is now marked by *Coppice Row*, and the adjoining buildings.

Speaking of the immediate environs of the city, it says, "on the north side are fields for pasture, and open meadows, very pleasant; among which the river waters do flow, and the wheels of the mills are turned about with a delightful noise." It may be interesting to examine a little particularly into the facts thus briefly narrated.

The "very pleasant" "fields for pasture, and open meadows," seem to indicate that the disafforesting of the northern tract, (through the vicinage of a populous city much rather than by regal allowance) had gone on as successfully as naturally during the century that had elapsed from the Survey: The meadows now merited the epithet *open:* and the predilections of a people who regarded with pride and triumph each successive rescue of the soil from that wild state in which it was almost always appropriated solely to the sporting pleasures of their lords, would alone suffice to render such meadows *pleasant.* But our district, doubtless, was not without its features that were extremely agreeable in themselves, quite independently of such predilections; in which, indeed, we have seen that the Londoners, from their partaking the forest rights of the sovereign, were less likely to indulge than the majority of the humbled English. Among these *agremens* of the spot, we must next notice "the river waters"; by which we are to understand, principally, the *River of Wells,* before mentioned, and that more eastward stream, until a comparatively recent period, called *Walbrook.* We have then mention of the "mills," whose wheels were "turned about," by the waters of these rivers, "with a delightful noise:" and we may conceive of

such sounds as very pleasing accompaniments to a scene, in general characterized by rural retiredness.

If these *Mills* existed at the time of the Survey, it is certain that, as the property of the citizens, they were exempt from mention for the same reason that London itself was so: for *Domesday* appears to notice all mills properly coming under its cognizance with minute exactness. The ground for which scrupulosity undoubtedly was, that mills, almost universally in those times, belonged to lords of manors, and that so strictly, that tenants were permitted to grind only at the lord's mill. They were, therefore, prime sources of profit to the landholders, and worthy of all the distinction they obtained. But the mills in question might be either the common property of the citizens, and their profits farmed to individuals on condition of their appropriation to the general use; or individual citizens themselves, (of whom many we find were styled *barons* on account of their riches), might be wealthy enough, and consequently powerful enough, to retain them in their own right, and for the common benefit.

From the passage in Fitz-Stephen next to be remarked, it would appear that part at least of the space betwixt the wall and the object of our researches was now occupied by buildings, erected perhaps on ground recovered from the morass, or that had been originally elevated above it; but such buildings, there is sufficient reason to believe, did not extend to the tract with which we are principally concerned.

The passage alluded to runs thus.—"There are, also, about London, *on the north of the suburbs*, choice

fountains of water, sweet, wholesome, and clear, streaming forth from among the glittering pebble stones: of which *Holy-well, Clerken-well,* and *St. Clement's-well,* are of most note, and frequented above the rest, when the scholars, and youth of the city, do take the air abroad in the summer evenings."

This passage itself, in which we have the first recorded mention of the spot from which our parish has been since named, makes apparent that the northern suburbs must have been truly inconsiderable when it was written; for most of the "choice fountains," to which it alludes, and to which it appears was the common resort, "*to take the air* in the summer evenings," were even *nearer* to the city than the WELL in which we are chiefly interested. Stow gives the names of the other wells thus: "*Skinners'-well, Fag's-well, near Smithfield, Tode-well, Loder's-well,* and *Rad-well (otherwise Lad-well,* and *Rede-well);*" adding, that they were, in his time, "all decayed, and so filled up, that the places where they were are not now to be discerned."

From these wells, as appears from the same historian, the *River of Wells* obtained its name: for, "having the fall of their overflowings into the aforesaid river, they much increased its stream, and in that place gave it the name of *Wells.*" How our parish came to be designated from the chief fountain, we shall gather from a brief consideration of the etymology of the appellation; and may acquire, by an easy deduction thence, some notion of the era of its first use.

The term which we have chosen to translate *Clerkenwell,* is "*Fons Clericorum*" in the original

Latin of Fitz-Stephen; and Stow, taking up the literal meaning of his author, renders it *Clerks' Well.* Custom, however, in spite of Stow's authority, has been rather singularly pertinacious in continuing the ancient English *Clerken,* (as the plural of *Clerk*), in the composition of this word, to the present period: and *Clerken,* upon the most modern not less than the most ancient grounds, is, consequently, the more correct orthography.

For the etymology of *Clerk,* few may be disposed to go farther than to the French *Clerc,* which it so nearly resembles: from confining it to which, it would follow that the appellation, *Clerkenwell,* was modelled by our ancestors subsequently to the introduction of that numerous class of words from the Norman French which took place at the Conquest. But in our own, as well as in the French language, may not the term have come without intervention from the Latin *Clericus?*—and *Clerkenwell,* its first particle excepted, would then be pure old English, with scarcely a change from the more ancient Anglo-Saxon. This supposition allowed, the historical fact in which the name so formed originated,—namely, that the *Parish Clerks* of London were accustomed to assemble at the Well to perform their sacred plays,—may be referred, without entire improbability, to an Anglo-Saxon date; as will be again remarked in the Ecclesiastical History of the Parish, to follow this portion of our work.

The next author who mentions Clerkenwell is Dugdale, in his truly valuable "Monasticon." He gives the origin of a nunnery in the vicinity of the

Well, as from a grant of land made by *Jordan Briset* and *Muriel* his wife, a little subsequently to the year 1100: and we find that, not long after, the contiguous Priory of St. John arose from the religious zeal of the same *Briset* and *Muriel*. On the subject of these establishments, it is proper at present only to remark, that the names of their pious founders are *Norman;* and that, as the first mentioned, if not the last, took place in little more than fifteen years from the conclusion of the Survey, it is probable that the lands on which they were erected, had been bestowed in the interim (by William Rufus) upon these faithful upholders of religion and the conquest. The right in William to make such donatives, must have been similar to that by which his predecessor gave "all the land and the moore," extending along the wall of the city from the River of Wells to Walbrook, to the College of St. Martin le Grand; that is to say, it must have been grounded on the assumption, that this entire northern district was *forest*. And the public uses to which, as we have found from Fitz-Stephen, this district was put nearly ninety years afterwards by the citizens, sufficiently prove that it was even then far from wholly appropriated.

But, however such points as these may be decided by the curious antiquary, the probability is apparent, that to the establishment of the religious foundations just mentioned, must be attributed the gradual rise of other habitations upon the space now included within the parochial limits of Clerkenwell. Still, the increase of such habitations was so gradual, that we must remain in doubt, from the manner in which

Fitz-Stephen speaks of the wells and meadows as places of open resort, if more than the monastic buildings were in his time erected. We may entertain more assurance of the fact, that a *Vineyard* was in cultivation here (upon the sloping spot yet bearing the name of *Vineyard Gardens*) at an early period after the rise of the neighbouring cloister.

Few of the monkish institutions of the Norman times, were long without their vineyards: perhaps we may say none, whose lands possessed a soil and aspect favourable to their culture. Here all circumstances were eminently propitious, and we cannot doubt that they were properly improved.*

* Not many years since, some lovers of controversy took upon themselves to deny that wine of native growth was ever in common use in England. A doubt was ingeniously started, whether by the *vineæ* of Domesday, and other ancient records, we were not to understand *orchards*. But Vopiscus carries the antiquity of the vine in Britain to A. D. 280; and informs us that the Emperor Probus, towards the close of his reign, restored the privilege of the vineyard to most of the northern and western provinces. We have also the authority of Bede for the existence of the vine with us in the 8th century: and vineyards are noticed in the laws of Alfred. With regard to Domesday, it furnishes in the whole nearly forty entries of vineyards; including three in this county, one of which was at *Cheneton*, another at *Holeburne*, and the third at the *Village of Westminster*.

The question why, if our island was once capable of producing its own wine, it does not continue to produce it, is easily answered. The increase of commercial intercourse with the continent, became the source of a gradual introduction of wines, which it was found profitable to receive in barter from foreign nations, rather than, under less favourable circumstances of climate than were enjoyed by those nations, to continue the cultivation of the vine ourselves. The compiler of the life of *Bulleyn*, in the last edition of the Biographia Britannica, gives this reason, in connexion with others, more curious, but less probable. He says, "it is affirmed we have still upon record some treaty of peace between France and England, in which it is stipulated that we should root up our vineyards, and be their customers for all our wine. If the extir-

Possibly, England hardly offered a scene of monastic seclusion more rich in picturesque situation and rural accompaniments, than was presented by these religious houses, at the period of complete and prosperous establishment to which we will now suppose them arrived. On every side but that towards the city, they had the prospect of wooded hills and uplands, intermingled with vales of luxuriant verdure: contiguous, was the well-dressed, and, we will doubt not, richly productive vineyard: and at unequal distances from their precincts, towards the west, the ground fell into those romantic steeps and secluded dells, amongst which the river took its course, and created, as it rushed through the numerous mills erected over it, the "delightful" sounds which enkindled the descriptive enthusiasm of Fitz-Stephen. In the contemplation of such a scene, we could for the moment forego all the advantages resulting from that altered state of things which has closed the view of it for ever; and almost sigh for the return of times, when the spread of commerce, and the improvements of civilization, had not deprived our suburb of natural beauties of so rich an order.

In the long interval between the rise of these monasteries and their dissolution, great part of the present parochial land, there can be no doubt, became the property either of those monasteries or of individuals: but of the manner in which the several

pation of the English vineyards was not owing to this, it might be to the falling of Gascony into the hands of the English, whence wine was imported cheaper and better than we could make it." *Biogr. Brit.* vol. iii, p. 2.

parcels were acquired, there are no existing records. In the same interval, the progress of building upon this tract was more slow than we might have expected: and Maitland is certainly wrong in the observation, "'tis manifest from the church of this parish (St. James's) being made parochial soon after the dissolution, that Clerkenwell at that time must have been a considerable village." The contrary plainly appears from a very curious plan and view of London, entitled "Civitas Londinum," made by *Ralph* or *Radulphus Aggas,* soon after the accession of Queen Elizabeth, (A. D. 1563), which is yet extant, and from which a variety of interesting particulars of the state of the capital and its environs at that period may be derived. Clerkenwell, it is shewn by this plan, (with the exception of what buildings had been erected in the streets then, as now, called *St. John's Street* and *Cow Cross),* was little otherwise occupied than by the precincts and remains of the late monasteries. *St. John's Street* itself was not more than a third part built; and the backs of the very few houses in *Cow Cross* ("called" says Stow, "of a *Cross* some time standing there") opened into the fields. *Turnmill Street,* adjoining the spot last mentioned, and named from the adjacent river and mills, had also a few houses in an equally rural situation. Some erections appear round *St. John's Gate;* but none within some little distance of the *Nunnery* precincts and church; nor any more northward than the last-mentioned monastic remains. Only two houses existed in *Goswell Street* beyond the Charter-house; and that street is merely indicated by a road described as "from St. Alban's."

The increase of buildings between this period and the year 1598, when Stow wrote, will be best understood by the perusal of a few detached extracts from that quaint but interesting historian. He tells us,—

"Then, from the further end of Aldersgate Street, straight north to the bar, is called *Goswell Street,* replenished with small tenements, cottages, alleys, and gardens, banqueting houses, and bowling-places."

"And without the bar of West Smithfield lieth a large street or way, called, of the House of St. John there, *St. John's Street,* and stretcheth towards Islington."

"*St. John's Street* is also, on both sides, replenished with buildings up to Clerkenwell."

He speaks too of *Turnmill Street,* as "a lane which stretcheth up to the west side of Clerkenwell": and adds, "there is another lane, called *St. Peter's Lane,* which turneth from St. John's Street to Cow Cross."

Further, we have the observation, that "many fair houses for gentlemen and others are now built about this priory (the *Nunnery*) especially by the highway towards Islington." It is worthy of remark, that the inhabitants of these "fair houses" were, in some instances, not gentry merely, but nobility; Clerkenwell, from its continued openness of situation, partaking long in a species of distinction, which more latterly has attached to the western suburb almost exclusively.

One other remark of Stow, when speaking of the northern environs, there is every reason to suppose

must have been meant to apply to a large part of our parish; namely, that the *fields* were "commodious for the citizens therein to walk, shoot, and otherwise to recreate and refresh their dulled spirits in the sweet and wholesome ayre." He speaks also of a custom in the "old time," for "the Sheriffs, the Porters of the King's Beame or Weigh-house, and other of the Citie, to be challengers of all men in the suburbs to wrestle, shoot the standard, broad arrow, and flight, for games, at *Clerkenwell*, and in Finsbury fields." And on more than one occasion besides, when he is lamenting the decline of the practice of archery in the suburbs, we may feel assured that he is alluding to this district at least equally with *Finsbury Fields*. It is well known that *Marquis of Clerkenwell* was one of the titular dignities with which the leading archers of the northern environs were honoured.

The late Abraham Rhodes, Esq. favoured Mr. Malcolm with the sight of a roll of parchment, containing the names of the most distinguished residents in this parish in the year 1619. The list ran as follows: "The Lady Willoughbie, the Lady Rysdon, the Lady Price, the Lady Goldsmith, and the Earl of Clanricard, on Clerkenwell Close; on the Green, Sir William Tresham, the Lady Browne, and Sir William Sands; within St. John's, the Right Hon. the Lord Burghley, Sir Justinian Lewyn, Sir Paul Tracey, Sir Francis Lovell, Sir Henry Mynnes, Sir Thomas Pelham, Sir Francis Coningsby, the Lady Hubbard, the Lady Seckford, and Sir John Andrewes; in St. John's Lane, Sir James Arthurlong, the Lady Cheteley, Sir Michael Stanhope, Sir Anthony Bar-

ker; in St. John's Street, Sir Edward Chine, the Lord Sturton, and John Sotherton, Esq. one of the Barons of his Majesty's Exchequer;" besides "Sir Julius Cæsar, at *Muswell Hill*."

In the British Museum is an old book, giving an official return of the residents, and their rents, *anno* 1677, which appears to be incomplete, but furnishes many curious particulars. From this volume it appears that,

	Per Annum. £
The Earl of Northampton had lands which let at	100
The Earl of Clarendon, to the amount of.....	130
Lady Cropley.....	80
Lady Weeks	20
Lady Pollard.....	40
Earl of Ailsbury	30
Alderman Richardson	28
Sir Thomas Davis.....	66

The principal inhabitants at that time, and the rents paid by several of them, were, "Sir James Edwards, 25*l*.; Lady Porey, 18*l*.; Sir William Bowles, Knt. and Bart. 24*l*.; Sir Richard Chiverton, 45*l*.; Lady Wright, 40*l*.; William Thorowgood, Esq. 20*l*.; Sir John North, his own, (12*l*.); George Walsh, Esq. his own, (20*l*.); William Wharwood, Esq. 23*l*.; Sir William Palmer, 20*l*; Lady Dormer, 40*l*.; the Earl of Ailesbury; Lord Berckley; Erasmus Smith, Esq.; Lieut. Col. Powell, 26*l*.; William Barker, Esq.; Henry Dacres, Esq. 10*l*.; Sir Edward Smith, 20*l*.; Esquire Bruce, 20*l*.; Dr. Rodgers, 22*l*.; Col. Thompson, 20*l*. &c."

But it is here deserving of notice, that all new buildings in this and every other direction round

London, since the 22nd of Elizabeth, had been erected in opposition to the express orders of that most potent and authoritative female sovereign. For by her proclamation of the year named, she did "charge and straightly command all manner of persons, of what quality soever they be, to desist and forbear from any new buildings of any houses and tenements *within three miles of any of the gates of the said city of London*, to serve for habitation or lodging for any person where no former house hath been known to have been in the memory of such as are now living." Notwithstanding this arbitrary mandate, however, it is apparent that the suburbs in general had been progressively augmenting till the days of Stow. From the civil wars, it is natural to suppose that such augmentation received some check; but it advanced with accelerated rapidity on the settlement of the Commonwealth. This fact we gather from the preamble to an act of parliament, passed about the middle of the year 1657, which runs thus: "Whereas the *great* and *excessive number* of houses, edifices, out-houses, and cottages, erected and new built in and about the suburbs of the city of London, and the parts thereunto adjoining, is found to be *very mischievous and inconvenient*, and *a great annoyance* and nuisance to the Commonwealth; and whereas, notwithstanding divers prohibitions heretofore had and made to the contrary, yet *the said growing evil is of late so much multiplied and increased*," &c.—The act then proceeds to inflict a fine of "one year's rent, or year's value," upon the builders, occupiers, &c. of all such houses and other buildings, as had been erected

"*within ten miles* of the walls of the said city since the 25th of March, 1620:" and, farther, directs a penalty of £100 to be levied upon all persons who should erect "any dwelling-house, out-house, or cottage" within the limits mentioned, without assigning "four acres of ground" to every such dwelling-house, &c. respectively.

But all the false and contracted considerations that had swayed the councils of successive governments, were forced to bend to an over-ruling *necessity*, when the great fire of 1666 had reduced nearly the entire city, properly so called, to a heap of ashes: for, by that event, extension became unavoidable; and "the marring of the city," as said Rolle in his '*Burning of London*,' "was the making of the Suburbs." What accessions Clerkenwell received on this occasion, we have not the means of ascertaining: but there can be no reason to suppose that it was less fortunate in its increase than "some places of despicable termination, and as mean account, (such as Hounds-*ditch* and Shore-*ditch*)," which, the same author informs us, at that time began to "contain not a few citizens of very good fashion."

In 1683, Sir William Petty, in his "Political Arithmetic," once more sounded the alarm relative to the suburban increase of London; and even went so far as to *demonstrate* that the growth of the city must stop of itself before the year 1800; at which time, he added, the population would amount to 5,359,000 souls! Under all the terrors of this doughty prediction, we have, it seems, reached the year 1827; and still the population of London and its

environs does not greatly exceed a fifth part of Sir William's calculation, and still there are no symptoms of a stoppage in the building speculations, by means of which this truly mighty city is daily becoming more enlarged.

Even the most summary view of the augmentations of Clerkenwell from the era of the writer just mentioned, if taken in regularly successive order, would be found too extensive for the plan of the present work, besides crowding this portion of our pages with what most readers, perhaps, would be disposed to consider as uninteresting minutiæ. It must suffice, therefore, to notice the following facts, as illustrative of the actual contents of the parish, in buildings and population, at certain given periods.

In 1708, says the "New View of London" published in that year, Clerkenwell contained in the whole 1146 houses.

In 1710, according to official returns for that year, Clerkenwell contained one Church, one Chapel, one Presbyterian, and two Quakers' Meetings, 1500 families, and 9000 people.

About 1724, when violent disputes arose on the division of the ancient parochial district, it was stated, in petitions presented to the House of Commons, that there were left to the old parish,

594	Houses under 10*l.*	*per annum.*
177	— from 10 to 20*l.*	
21	— from 20 to 30*l.*	
26	— from 30 to 50*l.*	
Total 818		

New Parish of St. John.

392 Houses under 10*l.* *per annum.*
216 — from 10 to 20*l.*
63 — from 20 to 30*l.*
40 — from 30 to 50*l.*

Total 711

Total number of Houses in Clerkenwell, 1529.

In 1735, Robert Seymour's Survey of London gives the number of houses in Clerkenwell at 1900; and in 1753, the habitations in St. James's only amounted to 1400. Yet how small a portion of the latter district was occupied by dwellings two years subsequently to the last date, appears from a plan taken in 1755, and given in various editions of Stow's Survey, which shows no connected erections, northward, further than just beyond Northampton House, St. John's Street Road.

It may be added, that a period somewhat earlier than those last mentioned, namely, the reign of Queen Anne, was distinguished by a rapid rise of buildings in the vicinity of what were then (and till long after) termed *Cold-Bath Fields:* that, agreeably to Entick's Continuation of Maitland's History of London, published in 1772, there were in that year 1889 houses: that a new but disjoined town was commenced, by the first erections of the extensive chapelry of *Pentonville*, about the year 1780: and that this chapelry having been since united to the older parts of the parish by intermediate dwellings, a very few acres of ground, (independent of the gardens on the hill side which slopes towards

Bagnigge Wash) remain uncovered by habitations; and the major part of these are either now building upon, or let on building leases. Indeed, the form and dimensions of the streets, &c. which are to occupy the yet vacant space, are actually planned and determined upon: the plan including two neat *squares*, one of which, to be called "Lloyd Square," will be contiguous to Amwell Street, and the other, "Sharp Square," nearer Bagnigge Wells. Our general plan of the Parish embraces these intended erections; the most striking features in the design for which are, some attention to regularity of arrangement, and much to the disposal of the ground to the best advantage. It is to be hoped, that the *materiel* of the remaining buildings, will be of a more substantial and durable description than has been employed in those already erected.

The ratio in which houses and population have increased since the year 1801, will be seen from the following copies from the Census of that year, and the two succeeding periods of 1811 and 1821.—The returns comprise in a single view the districts of St. James and St. John.

	HOUSES.				OCCUPATIONS.			PERSONS.		
	Inhabited	By how many Families occupied.	Uninhabited.		Persons chiefly employed in Agriculture.	Persons chiefly employed in Trade, Manufactures, or Handicraft.	All other persons not comprised in the two preceding classes.	Males.	Females.	Total of Persons.
1801	3,320	6,274	107		27	4,967	18,402	10,898	12,498	23,396
	Inhabited	By how many Families occupied.	Building.	Uninhabited.	Families chiefly employed in Agriculture.	Families chiefly employed in Trade, Manufactures, or Handicraft.	All other Families not comprised in the two preceding Classes.	Males.	Females.	Total of Persons.
1811	4,166	7,533	104	108	88	6,752	693	14,192	16,345	30,537
1821*	4,995	9,726	185	202	72	6,953	2,701	18,533	20,572	39,105

* The Return of this year is accompanied by the following Note.—" The administration of the Poor Laws is supposed to cause an increase in the Population of Clerkenwell; all, who can make out a case of apparent poverty, being relieved."

As regards the general style of the buildings which have thus gradually swelled to their present extent, it is but just to remark, that, in the majority of instances, they unite a very commendable degree of openness of approach, with respectability and, frequently, handsomeness of appearance. Here, it is true, are no streets possessing the grander features of the improvements recently effected in the *western* suburbs: but, on the other hand, there are few or none, lately built, which betray an absolute want of taste and liberal views in their erectors.* As to such of the older parts of the parish as are occupied by persons in mean circumstances, it would be idle to deny, that their aspect in most cases pretty faithfully corresponds with the rank in life of their inhabitants.

The *Landed Proprietor-ship* of the Parish, is chiefly divided between the Marquess of Northampton, Henry Penton, Esq., the Governors of the Charter-house, the Governors of Seckford's Alms-houses (situate at Woodbridge, Suffolk), the Skinners' and Brewers' Companies, the representatives of the late Sir Henry Englefield, Bart., and William Lloyd Baker, Esq.: but there are many less considerable parcels, the property of various individuals.

The *Manorial History* may be comprised in the

* Unfortunately, however, some of the recent buildings in *Spa Fields* must be excepted from this praise. It is not easy to conceive from what motive so handsome an assemblage of edifices as *Wilmington Square*, should have been nearly environed with streets of a most mean and narrow character. North of this square, there was until the preceding year (1826) an *alley* between the rear-yards of one line of houses and the little front gardens of another, whose width actually varied from 35 to 41 feet!—a waste of the intermediate ground which so alarmed its proprietor, that he has since erected another row of houses, (with rear-yards, &c. complete) *between the former ones!*

following details. The *Manor of Clerkenwell,* otherwise of *St. John of Jerusalem,* from its having formed part of the possessions of that celebrated military order, is one of the comparatively few in England which extend over more parishes than one, the instances in which several manors are comprised in one parish being greatly more numerous. Parts of St. Sepulchre's, St. Luke's, Islington, and Hornsey parishes are included in it. But it does not include *all* Clerkenwell; as that division of it which is known by the name of *Cold Bath Fields' Liberty,* forms part of the adjoining manor (chiefly situate in Pancras parish) called the manor of Cantelows.* From the dissolution of the monasteries till the year 1625, our manor of St. John of Jerusalem remained the property of the crown: but was then granted, at an annual rent of 17*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* to Robert Dixon and William Walley; by whom it would appear to have been immediately conveyed to Justinian Povey. Christopher Wase, Esq. of Upper Holloway, died seized of this manor in 1643; from which period that division of it into moieties took place which has continued to this day: Hester, the elder daughter of Mr. Wase, carrying the one moiety by marriage to Sir Henry Blount, (after the death of her first husband, Sir William Mainwaring), and the other having passed to George

* This *Liberty* may be said to commence at Brook Hill, on the concealed margin of the River Fleet; and thence to take its course, with that river for its Westward boundary, to about 20 yards beyond the wall of the Middlesex House of Correction: whence turning Eastward to Bagnigge Wells Road, and then Southward by the same Road, Coppice Row, and Ray Street, it rejoins, by the declivity of Brook Hill, the point of outset.

Master, of Lincoln's Inn, Esq., upon his marriage with the younger daughter, Judith. In the Master family this latter moiety continued till about the year 1741; when William Snell, Esq. having purchased it of Thomas Master, Esq. it descended, upon the decease of Mrs. Snell, in November, 1810, to W. Hood, of Bardon Park, Leicestershire, Esq. a Bencher of the Inner Temple. The other moiety passed to the family of Short; and afterwards, agreeably to the will of John Short, Esq., to Colonel Henry Hasard, who took the name of Short. It then descended, successively, to the brothers of the last-mentioned possessor, John Garbrand Hasard, and Richard Samuel Hasard; with the latter of whom, who has also taken the name of Short, it remains. The present lords, therefore, are Richard Samuel Short, and William Hood, Esquires: the steward of the manor is Thomas Ritchings Smith, Esq.

The lords hold a court-leet and court-baron annually on Holy Thursday; at which, by ancient custom, they are privileged to appoint constables and headboroughs for the various *Liberties* of each parish over which the manor extends. These courts are now held at White Conduit-house, in the parish of Islington; though, until latterly, at the Angel Inn, High Street, in this parish. The custom of Borough English prevails in this manor; whereby the youngest son of a copyholder inherits, or, in default of issue, the youngest brother. The fines are at the will of the lords, who receive two years' improved rent on a descent, and one year and a half on alienation. No heriots are taken; and widows are entitled to dower of the copyhold.

The *Liberties* comprised by this manor, and situate in Clerkenwell, are, 1. That of *St. John of Jerusalem:* 2. *Clerkenwell Close Liberty:* 3. *Wood's Close Liberty:* 4. *Pentonville Liberty.* The liberty of *Cold Bath Fields,* though in this parish, has been already said to form part of the adjoining manor of Cantelows. The ancient liberty of St. John of Jerusalem now contains, though it did not formerly, the whole of that part of Clerkenwell called St. John's; the portion of St. John's which belonged to Wood's Close liberty until the year 1810, having been then first added to it. Formerly also, the inhabitants of this liberty did not nominate constables or headboroughs from the residents on the west side of Turnmill Street, or those in Peter Street, Brook Hill, and the other intermediate Streets down to the River Fleet; but the vestry of St. James's having nominated for that district in 1800, and continuing to do so until 1807, a remonstrance against the practice, as infringing upon the rights of St. John's, was presented; and in consequence, the vestry recommended the future nomination to be by the inhabitants of the ancient liberty.

The *Boundaries* of the Parish are as follow:— Along the whole *northern* line lies the parish of Islington; to the *east,* parts of Islington and St. Luke's; *south,* St. Sepulchre's and part of St. Andrew's; *west,* parts of St. Andrew's and St. Pancras, together with the River Fleet. As regards its situation in *Middlesex,* it lies within the Finsbury division of the hundred of Ossulston. Its *Circumference,* including the various sinuosities of its exterior line, is three miles and a half nearly: its greatest

length, in a right line between any two given points, about one mile and three fourths of a furlong: and its greatest *breadth,* similarly reckoned, somewhat more than half a mile and a furlong.

The *River Fleet,* (or *Flete*) having once more come under mention as a parochial boundary, its ancient importance may make it proper to give a more particular account of it in this place, than we have hitherto had a fair occasion for. This now diminutive and lazy stream has its origin on the south side of the hill between Highgate and Hampstead, contiguous to *Caen Wood,* where it forms several large ponds, and from whence the greater part of its water is carried off by pipes, for the supply of the adjacent neighbourhood. After flowing, thus curtailed of its native strength, by the west side of Kentish Town, and as far as St. Pancras, it is arched over during nearly the whole of its remaining course to the Thames, and, as it proceeds, becomes one of the principal *sewers* of the metropolis. In its underground progress, it passes close to the boundary line of Clerkenwell at Battle-bridge; a little beyond which, it again emerges to the light in a black muddy stream; and, flowing round Bagnigge Wells Tea Gardens, becomes the parochial boundary near the county ground attached to the Middlesex House of Correction; makes the circuit of that prison, and again submerging, takes its course beneath the valley between Turnmill Street and Saffron Hill, and under Holborn Bridge, Fleet Market, and Bridge Street, to the Thames at Blackfriars.

Stow, speaking of this now almost forgotten stream under the appellation of the *River of the*

Wells, notices that it bore this latter name in the time of William the Conqueror, and states that it continued to be so called till the reign of Edward I. At the last mentioned period, he tells us, a complaint was made to parliament, that its course had become obstructed;* "whereupon the said river was at that time cleansed, ——— but was never brought to its old depth and breadth, upon which the name of the river ceased, and it was afterwards called *a Brook*, namely, *Turnmill* or *Tremill Brook*, because divers mills were erected upon it, as appeareth by a register book containing the foundation of the Priory of Clerkenwell, and donation of the lands thereunto belonging, and divers other records."

"This brook (the same historian adds) was afterwards oftentimes cleansed; and the last time, to any effect, was in the year 1502, the 17th of Henry VII. when the whole course of *Fleet Dike*, as it was then called, was scowered down to the Thames. So that boats with fish and fewel were rowed to Fleet Bridge, and Oldbourn Bridge, as they were wont." In 1606, flood gates were erected in its stream; and in 1670, four years after the fire of London, when it had been partly filled up with rubbish, it was again cleansed, enlarged, and deepened sufficiently to admit barges of considerable burthen as far as Holborn Bridge, where the water was five feet deep in the lowest tides. So convenient, however, was this little river, as a receptacle for all

* The complaint was made by Henry Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, and the Parliament held at Carlisle. See Patent Rolls in the Tower, An. 35 Edward I., "*De cursu aquæ de Flete supervidend' et corrigend.*"

the filth of those parts of the city that lay contiguous, that the expense of maintaining its navigation became very burthensome: and it was at length so utterly neglected, that *Fleet Ditch*, as it was now commonly called, grew into a great and dangerous nuisance. Application was therefore made to Parliament; and the Lord Mayor and citizens were empowered by an act to arch it over, the fee-simple of the ground being vested in the Corporation. Under this act, the work was commenced in 1734; and on the 30th of September, 1737, the new market, called Fleet Market, occupying the site of the whole space from Holborn Bridge to Fleet Bridge, was first opened for the public accommodation.

Such was the extinction of the Fleet as a navigable river; of a river, which, as the act of the 35th of Edward I. recites, "had been of such breadth and depth, that ten or twelve ships at once, with merchandize, were wont to come to the Bridge of Flete, and some of them to Old-bourn Bridge." How near its source vessels originally floated, is unknown; but an anchor is traditionally recorded to have been found in its bed, as high up as the site of the Elephant and Castle at Pancras. Not many years since, its stream was sufficiently powerful to give motion to some flour and flatting mills in the neighbourhood of Field Lane, Holborn.*

The two principal Roads in this parish, are those named from *St. John's* and *Goswell Streets*, from the

* "Such," says a contemporary local historian, "is the increase of water in the channel of the *Fleete*, after long continued rains, or a sudden thaw with much snow on the ground, by reason of the great influx from the adjacent hills, that sometimes at this place (Battle Bridge) it overflows its bounds,



J & H S Storer delt & sculp.

Angel Inn.



The Yard Old Angel Inn.

northern terminations of which, respectively, they stretch till they unite in a point near Islington. These are also the oldest in Clerkenwell, if we except that portion of the Roman *Watling Street*, which, agreeably to some authors, traced a part of its southern boundary, along the line of the modern Wilderness Row, and proceeded thence by a bridge or ford over the River of Wells to Port-pool Lane, and then took the direction of Paddington, Whitchurch, and Edgeware, to St. Alban's. *St. John's Street* and *Goswell Roads* were, until recent years, the only carriage ways from the metropolis to Islington ; and not much more than half a century back, these were so badly kept up, as to be little better than when, at a somewhat earlier date, they were next to impassable during the winter months. Even so late as 50 years since, it was customary for travellers approaching London to remain all night at the *Angel Inn*, (opposite to where these two roads meet) rather than venture

breaks up the arches, and inundates the surrounding neighbourhood to a considerable extent. Some years ago an inundation of this kind took place ; when several drowned cattle, butts of beer, and other heavy articles, were carried down the stream, from premises on its banks into which the flood had entered, and made great devastation. But the most considerable overflow that has happened, within memory, was in January, 1809. At this period, when the snow was lying very deep, a rapid thaw came on, and the arches not affording a sufficient passage for the increased current, the whole space between Pancras, Somers Town, and the bottom of the hill at Pentonville, was in a short time covered with water. The flood rose to the height of three feet in the middle of the highway ; the lower rooms of all the houses within that space were completely inundated ; and the inhabitants sustained considerable damage in their goods and furniture, which many of them had not time to remove. Two cart-horses were drowned, and, for several days, persons were obliged to be conveyed to and from their houses, and receive their provisions, &c. in at the windows, by means of carts."

after dark to prosecute their journey along ways, which were almost equally dangerous from their bad state, and their being so greatly infested with thieves. On the other hand, persons walking from the City to Islington in the evening, waited near the end of St. John's Street, in what is now termed *Northampton Street,* (but was then a rural avenue, planted with trees, called *Wood's Close,*) until a sufficient party had collected, who were then escorted by an armed patrole appointed for that purpose.

Of the period at which these roads were originally constructed, we have no certain account; but it seems probable that *St. John's Street Road* was that first formed, owing to the necessity for some line of way between the priories of St. John of Jerusalem and St. Bartholomew in Smithfield, and the lands of those religious houses in the parish of Islington. From records now extant in the Tower of London, it appears that customs were granted in the 37th of Edward III. for repairing the way between Smithfield and Highgate; also, that a patent was issued for "*Pavage* for the highway from Smithfield Bars to Gore's Place, Iseldon," about the year 1380, reign of Richard II. In Stow's time, it seems that this road was used by persons coming to *Clerkenwell Church* from Highgate, Muswell, &c. With regard to *Goswell Road,* Strype tells us, that "in 1581, Queen Elizabeth on an evening rode that way to take the air;" her purpose being to reach "Iseldon, commonly called Islington, a country town hard by:" near to which, he goes on to relate, her Majesty was environed with such "a number of begging rogues," that the Recorder of London, in consequence of the

disturbance they gave her, both issued his warrants against the offenders, and assisted personally in their caption.

It affords proof how long large parcels of the lands adjacent to these roads, both in this and the neighbouring parishes, continued in the state of *commonage* described to have existed at the time of the Conqueror, that both Elizabeth, and her successors James and Charles I. are related to have travelled "*over the fields*," for expedition's sake, on various occasions. Thus, Elizabeth took such a route on proceeding from Enfield to St. James's; when such few hedges and ditches as intervened after she had passed Islington, were "cut down to make the *next way* for her." King James, on his accession, having been met at Stamford Hill by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, the City Officers, and "500 grave citizens" on horseback, the whole train proceeded thence "*over the fields*" to the Charter-house; and Charles I. when returning from Scotland in 1641, shewed a similar neglect of the highways, by taking a straight cut from Stoke Newington to Hoxton. And it appears to have been no uncommon thing for the equipages of the great in general to follow these royal examples.

During the civil wars, when the king threatened to attack London, the parliament ordered trenches and ramparts to be constructed in the vicinity of all the highways approaching the metropolis. On which occasion, the east side of *Goswell Road* (on the verge of the parish) was distinguished by a "battery and breast-work at Mount Mill;" and

other works were erected at the end of *St. John's Street*.*

By act of parliament, 20th Geo. III., that part of the original *Goswell Road* which is included between Aldersgate Bars and Upper Charles Street, was placed under the superintendence of a board of trustees denominated the *Goswell Street Trust*; and by a similar act, in the first and second years of his reigning majesty, the remainder of the same road, together with *St. John's Street Road*, was re-assigned to the direction of a body constituted by several preceding enactments, called the *Highgate and Hampstead Trust*. But, by the act passed in the preceding year (1826) the management of both *Goswell Road* (now properly so called) and *St. John's Street Road*, was committed to the Commissioners it appointed "for consolidating the Trusts of the several Turnpike Roads in the neighbourhood of the Metropolis, north of the River Thames." The celebrated road maker and surveyor, Mr. McAdam, is constituted general surveyor of the roads comprehended within this northern district. The bill derived its origin, and obtained its final success, principally through the indefatigable exertions of Lord Lowther. Though but little opposed in the House of Commons, it was rather warmly contested in the Upper House; yet, though conflicting with some important private interests, it passed the third

* There were likewise within the Parish, "a large fort, with four half bulwarks, at the New River Upper Pond;" and "a battery and breast-work" contiguous to a part of the present *Bagnigge Wells Road*. These works were connected by a regular line of communication, which, not many years back, when Maitland wrote his History of London, could be distinctly traced.

reading in the House of Lords, by a majority of thirteen, on the 24th, and received the royal assent on the 31st, of May, 1826.

It seems tolerably certain, that the road now leading from the high ground at Coppice Row, &c. to Battle Bridge, distinguishes part of the line of that spoken of by Norden,* as "the old and auncient highwaie to *High Bernet* from *Port Poole*, now *Gray's Inn*, as also from *Clerkenwell*;" and which he describes as passing Pancras Church on the east, and Highgate on the west; that is, taking from Battle Bridge the track of the existing *Maiden Lane*. That part of this ancient way which is either wholly or partially included within the precincts of Clerkenwell, has been long called *Bagnigge Wells Road*, from the well known Tea-Gardens bearing that appellation: its superintendence, until the recent act just spoken of, was committed to the Highgate and Hampstead Trust.

The *New Road*, as it is still commonly called, which, commencing at the Angel Inn, on the skirt of the parish, runs to its extremity at Battle Bridge, and thence to the Edgware Road near Paddington, was formed by Act of Parliament of the 29th of George II.; and the short cut, which, passing from the same New Road to Bagnigge Wash, bears the name of *Penton Place*, originated in the Act of the 16th of George III.: both these Roads also were, until the late Consolidation Act, under the control of the Highgate and Hampstead Trust.

The *Soil* of this parish is a subject on which the

* Speculum Britanniæ.

briefest remarks will suffice; because, as its entire surface is now nearly covered with buildings, any inquiry into its peculiar properties, with reference to the purposes of the geologist or agriculturist, would be futile. It is a fact more interesting to the modern proprietor, that it contains, or has contained, at an inconsiderable depth from the vegetable mould which forms its superficies, a large quantity of *brick clay*. There are also numerous strata of *gravel*, with some intermixture of *loam*, *marl*, and *sand*. It is, almost universally, sufficiently dry to be without objection on the score of health to the speculations of the builder; although very numerous *Springs* have their concealed sources within the parochial confines. Several of these latter were for ages esteemed medicinal; the majority are now totally choked up and lost; but some account of the few remaining will occur in the course of this work.

The *Climate* of Clerkenwell must be considered healthful, except as regards those portions of it in which the buildings are too much congregated for entire salubrity. Two of the grand requisites to the preservation of salutary air, it undoubtedly possesses; considerable elevation, and a sufficiently varying surface. In the lower part of the parish, the atmosphere entirely corresponds with that of the metropolis with which it unites; partaking of that comparative closeness and warmth, which the contiguity of such vast masses of building, and the innumerous domestic fires, are well known to impart to London. The more elevated part was distinguished, until the recent extension of buildings beyond it, by the *keenness* of the air of Islington: but, as new streets

are still erecting, and continue to be projected, that peculiarity, which is already sensibly diminished, will without doubt entirely vanish.

In concluding this history and general view of the *Site* of Clerkenwell, it is necessary to mention that there is a small detached portion of the parish, situate at MUSWELL, or MUSWELL-HILL, about five miles and a half from London, and on the north-western confines of Hornsey. This little tract was given to the *Nunnery* of Clerkenwell by Beauvais, Bishop of London, about the year 1112; and having become famous through a legendary tale of a "great cure performed upon a king of Scots, who was, by some divine intelligence, advised to take the water of a well in England, called Muswell,"* a *Chapel* was erected on the spot, "sometime bearing the name of our Lady of Muswell." Here was placed an image of "Our Lady, whereunto was a continual resort in the way of pilgrimage." This Chapel (which of course was an appendage to the Nunnery) had sunk, along with many other fabrics originating in religious romance, before the reign of Elizabeth; and, when Norden wrote, an Alderman Roe had "a proper house occupying the site."

The *Wells*, from which this tract, and the hill comprising it, take name, are two in number, and continue in good preservation, being bricked round to the depth from which they seemingly spring, (about five feet and a half) and enclosed besides from the field wherein they are situated by wooden railings. Though a few yards only asunder, their waters differ

* Norden: Spec. Brit. pp. 36-37.

in quality; that of the one being hard, sweet, and beautifully pellucid, while the other more nearly resembles rain water, and is used only for the purposes to which the latter is commonly applied. Neither are at present supposed to possess any medicinal properties. An infant brook issues from their united and ceaseless overflowings; which, descending the hill, and winding through the adjacent meadows, at length finds its way to the comparatively distant Lea River.

This tract is regularly visited, and its limits marked, at the perambulation of the parish which takes place septennially; it is at present entirely under pasturage. The only habitations upon it are two by the road-side, traditionally said to occupy the site of the *dairy-farm*, which, in the monastic times, sent its produce to the nuns of Clerkenwell. Part of an adjoining house being also within the parochial line, (as is signified by the usual initials affixed to its front) the perambulators are obliged to pass *through* this latter dwelling, in order to assert their long established boundary.

PART II.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

SECT. 1.

Ecclesiastical History before the Reformation.

RELIGIOUS STATE OF THE PARISH AT THE TIME OF THE CONQUEROR'S SURVEY—FIRST ECCLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS—THE CLERKS' WELL—INSTITUTION AND ORIGINAL OFFICES OF PARISH-CLERKS—THEIR DRAMATIC PERFORMANCES AT THE WELL—THE PRIORY OF ST. MARY FROM ITS FOUNDATION TO ITS DISSOLUTION—MILITARY ORDER OF KNIGHTS-HOSPITALERS—THE PRIORY OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM FROM ITS FOUNDATION TO ITS DISSOLUTION.

THERE is no probability that a church, or religious establishment of any kind, existed in this parish at or prior to the Conqueror's Survey. That valuable record, indeed, makes no return of any ecclesiastical structure in all Middlesex: and though unexceptionable instances might be adduced of the existence of churches at that period, upon which Domesday-book is silent, yet the proofs afforded by the same venerable document, that a very large portion of the county was then forest-land, added to our knowledge that the temporalities of the clergy in the reign of William were comparatively small, add weight to its negative evidence in this case.

The mention of the CLERKS' WELL made by Fitz-Stephen, shews the appropriation of the Well, by name at least, to the clerks (or inferior clergy) of his period. This was about 1190, or 124 years subsequent to the Conquest; and nearly ninety years previously, or about the commencement of the

reign of Henry I. two religious establishments had taken place within the district, now known by the name of Clerkenwell. The clerks, from whose property in or use of the well it was called, might reasonably be supposed, therefore, to have been those attached to these monastic foundations, had we not authority for concluding the origin of *Clerkenwell* to have been more remote.

The custom of meeting at wells, or fountains, for conversation or amusement, is one of very high antiquity, and may be clearly traced to an Eastern origin. Fitz-Stephen has been seen to make express mention of it as prevailing in his time, and as applying in an especial manner to the CLERKS' WELL, which he tells us was one of the "most note, and frequented above the rest, when the scholars and youth of the city" took "the air abroad in the summer evenings." Among the recreations here adopted upon such occasions, or more probably, perhaps, upon the public holidays, were, it seems, dramatic entertainments; and these would appear to have originated with the inferior clergy of the metropolis, who enacted them with much popular applause. And though Fitz-Stephen does not expressly speak of their enactment at our *Well*, he may be supposed merely to have omitted that circumstance as well known, when he tells us that "London, in place of stage-plays, and scenic decorations, hath dramas of more sacred subjects; representations of those miracles which the holy confessors wrought, or of the sufferings wherein the glorious constancy of martyrs did appear." He has previously spoken of the CLERKS' WELL, in the passage before cited: and all

historians of London after him have agreed, that the fountain took name from such representations as he describes, by the clerks of the metropolis, around it.

We may therefore look upon the custom of performing sacred dramas at this spot, as established *before* the reigns of Henry II. and Richard I., which were the era of Fitz-Stephen. *How long* previously it had existed, cannot perhaps be satisfactorily ascertained: but an opinion was ventured in the preceding chapter, that, *Clerken* being an Anglo-Saxon compound, the custom might be referred to an Anglo-Saxon period. In fact, the institution of clerks, or inferior clergy, arose out of that of *parishes*, which it is well known was an ecclesiastical division of the Saxon era: and the origin of what we now call *Parish Clerks*, (though we convey a somewhat different meaning by the term) was this:—

There were, anciently, in all but the very poorest churches, one or more clerks, or clergymen, besides the incumbent, whose chief business it was to say masses for the dead at the various altars, and to join with the incumbent in rehearsing the hours of the breviary in the church, especially on festivals. Their performance of such offices is sufficient to indicate that they were *clerks in orders*: and, indeed, strictly speaking, they could be of no other description; the term *lay-clerk*, afterwards introduced, being contradictory in its nature. Their maintenance was competent, and derived from offerings: and they existed, in their original character, until the Reformation: nay, they may be said still so to exist in the inferior clergy who take part in the celebration

of divine offices in our cathedrals and collegiate churches; and they are still, apparently, recognised under the same character, in several of the rubrics prefixed to the various services in our Book of Common Prayer.*

Of this description, then, were the CLERKS, in whose first rude dramatic attempts at our *Well*, originated those *Mysteries*, for their performance of which they became afterwards so celebrated. It is probable that they usually assembled here on their festival-days: but it is on record that they met, yearly at least, at this place, "to act some play, or history, taken from holy scripture."† However, the fountain named from themselves does not appear to have been that uniformly selected; *Skinners'* Well, "so called because the Skinners of London

* In these rubrics, it may be observed, a distinction is uniformly made between the incumbent, and the inferior clergy of his church, by styling the first "Minister," "Priest," or "Curate," and the latter "Clerks," or "Deacons,"—*Deacons* having been always *Clerks*, but appointed more especially to receive and distribute the alms of the congregation. Note the following examples:—"Then the Minister, *Clerks*, and People shall say," &c.—"And in Cathedral and Collegiate Churches and Colleges, where there are *many Priests and Deacons*," &c.—"The Priests and *Clerks* meeting the corpse," &c.—"The Priest and *Clerks* kneeling," &c.

It would appear that most of the incumbents of former times, had first belonged to this inferior order: an opinion which is thus quaintly supported by the testimony of JOHN WEEVER;—"And such *Deacons*, which, *as Parish Clerks*, did helpe the Priests in the execution of their sacred office, did most commonly, after a short time, enter into the order of Priesthood, and tooke upon them the cure of soules, (and the benefit of a fat Parsonage if they could procure it;) in which promotion, if this or that Deacon carryed himselfe proudly, or any wayes not to the contentment of his parishioners, such was the common saying,

"*The Priest forgets that e're he was a Clerke.*"

(Funeral Monuments, 1631.)—

† Stow.

did (also) act there yearly plays from the holy scripture,"* being that sometimes chosen. But this latter well is supposed to have been contiguous to the former; and, in either case, the gently rising ground southward and eastward must have well adapted the spot to this species of public exhibitions.

In the year 1391, these pious dramatists are recorded to have played here three days successively before King Richard II., his Queen, and the whole Court: these amusements, with more substantial peace offerings, being presented to the monarch to divert his resentment from the citizens, on account of a late riot of no great importance against the Bishop of Salisbury. "Also," says Stow, "in the year 1409, the 14th of Henry IV., they acted a play at the *Skinner's Well*, which lasted eight days, and was of matter from the *Creation of the World*: there were most part of the nobility and gentry of England to see the same."†

* Stow.

† The intimate connection of the London PARISH CLERKS with the name and early history of Clerkenwell, may render some further particulars relating to them acceptable. The Parish Clerks were incorporated by Henry III., in the year 1233, under the style of the "Fraternity of St. Nicholas," having been known under that appellation even from the ninth century. They received additional privileges from several succeeding kings, prior to their dissolution as a chartered brotherhood in the reign of Edward VI. In the catholic times they were an important society; and many ecclesiastics, and other persons of the first quality, both male and female, were of the number of their members. They attended all great funerals; at which their office was immediately to precede the hearse, with their surplices hanging on their arms, and singing solemn dirges all the way, till they came to the church door. Their fraternity had the sole direction of the music employed in public worship; and, as from their *mysteries* and *moralities* arose the present drama of England,

We revert to the religious establishments, already more than once said to have been founded in our parish not long subsequently to the year 1100. And, first, as to the PRIORY OF ST. MARY, for *Nuns* of the Benedictine order, whose site is marked by the modern church distinguished as that of *St. James, Clerkenwell.*

Jordan Briset, with Muriel his wife, it is here necessary to repeat, have the honour ascribed to them of originating this religious foundation at about

so, in their musical festivals, it is possible, may be traced the germ of our modern *oratorios*. In the year 1611, they were re-incorporated by James I.; whose grant was confirmed in 1631, by his son, Charles I. The company now consists of all the Parish Clerks of the cities of London and Westminster, the Borough of Southwark, and the fifteen out-parishes included in the Bills of Mortality. They have the privilege of compiling and printing these bills, which are yearly and weekly returns of baptisms and burials, to be presented, at stated intervals, to the King and the Lord Mayor. They also enjoy, in pursuance of the charter of Charles I., the right of freedom from all secular offices. The *Hall* of the company is an old and irregular brick-building on the West side of Wood Street; but is said to have been originally a much earlier structure, distinguished by the sign of the Angel, in Little St. Helen's.

Parish Clerks, it is well known, are now universally laymen; and for their maintenance, besides wages, have certain fees with the parson on christenings, marriages, burials, &c. They may be chosen, agreeably to the canon, by the parson, vicar, or minister of the several parishes, only; unless the custom has been for the churchwardens or parishioners to choose them; in which case, as has been proved by repeated decisions, the canon cannot abrogate the custom. When duly chosen and appointed, they are usually licensed by the ordinary; at which time they are sworn to obey the minister. The law looks upon them as officers for life, and to be deprived only by such as placed them in their office; neither can the ecclesiastical court correct them, for any misdemeanours, except by ecclesiastical censures. If unjustly deprived, a mandamus will lie to the churchwardens to restore them.—2 *Roll's Abr.* 234. *Gibs.* 214, &c.



J & H S Storer del & sc.

St James's Old Church.



Cloisters of St Mary's Nunnery.

the period just mentioned. A priest, named Robert, chaplain to the same Jordan, was presented by the wealthy baron with a plot of fourteen acres, adjoining the Clerks' Well, whereon to build this monastery, together with a piece of ground for the erection of a mill. These particulars we have in the "Monasticon" of Dugdale, included with copies of 23 charters, or deeds of gifts, of which the Nunnery was ultimately possessed. Of the means to which Robert had recourse, to defray the expenses of his structure, we are without information: probably he depended, with success, upon the contributions of the pious, whose bounty might be swelled by that of the first patron. We are equally in the dark with respect to the form and dimensions of the building; and not less so as to the original and after number of the Black Nuns, its inmates. On such points, in the case of many an obscure monastic foundation, seated in some remote corner of the kingdom, both history and tradition have been comparatively diffuse: while in the instance of this, evidently one of the most considerable religious establishments in the neighbourhood of the metropolis, the voice of both has been silent.

In the Cotton Library, however, is preserved the Register of this Priory,* (from which Dugdale quotes) containing ample particulars of its various endowments, and from which its landed possessions appear to have been widely spread over Middlesex. Among the benefactors' names, occur the considerable families of Mandeville and Warren.

* Faustina, b. ii. 3.

In the same Register we meet with the following document; which is worth transcribing, as "this is the only Nunnery I find in England" (says Stevens in his Additions to Dugdale) "the names of whose prioresses have been preserved."

"Ye Names of ye Prioress of Clerkenwell.

"*Cristine,* anº ix of S. reg.: *Ermigardis,* Ric. I.: *Hawys; Elyanor; Alesia; Cæsely; Margery Whatvyll,* xxxvj. zer. of IIIᵈ H.; *Isabell; Alis Oxeney,* lvii zer iij. H.; *Almeys Marcy; Denise Bras; Margery Bray; Johna Lewkenor* xxxvᵗᵒ *Jone Fullam̄* E. tcii xvij anº; *Edeyne Let; Katin' Braybrok: Luce Attwod* Ric. vᵗᵒ; *Johne Vyeyne* H. iiijᵗᵢ ⁱiijᵗᵒ; *Margret Bakewell; Isabell Wyntworth* H. vi tcio; *Margareta Bull* H. vjᵗⁱ xxxijᵈᵒ; *Agnes Clifford* E. iiijᵗᵒ tredecimo anº die Omniu S'cor' A. D. M C·C·C·C·; *Katrine Grene* E. iiijᵗᵒ; *Isabell Howssey.*"

This list of the *Prioresses* calls for no particular remark, except that it differs from that given by Newcourt ("Repertorium") in its containing the name of "Edeyne Let," and in a few minor particulars. One other prioress, and the last who held that rank in the Nunnery, had not then been elected. This was Isabella Sackville, who was of the noble family now Dukes of Dorset.* In her time, in consequence of the general dissolution of the Monasteries, this house, so many years dedicated "to the Honour of God and the Assumption of our Lady,"

* The genealogy of this family commences in 1066. It was first ennobled by the creation of *Baron Buckhurst,* 8th January, 1566: the *Earldom of Dorset* was added 13th March, 1603, and the *Dukedom,* 13th January, 1720.

fell, to rise no more. Isabel, however, lived to a great age, namely, till the year 1570, 12th of Elizabeth; and was then buried, agreeably to her will, near the high altar, in the church formerly that of the Priory she had governed; where her monumental inscription ran thus:—

"Hic iacet Isabella Sackvile quæ fuit priorissa nuper prioratus de Clerkenwel tempore dissolutionis eiusdem Prioratus: quæ obijt 21 Octobris Ann. Dom. Millesimo quingentesimo septuagesimo et Ann. Reg. Regin. Elisab. Dei Gra' &c. duodecimo."

Through an error in Weever's copy of this inscription for his "Ancient Funeral Monuments," the historian Malcolm was led into a rather curious but natural mistake. Weever read "quæ *fuit*," instead of "quæ *obiit*;" and Malcolm in consequence observed of the inscription, that it "purported *she was buried at the time of the Dissolution:*" though, in point of fact, her convent was dissolved in the 30th of Henry VIII., (A. D. 1539) and she lived, it has been seen, upwards of 30 years afterwards. The Church-wardens' Book for the year 1570, expressly narrates her interment in that year, by an entry in the following terms:—

"The Lady Izabel Sack*field* was buryd in the quyr off Clarkynwell, some time pryrys off the same chyrche. Ped to the curat, Thomas Cortys, for the breekeing off the grownd, 10s.

Item, for the great bell, 3*s.* 4*d.*

It. for the pelis,* 20*d.*

She being buryd the 24 day of Octobre, 1570."

* Pall.

Weever observes of this lady, that "she lived many yeares in the various dayes of divers Princes: for I finde in the pedegree of the Earle of Dorset, that one *William Sackevyle*, by his will and testament, dated the 21 yeare of King Henry VII., gave to his neece *Isabell Sackvyle* a certaine legacie, she being as then a Nunne in the Priory of Clerkenwell." She lived, it thus appears, in five different reigns, viz. those of Henries VII. and VIII., Edward VI., and Queens Mary and Elizabeth.—They were indeed "various dayes" which she witnessed; and wonderful must have seemed the mutations, in the church and in the state, that passed before her during her mortal career.

Within the Priory, say several writers, was interred also the founder, *Jordan Briset*, who is styled both *Baro* and *Miles (Lord* and *Knight)* in the Monasticon, and who is said by the author of that work, on the authority of the "Register" of St. John's Hospital, to have died on the 15th of December, 1110, and to have been buried in the chapter-house of this his first foundation. *Muriel*, who is named co-foundress with her husband in the grant of land for the erection, is stated by the same learned and industrious writer to have died on the 1st of May, 1112, and to have been buried in the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. But, according to Stow and Weever, they were both interred in the chapter-house of this Nunnery, which in the time of the last-mentioned author, (and until its demolition also) was "called the old vestrie." Weever also says, that Jordan Briset died September 17th, about the year 1124, and Muriel, his wife, on the 1st of May next following.

At the dissolution, the priory was possessed, according to Dugdale, of £262 : 19s., but, agreeably to Speed, of £282 : 16 : 5, of "yearly revenues." The former valuation agrees with that in the Court of First Fruits and Tenths; where it is thus stated:—

"Priorii de Clerkenwel, 262*l.* 19*s.*

Monasterm de Clerkenwel } Terre et possessiones et ecclia } vl. bona 30l. mutum 25 di."

Few and imperfect as may seem the particulars here collected, they are the substance of all the information that is now obtainable, relative to the once-celebrated **Ecclesia Beatæ Mariæ de Fonte Clericorum**, or *Church of St. Mary by the Clerks' Well.* We can have no reason to doubt that the various monastic buildings (to say nothing of the church itself, which will call for subsequent remark) were of a character adapted to the wealth and consequence this religious foundation so long enjoyed: but nothing remains to prove the fact, the only vestige of the ancient convent being an inconsiderable fragment of a wall, at a short distance north of the present church, which has been worked into the composition of a modern dwelling. The Gentleman's Magazine for 1785, gave a view of one side of the original quadrangle of the *Cloisters,* as till then existing: the architecture of that portion of the Nunnery appears from thence to have been in a pure and good style, but, judging from the form of the arches, and other circumstances, not *earlier* than the reign of Henry III. But for this view, for which the work spoken of was indebted to an antiquarian correspondent, no memento of the conventual erections might have been

now extant. But none are more incurious as regards *antiquities*, than the trading portion of the community by which the site of this ancient priory has been so long surrounded; and the forest and the waste are far better preservatives of the castle or monastery of a former age, than the suburb of a wealthy and daily extending city.

THE PRIORY OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM.

A brief view of the origin and history of the celebrated military order to which this institution was attached, may be thought not improperly to precede some account of our priory.

The city of Jerusalem had been nearly five centuries in the hands of professed enemies to the christian faith, and as yet the pious and devout in European countries had conceived no thought of wresting the Holy Land from the profane dominion of the caliph and his Saracens. Religion, however, had not been wholly unsuccessful in procuring the inlet of *pilgrims* to the sacred city: while another, and more universal, if not more powerful spring of enterprise, *Trade*, at length obtained advantages, for which unassisted piety might have sighed in vain. The desire of wealth that animated the Christians of the West, found its fellow-feeling in the bosoms of the infidels; and from a view of the mutual advantages that must result from affording every facility to commercial intercourse, were some Italian merchants called *Amalphatani* (from *Melphi*, a city of Naples, whence they came), permitted at first to sojourn, then

to inhabit, and finally to rear three monastic houses, in the immediate neighbourhood of the sepulchre of our Lord.

These religious establishments arose prior to the year 1050. The first was a convent for men, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen; the second, another for women, whose chosen patroness was the Blessed Virgin; and the third, an *Hospital* for the reception and care of the increasing number of travellers and pilgrims, whom the advancement of the faith attracted to the Holy City. We are principally concerned with the last mentioned institution, for which was invoked the especial patronage and protection of St. John the Baptist.

The influx of merchants, together with that of pilgrims from all parts of Europe, was daily becoming more considerable, when the overthrow and extinction of the Christian cause seemed threatened by the possession of Jerusalem by the Turks, A. D. 1076. Under the government of these masters, the condition of the devotees, more especially, was truly deplorable; till, the insults and oppressions sustained by these hapless followers of the cross continuing to aggravate, a cry was at length raised that reached the countries of their birth. "A nerve," says Gibbon, "was touched, of exquisite feeling; and the sensation vibrated to the heart of Europe." In the end, the millions of the west marched under the banner of their faith to the relief of their suffering brethren, and finally to the conquest of Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

The year 1099 was that of this last grand achievement, which was accomplished under the

valiant conduct of Godfrey of Boloigne, Duke of Lorrain. Godfrey was elected King of Jerusalem: and the *Hospitalers* of the Holy City having zealously co-operated with the crusaders in procuring its recovery, the new monarch, in conjunction with Gerard, their superior, who had distinguished himself by his military ardour not less than by his previous devotion, devised a plan for their permanent honour and reward. Under these auspices arose the *order* of "Hospitalers, or Brothers of St. John of Jerusalem," which now added to its former profession of ministering to religious and poor christians in the convent, that of guarding the passages to Jerusalem and the Sepulchre from the attacks of marauding infidels. Gerard was appointed first rector, or master, of the order: and such was the liberality of Godfrey to the infant institution, that even the crowds of religious enthusiasts who now flocked to visit scenes so long contemplated at a distance with wistful reverence, failed not of hospitable entertainment within its walls.

Baldwin, successor to Godfrey on the throne of Jerusalem, gave all possible encouragement to our "religious-military" order: and it is said to have been in his reign, (A. D. 1104) that the brothers first assumed their peculiar habit, namely, a black robe, having upon the left side a white cross with eight points, in form of that still called the *Jerusalem Cross*. The religious profession they followed was that of St. Augustine: and now, their institution having been confirmed by the Patriarch of Jerusalem, and by Pope Honorius II., "the brethren of this order" (says Newcourt), "gave themselves to prayer,

watching, and fasting, and other good works abundantly; and because God was with them, all men loved them: whereupon it came that their fame went over all the world, and their form of sanctity over all coasts; and by the bounty of princes, and alms of faithful people, they became in a little time so rich, that gathering from the western provinces plentiful revenues, getting houses and towns, as princes of the earth they subjected them to their jurisdiction." In fine, so early as the year 1113, they were in the full tide of prosperity.

The Brethren had vowed themselves to poverty—and they were now overflowing with wealth; to obedience—and they had tasted the sweets of power; to a life of celibacy—and, being thus divested of the obligation to provide for offspring, while their riches were beyond all proportion to what was required for merely hospitable purposes, the superabundance in their coffers could find no vent, and their own existence became wanting in a sufficient object. It was not in human nature that matters should remain thus, while *ambition* could at once fill the void in their being, and employ all their resources: and Raymond du Puy, successor to Gerard, who instituted the *Rule* of the order, turned its revenues from the uses of benevolence, into the channel of war and conquest. The world then resounded with their prowess: and yet, after eighty-seven years possession of their dear-bought city, they were compelled to resign it to the conqueror Saladin, and the crescent again rose pre-eminent where the cross had stood. Retaining their arms, however, they fought wherever a battle, with the chance of victory, was to be found; and

particularly distinguished themselves at the siege of Ptolemais, which became theirs on the 12th of July, 1191. This city afforded them a residence until, after upwards of 191 years possession of more or less of the sacred territory, the whole was wrested from christian dominion in 1292.

The master and brethren then fled for safety to the island of Cyprus, whose monarch, in compassion, gave them the sea-port of *Limisson* to reside in. Here, humbled by the course of events, the enthusiasm of *fighting for the Cross* for a while deserted them; and, turning their attention to the state of the brotherhood, many salutary statutes and regulations were enacted, in two chapters held in the first and second years of their exile. But an opportunity offering, in 1308, for attacking *Rhodes*, under the conduct of their Grand Master Foulques de Villaret, the full ardour for *crusading* returned upon them; and Rhodes, with seven neighbouring islands, fell into their hands. Thus once more possessed of territory and power, the title of "Hospitalers of St. John of Jerusalem" was allowed to flit from them like a shadow, leaving in its place the more substantial appellation of *Knights of Rhodes*. They were assailed by an army of Saracens in the year following their conquests; but, with the assistance of Ame, fourth Earl of Savoy, successfully defended themselves. The Sultan Mahomet as vainly besieged them in 1481; and, in fine, despite all attacks from the infidels, they retained this foreign sovereignty for upwards of two centuries. But in 1522, Soliman, then Sultan, resolving upon their destruction, assembled an army of 300,000 men; by whom borne down, rather than

conquered, they, with their Grand Master, quitted Rhodes in 1523, and retired to the island of Candia. Pope Adrian VI. offering them an asylum in his dominions, they dwelt for six years in the city of Viterbo; but, upon an invitation from the Emperor Charles V., they left Italy to take possession of the island of Malta.

This was the last scene of their triumphs and their power. The Turks, in 1565, again assaulted them with all the fury inspired by fanatical hatred of their potent and active faith-militant; but, once again, with a total want of success. The island was then strongly fortified; and, with the title of *Knights of Malta*, these warriors of the cross, braved only by the sea that surrounded them, continued long to possess the castles and fortresses they here erected, while the branches of the order of which they were the parent-stock, withered into insignificance and decay, and the continental priories were shaken by religious and political revolutions into dust. Their more recent history is too well known to be enlarged upon: it will suffice to say, that by their defection to themselves, and the Maltese whom they governed, in 1798, when, with scarcely a shew of resistance, they surrendered the island to the French, they put to shame the memory of their ancient renown; and merited that dispersion of the majority of their body, and death-blow to the political consequence of their order, which, through that event, and the subsequent retention of the island by the British, ensued.

In its prosperity, this renowned order had its brethren of eight different nations, of which the

English were the sixth in rank, and their chief *Great Turcopolier*, that is, colonel of the horse. The other chiefs, in their several countries, sustained their peculiar offices; while the kings of France had the title of *Sovereign* from them all. Whoever wished to be received into the brotherhood, was required to prove his nobility for four descents, and that by his mother's as well as his father's side; to be of legitimate birth, (an exception being made only in favour of the natural sons of kings and princes); to be not less than twenty years old; and, in moral character, blameless. He that, thus qualified, desired admission, appeared before the chapter on a Sunday, and humbly expressed his hope he might be received. If no objection was made, a brother informed him that numbers of men of consequence had preceded him; but that he would be entirely deceived in supposing that he should live luxuriously; for that, instead of sleeping, he would be required to wake, and fast when desirous to eat; to visit places he would rather have avoided, and, in short, to have no will of his own: concluding with demanding whether he was willing to do all those things. Upon answering in the affirmative, an oath was administered, by which he bound himself never to join any other religious profession; declared himself a bachelor, without having promised marriage; that he was free from debt, and a freeman; that he would live and die under the superior God should place over him; be chaste and poor, and a servant to the sick. The brother that received the new devotee then promised him bread, water, and coarse garments; with a participation in all the good works of the order.

Among the half-destroyed letters preserved in the Cotton library, which were rescued from the flames that had so nearly deprived the British public of that antiquarian treasure, is one from Sir Clement West, an Englishman, and one of the brethren at Malta, who thus writes to our *Prior of St. John's*.

"Right worschypfull, after all herty, &c. It may be your plessure to undyrstond, the whych is, the XVII off the last past dep'tyd thys lyff the good Lord Master Pryn de Pount: and the XXII off the same, be elecsyon was chosyn the Prior off Tholoze yn Ffrance gret mastyr off our relygyon; and that elexyon during, yt plesyd them by her to schoose *me* ffor REGENT, whych onor hath.....* byn gyffyn to an Inglyschman, 1535."

Some time previously to the date of the epistle notifying the conference of this high though temporary dignity upon our English Knight, he had both fallen into disgrace, and occasioned no small commotion among the brotherhood; as appears from another letter, also addressed to the Prior, which is

"for to advertyss yor. Lordsship y^{t}. the 4th September last past Syr Clement West was depryvd of ye gret crosse;† the causs thereoff his myssgovernante agaynste my Lord Master and his Counssell. Secondly, that he wass depryvd of his brod crosse by fra*ter* Phelyp de Villers, *at that* tym the Lev' (Lieutenant) Master. Which wass down by ye chapter."‡

* "*Never before*" may be the words here wanting to supply what is burnt away.

† Such only of the knights as had *great* or *grand crosses*, were eligible for election to the post of GRAND MASTER, who was undisputed Sovereign of Malta.

‡ The parts in *Italics* supply the supposed omissions occasioned by the fire.

It may be, however, that West encountered more enmity than he deserved: for he pleads his cause both to the king, (Hen. VIII.) and to our Lord Prior, whose interest with Henry he begs. Nor was the latter inattentive to his complaints; but commanded the Duke of Norfolk to write to the Grand Master and Chapter, advising them, without difficulty, and immediately, to restore him to his place. Subsequently, as we have seen, he must have regained all his former consequence, or he would not have been appointed to the regency. In his last letter, dated March 25, 1539, he begs to be permitted to visit England, for the purpose of acquainting his Majesty with matters "no man elss shall know."

The PRIORY OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM was the chief seat of the renowned *Knights-Hospitalers* in England. As in the case of the convent of St. Mary, this institution arose from the pious zeal of Jordan Briset; but whether before or subsequently to the foundation of that other Priory, has been differently represented.

The first charter of the *Nunnery*, as given by Dugdale, makes the founder to say, that he gave to Robert, his chaplain, 14 acres of land, &c. "free from all incumbrances, so as that the *Hospitalers* might claim nothing of them;" thus apparently recognizing the existence of the Hospital at the period of this grant. But, on the other hand, in his account of the *Hospital*, the same writer expressly speaks of its foundation as subsequent to that of the Nunnery, taking for his authority the "Registrum munimentorum, &c. prioratûs Hospitalis Sancti Johannis

Jerusalem in Angliâ,"* which is still preserved in the Cotton library,† and gives its evidence on the point in these words:—

Jordanus Briset Baro tempore regis Hen. primi, circa an. Dom. 1110, *fundauit domum ac Hospitale S. Johns de Clerkenwel: Hic etiam erat Fundator domus Monialium de Clerkenwel, ac ab eis emit decem acras terre, super quas dictum Hospitale ac domum fundauit: & pro illis decem acris terre, dedit illis Monialibus viginti acras terre in Dominico suo de Willinghale in com. Cant, &c.*

In English,

Lord Jordan Briset founded, in the reign of Henry I. about the year of our Lord 1110, *the House and Hospital of St. John of Clerkenwell. He was the Founder also of the Nuns' House of Clerkenwell: and purchased of them ten acres of land, (on which he founded the said Hospital and House), and for those ten acres gave to the same Nuns twenty acres in his Lordship of Willinghale in the county of Kent, &c.*

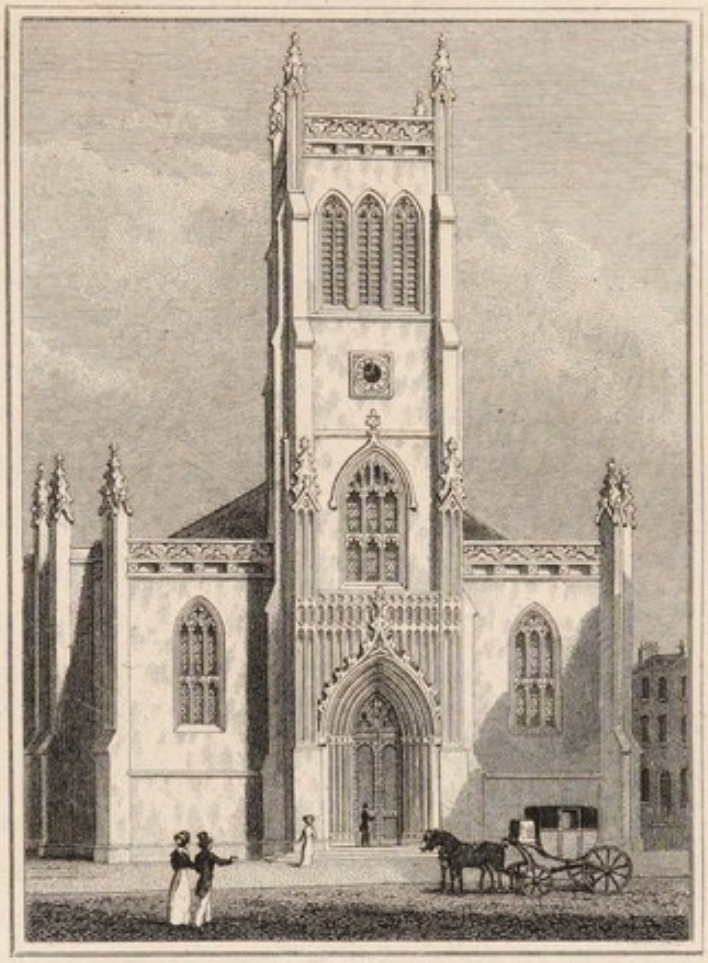
No subsequent writer has attempted to reconcile this seeming contradiction: and perhaps it can only be accounted for by supposing that the two foundations originated *nearly* together; and that Briset, satisfied that his intentions were understood at the time he declared them, thought not of expressing them so clearly as to prevent argument upon the point of precedence among posterity. However, the beautiful and truly valuable Register of the Hospital, will be admitted by most as sufficient authority for

* "Inceptum A.D. MCCCCXLII et tempore Fratris Roberti Botiller prioris dicti Hospitalis anno secundo."

† Nero, E. VI.

the *first* foundation of the Nuns' House: especially when it is remembered, that the regular establishment of the Hospitalers at Jerusalem did not take place until after the capture of that city by the Christians in 1099; and that, consequently, the nature and merits of their order might not be appreciated in England much before 1110, the date given for the rise of the Hospital by its Register. It is to be noticed, besides, that the Monasticon gives no separate deed of the pious Baron's for the foundation of St. John's Priory, but merely recapitulates "carta prima," of St. Mary's: from which we may be permitted to infer, that such a separate deed of gift, (which no doubt existed), could it be found, might still explain the contradiction that has been remarked.

"At their first institution, our Hospitalers," says Newcourt, "were so humble, while but poor, that their Governor was called *Servant to the Poor Servants of the Hospital at Jerusalem:*" but within a short time, as Weever tells us, "infinite were the donations of all sorts of people to this Fraternitie." But, "above all their benefactors," adds the last mentioned author, "they held themselves most bound to *Roger de Mowbray*, whose liberalitie to their order was so great, that by a common consent in their chapiter, they made a decree that himselfe might remit and pardon any of the Brotherhood whomsoever, in case he had trespassed against any of the statutes and ordinances of their order, confessing and acknowledging withall his offence and errour. And also the knights of this order granted, in token of thankefulnesse to *John de Mowbray*, Lord of the Isle of Axholme, the successour of the foresaid *Roger*, that



St Mark's Church.



St John's Church.

J & H S Storer delt & sculp.

himselfe and his successours, in euery of their couents and assemblies, as well in England as beyond seas, should be receiued and entertained alwaies in the second place next the King."

"Thus," continues the same old author, "through the bounty both of princes and private persons, they rose to so high an estate, and great riches, that after a sort (saith Camden) they wallowed in wealth; for they had, about the yeere of our Lord 1240, within Christendome, nineteene thousand Lordships or Manours: like as the Templars nine thousand (the reuennewes and rents whereof fell afterwards also to these Hospitalers). And this estate of theirs growne to so great an height, made way for them to as great honours; so as the Priore of this house was reputed the prime Baron of the land, being able with fulnesse and abundance of all things to maintaine an honourable port. And thus they flourished for many yeares in lordly pompe," &c. &c.—The sequel was as natural, as it is now well known; but before repeating it in our pages, some intermediate particulars in the history of this celebrated Priory will properly demand attention.

Of the precise time and manner of erecting the first buildings of the Hospital, we have no account: only the dedication of the *Church*, by Heraclius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, is recorded to have been in the year in which the Knights-Templars' Church in Fleet Street was also dedicated, by the same Patriarch. "In ye yere of Christ 1185," as a MS. in the Cotton collection informs us, "ye vj Ides of Merche, ye dominical lettre being *F*, ye Chyrche of ye Hospitall of St. *Johns Jerusalem* was dedicatyd to ye honor of

S. *John Baptiste,* by ye worschypfull fader *Araclius,* Patriarke of ye resurrection of Christe; ye sam dey was dedycatyd ye high Altre, and ye Altre of S. *John Evangelist* by ye sam Patryarke."

The Register before quoted, along with its list of the Priors, narrates the following marvellous circumstance:—

"Frater Rogerus de Veer Prior dedit ecclie de Clerkenwell unam de sex ydriis in quibs Jhesus convtit aquam in vinum, A. D. MCCLXIX; et obijt XV die Februarii, AD. M. CC. LXX."

Englished:—

Brother Roger de Veer, Prior, gave to the Church of Clerkenwell (i. e. the Nunnery-Church) *one of the six water-pots in which Jesus changed the water into wine!* in the year of our Lord 1269; and died on the 15th of February, in the year of our Lord 1270.

1272. "These Hospitalers claiming the privilege of burying any persons that had given them alms during life, King Edward I., in the first year of his reign, caused inquisition to be made for proof of the same, upon the following accident. Certain felons having been executed at Ivelcestre, the servants of the Hospital went to the gallows, none of the sheriffs' officers being there, and took them down. *Adam Mester,* one of the said felons, being by them laid in his grave, *came to life again,* and took sanctuary in the church, where he continued till he abjured the realm. For this reason the sheriff of Somersetshire imprisoned the servants of the Hospitalers; and to decide the controversy between him and the

Knights, the King ordered the said inquisition to be taken concerning their right."*

1323, (17th Edw. II.) By Act of Parliament, the revenues of the Knights-Templars in England were granted to the Hospitalers, who thus acquired a large addition to their wealth and consequence. The order of Templars had been instituted at Jerusalem soon after that of the Hospitalers, namely, in 1118; and it had gained perhaps more than equal renown. The primary object of its institution was very similar; being that of guarding the highways to the Holy City, for the security of pilgrims, &c. In the early part of the 14th century, charges of the most atrocious and revolting nature were preferred to the Pope, against this order, by the King of France: and though the truth or falsity of those charges remains to be fairly substantiated to this day, it is certain that the ruin of the Templars resulted from them; their houses being suppressed, throughout Europe, in 1312, by the Council of Vienne.

Edward III. confirmed the grant made by his predecessor, of the entire possessions of the Knights Templars in England. "Notwithstanding all which, Hugh Spencer, the younger, afterwards wrested from the Hospitalers the manor of the *New Temple*, London, which, upon his attainder, fell into the King's hands, and was by him let to William de Langford for 24*l.* per annum: but the King, considering that those places, dedicated to God, had been wrongfully seized by the said Hugh Spencer, caused the same to be restored entire to the Knights

* Monasticon Abridged, Lond. 1718.

Hospitalers, in consideration of 100*l.* from them received, towards the expense of the journey he was going to take beyond the seas."*

1366. The same monarch, in the 40th year of his reign, found it necessary to appoint Richard de Everton *Visitor* of the Hospitals of this order both in England and Ireland, to repress the insolencies of their inmates, and enforce propriety of conduct: and the appointment was repeated in the fifth year following.

1373. A record of the vast landed possessions of the Hospitalers, of about this date, contains the following:—

"Prior Sancti Joh'is Jer'l'm in Angliâ
"West Smethefeld,
"Finchesley,
"Iseldon,
"Kentisheton,
"Canonsburie Maner': Midd'x."†

The year 1381 witnessed the greatest calamity sustained by this House from the period of its rise to that of its final dissolution. The rebels, who, in that year, under the conduct of Wat Tyler, rose against the youthful power of Richard II., appear to have entered deeply into the dislike that was felt by the commonalty in general, towards the inordinate riches, and haughty domination, of the order: and our Priory was destined to reap the full fruits of the popular disposition, the moment a favourable opportunity occurred. On the 13th of June, "being Thursday, and the feast of Corpus Christi," according

* Monasticon Abridged. † Esch. 47 Edw. III.

to Howes, in his edition of Stow, the "commons," as they are termed by that historian, having divided themselves into three bodies, those that "were in the Citie went to the Hospital of St. John," and "burnt the fayre Priory of the Hospitall, causing the same to burne the space of seven dayes after." On the morning of the same day, the division described as "the commons of Essex," twenty thousand strong, (says Holinshed) "tooke in hand to ruinate" the Lord Prior's country seat, situate at his manor of Highbury; and here also they carried their plan of devastation into complete effect, pulling down by main force all those parts of the building which the fire could not consume. *Jack Straw*, one of the leaders of the rebellion, appears to have headed this band of insurgents; and from his temporary possession of the site, no doubt, it obtained the appellation of *Jack Straw's Castle*, by which it continues to be known to this day. Nor did the destruction stop here; for all the other houses belonging to the order, including the Temple in Fleet Street, were either burnt or spoiled "for the wrath they bare to the Pryor of Sainte John's." Finally, the Lord Prior himself, Sir Robert Hales, "a most valiant knight," and "treasurer of England," who had at first found safety in the Tower, was beheaded on Tower-hill, together with Simon Sudbury, Archbishop of Canterbury, John Legg, one of the King's Sergeants-at-Arms, and his confessor, a Franciscan Friar, named William Appledone. Had the insurgents, at this eventful period, possessed leaders of competent abilities, it is at least probable that the government would not have waited through nearly three succeeding

centuries for that more popular form which it was destined ultimately to receive. But the want of concert in the measures pursued in the different counties, and the senseless extravagance of the low-born ribalds who attained to the different commands, gave the king a preponderating strength, which neither the wisdom of his counsellors, nor his own personal character, would have obtained for him. The "*confession*" of Jack Straw, (who was next in authority to Wat Tyler,) if really made by him, will give an idea of the daring lengths to which these rebels carried their schemes; yet its authenticity has never been fully established, and conjecture has even assumed that it was invented purely to bring the cause of the people into discredit. It breathes peculiar hatred to our Hospitalers: "specially," it declares, speaking in the general name of the insurgents, "wee would have destroyed the Knights of St. John's." The losses of the house were not fully repaired till 123 years afterwards; when Prior Docwra, A. D. 1504, put the finishing hand to all the various re-erections which this visitation had made necessary.

The Grand Master of the order had been established at Rhodes since the year 1308; yet not so securely, but that, nearly a century afterwards, the Lord Prior of our Hospital thought it meritorious to render warlike assistance in person to his superior. Thus, in 1401, it is narrated by Strype, "one *Grendon* was Prior of this Hospital; who took upon him to go to Rhodes to fight, according to his vow, in defence of the Holy-Mother-Church, against Turks and Saracens. To whom King Henry IV.

gave his letters commendatory to all foreign princes, with a character of high respect for him :" and " the like safe conduct the king at this time granted to a brother of the same house, called *Frater Petrus Holt, Tricoplarius Rodi ac miles noster Familiaris,* taking upon him the same adventure."

1437. Henry VI. held a council at the Hospital November 13th of this year, being the 16th of his reign ; on which occasion, Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, and others, were appointed his commissioners of regency.

1439. The Antiquarian Repertory contains a petition, dated in this year, from the Lord Prior to parliament, praying for the remission and abolition of a rent of 15*s*., that had been paid to the king for two forges in Fleet Street, which, having been destroyed by the rebels in the reign of Richard II., had not been rebuilt, on account of the annoyance they would have proved to the neighbourhood. We are not informed how this petition was disposed of.

The reigns of several succeeding monarchs were marked by reiterated attempts of the infidels to expel the knights from Rhodes: and a great number of applications for succour are preserved in the British Museum, addressed from the different Grand Masters to Henry VII. They are in Latin, and in a very fair and good character, though the *signatures* are generally indifferent.* Such applications appear from a

* In the same grand national repository is a vast book, exquisitely written and illuminated on vellum, which would appear to have belonged to the Priory of St. John, and which, from the circumstance of its title page being decorated with the *red and white roses,* together with the motto of the garter and royal arms, was probably executed in the early part of the reign under mention. It details, on 960 pages, in French, the exploits of

vellum book, also in the British Museum, (and which, undoubtedly, was the property of the Priory,) to have been liberally met by the Hospitalers: for this volume contains several indentures of anticipation, intended for the service of the foreign Knights.

By an indenture of this kind, dated 6th of May, 1513, (5th Hen. VIII.) the Prior and brethren granted, for the term of two years, various commanderies, and a bailliage, in the counties of York, Lincoln, and Leicester, to Sir Thomas Newport, Knt. "in consideration of 1000*l.* sterling, which the forsayd Sir Thomas Newport hath anticipate of the revenues of the said bailliage and commanderys. And of the same 1000*l.* hath confessed openly in the s^d^ assembly himself well and truly paid and satisfied. For to supply his expenses in his iorney to Th'rods, in service of the religion, and sucor of the City of Th'rods."

We have arrived at the eventful reign, in which the pride, and pomp, and very being, of all monastic establishments in these islands were to cease for ever: nor could the long-established consequence of this Priory exempt it from participation in the general fate. By Act of Parliament, 32. Hen. VIII. (1540) the corporation of the Hospitalers (to use the words of Newcourt) "was utterly dissolved, and all the lands belonging to their order here in England and Ireland seized into the King's hands." At which

Godfrey of Boloigne, first christian king of Jerusalem. The illustrative drawings are finished with all the delicacy of miniatures; and, in several instances, have so much characteristic expression, that, were the lights better managed, and the perspective more correctly preserved, they might be judged invaluable.

period, the annual revenues of the foundation amounted to 2385*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* according to Dugdale and Speed; 3385*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* agreeably to Stow; while the record in the Court of First Fruits gives, "Priorat' sive Hospit' Sci Johis Jrlm in temp' al et spirit' 2385*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*" The discrepancies in these various estimates, it is impossible now to reconcile: but, reflecting on the lowest mentioned, there are few that will not feel themselves impelled to observe, with Malcolm, that "when that leviathan of plunder (Henry) seized these revenues, we cannot be at a loss for his motives.—Had the order flourished till this time, how great would have been their value!"

The Register of the Priory, already more than once mentioned, gives the names of many masters of the order, and priors of the Hospital of St. John. Newcourt alters the arrangement of the list of priors, and makes many additions to it, naming in the whole 37, of whom the first was *Garnerius de Neapoli*, and the last *Sir William Weston*. Of the last-mentioned, some few particulars will possibly prove acceptable; and they may be prefaced by an observation or two on the office and dignity of the Lords-Priors of St. John.

The superior of this house has been repeatedly spoken of as the *chief baron of England*; and it is certain that he is so styled by a record in the Tower, (10 Edward IV.), which gives Robert Botiller, then Prior, the title of *primus baro regni Angliæ*. Yet it is very questionable if this pre-eminency were regularly enjoyed and transmitted; and whether, when allowed by the other barons, it were not the effect of assumption rather than of right. To the Parliament

summoned 49 Hen. III., were called, we find, 64 abbots, and 36 priors; which numbers were reduced by Edward I. to 25 abbots, and 2 priors, including, beyond a doubt, the superior of St. John's as one of the latter. But it will not be imagined, that priors, generally, had precedency of abbots; and therefore, admitting it to have been so in this particular instance, at certain periods, and, possibly, under peculiar circumstances, the surpassing wealth of our Lord-Prior was, in all probability, the only basis of that consequence on which the usage rested. And it is to be observed, that when Fuller, in his Church History, in treating of the spiritual lords of parliament, says, "of all these the Prior of St. John's of Jerusalem took the precedencie, being generally of noble extraction, and a military person"—and adds, "yea, not content to take place of all regular barons, '*primus Angliæ baro haberi voluit*', *he would be counted, simply and absolutely, the first and chief baron in England*"—he is resting these assertions upon the testimony of an author, whose words, as by himself quoted, will not bear the construction he puts upon them. For, assuredly, the Latin of Camden, as just given, and as rendered by the next following sentence of his translator, speaks rather the Prior's *affectation*, than peaceable possession, of such precedency and priority.

Sir William Weston was younger brother to Sir Richard Weston, one of the gentlemen of the King's privy chamber, and master of the court of wards. At the general dissolution, he was favoured beyond most of the heads of the monastic houses; Henry purposing to allow him a yearly pension of one

thousand pounds, a noble maintenance in those days. But he lived not to accept this bounty: indeed, (to speak the simple language of Weever) "so it fortuned that, upon the 7th day of May, 1540, being Ascension-day, and the same day of the dissolution of the house, he was dissolved by death, which strooke him to the heart at the first time when he heard of the dissolution of his order." Yet this Prior was "a stout man," according to Selden,* and had previously, in order to prevent, or at least retard, the dissolution, "got into France, and stood out a whole year." However, that he was in England at the time the bill for dissolving this house was actually pending, may be gathered from the words of the act; for after making a distinction, in several of the clauses, between the *priors* (of religious houses in England and Ireland) and the *confreres*, it merely directs, in the case of our Hospital, that the CONFRERES *which be out of the realm* shall return and submit themselves in obedience to the law. It may be worth remarking, that the expedition with which this act was carried through the Commons' House, distinguishes it from all others passed for suppressing the monasteries; it having been read the first time on the 22nd, the second on the 26th, and the third on the 29th, of the same month of April.†

Sir William Weston was interred in the chancel of the church which had belonged to the lately dissolved Priory of St. Mary; where a monument was erected to him, which a subsequent opportunity will be taken to describe.

* Table Talk, p. 2. † Burnet: Hist. of the Reformation.

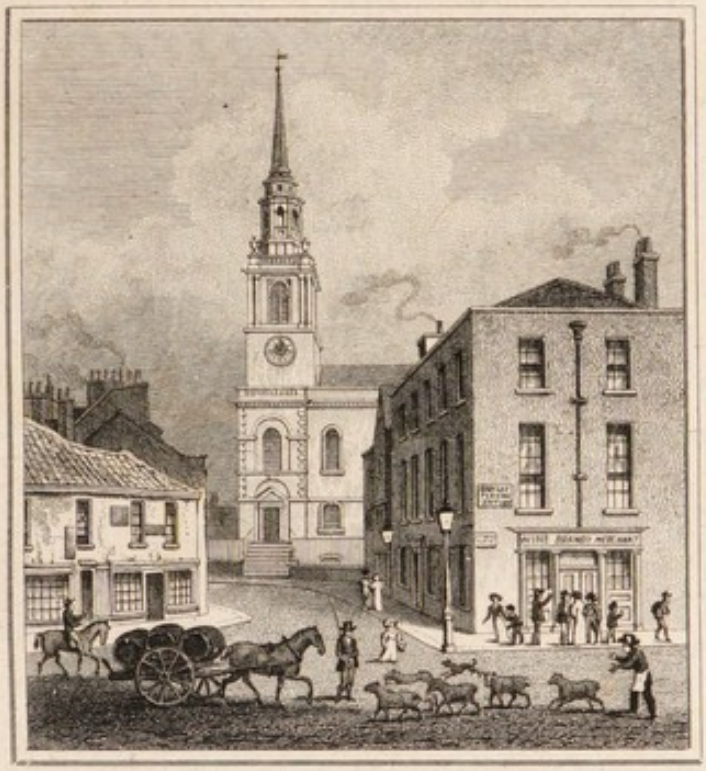
Sect. 2.

Ecclesiastical History since the Reformation.

APPROPRIATION OF THE PRIORY CHURCHES AND SITES—PARISH OF ST. JAMES CONSTITUTED—PARISH ANNALS—BRIEF REVIVAL OF A ROMAN-CATHOLIC FOUNDATION—CHURCH OF ST. JAMES REBUILT—CHOIR OF ST. JOHN'S PRIORY RESTORED—AND DECLARED A PARISH CHURCH—DISPUTES AT LAW BETWEEN ST. JAMES'S AND ST. JOHN'S—EXISTING PAROCHIAL CONSTITUTION—PARISH OFFICERS, AND OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES—MINOR DETAILS—ACCOUNT OF THE PAROCHIAL ESTATES, RENT-CHARGES, AND INTERESTS.

Antecedently to the Reformation, as at present, it has appeared, there were *two* churches within the district bearing the general name of Clerkenwell. But it will not be inferred from thence, that this district was ecclesiastically divided in the monastic times. In fact, no cure of souls could have existed here, nor, from the scantiness of the population, and the presence of two religious houses, was necessary, until the Dissolution. The church of St. Mary's Nunnery was that, to which, in all probability, the few inhabitants chiefly resorted: and, in compliance with the ancient usage, it may be, *that* church was selected to be made parochial when the dissolution took place. The more imposing structure, devoted to religious offices by the haughty knights of St. John, was desecrated, shortly after the extinction of their order, to far different, and less worthy purposes.

On becoming *The Parish Church,* the nuns' edifice was dedicated anew, namely, to St. James the Less, who, having been cousin-german to our Lord



St James's Church South view.



St James's Church North view.

J & H.S Storer delt & sculpt

is, after the custom of the Jews, styled his *brother* in the New Testament. Meanwhile, Stow informs us, the Priory-Church and house of St. John, though "preserved from spoil or down-pulling so long as King Henry VIII. reigned," was "employed as a store-house for the king's toils and tents for hunting, and for the wars, &c."—While such an appropriation of a sacred building, betrays to the reflecting Protestant the spirit in which the royal zealot conducted his *reforming* operations, it seems to give new evidence to the antiquary of the lengthened period to which the *Forest of Middlesex* preserved its facilities, and store of wild animals, for the chace: for local convenience, there can be no doubt, was studied in the selection of our northern suburb, as the spot at which to keep the monarch's hunting paraphernalia, in readiness against his choice of that diversion.

Five years subsequently to the Dissolution, Henry granted to John Dudley, Lord Viscount Lisle, and Lord High Admiral of England, "as well in consideration of his service, as for the sum of 1000*l.* sterling, the site, circuit, and precinct of this Hospital or Priory of S. John of Jerusalem: only the lead, bells, timber, stone, glass, iron, and other things of the church, were specially reserved to the king's Majesty."* Of the first disposition of the site of the *Nunnery*, we are not informed: but the author just quoted tells us, that it "at length became the inheritance of the Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Cavendish, Knt., Lord Ogle, (Viscount Mansfield) Earl, then Marquis, and at last Duke of Newcastle.' We shall find future occasion to make mention of

* Newcourt: Repertorium.

this noble cavalier of the time of Charles I.—An example of the sale and produce of part of the Nunnery lands, occurs in the rate-book of Philip and Mary: where we find that its possessions in the parishes of Wankesey and Pevensey, in the county of Sussex, of the yearly value of 25*s*., were purchased by Sir Richard Sackvyle for 25*l*.

To understand much of the remaining contents of this section, it will be necessary to remember, that the church of the lately dissolved Nunnery became parochial through its grant from the Crown, for a term of years, which was renewed from time to time, to certain of the inhabitants, in trust, *to use as a parish-church*; and that, in consequence of its being so granted, and its subsequent *purchase* by the parish, the living is neither Rectory nor Vicarage, but a Donative, or Perpetual Curacy, of which the parishioners are the constituted Impropriators. The subject will be now best pursued in the form of PARISH ANNALS, and in regular chronological order. The quoted language will be from the parish books in the custody of the Churchwardens, unless some other authority is mentioned.

1549. Speaking of the Priory-church of St. John, Stow writes: "In the 3rd of King Edward VI., the church, for the most part, to wit, the body and side aisles, with the great bell-tower, a most curious piece of workmanship, graven, gilt, and inameled, to the great beautifying of the city, and passing all others that I have seen, was undermined, and blown up with gunpowder: the stone thereof was imployed in building of the Lord Protector's house at the Strand." This was not the only sacrifice to the proud Duke of Somerset's design of building

the magnificent palace for himself which he called *Somerset House:* for, at once to furnish room and farther materials, the church of St. Mary, and the mansions of three bishops, were demolished on the spot; besides the chapel, cloisters, and charnel-house, that stood in St. Paul's Churchyard.

1557. Queen Mary having, in her zeal to re-establish Catholicism, resolved upon restoring the order of Knights of St. John, "that part of the choir (of the Priory Church) which remained, with some side-chapels, was, by Cardinal *Pool,* (Pole), closed up at the West end, and otherwise repaired: and Sir Thomas Tresham, Knight, was then made Lord Prior there, and several Brethren-Knights-Hospitalers were again in this Priory established; Queen Mary, by her charter, confirming the same, and incorporating them, and giving them a seal, and granting to them and confirming the house, the gate-house, the church, and all the buildings, gardens, &c., within the precincts of this Hospital; also great S. John's Wood, near Mary-bone, in Middlesex," with "manors, lands, and tenements in divers counties in England, which of old did belong to this Priory."—(Newcourt.) On November 30th of this year, Sir Thomas Tresham received the order of the cross at Westminster, and was solemnly inducted into his place. But in little more than a twelvemonth, the accession of Elizabeth destroyed all the growing hopes of the Romanists, and the restored establishment of course with them. How long the so lately elected Prior survived this second suppression, (Newcourt adds), "I know not: but he was buried, it seems, in Ruston Church, in

Northamptonshire, where there was a monument erected for him, with his portraicture on it."

1569. Queen Elizabeth, in the 12th year of her reign, granted the Church of St. James, in fee, to Downing and another, as to the Priory of St. Mary it had belonged.

1584. The churchwardens paid for wages to the minister and sexton, and for bread and wine, 53*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*

1587. In the endeavour to prove St. James's to be a regular parish church, with right to tithes, 47*l.* were expended in law suits. In the same year, one William Birch made large promises of his exertions to obtain a renewal of the lease of the church to the *parish only*, together with an absolute rule how the tithes should be enjoyed for ever. These proceedings are generally registered so imperfectly, that we are left in the dark as to the result; and it is so in this instance. Also in this year, a Mrs. Dorothy Ley was prosecuted for trespassing on a piece of ground north of the choir, which "in times past had been an eyle or quire." Thus we find a partial dilapidation of the church had already taken place, and probably soon after the Dissolution: to which Stow, who wrote in 1598, no doubt alludes, when he says, "so much of the church which remaineth (for one great isle thereof fell down) serveth now as a parish church of St. James, not only for the tenants and near inhabitants, but also for all up to Highgate, Moswell, &c." The churchwardens were involved in farther legal expenses at this period: for it seems they engaged also in a suit for the recovery of what is somewhat singularly called "the *vickeridge* hows, with a little orchard adjoining unto y^e^ same howse



Engd by J & E Storer

St James's Old Church

Looking South.



St James's Old Church.

Looking East

This Church was taken down 1787.

northward," which was "holden by intrusion" of Antonio Palmer, gent.

1591. Mr. Fletcher, minister, was allowed a salary of 20*l*. per annum; for which he was to find a person to preach every month, besides his quarterly sermons. And he further agreed to procure one or two persons to officiate every Sunday, on being paid 6*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*. per annum more; making his entire salary forty marks per year.

1592. An assessment was made to raise men and money for the Queen's service. Knights and gentlemen were allowed to give at their discretion: upon all others were levied 2*d*. in the pound.

1596. The churchwardens had committed some flagrant offence, for which they were *excommunicated*:—and the charges are very modestly placed to account of the parish.

"Paid unto *Mr*. Dr. Stanhope, for an excommacion, that he sent agaynste Mr. Trappes and myself, 5*s*. 3*d*.

"Given unto *Mr*. Dr. Stanhope, for his paynes in coming to our church, 10*s*.

"Paid at *Mr*. Dr. Stanhope's office, for that we wer excommunicated, 2*s*. 4*d*.

"Paid, delivering in of the article in acsayne for which we ever excomated, 6*s*.

"Gowing before *Mr*. Dr. Stanopes concerning an intimacion sent to our church by him, 4*s*. 5*d*."

Afterwards we have:—

1598. "Paid unto Mr. Durdent, for makinge and engrossinge of the lease of the church, 12*s*. 8*d*."

—— "Paid unto *Mr*. Dr. Stanhope, for that our Regester Booke was not engrossed in parchment, 2*s*. 8*d*.

—— "Paid to *Mr.* Dr. Stanhope, when we shewed him o$_r$ Regester Booke in parchment, to be discharged out of his office, 2*s.* 8*d.*

—— "Paide unto Goodman Horne, for making of the place for the armo^r. 30*s.*"

This last entry has a military aspect: and two years subsequently, namely, in 1600, Queen Elizabeth considering the times dangerous, the parish was charged, towards paying for a guard to her Majesty at Whitehall, "the subsidy-men" 2*d.* in the pound, and others 3*d.*

1601. "Paid all the damages att the business was abowt the Earle of Essex, for shott, powder, and matches, 5*s.*"

The futile insurrection of the Queen's favourite, Essex, is here evidently alluded to. The impatient Earl would seem to have had little reason to rely on the populace in aid of his attempt, when this parish, remote from the scene of action, manifested so much alarm as to furnish itself with "shott, powder, and matches," in readiness against him. The provision that was afterwards made for the support of the church-militant arms, is seen in the following:

1603. "Paid to Lieutenaunt Awsten, for half a years' contrabucion for our seaven armors"—1607. "Paid unto Peter Brownrigge, armorer, for makinge cleean of the armes of the church, and repayreinge the wants of the same, 41*s.*"

1602. Either on account of the protracted expenses of the suit at law last mentioned, or of some other on the same grounds, the Churchwardens, August 7th of this year, refunded to Mr. Benningefield, in full satisfaction of money paid by him "for

the case of the parsonage," 10*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* From what soon after follows, the proceedings in this matter appear to have been ultimately successful.

1604. The great south gate of the Priory of St. John was granted, by James I., to *Sir Roger Wilbraham, Knight,* for his life: and by letters-patent of the same monarch, dated 9th of May, 1607, was granted "the scite, or house, of the late Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, in the county of Middlesex, and all the scite, circuit, and precinct of the same house, having thereon one great mansion-house, and one great chapel, and containing by estimation five acres, to *Ralph Freeman* and his heirs, in free and common soccage." It will prevent repeated references to the fate of these Priory remains, if we take the rest of their history in this place, to the period when that small portion of the church which yet exists was adapted to its present purpose.

The choir passed by various deeds to as many persons. 10. James I. to Sir William Cecil, Lord Burleigh, son and heir-apparent to Thomas Earl of Exeter; by marriage with whose daughter, Lady Diana, it became, 5. Charles I., the property of RobertBruce, afterwards Earl of Elgin, whose son Robert was created Earl of Aylesbury. It was now used as the Earl's private chapel, and for many years was called *Aylesbury Chapel.* In this noble family the estate continued till 1706, when it was sold by them; and being finally bought by Simon Michell, in 1721, the chapel was, by his instrumentality, as will hereafter be shewn at large, converted into a church for the intended parish of St. John.

1604. "Paid for the rent of the church, unto Sir William Fortescue, knight, for one halfe yeare, ended at o^r. Lay-d last past, *six-pence.*"

It must be evident that Sir William generously *gave* the parish this half-year's rent, and received the six-pence merely as an acknowledgement from the churchwardens. This idea is confirmed by an entry under 1630, which runs; "paid to Sir William Forteskew, k^t. for 1 *q^rter's* rent, for our p'ish church of St. James Clerkenwell, 5*l.*"

1611, June 12. "Paid to Thomas Taylor, for plaisteringe and repairinge the vyckeridge house, 22*s.*

"For two loade of doung, to fyll the hole in the vickeradge garden, 1*s.*

"For the cleansing of the vickeradg house, and carrying away the rubbyshe, 2*s.* 6*d.*

"For poweles and wyar, to sett up the rose trees in the vyckaradg garden, 16*d.*

"To a gardener, one day and a half, at 20*d.* the daye, for trymminge the garden, and settyng up the roses, 2*s.* 6*d.*"

The situation of this "vicarage-house," with its orchard and garden of roses, on an eminence, surrounded by fields and rural objects, must have rendered it one of the most pleasing pastoral retirements in the vicinity of London. We meet with no farther mention of it.

1621. "The Right Rev. Father in God ye Lord Bishop of London did disallow of two commissions for *Vestries* formerly granted. The one for that Dr. Edwards was deade, who, with the consent of the bishop then beinge, did approve of it." A new commission was then applied for, to enable the

minister and churchwardens, with *sixteen* inhabitants, as a vestry, to make regulations, &c. We are not informed of the issue.

1623. The parishioners were assessed 18*d.* in the pound, to defray the expence of re-building the *steeple*, which had fallen down, and greatly damaged the church. One of Stow's continuators, relating the accident, writes: "About the year 1623, the steeple fell down, having stood time out of mind without any reparation: nor, among the records of that church, could any mention be found of any such thing." The following year, all the lead that had belonged to the tower was disposed of, probably to advantage, and the money obtained for it employed to discharge the expence of taking down the shattered ruins, and removing the rubbish out of the church. The rebuilding then commenced; but, as we are told by the same continuator of Stow, "this steeple, in the rebuilding thereof, and being near finishing, fell again, upon the undertaker's neglect in not looking into the strength of that upon which he was to rear such a burthen. With the steeple fell the bells, their carriages, and frames, beating a great part of the roof down before them; the weight of all these together, beating down two large pillars of the south isle, a fair gallery over against the pulpit, the pulpit, all the pews, and whatsoever was under it or near it. But all these decays and ruins were recovered and made whole again, the walls firm and fair, and a new door made in the south wall. And the church furnished with all things necessary, and without and within beautified. And, moreover, the steeple begun from the ground, and raised as high as the roof of

the church. And all this, thus far finished in the year 1627, cost 1400*l.*, or much about that sum, notwithstanding there was then much to do." The *second* fall is not noticed in the books; unless it be by a valuation of materials purchased in 1629, (two years subsequently to the date of the re-completion given, erroneously perhaps, in Stow), which stands thus: "19 lodes and 6 foote of timber, at 30*s.* per load; 20 ton of Oxfordshire stone, 20*l.*

1633. Leave was given to the Earl of Newcastle to erect a gallery in the church for his family.

1635. The church plate was sold, and "2 payre of double gilt chalices and covers, of a broad fashion, to lay bread on," purchased.

1638. "A fence, or pale," was ordered to be erected, to extend from the north side of the chancel to the pale over against it, to enclose a burial place. In the same year, the east end, with the altar, was repaired and beautified; "as appeareth," says John Strype, "by what is writ upon the wainscot there, viz.

"*This Wainscoting, Railing, and Paving of this Communion-Table, was done November the 20th, An. Dom.* 1638, *at the sole charge of Richard Cook, inn-keeper, dwelling at the Red Lion, in Gray's-Inn-Lane: who married with Susan, the third daughter of John Goodcote, of this parish, grazier, who was Churchwarden, Ann.* 1588. *And the Commandments finished An. Dom.* 1639."

1654. Though the civil troubles that marked all the early part of the 17th century, had by this time subsided into the stern calm of the Protectorate, the general ferment in men's minds was as yet far

from wholly appeased, especially as regarded religious matters. The truth of this was manifested at the period to which we have arrived, and during several following years, in the proceedings which took place as to the choice of a minister. A vacancy in the curacy having taken place, "*Mr.* Edward Sparke, D. D." officiated; and in May of this year, Sir George Strode, and six others, were appointed to treat with him for his acceptance of the office. But the delegation of this power to treat to a select few, would appear to have been obtained by some species of management; for, though Dr. Sparke, for reasons now unknown, undertook the whole duty without any allowance being specified, the inhabitants considering their privilege *to elect* infringed by the procedure, opposed the choice that had been made. Tingle, the churchwarden, was even ordered, in September following, to take possession of the church, and keep it against any who might attempt to enter, until a curate was regularly elected. Possibly, however, this order was not acted upon, to the entire exclusion of Sparke; as, had it been, the parish would have wanted a minister till December 13th in the next year, when the election took place, and *James Sibbald, D. D.* was chosen.

1656. The church having passed from Queen Elizabeth's grantees to others, and from them again to others, by deeds enrolled in chancery, till at length it came into the possession of Edward Drake, (who lived, says Strype, "at Tottenham Court, which is out by St. Giles's)," the parishioners purchased it in this year of the same Drake, with part of the common stock, and thus acquitted themselves of the

annual rent for ever. By virtue of this purchase, the church and yard became vested in Berners and others, in trust, for the use of the parish, charged with the yearly sum of 4*l*. 18*s*. 9*d*. for the maintenance of a curate.

1660. The *election*, five years previously, seems not to have been conclusive, for Sparke still kept his ground; and an agreement, not altogether unlike a partnership, took place between him and Dr. Sibbald. From this time we hear no more of "*Mr*. Edward Sparke, D. D." Though there is much obscurity in all the information that can be now gleaned from the parish books relative to these rival divines, it seems probable, since Sparke is known to have been an *Independent*, that the real dispute lay between the parishioners of that persuasion and the *Presbyterians* who supported Sibbald. This supposition will at once account for the violence of the contest, and betray its source.

Dr. Sibbald now becomes as prominent on the scene as his predecessor. The right of the parishioners in general to elect in vestry, if exercised at all prior to the civil wars, was very possibly one of which they had formed no high opinion of the value, nor very generally availed themselves, until the vast rise in the popular spirit engendered by those intestine troubles. But the divine in possession, considering perhaps that, through the restoration of monarchy, all religious and political dissensions were over, and entertaining the idea that so *republican* a form of proceeding as that of election for the curacy should expire with them, claimed to be considered *Vicar* of Clerkenwell, and even announced the design of

obtaining his appointment from the king by presentation. This intention was so totally disapproved of by the parishioners, that they talked of revoking his election, ordered the surplice to be secured in the vestry, the pulpit and reading desk to be locked, and even gave directions to call for the aid of the civil power, if necessary, to oppose his entrance. Probably he thought proper to make compliances, which secured him till October, 1662; but then, whatever had been his professions, they proved insincere, for he still styled himself *Vicar*. This roused the indignation of his flock to such a height, that it arose only from his long residence of 30 years in the parish, that they forgave him, on his making a recantation publicly in the church, and before the Bishop of London. He continued till 1666 their *Curate*.*

1673. The south-east angle of the Burial-ground adjoining the church, was purchased of the Earl of Northampton; the parishioners being assessed 100*l*. either in whole or part payment. The following year his lordship presented the parish with a *Spring*, during pleasure, for the use of the poor. The overseers, &c. immediately leased it to John Cross, brewer, for 21 years, at 40*s*. per annum. This we

* Malcolm here informs us, that "An old newspaper relates a transaction during the troubles of those times, in which Sibbald was involved in much personal danger. A party of soldiers attacked the house of Lady Bullock, on Clerkenwell Green, robbed it of 50 pieces of gold, and tore five rich rings from her ladyship's fingers. The Doctor resided near her, and being alarmed, rose, and gently remonstrated with them from his window. They fired at him three times, but fortunately missed him. A servant of Lady Bullock's was wounded. This affair happened March 22, 1644."

find, from a passage which will be subsequently alluded to in Strype, to have been the original *Clerks' Well.* The parish have no account, unless this entry be allowed to furnish it, how that Well came into their possession.

The reign of James II. affords a rather curious incident in the ecclesiastical history of our parish. This was no other than the temporary revival of a *Roman-Catholic Convent* in St. John's Square, no mention of which, the author has reason to believe, has ever been before the public, and for his knowledge of which he is indebted (through the medium of a literary friend) to a manuscript preserved in the library of *Ampleforth College,* a community of English Benedictines near York. From this manuscript it appears, that, in the reign spoken of, a certain "Father Corker" was "resident in England to the Elector of Colen" (Cologne); and that having first set up a chapel in the Savoy, from which, owing to a dispute with the Jesuits, he was persuaded by the king to remove, "he went to St. John's, corruptly called St. Jone's, and there built a mighty pretty convent, which the revolution of 1688 pulled down to the ground, to his very great loss, for as he was dean of the rosary, he melted down the great gold chalice and patten to help towards this building, supplying the want of them with one of silver just of that make. He counted this convent, for the conversion of souls, amongst those things which the holy fathers of the church allow the church treasures to be spent on."

This Convent seems to have cost the Benedictines several considerable sums of money. Frequent entries

appear in their account books of that period, of amounts paid towards its erection, &c. It is always styled in these books "the Factory," or "the Factory in Clerkenwell." Father Corker, the founder, had been educated at Lamspring, in Germany, at that time an English Benedictine Abbey, and of this abbey he had been afterwards elected the abbot. Having held that office but a short time, he resigned it, and came to England, where he lived enjoying the confidence and esteem not only of the members of his own order, but of all who knew him. This was in the reign of Charles II. When Oates's plot agitated the public mind, Father Corker was apprehended, committed to prison, and tried, upon the evidence of Oates, as concerned in that pretended plot. Being acquitted, he was again put to the bar, tried upon his priestly character, and found guilty. While in prison, he rendered spiritual assistance to the Catholic prisoners under sentence of death, particularly to Lord Stafford and Archbishop Plunket. Being eventually liberated, he lived to a good old age, and was buried in St. Pancras church-yard, where a quaint epitaph was placed upon his tomb.

1691. By some arrangement, of the reasons for which we are left in ignorance, Josias Berners, Esq. was patron, in trust for the parish, and presented the Rev. Dewel Peed. This gentleman engaged, however, to resign the Curacy, if required, at a month's notice, on pain of forfeiting a sum of money.

1696. The church was repaired and beautified, at the cost of the inhabitants.

1698. Strype writes:—"The natives of this parish of Clerkenwell used to have an annual meet-

ing and feast, for the keeping up friendship, and encouragement of charity, and putting out yearly a poor child of the parish. This feast was revived in the year 1698; and there is a table hanging up in the church, entering on the south side, containing a list of the names of the stewards that year, and so continued." Robert Seymour's Survey, (Lond. 1735), speaking of this "handsome table," says it contained "a list of the Stewards for Promoting Charity in the years 1698, 1699, 1700, 1701, 1702, 1703, 1704, and 1705."

1708. The "New View of London," published in this year, tells us, in its account of our parish, that the *Vestry* "is *select*, composed of the Minister, and those who have served the office of overseers of the poor." At the head of the list of parish-officers, it places "12 Auditors of Accounts."

1718. The parish petitioned for leave to rebuild the church.

1719. The church was robbed of the communion linen, the surplices, and pall.

1720. Strype, who wrote in this year, speaking of the clerical duty and remuneration, tells us, "The parish is bound, by virtue of this purchase, (of the church), to provide a reader to read prayers every day in the week, at eleven o'clock in the morning, and in Lent in the afternoon also:* for which they are bound to pay the minister that so officiates, 4*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, which they make 5*l.* And, besides, he hath 6*l.* more, being a gift of somebody deceased," (viz. Sir George Strode, by deed dated Aug. 1657), "for preaching a monthly sermon, preparatory to the

* Which services are now *discontinued*.

Sacrament, which is preached every Friday morning before the first Sunday in the month. They choose their own minister, and require him to preach twice every Lord's day: for which they, besides his salary, make a collection in the parish amounting to an 100*l.* And if he cannot conveniently preach himself, they allow him to take a Lecturer to be his assistant, *such as they shall like of.* And they have at present one who reads prayers and preacheth once a day. He (the minister) hath also five shillings for every burial in the church, and half as much for burial in the church-yard:—but the ground in the church belongeth to the parish."* To complete Strype's sketch of this subject, must be given Seymour's enumeration also of a "gift-sermon on Michaelmas-day," (originating in a bequest of William Pearson, and in pursuance of which the minister receives 15*s.*, reader, 2*s.*, clerk and sexton, each 1*s.* 6*d.*), and "another given by Thomas Cross, Esq. to be preached on St. Thomas's Day, for which the minister has 20*s.*, the clerk 5*s.*, the sexton 1*s.* 6*d.*"†

1725. The repairs of the church cost upwards of 500*l.*

* By Act 28 Geo. III. cap. 10, all the accustomed rates and duties for burials, &c. (or the *mortuary-money*), together with all moneys arising from the sale or letting of the pews, and certain yearly charitable donations, were vested in *Trustees*, for payment of the annual stipend to the Curate, and the several other purposes mentioned in that Act.

† Should be, *the minister has* £1. 10*s.*: and the clerk's and sexton's fees are also (as regards the present time) erroneous statements.—See Account of the "Parochial Estates, Rent-Charges, &c." at the end of this section.

1735. An incident which now occurred, though trifling in itself, deserves notice, as it evinced a spirit in religious matters that may be termed characteristic (at this past period) of the worthy parishioners. A painting of the Virgin Mary and Infant Jesus was placed over the altar, the merits of which were such as to procure it mention in the Gentleman's Magazine for November, together with a wood-cut entitled "A representation of a *fine* picture on the altar-piece in the church of St. James, Clerkenwell." That *esprit-de-corps* which has led the natives of our parish to appropriate to themselves a common cognomen—in virtue of which, while the Englishman is known as *John Bull*, the Clerkenweller more familiarly styles himself *Jack Adams*—was never more apparent, nor more widely took alarm, than on this occasion. Indeed, so violent and general were the discontents excited by this *papistical* picture, for such it was considered, that the Churchwardens were compelled to take it down, and either obtain for it what money it would fetch from some person (without the parish) who might be less seriously alarmed at so evident a prelude to the restoration of the papal power in England, or else consign it to the tomb of all the Capulets.—This event, be it however remembered, took place upwards of ninety years since. What would be the result of placing such a picture over the altar of the now-existing church of St. James, the author will by no means presume to determine. But in our own times, whenever the "Claims" of the Catholics become the public topic, who (it may without impropriety

be asked, can be more industrious in chalking the walls with *No Popery* than "Jack Adams?"*

The author here ceases to pursue these PARISH ANNALS, because, remote as the year 1735 may at first sight appear, he could not *much* farther pursue them without stumbling upon the subjects that engendered the party heats for which Clerkenwell has been so long proverbial, and which are even yet not wholly extinguished. Should he attempt to record the events of more recent years—and especially from 1790 to the present period—he must inevitably stir the ashes of but slumbering dissentions, and perhaps re-awaken them to a flame. Ample materials are before him; and among the rest, a collection (making a folio volume) of the various hand-bills, placards, and

* The following is part of a letter, which "the picture," operating upon the Protestant ardour of some person (whose parish must be left to the conjectures of the ingenious), incited him to address to the Bishop of London.

"My Lord, *August* 6, 1735.

"As you have shew'd great zeal in the discharge of the duties of your pastoral office, so I hope you'll think what I have to offer is not unworthy of your notice. Being lately in the church of St. James, Clerkenwell, I observed an altar-piece newly erected, which gave me great offence, as I find it does many besides: the Virgin Mary is painted with Christ in her arms, in the front, with Moses and Aaron on each side, as her proper guard. I wish your Lordship would take a view of this new work, which, in my judgment, is *the reproach of Protestantism*, and very nearly ally'd to images, which we so justly condemn in the Church of Rome. And as such fopperies are now growing upon us, (and such as the common people were, in all ages, as well as the present, too fond of,) so I doubt not but you'll order its removal, and not suffer any thing of the like kind, either there, or in any other church within your jurisdiction."

His Lordship taking no notice of this epistle, the writer sent a copy of it to a newspaper called "The Old Whig;" and in "The Old Whig" it accordingly appeared Oct. 30th.

circulars, by which *paper-wars* have been declared and maintained, at no long intervals, during forty years past. Many of these latter are curious in themselves, and the *facts* they afford have been made a proper use of: some of them have wit, but a far greater proportion abound in acrimonious personalities, in which wit has no share: nor need the dispassionate reader regret that no more than this general allusion is made to such a collection.—It is, however, necessary to add a sketch of some events, more peculiarly relating to the present ecclesiastical edifices of St. James and St. John; together with a few of the more prominent facts, resulting from the distinctive constitution of the latter.

In 1787, the church of St. James appearing plainly to be in a state of decay to which no repairs could apply an effectual remedy, a petition was again laid before parliament for leave to rebuild it: and on Friday, December 7th, of the same year, Mr. Jervoise, (who was a considerable land-holder in the parish) presented a bill for the re-erection to the House of Commons, which was read the first time. The act passed the usual forms, and received the royal assent, in due course. The final destruction of this ancient edifice being thus decreed, the demolition shortly after commenced; and the first stone of a new Church was laid on Wednesday, December 17th, 1788. During the progress of the rebuilding, an additional act was obtained to amend and enlarge the provisions of the preceding one: and on the 10th of July, 1792, the existing Church of St. James, being completed, received consecration from *Beilby* (Porteus), Lord Bishop of London.

The restoration of the old choir of the Hospital Church, for the purpose of its conversion into a place of public worship for the inhabitants of St. John's, took place considerably earlier. It has been already said that Mr. Simon Michell purchased the ancient structure of the Aylesbury family in 1721: and in 1723, having enlarged and repaired it, built the present west front, and re-roofed the whole, he, and a Mr. Hutton, his trustee, disposed of the church, vault, vestry-room, and adjoining grounds, together with two messuages fronting St. John's Street, for 2950*l*., to the commissioners for building fifty new churches. On the 11th of December, the commissioners, by a deed enrolled in Chancery, declared and appointed the building to be (after consecration) a *parish-church* for ever, marked out the bounds of the new parish, and directed the ground to be fitted for a cemetery. Friday, December 27th, being St. John's Day, the consecration of the church took place, being performed by *Edmund*, (Gibson) Lord Bishop of London; when the edifice was formally styled "The Church of St. John, Clerkenwell, in the county of Middlesex," and was the second of the churches usually called Queen Anne's, in order of the time of consecration. The act of consecration having taken place before the fitting-up of the edifice was completed, the commissioners were memorialised for farther pecuniary aid; when they granted 150*l*. to complete what had been left undone, and a subsequent sum of 36*l*.; but as the expense of finishing amounted to more than 179*l*., and the parish were indebted to Mr. Michell upwards of 64*l*. for work done between the completion of the sale and the

consecration, there was still a deficiency of nearly the whole last-mentioned sum, in lieu of which Mr. Michell accepted the grant of 36*l.* from the commissioners. January 23rd, 1724, parish officers were appointed; and on the 14th of February, by virtue of authority lodged in the commissioners, 21 vestrymen, including the rector and churchwardens. Unfortunately, however, for such as desired the complete division of Clerkenwell, the act directed the settlement of the future rates, &c. to be agreed on at a meeting with the rector, or minister, and the churchwardens, overseers, and twenty inhabitants, of the parent parish: and the authorities of St. James's not consenting to take part in the said settlement, on which the actual constitution of the new parish depended, from hence sprung the litigation that ensued. The meeting at which this non-consent, or rather positive and final refusal, was given, was held at the old church on the 7th of April, 1724; and the minister, &c. of St. James's then took occasion to deny the power of Queen Anne's Commissioners to divide the parish, and declared their resolution to take no notice whatever of such division.* April 29th, Mr. Michell sold the Commissioners a messuage in Red Lion Street (now No. 59), in breadth 20 feet, and the ground-plot 96 feet in length, for 650*l.*, as a rectory-house for the incum-

* To enter into a more minute consideration of the Acts empowering Queen Anne's Commissioners, might prove a step towards reviving those past heats, of which the author has just evinced his anxiety to prevent the re-kindling: but the reader who may wish to consult those Acts, will find the information he requires in 9 Anne, c. 22; the same amended by 10 Anne, c. 11; and further amendments by 1 Geo. I. c. 23,—1 Geo. I. c. 14,—and 5 Geo. I. c. 9.

bent. A petition to parliament of that period from the inhabitants of St. James's, complains, consequently, that the income of the rector of St. John's was greater than that of their curate; and estimates the rent of the three houses to be 60*l.* or 70*l.* *per annum*. From this and other sources, it was alleged, upwards of 200*l.* *per annum* were derived; and taken, in great measure, from the mother church.

1726. Parliament was petitioned to vest the surplice fees, &c. with the rector and his successors. The opposition of St. James's was successful.

1730. A similar proceeding took place, and with the same want of success.

1731. Another application was made for a provision for the rector, out of the parliamentary fund, houses, vault, church-yard, &c. Through the opposition of St. James's, this also failed.—However, two successive augmentations have since been obtained, and the present grant from this fund (commonly called Queen Anne's Bounty), is 84*l.* *per annum*.

For more than twelve years, there were also suits, actions, informations, and mandamuses, between the opposed ecclesiastical powers, relative to the officers attempted to be appointed by the Commissioners for the parish of their creation. The consequence finally was, that no officers, except churchwardens, were or now are elected for the *parish* of St. John.

1736. The church of St. John required repair, and the parishioners of St. James were requested to contribute. They refused, and resort was again had to the Court of King's Bench. An arrangement being entered into May 26th, 1737, the repairs of

the two churches have from that period been made by general assessment.

1751. The executors of the late Simon Michell discharged St. John's from a debt, due to the estate, of 66*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*

1754. Mr. John Michell, son of Simon, pursuant to a recommendation in his father's will, conveyed a piece of ground in Benjamin-street, parish of St. Sepulchre, to trustees, for a burial-ground for St. John's; which having been consecrated, 30th April, 1755, has since been used as such.

1771. The rector received the surplice fees till this year: when the curate of St. James brought an action for their recovery. The plaintiff had a verdict, subject to the opinion of the Court. After a solemn argument, the verdict was confirmed.

It will have been observed that brevity has been studied to the utmost in recording these various transactions:—the reasons for conciseness on such matters, must be obvious to all. Not less obvious, however, must be the contradictions and anomalies presented to the impartial observer by a parish thus ecclesiastically governed; and some of these appear imperatively to call for remark. For example: St. James's and St. John's are recognised in different acts of the legislature as *parishes* and as *districts*; and in two acts, St. James's is styled both a parish and a district of that parish.* The minister of the little territory of St. John's has the ecclesiastical rank of *rector;* while the minister of St. James's, who is by election minister of all Clerkenwell, being

* 14 Geo. III. cap. 24, and 15 Geo. III. cap. 23: *preambles.*

chosen by the general voice of the inhabitants, has the humbler style (as the word is now understood) of *curate*. The *curate* is by law entitled to receive all the surplice-fees of St. John's, for its *rector's* performance of the duty. The inhabitants of both districts having an equal right to vote in vestry, the residents in St. John's assist to elect the minister of St. James's; but the residents in St. James's have no voice in choosing the minister of St. John's. While the churchwardens of St. James's have, to the full, all the customary powers of such officers, the powers of the churchwardens of St. John's are confined to the church and cemetery. And while the entire parish contributes alike to the support of its poor, by virtue of one common assessment, the *overseers of the poor* are legally restricted to the residents in St. James's.

As to all matters ecclesiastical, the parish of Clerkenwell is subject, under the bishop, to the Archdeacon of London; it being one of the fourteen out-parishes situate within the bills of mortality. The parish officers are, *two churchwardens, four sidesmen, six overseers,* (the act requiring *four, or more)* with a *parish clerk, beadles,* &c. By act 15 Geo. III. cap. 23, the churchwardens, overseers, and inhabitants of the parish, or the major part of them, are "authorised and required" to meet in the vestry-room on Tuesday in Easter week, or oftener if occasion shall require, to ascertain the moneys necessary to be raised for the relief of the poor, and other purposes of that act; and, within the following twenty days, to meet again to make a rate for the same: the churchwardens and overseers *alone* being farther em-

powered to make the rate, in case of *refusal* or *neglect* on the part of the vestry. By this act, the *general vestry* of the present day appears to have been first legally recognised. We have seen a writer in 1708 styling it *select;* and only two years prior to the date of the act under notice, namely, in 1772, an editor of Maitland's History (in language somewhat contradictory) wrote, "The vestry is *neither select nor general*, all being admitted who have either served or fined for the offices of churchwarden and overseer of the poor." By the same act, *guardians* or *governors of the poor*, whose number may not exceed sixty-three, including the overseers, and the ministers and churchwardens of both districts, were appointed; their office being to put the act in execution, and their election, on the death, removal, &c. of the first nominees, being in the inhabitants in vestry assembled. To the vestry is also committed the election of *trustees of the church*, who are eighty-nine in number, including the lords of the manor of St. John of Jerusalem, and the ministers, churchwardens, and overseers of both districts, for the time being, and who, having been originally appointed for the erection of the present church, are empowered to make assessments for its conservation, and all other purposes therewith connected.

The present incumbent is the Rev. Thomas Sheppard, A. M. The emoluments of the living (there being neither glebe, tithes, nor parsonage) are derived solely from the sources already mentioned, together with the surplice-fees and a parochial collection. The afternoon service, the remuneration for which is received from the incumbent, is performed

by the Rev. Robert Milne: evening lecturer, the Rev. Robert Crawford Dillon, A. M. whose lectureship was established at the commencement of the preceding year (1826). The patronage of the rectory of St. John's was, by the act of Queen Anne, provisionally given to the crown, until the separation it contemplated from the parent parish should take place, when it would devolve to the inhabitants; but that separation not having been effected, it has been ever since in the hands of the lord chancellor. Its emoluments arise out of two-thirds of the pew-rents, and the before-mentioned annual allowance of eighty guineas from Queen Anne's bounty. The mortuary-money is vested in the churchwardens of the district, for various purposes connected with the maintenance of the church and cemetery. There is, besides, a lecturer, who receives the remaining third of the pew-rents for his performance of the duty. The present incumbent is the Rev. W. E. L. Faulkner, A. M.; the same gentleman being also the lecturer. The lecturer is appointed by the vestry, who have generally chosen their rector. The vestry is *select*, being composed, as before observed, of twenty-one inhabitants, originally nominated by Queen Anne's commissioners, but who, agreeably to their powers, have themselves subsequently elected upon all vacancies.

AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

ESTATES, RENT CHARGES, AND INTERESTS,

Where situate.	Names of Donors and Lessors.	Instrument under which held.	Date.
ESTATES.			
House in St. John-street, No. 160, & Four Houses in Red Lion-alley, Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8	Constantine Bennet.*	Will.	6th Jan. 1577.
Two Houses & Two pieces of Land at Cobham, in Surrey.....	Roger Bellow.	Ditto.	29th Apr. 1614.
1. House	.....	....	.....
2. Ditto	.....	....	.....
3. Land	.....	....	.....
House (No. 2), in Silver-street, called the Axe; heretofore 2 Houses, & formerly called Turnmill-street ..	George Trappes and Sir M. Stanhope.	Deed.	27th Feb. 1617.
Cockshute Farm, at Malvern, in Worcestershire	Sir Geo. Strode.	Deeds.	6th & 7th Aug. 1657.
House in Turnmill-street, No. 59, and Two Houses in Bitt-alley, Nos. 1 & 2.	Wm. Sanderson.	Will.	17th May, 1650.

* Stow informs us that this charitable person was buried in the Parish Church, and was " a *Greek* born.

BELONGING TO THE

Parish of Clerkenwell,

1826

Present Rent,	Directions as to the Application.	Names of Tenants.	Nature of Tenancy	When expiring and Remarks.
£. s. d.				
22 15 0	Coals to the Poor at Christmas.	G. Mitchell.	Lease.	*Lady-day*, 1869. [Paid by Mr. Fidler.
	20s. per annum to Parish of Cobham, rest in Bread on Sundays.			
31 10 0	.....	E. Beckford.	Yearly.	
12 0 0	.....	M. Stanstreet	Ditto.	
8 8 0	.....	Wm. Slifield.	Lease.	*Michaelmas*, 1846.
14 0 0	2*l.* 12s. in Bread, Residue at discretion.	J. Notley.	Ditto.	*Lady-day*, 1831. [Paid by Mr. Welsh, of Turnmill-street.
125 0 0	6*l.* for Preparation Sermons, Residue to the Poor.	W. Stephens.	Ditto.	*Michaelmas*, 1830. [Paid by Mr. Stephens These Premises are let at a full Rack-rent.
18 0 0	Clerkenwell and Wendover, Bucks, in equal Moieties.	Anth. Payne.	Ditto.	*Christmas*, 1837. [Paid by the Tenant, and one Moiety is regularly paid to the Parish of Wendover.

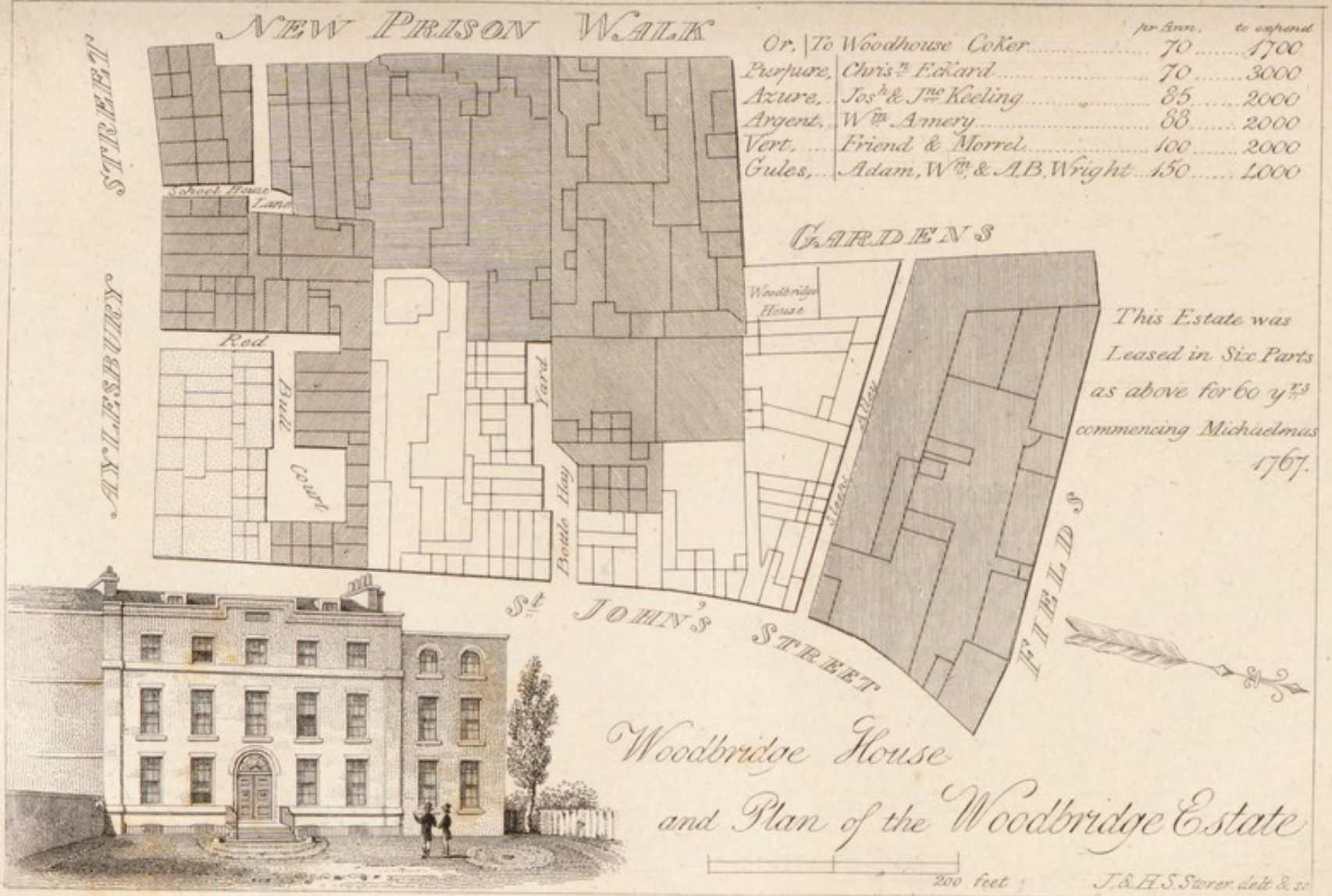
Where situate.	Names of Donors and Lessors.	Instrument under which held.	Date.
Three Houses in Clerkenwell-close ... . Two of these Houses converted into one . .... Remaining House and Shed converted into 2 Houses	Sir Robt. Wood.	Will.	26th Mar. 1663.
Estate in Hertfordshire ..	Gyles Russell.	Ditto.	29th Aug. 1664.
House corner of Turnmill-street, and House adjoining on Clerkenwell-green formerly Two Houses ..	Leo. Wiggleworth	Deeds.	25th & 26th Novem. 1672.
House in Ray-street, formerly Two Houses, and called Hockley-in-the-hole	Ann Gardner.	Will.	12th Jan. 1705.
Clerk's Well in Ray-street, and Building over the Well	.....	....	.....
Piece of Ground adjoining last-mentioned Premises	.....	....	.... .
Small piece of Ground and Building behind Well ..	..... .	....	.....

Present Rent.	Directions as to the Application.	Names of Tenants.	Nature of Tenancy	When expiring and Remarks.
50 0 0	.....	John Moore.	Lease.	*Midsummer*, 1856.
12 0 0 (Ground Rent.)	Bread.	H. Powell.	Ditto.	*Midsummer*, 1884.
.....	For bringing up 3 poor Children in Christ's Hospital, until 16 years of age.	....	....	[The Nomination is made by the Churchwardens & Overseers on either of the Children going out.
52 10 0	For putting out poor Children Apprentice, with a Fee of 3*l.* each.	Messrs. Combe & Co.	Lease.	*Michaelmas*, 1827. [Paid by Tenant.
1 1 0	20s. to Charity School, Residue to 20 poor Widows.	G. Strutton.	Ditto.	*Michaelmas*, 1856. [Paid by Mr. Willis, Clerkenwell-green.
18 0 0	.....	....	Monthly.	[The Lease, which expired at *Midsummer*, 1823, contained a Covenant to renew for 40 years longer, at the same Rent, and might have been renewed, according to its conditions, at the rent of 2*l.* but the right of renewal was lost, through neglect to give due notice.
....	.....	. ..	Lease.	[18th Aug. 1863. This Lease is at a Peppercorn, and contains a Covenant for keeping Pump in repair, and a Covenant to renew for 40 Years on same Terms.
.....	.....	..	...	....

Where situate.	Names of Donors and Lessors.	Instrument under which held.	Date.
Building in Ray-street, formerly used as a Watch-house; part since fitted up for a Lock-up-house for Persons taken on Sundays for Misdemeanors, and the rest as Two Shops			
1. Shop	.....	....	.....
2. Ditto	.....	....	.....
Acre of Land in the Parish of St. Mary, Islington, (near the Regent's Canal Basin)	Purchased of Henry Penton.	Deeds.	17th & 18th August, 1792.
Church Rectory and Advowson of St. James, Clerkenwell	Purchased of Edward Drake.	Deed inrolled in Chancery.	2d June, 1656.
Small piece of Ground in Churchyard, at the north-east corner, on which was formerly a House ..	Tho. Bedingfield.	....	.....
Piece of Ground laid into Churchyard.....	Purchased of Earl of Northampton.	Deeds.	.....
Pentonville Chapel & Yard	Henry Penton.	Lease	1st Jan. 1789.
Burial Ground, Bowling-green-lane, and Cherry-tree Public-house	Marquis of Northampton.	Ditto.	17th July, 1766.
Burial Ground in Ray-str.	Purchased of Thomas Crosse.	Deeds.	.....

Present Rent.	Directions as to the Application.	Names of Tenants.	Nature of Tenancy	When expiring and Remarks.
				[The Commissioners of Paving paid for this Building, in the year 1798, 140*l.* and held it as Tenants to the Trustees, at 1 Guinea per Ann. until Jan. 1822, when the possession was given up in consideration of 50*l.* paid by the Churchwardens to the Commissioners, in Pursuance of an Order of Vestry, of 7th Nov. 1821.
12 0 0	.....	....	Tenant at Will.	
2 12 0	.....	....	Ditto.	
....	....	.. .	....	[In hand.
....	Subject to 4*l.* 18s. 9d. per Annum to Curate.	....	....	[Vested in Samuel Butler Thos. Carpenter, Thos. Maynard, and John Towers. (1 Vacancy.) When Trustees are reduced to two, other three to be appointed.
....	....	....	....	[Part of Burial Ground.
....	.....	....	....	[Part of Burial Ground.
....	Subject to 21*l.* per annum.	....	....	[This Lease contains a Covenant for renewal every 21 years for ever, on paying a fine of 21*l.* The present Lease will expire at Christmas, 1830. Application must be made for a renewal previous to that time.
21 0 0	Subject to 50*l.* per ann. The Public House is let to	James Perry.	Lease.	*Midsummer*, 1848. [The Lease from the Marquis of Northampton will expire at Christmas, 1874.
....	.....	....	....	.....

Where situate.	Names of Donors and Lessors.	Instrument under which held.	Date.
RENT CHARGES.			
Public House, called the Maidenhead, and Premises adjoining, in the Parish of St Sepulchre....	William Heron.	Will.	12th July, 1580.
On Woodbridge Estate, including the east side of St. James's-walk to the north side of Aylesbury-street, from thence along the west side of St. John-street, down the south side of Corporation-row, and all the internal buildings	T. Seckford, Esq.	Statute for Government of Woodbridge Coll. 35 Clause.	10th July, 1587.
On House and Gardens in Turnmill-street	Thomas Herbert.	Deed.	5th July, 1590.
On Manor of Lackford, in Suffolk.....	Lady E. Kytson.	Ditto.	26th Nov. 1625.
On House in Turnmill-str.	John Smith, Esq.	Will.	21st Sept. 1668.
On Public House in Turnmill-str. corner of Cock-court, called the Duke's Head	—— Stoakes.	....	.....
House, now part of the Crown Tavern, Clerkenwell-green	Sir Edw. Smith.	...	.....
.....	—— Scudamore.	....	.....
.....	Henry Garrett.	Will.	29th Sept. 1764.
MONIES AND STOCK.			
£. s. d. 50 0 0	William Pearson.	Ditto.	.....


NEW PRISON WALK
Or, | To Woodhouse Coker ... per Ann. 70 ... to expend 1700
Purpure, | Chris.r Eckard ... 70 ... 3000
Azure, | Jos.h & Jno Keeling ... 85 ... 2000
Argent, | Wm Amery ... 88 ... 2000
Vert, | Friend & Morrel ... 100 ... 2000
Gules, | Adam, Wm & A.B. Wright ... 150 ... 1000
GARDENS
Woodbridge House
This Estate was Leased in Six Parts as above for 60 yrs commencing Michaelmas 1767.
Red Bull Court
Yard
Boddle Hay
Alley
FIELDS
St JOHN'S STREET
Woodbridge House
and Plan of the Woodbridge Estate
200 feet
J.& H.S. Storer delt & sc

Present Rent.	Directions as to the Application.	Names of Tenants.	Nature of Tenancy	When expiring and Remarks.
14 0 0	10*l.* for repairing Church and 4*l.* for Poor.	....	....	[Paid by Clothworkers' Company.
10 0 0	For Poor.	....	....	[Paid by Mr. Palmer, of Doughty Street. By the Statute, this estate is charged 2*l.* per Ann. but the Rental, on granting the last Lease, in 1757, being increased five fold, 10*l.* per Ann.
2 12 0	1s. in Bread every Sunday.	....	....	[Paid by Girdlers' Company.
3 0 0	Food, Rayment, and Firing.	....	....	[Paid by Sir Chas. Kent, of Portman Square, who deducts 2s. 6d. for collecting.
2 12 0	At discretion of Churchwardens.	....	....	[Paid by Mr. Judd.
1 0 0	.....	....	....	[Paid by Mr. Noel, Cecil Street, Strand.
2 0 0	.. ..	....	....	[Paid by Mr. Sheppard, of the Crown Tavern.
1 0 0	Faggots for Poor.	....	....	[Paid by Vintners' Company.
0 6 8	.....	....	....	[Paid by Haberdashers' Company.
309 6 8				
...	15s. for a Sermon on Michaelmas-day, 2s. Reader, 1s. 6d. Clerk, 1s. 6d Sexton, and 1*l.* Churchwarden, for Collation.	....	....	[This 50*l.* has been expended, but the 40s. per Ann. is regularly paid in the manner directed by the Testator.

Where situate.				Names of Donors and Lessors	Instrument under which held.	Date.
	100	0	0	Francis Loveday.	Will.	3d June, 1702,
	1000	0	0	Tho. Crosse, Esq.	Ditto.	.....
Navy 5 per Cent. (now 4½)	173	1	6	William Richards	Ditto proved.	26thJune, 1819.
4 per Cent. Annuit. (now 3½)	225	0	0	Susannah Nieman	Ditto.	4th Sept. 1816.
4 per Cent. Annuit. (now 3½)	337	10	0	Susannah Nieman	Ditto.	4th Sept. 1816.
Ditto (do.)	225	0	0	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
Ditto (do.) ...	360	0	0	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.

Present Rent.	Directions as to the Application.	Names of Tenants.	Nature of Tenancy	When expiring and Remarks.
....	Interest to be paid to Poor on Saint Thomas's-day.	.. .	....	[This 100*l.* was laid out in erecting a Gallery in the Church.
....	Minister 1*l.* 10s. Churchwardens, 10s. Sexton, 5s. Beadle 5s. Ringers 10s. and 40 poor Widows 1s. 6d each, on St. Thomas's Day.	....	....	[The *principal* was laid out in purchasing the Workhouse & Burial Ground in Ray-street.
....	To Minister and Churchwardens for distribution of Interest in Bread to Poor at Christmas, in half-peck Loaves.	....	....	[This was a Gift of 200*l.* and after payment of Legacy Duty was vested in 5 per Cent. Navy Annuities, & produced 173*l.* 1s. 6d. in that Stock: the annual Dividend thereon is 8*l.* 13s.
....	To Minister of St. James, for Distribution of Dividends in Coals to Poor in Parish, in December, not more than a Sack to a Family.	....	....	[This was a Gift of 250*l.* 4 per Cent. Annuities, and is reduced to 225*l.* by payment of Legacy Duty thereout.
. .	To Minister of St. James's, for Distribution of Dividends, in quartern Loaves to Poor in St. James's.	....	....	[This was a Gift of 375*l.* 4 per Cent. Annuities, and is reduced to 337*l.* 10s. by Legacy Duty being paid thereout.
....	To Minister of St. James's and Rector of St. John's, for Distribution of Dividends of 1s. 6d. each.	....	....	[This was a Gift of 250*l.* 4 per Cent. Annuities, and is reduced to 225*l.* by Legacy Duty being paid thereout.
....	To ditto, for Distribution of Dividends in Coals in Winter to Poor in either district.	....	...	[This was a Gift of 400*l.* 4 per Cent. Annuities, and is reduced to 360*l.* by Legacy Duty being paid thereout.

PART III.

PARTICULAR HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:

IN A

SERIES OF ROUTES THROUGH THE PARISH.

ROUTE I.

FROM THE SOUTH ENTRANCE TO THE PARISH IN ST. JOHN'S STREET, BY WILDERNESS ROW, TO THE STONES' END IN GOSWELL STREET; RETURNING BY KING STREET, ST. JOHN'S STREET, ALBEMARLE STREET, ST. JOHN'S SQUARE, AND ST. JOHN'S LANE, TO THE SAME SPOT.

MOST readers will be aware, that the route above laid down commences at a point, of which the milestones make such repeated mention on the Great North Road, namely, from "where Hicks's Hall formerly stood." And though this spot, as a *milliary* of such celebrity, is on the verge only, and not within the actual limits, of the parish, some account of it will not exceed the plan of a descriptive survey, whose expressed object includes both Clerkenwell, and what may be remarkable immediately adjacent.

The *Site of Hicks's Hall* is marked by a sudden and considerable increase in the width of the carriage way of St. John's Street, at a little distance without the spot still called Smithfield *Bars,* from the entrance-barrier to the metropolis anciently erected there. From the enlargement of the way alone, the London topographer would be led to suspect the former existence of buildings where it becomes so abruptly apparent: for our ancestors were never so improvident of room as to permit a

street of the modern dimensions of this part of St. John's Street, to remain long without either a *middle row*, similar to those that have now mostly disappeared from the leading city thoroughfares, or some edifice of importance in place of it. Accordingly, here was erected HICKS'S HALL, looking towards the Bars and Smithfield.

The origin of the structure was this. The justices of the peace for the county of Middlesex were accustomed to meet at a common inn, called the Castle, in St. John's Street, "very inconveniently," says one of Stow's continuators, "being annoyed with carriers, and many other sorts of people." To remedy which, king James I., in the year 1610, the seventh of his reign, granted his letters patent, bearing date June 17th, to infeoff Sir Thomas Lake, and fourteen other knights and esquires of the county of Middlesex, of a certain piece of ground here situate, being 128 feet long from north to south, and 32 feet wide from east to west, (so as to reserve a carriage-way of 20 feet on every side thereof), "to be for ever used and employed for a Sessions-House, and for the keeping of a Prison, or House of Correction, for the same county." This ground was to be held of the king, as part of the manor of East Greenwich, in fealty, and free and common soccage.

In pursuance of these letters-patent, Sir Baptist Hicks, knight, one of the justices, most public-spiritedly "built a *Sessions-House* of brick and stone, at his own proper charges, with all offices thereto belonging. And upon Wednesday, the 17th of January, 1612, the house being then nearly finished, there assembled twenty-six justices of the said county, being

the first day of their meeting there; where the founder feasted them all. And then, after they had considered what name this structure should bear, they all with one consent gave it the name of *Hicks's Hall*, in grateful memory of the builder. And he freely gave the house to them, and their successors for ever."*

The edifice thus erected was of very plain appearance, having scarcely any other ornament than a portico at the entrance. Want of space preventing the justices from building the *prison* on the same spot, they purchased a site for that edifice beyond Clerkenwell Green. Their proceedings were approved by the king; and on the 10th of August, in the seventeenth year of his reign, he granted them another patent, appointing the two erections to be used for the purposes to which they were then applied. Speaking of the *Sessions-House*, Robert Seymour's Survey adds to the account in Howe's Chronicle, that "it is also used for the sitting of the Grand Jury, who meet eight times a year, upon bills of the indictments of criminals to be afterwards tried at the Justice Hall. Thirdly, for the sittings of the Commissioners of the King's Tax for Holborn and Finsbury Division. Fourthly, for meetings of the Commissioners of Sewers, &c."—This was written in 1735.

* E. Howe's Chron. in Stow. Sir Baptist was originally a mercer in Cheapside, and younger brother to Sir Michael Hicks, Secretary to Lord Treasurer Burleigh. He became afterwards Lord Hicks, and Viscount Campden. Baptist, the third Lord, his grandson, was an eminent royalist in the time of Charles I., and was compelled to pay £9,000 as a composition for his forfeited estates, besides making a settlement of £150. per annum on the Commonwealth.—See various interesting particulars of this family in Park's History of Hampstead.

By the year 1777, the hall had become extremely ruinous. The justices, therefore, petitioned Parliament for leave to rebuild it on a larger scale, taking in part of the highway, and to raise a sum not exceeding 12,000*l.* for that purpose. Their application was unsuccessful: it being considered that the vicinity of the spot to Smithfield market rendered it, now that the population of London had so greatly increased, but ill adapted to secure the quiet so essential to a court of justice. Besides, the way on each side the building was already too narrow for the convenient passage of the market-people with their flocks and droves: and, indeed, it is wonderful how such considerations escaped the justices themselves. In the following year, an application for permission to *remove the building* was favourably entertained: and, consequently, as soon as the present noble Sessions-House on Clerkenwell Green was ready for their reception, the justices commenced their sittings there; and the old Hall being pulled down, left the highway of the ample width we at present find it.

The part of St. John's Street we are to pursue from this spot, contains nothing worthy remark: though on our left as we proceed, until of late years, stood some ancient houses, with projecting fronts, which a vague tradition, probably without any authority, stated to have been once inhabited by Cardinal Wolsey. A more probable occupant was Sir Thomas (or Judge) Forster, at the period when these houses formed one mansion with the Baptist's Head in St. John's Lane, as will be again mentioned before concluding this route. A view is presented of these antique dwellings as they appeared in 1814;

just after a fire which had greatly damaged their interiors, and which of course much assisted the hand of time in bringing them to the state that rendered their removal necessary. On the first floor of the centre house was a very curious, and once elegant chimney-piece.

Adjoining the new erections that now occupy this site, is a neat stuccoed entrance to a paved court, in which stands a *Quakers' Meeting-House*, together with a dwelling for the door-keeper. The Meeting-House is substantially built, with a characteristically plain interior, and will accommodate a congregation of about 500 persons. It was re-erected on the foundation of a former Meeting-house, about thirty-five years since. The site has been in occupation for its present purpose from the time of the celebrated George Fox.

A little farther on, we enter WILDERNESS ROW, by a narrow avenue on the right formerly called *Pardon Passage*. The parish boundary takes the line of this Row, so as to include the road, with the foot-path and houses on the north side, while the wall of the Charter-house grounds runs along the south. This spot is of ancient celebrity, as part of *Pardon Church-yard*; a tract which extended from the above-mentioned wall to Sutton Street, and whose history is too remarkable to be omitted.

The dreadful *Plague* which ravaged London in the year 1349, rendered some place of public interment without the walls necessary for the preservation of the survivors: and the then perfectly open plot, stretching from where now stands Sutton-street to the southward extremity of the present

Charter-house-square, was that chosen for the purpose. Within this plot the dead were buried, to the number, it is said, of 50,000. Soon after, the superstition of the times suggested the propriety of erecting chapels, in which masses might be said for the repose and *pardon* of the souls, that, in the hurry of transit from the death-bed to the grave which marks these awful visitations, had been allowed to depart "unhousel'd, unannointed, unannealed." This church (or chapel) was here built accordingly, by Ralph, Bishop of London, together also with a similar edifice near the southern termination of the cemetery; while, at the latter spot, another bishop of the same see, Michael de Northburgh, founded, over the scarcely half-decayed bodies, that convent of Carthusians, which Sir Walter de Manny, in 1371, augmented and continued, by a deed still extant, and which, after the Reformation, became the *Charter-House*.

Malcolm, writing in 1803, states that Pardon Church was in being within memory, and that it stood directly facing the kitchen garden of the Charter-house, and behind the houses in Wilderness-row. Maitland's History says: "it is at present (1772) of the neighbouring inhabitants corruptly called *Farden* Church-yard: there being nothing of the chapel left, but its four stone quoins, the interstices whereof were some time ago rebuilt, and the whole converted into a dwelling-house; in the neighbourhood of which, a few years ago, in digging foundations for divers new houses, a very great quantity of human bones were dug up, to the no small amazement of the by-standers." The

site, or its immediate vicinity, is now occupied by a *Meeting-house*, bearing the name of "Wilderness Row Chapel," which, until about three years since, belonged to a congregation of Welsh Wesleyan Methodists, and divine service was there performed every Sunday in the Welch language. It is at present used for public worship by a society of English Wesleyans.

The parcel of ground on which Pardon Church was founded, formed part of the possessions of the Priory of St. John of Jerusalem; and it is clear that it belonged to that order so lately as 1522. For we find Sir Thomas Docwra, Lord Prior, granting to Edmund Travers, for services done to the Priory, "the custodye and keepinge of our chapell, called the Pardon Chapel, sett and lying without the barrys of Saint John's-street, towards Iseldon, in the county of Middlesex, and of all the ornaments and other thyngs belonging to the said chapell. And in lyke wyse shall have the keping of the chapell-yarde of the said chapell, and all manner of oblations. * * * Provided alway, that the said Edmund shall souffre my ffrary clark of London and Middlesex to have a key, as well to the utturgate as of the inner gate, of the said Pardon Chapell; for none other caus but this caus only, that he and other our ffrary clarks may come to and fro the said chapell-yerde, for to bury in the same chapell-yerde there, as they seme place convenient, the bodyes of all dede people by auctorite of the Pope's pvalege, after the usance and custome of oure ffrary, as often as cause shall require in that behalf, during the lyffe of the said Edmund." (Dated 24th April, 1514.) And the

chapel was granted in reversion to William Cordall, "one of the clerkes syngyng and servyng in our church of St. John, called Clerkenwell," on the 18th September, 1522, Travers having then had eight years possession of it.

Stowe's History says, that "Pardon Church Yard served, after its first purpose, for the burying of such as desperately ended their lives, or were executed for felonies: who were fetched thither usually in a close cart, veiled, and covered with black, having a plain white cross upon it, and at the fore end a St. John's cross, without, and within a bell ringing (by the shaking of the cart) whereby the same might be heard when it passed; and this was called the Friary cart, which belonged to St. John's, and had the privilege of sanctuary."

The next notice occurring of this place, is in a deed of sale, from Roger, Lord North, to the Duke of Norfolk, dated 7th of June, 7th of Elizabeth: when Pardon Chapel, together with an *orchard and walled garden,* called *The Brikes,* in which it stood, and some adjoining land, were sold for 320*l.* It had been leased, 1 Philip and Mary, by Edward Lord North, to Thomas Parry, Esq. together with the same adjoining land, and a garden and small house upon it, for 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum. Queen Elizabeth leased it in the 34th of her reign, to Thomas Goodison: and we find this grant in the possession of William Harborne in 1641; on the 19th of May in which year, he assigned the remainder of his term to John Clerke, receiver of the Charter House. Since it has been in the hands of the governors of this foundation, it has been held for terms of years by

various persons; among others, by Baron Sotherton, Sir Edward Verney, knight-marshal, &c. &c. John Granger took it in 1645, for twenty-one years, on condition that no buildings should be erected upon it during that period: a condition that seems to have been strictly observed, since the earliest dwellings upon the spot are believed to be those of Sutton-street, which rose a little prior to 1687.

Nearly facing us, as we quit the Row, is Old-street, so called from its having been the way, by the *Ald* (or *Old)* Gate, from the metropolis to the eastern parts of the kingdom, until Bishop's-Gate was built. But our route lies northwardly, taking the parochial line, which runs along the centre of Goswell-street.

Thus advancing, we pass the eastern end of Sutton Street, two-thirds of which were formerly called *Swan Alley,* while the remaining or westward third alone bore the name of Sutton Street. In like manner, Little Sutton Street, which we next observe, had the appellation of *Little Swan Alley*. Between Allen Street, the next in succession, and Great Sutton Street, ran a *Market,* called *Swan Alley Market,* in the memory of many persons living. Compton Street, the next, bears the family name of the ground-landlord, the Marquess of Northampton: and from the names or title of that family, various other streets in the vicinity, being on the same estate, are called.

Within a few yards of the *Stones' End* begins King Street, by which we purposed to commence returning to our starting-point. In a map dated 1755, this is called "The Queen's Way to New-

market," and is laid down as an open road, with only two houses, considerably detached, standing on the side next London, and the other without any other division than a fence or hedge from the fields. This street unites with Compton Street at the lower end, and thus conducts us back to St. John's Street. Here, on the left, we pass a large and handsome house, occupied as the *Finsbury Dispensary*, whose district, it is observed in the printed statement of the institution, is of greater extent, and comprises a population of labouring and necessitous poor more numerous, than that of any other establishment of a similar nature in the metropolis. The district is thus given in the same statement:—"From the north-east end of Gray's Inn Lane to Holborn; from thence eastward along Holborn and Skinner Street to Giltspur Street; thence in a north-east line across Smithfield, along Long Lane, Barbican, Beech Street, Chiswell Street to Finsbury Square; thence northward up the City Road, including the parish of St. Luke and Islington, up to the Thatched House and Cross Street; the whole of Pentonville; and terminating at the north-east end of Gray's Inn Lane." And it is added, that "Patients attending at the Dispensary, with a recommendatory letter from a Governor, receive advice and medicines, although their residence be without these limits." The following account of the Institution is chiefly abstracted from the same source:—

The Finsbury Dispensary was first projected in the year 1780. The want of gratuitous advice and medicines for the labouring poor, had long been felt

in this extensive and populous district, and at length induced a few benevolent gentlemen to consider of establishing an Institution to supply it. Their first meeting was on the 29th of April, 1780: on the 12th of August following they were enabled to open this Dispensary: and in the course of the ensuing six months, 685 poor and distressed patients partook of the relief it was so calculated to afford. The original establishment of the institution was not, however, at this spot, but at No. 22, St. John's Square, where it continued until 1805: when it was removed to No. 124, St. John's Street, and in 1819 to its present site.

The objects of this Charity are, to afford *gratuitously*, to the labouring and necessitous Poor, Medical Advice and Medicines, when applying at the Dispensary with a recommendation from a Governor; and to visit at their own habitations, within the district, such as from the severity of disease are incapable of attending. The Institution is open every day of the week, excepting Sunday, and a Medical Officer daily attends. The Apothecary resides in the house, and compounds and dispenses to the Patients the medicines and applications prescribed by the Physicians and Surgeon. The management of the establishment is vested in the Patron (Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg), the President (the Earl of Darnley), and the Vice Presidents, together with forty Governors, chosen annually, who form a Monthly Committee, and who meet the last Wednesday in every month for conducting the affairs of the Charity. A General Meet-

ing of the Governors is convened every three months. From the increased population of the district, the number of patients has progressively advanced. Since its establishment, nearly 150,000 persons have been the subjects of the Institution's attention. During each year upwards of 4,000 are admitted; and the average number under cure rarely falls short of 600.

The advantages that result from such institutions as these, must be apparent to all who consider that the expense attending medical advice is not to be afforded, perhaps, by one-third of the inhabitants of this extensive metropolis: and that though *Hospitals* are excellent establishments, they are difficult of access;—patients are admitted to them only one day in the week;—fees are required;—the patient is taken from the bosom of his family;—the nurses are strangers. In Dispensaries, medical assistance is obtained with the greatest facility every day: and assistance is afforded to the one parent, without removing him from the means of earning support for himself and family, and to the other, without withdrawing her from the superintendence of her domestic concerns. The natural affections, which every philanthropic mind must wish to see cherished, are thus reciprocally called into exercise and strengthened; and it cannot be doubted, that even medical aid is rendered more efficacious, when the mind is relieved from the anxieties necessarily attendant upon a separation from family, and a removal from home. In addition to which blessings to the poor themselves, the benefits to the community are many and important. Application for medical aid, on the

first feelings of indisposition, prevents the spreading of many contagious disorders; and pestilence is thus arrested in its progress, or strangled in its birth. Nay, it may not, perhaps, be too much to affirm, that the present general healthiness of the metropolis, and more particularly the less frequent recurrence of contagious disorders, are, in a great measure, to be attributed to the early suppression of them in the abodes of poverty by the activity and vigilance of Dispensaries.

Continuing our route southwardly from the institution just described, we reach ALBEMARLE STREET, calling for no remark, except that, as its first buildings arose soon after the Restoration, it very probably took name from the favourite warrior of the day, *Monk, Duke of Albemarle*. Our next object is full of antiquarian interest—ST. JOHN'S SQUARE.

In old maps, this entire site bears the appellation of *St. John's Priory;* thus pointing to the original application of the ground, when it was surrounded by the buildings of the celebrated Priory, or Hospital, of St. John of Jerusalem. The *Square,* as it is now called, is of oblong form; it was the Priory court; and in Robert Seymour's Survey, (1735), it occurs as "St. John's Court, *vulg.* St. Jone's, St. John's Square." The ecclesiastical history of this religious establishment having been given, the local, or that of the site, and its successive erections, only remains. Imperfect as are the particulars that can be now collected under this head, they will present, it is hoped, some features worthy attention.

The grand mansion of the Hospitalers destroyed by the rebels under the conduct of Wat Tyler, pro-

bably stood, in part at least, south of the present square, as will be subsequently noticed; and, there can be little doubt, was the most splendid of all the metropolitan religious establishments. In its numerous and widely-varied decorations, both external and internal, it is said to have contained specimens of the arts both of Europe and Asia; together with a collection of books and rarities, the loss of which, in a less turbulent age, would have been a theme for national lamentation. Of the style in which it was gradually restored, north-east of the present square, we may form some idea from the accompanying engraving from a view of the remains taken by Hollar in 1661. This view presents the back-front, as it then appeared from St. John's Street, with the hospital garden and wall intervening; the buildings being represented as extending northwardly, from the old choir, (the modern church), nearly to where now stands Aylesbury Street.

Until long after the era of Wat Tyler, the priory court was surrounded by fields, constituting, it is likely, the dairy-farm of the establishment. In these fields, an event of national importance took place in the reign of Henry VI., A. D. 1461, which to narrate clearly, it will be necessary to mention a few of the preceding circumstances. In the dreadful battle between the Yorkists and Lancastrians at Wakefield, the Duke of York had imprudently engaged the forces of Henry's warlike queen, Margaret, with far inferior numbers, and was defeated, and slain. The queen advanced towards London; and having worsted the Earl of Warwick at the second

battle of St. Alban's, released the king from his captivity, and prepared for her entry into the metropolis. But all her measures were disconcerted by intelligence that the Earl of March, son to the late Duke of York, (who had been engaged in levying forces in Wales at the period of his father's death) had, in conjunction with the Earl of Warwick, totally defeated the Earls of Pembroke and Ormond, at the battle of Mortimer's Cross, and was now rapidly marching towards the capital. The queen, knowing she could place very little dependance on the Londoners, judged it prudent to retire into the north: and the Earl of March immediately hastened with his troops to the metropolis, where he was received with every demonstration of joy. Within a day or two afterwards, on the 2d of March, the earl's army was mustered in *Saint John's Fields* amidst considerable numbers of people; when the Lord Fauconbridge, seizing the opportunity, read aloud the agreement which had been made between the king and the Duke of York, and appealing to the multitude, told them, that Henry had notoriously violated his contract, and asked, whether he was "still worthy to reign." The people cried, "nay, nay:" and he then inquired whether, agreeably to the settlement ratified by the parliament, "they would have the Earl of March to be their king." They answered, "yea, yea:" and this expression of the popular voice being admitted to be legitimate in a great council of prelates, nobility, gentry, and magistrates, held on the ensuing day at Baynard's Castle, the Earl of March was "on the morrowe"

conducted in great state to St. Paul's, and thence to Westminster Hall, where "being set on the king's seate, with St. Edward's sceptre in his hand," an appeal was again made to the people, who, with loud acclamations, declared that they accepted him for their sovereign. He was then conducted with much solemnity to the Bishop of London's palace, where Henry used to lodge when within the walls of the city, and on the day following was proclaimed king, in London and the neighbouring places, by the title of Edward IV.*

In the Rev. John Brand's History of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, the following notices occur of this Priory, A. D. 1376.—Suits and contentions arose between the prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, and the mayor and commons of Newcastle, concerning Fenham, a village in the vicinity of that town. (See Rolls of Parliament, vol. 2, page 348.) There is still in the archives of the corporation of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, an original receipt, dated 4th of March, 1404, from Brother Holdebrand Wotton, preceptor of Clerkenwell, and Henry Grendon, attorney general of the Lord Brother Walter Grendon, prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, to the mayor, aldermen, and commonalty of the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for 12*l.* 10*s.* sterling, in part payment of the sum of 37*l.* 10*s.* due Michaelmas following, for rent of *mines of sea-coal* at Fenham, which place was, it would seem, at that time the property of our order. The receipt is dated from their house in Clerkenwell, London. We

* Stow's Ann. p. 680. Hall's Chron. p. 185.

know that David, king of Scots, gave them lands at Newcastle. (See king John's charter to the town, A. D. 1200.) The same author mentions "a very observable house of stone, with buttresses on the outside, and with a crypt or vault arched with stone," and alludes to a tradition that this was once called *St. John's Chapel:* adding, "may not this have belonged to the Knights Hospitalers of St. John of Jerusalem?"

The restoration of the Hospital buildings to more than their original dimensions and grandeur, was completed by Prior Docwra, in the erection of the grand *South Gate,* which was finished in 1504. This Prior was the immediate predecessor of the last superior of the house, Sir William Weston, and retained his office from 1502 to 1523. His work, had we not the evidence of dates, would pretty plainly declare itself, by its obtusely-pointed windows, and several other circumstances, to be of an era not earlier than Henry VII.: and to this comparative lateness of erection, we are no doubt greatly indebted for its almost perfect preservation to the present day. Though presenting no features of the elegant Gothic which pervades so many prior examples of that order, this Gate is yet highly interesting, as affording the most complete, and nearly the only remaining specimen, of those monastic buildings once so numerous in the metropolis and its vicinity. Our description of the existing state of St. John's-square, will not improperly commence with it.

The Gate is composed of a centre, pierced by an ample arch, and a square projecting tower on

each side. The projection is double in the south front, or that by which the Hospital was approached from the City; and the grandeur of this front was no doubt increased by it. The general effect must have been striking, and calculated to raise the beholder's ideas of the establishment to which such an entrance belonged, when the whole was perfect, the towers and centre uniformly embattled, the height of the structure greater than what, owing to the accumulation of the external soil, it now appears to possess, and the approach on either side not as at present disfigured by buildings placed against it. The thickness of the walls is about three feet: they are not, as was long imagined, of solid stone, but of hard red brick, with a stone casing, in depth about nine inches.

Besides numerous smaller windows, both in the centre and towers, there is a principal one over the crown of the arch in each front, in the wide and obtusely-pointed style before remarked. Under each of these windows is a series of shields of arms in relief; but in both fronts they are almost entirely concealed from the passenger's eye, by the painted show-boards which announce the conversion of the major part of the Gate into the "Old Jerusalem Tavern." The arms on these shields are given in the annexed plate, and are as follow:

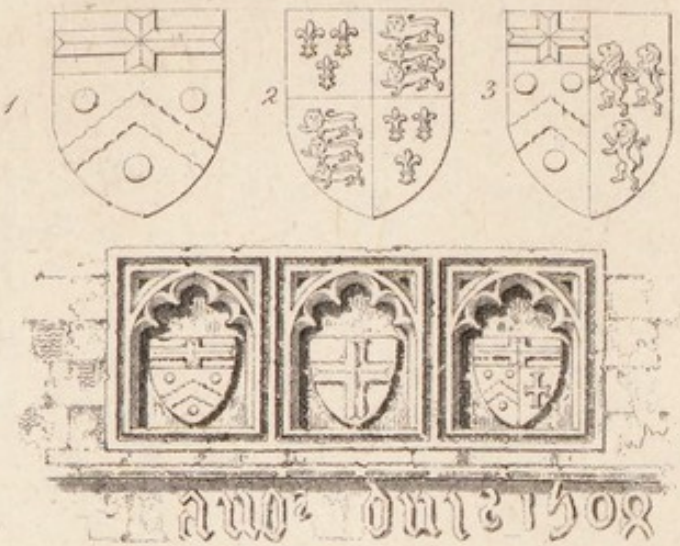
South, or principal, front.—In the centre, those of France and England, surmounted by a crown. On each side, the cross, the ensign of the Priory. Farther on the spectator's left, and unhidden, a chevron engrailed, between three roundels, and the cross in chief. Farther on the right, the chevron

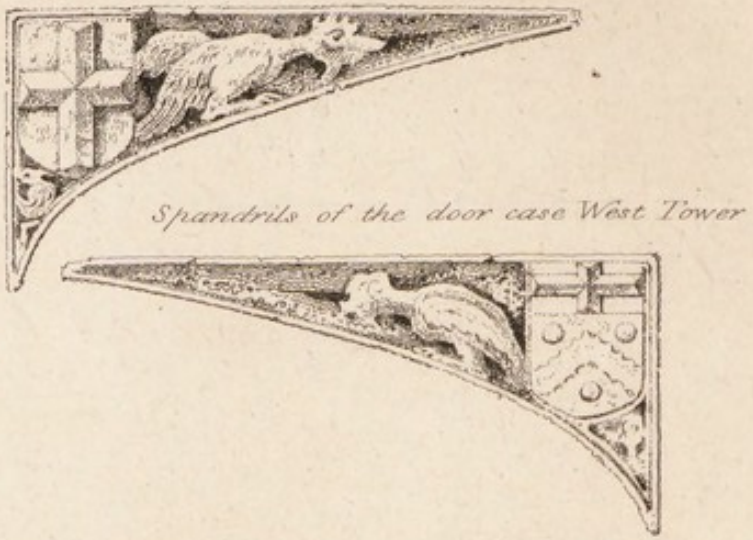
and roundels, cross in chief, impaling the arms of England. This impalement, it will be observed, is greatly defaced, as are the arms on the central shield: but both are separately represented in our plate, agreeably to their appearance in 1749, when they were engraved for the Gentleman's Magazine. Beneath, in 1788, according to a writer in the same miscellany, might still be traced what, in its almost obliterated state, appeared to be C+O---RIOR, but was undoubtedly T------ D------ PRIOR, the two first letters being the initials of *Thomas Docwra*, who built the Gate. The chevron engrailed, &c., on the conspicuous shield, are the arms of this Prior, according to Edmondson; who gives, for "*Dockwray* (London)," sable: a chevron engrailed argent between three plates, each charged with a pallet gules. On a chief argent, a cross gules.

North Front, next the square.—The cross in the centre: on one side, the chevron, roundels, and cross in chief: on the other, the same, but with the cross moline as an impalement. Beneath, an inscription, which must be read ano dni 1504. —The three last figures of the year are yet plainly visible—the 5 particularly so—and this, like the concluding 4, is in the ancient form represented in the plate: the rest of the inscription must have been conjectural, without the help of earlier investigations.

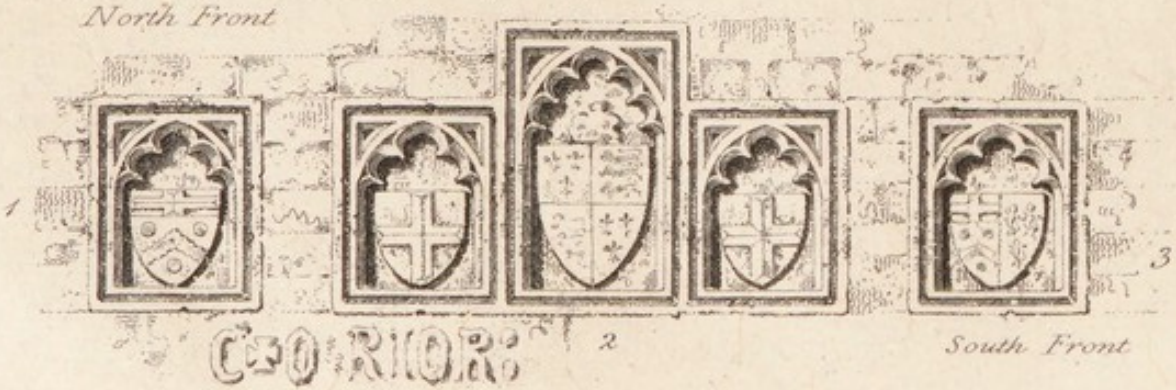
The shield with the cross only, and that with the chevron, roundels, and cross in chief, is also twice repeated in the groining of the arch over the entrance, where the paschal lamb occurs on the keystone. Again, these two shields are very faintly

Fragments St John's Gate





North Front



South Front

J & H S Storer delt & sc

discernible in the spandrils of a low door-case, forming an entrance to the west tower from the north side of the Gate; the same spandrils being otherwise occupied by figures, in which, though now worn beyond discovery of their meaning, might be recognised in 1788, says the Gentleman's Magazine for that year, "a cock and hawk," and "a hen and lion." The spandrils are represented, as they appeared at that period. Once again, these shields are carved in oak, in the crown of an ancient door-way, now walled up, in the western basement of the Gate, which was discovered when that part of the building was converted into a watch-house for St. John's district in 1813. This specimen of antique carving, still perfect in every part, was very laudably preserved when the last-mentioned alteration took place, by being wainscotted over, at the same time leaving a flap, on lifting which it may be inspected by the curious. It should be observed, that the "plates, each charged with a pallet gules," described as belonging to *Docwray*, are simple roundels on all the shields mentioned, those in the groining of the arch excepted, where the aid of painting has been recently called in, at the instance of a respectable inhabitant and antiquarian, to give the blazoning agreeably to Edmondson.

Both the door-ways, just spoken of, give evidence, by their dwarf-like appearance, of the height to which the soil has been accumulated since they were constructed. The external one into the western tower led to a staircase, conducting to the top of the Gate; and was also the entrance to the printing-office of Edward Cave, from which issued

the first numbers of the Gentleman's Magazine. There is a stone floor three feet below the present surface within this tower, corresponding with the ancient exterior level, as may be judged from the fact, that, on entering the gateway from the south, the fixed iron shaft of one of the top hinges on which the gates swung, is about even with the elbow of a person of ordinary stature. The lower part of the staircase was removed about fourteen years since; but from the upper floors it still affords access, by stairs of solid oak, to the top.

From Hollar's view of the Gate, taken from the square in 1661, we observe that the arch was then clogged with an inner erection, apparently of wood, and adapted to the admission of carriages and foot-passengers by separate entrances. This view, however, shews to advantage the effect produced by the battlements when complete: they are now entirely removed, but are remembered by many residents in the parish. The wooden structure was succeeded by a *billiard-room*, occupying all the upper part of the gateway from the spring of the arch: Noorthouck, who published his History of London in 1773, tells us that it had then "lately been cleared away, and the arch, being repaired, restored to its original dimensions." The fact is, that the removal of this unsightly incumbrance was effected in 1771, at the expense of the St. John's Commissioners for Paving, &c., who purchased, for 62*l.*, the interests of the owner and occupier.* With the billiard-room, vanished also the separate entrance

* Minutes of the Commissioners: who farther paid the late Sir Wm. Staines £25. for restoring the mason's work.

for foot-passengers, which formed no part of the original design; and the Gate, being completely repaired, has presented from that time its existing appearance. The contiguous buildings in Hollar's view, seem never to have had any connection with the Hospital; but had been erected, no doubt, after the Dissolution.

The east basement is the bar of the tavern, having had an entrance cut through the angle of one of the projections on the south side; for which angle it being then necessary to find a new support, a cast-iron pillar, alike incongruous and contemptible, was substituted for the ancient stone-work. The interior of the rest of the building, now chiefly in the occupation of the tavern-keeper, has less to interest than might be expected; nearly all that was illustrative of the domestic modes of our ancestors in the time of Henry VII., having been supplanted by modern alterations. This is particularly the case with the principal room, occupying the centre over the arch, the entire appearance of which is modern: even the original stone mullions to the windows have disappeared, and have given place to successors of wood. But the pannelled cielings to several of the apartments remain: and that of the room constituting, with a smaller one adjoining it, the former printing-office, has the intersections of the pannels, &c., decorated with coloured coats of armorial bearings, which, however, appear to have been supplied by the fancy of some much later occupant than the Knights of St. John. The antiquary will be chiefly interested in these rooms, by the information that they were

the birth-place and nursery of his favourite budget, the Gentleman's Magazine; that here sprung from the press that first in the order of time, and, as respects antiquities at least, in merit also, of our English monthly miscellanies; that this floor was trod by Cave, the original proprietor and projector of a work, which, first appearing for the month of January, 1731, *(price six-pence)*, continues still to flourish; and that on this floor also met many of the principal men of letters of that day, including Goldsmith, and the literary colossus, Johnson. Long may a publication which has received such unprecedented and deserved patronage, continue to receive and to deserve it!—and as long may it wear its peculiar and well-earned badge, the cut of the ancient *Gate*, which, adorning the first page of its numbers nearly from their commencement, has been so often and affectionately greeted, as the harbinger of some pleasing addition to his mental stores, by the lover of British antiquarianism!

Of the *man* who was the "original proprietor and projector" of such a miscellany as that just named, and who so long conducted it on this spot, the reader may desire some account; and it is pleasing to be able to gratify his desire, in language abridged from that of so eminent a biographer as Dr. Johnson. If, from friendship to the subject of this sketch, the Doctor was led to a somewhat too lenient view of his early wilfulness, let those only condemn him on that score, who can be insensible to the grateful bias the judgment will receive from benefactions, and who can forget the sins of their own youth.—It is not common for Johnson to be accused of *partiality*.

Edward Cave, agreeably to the Doctor's account, was born at Newton, in Warwickshire, Feb. 29, 1691. It was fortunate, that having a disposition to literary attainments, he was not cut off by the poverty of his parents from opportunities of cultivating his faculties. The school of Rugby, in which he had, by the rules of its foundation, a right to be instructed, was then in high reputation, under the Rev. Mr. Holyock, to whose care most of the neighbouring families, even of the highest rank, entrusted their sons. This gentleman had judgment to discover, and, for some time, generosity to encourage, the genius of Cave; and was so well pleased with his quick progress in the school, that he declared his resolution to breed him up for the university, and recommend him as a servitor to some of his scholars of high rank. But prosperity which depends on the caprice of others, is of short duration. Cave's superiority in literature exalted him to an invidious familiarity with boys who were far above him in rank and expectations; and, as in unequal associations it always happens, whatever unlucky prank was played, was imputed to Cave. At last, under pretence that he obstructed the discipline of the school, by selling clandestine assistance, and supplying exercises to idlers, he was oppressed with unreasonable tasks, that there might be an opportunity of quarrelling with his failure; and when his diligence had surmounted them, no regard was paid to the performance. Cave bore this persecution awhile, and then left the school, and the hope of a literary education, to seek some other means of gaining a livelihood.

He was first placed with a collector of the excise.

But the insolence of his mistress, who employed him in servile drudgery, quickly disgusted him; and he went up to London in quest of more suitable employment. Here he was recommended to a timber-merchant at the Bankside, and while he was on liking, is said to have given hopes of great mercantile abilities; but this place he soon left, for whatever reason, and was bound apprentice to Mr. Collins, a printer of some reputation, and deputy-alderman. This was a trade for which men were formerly qualified by a literary education; and which was pleasing to Cave, because it furnished some employment for his scholastic attainments. Here, therefore, he resolved to settle, though his master and mistress lived in perpetual discord, and their house was therefore no comfortable habitation. His master dying before his apprenticeship was expired, he was not able to bear the perverseness of his mistress. He therefore quitted her house, upon a stipulated allowance, and married a young widow, with whom he lived at Bow. When his apprenticeship was over, he worked as a journeyman at the printing-house of Mr. Barber, a man much distinguished and employed by the tories, whose principles had at that time so much prevalence with Cave, that he was for some years a writer in Mist's Journal; which, though he afterwards obtained by his wife's interest a small place in the post-office, he for some time continued. But as interest is powerful, and conversation, however mean, in time persuasive, he by degrees inclined to another party; in which, however, he was always moderate, though steady and determined. When he was admitted into the post-office, he still continued,

at his intervals of attendance, to exercise his trade, or to employ himself with some typographical business. By the correspondence which his place in the post-office facilitated, he procured country newspapers, and sold their intelligence to a journalist in London for a guinea a week. He was afterwards raised to the office of clerk of the franks, in which he acted with great spirit and firmness; and often stopped franks which were given by members of parliament to their friends, because he thought such extension of a peculiar right illegal. This raised many complaints; and having stopped among others a frank given to the old Dutchess of Marlborough by Mr. Walter Plummer, he was cited before the House, as for a breach of privilege, and accused, perhaps very unjustly, of opening letters to detect them. He was treated with great harshness and severity, but declining their questions by pleading his oath of secrecy, was at last dismissed.

By this constancy of diligence, and diversification of employment, he in time collected a sum sufficient for the purchase of a small printing-office, and began the "Gentleman's Magazine," a periodical pamphlet, of which the scheme is known wherever the English language is spoken. To this undertaking he owed the affluence in which he passed the last twenty years of his life; and the fortune which he left behind him, though large, had been yet larger, had he not rashly and wantonly impaired it by innumerable projects, of which none succeeded. When he formed the project of the Magazine, he was far from expecting the success which he found; and others had so little prospect of its consequence, that though he

had for several years talked of his plan among printers and booksellers, none of them thought it worth the trial. He now began to aspire at popularity; and being a greater lover of poetry than any other art, he sometimes offered subjects for poems, and proposed prizes for the best performers. The first prize was 50*l*., for which, being but newly acquainted with wealth, and thinking the influence of 50*l*. extremely great, he expected the first authors of the kingdom to appear as competitors, and offered the allotment of the prize to the Universities. But when the time came, no name was seen among the writers that had been ever seen before; and the Universities, and several private men, rejected the province of assigning the prize. At all this Mr. Cave wondered for a while; but his natural judgment, and a wider acquaintance with the world, soon cured him of his astonishment, as of many other prejudices and errors.

He continued to improve his Magazine, and had the satisfaction of seeing its success proportionate to his diligence, till, in 1751, his wife died of an asthma. He seemed not at first much affected by her death, but in a few days lost his sleep and his appetite, which he never recovered; but after having lingered about two years, with many vicissitudes of amendment and relapse, fell by drinking acid liquors into a diarrhœa, and afterwards into a kind of lethargic insensibility, in which one of the last acts of reason which he exerted (says the Doctor) was "fondly to press the bard that is now writing this little narrative." He died Jan. 10, 1754, having just concluded the twenty-third annual collection.

He was a man of large stature, not only tall but bulky, and was, when young, of remarkable strength and activity. His resolution and perseverance were very uncommon; in whatever he undertook, neither expense nor fatigue were able to repress him; but his constancy was calm, and, to those who did not know him, appeared faint and languid; but he always went forward, though he moved slowly. Consistently with this general tranquillity of mind, he was a tenacious maintainer, though not a clamourous demander, of his right: and when the stamp officers demanded to stamp the last half-sheet of the magazines, Mr. Cave alone defeated their claim, to which the proprietors of the rival magazines would meanly have submitted. He was a friend rather easy and constant, than zealous and active; yet many instances might be given, where both his money and his diligence were employed liberally for others. His enmity was in like manner cool and deliberate, but though cool, it was not insidious, and though deliberate, not pertinacious. His mental faculties were slow. He saw little at a time, but that little he saw with great exactness. He was long in finding the right, but seldom failed to find it at last. His affections were not easily gained, and his opinions not quickly discovered. His reserve, as it might hide his faults, concealed his virtues; but such he was, as they who best knew him have most lamented.

There are few readers of Johnson, who will not have recognised some of the characteristics of his style in this account; to which it may be necessary only to add, that Cave was buried, apparently without any memorial, in the old church of St.

James, Clerkenwell; but that he is deservedly commemorated in an inscription, from the pen of Dr. Hawkesworth, which is placed near the remains of his father, and younger brother, at Rugby.

The *Wall* of the Hospital precinct has appeared, from discoveries of the old foundations, to have taken its course eastward from the gate nearly to the line of the present St. John's Street. And it seems probable, that so much of the east side of the Square as extends from the gate to the church, was occupied only by offices, or other inferior buildings, with the general wall of the court in their rear, i. e. running along the west side of ancient St. John's Street. Hollar's views of the remains, it will have been observed, shew no vestiges of erections of the monastic character in this direction.

The *Church* is at the north-east angle of the square. So completely, as Malcolm observed, has every trace of antiquity vanished from this spot, that its front would be taken for that of a chapel of ease. Yet there is every reason to believe, that, when complete, this edifice extended from its existing remnant across the head of the present square, and over great part of that opposite Western court, or close, whose area has remained unoccupied from the period of its destruction, as if to tell posterity the noble dimensions it once boasted. The structure now adapted as a place of worship for the inhabitants of the district, is a part only of the ancient *choir*: but we have the testimony of Stow, that there remained to his time "the great *bell-tower*, a most curious piece of workmanship, graven, gilt, and inameled," and "passing all others that

he had seen." He speaks also of a "*body*," or *nave*, (occupying, no doubt, the western close just mentioned) with its "*side-aisles*:" so that we have direct evidence of the former existence here of an edifice in the cathedral form, *transepts* only excepted, and these the magnificence of the building in every other respect forbids us to suppose were wanting. It is not to be imagined that so wealthy and powerful an order, whose peculiar ensign was the *cross*, would differ from the rest of the Catholic world in erecting a church of such ample size without the essentials to its cruciformity. Besides, transepts would have a remarkable propriety in this instance; because, extending as they doubtless did, north and south from the great tower, at its intersection with the choir and nave, they would present their extremities to the north and south gates of the court, and would have an entrance of course facing each.

Imposing must have been the appearance of such a structure, to the spectator entering the Hospital by the grand gate;—the majestic and beautiful tower rising over the south transept immediately in front;—the transept itself, perhaps, presenting a noble and elaborately ornamented portal;— the body, with its south aisle, and the choir, with its large mullioned windows, stretching their long extent on either hand;—and the whole occupying an elevated site, adorned by an open approach, and deriving from those circumstances every advantage for display. The antiquary cannot cease to regret, that such an edifice should have been permitted to fall before the

pride and rapacity of a Somerset;* especially since it had been fully completed only in the reign preceding that of the Dissolution, and might have remained therefore for centuries yet to come, a monument of the magnificent spirit of piety that characterised the Knights of St. John.

Stow saw the noble Hospital church prior to its demolition; and was thus enabled to record the names of thirteen "brethren of the house, and knights of the order," interred within it; all of whom, he tells us, "were written *friars* on their tombs." He notices also the monuments of numerous lay personages, concluding his list with "William Babthorp, Baron of the Exchequer, 1442." All such memorials of course perished with the pile in which, together with the mortal remains they commemorated, they were placed as mementos of departed greatness, and lessons to posterity, through the successive ages in which it was no doubt imagined they would undisturbed remain.

A discovery was made not long since of part of the foundations of the ancient building, by some workmen employed in making a sewer beneath the square, nearly in a line with *Jerusalem Passage*. At this spot, the excavating was impeded by a wall, seven feet in thickness, composed only of a rubble of chalk and flint, but so compact as almost to bid defiance to the operations of the wedge and pickaxe. From the situation, this would appear to have been part of the sub-structure of the stately tower described by Stow. Another indication of the former

* See Ecclesiastical History, p. 74.



Seal of Brother Hugh de Alneto.



Common Seal.



Common Seal 7 Ric 2.

Seals of St John's Priory.

extent of the church, is still visible in *Jerusalem Court;* where are yet apparent some remains of one of the "side chapels" (the south) which Stow mentions to have been repaired by Cardinal Pole, with the original buttresses projecting from the mean dwellings into which it has been converted. Both the old south wall which forms the front of these dwellings, and the buttresses supporting it, wore a raggedly antique appearance until November, 1825, when they were stuccoed. The dwellings appear, from the style of their interior wainscotting, to have been made such about 150 years since. The lower extremities of the buttresses are buried to the depth of many feet below the foot-pavement: which shews to what an extent the soil around this ancient structure has been raised.

Speaking of the *interior* of the present church, which may be now described, Malcolm writes, "if all remembrance of its ancient grandeur were effaced, we should think it a good *Doric* building:—it is certainly convenient and handsome." Such praise it undoubtedly deserves; as do the parish at large that of sufficient attention to the preservation of what remains of so venerable though so altered a structure, it having been thoroughly "repaired and beautified" in 1800, 1812-13, and again in 1825.* What yet appears of the Gothic of the original style, but ill assimilates with the pillars of the classic order

* Nearly the whole credit of the repairs in 1800, however, must be awarded to Philip Booth, Esq. of Red Lion-street, who caused the *painting*, and some other matters, to be executed at his own cost, amounting to more than 145*l.*—In one respect, this year proved unfortunate to the church; for on Sunday, Jan. 26th, the iron chest containing the *communion plate* (weight 125 oz.) was discovered to have been stolen. Plated articles were substituted for those taken, and are in use at the present time.

mentioned by Malcolm, which, rising from the modern galleries, support an entablature decorated with trigliphs, from whence springs a coved, and pannelled, and otherwise ornamented cieling. The fronts of the galleries have handsome mouldings and pannels; as have the piers beneath the Doric pillars which support them. The altar-piece is of oak, carved, and with the usual accompaniments, in gold letters, the Lord's Prayer, Decalogue, and Creed: the royal arms, carved and gilt, are placed at top. Of the three large pointed east windows, that in the centre only remains in the state represented by Hollar's back-view; the original mullions of the others having been cut away. There are still two pointed windows, however, on the south side, which would retain their first form and appearance, had they not been so much curtailed and otherwise obscured. These have the slender pillars, and neat mouldings, given them by the Gothic architect. And in these windows, and those just mentioned at the east end, are to be traced the only marks, within, of what the choir once was: without, the buttresses in the court just spoken of, and some larger ones, which have been repaired, against the east wall, are the yet poorer vestiges. The central window, over the altar, it should have been observed, contains a coat of arms, (a chevron between three combs,) in painted glass, which Gwillim tells us is the coat-armour of *Tunstall*, of Tunstall, in Lancashire. What connection that family could have had with this church, is not apparent: Cuthbert Tunstall, who was bishop of London from 1522 to 1530, (when he was translated to Durham), was from Yorkshire. During the re-

pairs of 1812, in enlarging the southernmost east window, the *skeleton of a child* was found in a cavity of the masonry!—It was very properly left undisturbed, and the cavity closed up as before.

Lists of Benefactions are placed on each side the altar to the following effect :—

Benefactions

TO THE POOR OF THIS PARISH.

		£
1743.	Sr. Geo. Fettiplace, Bt. by Will gave to poor Housekeepers. He also Bequeathed £13. per Annum for ever, to be laid out in Bread.—10 Sixpenny Loaves to be distributed to the poor weekly.	50
1823.	Mr. Elisha and Sarah Wild bequeathed New four per Cent Stock, the interest of which to be laid out the 14th of February in Bread, to the Poor of this Parish for ever.	25
	Mrs. Susannah Nieman, a Legacy of One Thousand Pounds Stock, in the 4 per cent Bank Annuities: The Interest of.....	650
	to be given in Bread weekly, viz. Quartern and Half-quartern Loaves. And the Interest of.....	350
	to be given in Coals in the Winter Season	
		1,000
	John Nieman, Esq. a Legacy of Five Hundred Pounds Stock, in the 4 per cent Bank Annuities, the Interest of which to be laid out in Bread, and distributed weekly.....	500
	Mrs. Susannah Nieman a Legacy of Four Hundred Pounds Stock, in the 4 per cent Bank Annuities, to the Parishes of St. John's and St. James's jointly; the interest to be given in Coals annually in the Winter Season.....	400
	Likewise jointly to St. John's and St. James's the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds Stock, in the 4 per cent. Bank Annuities, the interest of which to be given in Alms of One Shilling and Six Pence, on the 5th day of November Annually.....	250

The *Font* is a marble bason, on a pedestal of the same material, at the western termination of the south aisle. There are a few neat mural tablets in the church, the inscriptions on which are not remarkable, if we except that occurring on the south wall, under a small painted shield of arms, to the modern founder. It is as follows :—

" In a private and freehold vault at the south-east end of this church are deposited the remains of Simon Michell, Esq. of this parish (of St. John,

Clerkenwell) and a Member of the Middle Temple and Lincoln's Inn: descended from a family of that name in Somersetshire: who died Aug 30th, 1750, aged 74. He conveyed this Church to the Commissioners for building of fifty new churches, by a deed dated August 23d, 1723, and enrolled in chancery: reserving the organ, which, with the vault and adjoining house, he gave under certain conditions to this parish, by his will dated May 19th, 1748."

(The inscription concludes with noticing his wife's interment, and that of other members of his family.)

Notwithstanding that Mr. Michell was a liberal benefactor to St. John's, the populace, by whom as a magistrate he had been much disliked, were with difficulty restrained, on his interment here, from committing outrage on his remains. The *Vault* originally reserved by him, extended 35 feet from east to west, and 13 from north to south; but the part of it reserved by his will (the rest being bequeathed to the parish) is only 13 feet by 10. This part has been separated from the rest by brick-work since 1793; when, application having been made for leave to inter within it the remains of the late rector, the Rev. Richard Harrison, permission was refused by Mr. Michell's representatives, some coffins which had been placed in it removed, and future intrusion thus effectually guarded against. The *Organ* mentioned in the inscription, was erected at the expence of £421: the conditions annexed to its bequeathment by Mr. Michell were, that it should be kept in repair, the salary of the organist paid by the parish,

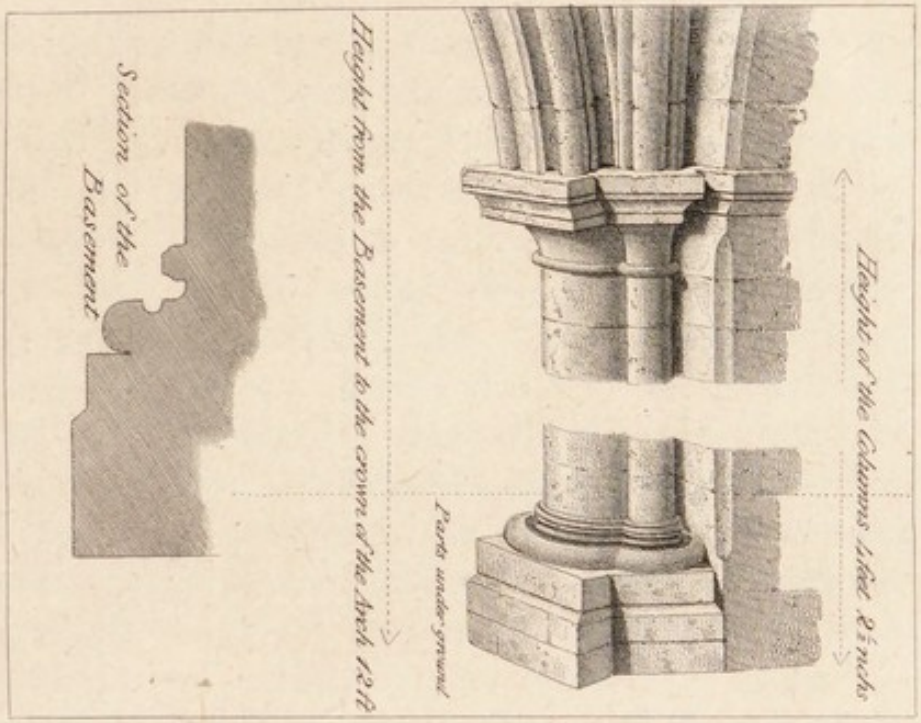
and that, if not used for eight successive Sundays, or twelve within one year, his heirs at law should be at liberty to remove it, with all the materials thereof.

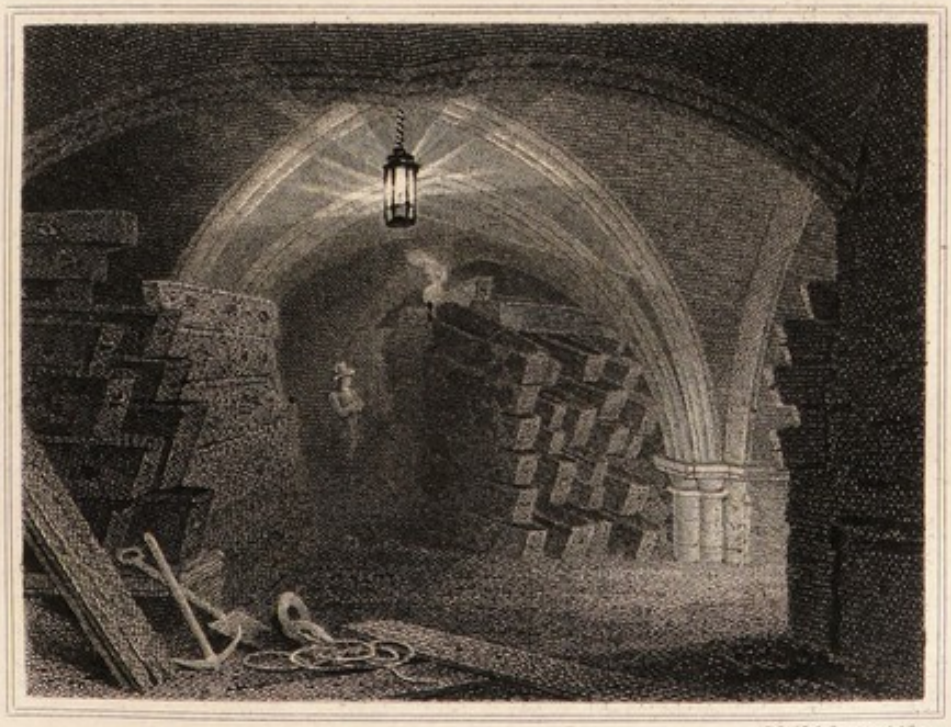
There is a succession of public vaults beneath the church, which, "having heard of," Malcolm says, "I wished to explore, and, accordingly, was conducted to the entrance by the sexton; but the horrid sight that lay before me banished all curiosity: besides, the decaying effluvia of my fellow-creatures issued in such deadly streams towards the dry air, that I was glad to have recourse to a phial of lavender-water which the sexton held. The coffins are immersed in dews, and are piled and wedged into the shape of the arches. Whether there have been windows originally, or whether these have always been vaults for the dead, I did not stay long enough to examine. The arches and groins are similar to those of other Gothic crypts." The present author cannot but consider this description somewhat exaggerated, as he spent some little time in a minute examination of these vaults, without experiencing any injurious effects, and even without perceiving the existence of any effluvium that was extraordinarily offensive. The artist who made the drawing for the accompanying plate, of necessity passed a much longer time within them, and with equal impunity. But it must be conceded to Malcolm, that the practice of burying here in stone or metal coffins *only*, did not exist in his time; for the adoption of this practice since the year 1815 would undoubtedly, in some degree, though not entirely, account for the difference described.

Our view is from the entrance, and gives a perfect

idea of the general character of these vaults, with the coffins "piled and wedged into the shape of the arches." The light, it will be seen, is artificial, and so disposed as to show the contour of the arches and columns, and the heaps of "narrow houses" of mortality, with the most striking effect. A stratum of clay, lying over the original pavement, conceals the bases, and part of the shafts, of the columns, to the height of about fifteen inches: but the vignettes explain their dimensions when the soil is cleared away, as was done round one of the clusters for the drawing. All the details of these columns are of excellent workmanship, and their forms elegant; and the same observations will apply to the groining, and general masonry, of the vaulting. Yet, though "there *have* been windows (of very small dimensions) originally," the altitude of this crypt, as it does not exceed twelve feet from the pavement to the crown of the arches, is too trifling to encourage the idea that it ever was intended to be otherwise than sepulchral. Its present length corresponds only with that of the modern church above; but the west end being built up with brick-work, gives reason to imagine that its original extent was greater, and that, could it be traced, we should gain a knowledge of the dimensions of the ancient choir. The arches were disposed in three aisles; and in the crown of each is an iron ring, as though intended for the suspension of a lamp. The centre aisle is perfect, so far as it extends; and its perspective view would still gratify by its Gothic grandeur, were it not intercepted by the coffins, which crowd the whole crypt so as barely to permit the passage of the visitor. A melancholy spectacle is exhibited by

Columns in the Crypt





J. R. H. J. Storer del. & Sc.

Crypt, St. John's Church.

the central arch at the west end; into which a number of these last tenements of our mortal nature, which had become decayed and broken, having been *thrown* some years since, to make room for fresh interments, fragments of human remains, disengaged from their original receptacles, are seen promiscuously mingled with the heap. On elevating the light, a headless trunk, entirely free from the case which had once enclosed it, was distinctly visible near the top of the mass.—A correspondent informs the writer, that on an inspection of the vault, about twenty-five years since, by a committee appointed to ascertain what repairs might be needful to the church, much surprise was excited by the appearance of an immense *spider's web,* which, like a vast sheet of dusky drapery, was suspended from the higher coffins and the wall behind, and hung droopingly over those below. It varied from ten to fifteen feet in length, and its breadth, in parts, was scarcely less!—This vault is yet farther remarkable as having, in the year 1762, been the scene of the detection of that infamous imposture upon the public, the *Cock-Lane Ghost:* for assuming to be the spirit of a female buried here, and having incautiously promised to give its supernatural replies from the very coffin of the deceased, the experiment was tried in the presence of various persons assembled for the purpose, when it appeared that no answer could be extracted from the *ghost,* while its earthly agent was precluded by the situation of the listeners from practising the trick by which such numbers had been deceived.

Of the present west front of the church, built by Simon Michell, the accompanying view will afford a

better idea than could be given by any account. It is spoken of by Noorthouck as of "brick, with stone corners;" and Malcolm notices it as of the same material: but it has since been stuccoed. The turret was added in 1813, the vote for its erection having passed the parish vestry by a majority of *one*. The porches, on each side the principal entrance, were added in 1825.

It should be observed, that when Mr. Michell, in 1721, undertook the conversion of the remains of the ancient structure to their present purpose, he found the north aisle part of a *dwelling-house*, and the upper part of the south aisle a *library*. Nor were these the only purposes to which the building had been appropriated, or to which at least it had been thought capable of being put, since its sale by the Aylesbury family in 1706: for an advertisement in a newspaper of March 26th, 1716, contains the following:—"The remains of the once-famous *Abbey* of Clerkenwell, called of late Aylesbury Chapel, is to be sold or let: where (besides the adjoining house, furnished with all conveniences for a boarding-school,) is a gallery, as fit as any whatsoever for a *school-room*, that will hold above two hundred scholars."

The first printed notice the author has discovered of this structure *after* its modern adaptation, is in Seymour's Survey (1735), where it is said, "In *St. John's Court* is a *chapel*, where there are prayers Wednesdays, Fridays, and holidays, and sermons twice every Sunday. It was formerly a priory, and was endowed by Justice Mitchel."

The *rectors* and *lecturers* of St. John's Church have been as follow:—

Rectors.

1723, Rev. Adam Batty, ... died 1738.
1738, — Stephen Aldrich, ... do. 1769.
1770, — Roger Parry, ... do. 1778.
1778, — E. W. Whittaker, ... do. 1788.
1788, — Richard Harrison, ... do. 1793.
1793, — Richard Lendon, .. resigned 1812.
1812, — John Evans, died December, 1813.
1814, — William Elisha Law Faulkner, (elected August 18th).

Lecturers.

1723, Rev. — Scriven, ... died 1736.
1737, — John Fludyer, ... resigned 1747.
1747, — Nowes Lloyd, ... do. 1752.
1752, — Edmund Warneford, ... do. 1758.
1758, — Stephen Aldrich, (rector) do. 1759.
1759, — E. Warneford, (re-appointed) do. 1761.
1761, — Steph. Aldrich, (re-appointed) died 1769.
1770, — Henry Waring, ... resigned 1774.
1774, — Benjamin Simmonds, ... died 1781.
1781, — John Butler Sanders, .. resigned 1789.
1789, — Richd. Harrison, (rector) died 1793.*
*1799, — Rd. Lendon, (rector).... resigned 1814.
1814, — William E. L. Faulkner, (rector) elected October 25th.

* The chasm observable in these dates makes it necessary to explain, that from February 25th, 1794, till October, 1799, the Rev. Richard Lendon, rector, officiated also as Lecturer, without any formal election, but pursuant to a resolution of vestry of the

The church must not be quitted without noticing the information, received from a correspondent since the foregoing description was written, that about the year 1656-7 (as stated in a MS. of that date in possession of the writer), the building was approached by a *gate*, decorated with heraldic bearings, the import of which deserves attention. The MS. speaks of "four coats" as at that period "cut in stone over the gate of the Rt. Honble the Earl of Elgin his chapel, which is within his hous at St. John's near Smithfield;" and describes two of them as containing, respectively, the cross, the well-known ensign of the knights of St. John, and the arms of Prior Docwra, both undoubtedly having been copied from the shields on the great gate. But what is chiefly remarkable is, that the other two coats gave, 1st, the "chevron between three combs," which has been noticed as now appearing in painted glass in the central east window; and 2nd, "the arms of the Earl of Elgin in Scotland," impaling Cecil. Our correspondent takes the chevron and combs "for *Ponsonby:*" and it was before observed that Gwillim gives these arms to *Tunstall*. The fact is, that this coat pertains to both families, with a difference only in the colour of the field, which it is not likely was marked by the sculptor. A slight indication of *sable* round the combs in the glass coat seems to fa-

first-mentioned date, which declared any election (notwithstanding three candidates, the rector included, had been put in nomination) to be "unnecessary." The churchwardens, however, entered a protest against that resolution; and in May, 1797, the vestry rescinded it: and an election taking place, as observed, in October, 1799, the late lecturer, *by a vestry resolution*, became such, being the only candidate, *by election*.

vour the idea that *Tunstall* was there intended: but, on the other hand, the occurrence of this coat in such near connection with that of the Elgin (afterwards the Aylesbury) family, would make it probable that both the sculpture and glass were placed here after the possession of the estate by that family, which brings us beyond the times of *Cuthbert Tunstall*, bishop of London, (and subsequently of Durham), before alluded to. Yet no peerage that the author is acquainted with notices any alliance between the Bruces, earls of Elgin, and the *Ponsonbys*. So that the question to whom these arms were intended to apply, is as uncertain as ever: only the probability that, in the window, they indicate some ecclesiastical connection of the bishop with the edifice, appears shaken by their union with those of Elgin over the gate which the MS. describes.

Adjoining the church, to the north, is a substantial and handsome brick house, approached by a paved court with iron gates, which was for some time the residence of Heaton Wilks, Esq., who was churchwarden in 1776, and died in 1804. He was brother to the celebrated John Wilks, and had here his rectifying-house as a distiller, in which line he engaged extensively. But he must have quitted these premises about 1780, as they were empty from that year till 1783, when we find them occupied by Francis Magniac, Esq., late Lieutenant-Colonel of the Clerkenwell Volunteers, who resided here till 1810. They have since had several tenants; and are now used as a warehouse by Mr. Dove, Printer, who resides, and has his extensive offices, in another part of the Square. It has not certainly appeared by

whom this house was erected: if at any period it was *Aylesbury House,* (as is supposed by some), the character of the building would render it probable that it arose during the last years of the possession of the estate by that noble family. Newcourt mentions it as pertaining to them, but does not state their *occupation* of it. It should be remembered that the estate became theirs in 1629, and was sold by them early in the last century: and that until 1661 at least, the ancient priory buildings, as shewn in Hollar's view, would have afforded them a more extensive and more suitable residence.

Beneath or near the foot-pavement fronting a dwelling (now rebuilding) westward of this house, is a *Well,* which was accidentally broken into some years since, and from which water was formerly obtained within by a pump erected to communicate with it. It is of large diameter, and great depth; and there can be little doubt was used for supplying the Priory.

Adjoining the same dwelling, and at the south-east extremity of Jerusalem Passage, stands the *Finsbury Bank for Savings,* established in the year 1816, and enrolled agreeably to the several Acts of Parliament. This Institution, like the rest of its kind, was formed for the purpose of affording a secure investment by tradesmen, mechanics, labourers, servants, and others, of such small sums of money as they may from time to time find it convenient to deposit, to be returned, in whole or in part, when called for; and to accumulate in the mean time in the nature of compound interest, subject to certain regulations. The principal of which regulations, for this Bank, are :—

1. Deposits of not less than one shilling shall be received, which shall bear interest as soon as they amount to twelve shillings and sixpence, from the first day of every succeeding month. 2. The deposits made by any one depositor, except on behalf of Friendly Societies regularly enrolled, shall not exceed thirty pounds in any year; neither shall the whole amount of such deposits at any time exceed two hundred pounds, exclusive of interest. 3. Deposits shall be received from minors, in the same manner as from persons of adult age. And trustees for minors, married women, or lunatics, may make deposits for the benefit of those for whom they act. 4. No deposits by initials, or numbers, to be on any account allowed: but every depositor, on making a first deposit, shall sign his name, with his trade or profession, and place of abode, in a book kept for the purpose. 5. The interest payable to depositors to be after the rate of four pounds per cent. per ann. 6. The money received to be paid over to the treasurer, in whose hands it shall remain till it amounts to fifty pounds; and as often as that sum has accumulated, it shall be vested in the hands of the commissioners for the reduction of the national debt, in the names of the trustees, agreeably to the provisions of the acts.

The management of the institution is entrusted to six trustees, sixteen directors, a treasurer, and a committee of twenty, chosen annually, and eligible to be re-elected: none of whom are allowed to derive benefit from any deposit therein, nor, directly or indirectly, to receive any salary, profit, or emolument therefrom. They are assisted by an

actuary, and other necessary officers, who are elected annually, at the general meeting of the managers in October, or at any quarterly or special meeting in case of necessity: and all communications between the managers and the depositors must be through the actuary.—One or more of the directors attend at the bank every Monday, from seven to nine o'clock in the evening, to receive deposits; and every Wednesday, during the same hours, to receive notices, and make repayments.

On two sides of the close, formerly called "the little square," facing the church, extends a range of large houses, whose inhabitants at one period were mostly persons of such wealth as to keep their equipages. The offices of Mr. Dove, printer, occupy two of these; and beneath them, and the adjoining house westward, are various arches and fragments of walls, which, from their construction and solidity, there can be no doubt were parts of some more ancient edifice, constructed perhaps from the first ruins of the monastery. Newcourt speaks of these houses, in 1708, as "a pretty area of new brick buildings, lately erected." On the south side of this area, looking east, stands a brick dwelling, in the occupation of Thomas Robins, Esq., which, in the antique style of English building, is surmounted in front by three peaks in the manner of gable ends. It had formerly a garden before it, enclosed by a brick wall: but the garden is destroyed, and a row of smaller houses, with shops, occupies its site, to the exclusion of the former view of the square from the ancient residence. This structure is characterised within by all the massy solidity in the timber-work, &c., which is found to

pervade buildings of its date, and has several highly-decorated cielings in stucco.

The north side of the square should not be quitted without the observation, that the Priory wall, as has been discovered from remains, bounded the court on this side, in a line drawn between the backs of the houses now standing in the square, and those on the south side of Clerkenwell Green. Here, it was pierced only by the smaller postern communicating with the Green, on whose opposite side stood the *Nunnery*. The readiness and privacy of the approach to the latter establishment by the said postern, at a period when the view from that outlet presented no other objects than the Nuns' House and the open country, has not escaped reflection and comment from modern censoriousness. This northern gate was probably of much greater antiquity than the grand south entrance which now remains. It appears from the minute-book of the St. John's Commissioners for Paving, that this gate stood till May, 1780; when a negotiation took place between those Commissioners and the proprietor of the house (then about to be rebuilt) at the south-west corner of Jerusalem Passage, for improving that passage, in consequence of which it was demolished. From a plan of the ground accompanying the minutes, the southward portion of the present passage appears to have been crossed by two distinct arches or gates; the inner of which, or that next the square, is described as ten feet seven inches high, and ten feet six inches wide; and the outer, as eight feet high, five feet six inches wide, and the wall three feet six inches thick. The gates seem to have been about

eighteen feet asunder, and to have had a covered way between them.

South of the ancient house lately mentioned as occupied by Mr. Robins, and nearly adjoining it, is one deserving more than common notice, from its having been the known residence of that celebrated prelate, Dr. Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury. Our view of this house represents it as it appeared in 1817; since when it has lost a portion of the antique character it till then possessed, by the transformation of the southernmost bay window into one of the now common form. Before this alteration was made, the front differed much from the appearance it wore when the bishop inhabited it: the bay windows, full of small latticed frames, having originally run from bottom to top. Besides, the house having been let to two occupants, a door for each had been constructed on either side of what was the bishop's entrance; which latter had been converted into an archway leading to the court of small tenements, (called *Ledbury Place*), built behind on the site of the garden. It is also not improbable that the episcopal mansion included those antique premises now occupied by Mr. Robins. The present residents of the building represented, are, Mr. Baylis, Surgeon and Apothecary, and Mr. Penry, Parish Clerk of St. James's. Each division contains eight capacious apartments, besides roomy cellars. At the back of Mr. Penry's premises is a leaden *Cistern*, with the initials A. B. M., and the date 1682; from which it would appear to have belonged to the occupant preceding the Bishop, as the latter did not enter upon his prelacy till 1689.—The just



J & H S Storer del & sc

Bishop Burnet's House

St John's Square



Lady Owen's Free Grammar School.

celebrity of the name of Burnet, and the deserved estimation in which it is still held, will make apology unnecessary for the following biographical account.

This eminent divine was born at Edinburgh, Sept. 11th, 1643; and received the first rudiments of his education from his father, under whose care he made so quick a progress, that, at ten years of age, he perfectly understood the Latin tongue. He was then sent to the college of Aberdeen, and, at scarcely fourteen, commenced master of arts. At eighteen, he was put upon his trial as a probationer, or expectant preacher, at the same time being offered the presentation to a very good benefice, by his cousin-german, Sir Alexander Burnet; but, thinking himself too young for the cure of souls, he modestly declined it. In 1663, about two years after his father's death, he came to England, and visited the two universities, and at Oxford was particularly caressed. Returning to Scotland, he declined accepting the living of Saltoun, offered him by Sir Robert Fletcher, of that place, resolving to travel for some time on the continent. Afterwards, in 1665, he was ordained a priest by the Bishop of Edinburgh, and presented by Sir Robert Fletcher to the same living, it having been kept vacant during his absence. Here he soon gained the affections of the whole parish, not excepting the presbyterians, though he was the only clergyman in Scotland who made use of the liturgy of the Church of England. In 1669, he was made professor of divinity at Glasgow, and in this situation continued upwards of four years, exposed, through his principles of moderation, to the censure both of the episcopal and presbyterian

parties. He was now offered a Scotch bishopric, but refused it. Soon after, he married the Lady Margaret Kennedy, daughter of the Earl of Cassilis. In 1672, he published his "Vindication of the Authority, Constitution, and Laws of the Church and State of Scotland," against the principles of Buchanan and others; which was thought, at that juncture, such a public service, that he was again courted to accept of a bishopric, with a promise of the next vacant archbishopric: yet he persisted in his refusal of this high dignity. But the Duke of Lauderdale representing him as the cause and instrument of all the opposition the measures of the government had met with in the Scotch parliament, he lost the favour of the court; and to avoid his enemies, (in Scotland), resigned the professor's chair at Glasgow, and settled in London, being then about thirty years of age. Here it was not long before he was offered the living of St. Giles, Cripplegate; but he declined accepting it upon hearing that it had been first intended for Dr. Fowler, afterwards Bishop of Gloucester. In 1675, notwithstanding the interposition of the court, he was appointed preacher at the Rolls Chapel, by Sir Harbottle Grimstone, Master of the Rolls, and was afterwards chosen Lecturer of St. Clement's. About 1676, people's apprehensions of popery increasing daily, he undertook to write the "History of the Reformation of the Church of England," undoubtedly his greatest work, and which procured its author an honour never before or since paid to any writer, namely, the thanks of both houses of parliament. In 1682 he published an Abridgment of this History; in the

same year, his "Life of Sir Matthew Hale;" and in 1680, an "Account of the Life and Death of the Earl of Rochester," pronounced by Dr. Johnson to be a book, "which the critic ought to read for its elegance, the philosopher for its arguments, and the saint for its piety."

During the affair of the popish plot, Dr. Burnet was often consulted by king Charles upon the state of the nation; and, about the same time, refused the vacant bishopric of Chester, which his majesty offered him, "provided he would entirely come into his interest." In 1683 he again went to Paris. In the year following, the tide of feeling at home had so turned, and the resentment of the court against him was so great, that he was discharged from the lectureship of St. Clement's, by virtue of the king's mandate to Dr. Hascard, rector of that parish; and, in December of the same year, by an order from the Lord Keeper North to Sir Harbottle Grimstone, he was forbidden to preach at the Rolls Chapel. Upon the death of King Charles, and the accession of James II., having obtained leave to quit the kingdom, he went first to Paris, where he lived in great retirement, and afterwards travelled to various countries of the continent. A prosecution for high treason was commenced against him; and being then in Holland, and the States refusing to give him up, designs were laid of seizing his person, and even, it is said, against his life. About this time he married Mrs. Mary Scott, a Dutch lady of large fortune and noble extraction.

In the whole conduct of the Revolution of 1688, Dr. Burnet had an important share; and when the

Prince of Orange undertook his expedition to England, he accompanied him as chaplain. The Prince had not been many days on the throne as William III., before he most properly advanced so valuable a friend and follower to the see of Salisbury: the most remarkable part of this transaction being, that, with his accustomed disinterestedness and simplicity as to worldly affairs, the Doctor had just solicited the conference of that see upon another divine. He was consecrated March 31st, 1689. In 1698, having lost his second wife by the small pox, the tender age of his children induced him to enter into a third marriage with Mrs. Berkley. He lived till the last year of the reign of Anne, as his decease took place on the 17th of March, 1714-15, in the seventy-third year of his age.

His character has been variously estimated, according to the religious or party views of those who have sat in judgment upon it. One thing is certain, that it was impartial, straight-forward, and disinterested to a degree; his whole existence affording evidence of the fact. There can be no greater proof of a man's possessing these qualities, than (if he appears in public life) his being alternately blamed and praised, caressed and persecuted, by those who, with the world in general, are right or wrong by policy or accident much rather than by principle, and whom he therefore treats, without favour or affection, simply as they appear to him to deserve.—Nothing but a national revolution, and that entirely accordant with his own religious and political opinions, could have elevated such a man as Burnet to a bishopric.—As to his episcopal revenue, he looked upon himself

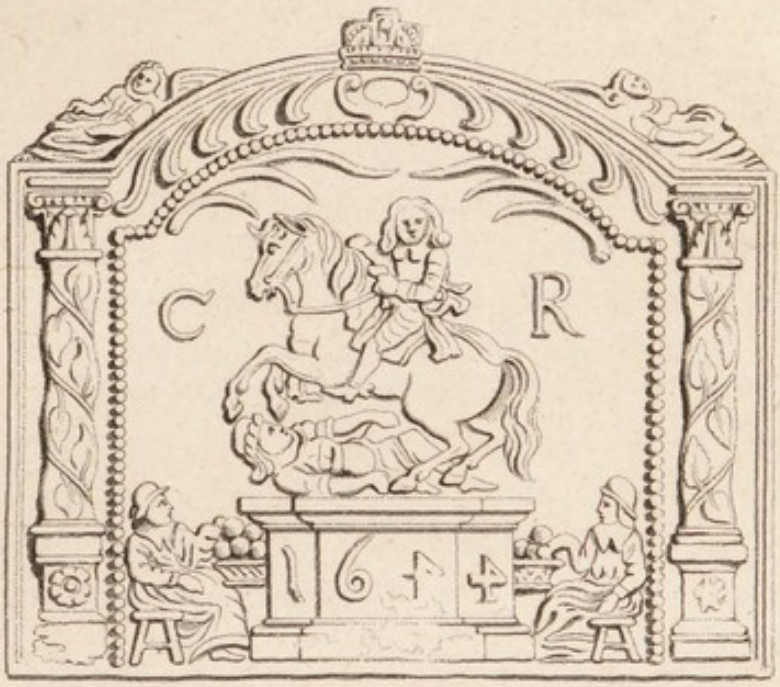
as a mere trustee for the church, bound to expend the whole in a decent maintenance of his station, and in acts of beneficence and hospitality: and so faithfully had he balanced this account, that, at his death, no more of the income of his bishopric remained to his family, than was barely sufficient to pay his debts. As if to shew the reward of such men from the vulgar many who are sectarian or party-led, and that he who through good and evil conduct will side with none, is likely to be persecuted in turns by all, his interment was treated in the manner related in the following extract from a newspaper of the month in which he died:—

"Last Tuesday night, (March 22nd), the body of that great and good man, the late Dr. Burnet, Bishop of Sarum, was interred near the communion-table in Clerkenwell Church, to which he was carried in a hearse, attended by mourning coaches, from his house in St. John's Square. The pall was supported by his worthy successor in the see of Sarum, the Bishop of Oxford, and by the Bishops of Ely, Norwich, Lincoln, Litchfield and Coventry, and Bangor. As the corpse was conveying to the church, the rabble (that shews no distinction to men of great parts and learning, when once they conceive an ill opinion of them) *flung dirt and stones at the hearse, and broke the glasses of the coach that immediately followed it!*"—To narrate such an occurrence as this is all-sufficient: it may be safely entrusted to the reader's comments.

From 1743 to 1746, the *Rev. Gilbert Burnet* was Curate of St. James, Clerkenwell. He was born in Scotland, like the bishop: but it is believed there

was no relationship between the families. Lineal descendants for some years resided, (and may still reside) at Chigwell, Essex: and in 1811, a *Mrs. Mary Burnet*, who died upwards of eighty years of age at that place, was brought for interment to the Bishop's vault in St. James's church.

In that part of the Bishop's residence now occupied by Mr. Baylis, is a *Cistern*, less antique than that before mentioned, and appearing from the date 1721, and the initial G, with the mitre, to have been re-cast, as though in memory of its having been her late husband's, by direction of his widow. In this part also of the former mansion is a more curious object, (represented by an engraving), which was discovered by Mr. Baylis a few years back, on the removal of a stove from one of the upper rooms by his order. This is a *Bass-relief of Charles I.*, in iron, with the date 1644, which formed the back of the stove spoken of, but which having, from political views perhaps, long had its face reversed, was not known to differ from the stove-backs in common use until this removal. It represents the king as triumphant, riding over a prostrate female figure, emblematical, probably, of faction; while the pillar on each side is entwined with bay-leaves, and a scroll of palm branches, the royal crown, and two other recumbent females, decorate the top. In the field of the device are the letters C. R.; and below are two women, seated on low stools, with baskets of fruit before them, who, by their habiliments, attitudes, and *tout-ensemble*, so forcibly recal our ideas of the *apple-women* that take post in the streets, that it is seriously supposed they were in-



Bafs-relief of Charles I.st

J & H S Storer delt & sculp.



St John's Gate.

tended to resemble them. In short, it is imagined that this whole device is allegorical of the complexion of affairs, agreeably to the sanguine views of the royalists, at the date of its execution; and that the women at the fruit-stalls are actually meant to typify that female band, who, in August of the preceding year, went up with a petition for *peace* to the Commons at Westminster. This petition purported to come from "many *civilly-disposed* women inhabiting the cities of London and Westminster, the Suburbs, and parts adjacent;" and Clarendon says that it was carried up "by a great multitude of the wives of substantial citizens;" but Rushworth, with more probability, describes them as "about two or three thousand of the meaner sort of women, with white ribbons in their hats." The Commons returned for answer, that "they were not enemies to peace, and that they did not doubt in a short time to answer the ends of their Petition." This reply not being satisfactory to the civilly-disposed ladies, they continued to beset the House, and by noon their numbers had increased to about 5,000, among whom were many men in women's apparel; by whose instigation they cried out, "Give us those traitors that are against peace, that we may tear them to pieces! give us that dog, Pym!" The trained bands were then ordered to disperse them; but meeting with resistance, and being opposed with stones and brickbats, they fired, when several were killed and wounded, and the rest dispersed. Whether or not this Bass-relief were really intended to be emblematical of this curious historical event, there can be no question of its being a work of the date it records; but which the sub-

sequent captivity and death of Charles rendering imprudent to display, it was concealed in the manner described, and thus remained until its late accidental discovery.

Another resident of some celebrity in St. John's Square, was the Rev. Sir George Booth, Bart., of the family of the Booths, Barons Delamere, and Earls of Warrington. He was rector of Ashton-under-Line, and died, without issue, at an advanced age, at Cotterstock Hall, his seat in Northamptonshire, in November, 1797. Sir George was one of the magistrates for the county of Middlesex, but seldom took his seat on the bench. Indeed, his chief friendships and acquaintances were avowedly with his inferiors in rank; and it was his boast that he had never been at court but once. The places where he was most commonly to be found, were the neighbouring tavern at the gate, and the Rose and Crown, Bartholomew Close;—the fittest of retirements, according to the sentiments he was ever ready to express, for a branch of a noble family, a baronet, a magistrate, and a clergyman!

We will quit St. John's Square with the observation, that the southward direction of the wall of the ancient precinct, from the line in rear of Clerkenwell Green to which we traced it, has been ascertained, through various discoveries, to have been between the existing square and Red Lion Street, and to have formed an angle at its meeting with that portion which ran westward from the south gate.

Entering St. John's Lane by the Gate, we observe Berkeley Street on the right, so named from its having once contained the residence of Sir

Maurice Berkeley, standard-bearer to Henry VIII., Edward VI., and Queen Elizabeth, a descendant from the ancient Barons Berkeley, of Berkeley Castle, Gloucestershire. His wife, the Lady Elizabeth Berkeley, one of the ladies of the queen's bed-chamber, died at this house in 1585, and was buried in the old church of St. James, as will be noticed in our description of that structure. In the parish register of *burials* occurs the following entry, relating to a descendant from Sir Maurice:—"1658. Aug. 10. George Lord Berkeley died at his house in St. John's, and was buried the 13, at Cranford, in the county of Middlesex, leaving issue George Lord Berkeley, his only son and heire." And in the *baptisms*, this: "1663. June 1. James, third son of the Right Hon. George Lord Berkeley." The last-mentioned Lord Berkeley was the thirteenth *baron*, and first *earl*, of that name: for, having manifested his loyalty to Charles II., he was advanced to the titles of Viscount Dursley, and Earl of Berkeley, 11th September, 1679. March 16th, 1681, his lordship was waited upon at this house by Dean (afterwards archbishop) Tillotson, and several other divines of eminence, with their thanks for a handsome gift of books to Sion College Library. The fifth earl deceased in 1810: but the title, it is well known, is not enjoyed by the *eldest* son, William Fitzhardinge Berkeley, Esq., of such celebrity as *Colonel* Berkeley; his claim having been disallowed by the House of Lords, (before whom the question was formally tried a few years back) through his inability to prove the marriage of the late earl with his mother prior to his own birth.

Opposite Berkeley Street, on the the east side of St. John's Lane, stands an old roomy house, now in the occupation of Messrs. Cooper, dealers in Sheffield and Birmingham wares, of which an absurd tradition speaks as the former residence of the Priors of St. John. Were even this building of so remote a date, as such a tradition, to be correct, would render necessary, the extreme improbability that the superior of the hospital would reside *without* the grand gate of his establishment, while a series of appropriate and stately structures graced its interior, must be apparent. A circumstance which occurred, however, so lately as November, 1826, seems to establish the probability that, *previously to* 1381, when the hospital was destroyed by Wat Tyler, its buildings extended southward beyond the present Gate. In excavating the ground on the east side of St. John's Lane, for the purpose of making a new opening into the sewer beneath, the workmen came to a wall, between four and five feet thick, which crossed the lane from east to west, and, there can be little doubt, both from its situation and strength, formed part of the original erection of the hospitalers. This idea receives confirmation also from the discovery of a similar wall in digging out the ground for the foundations of the houses now building in *Albion Place*, (formerly George Court), the direction of which appeared to be north and south.

On the same side of the lane with Messrs. Cooper's premises, but farther south, is a house which has many years borne the name of the *Baptist's Head*, and was once distinguished by a painted sign of St. John's head in the charger. This house,

whose exterior appearance has been completely renovated, was formerly characterized by the projecting fronts to its several floors, and the grotesque ornaments, and large bay windows, that spoke its erection in the reign of Elizabeth. The windows were also decorated with painted glass: and the old houses in St. John's Street, before mentioned, united with this. In fact, here was the principal front to the mansion of Sir Thomas Forster, Knt., one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas, who died May 18th, 1612, in the 63rd year of his age, and was from hence conveyed for interment to Hunsdon, in Northumberland, the burial-place of his ancestors. The antique ribbed wainscotting of the rooms remained, until about six years since, in consonance with the original character of the exterior; but its complete decay then rendered it absolutely necessary to remove all but a few fragments. But there is yet to be seen a curiously-carved stone mantelpiece, represented in our plate, the arms in the centre of which point to their probable execution during the life of the judge. They are, (or more properly, perhaps, were, before worn by time, and disfigured by the coats of paint that now cover them), quarterly 1st and 4th, argent, a chevron vert, between three bugle-horns sable; 2nd and 3rd, argent, on a bend cottised sable, three martlets or: impaling argent, a bend engrailed sable, for the family of Radclyffe, with which that of Forster intermarried, the crescent being introduced as the filial distinction of a second house. The buck at one end, was the original crest of the Forsters: the Talbot's head at the other, with the crescent, might be that of this branch of the

Radclyffes. What can be collected of the family history of the judge, is as follows :—

The uncle of Sir Thomas Forster was gentleman-usher to Queen Mary, and he was himself second-cousin to Sir John Forster, Knt., Warden of the Middle Marches, who married Jane, daughter of Sir Cuthbert Radclyffe, of Dilston and Derwentwater, and died in 1602. Nicholas Forster, son to Sir John by a second wife, married Jane, daughter of Cuthbert Radclyffe, of Blanchland; which Cuthbert was the eldest son of Anthony, who was the *second* son of Sir Cuthbert above mentioned, whence the *crescent* on the coat of this family, as before noticed. Though it is not certainly known whom Sir Thomas Forster married, it was in all probability a Radclyffe, and of this junior branch.—A correspondent, however, suggests that the intermarriage was with the Forsters of *Sussex*, who bore argent, on a bend engrailed sable three bucks heads cabossed or. And it is fair to state, that there are some seeming traces of figures on the bend supposed for Radclyffe, which *may* have been bucks' heads: neither should it be forgotten, that the Talbot's head was the crest of the Sussex Forsters.—The present crest of the Northumberland family is not a buck, but an arm embowed, holding the truncheon of a broken spear: which might perhaps have been given to Sir John Forster when he was made a knight-banneret, for his valour in defeating the Scots at Musselburgh; or else granted to his grandson, Sir Claudius, son of Nicholas Forster, when created a baronet in 1619 by James I.

Since this house has been adapted to its present

purposes, it is said to have been sometimes visited by Dr. Johnson, when going to or returning from Edward Cave's printing-office at the Gate; and Oliver Goldsmith is believed to have made more frequent calls, when business of a similar nature led him to the same spot. In later years, it became the refreshing-house of the culprits conveying to the new prison in this parish; a circumstance commemorated by a print, by Dodd, in the Old Bailey Register. On the wall of the tap room is a picture of a Dutch fair, said to have been painted by Hemskerk: but the colours have become, through time and neglect, nearly one universal shade.

Nearer the termination of the Lane, on the same side, we observe another house of public entertainment, called the *White Swan,* the front of which also has been renewed, but anciently had numerous bay-windows, and was decorated besides with carving, fanciful, and not inelegant. No. 5, on the opposite side, was formerly the *Green Man,* and shows marks of antiquity within. Lastly, we reach the *Old Queen's Head,* standing at the south-west corner of the Lane, (but just *without* the parish) and bearing an inscription, cut in stone, on its front, informing us that "Opposite this place Hicks's Hall formerly stood." This front too is the successor of one much more ancient, which projected at each successive story, and exhibited, amongst other ornaments, in stone carving, a head of Queen Elizabeth, and a large coat of arms with the date 1595.—For the stone effigy of "good Queen Bess," we have now a gaily-painted sign of the late *Queen Caroline.*

Route II.

FROM ST. JOHN'S LANE, BY ALBION PLACE, PASSING THE SOUTH END OF RED-LION STREET, (AND CROSSING A PART OF THE PARISH OF ST. SEPULCHRE), TO TURNMILL STREET: FROM THENCE TO THE SESSIONS-HOUSE, CLERKENWELL GREEN, ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, AND CLERKENWELL CLOSE.

Albion Place, it was noticed, was till of late years known by the name of *George's Court*. The greater part of this avenue has been rebuilt, in a neat style, since 1822; and several houses are now in progress.

Red-Lion Street is observed from its south end to be of considerable length, and sufficient width, and consisting of very good houses. It was principally built by Simon Michell, Esq., who, in renovating St. John's Church, had an eye chiefly to accommodating the inhabitants of this street, and the immediate neighbourhood, with a place of worship distinct from the parochial church of St. James. A house at the north end bears the date 1719. At the other extremity, until within a century past, stood an antique dwelling, traditionally said to have been a dairy-farm belonging to the knights of St. John. On the east side, towards Clerkenwell Green, appears a large and handsome mansion, now divided between three occupants, which was Mr. Michell's residence, and in which he died. This house was afterwards occupied by a Mr. Wildman, of sporting celebrity, and owner of the famous horse Eclipse.* It had a

* The history of this celebrated horse has no parallel in the annals of English sporting. He was bred by the Duke of Cumberland, (hero of Culloden), and named from having been foaled during the "great eclipse." When a yearling, he was disposed of by auction, with the rest of the stud; and was then purchased by Mr.

large garden in rear, attached to it by Mr. Michell; but an iron foundry now occupies the site. Dr. Trusler, the celebrated chronologist, and "wholesale dealer in compilations," also for a time resided in this street*: as did, more latterly, an Armenian Jew, named Simons, by profession a diamond merchant, and at one period the owner of wealth; estimated to exceed £200,000.; but who, by the union of extreme dissoluteness in his own person with the most extravagant habits in a depraved son, was eventually so reduced as to die in the parish workhouse.

It is to be observed, that all the houses on both sides, and at the south end, of Red Lion Street, with

Wildman for forty-six guineas. At four or five years old, Mr. W. sold him, *for seventeen hundred guineas*, to Colonel Dennis O'Kelly, who amassed so large a fortune by gambling and the turf. For the colonel he won the king's plates and every thing he ran for, until the death of his owner, who deemed him so valuable as to ensure his life for several thousand pounds. He bequeathed him to his brother, Philip O'Kelly, Esq. Eclipse survived his old master little more than a year, and died in February, 1789, in the 26th year of his age. He won more matches than any other race-horse ever known, and never was beaten. His speed has been *anatomically* accounted for by Mr. Joshua Brookes, who, in a zoological lecture delivered in April of the present year, demonstrated that his muscles were of unparalleled size, and rather those of a cart-horse than a racer. And Mr. St. Bel, Professor of the Veterinary College of London, in a work published in 1791, "On the Proportions of *Eclipse*," calculated that this unrivalled animal could cover an extent of twenty-five feet at each complete action on the gallop, and could repeat this action twice and one-third in each second of time: consequently, on a straight line, he could run nearly four miles in the space of six minutes and four seconds. What may be thought to add to the remarkable in Eclipse is, that though the mechanism of his frame, for strength and speed, was almost perfect, he was neither handsome to the eye, nor did his proportions agree with the standard of a well-formed horse, according to the best judges, in scarcely a single particular.

* He died at his villa, Bathwick, aged eighty-five, in 1820.

the gardens belonging to them, and several of those contiguous in Berkeley Street and Albion Place,—that is to say, extending, for the most part, from the west wall of the ancient hospital court nearly to Turnmill Street,—occupy what was formerly an open plot of ground belonging to the Hospital, and which was subsequently called *Bocher*, or *Butt Close*, and, afterwards, *Garden Alleys*. It has been conjectured, from the vicinity of this plot to Cow-Cross and Smithfield Market, that *Bocher Close* is no other than a corruption from *Butcher's Close*, and that it was for some time used either for the slaughtering or turning out of cattle. Of the same plot, and another adjoining it on the north side of the hospital precinct, and extending from the wall on that side to the south line of the present Clerkenwell Green, the following particulars are communicated by a resident antiquary:—

30th Oct. 1591, (15 Eliz.) By letters patent enrolled in Chancery, was granted to Edward Grimstone, jun., and Richard Strode, and their heirs, together with lands in Plympton, Devon, all that whole close of land called *Bocher Close*, alias *Butt Close*, in the parish of Clerkenwell, on the west part of the site of the priory or hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, then lately dissolved and converted into several gardens, containing by estimation three acres, to hold the same of the queen and her successors, as of the manor of East Greenwich, by fealty only in free soccage. 16th November following, the said close was conveyed to Thomas Seckford, Esq., of Ipswich, and his heirs: and in the 32nd Elizabeth, on Mr. Seckford's death, his executors sold it for the payment of his debts.

27th June, 35 Eliz. By a deed enrolled in Chancery, it appears that Queen Elizabeth, by her letters patent, dated 15th November, thirty-first year of her reign, had granted to Sir Edward Stanley, and his heirs, a parcel of land encroached at Clerkenwell Green, *as it was inclosed with a wall, containing in length two hundred feet and in breadth thirty feet,** then in the possession of the Countess of Derby, and all those buildings adjoining upon the walls which compassed the Queen's house there called St. John's, (the dissolved hospital) and upon *Butters Garden,* containing in length fifty-eight feet and in breadth two feet, encroached out of the Queen's waste soil there then in the tenure of Henry Seckford.

By a deed of 31st August, 37th of Eliz., Sir Edward Stanley granted to John Ballett, all his messuages, tenements, and hereditaments, in the parish of St. James at Clerkenwell, or in the places called *St. James at Clerkenwell* and *St. John Middlesex.* This estate remained in the family of the Balletts till 1703, when it was sold, agreeably to the will of John Ballett, Esq., and divided among his children, and an act of Parliament obtained to carry the trust into execution: it is described as consisting of eighty messuages and sixty gardens.

The trustees, in 1705, sold a part of the estate to Marshal and Palmer, on which four houses are built on Clerkenwell Green, and two houses behind, which now form part of the east side of Red Lion Street.

* Supposed to extend from the west end of Aylesbury Street to the four brick houses on Clerkenwell Green afterwards mentioned. Therefore, if thirty feet be measured towards St. John's Square from the south front line of Clerkenwell Green, it will give the line of the hospital *north* wall.

In 1715, the trustees conveyed to Simon Michell five several messuages fronting Clerkenwell Green north, and standing together in a row, whereof one is a brick messuage,* and stands eastward of the said other messuages, and is the corner house on the west side of a street or passage there, called *Garden Alleys*, and also *Bochers Close*, alias *Butts Close*, then or lately called *Garden Alleys* or *Round Court*, containing five acres—and on which it appears were then twenty-eight houses.

We traverse a small part of the parish of St. Sepulchre, in proceeding from Red Lion Street, by Benjamin and Cow-Cross Streets, to Turnmill Street. Clerkenwell commences with the latter at the house No. 1, west side; but on the opposite side of the way at No. 79, which is considerably more northward. The initial letters of St. James Clerkenwell, on small iron plates, with the dates 1731 and 1783, distinguish these houses. In this street are many ancient dwellings, disguised, for the most part, by modern repairs; dwellings, which formerly, it is probable, were tenanted by a higher class than their present occupants. The existing features of Turnmill Street are not inviting: and of certain courts and alleys which the passenger observes to diverge from it, it is not too much to say that they

* In the occupation of Ralph Kingston, a coffee-man, and is the same house now occupied by Mr. Mendham, wine-merchant, as No. 1, Red Lion Street. It was many years known as the Red Lion Tavern, and afterwards as the Jerusalem Tavern; and from this circumstance Mr. M.'s *full quart bottles* are locally known by the name of *Jerusalem bottles*.—This house was also occupied for a considerable period by the Haughton family, who removed to it fromt he site of the present charity school in Aylesbury Street, and they are still the ground landlords of both.

may vie with St. Giles's. Yet even here, the lover of topographical researches will find things worthy his brief regard.

A *Well* in the immediate vicinity, (that is to say, in Cow-Cross Street) which was covered over about sixty years since, may be reasonably supposed to have been "*Fag's Well, near Smithfield,*" spoken of by Stow. Occupying the centre of the highway, and its aperture being but ill secured, it had become dangerous from the increase of traffic; and the general adoption of Scotch Paving for carriage-ways about the period spoken of, became the occasion of closing the view of this ancient fountain from the public for ever.

Taking the line of Turnmill Street, from its commencement, to Clerkenwell Green, we may observe various initials and dates on the houses right and left: anciently, it is likely, they were much more numerous. In the fronts of some others are inserted plain tablets, with inscriptions purporting that they are gifts to the parish from several benevolent persons, whose names were recorded in our account of the parochial estates, &c. And on a stone tablet, in a brick border, inserted in the centre between two houses standing behind the Sessions House, we read the following:—

These Two Houses
As also another Free-Hold
of several Houses in Vine street
were given to the *Charity School*
of St. James at Clerkenwell for ever
By Thomas Crosse Esqr.
Who in his lifetime was a most loving Patron
and liberal Benefactor to the Poor Children
belonging to the said Charity School and took
Particular delight in hearing them Examined

in the Principles of the Church of England
They were Rebuilt out of ye stock of the
Charity School Anno 1719 *By order of ye Trustees*
Henry Hankin Treasurer
The Righteous shall be had in Everlasting Remembrance
Psalm 112. V. 6.

The streets extending westward of Turnmill Street to the parochial boundary, (which is the course of the Fleet), are of mean character, and possess no topographical interest. We pass, therefore, to a description of the SESSIONS HOUSE.

The origin of this building was narrated in our account of *Hicks's Hall,* to the purposes of which it succeeded. In it are held all the General and Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the county of Middlesex, including the meetings of the Magistrates to discuss the affairs of the county coming under their cognizance, such as the state of the gaols, the assessment of the county-rate, &c., which latter is levied upon property in Middlesex now estimated at 4,900,000*l.* To the legal proceedings under this roof, the public, of course, have admittance; but the meetings upon general affairs are held with closed doors, although such, it is known, was not the practice thirty years ago, and though the origin of the existing custom is unaccounted for.

The edifice was erected at the expense of about 13,000*l.*, of which 2,000*l.* were paid for the plot of freehold ground on which it stands. The front is of stone, executed upon an elegant design, comprising a rusticated basement, from which rise four central Ionic pillars, and two pilasters, to support an architrave, frieze, and cornice, together with a pediment. The arched entrance, in the centre of the basement,

is approached by six steps; and two windows, of corresponding form, range with it on each side. Of the five upper windows, three are arched, and two flat: above the latter are Justice and Mercy in relief, while the former are surmounted by fasces, swords, &c., with a medallion of George III. in the centre. In the tympanum is a shield of the county arms; and the dome of the hall rises over the whole. The sides, and rear, being of brick, make but a plain appearance, though the former have each a projecting centre and pediment. But, viewed from the Green, the whole building, the front excepted, derives a singularly heavy aspect from being built *down* the slope of the eminence on which the spectator stands: owing to this circumstance, it actually appears to be sinking into the earth. Had it graced the side of an *ascent* instead, the effect at a little distance would have been imposing. The entire edifice extends 110 feet from east to west, and 78 from north to south.

The *Hall* is 34 feet square, and terminates at top in a circular dome, enlightened by eight circular and three semicircular windows. The dome is pannelled in stucco; and the spandrils under it are decorated with medallions and oak leaves. The sides have pilasters of the composite order, surmounted by an entablature, the frieze of which is ornamented with foliage, and medallions of the caduceus of Mercury and Roman fasces. From the hall a double flight of steps leads to the *Court*, the entrance to which is between two Composite columns, and beneath the royal arms, placed in one of the semicircular apertures. It is in the form of the letter D. The *bench* is somewhat narrow and

undignified; but auditors are accommodated with roomy galleries running nearly round. The apartments on each side and above the vestibule are appropriated to the various meetings of the magistrates, grand jury, and commissioners of land and assessed taxes. They contain little remarkable, more than an original portrait of Sir Baptist Hicks, brought from the dining-room of the old hall in St. John's Street; a copy of the same picture; a mantle-piece, also removed from the former building; and two other whole-length portraits, namely, of the late Duke of Northumberland, who was Lord Lieutenant of the county when the edifice was completed, and W. Mainwaring, Esq., late Chairman. In rear, on the ground floor, are the offices of the County Treasurer and Clerk of the Peace.

It has been more than once of late a subject of observation in the daily journals, that, in this court, defendants, who are *acquitted*, are placed in a much worse situation, in a pecuniary light, than if *found guilty*. In a recent case of assault, the trial being over, "Wilson, an officer of the court, went up to defendant, and said, 'You must pay me 1*l*. 12*s*. 4*d*.' —Prisoner: 'What for?'—Wilson: '*For being acquitted!*'" It is true, the Chairman often, from humane feelings, recommends to the jury to find defendants guilty, that he may be enabled to levy a fine of *one shilling*, and discharge the party; and it is equally true, that the Clerk of the Peace frequently, from motives as creditable to himself, waves his extreme dues. But the question may be justly asked—ought the Chairman to be so situated, as to be led to brand an innocent man with guilt, in order to enable

him to escape the consequences of innocence?—or ought the remuneration of the Clerk of the Peace to be so derived, that he must do an act of injustice to his own allowed rights, in order to acquit his conscience of the duties he owes to common equity and humanity?

Ascending the Green from the Sessions-House, we notice on the left a low but wide brick house, with coigns also of brick, and surmounted by a pediment, part of which is now the *Northumberland Arms* public-house and wine-vaults, and the rest in the occupation of a boot and shoe-maker. This was originally the *Welsh Charity-School,* erected in 1737 by the "Society of Ancient Britons," but removed in 1772 to Gray's Inn Road. While in the hands of that Society, the building had a niche in the upper centre, (since converted into a window) with a figure of one of the youthful objects of the charity. The tympanum of the pediment bears a painting of the Northumberland Arms, with allegorical representations of Justice, &c.

From the north side of Clerkenwell Green, is the principal approach to *St. James's Church,* the building occupying the site of that attached to the ancient Nunnery. A description of the former and present edifices will here properly occur.

Aggas's plan of London, taken in the reign of Elizabeth, (anno 1563) shews the wall of the Nunnery precinct to have been then standing; and that it extended wholly from the north side of the church, enclosing two distinct courts, of irregular but lozenge-like form, the smallest and easternmost of which would appear from traditionary accounts to

have been the cemetery. It thus furnishes us with a conception of the locality and extent of the Nuns' establishment; while it establishes the position of the church with regard to the other Nunnery buildings. The outline it gives of the sacred edifice, affords also, perhaps, a tolerably faithful resemblance of it; shewing it to have consisted of a low body and chancel, with a massy square tower (surmounted by a little turret and cross) projecting from the centre of the south side. This is the tower which fell in 1623, "having stood time out of mind without any reparation." As to the "great isle," which Stow speaks of as having fallen before his time, (1598), it stood north of the chancel, and therefore could not have come into Aggas's view, even if it had existed at the date of his plan, which it probably did not.* It remains to describe the ancient structure, as it appeared just prior to its demolition in 1787, and to narrate every interesting particular connected with its removal, before entering upon our description of the present church.

The low heavy tower then standing, was that a *second* time rebuilt after the fall in 1623, and which, four years from the first disaster, was raised as high as the roof of the church, "leaving then much to do." Of the precise period of its completion, we are not informed: only Newcourt, in 1708, spoke of it as finished "of late years;" and Seymour's Survey, written in 1735, describes it as "all of brick, built with battlements, coped with stone." It was then also, as when Noorthouck wrote in 1773,

* See Ecclesiastical History, p. 76.

"crowned with a turret," the same which is seen in our view: but the battlements, during some later reparation, had been removed. The tower buttresses will be observed to have been remarkably heavy and unsightly. The general composition of the exterior was rough stone, repaired with brick; but this incongruity of materials was for the most part hidden by a coat of plaster. On the south side, the line of houses which extends from Clerkenwell Green abutted upon the building, leaving a passage beneath them from the church-yard to the tower entrance. Against the north side of the body, or ancient nave, which ran westward nearly to the present Close, and, as in Weever's time, was called the "old vestry," stood one side of the Nuns' cloister, or ambulatory: while the chancel extended four feet further to the eastward than the present church, and, consequently, the houses still standing in the church-yard (and which, though much altered, bear the date 1681), adjoined the end of the south aisle.

The second fall of the steeple in the seventeenth century, it must be remembered, occasioned the destruction of part of the south aisle, with "whatsoever was under or near it," including, no doubt, the entire west end of the chancel. To remedy which, on the rebuilding, a kind of transept was run between the remaining parts of the chancel and aisle and the tower; the projection of this transept, on the south side, being not so much as six feet, and on the north, not more than fifteen. It therefore made very little appearance within, though it had a separate cross roof from north to south, and in the exterior

view was rendered striking by its gable ends, one of which is just seen over the houses in our engraving.

Seymour's Survey gives the different dimensions of the structure; but very incorrectly, as the author found on reference to the ground-plan executed by the architect of the present church, with the loan of which he was kindly favoured by his son, who resides in Albemarle Street. The actual dimensions were these :—length of the chancel, and ditto of south aisle, within the walls, 80 feet; length of the nave (or old vestry), 69 feet 2 inches; space between the nave and chancel, 20 feet 9 inches; whole length, 170 feet nearly; breadth of the chancel and south aisle, 45 feet 10 inches; breadth of the nave, 22 feet; length of the transept, 67 feet. The height of the church, if truly stated by Seymour, was only 34 feet; and that of the tower, turret included, 80 feet. As to the general "ornament and finishing," the same writer says: "the walls are lined with oak of different height; that round the communion table is about nine feet high. The pews and pulpit are also oak, though pretty old; as is also the altar-piece, where the painting of the commandments is something decayed; they are placed between the Lord's Prayer and Creed; and over are the King's Arms painted." He adds: "the south-west gallery, (partly done at the charge of Francis Loveday, in the year 1704) looks neat; and there is another lower gallery, at the west end of the church, for charity children;* and another for the family dwelling in *Newcastle House,* above the rest northward, and a little east of the last:" also, "a fine organ, lately set up."

* Erected in 1720, from a legacy of Thomas Crosse, Esq.

The alterations of the interior that took place between the period when this was written, and that of the demolition of the structure, were not material. 500*l.* had been expended in a general reparation about ten years previously; and nothing of consequence was afterwards done to the old building. The altar-piece, however, had been renewed; and presented a handsome Corinthian façade, with a pediment, cleft in the centre for the admission of a vase: other vases surmounted the range: but the royal arms had been removed. The carved oaken pulpit stood against the north wall of the chancel. When the downfall of the church was decreed, its general aspect was that of an edifice, antique indeed, but in which nearly every ancient feature was so mixed up with modern repairs, that few feelings of veneration could be excited by it. The large window at the east end of the chancel, had evidently been altered both in size and figure from that (or those) originally placed there: at the top, it formed a segment of so large a circle as to be nearly flat. The other windows were numerous, and of every variety as to date, dimensions, and shape: they were both acutely and very obtusely pointed, round-headed, square, oblong, and oval; and introduced in all parts of the walls, without regard to symmetry or regularity. The portion most decidedly antique in character, was a range of four pointed arches, supported by large, round, clustered columns, between the chancel and south aisle: these, though certainly not so old as the foundation of the Nunnery, were probably part of some re-edification or enlargement of the

structure in the reign of Richard the First or of John. Parts of the walls of the old vestry, (or nave), possibly came into the composition of the original church; to which the chancel, and its side-aisles, were subsequent additions: but nothing here *appeared* so ancient, unless it might be a few low round columns in somewhat of a Norman style. Two arches which supported the steeple, one between the chancel and old vestry, and another from the chancel into the north end of the transept, were round-headed: but it will be recollected that these were all parts of the re-erection in the seventeenth century. The idea that the old vestry occupied the site, and might retain some portions, of the original structure, is strengthened by information given by Stow, and others, that in it were interred the co-founder and foundress, Jordan and Muriel Briset: afterwards, we find, it became the Nuns' chapter-house; but this must have been on the completion of the rest of the building. In connection with this subject it may be mentioned, that Weever saw Briset's first donation of fourteen acres for the foundation of the convent, "depensiled upon a table in the church, which by the fall of the steeple was battered all to peeces."

Nothing is more uninteresting or fatiguing to the general reader, than a long transcript of sepulchral inscriptions: the author will not therefore imitate those old historians of London, who, when they made mention of Clerkenwell, occupied three-fourths of their whole account of the parish with the detail of such as existed in this church. The most important, however, of those which once found a place here, should be particularized.

So early after Stow's time as when Weever wrote, we find the author of the "Funeral Monuments" remarking that all such as were "*of antiquitie* in this church (which were many) as you may reede in Stow's Survay," were "quite defaced:" but this might have been owing to the recent fall of the steeple. Among the names given by Stow of persons interred here, are "Dame Johan, Baroness of Greystock", and "Dame Johan, Lady Ferrars." One of the most interesting monuments of a later period, was that in memory of Weever himself, who was buried under a pew adjoining the first pillar on the right, entering the chancel; a large square plate, shaped to the pillar, bearing this inscription:—

Upon a very worthy friend, Mr. John Weever, a learned antiquary.

WEEVER, who laboured in a learned Strain
To make Men long since dead to live again,
And with expense of Oyle and Ink did watch
From the Worm's mouth the sleeping Corps to snatch,
Hath by his Industry begot a way
Death (who insidiates all things) to betray,
Redeeming freely, by his Care and Cost,
Many a sad Herse, which time long since gave lost;
And to forgotten dust such Spirit did give,
To make it in our Memories to live;
For wheresoe'er a ruined tomb he found,
His Pen hath built it new out of the Ground:
'Twixt Earth and him this Interchange we find,
She hath to him, he been to her like kind:
She was his Mother he (a grateful Child)
Made her his Theme, in a large Work Compil'd
Of Funeral Relicks, and brave Structures rear'd
On such as seemed unto her most indear'd.
Alternately a grave to him she lent,
O'er which his Book remains a monument.

To this, in Strype's History, the following is added; but in such a manner as to make it doubtful

whether it made part of the original, or was derived from some other source ·

Mr. Weever on himself:

Lancashire gave me breath
And Cambridge Education
Middlesex gave me Death
And this Church my Humation
And Christ to me hath given
A Place with him in Heav'n
Ætatis suæ 56
(Anno Domini 1632)

When the church was taken down, the Society of Antiquaries gave orders for a diligent search to be made after this tablet, but without success; which is accounted for by information given by a correspondent in the Gentleman's Magazine, that it had been *stolen* a few years previously, but was perfectly remembered by an inhabitant to have occupied the situation which has been described.

A more ancient monument was that of Lady Elizabeth Berkeley, mentioned in our notice of Berkeley Street as a former resident there. It was a stone altar-tomb, surmounted by Corinthian pillars, supporting a pediment: beneath the lattter lay a figure of her ladyship, in the costume of her time, the hands broken off, and the head of a negro at her feet. Above was a coat of arms in relief, consisting of fifteen quarterings, but without crest or motto. The inscription ran thus:—

THE LADI ELIZABETH BARKLEY OF
THE QUENE HER MATTES BEDE CHAMBER
AND SECOND WIFE TO SVR MAVRICE
BARKLE KNIGHT DECEASED: STANDERD
BEARER TO HER MTIE TO HER FATHER
& TO HIR BROTHER DEPARTED THIS
LVFE IN THIS PARISH THE 16 OF
IUNE 1585 BEINGE 52 YEARES
OVLDE IN THE FAYTH OF IESUS CHRIST

Receipt Seal 6 Hen. VIII.



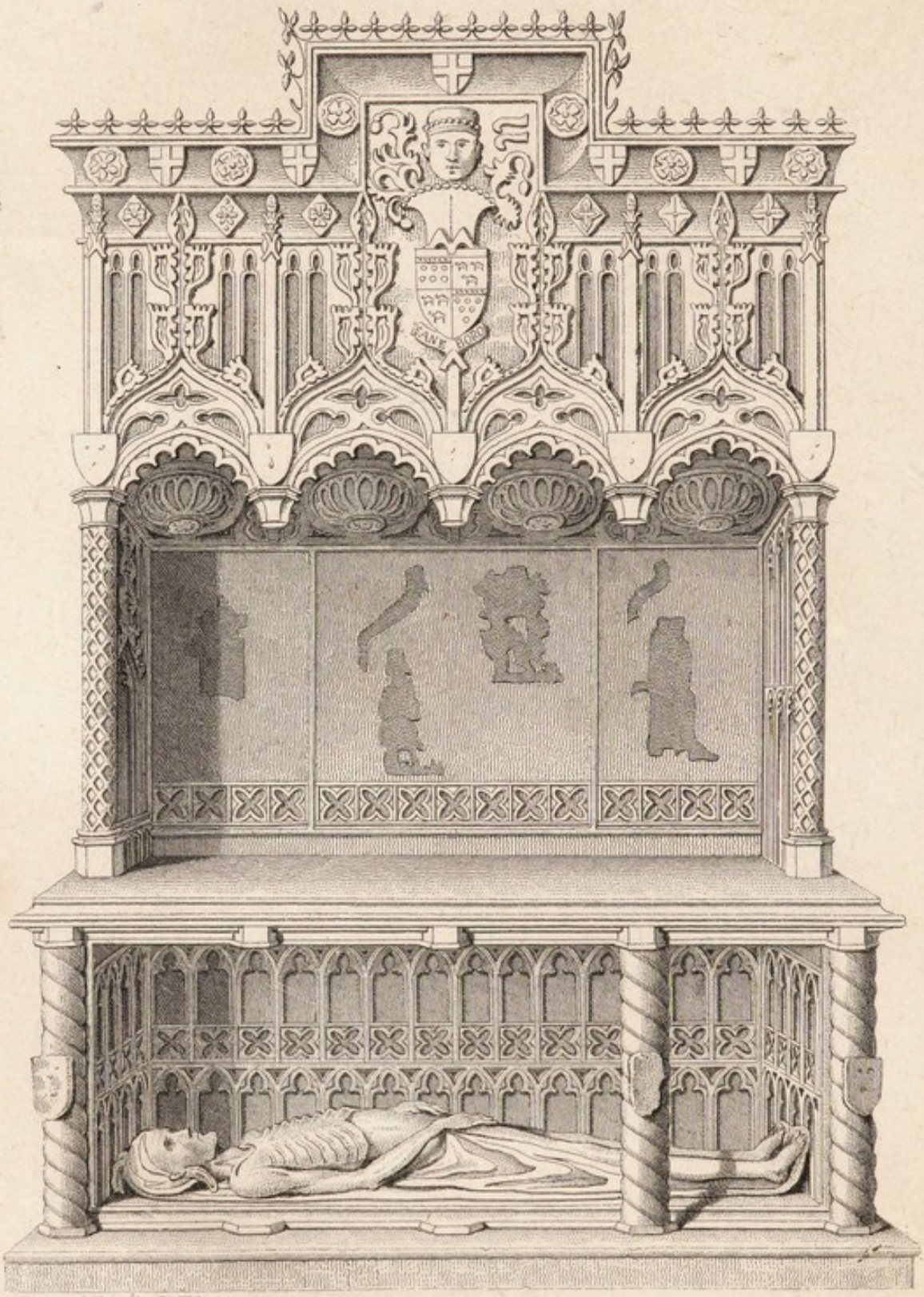
Seal of Office 22 Hen. 8.





Common Seal 9 Hen. 6.

Seals of St. Mary's Nunnery.



Drawn & Engd by J & H Storer

Monument of Sir W.m Weston *last Prior of St. John's.*

& WAS BVRIED IN THE FLOWER VNDER
THIS TOOME: THIS LADI WAS THE
DAVGHTER OF ANTHONY SONDES
ESQVIER. SHE HAD CHILDR N
TOO SONNES & ONE DAVGHTER
ROBERT MARGRET & IOHN

The body of this lady had been preserved by embalming, and was found entire, dressed according to the fashion of her age, and with brown gloves on her hands. The coffin was immediately closed up.

The inscription on the tomb-stone of Isabella Sackville, the last Prioress, is given in the Ecclesiastical History, page 47. Weever tells us, "She lyeth buried under a marble stone in the church of the nunnery, neare unto the high altar, whereupon this inscription, or epitaph, is engrauen in brasse," &c. The square plate that contained the inscription, was gone long before the removal of the old church; only some faint traces of it being then perceptible in the much decayed stone. But the upper part of another plate, on which her effigy had been engraved, was remaining in 1787, and the head, hands, and part of the drapery, together with a coat of arms, still distinct: this also, however, had vanished before the demolition commenced, having been taken away by some person unknown.

The opposite engraving conveys a faithful idea of the monument of the last Lord Prior of St. John's, Sir William Weston. Weever says of it, "In the north walle of the chancell is a faire marble tombe, with the portraiture of a dead man lying upon his shroud: the most artificially cut in stone that ever man beheld: all the plates of brass are stolne away, onlly some few peeces remaining, containing these words,

Hospitalitate inclytus, genere præclarus:
(There an Arms),
Hanc urna officii causa."

In the centre, on another plate, was

Spes me non fallat, quam in te semper habebam,
Virgo da facilem votis natum....

And, on another,

Ecce quem cernis semper tuo nomini devotum
Suscipe in sinum Virgo Maria tuum.

The representation of the Prior's corpse lying within the table part, appears to have deserved all the praise Weever bestowed upon it. It was one of the finest of the cadaverous figures not uncommon in our cathedrals and older churches, and in which the genius of ancient English sculpture seems to have delighted: and the same tale was related of this, as is still usually told by our friend the sexton, when pointing to such as have been more fortunate in their preservation, namely, that the person represented had starved himself in the idle attempt to fast forty days and forty nights, in imitation of the Saviour. It had suffered injuries when the drawing, from which our plate is taken, was made, which were not there represented: in particular, the right arm was broken off in a *beautifying* which the monument received in 1780.

The engraving shews that this was a truly curious and fine old tomb: it was of large size, and very elaborate workmanship. The tracery, shields of arms, pendants of the upper interior, twisted columns, and general ornaments, were beautifully wrought: but at the time of the re-building, the brass plates were

all gone, (the last two having been taken away with Isabella Sackville's effigy); as were those from the shields attached both to the columns and the carving above, which only shewed that such had once been fastened to them. It was plain from the indentations in the back of the tomb, that two of the brasses there placed had represented kneeling figures, with labels proceeding from their mouths. The other indentations appeared to have been made by plates of arms; one of which had evidently given Sir William Weston's coat, as represented among the decorations at top: bearing ermine in chief 6 bezants, quartering 3 camels passant; crest, a saracen's head,* on what appears intended for the prior's cap; motto, ANY BORO. This motto having given rise to some antiquarian discussion, may be thought to require a little remark.

It will be observed, that the English word ANY is coupled with a term of no intelligible import as here written, and belonging in fact to no language. But Dugdale, in his History of Warwickshire, speaks of a coat of arms occurring over a kitchen fireplace at Balsall, where was a preceptory of Templars, the motto of which (under a chevron engrailed between 3 fermeaux, in chief a Jerusalem Cross) ran SANE BARO. It will be remembered that the Hospitalers succeeded the Templars in all their possessions: and the arms described by Dugdale, did we substitute roundles for fermeaux, would be those of

* Aubrey, in his description of Sutton Place, Surrey, the residence of Sir *Richard* Weston, says "in the hall is the crest of Weston, viz. *a saracen's head with a black beard, and a wreath of white linen.*" This does not exactly tally with our crest: but the difference may have arisen from the sculptor's ignorance, which is to be suspected also in the case of the *motto* to be immediately noticed.

Docwra, prior of St. John's. These circumstances lead to the suspicion, that the Historian of Warwickshire mistook for *fermeaux*, or buckles, the *roundles, charged with a pallet*, borne by Docwra: indeed, supposing the fermeaux to be, as they frequently were, of round form, the similarity would be very great in carved work, which was the material, no doubt, of the coat at Balsall. We are thus naturally led to the inferences, that the motto, to be correct, should have been SANE BARO in the case of this tomb, as in that of the preceptory fire-place; and that, seeing it was borne by *two* Priors of St. John's, it was probably adopted by them all, belonging not so much to their arms as to their office. These inferences admitted, all is clear. For though one antiquarian writer (in the Gentleman's Magazine) professes himself equally at a loss to comprehend the import of SANE as of ANY, a very slight acquaintance with Latin would have served to make its meaning apparent; it importing, connected with BARO, simply and literally, TRULY A BARON, or, A BARON INDEED! The adoption of a motto, signifying in two words so much, and that so pompously, is explained at once by the assumption of these Lords-Priors to be, not barons merely, but the very *premiers* of the Baronage of England; a dignity, their real pretensions to which, and the sense in which it was probably allowed, were considered in a previous page of this history.*

* Since writing the above, the author has been favoured with a sight of the MS. of the date 1656-7, alluded to at page 150; and which, in addition to its account of armorial bearings over the gate of Elgin Chapel, gives the inscription at length which ran along the south side of the grand Hospital Gate, (described

There were several other monuments in the church to eminent persons: among the rest to Elizabeth, Countess Dowager of Exeter, who died, at the age of eighty, in 1653; as also to some of the noble families of Booth, Lords Delamere, and Sidney, Earls of Leicester. Here too reposed a prelate of the English church in the reign of Henry VIII. over whose remains was inscribed:

Contegit hoc marmor Doctorem nomine Bellum,
Qui bene tam rexit præsulis officium;
Moribus, ingenio, vitæ pietate vigebat
Laudatis cunctis, cultus et eloquio
A. D. 1556, die Aug. 11.

This was on a brass plate, let into "a fair stone by the communion-table," which bore also an effigy, on another brass, of the bishop, *in pontificalibus*. Dr. John Bell had been a prebendary of St. Paul's, and archdeacon of Gloucester; and in 1539 he was elevated to the see of Worcester, which in 1543 he resigned.

A more celebrated bishop, and of more modern times, lay under the altar, with this inscription on a

at page 128), concluding with another singular corruption of this same motto. The MS. recites the inscription thus;

tomaꝭ+docwra+prior. Anno dni 1504. ſanꝭ+roro

In this we have the strongest evidence for the position assumed above, that the motto was borne by the priors *generally*, since we find in *fact* that it was adopted alike by Docwra and Weston: we may wave remark on the new form of unintelligibility under which it here appears, after what has been already said upon the subject.—The MS. farther enables the author to correct a mis-statement, into which he was led by the Gentleman's Magazine for 1749; following which, in speaking of the grand gate, he described one of the shields (too much worn now to be deciphered) as containing "the chevron and roundels, cross in chief, *impaling the arms of England*." The real impalement, it appears, was "*a bugle horn stringed between three goats' heads erased*."

plain blue slab:—"Here lies interred the Right Rev. Father in God, Gilbert Burnet, D. D. Lord Bishop of Salisbury, Chancellor of the most noble order of the Garter, who departed this life March 17, 1714-15, in the 73d year of his age." Against the wall, on the north side of the east window, was a more elaborate monument, represented in our work, and of which the following mention occurs in the parish-books. "Nov. 13. 1715. Moved that a monument be erected to Bishop Burnet, in consideration of 20 guineas paid to the poor. Granted." The inscription as follows:

H. S. E.
Gilbertus Burnet, S. T. P

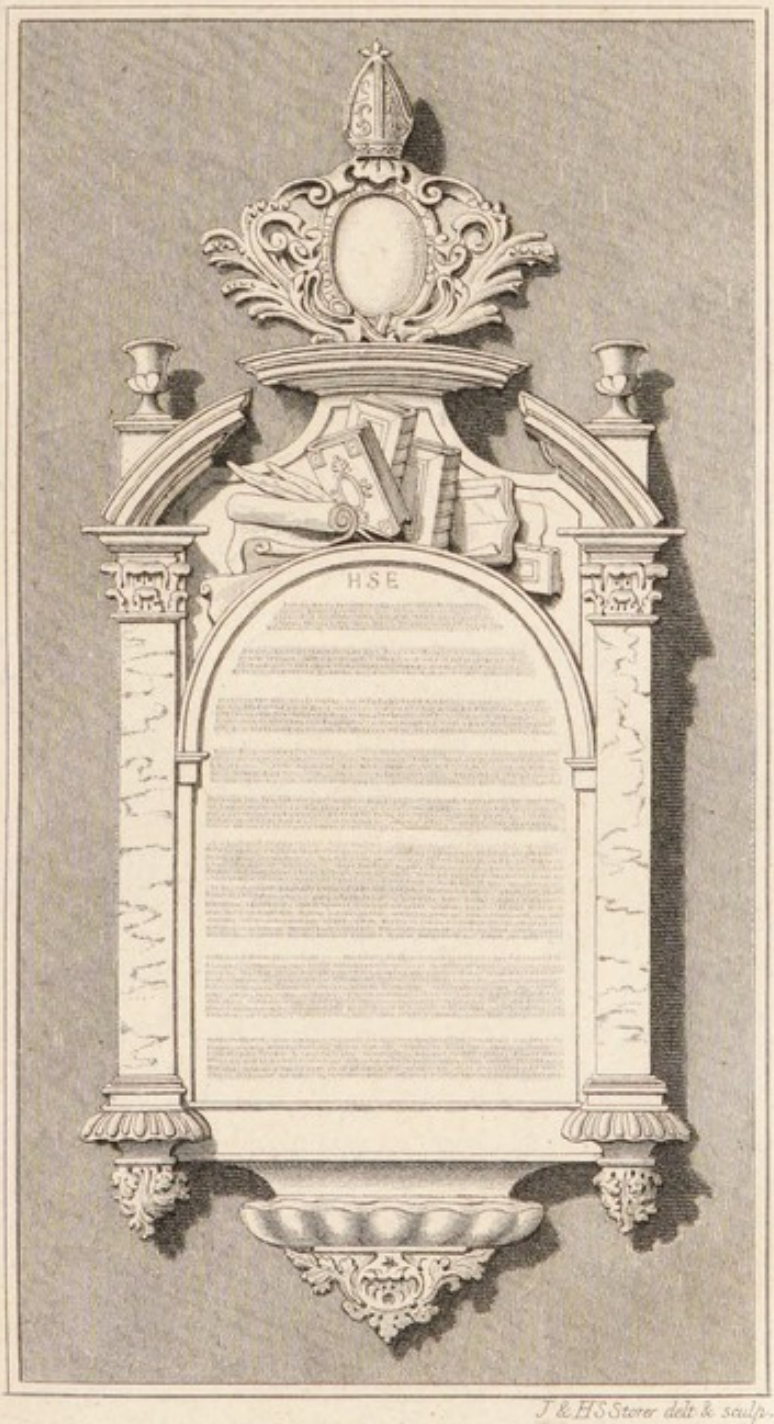
Episcopus Sarisburiensis, & Nobilissimi Ordinis a Periscelide Cancellarius. Natus Edenburgi 18 die Septembris, Anno Dom. 1643, Parentibus Roberto Burnet Domino de Cremont, ex antiquissimâ Domo de Leyes, & Rachele Johnston, Sorore domini de Waristoun: Aberdoniæ Literis instructus: Saltoni Curæ animarum invigilavit. Inde juvenis adhuc, SS. Theologiæ Professor in Academia Glasgoensi electus est.

Postquam in Angliam transiit, rem sacram per aliquot annos, in Templo Rotulorum Londini administravit, donec nimis acriter, ut iis qui rerum tum potiebantur visum est, Ecclesiæ Romanæ malas Artes insectatur, ab officio submotus est.

E Patriâ temporum iniquitate pro fugus Europam pera gravit: Et deinceps cum Principe Auriaco reversus, primus omnium a Rege Gulielmo & Reginâ Maria Prœsul designatus, & in summum tandem fiduciæ Testimonium, ab eodem Principe Duci Glocestriensi Præceptor datus est.

Tyrannidi & Superstitioni semper infensum scripta eruditissima demonstrant, nec non Libertatis Patriæ, veræque Religionis strenuum, semperque indefessum Propugnatorem. Quarum utriúsque conservandœ spem unam jam a longo tempore in Illustrissimâ Domo Brunsuicensi collocarat. Postquam autem Dei Providentiâ singulari Regem Georgium Sceptro Britanno potitum conspexerat, brevi jam, annorum & Felicitatis satur, à vivis excessit.

Duxit uxorem Dominam Margaritam Kennedy, Comitis Cassiliæ filiam: Dein Mariam Scot, Haga Comitis. Quœ ei septem Liberos peperit. Quorum adhuc in vivis sunt, Gulielmus, Gilbertus, Maria, Elisabetha, & Thomas. Postremò



J & H S Storer delt & sculp.

Bishop Burnet's Monument.

Uxorem duxit viduam Elisabetham Berkelii; quâ duos Liberos suscepit, fato præmaturo non multo post extinctos.

Amplissimam pecuniam in pauperibus alendis, & in sumptibus ad utilitatem publicam spectantibus, vivus continuó erogavit: Moriens duo Millia Aureorum, Aberdoniæ Saltonoque ad juventutem pauporiorem instituendam, Testamento legavit, Obiit 17 Martii, Anno Dom. 1714-15. Ætat. 72.

This monument, which was fast falling to decay, but has been restored, is in the vestibule at the west end of the present church. The Latinical reader may perhaps wish that the inscription to such a man had been less verbose, and more elegant.

On a tablet, with ornaments of sepulchral and religious import, against the north wall of the chancel, was also this epitaph:

Juxta jacet quod reliquium est Henrici Penton, Armigeri, Hospitii Lincolniensis nuper Assessoris. Vir erat vitâ integerrimâ, moribus probis, in omnibus jurisperitiæ munijs obeundis summâ fide, indefessâ diligentiâ, rei alienæ non appetens, atque adeo sua non profusus, ut opes suâ solum industriâ abunde congestas hæredi suo moriens reliquerit. Ob. Feb. 6, anno æræ Xtianæ 1714, æt. 75.

This tablet is in like manner preserved in the vestibule of the new church; as is a large mural monument, of veined marble, with pilasters, &c. of the Corinthian order, and a pediment and shield of arms at top, bearing the inscription following:—

Underneath lyeth interr'd in a vault the body of Thomas Crosse, late of this parish, esq. one of her late Mat.ies justices of the peace for the county of Middx., who died the 15th of June, 1712. Hee was one of the sonns of John Crosse, of the same parish, esq. and marryed Dorothy, the eldest daughter of James Willymott, late of Kelshall, in the county of Hertford, esq. Who in his life time was justice of the peace of the quorum, and also deputy lieutenant of the said county of Hertford. Hee, the said Thomas Crosse, was a great benefactor to this parish, and charity school thereunto belonging, having, by his last will, and testamentary schedule thereunto annexed, bequeathed several considerable legacys to the same: aged 49.

This monument, the position of which in the former building is not known, is farther decorated with busts of Mr. Crosse and his lady, executed in a very good style.

Opposite Mr. Penton's monument was placed the following animated eulogium on the person it commemorated:

H. S. E.

Francus Sclater St. T. B. Coll. C. C. Oxon. olim socius, Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ spes, Academiæ gloria, Eruditorum desiderium, Sanæ Doctrinæ, contra omnes Regnantes Errores, etiam inter iniquissima tempora, Propugnator acerrimus.

Vir fuit ingenio acri ac vivido, judicio sagaci, candore animi egregio. Quibus accessit Eloquentia singularis atque Doctrina omnibus numeris absoluta. Ideoque sive dissereret, sive concionaretur, ab illius ore non Populus magis quám Clerus & Literati avidè pendebant.

Postquam per duos Annos apud St. Mariam Wolnoth in hac Civitate Verbi Divini ministerio summâ cum Laude fungeretur, Variolis correptus, obiit Maii 12, Anno Dom. MDCLXXXV. Ætat. suæ 35.

Deflendus quidem multum, sed magis imitandus.

Gulielmus SS. T. P. mœstissimus Pater P.

Another "comely monument in the north wall:"

Rogero Wood, Armigero, Servienti ad Arma, tam Serenissimo Regi, quam honoratissimo Conventui Parliamenti, Rosa Conjux hoc posuit Amoris pii, Memoriæ perpetuæ, Observantiæ debitæ, Sacrum Monumentum.

Obiit 18 Martii, 1609, Ætat. suæ 46.

And on "a fair plated stone, in a comely chapel by the pulpit," (which chapel must have been destroyed by the fall of the steeple):—

Here lieth the body of Thomas Bedingfield, Esq.; 2d Son unto Sir Henry Bedingfield, Knt. late of the county of Norfolk, and one of the Privy Council to Queen Mary: Also, this Thomas Bedingfield was one of the honourable band of Gentlemen Pensioners unto the late famous Queen Elizabeth, and Master of the Tents and Pavilions unto the most mighty King James, Monarch

of Great Britain. He departed this life the 11th day of August, Ann. Dom. 1613.

This monument was made and placed here at the cost and charges of John Skillicorn, Esq.; being his Executor.

These were the most remarkable monuments within the church. Against the south wall of the exterior was a tomb-stone, (placed within the present edifice), commemorating a celebrated *Archer*:—

Sr William Wood Lyes very neare this stone,
In's time in Archery Excell'd by none.
Few were his Equalls. And this Noble Art
Has suffer'd now in the most tender part.
Long did he live the honour of the Bow,
And his Long life to that alone did owe.
But how can Art secure? Or what can save
Extreame Old age from an appointed grave?
Surviving Archers much his losse lament,
And in respect bestow'd this Monument:
Where whistling arrows did his worth proclaim,
And Eterniz'd his memory and name.

Obijt Sept. 4th,
Anno { Dni 1691.
{ Ætat. 82.*

* Below this inscription, on a border surrounding the original stone, now appears, "This monument was restored by the *Toxopholite Society* of London, 1791."—Sir William Wood was *Marshal* to a Society of Archers, who incorporated themselves about the year 1676, under the title of "Finsbury Archers." In honour of Katharine, queen of Charles II., the marshal wore a badge of silver with this circumscription:—"Reginæ Katherinæ Sagitarii:" the device on it was an archer drawing a bow, in relief. The weight of the badge was twenty-five oz. five dwts.; and was given by contribution when the society was instituted. These Finsbury Archers revived the titles of *Duke of Shoreditch*, *Marquis of Clerkenwell*, *Earl of Pancras*, &c.; and in like manner honoured their marshal with an imaginary *knighthood*. Mr. Granger had seen a print of this Wm. Wood. Mr. Barrington, in his Memoir of Archery, (Archæol. vol. VII.) says, that the badge had on the reverse, the arms of England impaling Portugal, supported by two bowmen. Wood published a thin octavo volume, of eighty pages, (Anno Domini 1682), called the "Bowmen's Glory;" which, from the rage for archery a few years since, sold for a guinea and a half.—Pennant.

We proceed to make some further mention of the south side of the ancient quadrangular *Cloister* of the convent, which remained until the demolition in 1788. Its arches opened into the garden belonging to Newcastle House, and its rear was formed by the north wall of the old vestry. The other three sides of the quadrangle had been long demolished. An arched doorway, near the west end, but walled up, appeared to have been the former communication with the church: and a painting on board, at each extremity, gave a mimic continuation of the cloister, together with the names of the conventual founders. The pavement was of brick, very neatly disposed; and there was a descent to it by steps, to the depth of three feet, from the raised garden-ground. The roof was still entire; and, viewed from either end, presented a most pleasing specimen of Gothic tracery, resembling the beautiful roof of Exeter cathedral, only on a much smaller scale. The carving on the key-stones represented French marygolds, and other flowers. Probably we should not err in referring the date of this cloister to the latter end of the reign of Henry III. or the beginning of that of Edward I.: that is, subsequently to that completion or enlargement of the original church, which we have supposed to have taken place in the time of Richard I. or of John. Little of the ancient stone-work of the south side remained above the arches at the demolition: and there was at that time a modern superstructure, consisting of a spacious ware-room, which, as it completely destroyed the antique effect, has been omitted in our view.

Several interesting particulars connected with

the demolition of the old church, are preserved in letters to the Editor of the Gentleman's Magazine, which the reader may not be displeased to see transferred to these pages, as the volumes of that miscellany, of the period in question, are now in the hands of few.

Camden Street, Islington, May 15, (1788.)

Mr. Urban,—On the taking down the ancient priory and late parochial church of St. James, Clerkenwell, which the labourers have been, for some time past, and are at present, employed upon, I have been almost a daily attendant, in hopes, if any thing curious or worthy of remark should occur, it might not pass unnoticed. That part in which divine service was lately performed, comprising the pews, stone, brick, lead, iron, glass, &c. has been sold for about 825*l.**; the other part, anciently called the Old Vestry, as the least decayed, is as decently fitted up as possible for prayer and preaching till the church is re-built. The bells were first removed; which, after some inquiry, I found were placed in a back-yard behind Mr. Blackborow's house: and, as I thought something remarkable might be on them, having belonged to so ancient a fabric, I applied, and had admission to the part where they were deposited. One of them only can be deemed of antiquity; and may be well thought, by the inscription on it, to have belonged to the Nunnery before its dissolution: as much as I can make out of it, it is a kind of invocation to St. Nicholas.—On Monday, April 27, I attended a gentleman of Islington to observe the removing the monument of Sir William Weston, the last Lord Prior of St. John of Jerusalem; and, after great labour of the workmen in removing the carved stone ornaments, dust, and rubbish, the lead coffin was discovered, which was deposited within a few inches of the surface, under a stone, on which was laid the emaciated figure, (representing the deceased Prior): on the breast part was a cross raised in the lead. On raising the cover, the skeleton appeared, but without any appearance of its having been wrapped in cerecloth, or habit of his order, nor did it seem at first that ever any embalmment had been used: but, on a more careful inspection, there was found a quantity of dark-coloured mucilaginous substance between the thighs and lower parts of the body, of an unctuous feel, but quite inodorous: the bones were laid in the same order as when the corpse was deposited in the lead coffin, which did

* The Editor remarks, in October of the same year, that "a great part of the materials is now working up into houses in *St. George's Fields*."

not appear had ever been enclosed in one of wood: the fingers and toes were fallen off, but the other parts retained their proper situatiou, and some teeth remained in each jaw. On measuring the skeleton, it was exactly six feet in length, wanting an inch. The broken fragments of the monument, with the figure, are removed to the quadrangle, one side of which is part of the ancient cloister.*

Your's &c.
MATTHEW SKINNER.

Sept. 28, (1788.)

Mr. Urban,—To your correspondent Mr. Skinner's account of St. James's Church, Clerkenwell, allow me to add the following particulars, which occurred to my observation when I prowled over the ruins about two months ago.

I found the site of the church entirely cleared of every thing but the tomb-stones on its floor; among which, Bp. Burnet's was the most conspicuous.

I have since seen the Bishop's coffin laid on that of Mrs. Mitchell, and that of her husband on one side. They will all be preserved in the new vaults, with the inscriptions on them.

The Cloisters are laid open by removing the north wall of the church; and the west end of them, by leave of the proprietor of the adjoining house and garden, is fitted up for a temporary vestry. They are filled with the monuments removed from the walls of the church, waiting for claimants to set them up in the new building, according to the advertisement inserted in The Daily Advertiser previous to their taking down.† Prior Weston's is gone down to Burleigh, having been purchased by Sir George Booth: but the principal figure on it, the skeleton, is left in Mr. Mallet's garden.

The oldest bell, whose motto your correspondent has not copied quite exactly, is suspended in a wooden frame, to call the parishioners together, in the west end, or old vestry, which still

* Strype tells us of this monument, in 1720, that it was "of late broken and sunk:" and adds that "Mr. Howard, in the year 1704, being churchwarden, was minded to repair and make up this tomb, and bid the labourers dig where it was, in order thereto. And, near the surface, they met with a leaden coffin, with the figure of a cross on the top; the lead was all firm, only a small hole on the top towards the feet. He strictly commanded them to inter the said corpse as they found it. But the workmen among themselves opened it, and found nothing, as they were ready to swear, but all decayed to bones and dust: only they found a liquid matter (the embalmment) at the bottom of the coffin."

† Some few were claimed by descendants of the persons interred, and "set up" in the vault of the present church. Those *unclaimed*, to the disgust of every reflecting mind, were involved in the destruction of the edifice that had contained them.

serves for the purposes of devotion till the new church is finished, (which will not be under two years), and then is to be also taken down. According to a fac-simile of this motto by Mr. Schnebbelie, it is to be read, O presul pie Nicolae nobis miserere.* The words are separated by something like seals, with the name of the founder, of which can be distinguished only William M..... me fecit; and in the middle something like an arms or device.

The three other bells are fixed in Mr. Justice Blackborrow's back-yard, where I copied their inscriptions, as follow:—

1. THOMAS BARTLET MADE ME, 1621.

2. William Carter made me. 1615.

Under this inscription, in faintly relieved Roman capitals,

J. W.

GEORGE TRAPPES AND NICHOLAS DAY CHURCHWARDENS.

3. WILLIAM DYN. EDWARD LOVE. CHURCHWARDENS. 1681.

(Three bells in a wreath.)

JAMES BARTLET MADE ME.

I was sorry to learn that the parishioners had been so precipitate as to take down the old church before they had made a contract for the new one, which is now proceeding apace under the direction of Mr. Carr. The materials produced above 800*l*.

VIATOR LONDINENSIS.

Camden Street, Islington, Nov. 10, (1788.)

Mr. Urban,—In continuation of my visits to Clerkenwell, I have to add, that, about the latter end of September, a stone coffin was found, the foot of which was very near the head of Prior Weston; it had a wood plank for its cover, and a few human bones and a scull were found in it. The length, six feet eight inches; depth, eleven inches; two feet six inches over at the head. A little to the west of the place where the pulpit stood, the labourers have sunk a well for their mortar, and, at about ten feet deep, they dug down by the ends of three lead coffins, one over the other; but, as the ground will not be farther removed in that place, no idea can be formed whose bodies were there interred. Great abundance of human bones have been unavoidably dug up, most of which have been put into shells provided for that purpose, and again deposited in some parts of the same ground. At the right of the door in the boarded partition of the old vestry, the workmen found part of a small beam, about five feet long, but very rotten at each end, and an inscription

* O holy Bishop Nicholas, pity (or pray for) us.

painted on it;* the four mortises on its side show that it belonged to some building, perhaps a chapel. Part of an ancient tomb was dug up the 17th of October under the part where the tower stood; it was seven feet deep in the ground; the shields had been inlaid or covered with brass plates with arms, which were fastened with brass nails.† It is observable that many halfpence were found in the graves, one of which (as informed) was of King Geo. I. dated 1717. Matthew Skinner.

One reason for disturbing so many mouldering relics of mortality as these letters make allusion to, was the intended contraction of the new structure at the east end, where the interments had, as usual, been most numerous. Here, however diverse had been their lives and faiths, were united in death, the martyr to Catholicism and the cause of his religious brotherhood—Sir William Weston—and the staunch upholder of the Reformation, Bishop Burnet. Full particulars of the discovery of the remains of the last lord prior of St. John's, are given in Matthew Skinner's first letter: that of the bishop's is not mentioned, but may be here supplied.

On the 7th of September, 1788, the body of this eminent prelate was found, enclosed only in a leaden coffin, the exterior wooden one having decayed. The inscription was much corroded; and, through an aperture at the head, the scull, and some hair, were visible. The coffin of his grand-daughter, Mrs. Mary Mitchell, lay on the bishop's. On the south side was that of his son Thomas, with a plate, inscribed "The Hon. Sir Thomas Burnet, kt., one of the justices of his Majesties Court of Common Pleas, died

* Of which the only legible part was (*mercy*) upon us for evere more.

† This tomb was of stone, curiously carved: the shields spoken of were merely spaces in the carved work, showing where such had been inserted.

17 May, 1753, in the 59 year of his age." On the coffin of Sir Thomas was placed that of James Mitchell, who died Dec. 11, 1779, aged sixty-five: and between the bishop and the judge lay the great-grandson of the former, Gilbert Burnet, son of —— Burnet, surgeon and apothecary, of Chigwell, Essex, interred in 1769. Two leaden coffins lay near these, but they were without inscriptions.

Preparation of the ground for the new church was commenced by the 25th of August, 1788: the leading design for the edifice being, that its dimensions should about equal those of the old chancel and south aisle, together with the steeple, and that it should be elevated upon an arched vault over the floor of the same parts of the former structure. The first stone was laid December 16th of the same year; and enclosed a glass vase, in which were a guinea, two shillings, a sixpence, and a penny, all coined in 1787; together with two brass plates, covered with wax. The inscriptions for these plates were originally written in Latin; but English ones were eventually substituted as follow:—

"*Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth Peace, Good-will towards Men.*

"The first stone of this Church was laid on the 16th day of December, 1788; when this Plate was deposited therein by the Rev. William Sellon, Minister of this Parish: John Aris, John Howard, Churchwardens; the Rev. Sir George Booth, Baronet," (with numerous other names,) "the acting Trustees appointed by Act of Parliament for building the new Church; William Blackborow, Esq. Treasurer; Abraham Rhodes, Nicholas Lacy Fry, and William Cook, Vestry clerks; James Carr, Architect and Surveyor to the Trustees."

"This Edifice stands on part of the site of the late Church of St. James, Clerkenwell, which was formerly part of the Priory called *Ecclesia Beatæ Mariæ de Fonte Clericorum*, for Nuns of

the Order of St. Benedict, founded in the year 1100, upon 14 Acres of Land, given by Jordan Brisset to Robert his Chaplain, to build a Religious House upon. The Priory was suppressed 26 Henry VIII. and, after passing through various Hands, the Church, by Purchase, became vested, on the 2d of June, 1656, in Trustees, for the Use of the Parishioners of this Parish."

The elevation of the present church upon the floor of the ancient one, gives it an appearance somewhat commanding. This is more particularly perceptible on viewing it from the west, where is the principal entrance, beneath a tower of considerable altitude, approached by a flight of steps. To this approach we are conducted by a part of the present churchyard, but which was the site of the nave, or old vestry, of the former edifice, and in which divine service was performed till the new church was completed. The tower is of stone, in the Tuscan style, crowned by balustrades and vases. The lantern rising from it has eight sides, with three apertures, one over the other, in each: from that springs a polygonal obelisk, or spire, placed on balls. A gilt ball and vane surmount the whole. The latter represents a *comet*, and belonged to the turret of the old church, having been elevated to its present situation after trial of a new one, which proved unserviceable. It is worthy remark, that the original design for this steeple was adopted only to the top of the lower story of the lantern; it having been at first intended to complete the structure from thence with an inelegant wooden cupola. The present handsome and lofty stone spire was eventually substituted: but though the walls of the lantern are only twelve inches in thickness, it was not deemed necessary to increase their strength in consequence, otherwise than by iron cramps. The

eight musical bells, (with the exception of one received in exchange from Islington Church,) are the old ones, re-cast in 1791; on the 6th of September in which year they were for the first time rung.

The remainder of the exterior is of very unpretending character, being chiefly of brick, with stone coigns. The south side has wings, of trifling projection, pierced by Doric entrances, over which are arched windows; the whole crowned by a cornice, with dentels, and a balustrade. The cornice is continued round the building, but the balustrade is confined to the wings. The body of the church contains eight arched windows on each side, of which the lowermost are much the smallest. The east end has three windows, that in the centre a Venetian one: over the latter is a pediment, with a semicircular aperture in the tympanum. But this end is nearly enclosed by houses, as is the whole north side.

Entering the building by the south-west doorway, we find ourselves in a lofty vestibule, divided into three parts, of which the central one is beneath the steeple, and the others in its wings. Opposite to this entrance is the monument of Bishop Burnet, with those of Henry Penton, and Thomas Crosse, Esquires, already mentioned to have been removed from the chancel of the old church. In the vestibule also are long lists of the parochial benefactions, the most important of which have been already given in the "Account of Estates," &c. belonging to the parish.

The visitant who is curious enough to ascend to the belfry, will there find an inscription, which, if he be either an amateur or professional *bell-ringer*, cannot fail to interest. With all due respect towards

such amateurs and professors, it is here transcribed:—

Westminster Youths.

Monday, Decr. 8th, 1800, was rung in this Steeple, *A Complete Peal of Grandsire Triples*, consisting of 5040 changes, in 3 hours, 15 minutes, by the following persons, viz. *Rd. Mills*, Treble, *Thos. Humphries*, 2nd, *John Truman*, 3rd, *Wm. Palmer*, 4th, *Wm. Williams*, 5th, *Jno. Hints*, 6th, *Jno. Jaggers*, 7th, *John Leach*, Tenor. Call'd by the above Mr. John Hints, with 103 bobs and 2 singles.

Jos: Bird } Church
Thos. Woolcott } Wardens.

A door from the lobby on the north side, leads to the unusually capacious vestry-room. Here, the rite of baptism, which used to be administered in what was called the christening-pew, near the altar, has been of late years commonly performed. Over the fire-place stands a well-executed model of the steeple: and opposite to it is suspended a large plan of Clerkenwell, drawn, for various parochial purposes, in the year 1808. Upon the case in which this plan is enclosed, is placed a small but curious painted figure of St. James, which, in the old church, stood upon the poor's-box. A smaller room, sometimes denominated the little vestry, contains the *font*, a handsome basin and pedestal of marble.

The interior of the body is in a neat, rather than an ornamented style. Pillars, painted to imitate marble, support galleries on either side, which range with the large and handsome organ, made by England in 1792. The ceiling is flat, but sufficiently decorated. Upper galleries of more recent date, supported by slender iron columns, and fronted by a handsome railing, run round the building at a considerable height; yet have a light and not inelegant

appearance, improving the general aspect by relieving the former blankness of the walls. The benevolent intention under which they were erected, is conveyed by an inscription below the organ :—"This CHURCH was Repaired, *and* GALLERIES *erected for the Accommodation of five hundred Children*, 1822." The view of the youthful concourse from below is extremely pleasing. The original galleries for the charity-children are in recesses at the west end, which is semicircular : those just described were made of corresponding elevation, and the whole are now open to each other. The pews for the congregation are all painted in wainscot : the pulpit and reading-desk are of oak.

The large Venetian window at the east end, noticed in describing the exterior, is blank within, and painted in the centre compartment with the Hebrew word Jehovah, surrounded by a glory, and with a curtain above. In the side compartments are various sacred emblems, and, in the semicircular space at top, infant angels, and a descending dove. The painting was executed by the late Mr. Greenwood, father of the present scene-painter for Sadler's Wells Theatre. The altar-piece is composed of pillars, an entablature, and pediment, of the Doric order ; with tablets, inscribed, as usual, with the Creed, Lord's Prayer, and Decalogue. On each side are bass-reliefs upon the wall, representing the communion utensils, a vase with incense, &c., suspended by ribbands. The apex of the pediment supports the royal arms, carved, and painted ; overhanging which, on either side, are the colours of the Clerkenwell Volunteers. On the entablature, near each extremity, is placed a blazing

vase: the triglyphs on its face are partially gilded, together with the flowers between. The tympanum bears a celestial crown, and palm branches, elegantly carved, and gilt. The general ground of the altar-piece is painted in wainscot; the pillars and pilasters to resemble marble.

Against the wall, near the south-east corner, within an enclosed stair-case, (and nearly in the dark,) is the monument to Sir William Wood, the Archer, before mentioned.—The other memorials in the Church would not be generally interesting, if transcribed; except, perhaps, those to the three last Ministers.

Near this Place
Lie the Remains
(Being the first deposited in the Vault
Underneath this Church)
of
The Rev. WILLIAM SELLON;
Who,
With indefatigable Industry, and the purest Religious Zeal,
Having devoted Thirty-three years of his Life
To the respective Duties of Curate and Minister
Of this Parish,
Died July 18, 1790, Aged 60 Years.—
As a Preacher,
He gave to Divine Truth all the Force
Of Human Eloquence.
As a Man,
He gave to the Precepts of Chistianity
All the Force of Human Example.

In the Chancel-Vault near this Place
are deposited the Remains
of the Rev. JAMES DAVIES, Minister of this Parish;
One of the Lecturers of Saint *Lawrence Jewry;*
and Lecturer of Saint *Stephen's, Coleman-Street*;
who died July 8, 1804, aged 74.
And also of ELIZABETH, his Wife,
who died November 6th, 1800;
aged 67.

IN MEMORY OF
THE REV. HENRY FOSTER, M. A.
MINISTER OF THIS PARISH,
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE MAY 26, 1814,
AGED 69 YEARS.
BRETHREN, THE TIME IS SHORT.

These inscriptions are each on a neat marble tablet, against the east wall, north of the altar. That to the Rev. Henry Foster being so concise, it may be proper to add, that he was elected to the Perpetual Curacy of this Church, (after a most obstinate contest, the heats engendered by which cannot be said to have yet subsided,) on the 30th of July, 1804; after having been an unsuccessful candidate in 1790, when his predecessor Mr. Davies was elected. He had been so impressed by the scenes of discord and contention which he witnessed, and very feelingly deplored, on *that* occasion, as to have repeatedly expressed his determination never again to become a competitor for any incumbency dependant upon *parochial election*: but the entreaties of his friends prevailed with him on the decease of Mr. Davies, and he was by them named a candidate in opposition to the Rev. Richard Lendon, Rector of St. John's, Minister at Pentonville Chapel, and who had been fourteen years curate to the late incumbent. Though elected, as has been said, (by a majority of 58,) in July, 1804, he was not licenced to the curacy till June 1807, through the legal impediments that were thrown in his way by his opponents. By those *opponents*, the following summary of his qualifications and character was published during the contest—"The Rev. *Henry Foster*, M.A. late of Queen's College, Oxford, Minister of Long

Acre Chapel; Tuesday Evening Lecturer of St. Swithin, London Stone; Thursday Morning Lecturer of St. Peter, Cornhill;* Friday Evening Lecturer of St. Antholin, Watling Street; and Sunday Evening Lecturer† of Christ Church, Spital-fields: a popular preacher, and a man of exemplary moral conduct."

The admeasurements of this Church, extracted from the papers of the Architect, are as follow:—

	Feet.
Extreme Length outside	110
Width of Front, at the basement	62
Height of the Parapet to the body	53
Ditto of the Roof	68
Ditto to the summit of the Tower Balustrade	100
Ditto to the summit of the Weathercock	179

The thickness of the walls varies from 2ft. 7in. to 3ft. 9in.

The Architect's papers also furnish the following "Account of Contracts and additional works in Building the Church of St. James, Clerkenwell."

	£.	s.	d.
First Contract	7,985	0	0
Second ditto for enclosing the Church	31	10	0
Third ditto, Building a Wall between Mr. Mallett's and Mr. Savory's	7	10	0
Fourth ditto, Building the Spire of Stone	281	13	0
Fifth ditto, for three feet added to Height	20	0	0
Sixth ditto, for Stone Ashler and Curbs to Steps	71	8	0
Extras, as to Account made 19th Jan. 1799	2560	0	0
	10957	1	0
Deduct for old Bricks	193	19	0
	10763	2	0
Amount of work done since the above account (exclusive of west steps not completed) to 14th November, 1792	271	7	2½
	11034	9	2½

The ultimate expence was little short of £12,000.

* Instituted in 1627, by Lucy Edge. Mr. Foster held this Lectureship from October 1774 to June 1807. † The First.

In the large and excellent vaults that extend below the edifice, are now placed upright against the wall the formerly recumbent figures on the tombs of Prior Weston, and the Lady Elizabeth Berkeley. In this perverted posture, and in their mutilated and degraded state, they cannot but excite painful feelings in all who are touched with the slightest reverence for antiquity. The floor of these vaults, it will be recollected, was that of the original chancel and south-aisle: and the reflecting visitant must still walk over some few of the grave-stones, placed there long ere the destruction of the ancient fabric was contemplated. These last homes of mortality contain also three or four mural monuments, including a handsome one to Mrs. Elizabeth Partridge, preserved entire from the old church:—and we naturally ask why they do not contain them *all?*—why, during the pulling down of the ancient structure, the rest were so long strewed over this venerable floor, to be spurned by the foot of every idle spectator, broken in the progress of the demolition, and their very fragments at last dispersed to be found no more. Such questions we may ask; but at this period, it is to be imagined, we might vainly "pause for a reply."

A pile of coffins near the east end, contains the mouldering relics of Bishop Burnet, and the various members of his family since interred here. Another pile on the north side, is pointed out as that of Mr. Justice Blackborow, who died in the adjoining close in 1794. It includes the coffins of his wife and two sons; and against the brick arch over all is placed a hatchment of arms, looking as fresh as if just painted.

Owing to the elevation of these receptacles of the departed, and their large and numerous apertures to the church-yard, they are dry and airy to an unusual degree: and slumbering mortality may be contemplated in them, divested of its chief horrors. And from a rule which is strictly enforced, that no person shall be here interred, unless in an interior coffin of lead or stone, the atmosphere of these vaults is nearly without a taint, and entirely free from any dangerous effluvia. The piers and arches of brickwork which divide the whole into a kind of cloisters, and support the floor of the church above, appear to be of the most substantial construction.

Emerging from this abode of death, and quitting (after a description which may have been thought too minute,) the Church of St. James, let us recur to the spot by which it is surrounded. The reader will remember that we approached this edifice from Clerkenwell Green; but as no mention could then be properly made of the line of houses which ran on the right of this approach to the wall of the former structure, the remark was purposely deferred that only one of these houses remains as it stood at the rebuilding. In those opposite, on the contrary, there has been little subsequent change: but it may be observed that the one now a butcher's shop, had, until the passing of the first Paving Act for St. James's, (in 1774,) projections unusually large and unsightly, extending not less than seven feet from the present front, which were removed by authority of that Act, at the expense of upwards of £200. At that period, the same house was occupied by a publican, and known by the name of the *Three*

Queens; and, up to the rebuilding of the church, the house in the church-yard which adjoined the sacred edifice itself, was of the same description, and bore the sign of the *Angel.*

Our south view of the present church, shews in perspective the gable front of the old house, standing on the right of the approach just spoken of. The large house on the same side, and with one front to the Green, will be immediately recognized as the *Crown Tavern;* and it may be known to many, that in the bar, or wine-vaults, which faces the spectator in the view, is preserved a relique of the old church, a *Cat Mummy*, found by the workmen employed to remove that ancient structure, in a square cavity left purposely for its reception in the walls! To the disgrace of humanity, it is but too probable that the animal was entombed alive; the attitude in which it was found, betraying all the contortions of suffering. Allowing the whole church to have been re-edified in the time of Richard I. or John, it must be more than 600 years since this barbarous act was perpetrated; and little did the perpetrators imagine, that at so remote a period poor Grimalkin would be exhibited in a glass case in a house of public entertainment. The body is a perfect *anatomy*, without any remains of the hair, and entirely of a cadaverous hue. There can be little doubt that it is the oldest mummy, of its kind, extant in Europe.

We proceed to the ancient *Close* of the Nunnery, now called CLERKENWELL CLOSE. Here, but on what spot is unknown, resided *John Weever*, the celebrated Antiquary, and author of the work called

"Ancient Funeral Monuments," the inscription on whose tomb in the former church was given. He dates the preface to his book from his house in Clerkenwell Close, 1631; and died, as appeared by the inscription, at the age of 56, in the year following. Succeeding antiquaries have agreed to consider this his best-known work as too frequently inaccurate, although the result of very considerable pains and industry. One remarkable error in it, relating to Isabella Sackville's tomb, was noticed in the Ecclesiastical History, page 47.

When Weever lived, as he himself tells us, there was "a fair spatious house, within the close of this Nunnery, built of late by *Sir Thomas Challoner*, Knight, deceased; upon the frontispiece whereof these verses were depensiled, now altogether obliterated:

"Casta fides superest, velatæ tecta sorores
Ista relegatæ desuruere licet:
Nam venerandus Hymen hic vota iugalia seruat
Vestalemque focum mente fouere studet.

"The Nunnery being opposite to this new brave building, ministred (belike) occasion and matter for the making this said inscription."

An attempt at a free translation of these elegant lines of Sir Thomas's, will be pardoned:—

Ye sad fair Sisterhood! for ever fled,
And thou, dark Error's pile! deserted now,
Behold! in hated Superstition's stead,
Hymen receives the happier virgin's vow.

From Weever it further appears, that Sir Thomas caused "this hexameter following" to be "painted under a Sunne-diall in the entrance unto the Nunnery:

"Non aliter pereo species quam futilis umbræ."

This truly estimable and eminent knight was descended from a good family in Wales, but born at London about the year 1515. He was a gallant soldier, an able statesman, and author of works alike creditable to his learning, genius, loyalty, and friendships. In Latin poetry, he was excelled by no writer of that age: though, possibly, we of the present day may be inclined to dispute the *justice* of his "Praise of Henry VIII., the most worthy King of England," which is the title of one of his poems. He first shone at the court of Charles V., while in the suite of our ambassador there; and, in the beginning of the next reign, came into great favour with the Duke of Somerset, by whom he was made a knight for his conduct at the battle of Musselburgh. During Mary's sovereignty, his protestantism kept him under a cloud; but he appeared at court with his former lustre on the accession of Elizabeth, and was the first ambassador appointed by that sagacious princess, namely, to Ferdinand I., Emperor of Germany. He went to Spain in a similar capacity in 1651; and his principal work, "The Right Ordering of the English Republic," was finished at his house in Clerkenwell after returning from that embassy. He enjoyed, for a series of years, the particular esteem of Lord Burleigh (then Sir William Cecil); and on his death, in 1565, that nobleman assisted as chief mourner at his funeral solemnity, performed in St. Paul's Cathedral; besides honouring his memory with some Latin verses, in which he observes, that the most lively imagination, the most solid judgement, the quickest parts, and the most unblemished probity, which are commonly

the lot of different men, were all united in Sir Thomas Chaloner, justly therefore reputed one of the greatest men of his time. Mention of his decease thus occurs in our Parish Register; "*Sir Thomas Challinger,* knight, died October 14, 1565, and was afterwards buryed in Paules church, London."

Sir Thomas, son of the preceding, was born in 1559, and in consequence of his mother's marrying a second husband, owed his education chiefly to the care and protection of his father's friend, the Lord Treasurer Burleigh. At college he acquired a great reputation for parts and learning; and, like his father, wrote both English and Latin verse with elegance and facility. After travelling for some years, and forming connexions with some of the most eminent men of genius on the continent, he returned to his native country, and was knighted in 1591. Natural Philosophy now became his favourite pursuit; and to his constant practice of proving theory by experiment, England was indebted for the first discovery of *alum* among her mineral treasures. This took place about 1600, on his estate near Gisborough in Yorkshire; but after the expenditure of considerable sums, and at last bringing his project to bear, he was deprived of the profit he so reasonably expected, by his discovery being adjudged a *mine-royal,* and which was therefore let by the crown, at a high rent, to a Sir Paul Pindar. In disgust probably at this treatment, he, towards the latter end of Elizabeth's reign, courted the favour of her expected successor, James; and growing into high credit with that king, accompanied him to England, and was entrusted with the care of Prince Henry's



Drawn by the late James Carr Esqr

Newcastle House.



J. & H.S. Storer del. & sc.

White Conduit House.

education. He died November 17th, 1615; leaving several sons, of three of whom, (Edward, Thomas, and James) Biography makes mention as eminent for ability and learning; but of a fourth, it may be believed there exists no record save in the baptismal register of this parish, where we read, "1613, April 24th. *Frederick,* sonn to Sir Thomas Chaloner, knight."

It has been already stated, that the site of the Nunnery became the property of the noble family of Cavendish, Dukes of Newcastle. The representative of this family when Weever wrote, was Earl of Newcastle, not having been then elevated to the Dukedom: and it is apparent from the same author, that *Newcastle House,* the after residence of the family, was not begun to be erected in his time. The Duke raised this spacious, and stately, though somewhat gloomy-looking edifice, (of which the view will afford a correct idea), upon the site, and in great degree from the ruins, of the Nuns' house. It stood on the north side of the nave of the old church, and remained till after the demolition of that structure, having been purchased by the architect of the new building, who erected on the spot the handsome houses called Newcastle Place. In 1793, just before its removal, it was in the occupation of a cabinet-maker; and part of the wall, and a doorway, of the *Nuns' Hall,* as well as the south arcade of the cloister, were also then standing. Scattered over the garden, at the same period, were the remains of the numerous ancient monuments removed from the church, together with the effigies of Lady Berkeley and Sir William Weston. The garden extended east-

ward as far as to St. James's Walk; and in that portion of it without the cloister, had been the Nuns' cemetery. Mr. Fisher, Architect, has in his possession a plan of the house, with the grounds behind it; from which this mansion appears to have been replete in its time with every requisite for the residence of a noble, though hardly perhaps of a *ducal* family.

William Cavendish, Baron Ogle, Viscount Mansfield, Earl, Marquis, and Duke of Newcastle, was one of the most accomplished persons of his age, as well as one of the ablest generals, and most loyal subjects, that supported the interests of an unhappy master, Charles I. He was born in 1592, and after being greatly distinguished by James I., obtained no less favour from his unfortunate son Charles, for whom he commanded during the civil wars on several important occasions, but whose service he quitted in disgust after the fatal battle of Marston-Moor, which was fought against his consent through the precipitancy of Prince Rupert. Upon this terrible defeat, he took shipping with a few of his principal officers, for the continent, and there sustained, under the greatest privations, an exile of eighteen years, during which the Parliament levied enormous sums upon his estate at home, amounting in the whole, it was computed, to £733, 579. At the Restoration he was received with the greatest respect, constituted chief justice in Eyre of the counties north of the Trent, and, by letters-patent dated March 16th, 1664, advanced to the dignity of *Duke* of Newcastle. He spent nearly the whole remainder of his life in the retirement afforded by his seat at Clerkenwell, where he took much pleasure in literary pursuits, and paid

some necessary attention to repairing the injuries sustained by his fortune. After reaching the age of eighty-four, he died December 23rd, 1676. He married twice, but had issue only by his first lady. His second wife was Margaret, youngest daughter of Sir Charles Lucas, of Colchester, in Essex, to whom he was united in exile, and who was still more distinguished by her *romantic* attachment to literature than by her family loyalty.* He lies interred, with his duchess, under a stately monument in Westmin-

* The character of this equally elevated and eccentric *blue-stocking* is given by Horace Walpole with all his accustomed vivacity, mingled, it may be, with rather severer satire than a noble lady, innocently, however enthusiastically, devoting herself to authorship, deserved. At her death, it appears, (which took place in 1673,) she had "filled nearly twelve volumes folio with plays, poems, orations, philosophical discourses," and miscellaneous pieces. It was her custom to send copies of her productions, as they were published, elegantly bound, to learned individuals, and especially to the colleges at both universities, from the masters and fellows of which latter she never failed to receive the most extravagant flattery in return. On one of these occasions, the vice-chancellor and senate of the university of Cambridge thus gravely addressed her:—"Most excellent princess, You have unspeakably obliged us all, but not in one respect alone: but whensoever we find ourselves nonplus'd in our studies, we repair to you as our oracle; if we be to speak, you dictate to us; if we knock at Apollo's door, you alone open to us; if we compose an history, you are the remembrancer; if we be confounded and puzzled among the philosophers, you disentangle us, and assoil all our difficulties." The praise of the poet Waller, had it been sincere, had been worth volumes of this rhodomontade: but, unfortunately, we find that after declaring he would give all his own compositions to have been the author of her Grace's lines on the Death of a Stag, he turned round in another company with the observation, that no sacrifice could be too great "to save a lady from the disgrace of such a vile performance." The truth is, that her prose compositions, together with much pedantry, show native good sense; and that her verses, though frequently only so many tissues of conceits and affectation, *are* sometimes poetry.

ster Abbey, on which is an inscription that may be thought somewhat too lavish in his praise. His titles descended to his son Henry, who was the last heir-male of this family, and died in July 1691: in him the title of Newcastle, in the line of Cavendish, became extinct; but his daughters married into some of the noblest families in the kingdom.*

On the opposite side of the Close stood a large old mansion, which was accustomed to be called "*Cromwell House;*" and from it CROMWELL PLACE, now adjoining the site, takes name. But there appears no authority for the tradition that this house was inhabited by Oliver Cromwell. Mr. Lysons justly observed, "There is scarcely a village near London, in which there is not one house at least appropriated by tradition to Cromwell, though there is no person to whom they might be appropriated with less probability. During the whole of the civil wars, Cromwell was with the army: when he was Protector, he divided his time between Whitehall and Hampton Court."†

* The eldest of these ladies, and her father's co-heir, became Duchess of Albemarle, and died at Newcastle House, August 27th, 1734, aged ninety-six. Her first husband was Christopher Monk, duke of Albemarle, son to the celebrated General Monk; but she was afterwards married to Ralph Lord Montague, father to the succeeding duke, to whom she bequeathed 2000*l.* per annum. Her aberrations from sound intellect were so great, that she was not uncommonly called the "mad duchess;" and she is even said to have married Lord Montague as *Emperor of China;* a circumstance, from which Cibber took the idea of a scene in his "Sick Lady Cured." She was constantly served *on the knee* to the day of her death. From her, the mansion was frequently named *Albemarle House.*

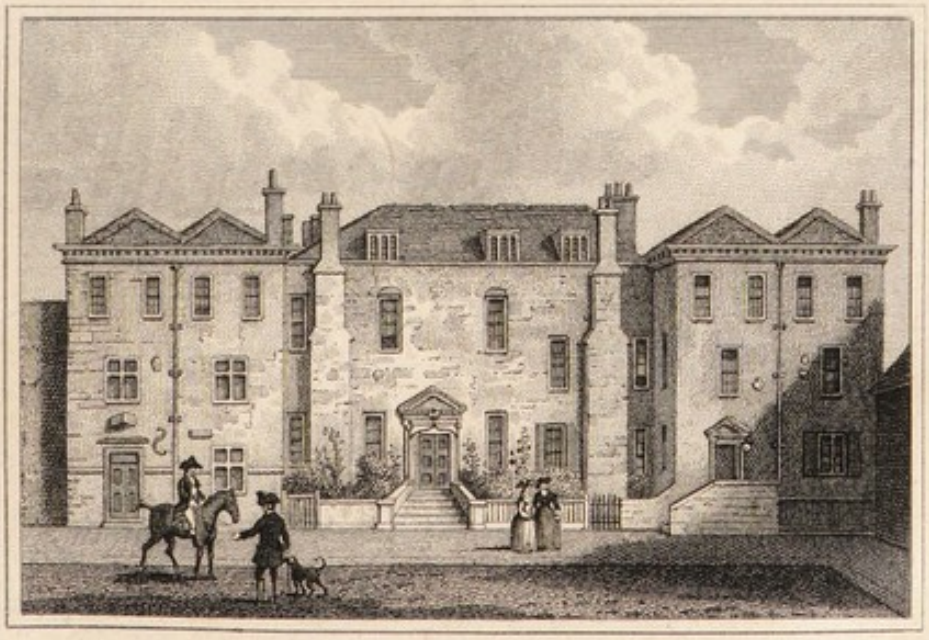
† Environs, I., 376.



J & H S Storer delt & sc

Antient Houses St John Street

as they appeared 1811



Old House Clerkenwell Close.

traditionally the Residence of Oliver Cromwell.

Gent.ᵉ Magazine July 1794 Pl. III p. 617.



OLIVER CROMWELL'S HOUSE, CLERKENWELL CLOSE.

It is more probable that this was the residence of Colonel Titus: for if so, Cromwell might have paid the colonel visits here, and hence the tradition that it was his abode. But a still greater probability is, that here was the identical "fair spatious house" described by Weever to have been built by Sir Thomas Chaloner; a circumstance that would render it still more likely to have been visited by Cromwell, as we find the name of "Thomas Chaloner" (who must have been a grandson of the founder,) in the list of those who, with Cromwell himself, and the other judges of Charles I., signed the warrant for that unfortunate monarch's execution. More recently, this house was in the occupation of William Blackborow, Esq., many years in the commission of the peace for the county of Middlesex, who died here, at an advanced age, Sept. 16, 1794. It was destroyed by fire a few years since, and the spot on which it stood is occupied by modern buildings: but our engraving will enable the reader to form a correct idea of the chief features of this residence just prior to its conflagration.

Adjoining Cromwell Place stands a large irregular old house, whose numerous gables bespeak it of the period of Queen Elizabeth or James I. But every trace of such antiquity has vanished from the interior. It has been long let out in tenements.

Lastly, where the Close unites with the north termination of Newcastle Street, and forming an integral part of the house there situated, may be seen that trifling remain of the Nunnery buildings which was alluded to in the Ecclesiastical History. It is

a small portion of a wall of considerable thickness, with a part also of one of the jambs of a Gothic window. From the position, this remain would appear to have belonged to the *Nuns' Hall,* which is described to have stood north of the east arcade of the ancient cloister.

Route III.

FROM AYLESBURY STREET AND CLERKENWELL GREEN, BY ST. JAMES'S WALK AND NEW PRISON, TO CORPORATION ROW AND ROSOMAN STREET: RETURNING TO CLERKENWELL GREEN BY BOWLING-GREEN LANE, COPPICE ROW, AND RAY STREET.

Aylesbury Street, it will be readily imagined, takes name from *Aylesbury House and Gardens*, represented by the engraving of the Priory remains as they appeared in 1661. From the relative position of the church, it is apparent that the house must have extended from that edifice nearly, if not quite, to the south side of the modern street: its architectural character, as might be expected from the period at which it was adapted as a residence by the Aylesbury family, unites the *domestic-castellated* with but vestiges of the *monastic*. The view, it will be remembered, shows the back-front: towards the Square, its style, though it might not be more regular, was very possibly more imposing.

Robert Bruce, earl of Aylesbury, and deputy earl-marshal, dates numerous letters, in 1671, from this house. He was the first of this title, but the second earl of Elgin. Having given proofs of his loyalty to Charles I., and been instrumental to the restoration of his son, he was, March 18th, 1663-4, created Baron Bruce, of Skelton, in the county of York; Viscount Bruce, of Ampthill, in the county of Bedford; and Earl of Aylesbury, in the county of Bucks. He died at his seat at Ampthill, and was buried there, in October 1685. Anthony Wood* gives him the

* Fasti Oxoniensis, I. 887.

following character: "He was a learned person, and otherwise well qualified; was well versed in English history and antiquities, a lover of all such as were professors of those studies, and a curious collector of manuscripts, especially of those which related to England and English antiquities. Besides also, he was a lover of the regular clergy, as those of Bedfordshire and Bucks know well enough." The precise period at which this residence of a noble family, and seat of the ancient Hospitalers, was demolished, the author has not been able to ascertain: but there is every probability that it remained as exhibited by our view, until the sale of the estate by Thomas, second earl of Aylesbury, in 1706. A small book, whose author's name was *Stow*, (not the celebrated antiquary,) which gave a brief description of London about the year 1720, speaks of it as still standing, and "let in tenements": no doubt, therefore, it had by that time gone greatly to decay.

Woodbridge Street, on the right, was called *Red-Bull Yard* until the year 1778, when it took its present name by an order of the St. James's Commissioners for Paving. Its first appellation was derived from the *Red-Bull Theatre*, supposed to have been erected in the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and which consequently was one of the *seventeen* playhouses that arose in London and its vicinity from that period to the time of Charles I. In point of size it vied with the Globe* and Fortune,† and excelled all the rest. There is reason to believe,

* On the Bank-side.

† Between Golden Lane and White-cross Street.

too, that for some considerable time it worthily sustained the character of that early English drama, which sprung from the mysteries and moralities in earlier days enacted by the London clerks so near its site; that, to use the language of a writer in 1631,* it was one of those "publick stages and theatres in this city," upon which "dramatic poesy was so lively expressed and represented, as Rome in the auge of her pomp and glory never saw it better performed—I mean in respect of the action and art, and not of the cost and sumptuousness." Among other proofs that it was originally a regular theatre, we have the following. In "Albumazar," performed at Cambridge in 1614, *Trinculo* says, "I will confound her with compliments drawn from the plays I see at the Fortune and the Red Bull, where I learn all the words I speak and understand not." Edward Alleyn, the actor, and worthy founder of Dulwich College, left a memorandum, in which he says, "Oct. 3, 1617, went to the Red Bull, and received for *The Younger Brother* but 3*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*" And we find it had a regular company, who were called "The Players of the Revells." But fanaticism, in the unfortunate era of the first Charles, involved the monarchy and the drama in a common fate: of which a presentiment seems to have been entertained by Randolph, in his "Muses' Looking-Glass," a comedy performed in 1638, when, describing the puritanical *Flowerdew's* denunciation of playhouses, he tells us—

"Lastly, he wish'd
The *Bull* might cross the Thames to the *Bear-Garden*,†
And there be soundly baited:"—

* Sir George Buck. † Paris Garden.

for within a few years afterwards, an ordinance was directed to the lord-mayor, the magistrates of Middlesex, Westminster, &c., by which they were commanded to "pull down all the playhouses."* However, the ordinance was not carried into full effect, most of the houses being only closed for a period: this, in particular, remained, and became celebrated for little comic pieces called *drolls*, a collection of which was published by Francis Kirkman in 1672, with a frontispiece representing its interior.† During the Protectorate, the regular drama somewhat revived: and a company being formed of such of the London players as had escaped with their lives from

* Moser's Vestiges: in Europ. Mag.

† In his preface to this work, which was called "The Wits, or Sport upon Sport," its author says,—"When the publique theatres were shut up, and the actors were forbidden to present us with any of their tragedies, *because we had enough of that in earnest*, and comedies, *because the vices of the age were too lively and smartly represented*, then all that we could divert ourselves with were these humours and pieces of plays, which, passing under the name of a merry conceited fellow, called 'Bottom the Weaver', 'Simpleton the Smith', 'John Swabber', or some such title, were only allowed us, and that but by stealth too, and under pretence of rope-dancing, or the like; and these being all that was permitted us, great was the confluence of the auditors; and these small things were as profitable, and as great get-pennies to the actors, as any of our late famed plays. I have seen the RED-BULL playhouse, which was a large one, so full, that as many went back for want of room as had entered: and as meanly as you may now think of these drolls, they were then acted by the best comedians then and now in being; and I may say by some that exceeded all now living, by name, the incomparable Robert Cox, who was not only the principal actor, but also the contriver and author of most of these farces." In the frontispiece above spoken of, the portrait of Robert Cox, as Simpleton, is given on the stage; together with that of several of the other popular actors of the day, with the characters they are personating written against them, but without their names, which are now forgotten.

the civil wars, "they used, at Christmas and Bartholomew Fair, to bribe the officer who commanded the guard at Whitehall"—it having been the custom to employ soldiers to disperse them—"and were thereupon connived at to act for a few days at the Red Bull."* And, "presently after the Restoration, the king's players acted publickly at the Red Bull for some time, and then removed to a new-built playhouse in Vere Street, by Clare Market."† It is probable that the first *female* performer upon an English stage belonged to this theatre; for it was Thomas Jordan, an actor at the Red Bull, who wrote "A Prologue, to introduce the first Woman that came to act on the Stage, in the Tragedy called The Moor of Venice." This was just prior to the Restoration: the name of the "gentle Desdemona" who volunteered to supplant the boys and young men who had hitherto filled the women's characters, has not been preserved.

As the period of the first erection of our Theatre is unknown, so is that of its final destruction. We can only find, from Prynne's "Histrio-Mastix," written in 1633, that it had been then lately *re-built*, together with the Fortune. Kirkman's frontispiece, however, enables us to form a tolerable notion of the interior, which no doubt resembled that of the other play-houses of the time. It appears that there was a distinction then made between *public* and *private*

* "*Historia Histrionica;* an historical account of the English Stage": a tract reprinted in Dodsley's Collection, and originally published in 1699: its author is said to have been James Wright, barrister at law, who also wrote "The Antiquities of Rutlandshire," several poems, and other pieces.

† Ibid.

theatres; the latter being so called, not because they were less open to the public than the former, but from their being smaller, the prices of admission higher, and the audience in consequence more select. They were also winter-houses, and their performances were by candle-light: while the public, and more regular theatres, of which the Red-Bull was one, were open only in the summer, and exhibited in broad day. In fact, the public theatre was originally no more than a slight improvement upon those exhibitions in inn-yards, and the courts of noblemen's and gentlemen's houses, that succeeded to the moveable stages upon which the mysteries had been performed. The general features were the same: a square or oblong area, open to the weather at top, and with a platform for a stage at one end, round which the "*groundlings*" stood to witness the performances.* The tiers of rooms, as they were called, the *boxes* of that age, took the place of the inn-yard galleries, and were roofed over:—our view of the yard of the old Angel Inn affords a very tolerable idea of them. The stage, which was strewed with rushes, or matted, (the latter only upon extraordinary occasions), was separated from the "*understanding* gentlemen of the ground," as Ben Jonson styled them, by a paling. At its rear was a balcony, or upper stage, about eight or nine feet from the platform, in which a mock audience sat when a play was exhibited within a play, (as in Hamlet); the actors in that case addressing themselves to the balcony, and turning their backs upon a great part of

* This area answered to the *pit* in the private playhouses, which in *them* was furnished with seats.

the real audience. From beneath this balcony the performers made their entrances and exits, through a pair of curtains which opened in the middle, and might be drawn backwards and forwards on an iron rod. Matted walls or tapestry were the general interior decorations. When these theatres began to be entirely covered in, as they seem to have been in the time of Charles I., candle-light performances also were adopted: the lights for which purpose at the Red-Bull, appear from Kirkman's view to have been candles, disposed partly in branches hung from the roof, and partly in little flat candlesticks, each holding two lights, which ranged along the front of the stage. We need only further observe, that this house originally, no doubt, was one of those open to the weather so far as regarded the central area; and that, most likely, it was completely roofed at the re-building before 1633. The site was probably that now occupied by Messrs. Nicholson's distillery.

On the right, as we proceed, is *School-house Yard,* formerly called *Honey-Coat Yard.* It derived its present name from having been the site of the *Clerkenwell Charity Schools,* which, in 1760, were removed to the corner of Jerusalem Passage. Robert Seymour, who wrote in 1735, says, "In Honey-Coat Yard are two Charity-Schools, one for 60 boys, and one for 40 girls, who are annually clothed, and instructed in reading, writing, arithmetic, psalmody, and the principles of the christian religion, by the voluntary and charitable contributions of well-disposed persons." In 1708, the "New View of London" stated the number of scholars, and the benefits they derived from the institution, thus:—

"51 boys, and 21 girls, who have clothes and learning at the charge of several worthy persons, subscribers, and 12 boys and 4 girls of the said number have likewise all other necessaries." * Agreeably to common opinion in the parish, these schools were established in the year 1700; the facts appear to be, that the boys' school was commenced in 1699, the girls' in 1701. There can be no question that they arose out of that institution mentioned by Strype,† and which he calls an "an annual meeting and feast, for the keeping up friendship, *and encouragement of charity, and putting out yearly a poor child of the parish.*" This feast, he tells us, "was *revived* in the year 1698;" so that it was instituted, perhaps, much earlier. It is yet continued annually on St. James's day, under the name of the Subscribers'

* The *latter* part of this statement is not confirmed by the school minutes.—The following well-meaning letter was sent to Dr. Henry Savage, Treasurer, 30th July, 1710, with the sum of £20.:—

To the Trustees of the Charity School belonging to the Parish Church of St. James, Clerkenwell—

Gentlemen—Almighty God has enabled me to bestow this Sum of Twenty Pds towards your pious undertaking, which with five pounds sent the 8th of July, 1705, and five pounds three shillings the 13th of March, 1708, make the sum of thirty pounds three shillings.—The reasons that induce me to this work is, first, God's Blessing on my honest endeavours far beyond my expectation, whereby I think myself bound in duty to God to make this return of charity; firmly believing that God, that sees in secret, will reward me openly.—The second reason is my own want of learning, *for I can neither read nor write, which makes me know ye want of it now;* and observing the Order and Decorum of the Children under your care, not only at Church but at their publick examinations, and the care you take to instruct them in Reading, Writing, and Accompts: these two reasons, I say, has made me very desirous to encourage this your generous undertaking. I. P.

† See Ecclesiastical History. p. 88.



Clerkenwell Schools.



J & H S Storer delt. & sc.

Clerkenwell Workhouse.

and Friends' "*Anniversary*;" an appellation which it received twenty years since in exchange for a more homely one—"*The Cockneys' Feast.*" Quarterly sermons, in aid of the funds of this charity, were preached for a series of years in the old church of St. James; and we find from the school minutes, that many of the preachers from 1720 to 1739 were bishops or other dignitaries of the establishment. The same minutes give lists of preachers on Wednesdays and Fridays "during the holy season of Lent," for the charity: and in the "New View of London," under the head of "Lectures preached and collections made for maintaining Charity Schools," we have, "St. James, Clerkenwell; every last Sunday in the month, at 5 p. m." The present sermons are usually four annually: the institutions other sources are voluntary subscriptions and donations, bequests, and the *profits* of the annual dinner.—The principal benefactions have been as follow:

1703. Ann Gardner, by will, £1. per annum for ever, payable out of two houses at Hockley-in-the-hole, (now called Ray Street.)

1712. Thomas Crosse, by will, £100. for a gallery for the use of the children in Clerkenwell Church.* Also the freehold estates mentioned at page 175 of this work, and which produce yearly, in rental, £92.

1720. Edmund Howard, by will, £5. per ann.

* A faculty for the erection of this gallery was obtained in 1720; but it was let to individuals, and the children otherwise accommodated, until 1733. When the present church was built, the trustees obtained from the parish the sum of £10. annually as a consideration for Mr. Crosse's bequest, the payment of which is secured for ever by the Church Act.

for ever, payable out of a freehold estate at North Hall, Middlesex.

1752. William Vernon, by will, £1. per ann. payable out of premises in Dorrington Street, during the continuance of his lease.*

1774. Stephen Lefebure, by will, the interest of £33. 6*s*. 8*d*. New South Sea Annuities, for ever.

1794. John Taylor, by will, £100., to be invested in the funds, and the interest applied to the general purposes of the School, with the exception of £2. 2*s*. p. ann. for exhibitions of writing among the boys half-yearly.†

1802. Thomas Betton, by will, this institution's dividend, (averaging annually at about £8.) of property left to the Ironmongers' Company, in trust, to divide the interest among Charity Schools in the metropolis.

1818. William Moore, of Goswell Street, a donation of £50., to be invested in the funds: (the produce was £64. 14*s*. 6*d*., 3 p. cent. consols): the interest to be applied to the use of the Charity for ever.

1820. John Nieman, by will, (on the death of his sister Susannah, which took place in this year) the interest of £1,200. for ever.‡

* Mr. Rotton, the occupant, continued the payment of this benefaction until Christmas, 1813, (there being no document to shew when Mr. Vernon's lease expired.) The premises formed part of the large Jervoise estate; and the freehold being sold to Mr. Rotton, the lease merged therein.

† The money was not invested till 1804, when £185. 3*s*. 8*d*. three per cent. consols were purchased with it. The trustees have since established a similar exhibition for the girls.

‡ The legacy duty being deducted, this sum became £1150., which was invested in the 4 p. cents. Susanna Nieman, by her

The present School-house stands on ground before taken up by a public house called the "Jerusasalem Tavern." It is a brick building, with few pretensions to ornament beyond the form of its windows, five of which are Venetian, and three semicircular. On each side the door-way are vacant niches, as though *intended* to receive figures of a male and female scholar; and a plain stone tablet above is inscribed, "CLERKENWELL CHARITY SCHOOL, ANNO DOMINI 1760." Near the top runs a cornice, supporting an outline of a pediment; both of stone, and embellished with dentels. The interior is both inconvenient, and inadequate to the purposes of the charity: to remedy which, as the lease will expire in 1830,* the erection of a new school-house is contemplated on a plot of ground at the bottom of Amwell Street. A subscription has been entered into to defray the expense of the building; and the benevolent will be gratified to hear that it is proceeding with success. The number of children continued at 100 from 1720 till 1816; but was then, through the introduction of the National System of Education, augmented to 280, of whom 165 were an-

will, gave £21. to be paid for ten years to the minister of St. James and Rector of St. John, in the sum of One Guinea annually to each, for sermons in aid of the charity: but, by consent of all parties, this money also was invested, and made an addition of £21. 19*s.* to the stock purchased out of John Nieman's legacy; of which latter, the will directs no part to be laid out in building, repairs, or increase of salaries.

* The ground on which the School-house stands, is in part the property of the executors of Henry Haughton, and in part that of the Lords of the Manor. The lease was granted to the trustees for 71 years, (reserving to the Lessors the cellar beneath the building), at an annual rent of £10.: the quit-rent to the Lords of the Manor is £2. 10*s.* per annum.

fair, the gay, and the professional. The celebrated Dubourg, among the rest, here played, when a child, standing upon a joint-stool, the first solo he ever executed in public. Meanwhile, says Walpole in his anecdotes, "various were the opinions concerning Britton; some thought his musical assembly only a cover for seditious meetings; others, for magical purposes. He was taken for an atheist, a presbyterian, a jesuit." But, in reality, he adds, on the authority of Woolaston, "Britton was a plain, simple, honest man, who only meant to amuse himself." And Dr. Burney, who in early life had conversed with members of the club, spoke of him in much the same manner. So lately as the middle of the last century, mezzotinto engravings of him were common in the print-shops; in most of which he was represented with his sack of small-coal on his shoulder, and his retail measure in his hand. A portrait is preserved of him in the British Museum, wherein he appears a sedate, good-looking, elderly man.

But besides his devotion to music, Britton was a diligent collector of all sorts of curiosities, particularly drawings, books, prints, manuscripts on uncommon subjects, as mystic divinity, the philosopher's stone, judicial astrology, and magic; together with musical instruments, both in and out of vogue. He had many opportunities for indulging this taste, in his perambulations through the town crying his small-coal; and it has been naturally suggested that as, among other books, he picked up some on Rosicusian mysteries, it is not impossible but he might waste a part of his stock in trade in the search after

the great secrets of alchemy, and the vain project of transmuting the baser metals into gold. In collecting books, he appears to have been not always employed on his own account, but partly for several persons of distinction, among whom were the then Duke of Devonshire, and Earls of Oxford, Pembroke, Sunderland, and Winchelsea. It was the custom of these noblemen to meet at a bookseller's shop in Ave-Maria Lane; and here Britton, being a truly modest and unpresuming man, was allowed to join them, and take part in their conversation. On these occasions, he would pitch his coal-sack on a bulk at the door, and, dressed in his blue frock, which was necessarily somewhat discoloured by his occupation, step in and spend an improving hour with the company.

The circumstances of his death were as extraordinary as his life. One Honeyman, a blacksmith, and a famous ventriloquist, was secretly introduced by Robe, a Middlesex Justice, who occasionally took part in the concerts. This man announced, as from afar, the death of poor Britton within a few hours; with an intimation, that the only way to avert his doom, was to fall on his knees immediately, and say the Lord's Prayer. Britton did so, yet his doom was not averted: for taking to his bed, he died in a few days, leaving Justice Robe to enjoy the fruits of his mirth. His death happened in September, 1714, when upwards of sixty years of age. He left little behind him except his books, his collection of manuscript and printed music, and his musical instruments; all of which were sold by auction, and catalogues are still in the hands of the curious. His

instruments were twenty-seven in number: his instrumental music consisted of a hundred and sixty articles, and his vocal of forty-two. He had been such a diligent copyist, that the collection transcribed by his own hand sold for nearly £100. To the catalogue of his library was prefixed, as a title-page, "The Library of Mr. Thomas Britton, small-coal man, deceased; who, at his own charge, kept up a concert of music above forty years in his little cottage; being a curious collection of every ancient and uncommon book in divinity, history, physic, chemistry, magick, &c. Also a collection of MSS., chiefly on vellum; which will be sold at Paul's Coffee-house," &c. The sale was for the benefit of his widow.

Approaching the *Green* from this spot, we may be reminded by its name of the verdant aspect it once wore, ere trade and Scotch paving had united to deprive it of every pretension to rural appearances. Many years have not elapsed since it was decorated with rows of trees, chiefly sycamore, ranged before the houses. At present, though it possesses a considerable degree of openness on the one hand, it is usually lumbered on the other by goods exposed for sale by the various dealers whose dwellings are contiguous. *Lunt's Coffee-House,* on the last-mentioned side of the way, deserves passing notice. This establishment has been latterly continued under another name: but to "William Lunt" must be assigned such honour as is due to the man, who here, in a long room, decorated with a profusion of maps, plans, prints, casts from the antique, busts of great men both of ancient and modern times, &c. &c. &c.,

provided tea and coffee in rows of neat boxes, each of which, being inscribed to some such worthy as Homer, Demosthenes, Cicero, Milton, or Shakspeare, was intended no doubt to inspire the idea of association with those illustrious ones, at the same time that the visitant might be gratefully reminded, both by his beverage, and the quantity of newspapers and reviews scattered around him, that, in propriâ personâ, he was seated at "Lunt's Coffee and Reading Rooms, 7, Clerkenwell Green." With nice professional tact, too, William Lunt divided his printed bill of fare into two compartments; the one headed "Substantial Enjoyments," the other, "Intellectual Enjoyments." The nature of the former may be readily surmised; but the latter, it may be proper to explain, consisted, in addition to what has been detailed, of "Discussions, Lectures, Orations, Mock-Trials, Readings, Recitations, and Harmony";—the whole, together with the substantials, to be enjoyed for less than sixpence! Justice, however, adds, that the exertions of this individual would have better deserved the success which, eventually, he did *not* receive, had his arrangements been so made as to have preserved the discussions, mock-trials, &c., from that contamination of infidel principles and immorality, which could not fail to disgust every visitor of unvitiated taste or ordinary religious feeling.

St. James's Walk, the next object in our route, was called *New Prison Walk* until 1774. Here, on our left, adjoining the churchyard, stands an old roomy house, in which a late minister of St. James's, the Rev. William Sellon, resided until his death. Though not inhabited by either of the succeeding in-

cumbents, it is still frequently styled "*The Minister's*"; for which, it is possible, there may be a more remote reason than the mere fact of Mr. Sellon's occupancy. We have seen from the Ecclesiastical History, (pp. 76 and 80,) that there was a "*vickeridge hows*" attached to the cure at least until the year 1611; and though the present house bears no marks of so old a date, nothing can be more likely than that it is a rebuilding upon the same spot. It is farther clear, that the incumbent had a residence until 1656, when the parishioners purchased their *church* of Edward Drake; for Strype, in narrating this purchase, says, speaking of Drake, "He reserved *the rector's house*, which was formerly one house, but now is divided into two; one wherein the Rev. Mr. Pede, the present minister, did formerly live, and the other wherein Mr. Edmund Howard liveth. These tenements Mr. Drake reserved for himself, and his wife and children, out of the said purchase. But they are lately bought and enjoyed by the said Howard." From which extract it plainly appears, that the incumbent was *deprived* of a parsonage by the parochial bargain; for "the Rev. Mr. Pede" (who became minister in 1691) must be considered only as a *tenant*. It is possible that parts of the present building belonged to a re-erection by Drake on the site of the former "*vickeridge.*" From "Mr. Edmund Howard," who was churchwarden in the early part of the last century, the house might derive most of its existing features: he was a benefactor to the Parish School, as recently noticed.

On the opposite side of the Walk, we notice a house inscribed "Clerkenwell Parochial Sun-

DAY-SCHOOL: Instituted January 4, 1807." The merit of originating this institution rests with the late Rev. Henry Foster. From its commencement to December 31st, 1826, it appears, from the last annual report, to have been the means of affording weekly instruction to 5090 children, of whom the names of 373 were at the close of the year upon the books; and that the average number of scholars who attended divine service in St. James's Church during 1826 was 207. The National System of education is that adopted. The utility of such an institution, in a parish so densely populated as Clerkenwell, must be obvious to every benevolent mind. Annual subscriptions, donations, and periodical sermons at St. James's and St. John's Churches, are the sources to which it has hitherto been indebted for support.

An ancient house (No. 10,) at that angle of the Walk which faces the New Prison, was formerly the residence of Abraham Rhodes, Esq., solictor, F.S.A., who died here, greatly respected, Oct. 23rd, 1816, aged seventy-nine. This gentleman had made ample and valuable collections for a voluminous History of Clerkenwell; the unaccountable loss of which, at his death, has been a subject of regret to many, but to none more than to the author of the present humble volume. Having been Vestry-clerk *forty-one* years, and Clerk to the St. James's Paving Board *forty-two* years, he had enjoyed opportunities of acquainting himself with the parochial history and affairs, such as in all probability have been possessed by no other person. The decease of an individual so qualified to complete a work that might have reflected equal credit upon the parish and himself, before he had suffi-

ciently arranged his materials for publication, has undoubtedly deprived the inhabitant, the antiquarian, and general reader, of a mass of information which no succeeding industry can supply.

At the east termination of St. James's Walk stands *Woodbridge House.* The *Woodbridge Estate,* from which this house, as one of its most prominent features, takes name, here calls for particular mention. In the year 1587, (29th of Queen Elizabeth,) this estate was bequeathed by Thomas Seckforde, Esq., one of the masters of the Court of Requests, and surveyor of the Court of Wards and Liveries, for the perpetual maintenance of the poor in an hospital, or almshouse, which he had then lately founded, and called after his own name, at Woodbridge, in Suffolk. Its extent has been already particularised:* but it may be proper to repeat in this place, that, taking up the boundary line at Woodbridge House, it includes the north and east sides of St. James's Walk, the north side of Aylesbury Street, the west side of St. John's Street, the south side of Corporation Row, the ground abutting on the east wall of the New Prison, and all the internal buildings. At the period of its bequest, it is described by the founder as consisting of certain parcels of ground "lying within the close heretofore called *Saint Marie Close,*" and which, to his "great charges," he had "inclosed with a brick wall." On it, as farther appears, stood two "principal new-builded houses"; in one of which, "next to St. John's", and contiguous to "the broad walk under the south wall of the said close called Saint

* Vide page 106.

Marie Close", Mr. Seckforde himself dwelt. Offices and gardens, with fields enclosed by brick walls, or by "timber-walls and quicksett", occupied the rest of the estate, the whole yearly revenue of which was 112*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* By the year 1718, the annual proceeds had swelled to 180*l.*; but this bore no proportion to the rapid subsequent increase, owing to the augmented value of the ground for building; for, in 1767, the estate was leased in six parts, for sixty years, at £563. per annum, the lessees covenanting besides to lay out not less than £14,700 "for the lasting benefit and improvement of the said estate," according to their several proportions. The leases expire at Midsummer and Michaelmas of the present year, (1827); and more than £20,000 have been laid out by the lessees.

Thomas Seckforde, the founder of this now important charity, was the second son of Thomas Seckforde, of Seckforde Hall, a mansion in the vicinity of Woodbridge. He was distinguished in the profession of the law, which he quitted about the 23rd of Queen Elizabeth; at which time, probably, he betook himself to this *country* retirement in Clerkenwell. Six years afterwards, he obtained the Queen's letters-patent for founding and endowing his almshouse at Woodbridge; and dying without issue, in January, 1588, aged seventy-two, was buried in a chapel he had erected in his life-time adjoining Woodbridge Church. By the letters-patent it was ordained, that the chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas for the time being, and the lord of the manor of Seckforde Hall, being the heir-male of Thomas Seckforde, Esq., (father of the foun-

der,) should be governors of the almshouse, with all its possessions and revenues, and be a body corporate and politic for ever; and, in default of heirs-male, that the master of the Rolls for the time being should take place of the lord of Seckforde manor. Henry Seckforde, Esq., nephew of the founder, and master of the Pavilion to James I., resided at Clerkenwell, (where he probably *rented* the house of his late uncle,) and was the last heir-male:* consequently, the master of the Rolls has ever since been one of the governors of this foundation.

The leases of this estate expiring in the present year, as above mentioned, the governors obtained an act in 1826, to enable them to grant new building and other leases for any term not exceeding ninety-nine years, for reasons thus set forth in the preamble; viz. "that many of the (now existing) houses and buildings are in a very ruinous and dilapidated state"; that the estate contains "divers plots and parcels of lands, laid out as yards, areas, courts, streets, avenues, and passages, whereon no houses are at present erected or built"; and that "the yearly rents and profits would be much increased, if the governors were enabled to pull down several of the said houses and buildings, to grant building and other leases of all the premises, to enter into contracts with persons desirous of improving the same by building thereon, and to lay out avenues, areas, and streets, for the convenience of the lessees or occupiers of the said premises." The plan upon which the improvements are to be carried into effect,

* He died Nov. 29, 1638; leaving his widow, in right of survivorship, seised in fee of all the Seckforde estates.

is not yet matured by the governors: but, doubtless, a vast addition will be made to the revenues of the charity—an addition, which the worthy founder could by no possibility have contemplated. It is to be hoped that so fair an opportunity of improving this at present one of the least desirable parts of Clerkenwell, by respectable and regular streets of new buildings, will not be neglected.*

New Prison, as its name imports, is a building of subsequent date to some other erected for a similar purpose: the histories of the two being necessarily blended, our account will commence with the former structure. Clerkenwell *Bridewell* was the first erection in the parish for a place of punishment, if we except the *Cage:* which, as we are informed by an entry in the vestry book, being totally decayed in 1614, "was pulled down, and set up under the brick wall at the end of the *Cuckinge-Stoole*", together with a room for a "sicke person". The origin of the Bridewell is thus narrated by Strype:—"In the year 1615, the Justices for Middlesex, by license from the King, built an House of Correction for the County of Middlesex, near unto the east end of Clerk-

† By reverting to pages 106-7, it will be seen that there is a rent-charge of £10. per annum upon the Woodbridge estate, for the benefit of the poor of Clerkenwell; and that this was originally only £2. per annum, having been augmented through the *five-fold* value of the estate after the late leases had been granted. The augmentation was made in pursuance of the sixth clause of the new orders and ordinances made by the then governors. As the value of the estate will now again be increased *many-fold*, may it not be anticipated that the principle of augmentation, in the same ratio, will be re-adopted also?—The parochial authorities will accept this as a respectful hint: instances have occurred of such benefits being lost, for want only of *timely* application to the parties possessing the power to grant them.

enwell, upon a large garden-plot purchased by the said Justices; which House was for the punishment and employment of rogues and vagabonds of Middlesex, who formerly used to be taken into *Bridewell*,* as well as the vagrants of London. But these miscreants so increased now, that Bridewell could not contain them, nor employ them: neither were the Governors willing to receive them of Middlesex from the said Justices, holding it contrary to the charter of London, and the foundation of Bridewell: but the City gave to this House £500. in money, at the request of the council, to make a stock for the employment of the poor. The purchase of that plot of ground, and the building, cost about £2500., part of which was the free gift of the Justices, and the rest levied on the inhabitants (of the county). The £500. which the City gave, instead of making a stock, was employed in the building and furnishing the House. The Justices appointed over it two masters or governors, and a matron, who were to order and govern the vagrants committed there, and to have a salary of £200. a year for their pains: for which salary they receive them, and keep them at work, without further charge to the County, unless they be discharged thence by order of the Justices of Peace." The New View of London (1708) makes mention of this "House of Correction, or *Bridewell*, as they call it, where idle loose persons in the county are set to work, and those guilty of lewdness, night-walking, picking of pockets, &c., are corrected:" and then proceeds to give the first notice the author has dis-

* The city prison so called.

covered of *New Prison*, which is described as "a commodious building, where such criminals as the last-mentioned lie till their punishment is ordered, (this being a prison but no house of correction) when they are all removed to Bridewell, or some other place, to receive correction and punishment according to the nature of their crimes": adding, that "it was intended as an ease to Newgate, for any misdemeanours, &c. as aforesaid, done in the county of Middlesex." Subsequent works speak of the two prisons, which nearly adjoined each other, in very similar terms; the only farther information they convey, relative to the *Bridewell*, being, that it consisted of twelve separate wards, with a gallery for females, and a court-yard for each sex to walk in; and that in 1779 it contained one hundred and fourteen convicts, whose allowance was threepence per diem, their employment picking oakum and beating hemp, and the profits of their labour (amounting to about £10. in the year,) expended in furnishing them with shoes and stockings. This Bridewell was removed about the year 1804: its site is embraced by the New Prison.

By an entry in the Minutes of the St. James's Paving Commissioners, it is seen that the great gate to *New Prison*, which faces St. James's Walk, was only in progress in May, 1774, and was by the then commissioners considered "an incroachment upon the highway." This gate is of stone, rusticated in an unusually forcible style. On the key-stone is a gigantic, well-executed head, expressive of criminal horror and anguish. A chain hangs over it, from which handcuffs are suspended, and fet-

ters fall on both sides. The whole is surmounted by a cornice. The rioters of 1780 set open this prison, as also the Bridewell, and liberated all the persons confined. And on September 3, 1781, as we are told by the Gentleman's Magazine for that month and year, "a desperate attempt was made by the prisoners in New Prison, Clerkenwell, to overpower the keepers, and to make their escape. By means of notching knives one against the other, they had made instruments with which they sawed off their irons; and, being furnished with hangers and clubs, they made an open attack upon the turnkey, wounded him, and would soon have despatched him, had not the sergeant of the guard that attends for the protection of the prison taken the alarm, and run to his assistance: three of the ringleaders were shot dead upon the spot, and twelve others were wounded before the insurgents were subdued, who have since been more closely confined."—Letters in the same miscellany for the year 1813, addressed to the editor by Messrs. Neild and Lettsom, show that, at that period, the prison stood very greatly in need of amelioration with regard to the general condition of the persons confined in it, as well as of improvement in almost every respect.

In 1818, this prison was in great degree rebuilt, and upon a very extended scale; the magistrates having taken in for its enlargement all the ground of five houses which stood opposite to those now called Short's Buildings, together with the sites of five others in Bridewell Walk, as well as of the late Bridewell itself and Quakers' Workhouse, and a plot of ground which had been once attached to the

latter, but which more latterly had been the drill-ground of the Clerkenwell volunteers. They likewise comprehended within the new structure that entire "large garden-plot" bought by their predecessors in 1615: besides which, they purchased of the governors of Seckforde's Charity, for £2434, five freehold messuages, situate between the Prison and the north side of St. James's Walk, together with two adjoining outbuildings.* Until this enlargement took place, the gate from St. James's Walk was immediately connected with the prison itself, and exhibited a strong grated window over the entrance. Now, on entering, persons are conducted into a paved yard, beyond which appear the various buildings, standing in an oblong area, and with a considerable space between them and the lofty substantial wall which bounds the whole. In front, on one hand, is the porter's lodge; on the other, the office: on the right, the governor's house; and beyond that, lying all along the east side, a vegetable garden. Between the office and lodge begins a broad paved avenue; on both sides of which, as the visitor advances, are seen the prisoners' yards and cells. At the farther end, surmounted by a stone turret and clock, is the chapel; to which the male and female infirmaries form wings.

In the report of a committee appointed in 1825 by magistrates, to investigate the condition of this gaol,

* At the same period, the way from Short's Buildings to the north end of Clerkenwell Close was made and thrown open to the public by permisssion of the magistrates. Two inscriptions on tablets set in the wall on the west side, inform the passenger that the ground "is the property of the County of Middlesex."

it is stated that the number of prisoners it was originally intended to contain was two hundred and forty; but upwards of four hundred are frequently incarcerated within it. Such an excess beyond the means of proper accommodation, must no doubt greatly impede the execution of that design of *classifying* its inmates, upon which the present structure was built: and thus one great object of prison discipline is in great measure defeated. Another, and a not less important object, the *employment* of the persons confined, is not attempted: in a great number of cases, it is true, the attempt would be rendered nugatory by the shortness of the period of imprisonment, which is only till the law has otherwise disposed of those committed to its walls. There is an allowance of one pound and a quarter of bread *per diem* to each prisoner; and their friends are permitted to visit and bring them provisions daily (Sundays excepted) from twelve till two o'clock; the destitute being provided, at the county's expense, with meat, soup, and gruel. The wards and cells are of brick, strongly arched; and are covered with lime-white, which is renewed daily wherever necessary. The greatest attention is paid to cleanliness. The beds are of straw, with the addition of blankets and coverlets. In the chapel (in which service is performed every day, and twice on Sundays) the attendants are in some degree classed by divisions of open iron railings; and the females are seated over the male auditors in a gallery, the approaches to which, as well as the gallery itself, are effectually screened from observation. The salary of the chaplain is £250. per annum: his duties are *not*, as in the case of the House of Correction, confined to

the prison. The Governor's salary is £300. per annum; the apothecary's, for attending *both* prisons, £400. per annum. Vans, drawn by two horses, are established, and arrive twice a day, for the conveyance of prisoners to and from the different police offices to this gaol, and from hence to the House of Correction, Newgate, &c.

Opposite the public-house bearing the sign of the "Jolly Cooper," there existed an ancient house till about fourteen years since, (when it fell down), which tradition said was the residence of Thurloe, secretary of state to the Protector. On what foundation such a tradition rested is unknown. It was enclosed in front, and on the sides, by an iron balustrade of unusual strength, and which bore some resemblance to that which surrounds St. Paul's Cathedral, only (of course) on a much smaller scale.

A description of this neighbourhood about the year 1755, is given in few words by a Mr. Samuel Whyte, of Dublin, in an account of Charlotte Charke, youngest daughter of Cibber, the well-known laureate and patentee of Drury-lane Theatre. Mrs. Charke, at the period spoken of, resided near this spot: she had made an imprudent marriage with a musician of dissolute habits, who had then been long dead; but from her father's unconquerable enmity, her whole life, from the date of her unfortunate union, was a series of afflictions and distress. She was reduced to employ her pen for subsistence; and having "worked up a novel for the press," Mr. Whyte relates that he "accompanied his friend the bookseller to hear it read." Her habitation, he goes on to say, "was a wretched

thatched hovel, situated on the way to Islington, *in the purlieus of Clerkenwell Bridewell,* not very distant from the New River Head, *where at that time it was usual for the scavengers to leave the cleansings of the streets, &c.!*" To such a situation—with her "inkstand a broken tea-cup, her pen worn to the stump, (she had but one)"—was brought a once elegant female and authoress, who, the writer goes on to tell us, "was born in affluence, and educated with care and tenderness, her servants in livery, and a splendid equipage at her command, with swarms of time-serving sycophants officiously buzzing in her train;" yet who, "unmindful of her advantages, and improvident in her pursuits, finished the career of her miserable existence on a dunghill."*

Opposite the site of the Old Bridewell, is the *Burial Ground* mentioned in our account of the Parochial Estates, &c., as leased by the parish from the Northampton family. The lease will expire at Christmas, 1874. The ground extends to Bowling-green Lane, and is enclosed by a wall and iron railing.

The *Quakers' Workhouse,* alluded to in a recent gage, was situated at the north-west angle of the pround-plot now entirely occupied by the New Prison. The Society of Friends founded this institution about the year 1692, for the maintenance of 50 decayed people of their persuasion, who were allowed lodging and diet, and employed in their several professions by the governors. This information we derive from the "New View of London."

* Whyte's Collection of Poems: 2nd edit. Dublin, 1792.

By the year 1735, if not previously, other objects seem to have been connected with that noticed: for Seymour's Survey speaks of *two* Quakers' *Meeting-houses* as then existing in the parish, one of which, in St. John's Street, has been described, and the other, there is every reason to believe, formed a part of this building; while a *Charity School* belonging to the Friends is mentioned by the same writer, which is known to have been established here. In like manner, in 1772, Maitland's history enumerates among "things remarkable" in this parish, "*two* Quakers' Meeting-houses," and "*three* Charity Schools;" two of the latter, no doubt, being the Parochial and the Welsh schools. The Minutes of St. James's Paving Board, for October, 1774, shew that part of the building, by that period, had begun to be let in tenements; four of which, it appears, produced £8. a year each, and a fifth £11. The institution was removed to a more eligible site, between Goswell and St. John's Street Roads, (where it will be subsequently described,) in 1786: from which time the original Work-house fell rapidly to decay, and, when Malcolm wrote, was partly in ruins, (having been much damaged by fire,) and the rest let to poor occupants at very low rents. About two years afterwards, i. e. in 1805, the whole was taken down; and a portion of the site was the next year given up by the Magistrates to the Paving Commissioners, for widening Corporation Lane and Bridewell Walk.

The considerable plot, which, until it became the Volunteer's *Drill Ground,* was generally known by the name of the *Quakers' Garden,* is laid down as "*Mulberry Gardens*" in a MS. map in the author's

possession, executed before 1760, and seems to have been so called during several years afterwards. Mulberry trees, it may be hence supposed, were the chief produce of this plot; and gave one other of those *rural* names to places in our parish, of which the remains are yet extant in "Mulberry Place," (on another site), "Pear-tree Court," "Vine Court," "Vineyard Gardens," &c. But several of the parochial appellatives, the modern substitutes for which only are now known, were of less pleasing character: witness "*Cut-throat Lane*," which some of the present residents in CORPORATION LANE and Row, will possibly be surprised to learn was the original appellation of their place of abode. Our description of the Friends' workhouse and garden having led us more than half way up the avenue now bearing the last mentioned names, what is farther to be said of it may be inserted in this place.

Cut-throat Lane had received the name of Corporation Lane—probably from the adjoining estate, the governors of which are a *corporate* body—before the year 1774. Part of the houses, including those on the south side distinguished as Corporation *Row*, had been erected before the same period. But at the era of the *murder* of some lonely passenger from which the spot took its first name, it was literally a country lane, with hedge-rows extending along the whole north, and the greater part of the south side. In 1778, the Commissioners for Paving, &c., converted the narrow lane, (at the end of which next St. John's Street till then was a turn-stile), into a road of thirty feet wide, exclusive of a foot-path before the houses; paying to the Skinners' Company

£30., and to the New River Company £32., for their interests in so much of the ground on the north side as was necessary for their purpose. They also fenced off that side from the fields; the line of their fence being now described by the fronts of the houses called Wingrove Place, erected in 1820-21. The minutes of the same Commissioners for November, 1817, shew, that in consequence of "the foot-path at the end of Corporation Row being rendered greatly inconvenient to passengers by the projection of the small houses, *occasioned by the setting back of the prison wall,*" full powers were given to a committee to purchase the whole or any part of those projecting buildings: in pursuance of which, £100. were paid to Malachi Foott, Esq., and £85. to the Governors of Seckford's Alms-house, for their respective interests in the property; as also £58. for alterations required.—A large plot of ground in rear of Wingrove Place is now laying out in streets, several of which are nearly completed: the two principal are called *Skinner* and *Whiskin Streets,* from the Skinners' Company, who are the ground landlords, and James Whiskin, Esq., the gentleman to whom this entire plot was leased by the Company.

In the MS. map lately spoken of, *Bridewell Walk* extends as far as to the London Spa, *i. e.* to the north end of what is now called Rosoman Street. An intermediate appellation of this upper portion of the old walk, was *Rosoman's Row,* which included great part of the houses on the west side of the present street, and took name from their builder, Rosoman, who began to erect them about 1760. The east side being partly built upon before 1774,

the whole in that year was named Rosoman *Street.* No part of Clerkenwell, perhaps, has undergone a more perfect change of aspect than this. For many years after the houses on the west side were erected, several of them, whose parlour-floors are now scarcely elevated above the footway, were approached by remarkably lofty flights of steps, and commanded the prospect, not only of a succession of gardens on the opposite side, but of a pleasing and even extensive tract of *country* beyond them. About sixty years since, a proprietor of one of the gardens, named Jackson, contrived to extract sixpences from the pockets of numerous good citizens who sought this rural walk, by the exhibition of what he called his "wonderful grotto," and "enchanted fountain." Long before, the spot had boasted the attractions of the "*London Spa,*" the site of which is still marked by the public-house bearing that name. The water, which was a chalybeate, is now lost; though it was obtainable until about eighteen years since by means of a pump, remaining in the cellar of the house in question. Here also were the "*New Wells,*" occupying the ground taken up by about Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8 of the present street; and embracing, besides their spa, a species of theatre—of the entertainments at which, a newspaper called the "London Daily Post," for July 3, 1742, gives the following advertisement:

"New Wells. At the New Wells, near the London Spa, Clerkenwell, this evening, will be presented several new exercises of rope-dancing by Madame Brila, Mademoiselle Brila, lately arrived from Paris, and the two Miss Rayners. With singing by Mr. Johnson, and Mrs. Hill. And a variety of new dances (both serious and comic) by Mons. Granier, the two Masters

and Miss Granier, Mr. Miles, Mr. Clacket, the two Miss Scotts, Miss Rayner, and others. Also a Hornpipe by Mr. Jones from Bath, who plays on the violin at the same time. Also Mons. Brila, the famous Equilibrist, will perform several new balances, different to what he performed at Goodman's Fields last season. And Mons. Brila's son, aged three years, performs on the stiff rope, and several curiosities of balancing with his father. The whole to conclude with two views of the Amphitheatre in Ranelagh Gardens at Chelsea. To begin every evening at five o'clock."

The New Wells at one period belonged to Rosoman, who afterwards obtained possession of Sadler's Wells: but at what time they were first opened, or when finally closed, the author has not been able to ascertain. In May, 1744, the Grand Jury of Middlesex presented the New Wells, together with *Sadler's Wells*, and other such receptacles around London, as "places riotous, of great extravagance, luxury, idleness, and ill fame." Their presentment, relative to these Wells, ran:—"The proprietors of a place called *New Wells*, near London Spaw, Clerkenwell, within this county, where great numbers of disorderly people meet." A periodical publication of that period observes, "many people believed that, after this presentment, the places mentioned would be shut up or reformed: but they advertise and continue the same diversions, &c. as ever."

Bowling-Green Lane is so named from its former vicinage to *two*, at least, of the "divers beautiful *bowling-greens*" spoken of by Maitland as among the "remarkables" of Clerkenwell. The map dated 1755 in Stow, lays the larger of these down on the north side of the Lane, and the smaller east of the lower end of Rosoman Street; and it is

believed that there once extended a third from the back of the Cherry-tree public-house to Clerkenwell Close and Pear-tree Court. A prior appellation of this lane was *Feather-bed Lane*.

On our right, as we proceed, lies the spot bearing the general name of the VINEYARD, but divided into *Vineyard Gardens, Vineyard Walk*, &c. Gardens still cover a large proportion of this plot; and are continued from it, by *Garden Walk*, &c., to the rear of Rosoman Street. Here, as stated early in this volume,* flourished the *Vineyard* of the monastic times; but on a site which was considerably more elevated. Within memory of numerous parishioners, it was frequently distingnished as the *Mount:* against whose western slope, until little more than forty years since, vines grew untrained, row above row, till they reached the summit, where stood a small cottage, or lodge, belonging to the cultivator. The ground was levelled for the erection of the buildings that now cover it: before which, a wooden fence separated it from the road to the west, taking the line of the present east side of COPPICE ROW.

On the opposite side of this Row stands the *Parochial Workhouse*, presenting a brick front of very considerable extent, with a slightly advanced centre, surmounted by a pediment. It contains three stories besides the basement, the uppermost of which shews a range of sixteen windows. There is also a large detached building behind. This edifice took its present form in 1790, in which year it was greatly enlarged, at the expense of £4,000.; an

* Vide p. 12.

outlay that was much complained of at the time, on account of the trifling duration of the lease—scarcely more than forty years from the period of the enlargement. The interior possesses all the usual accommodations of such establishments; together with apartments for the Master, and a handsome Committee-room, on the first floor of the central part of the building, for the meetings of the Guardians of the Poor, &c. The Parish Officers' Annual Statement, for the year ending Lady-day 1827, gives the following comparative view of the number of *Paupers*, both in that year and the preceding.

IN THE WORKHOUSE.

	Lady-Day, 1826.			Lady-Day, 1827.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 20 years of age	64	33	97	70	40	110
From 20 to 30	12	29	41	10	25	35
30 to 40	9	28	37	11	26	37
40 to 50	16	29	45	18	27	45
50 to 60	26	34	60	24	30	54
60 to 70	33	66	99	35	62	97
70 and upwards	47	75	122	43	79	122
	207	294	501	211	289	500

	1825-26.	1826-27.
Average Number in the House	447	496
Infant Poor at Enfield	20	26
Lunatics (at Bethnal Green)	16	16
	483	538
Average increase		55

OUT-PENSIONERS.

Widows	125
Ditto, with Families and Orphans	435
Aged and Infirm	82
Illegitimate Children	189
	831

The same statement affords the following, among many other particulars, under the head of "Expenditure" of the Poor's Rate during the last year :— Casual Poor relieved by Overseers, £443. 13*s*. 7*d*.: Reliefs, Examinations, Removals by Beadles, &c., £560. : Poor relieved by order of Guardian Board and Officers, £1,293. 15*s*. 6½*d*. : Weekly Pensions to Out-door Poor, £5,834. 16*s*. : Infant Poor at Enfield, £350. 9*s*. 4*d*. : Lunatics at Bethnal Green, £409. 17*s*. : Gratuities to Poor, £178. 6*s*. 7½*d*. : Repairs of Workhouse, £230. 18*s*. 6*d*.—The *debt* to Lady-day is stated at £3169. 4*s*. 8*d*. : independent of £5,500. borrowed on annuities previous to 1818, the yearly interest of which is £558. 6*s*. The amount collected on the Rate, at 3*s*. in the pound, within the year, was £17,767. 13*s*. 4½*d*.

In the years 1797 and 1798, the expenditure of this establishment experienced an alarming increase, through some improvident Acts of Parliament, imposing duties on watch-cases, and on all persons using clocks and watches ; the manufacture of these articles having been for a long series of years the *staple* of this parish.* Within twelve months from the passing of these acts, the decrease in the manufacture of silver watches amounted to one-third ; of

* The stranger in Clerkenwell, and to *the trade*, is not unfrequently surprised and puzzled at the designations of the various artisans employed in this ingenious manufacture, which are displayed upon the doors, &c. of their residences. Among these are "Escapement Maker," "Engine Turner," "Fusee Cutter," "Springer," "Secret Springer," "Finisher," "Joint Finisher," &c. &c., all of which, to the uninitiated, no more suggest the notion of any parts of a watch or clock, than they do of some instrument of military destruction, or farming implement.

gold watches, to one-half; and of metal ones to considerably more. The number of inhabitants at that period was about twenty-one thousand; of whom nearly *seven thousand*, whose subsistence depended upon this manufacture, were thrown out of employ, and a great proportion of them necessitated to apply for parochial relief. Happily, through proper representations made to the legislature, these obnoxious duties were soon repealed: when leave was also granted to manufacture gold watch-cases of a standard inferior to that till then permitted, in order to put the trade more upon a level in that respect with the watchmakers of foreign countries.

Towards the relief of the general distress which prevailed in 1799, and which the late privations of the watch trade contributed much to aggravate in this parish, a *Soup-House* was instituted in Clerkenwell, on the plan of that commenced by the Society of Friends in Spital-fields, and which was imitated in several other districts. Its object was the distribution of a wholesome and nutritious composition from meat and vegetables, either gratuitously, or at so trifling a sum per quart as not to be beyond the reach even of more than ordinary poverty. Though the idea extended, as has been said, and Soup-houses arose in many other parts of the metropolis, Clerkenwell does not appear to have been excelled in the *materièl* of the beverage afforded, by any of its competitors: witness a satirical song of the period, called "The Soup-House Beggars," the burden of which ran—

"For there's no parish far or near makes soup like Clerkenwell."

As a more permanent relief to necessitous or

aged workmen in the various branches of the watch and clock trade, and their widows, a society was established in March, 1815, called the "Watch and Clock Makers' Benevolent Institution." The method adopted in administering its aid, is that of annual pensions of ten guineas to the men, and six guineas to the widows, to which they are elected by the subscribers. At the commencement of the present year, the society had dispensed its benefits to ninety persons, at the expense of £3,273. 7*s*. 6*d*.; and there were then on the books fifty-two pensioners, (thirty-four men, and eighteen widows), whose annual cost was £470. 8*s*. The number of candidates, whose relief exceeded the existing means of the institution, was considerable, and, unfortunately, their situation extremely distressed.

Coppice Row may be quitted after noticing that it has the appellation of *Town's-End-Lane* in the map dated 1755. An arched passage beneath the south end of the Workhouse, leads, by a declivity formerly called *Pickled-Egg Walk*, but now Crawford's Passage, to a spot of fame in the ancient annals of low amusement—Hockley-in-the-Hole—at present bearing the name of Ray Street.

Here, until about the middle of the last century, was a celebrated *Bear Garden*, the site of which is now in the occupation of a mourning-coach master. What description of company resorted to it, may be learned from Mrs. Peachum, in the "Beggar's Opera," who says to Filch, "you must go to *Hockley-in-the-Hole*, and to Marybone, child, to learn valour." But at an earlier period, it is well known, Bear Gardens, wherein were kept "bears, bulls,

and other beasts, to be baited, and also mastives in their several kennels, there nourished to bait them," were the resort of the nobility and gentry, as well as of the idle, the dissolute, and the ferocious, of lower rank. Nay, Queen Elizabeth herself was a great admirer of bear-baiting: in proof of which see her Majesty's "Entertainment at Killingworth Castle," 1575. Nor were the learned exempt from the same partiality: for Roger Ascham, the eminent schoolmaster, and afterwards the Queen's Latin Secretary, is stated to have reduced himself to poverty by his inordinate love of this and kindred sports: when, to solace him in his misfortunes, Elizabeth appointed him "Bear-keeper to the Custom House." —What the officers of her Majesty's customs had to do with *bears*, we have yet to learn.

It was stated that the present name of the contiguous thoroughfare, is Ray Street; and it has borne that name since 1774. But its prior appellation was *Rag* Street, in consequence of the number of dealers in that article and old iron, by whom it was formerly inhabited. It is observable, however, that in the MS. map more than once spoken of, it is the lower part of what is now called Coppice Row, from the Workhouse downwards, which bears this appellation; while the south end of what is now termed Ray Street occurs as "Town's-End-Lane," and the remainder under the original name of "Hockley-in-the-Hole."

As we again approach Clerkenwell Green, the entrance to another Parochial *Burial-Ground* is observed on the right. This is the ground mentioned in the Account of the Parish Estates, &c., as "pur-

chased of Thomas Crosse."* It is of small size, and has for many years been used for the interment of paupers only.

Three ranges of arched brick *Vaults*, of unusual substance and solidity, extend from the east side of the street as far as Clerkenwell Close. Such at least is the extent of the range occupied by Messrs. Bound and Co., iron founders: the length of the others, in the occupation of Mr. Churchill, wine merchant, is somewhat less. Tradition, upon no discoverable authority, speaks of these vaults as appendages to the ancient nunnery: but had they been of the monastic period, it is unlikely that the old historians of London, when speaking of the Nuns' House, would have passed them over in silence: besides, their material and composition evince them to be of more modern date. Most probably, they were constructed immediately prior to the erection of the dwellings, &c., which are built over them.

Adjoining the vaults, is the building formerly a watch-house, and since the parochial Sunday prison, which was spoken of at page 104, and will be more particularly mentioned in our account of institutions for paving, watching, &c. Next, inserted in the wall of a little shop, occurs the *Pump*—with an inscription intended to mark the site of the celebrated Clerks' Well—the identical fountain which was the scene of the early drama of England. The inscription, which is given on a cast iron plate in front of the pump, runs thus :—

* Vide p. 104.

A. D. 1800.
William Bound } Churchwardens.
Joseph Bird }
For the better accommodation
of the Neighbourhood,
this Pump was removed to
the Spot where it now
stands.
The Spring by which it is
supplied is situated four
Feet eastward, and round
it, as History informs us,
the Parish Clerks of London
in remote ages annually
performed sacred Plays.
That Custom caused it to be
denominated Clerks-Well,
and from which this Parish
derived its Name:
The Water was greatly
esteemed by the Prior aad
Brethren of the Order of
St. John of Jerusalem, and
The Benedictine Nuns
in the neighbourhood.

Part of the information here conveyed is not merely gratuitous, but unlikely to be correct; as, that "the water was greatly esteemed by *the Prior and Brethren of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.*" That house had no need to resort to a finer spring than the one immediately without the north wall of the Hospital court, and which now supplies the pump before the Charity-School: it had besides an abundant supply within its own precinct. Again, it is contrary to fact, that *this* spring is "situated four feet eastward" of the pump as it now stands; a description which correctly marks the former site of the pump itself: but the spring issues about twenty-five feet northward. The water trickles slowly into

an oblong receptacle, paved with square tiles, which extends beneath the former watch-house and the adjoining shop. The dimensions of this receptacle are somewhat more than twenty-five feet by nine. An aperture in the floor of the shop enables the curious, with the assistance of a ladder, to descend into it, and view the outlet of the fountain, which is extremely minute; so that, in summer, when the water is in greatest request, the store is frequently exhausted, and the pavement left dry.

From the observations of Stow, it appears that this fountain was well known in his time, though he tells us that "divers other wells, near unto the church," were "dammed up." To which Strype, rather more than a century since, added,—"and so remained, and altogether unknown, till within these forty years, or thereabouts; when, upon some occasion, they, or some of them, were discovered, and being found mineral waters, of the nature of Tunbridge, they became greatly frequented by citizens, and used as chalybeate waters, for correcting hypochondriacal distempers." The same writer then gives the relation showing that this is the spring which was presented to the parish by the Earl of Northampton, in 1673,* and from which presentation the parishioners derive their ownership of the Well, together with the adjoining ground. He says, "The *old* Well of Clerkenwell, and from whence the parish had its name, is still known among the inhabitants. It is on the right hand of a lane that leads from Clerkenwell to Hockley-in-the-Hole, in a bottom. One Mr. Crosse, a

* Vide p. 85.

brewer, hath this well enclosed: but the water runs from him into the said place. It is enclosed with a high wall, which formerly was built to bound in Clerkenwell Close:* the present Well being also enclosed with another lower wall from the street. The way to it is through a little house, which was the watch-house: you go down a good many steps to it. The Well had formerly iron work, and brass cocks, which are now cut off: the water spins through the old wall. I was there, and tasted the water, and found it excellently clear, sweet, and well tasted. The parish was much displeased, as some of them told me, that it was thus gone to decay, and thought to make some complaint at a commission for charitable uses †; hoping, by that means, to recover it to common use again, the water being highly esteemed thereabouts, and many from those parts send for it."—Though the water *is* now "recovered to common use," there is reason to believe that the causes of its "decay" are rather increased than removed: there is some apparent obstruction at the fountain-head, as at present it cannot be said so much as to "*spin* through the old wall," but rather to make its way with great slowness and difficulty. The spring is approached from its receptacle by steps, over which is a brick arch, erected, no doubt, at the well's restoration since the time of Strype.

Of the other scarcely less celebrated fountain, called "*Skinners' Well*," the same historian wrote,

* The *Nunnery* Close; the west wall of which is known to have taken this direction, leaving the reservoir of the fountain just outside.

† *Query*—The "Stewards for promoting Charity?"

"It is almost quite lost; and so it was in Stow's time: but I was certainly informed, by a knowing parishioner, that it lies on the west of the church, enclosed with certain houses there. The parish would fain recover this Well again, but cannot tell where the pipes lie. But Dr. Rogers, who formerly lived in an house there, showed Mr. E. H.,* late churchwarden, two marks in a wall in the close, where these pipes, as he affirmed, lay, that it might be known after his death." All knowledge of the site is now lost: but the position of *one* of the "divers other wells" of Stow, "near the church," has been recently discovered.

The reader has been once more conducted to the immediate vicinity of the *Green;* and, ere he quits that spot, will perhaps be interested by a piece of information connected with it, which, though it has appeared in print, there is reason to believe will be new to "the million." Allusion is here made to the fact, that the Green was the residence of the identical *Jack Adams,* whose celebrity in his day was such, that his name was thenceforward attached by the inhabitants at large to the parish wherein he dwelt. The author was unacquainted with this fact when he last alluded to the personage of whom the Clerkenweller still makes such frequent mention; and he is now indebted to a friend for pointing out the following notice of him in the Supplement to Granger's Biographical History, from which it appears that he was an *astrologer* of the reign of Charles II. A print of him in that character is thus described:—

"JOHN, commonly called JACK ADAMS; in a fan-

* Mr. Edmund Howard.

tastic dress, with a tobacco-pipe at his girdle, standing at a table, on which lie a horn-book and Poor Robin's Almanack. On one shelf is a single row of books; and on another several boys' playthings, particularly tops, marbles, and a small drum. Before him is a man genteelly dressed, presenting five pieces; from his mouth proceeds a label thus inscribed, '*Is she a princess?*' This is meant for *Carleton*, who married the pretended German princess. Behind him is a ragged slatternly woman, who has also a label at her mouth, with these words, '*Sir, can you tell my fortune?*' At bottom is a satirical description in barbarous Latin, or rather English with Latin terminations, addressed to Adams, who is styled '*Jacko Cunningmanissimo*,' &c. &c. The print is an octavo, engraved much in the manner of Sherwin."

The biographer adds to this sketch,—"JACK ADAMS, professor of the celestial sciences at *Clerkenwell Green*, was a blind buzzard who pretended to have the eyes of an eagle. He was chiefly employed in horary questions, relative to love and marriage; and knew, upon proper occasions, how to soothe the passions and flatter the expectations of those who consulted him, as a man might have much better fortune from him for five guineas than for the same number of shillings. He affected a singular dress, and cast his horoscopes with great solemnity. When he failed in his predictions, he declared that the stars did not *absolutely force*, but *powerfully incline*; and threw the blame upon wayward and perverse fate.—He assumed the character of a learned and *cunning* man; but was no otherwise cunning, than as he

knew how to overreach those credulous mortals who were as willing to be cheated as he was to cheat them, and who relied implicitly upon his art."

Our route terminates at the distance of a few yards from the Clerks' Well, leaving no object of importance in the neighbourhood to be described. But we must briefly mention that descent to the course of the Fleet at this spot, which bears the name of Brook Hill. By request of the inhabitants made to the St. James's Paving Commissioners, in August, 1822, this descent took its present appellation, in exchange for *Mutton Lane*, its former one. *Mutton* Lane, it seems highly probable, was a corruption from *Meeting*, or, as it was anciently pronounced, *Mote-ing* Lane; meaning the lane which led up to the Clerks' *Mote*, or meeting-place, at the Well. It has been for many years the residence chiefly of brokers, and has obtained from that circumstance the species of celebrity, which the congregation of many of the same trade at a particular spot is found to confer.

Route IV.

FROM THE STONES' END, GOSWELL STREET, BY PERCEVAL STREET, PART OF ST. JOHN'S STREET ROAD, MYDDELTON STREET, EXMOUTH STREET, COBHAM ROW, COLD-BATH SQUARE, AND BAYNES' ROW, TO THE PARISH BOUNDARY AT MOUNT PLEASANT.

Perceval Street, stretching nearly east and west between Goswell and St. John's Street Roads, is one of the modern streets erected on the estate of the Northampton family, and named after a relative of that family, the late Right Hon. Spencer Perceval. It was commenced in 1802-3. At its termination, we reach the north end of Northampton Street, great part of which is of much earlier date, being mentioned in a printed list of streets upwards of a century old. But until less than thirty years ago, this street continued to be frequently spoken of under a long prior appellation—that of *Wood's Close.*

Of Wood's Close, mention has been already made,* as being, about fifty years since, "a rural avenue, planted with trees." The route of James I., on his accession in 1603, "over the fields" to the Charter-house, was also alluded to; and it may be curious to observe how James accomplished this part of his journey. John Savile, a contemporary writer, who delivered a congratulation to the monarch at Theobalds, which he soon afterwards published, with

* Vide p. 32.

some particulars of the king's entry into London, of which he was an eye-witness, gives this account:—

"When his Highnes had passed Islington, and another place called New Rents,* and entred into a close called Wood's Close, *by a way that was cut of purpose through the banck,* for his Majesties more convenient passage into the Charter-house garden, the people that were there assembled I compare to nothing more conveniently, than to imagine every grasse to have been metamorphosed into a man in a moment, the multitude was so marvellous, amongste whome were the Children of the Hospital singing, orderly placed for his Majesties comming along through them, but all displaced by reason of the rudenesse of such a multitude."

We have further mention of this spot in an account of the last great *Plague* at London, included in a work called the "City Remembrancer," being a history of the most remarkable calamities, &c. which have befallen the metropolis. Here we read, that "in the fury of the distemper, the markets were but very thinly furnished with provisions, or frequented with buyers.—The Lord Mayor caused the country folks, who brought provisions, to be stopt in the streets leading to the town, and to sit down there with their goods, where they sold what they brought, and went immediately away: this encouraged the country people greatly, for they sold their provisions at the very entrance into the town, and even in the fields; particularly in the fields beyond Whitechapel Church, Spital Fields, St. George's Fields in South-

* The site of which cannot be now determined; but, possibly, it was that of the cluster of houses near Islington Turnpike, which includes Field Court, &c.

wark, and *a great field called Wood's Close, near Islington.*" The Close being described as "a great field," sufficiently shows that its extent must have considerably exceeded that of the modern Northampton Street: indeed, it is not improbable that it reached to the Charter-house garden; and it has been suggested that *Swan-Alley Market,* mentioned at page 118 as having run between Allen and Great Sutton Streets, might have originated in this very trafficking during the time of the Plague.

On the now open plot facing NORTHAMPTON PLACE, stood a range of small mean houses until about twelve years back. When they were removed, the space was railed in from St. John's Street Road, and in 1816, by permission of the Paving Board of St. James's, became a *coach-stand,* as it now remains. In 1818, the road itself, by direction of the same Board, took its present name, having till then been called *Islington Road.*

The spot occupied by MARKET STREET, and the immediate neighbourhood, was a *Skin Market* for a series of years, having certainly been established before 1760. The market, which was for the sale of *sheep-skins,* ceased about the year 1815, when the buildings on its site began to be erected. In 1792 it became, in addition to its trade in skins, the parochial *Green-Yard,* the Paving Commissioners paying a compensation to the owner for its use: but this arrangement does not seem to have been of long continuance. In 1798, the same Commissioners, who then assessed the market, with the buildings round it, as of the yearly value of £300., took a legal opinion on the propriety of their paving and lighting the

enclosure; and discontinued to do so, on the representation that their authority extended only to places through which there was a public thoroughfare, and not to such as that under consideration, the occupier of which had liberty to open or close it to the public at his pleasure.

Contiguous stands *Northampton House*, which, since 1817, has been a ladies' boarding school. For many years prior to 1802, it had been a private madhouse; and here was confined the celebrated *Brothers*, whose prophecies excited so much attention among the credulous. But, originally, this was a mansion of the Earls of Northampton, one of whom we find resident here in 1677: in what year the head of that noble family quitted it, is uncertain; but the town residence of his lordship appears to have been in Bloomsbury Square in 1708. The present Marquess of Northampton, who has been more than once spoken of as a considerable landholder in Clerkenwell, is Charles Compton, *Marquess and Earl of Northampton, Earl Compton*, and *Baron Wilmington*, F. S. A. and M. A., Lord-Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of Northamptonshire, and Recorder of Northampton. He was born March 24, 1760; succeeded his father, Spencer, eighth earl of Northampton, April 7, 1796; was created Marquess of Northampton, Earl Compton, and Baron Wilmington, Sept. 7, 1812; and married, Aug. 18, 1787, Mary, eldest daughter of Joshua Smith, of Earl-Stoke Park, Wilts, Esq. His lordship's heir-apparent is *Spencer-Joshua-Alwyne*, Earl Compton, born Jan. 2, 1790; besides whom he has one daughter, *Frances-Elizabeth*, born Dec. 20, 1791.



Northampton House.



Seſsions House.

J. & H.S. Storer delt. & sculpt.

The family of Compton takes name from the lordship of Compton, county of Warwick. Sir William Dugdale, in his History of that county, derives their descent from *Turchil*, one of the first in England, who, in imitation of the Normans, assumed a surname; for it appears that, in the reign of William Rufus, he wrote himself *Turchius de Eardene*, from his residence in Arden, (as now called,) after that monarch had dispossessed him of his castle of Warwick. The first *baron* (in the modern acceptation of that title) was Sir Henry Compton, of Compton-Wynyate, county of Warwick, Knt., who was summoned to Parliament, among the barons of the realm, by writ, May 8, 1572, 14th of Elizabeth, and died in 1589. He was succeeded by William, second lord Compton, created Earl of Northampton, Aug. 2, 1618, K. G., Lord-President of the Marches and Dominions of Wales, who married Elizabeth, sole daughter and heiress of Sir John Spencer, Lord Mayor of the city of London in 1593.* Upon whose death,

* Sir John Spencer, from his great wealth frequently called "*Rich Spencer*," was a citizen and clothworker of London, and was elected to the mayoralty in 1594. He was a man of much public spirit, loyalty, and patriotism. His daughter's marriage with the second Lord Compton, is traditionally said to have been the consequence of an *elopement* from Canonbury, her father's manor. From this lady the next earl, her son, took the name of Spencer. The following letter from her to her husband is without date, but was written probably about 1616-17. It was first printed in the European Magazine for June, 1782, and has been otherwise before the public; but it gives so singular a picture of a lady's notions of high life in the early part of the seventeenth century, and of the style to which, in her views, the wealth she had brought into the family entitled her, that the reader will no doubt be gratified by its perusal:—

"My sweet Life,—Now I have declared to you my mind for the settling of your state, I suppose that it were best for me to

in 1630, SPENCER, second earl, K. G., succeeded; having been summoned to Parliament, as Baron

bethink or consider with myself what allowance were meetest for me. For, considering what care I have had of your estate, and how respectfully I dealt with those, which, both by the laws of God, of nature, and of civil polity, wit, religion, government, and honesty, you my dear are bound to, I pray and beseech you to grant me 1600*l.* per annum quarterly to be paid.

"Also I would (besides that allowance for my apparel) have 600*l.* added yearly (quarterly to be paid) for the performance of charitable works, and those things I would not, neither will, be accountable for.

"Also I will have three horses for my own saddle, that none shall dare to lend or borrow; none lend but I, none borrow but you.

"Also, I would have two gentlewomen, lest one should be sick or have some other lett; also believe that it is an undecent thing for a gentlewoman to stand mumping alone, when God hath blessed their lord and lady with a good estate.

"Also, when I ride a-hunting or hawking, or travel from one house to another, I will have them attending; so, for either of those said women, I must and will have for either of them a horse.

"Also, I will have six or eight gentlemen: and I will have my two coaches, one lined with velvet to myself, with four very fair horses; and a coach for my women, lined with sweet cloth, one laced with gold, the other with scarlet, and laced with watched lace and silver, with four good horses.

"Also, I will have two coachmen, one for my own coach, the other for my women.

"Also, at any time when I travel, I will be allowed not only carroches and spare horses for me and my women, but I will have such carriages as shall be fitting for all, orderly; not pestering my things with my women's, nor their's with chamber-maids', nor their's with wash-maids'.

"Also, for laundresses, when I travel, I will have them sent away before with the carriages to see all safe; and the chamber-maids I will have go before with the greens,* that the chambers may be ready, sweet, and clean.

"Also, for that it is indecent to crowd up myself with my gentleman-usher in my coach, I will have him to have a convenient horse, to attend me either in city or in country; and I must have two footmen; and my desire is, that you defray all the charges for me.

* Green *rushes* were at that period commonly strewed on the floors of the best houses.

Compton, during the lifetime of his father. This gallant nobleman distinguished himself by his valour and attachment to the cause of Charles I., in whose service he was killed at the battle of Hopton Heath, near Stafford, in 1642-3. At Castle-Ashby, the family seat, is a fine portrait of him in armour. Five of his sons received the honour of knighthood. The sixth was educated for the church, and became Bishop of London: during his prelacy, which lasted from 1675 to 1713, the cathedral church of St. Paul was rebuilt. JAMES, third earl, with his father's honours, inherited his father's attachment to the royal fortunes; for which he was deprived of his estates by the Parliament; but they were restored on the accession of Charles II. Dying in 1681, he was succeeded by his son GEORGE, fourth earl, constable

"And for myself, besides my yearly allowance, I would have twenty gowns of apparel, six of them excellent good ones, eight of them for the country, and six other of them very excellent good ones.

"Also, I would have, to put in my purse, 2000*l.* and 200*l.*; and so for you to pay my debts.

"Also, I would have 6000*l.* to buy me jewels, and 4000*l.* to buy me a pearl chain.

"Now, seeing I am so *reasonable* unto you, I pray you to find my children apparel and their schooling; and also my servants (men and women) their wages.

"Also, I will have my houses furnished, and all my lodging-chambers to be suited with all such furniture as is fit; as beds, stools, chairs, suitable cushions, carpets, silver warming-pans, cupboards of plate, fair hangings, and such like; so, for my drawing-chambers in all houses, I will have them delicately furnished, both with hangings, couch, canopy, glass, carpet, chair-cushions, and all things thereunto belonging.

* * * * * * *

"So now that I have declared to you what I would have, and what that is that I would not have, I pray, that when you be an earl, to allow me 1000*l.* more than I now desire, and *double attendance*. Your loving wife, ELIZA COMPTON."

of the Tower of London, who deceased in 1727. JAMES, fifth earl, having distinguished himself in the House of Commons, was, like the second of the title, during his father's lifetime, (viz. in 1711,) called up to the House of Peers as Baron Compton, and took his place agreeably to the creation of his father's barony. He died in 1754; and was succeeded by GEORGE, sixth earl; who leaving no issue, the title devolved on his nephew, CHARLES, seventh earl, appointed ambassador to the court of Venice, whose death took place on his return from that embassy in 1759. Leaving no male issue, his brother, SPENCER, became eighth earl: and he was succeeded by his only son, CHARLES, present and ninth earl, and first marquess. The paternal coat of this noble family, is *sable, a lion passant gardant or, between three esquires' helmets argent:* crest, *a mount vert, thereon a beacon or, inflamed on the top proper; on the beacon a label inscribed* NISI DOMINUS: supporters, *two dragons, with wings expanded ermine, ducally gorged and chained or:* motto, JE NE CHERCHE QU'UN, (I seek but one).

Northampton House bears now no marks, externally or internally, of antiquity, or of having been a noble residence. The garden in front was the forecourt of the ancient mansion, and is spacious, considering its vicinage to the metropolis. It has been long remarked for two uncommonly fine and lofty trees, of the oriental plane species; one of which, however, having been struck by lightning some years back, has since been gradually decaying. These trees are in the foreground of our view of the house. The neighbouring street, called LOWER ASHBY

STREET, with UPPER ASHBY STREET, beyond Northampton Square, take name from Castle-Ashby, the Marquess's seat in Northamptonshire. The SQUARE itself arose subsequently to 1802-3: its area includes great part of the garden of the Earls' mansion.

Opposite the turning from the road by which we are to pursue our route, lies an opening of considerable breadth, in the centre of which is a pump, surmounted by a lamp, and enclosed by an iron railing. This pump was erected at the parish expence in 1821. From the opening several of the streets just alluded to diverge. SPENCER STREET, which is of the number, is one of the widest and handsomest north of London. WYNYATT, or, more properly, WYNYATE STREET, another, composed of two long ranges of small but neat houses, is named from Compton-Wynyate, a seat of the Northampton family in Warwickshire; CHARLES STREET, also a handsome street, from the christian name of the Marquess. All these, together with UPPER and LOWER SMITH STREET, are built on a regular plan, and with an openness, and general appearance, that reflect honour on the spirit of their projectors.

On the east side of the road, between Northampton House and the opening just described, in the beginning of July of the present year, (1827), a common deal coffin, enclosing a perfect skeleton, was found by the labourers employed in making a sewer; and about three years since, when the sewer on the opposite side of the road was formed, more than *twenty* such coffins, each containing similar remains, were discovered. We may reasonably suppose the persons thus interred to have died of the

great plague, and that they were buried by the ancient road-sides. What considerably strengthens this supposition, is, that thirteen of the twenty last-mentioned coffins were found in a heap, some on-end, some cross-wise, as though they had been shot out of a cart into a common hole, in the manner we are informed the victims to the plague were buried. Various discoveries of the same kind were made in the neighbouring fields, in digging for the foundations of the houses with which they are now covered.

Myddelton Street, by which we are to take our course westward, is one of another large series of streets, the major part of which have been in progress since the year 1810, and are, in many instances, still unfinished. The name of this street, like that of nearly all the rest on the same estate, indicates the ground landlords to be the New River Company, who hold, by a very long lease, of William Lloyd Baker, Esq. Most of our readers will remember Myddelton Street a mere foot-path across the field between St. John's Street Road and the London Spa. It is at present a bustling thoroughfare, both for pedestrians and vehicles of all descriptions, from the western parts of London. At its west end, we reach Garnault Place, a broad and handsome ascent, so called from Samuel Garnault, Esq., late Treasurer to the above-named Company; the residence of whose present surveyor, W. C. Mylne, Esq., is conspicuous at the north termination of this Place.

At the angle between the same Place and Upper Rosoman Street, stands *St. James's Watch-house*, united with the *Rooms*, *Office*, and *Green-Yard*, of

the Commissioners for Paving, &c. this part of Clerkenwell.

Parochial Boards for Paving, Watching, Lighting, and Cleansing the streets, &c., are of comparatively modern invention: consequently, the early history of all the parishes in and about London under this head, must merge in that of the metropolis in general, except as regards a few details. The earliest legislative enactment of this nature affecting Clerkenwell, appears to be that of the year 1363, (37th Edw. III.) when the road between Smithfield and Highgate was ordered to be repaired from tolls levied by authority of Parliament. About 1380, as before mentioned, a patent was issued for "*Pavage* for the highway from Smithfield Bars to Gore's Place, Iseldon." In the General Paving Act, 34 and 35 Hen. VIII. cap. 12, "Goswell Street," and "St. John's Street, from the bars of Smithfield up to the Pound* at the corner of the highway leading to Islington, and also from the said Bars to Cow-Cross," are particularly named, and, together with numerous other "streets, lanes, and ways," are stated to be "very foul, and full of pits and sloughs, very perilous and noyous, and very necessary to be kept clean, for the avoiding of corrupt savours and occasion of pestilence:"—"for the amending and reformation whereof, all who had any lands or tenements adjoining to the aforesaid streets, lanes, and ways," were ordered "to pave the same with paving stones before their tenements to the middle of the street or lane,

* This *Pound* was in existence until June, 1774, when it was taken down by authority of the then newly created Paving Board of St. James's.

in the like manner and form as the streets of the city of London be paved, with causeys and channels in the midst, and to maintain the same." Early after the Restoration of Charles II., the attention of Parliament was recalled to the improvement of the capital; and in the beginning of 1661, an act was passed for repairing the highways and sewers, widening certain avenues, cleansing and lighting the streets, &c. in and about the cities of London and Westminster. But the general paving of the metropolis, according to the *present* mode, did not commence until about 1763, in which year proposals were first issued to contractors for the supply of "*Edinburgh* stones" for the carriage ways, and of "the best Purbeck pavements, and curbs of Purbeck or moorstone," for the footways of various streets in London. This improvement was progressively extended through the metropolis: until then, all the streets were alike inconvenient and tiresome to passengers, the stones (mostly Guernsey pebbles) being round or nubbly, the kennels in the midst, and no separate level foot-way, with curb, &c., for the pedestrian.

The *Lighting* of our streets at night, originated in an order made by Sir Henry Barton, Lord Mayor in 1416, for "lanthorns with lights (candles) to be hung out at every house on winter evenings, betwixt Hallowtide and Candlemasse." From a similar order in the act of 1661, it appears that no improvement in the mode of lighting had been made during the long period between the reigns of Henry V. and Charles II. Nor was it till the time of Queen Anne, that globular glass lamps, with oil burners, began

effectually to supersede the old candle-and-lanthorn system. These were introduced in 1708; but the streets were still very insufficiently illuminated. At length, in 1736, a new Act was passed for "the better enlightening the streets," &c.; under which the Lord Mayor, Alderman, and Commonalty were empowered to levy the necessary assessments for the general erection of street lamps. This was the origin of defraying the expense of lighting the metropolis by *parochial* assessments; and it was not long before the greater part of London and its suburbs was so lighted, by virtue of the general or of some local Act of Parliament.

As regards the *Watching* of London and its environs in early times, few notices can be now collected. The Act by which the watching of the metropolis in general was established, in any considerable degree, upon its present footing, was that of the 10th Geo. II. (1736), by which the common council were directed to appoint a proper number of watchmen, beadles, and nightly constables, and *to make assessments on the inhabitants of each ward,* for the purposes of this Act; which also (and apparently for the first time) blended with its chief object some regulations as to cleansing and paving. In the same year, as we have just seen, the method of defraying the expense of lighting, by district assessments, originated.

The situation of Clerkenwell with regard to paving, &c., immediately prior to the local Acts by which those matters are now regulated, is sufficiently expressed by the preambles to those Acts, which declare, that the "several streets, &c. are ex-

tremely ill paved, and the passage through the same greatly obstructed by posts and projections, and annoyed by signs, spouts, and gutters, projecting into and over the same, and are in general not duly lighted, and the present methods prescribed by law are ineffectual for paving, lighting, and cleansing the same." About 1770 the superior utility of Boards constituted exclusively for the superintendance of these concerns, was fully appreciated; and in the following year, an Act was passed by which such a Board was named and appointed for the district of St. John.* In 1774, a similar Act, 14

* 11 Geo. III. cap. 33. St. John's district is very small in comparison with that of St. James, being separated so far as regards the objects of this act (and as regards those objects only) from the rest of the parish. Several of the proceedings of this Commission, which is composed of thirty-nine members, have been made mention of in former parts of our work. The remaining historical details, of importance, relating to it, may be comprised in few words.

Within the first year after its establisment, St. John's Commission was necessitated to borrow £6,700. on bonds, and £850. on annuity; and in ten years the debt exceeded £8,000. In 1792, a reduction took place of £790.; but during the succeeding twenty-six years it was rather increased than diminished, £650. having been borrowed on life annuity, whilst only £400. of the bond debt was paid off. But during the last seven years, the whole unpaid amount has been converted into annuities on lives, the major part of which, according to the common course of nature, must shortly drop. At present, the yearly amount paid to annuitants is £500. The officers of the commission are, a *Treasurer*, (who is a member and chairman of the Board,) a *Clerk*, a *Surveyor*, a *Collector*, a *Director of the Watch*, a *Houseman*, a *Street-keeper*, sixteen *Watchmen*, and six *Supernumeraries*. The Watch-house, it was before stated, is a part of St. John's Gate, and was converted to that use in 1813; until when the watch-house was in a small, inconvenient, and insecure house in Berkeley Street. In a room of the tavern, over the great arch, the commissioners have held their meetings from January, 1789, to the present time. They at first met in the vestry-room of St. John's church, and subsequently at the Red Lion and St.

Geo. III. cap. 24, was obtained for the district of St. James; and the same was amended, and its powers and provisions enlarged, by 17 Geo. III. cap. 63. It is of the transactions of the Commissioners under the two latter acts, that we are now to present some account.

April 11th, 1774, the Commissioners appointed under these acts, who are 54 in number, held their first meeting in the vestry-room of the old church. They adjourned to the New Jerusalem Tavern, in what was then called *Rosoman's Row;* and continued to meet at this house of public entertainment until March 1st, 1792. The number of *Watchmen* they at first appointed was *twelve,* whose pay was fixed at 6*s.* each per week; together with a Superintendant, at 15*s.* per week. The accoutrements originally provided were the same as are now usual; only the Superintendant had "a short firelock, bayonet, and hanger." But six of the watchmen were shortly afterwards ordered "light fusees and bayonets."* The history of the *Watch-houses* is rendered complex by some rather singular circumstances, and must be given a little in detail.

John's Coffee-houses. The expenditure for the first *ten* years amounted to £20,093. 15*s.* 11*d.*: for the last *five,* (ending 1826), to £17,035. 3*s.* 3*d.*: for the *last year* to £4,286. 10*s.* 10*d.* (including £1800. for bonds paid off.)—For these latter details, the author is indebted to "A Statement of the Accounts of the Commissioners for Paving, Lighting, Watching, and Cleansing the parish of St. John, Clerkenwell, *from the passing of the act in* 1771, *to Michaelmas,* 1826; printed by order of the Commissioners, April, 1827:" a compilation for which the Board is obliged to Mr. Josiah Bartholomew, one of its members. It was drawn up in pursuance of a resolution of the Commission for the publication of their accounts, passed June 6, 1823.

* Nov. 1787, they all had "cutlasses and pistols."

One of these Watch-houses was at first on Clerkenwell Green; and this probably had been from time immemorial the Lock-up house, or *Cage*, for the parish at large, as its site is particularly reserved by the Earl of Northampton in a lease, granted in 1724, of the adjoining ground, together with a well, and the public right of way thereto. Another Watch-house stood in Cold Bath Square; and this, it is probable, had been the Cage or Lock-up House more particularly attached to Cold Bath Fields Liberty.*

By the year 1792, these Watch-houses had become inadequate to the proper accommodation of the greatly increased number of watchmen. By a rather curious mistake, the Vestry, not remembering that the Acts which constituted the Commissioners gave them power to build watch-houses, then appointed a Committee to select sites on which to erect two larger and more commodious ones. The Committee made their report; and on the 16th of March in this year, the Vestry ordered such new watch-houses to be erected, one on the parish land in Ray Street, the other at the corner of Chapel and Penton Streets, Pentonville. There is every probability, that the Vestry were led into this error by the circumstance of their unreserved surrender of the original watch-

* An aged inhabitant has a perfect recollection of the following fact, which happened upwards of sixty years since, that is, during the time these watch-houses remained under parochial superintendence. One John Taylor, by trade a tailor, repaired the watch-house on Clerkenwell Green, while holding the office of constable, expecting to be repaid by the parish; but receiving no remuneration, he placed a stone over the entrance, inscribed, "John Taylor repaired this watch-house at his own expence."

houses to the Paving Board; misconceiving from that surrender, that the duty of sustaining and re-erecting such buildings still lay with them. But however this might be, the Commissioners, immediately after the completion of the new watch-houses, took possession, and merely *furnished* them internally at their own expense. Another somewhat curious fact, connected with these erections, is, that the parish officers have no knowledge of the title by which they originally held either of their sites. The manner of their acquiring that in Ray Street was lately pointed out; namely, by the Earl of Northampton's presentation of the Clerks' Well, (together with the adjoining ground, no doubt) in 1673.* With regard to the site of Pentonville watch-house, as it cannot be found that the parish had ever any beneficial interest therein, the most probable supposition is, that it was a piece of waste land, taken up for the purpose of this building, with the tacit consent of the lords of the manor, or owner of the soil.

November 26th, 1794, occurs the first official notice, that the new watch-houses had been built at the expense of a body not responsible for their erection. At a meeting of the Trustees of the Church of this date, as appears from the minutes of that Board, "the churchwarden suggested that a sum arising from the church fund had been misapplied in building watch-houses, &c., and that it ought to be restored." The *Engine-house* which adjoins the watch-house in Penton Street, and was built along with it, is included in this allusion. The subject was

* Vide pages 85 and 264.

now investigated, and is thus pursued in the same minutes, Dec. 3d following:—"a sum of £230., or thereabouts, having been paid out of the monies raised for the purposes of the church, in erecting the watch-houses, &c., part of which (for the watch-houses) ought to be paid by the Commissioners for Paving St. James's, and the residue thereof (for the engine-house) by the Guardians of the Poor."—"*Ordered*, that the Clerks apply at the first meeting of the Commissioners and Guardians, and request them to take the matter into consideration, and to return the money in such proportions as may be proper." The effect of these applications was, that, in January of the next year, the Guardians of the Poor made restitution of £40., as their proportion for the engine-house; and the Commissioners for Paving, &c., repaid the Trustees £150., "towards reimbursing them," as the minutes express it, "for the expenses they had been at *through mistake* in building the two watch-houses."

Eighteen months after this transaction, the Churchwardens made a claim upon the Commission of one guinea per annum, as ground-rent for the Watch-house in Ray Street. The ground being indisputably part of the plot which had been long vested in the parish, the claim was allowed, and the arrears for six years paid. In 1814, the present spacious Watch-house in Spa Fields was erected by the Commissioners, and the use of that in Ray Street, in consequence, discontinued. It was then for several years let at a rental of nine guineas per annum, the Board still paying the ground-rent. But in 1821, the churchwarden having applied on

the part of the parish to purchase the building, in order to convert it into a place of security for such persons, guilty of misdemeanors on *Sundays*, as might be apprehended by the parochial constables, the Commissioners disposed of their interest for £50., the moiety of its presumed value. It was partly fitted up as a Sunday prison in the following year, and the rest converted into two shops; particulars of the present value of which, as well as of the adjoining parochial property, were given in the "Account of Estates, &c."* The *prison* is now very little used—seldom or never on Sundays—but occasionally, during the week, persons are confined in it for offences committed before the watch is set.

Pentonville Watch-house was made more commodious, and enlarged by an additional story, in 1822. It is still, however, much too small, though the number of watchmen attached to it is less than half that at the lower House.

The latter, usually called *Spa Fields Watch-house*, must now be spoken of. It has been said that this Watch-house was erected in 1814. The plot of ground selected for its site, was taken of the New River Company, on a ninety years lease, commencing Michaelmas 1813, at a peppercorn rent for the first two years, and at £10. per annum for the remainder of the term. The ground-floor comprises an unusually large and lofty room, in which the constable of the night receives charges; together with two strong cells, one for male, the other for female prisoners. Above is

* Vide pp. 102 to 105.

the *Board-room*, in which the Commissioners hold their meetings; a handsome apartment, about 23 feet by 21. Here is an excellent portrait of Samuel Butler, Esq., the present treasurer, and father of the Board; he having been elected into the Commission in February, 1801, and to the treasurership in July, 1812: it was presented to the establishment by the other Commissioners, in testimony of their respect for their fellow-member and chief officer, and the estimation in which his services both as treasurer and chairman are held by them. Beneath the portrait hangs a plan of the parish, by Hornor, reduced from the large drawing in the vestry-room of St. James's Church, executed by the same artist in 1808. The Commissioners assemble here regularly on the first and third Thursdays in every month; and have in all thirty-six fixed meetings, independent of special ones, and those of committees, (which are more numerous), during the year. They met for the first time in this room, August 4th, 1814: having until then held their meetings at the parochial Workhouse, since they discontinued the use of the New Jerusalem Tavern in 1792.

The great increase in the buildings and population of this part of the parish, of late years, rendering it desirable that some place should be provided, *daily* accessible to the inhabitants, for the purpose of receiving their complaints of casualties and obstructions in or upon the pavements, or of inefficient lighting, watching, cleansing, &c., an *Office* was erected in 1825-6, adjoining the previous building. Here attendance is given every day, from ten till four o'clock, for the objects above-mentioned, and

for transacting the general business of the Commission. The officers attending are, the *Clerk, Surveyor of the Pavements, Inspector and Street-keeper,* and (weekly) the three *Collectors*, for the making-up and passing their accounts. Here is also a room for the meetings of Committees; with apartments, in which one of the Superintendants of the Watch resides.

The magnitude of the parochial concerns superintended in this establishment, will be estimated from the following details:—

ST. JAMES'S PAVEMENTS AND ROADS.—SUPERFICIAL CONTENTS.

	feet.
Paved Footways	751,337
—— Carriage-ways	291,514
Ballasted do.	1,018,844
Paved Channels to do.	232,021
Total Contents	2,293,716

	miles.	furl.	poles.
Length of the Paved Streets	8	1	25
—— —— Ballasted Roads*	8	0	0
—— that part of Colney-Hatch Lane attached to the Parochial land at Muswell-Hill	0	5	17
Total Length	16	7	2

* Of these roads, the *carriage-ways* of the following are under the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of the Metropolis Turnpike Roads; having been transferred to that Commission on the abolition of the Highgate and Hampstead Trust:—

	miles.	furl.	yards.
Road from Corporation Row to the northern extremity of the Parish	0	5	22
Goswell Road	0	5	88
New Road	0	4	165
Bagnigge Wells Road	0	5	182
Road to Bagnigge Wash (*or* Penton Place)	0	0	203
Total	2	6	0

The Highgate and Hampstead Trust having been directed, by

	£.	s.	d.
Expenditure for New Paving and Repairs of Streets during 1826	4763	3	4
——— Making, Repairing, and Improving Roads and Ballasted Footways.....	2057	13	11
	£6820	17	3

WATCHING.

Superintendants	2
Housemen	2
Watchmen	77
Byemen	22
Total	103

WAGES.

		s.	d.	
Superintendants.	Each	28	0	p. Week.
Housemen.	Each	25	0	p. Week.
Watchmen	From Sep. 1st to May 1st	17	6	p. Week.
	For remaining 4 months in the year	14	0	p. Week.

Byemen. Same pay as Watchmen when employed: 3d. each per night when not employed.*

Gross Expenditure for Watching during 1826, including Accoutrements, &c. £3729. 16s. 2d.

Acts of Parliament, to pay to this Board the several sums of 25*l.* per annum for watching and lighting that part of Goswell Street and Road, and 20*l.* per annum for paving, repairing, and cleansing those parts of St. John's Street, Ray Street, and Coppice Row, which were respectively within their jurisdiction, the Metropolitan Commissioners have also recognized the right of the Board to receive from them those several sums, and have paid the first half-yearly instalment.

* *Patroles*, equipped with pistols and hangers, besides the usual accoutrements, have also been at different periods established; but they were wholly discontinued in 1824, in consequence of the nearly complete conversion of the fields and highways into streets, and regular watchmen stationed in their stead. Their number was subject to much variation; but appears to have been greatest in 1795, when it amounted to twenty, with a superintendant who was styled *captain*.

LIGHTING.

Gas Lamps, at 5*l.* 5*s.* each per annum	328
———, at 3*l.* 3*s.* ditto	79
Oil Lamps, at 1*l.* 16*s.* ditto	13
Total	420*

Gross Expenditure for Lighting during 1826, including Apparatus, Repairs, &c. £2400. 14s. 7d.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1826.

Pavements and Roads	£6820	17	3
Watching	3729	16	2
Lighting	2400	14	7
Total (independent of *Tradesmen's Bills, Salaries*, and *Incidental Expenses*)	£12,951	8	0

The existing arrears of the Commission arise out of the circumstance, that the sum-total of receipts during the same year was but £11,503. 16*s.* 1*d.*† But having no other incumbrance, except the payment of annuities amounting to £152. 10*s.*, (the last bond-debt of £3,000. having deen paid off in 1825), the financial situation of this Board, produced by its late extraordinary expenditure, is by

* The remaining Oil Lamps were ordered to be discontinued at Midsummer of the present year, (1827) and Gas Lamps placed in their stead.

† An erroneous view of a return made to Parliament by the two Commissions in 1825, has led to a corresponding misconception of the amount annually collected in Clerkenwell for Paving, Lighting, Watching, &c. The aggregate amount for the year ending at Easter, 1824, as stated in the Return, was 17,284*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*; but it included *large sums borrowed in aid of the Rate by both Commissions.* The amount *actually Collected from the Parish* during that year, was, for St. James's district, 8404*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*; for St. John's, 2373*l.* 17*s.*; total, 10,778*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*:—difference, for the year in question, between the misconception and the fact, 6505*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*

no means, considering what it has effected, discouraging. One unfavourable circumstance, however, it may be proper to remark; that the Commissioners were *receiving* until Midsummer, 1826, for leave to remove the dust, and to cleanse the streets, &c., at the rate of £1,510. per annum; whereas they have contracted to *pay* £270. for the performance of that duty during the current year. To the uninitiated it will be necessary to explain, that this striking difference in two succeeding years, arises from a great *fall* in the value of the dust for the purpose of brick-making: at some not distant period, its *rise* may again contribute to the income, instead of swelling the expenditure, of the Board. This subject may be concluded by noticing the *Rental* upon which the assessments for paving, &c., are made in the two districts of the Parish, being, in St. John's, at 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, upon £21,724; in St. James's, at 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, upon £146,214. Between the latter sum, and that at which the rental of the same district was estimated in the rate-book for 1775, a curious contrast, as showing the vast increase of buildings, is observed:—in that rate-book, which is for the year following the commencement of the Commission, it amounts only to £20,433.*

* Some particulars of a former *Highway Rate* should here be added. The act of the 17th Geo. III. invested powers with the Commissioners of St. James and St. John, united for this purpose, to repair and maintain the highways in Clerkenwell, and to defray the costs of such reparation and maintenance by a rate of *two-pence* in the pound upon the inhabitants at large. The same act directed, that "whereas the inhabitants of the district called St. John's have paid an annual sum towards cleansing that part of the parish called St. James's," the treasurer of St. John's Commission should pay to the treasurer of St. James's, "yearly,

Exmouth Street was not called by that name till 1818, about which year the houses on the north side were completed. The opposite side, which is of considerably older date, retained its original appellation of *Brayne's Row* till the same period: it was named from Mr. Thomas Brayne, the lessee of the ground at the time of its erection, who died in 1759, and lies interred in St. James's churchyard. The quiet road before Brayne's Row used to be separated from the fields only by an open fence, and the houses commanded a prospect of the hills of Highgate and Hampstead: now, the same road is a constant thoroughfare for vehicles of all descriptions; and as streets occupy nearly the whole space between it and Pentonville, *Spa Fields* exist only in name. Yet Malcolm could thus write of the same spot:—"The Spa Fields, so called from the neighbouring mineral waters, have long been a place

and every year, the sum of twenty pounds." Pursuant to this authority, the Commissioners of Highways held their first meetting June 18th, 1777, and proceeded to levy the general rate prescribed to them. This rate was collected until 1820: but in August of that year, in consequence of the majority of the former *highways* having become *streets*, and being assessed as such, it was discontinued, and the Highway Board virtually dissolved. The balance in the Treasurer's hands, amounting to £426. 3*s*. 1*d*., was then invested in the public funds, in the names of three of the St. James's and one of the St. John's Commissioners; and the interest has been since annually applied in upholding the parochial road at Colney-Hatch Lane. At the same time, in consequence of a memorial addressed to the Paving Board of St. James's by that of St, John's, the former resolved, that the annual sum of twenty pounds, paid by the latter, "appearing to be in some degree connected with the Highway Rate, the payment of such sum shall be dispensed with during such time as the levying the highway rate shall be discontinued, on condition that the Commissioners of St. John's cause the highways in their district to be sufficiently cleansed."

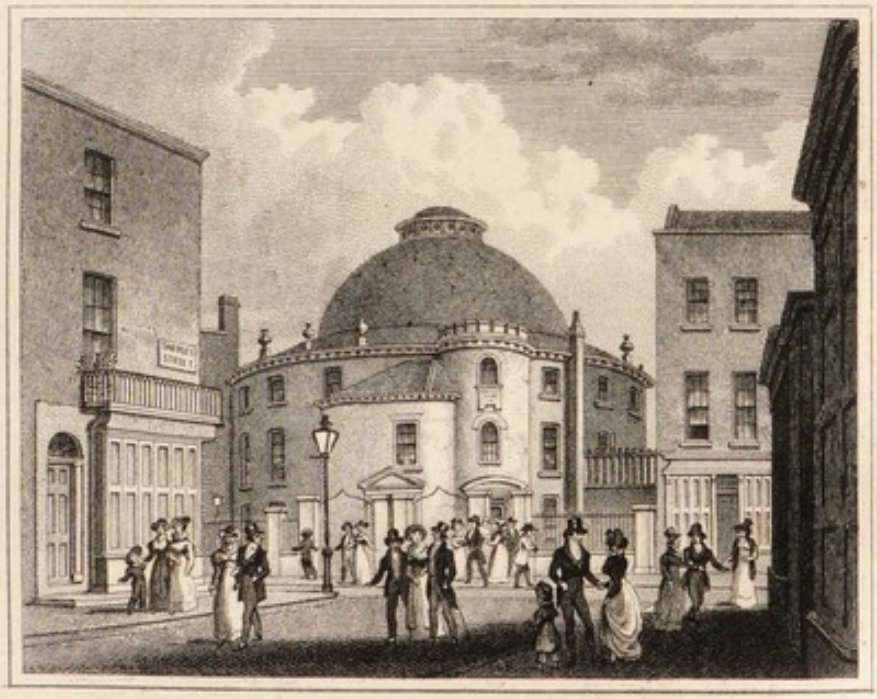
of resort to those who prefer *the air of the fields* to longer walks in the country: consequently, on Sundays and holidays, they are almost literally covered with loungers; and, indeed, fine summer evenings produce an equal number on week days." This was written in 1803, and would have been equally applicable ten or twelve years afterwards.

Spa-Fields Chapel stands on the south side of this street. *As* a chapel, it was founded by the late Selina, Countess of Huntingdon; but it was previously adapted to a purpose the most opposite. Noorthouck writes,—"On the south side of the Spawfield is an humble imitation of the *Pantheon* in Oxford Street, calculated for the amusement of a suitable class of company. Here, apprentices, journeymen, and clerks, dressed to ridiculous extremes, entertain their ladies on Sundays, and, to the utmost of their power, if not beyond their proper power, affect the dissipated manners of their superiors." Within three years from the date of these observations, *i. e.* towards the end of 1776, the building, not answering the purposes of its originator and proprietor, (a retired publican, named Jackson) became vacant; and being taken by the Rev. Messrs. Jones and Taylor, two clergymen of the Church of England, was by them opened for the propagation of the tenets usually styled *evangelical*. On the morning of Sunday, July 6th, 1777, the first sermon was preached within these walls, by Mr. Jones, from Gen. xxviii. 19:—"*And he* (Jacob) *called the name of that place* BETHEL; *but the name of that city was called* LUZ *at the first*." The sermon was afterwards published, with the title of "*Aulim-Luz*." The epithet *Pan-*



Storer del & sc

Claremont Chapel.



Spa Fields Chapel.

theon being now dropped, the structure took the title of *Northampton Chapel,* from its standing on part of the estate of the Northampton family. About the same time, the greater part of the large garden in rear, formerly devoted to tea-drinking parties and the pursuits of pleasure, was taken by some individuals unconnected with the newly-created chapel, and by them converted into a burial-ground. These proceedings excited the attention of the minister of the parish, the Rev. William Sellon; and, at his instance, Messrs. Jones and Taylor were cited before the Ecclesiastical Court, for preaching, although members of the establishment, in a place not episcopally consecrated, as well as for performing divine service there, contrary to the expressed wish of the minister. By this measure they were silenced in February, 1779.

The Countess of Huntingdon now took the chapel under her protection; and, on the 28th of the next following month, it was re-opened under her auspices by the Rev. T. Haweis, (afterwards Dr. Haweis) one of her chaplains. She also took up her residence in the adjoining house, in order that the chapel might be deemed her's in right of her peerage. This gave rise to a new question in the Ecclesiastical Court, which was decided against her ladyship; and her preachers at Northampton Chapel were in consequence reduced to the alternative of giving up their connection with this place of worship, or with the Established Church. Two of them, Messrs. Haweis and Glascott, hereupon ceased to officiate at the chapel; while two others, Messrs. Wills and Taylor, preferred seceding from the Church of England, vin-

dicating their conduct in a letter to the archbishops and bishops, and continued their services as before. From that period to the present, the success of Northampton, or Spa-Fields Chapel, has been distinguished: nor has prosperity less attended the operations of the connection of which this chapel was the fountain-head, and of which Lady Huntingdon was the foundress. The doctrines of this connection, it is generally known, are those of the Calvinistic Methodists.

The body of the chapel is a rotunda; the windows numerous; the walls brick, finished with a cornice supported by brackets. The roof is a slated cupola, surmounted by a lantern, on which formerly stood a figure of *Fame*, removed on the conversion of the structure to its present purposes. Vases are placed at equal distances round the cornice. The entrances are by two somewhat strange-looking projecting buildings, one of which is semicircular, and embattled, and has the inscription on its front, "Spa Fields Chapel, 1779." Within, the dome is neatly ornamented, and the whole has a pleasing appearance; to which, however, the circular form, and the double range of galleries running round, give an air that has been judged too theatrical. But, by the same circumstances, the sight and hearing of the auditors are unusually well provided for; and these, assuredly, are the most important considerations in a place of worship that will accommodate more than two thousand persons. Behind, looking upon a garden, are two projections to correspond with those in front, and adjoining, a building inscribed "Committee-Room, 1780." Eastward,

is the extensive burial-ground, which remains, as at first, a separate property, unconnected with the chapel. In the burial-ground was the large ancient pool, called the *Ducking-Pond;* "at which," says Seymour's Survey, "a sad mischance once happened, viz. the 19th of January, 1633; when six young lads going to sport themselves here upon the ice, the ice broke, and they all fell in and lost their lives, to the great grief of many that saw them dying, and of many more that saw them dead, as well as of their parents." This pool is remembered by many inhabitants of the parish: it was provided with a boat by the proprietor of the *Pantheon,* and was thus made subservient to the amusement of the original frequenters.

In the chapel are held the annual conferences of the trustees and ministers of the connexion. The large house, adjoining on the east side, is the society's property, and is applied to the accommodation of the officiating ministers here, and at Zion Chapel, Whitechapel; which latter, like Spa-Fields Chapel, was originally a species of theatre. In this house, on the 17th of June, 1791, in her 84th year, died the Right Hon. Selina, Countess-Dowager of Huntingdon. She was born Aug. 24, 1707, and was the second daughter, and one of the three co-heiresses, of Washington, second Earl Ferrers; was married June 3, 1728, to Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon; and had issue four sons and three daughters, of whom the Countess of Moira, mother of the late Marquis of Hastings, was the only survivor. Her ladyship had been a widow forty-five years; and was buried, agreeably to her will, in the same tomb

with her deceased lord, at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire, in a plain black coffin, but dressed in the suit of white silk she had worn at the opening of one of her chapels in Goodman's Fields. Of such chapels, she had founded, either in whole or in part, *sixty-four;* and her whole property and influence were devoted to their support, and to that of a *college* at Trevecca, South Wales, for educating young men for the ministry, which was opened in August, 1768, by the Rev. Geo. Whitefield, but has since been removed to Cheshunt, Herts. Those, therefore, who differed from her tenets, could not but respect the disinterestedness of her views; and many admired the ardour of her zeal, even of those who deemed it mistaken or misapplied. So extensive, indeed, were her religious concerns, that her trustees, and their committees, to whose direction and solicitude she bequeathed them, found, and have continued to find, the objects entrusted to them such as require no small portion of her own diligence and spirit, the full influence (if we may so speak) of the *mantle* of the departed, in order to perfect and support them agreeably to her designs. In the occupation of the Chapel-House she was succeeded by her pious friend and imitator, Lady Ann Erskine: it is at present the residence of Mr. H. F. Stroud, one of the *four* now acting trustees.

An estate, which of late years became the property of this religious connection, lies at the angle of Bagnigge Wells Road and Cobham Row, and is, therefore, immediately before us as we pursue our way from Exmouth Street. In several points of view, this property is worthy more than ordinary

notice. Here, early in the fifteenth century, resided *Sir John Oldcastle, Lord Cobham,* the first author, as well as the first martyr, among our nobility, who was born in the reign of Edward III. He obtained his peerage through marrying the heiress of that Lord Cobham, who, with so much virtue and patriotism, opposed the tyranny of Richard II.; and, with the estate and title of his father-in-law, seems also to have taken possession of his good qualities and independent spirit. He was one of the leaders of the reforming party; and not only was at great expense in collecting and transcribing the writings of Wickliffe, for dispersion among the people, but he maintained a great number of his followers as itinerant preachers in various parts of the country. In the reign of Henry V. he was accused of heresy; when the king undertook to reason with him himself, and reduce him from his errors. Lord Cobham's answer is on record. "I ever was," said he, "a dutiful subject to your majesty, and ever will be. Next to God, I profess obedience to my king; but as to the spiritual dominion of the Pope, I could never see on what foundation it is claimed, nor can I pay him any obedience. It is sure as God's word is true, he is the great Antichrist foretold in holy writ." The king was shocked at this reply; and withdrawing his favour from him, left him to the censures of the church. He was confined in the Tower, but effected his escape, and lay concealed four years in Wales. But being accused of participating in a pretended conspiracy of the Lollards, a price was set upon his head, and he was at last brought to London in triumph, and dragged to execution in St. Giles's fields;

where, as a traitor, and heretic, he was first hung in chains, and then burnt, in December 1417. His elegant biographer, Mr. Gilpin, observes of him, that "he was a person of uncommon parts, and very extensive talents:—no species of learning which was at that time in esteem had escaped his attention. It was his thirst of knowledge, indeed, which first brought him acquainted with the tenets of Wickliffe. The novelty of them first engaged his curiosity. He examined them as a philosopher; and in the course of his examination became a christian."

The memory of this eminent nobleman and patriot was held in no common estimation by the people; and beyond the middle of last century, the spot where he resided continued to be called "Sir John Oldcastle's," having been long marked by a house of public entertainment so called, which possibly included some remains of the ancient mansion. The name of Cobham Row, and the sign of the *Cobham's Head* (which latter was formerly always spoken of as *The Lord Cobham)* are derived from the same source.* Sir John died without issue: and the lapse of years prevents any knowledge of the possessors of his estate here till 1676, when we find the freehold in Robert Harvey, Esq. By an indenture dated Nov. 5th, 1723, it appears then to have been the property of Walter Baynes, of the Middle Temple, Gent., and Robert Warner, of Lincoln's Inn, Esq.; who let to Oliver Humphreys, Clothier, "all

* There was another public-house, with the sign of "Lord Cobham," in our parish until about sixty years back: it was in St. John's Street Road, being the same house which is now called the "Adam and Eve."

that messuage or tenement commonly called and knowne by the name or signe of Sir John Oldcastle, together with the gardens and grounds thereunto belonging," on lease, to expire at Christmas, 1784. Robert Warner afterwards purchased Walter Baynes's moiety: and the lessee, Humphreys, July 1st, 1754, assigned over the premises, including an additional tenement built by himself, for £120. paid in hand, and under a yearly rent of £45. for the remainder of his term, to the Trustees of a charity instituted for the relief of poor people afflicted with the small-pox, and for inoculating with that disorder.

This excellent charity was the first of its kind in Europe; and was instituted principally through the exertions of Dr. Poole, who, about the year 1740, rented a house in Lower Street, Islington, for the purpose of inoculation, and, in 1746, procured the patronage and subscriptions of many of the nobility and gentry towards erecting a hospital for the completion of his benevolent designs. The institution consisted of three houses; one in Old Street, for preparing patients for inoculation; that in Islington, for receiving them when the disease appeared; and the one under notice, in what were then called Cold Bath Fields, for the treatment of persons who had become subjects of the disease by infection. This latter building, it has appeared, was not commenced till 1754; when the Trustees pulled down part of the tenement built by Oliver Humphreys, and erected their hospital immediately adjacent, leaving the old mansion called Sir John Oldcastle's still standing. Subsequently, the charity was confined to two establishments; that erected in

Pancras parish, near the end of Gray's Inn Lane, now generally known as "The Small-Pox Hospital," which was devoted to preparing and inoculating patients; and the hospital under notice, to which they were removed as soon as the disease appeared, and which also continued to receive persons who had caught the disease in the natural way.

Sept. 14th, 1761, Robert Warner, Esq. granted the Trustees an extension of the term of Oliver Humphreys, making in all sixty-one years from the Christmas ensuing, at an increased rental of £10., being in all £55. per annum. In the indenture then made, it is agreed by all the parties, "that the old messuage or tenement commonly called Sir John Oldcastle's, being in a very ruinous condition, may be pulled down, and such other erections built thereon, or on any part of the premises, as the said Trustees shall think fit:" and in the same indenture, the premises specified as demised are, the above-recited messuage or tenement, "called or known by the name or sign of Sir John Oldcastle," and "all that new erection and building commonly called by the name of the Small-Pox Hospital." The old mansion styled Sir John's was then, no doubt, finally removed: and, most likely, the Trustees at the same period completed the hospital according to the external form it still wears, though internally it is applied to a very different purpose.

On the death of Robert Warner, Esq, the freehold passed to Jervoise Clarke Jervoise, Esq., and formed part of the large estate, principally in this parish, known as the "Jervoise Estate." His eldest son, Thomas Clarke Jervoise, Esq., succeeded; by

whose executors, together with the Rev. Samuel Clarke Jervoise, (brother-in-law to the testator,) it was conveyed, June 13th, 1813, for £3,060., to James Oldham Oldham, Esq. The latter gentleman immediately *presented* it to the Trustees of Lady Huntingdon's Connexion, (of whom he was one,) having bought it for that especial purpose, and being guided to this act of munificence by an intention to provide another site for Spa Fields Chapel, in the event of the Connexion's inability to obtain a new lease for that building, the present one expiring in about fifteen years. Meanwhile, the structure called the Small Pox Hospital had been relinquished, since 1795, by the Trustees of that charity, and let to Messrs. Davies and Marsh, who converted it into a *Distillery*: and the entire plot continued in the hands of the last-mentioned parties, until the expiration of the hospital's lease in 1822.

Up to this year, the ground not occupied by the former hospital buildings was either laid out in gardens, or used for the various purposes of the distillery; being separated from Bagnigge Wells Road by a lofty brick wall. But on the property's falling to the disposal of Lady Huntingdon's Connexion, considerable alterations were made. Mindful of the intentions of the donor, the Trustees re-let the distillery, to Mr. George Marsh, for fourteen years only; but granted building leases of the rest of the ground, in pursuance of which the ten houses called Oldham Place arose in 1823-4, and, subsequently, the double row of cottages in their rear, named Oldham Gardens. Mr. Oldham died in 1823, having been an active and highly useful member of

Lady Huntingdon's Trust for upwards of thirty years. The property he here so disinterestedly, during his life-time, gave the Connexion, now produces more than £400. per annum.

The front of the distillery, which is in Cobham Row, presents exactly the appearance it did when it was the Small Pox Hospital; being composed of a centre and two wings, the former receding a little from the rest, and terminated by a pediment, on whose apex is a vase. The east wing has been recently let as a separate dwelling; the other is the residence of the proprietor of the concern.

At the sale by auction of the *Jervoise Estate* in October and December, 1811, it was stated to comprise, in this parish, *Cold-Bath Square*, with the bath house and spacious garden in the centre; *Baynes' Row*; *Cobham Row*; *Great* and *Little Warner Streets*; *Great* and *Little Bath Streets*; *Ray Street* (a small part); *Dorrington Street*; *Baker's Row* and *Place*; part of *Coppice Row*, including Clerkenwell Poor-House;* *Baynes* and *Lane's Courts*; *Crawford Passage*; *Bath Row*

* The Poor House is described in the Catalogue as a "Freehold Estate, comprising two spacious ranges of buildings, *erected with superior substantiality:*" and it is noticed, that "the part first erected is let on lease, which will expire at Lady-day, 1848, at a ground-rent per annum of .....£8. 10*s.* 0*d.*

And "the modern part on lease, till the 6th of April, 1848, at a rent of .. ..£25. 10*s.* 0*d.*

"Total... .....£34. 0*s.* 0*d.*"

The original lease was granted by Walter Baynes and Robert Warner, Esqrs. The lot produced £1860.; and was bought by the parish, who thus, most desirably, made the property their freehold.

and *Court*; and *Providence* and *Charles Places*; together with other property, chiefly ground rents, in the adjoining parish of St. Andrew, Holborn. The whole was sold at the Auction Mart, by order of the executors before-mentioned, in 110 lots, and produced £76,970. The remainder of the estate, lying in Clerkenwell, will be properly described in this place, after a few particulars of the general history of a property now so greatly divided.

Robert Harvey, Esq., by will dated 17th May, 1676, gave to his wife "all his messuages, lands, and tenements" in Clerkenwell, being this estate, during her life, and, after her decease, successively to his sons John and Robert. In 1696, Robert Harvey, the younger, sold it to John Henley and Walter Baynes, for £1650. At this period, it comprised ten messuages, thirty-eight cottages, and nineteen acres of pasture; and was otherwise divided into two closes, formerly parcel of a field called Windmill Hill, but then styled Sir John Oldcastle's Field, with its grounds and appurtenances; a large field, called Gardiner's Farm, or Field; and a parcel of ground, situate on the west side of Coppice Row, (then known by a more homely appellation), whereon stood the major part of the above-mentioned messuages and cottages, in a row bearing the name of Reynolds's Buildings. It may be proper to explain, that *Windmill Hill*, or *Sir John Oldcastle's Field*, extended westward from Sir John Oldcastle's to the river Fleet, or, as it was then called, Turnmill Brook; and southward, by Coppice Row, to the same brook, near the Clerks' Well: while *Gardiner's Farm* was the plot on which now stands the Middlesex

House of Correction. John Henley afterwards disposed of his moiety to John Warner; who, in 1721, devised all his real estates to his eldest son, Robert. In 1736, Robert Warner purchased the other moiety of Walter Baynes, for £1900. 16*s.*; but died intestate as to the same moiety, as appears by his will, dated 8th May, 1764. But leaving an only child named Kitty, then married to Jervoise Clarke Jervoise, Esq., this gentleman, by the courtesy of England, became tenant of the entirety of the premises on the birth of his eldest son, the late Thomas Clarke Jervoise, Esq. The latter died in December, 1809, at his seat called West Bromwich Hall, Staffordshire. By his will, dated 15th January, 1808, he devised all his estates, "situate in the several counties of Hants, Stafford, Worcester, Middlesex, Surry, or elsewhere," to his executors, George Silk, Esq., and the Rev. Joseph Territt, "upon trust that they should make sale and absolutely dispose of all the manors, &c. &c., either by public auction or private contract;" transferring the proceeds, after deduction of some minor bequests, and upon certain conditions, to the child or children of the Rev. Samuel Clarke, who has since taken the name of Jervoise.

When Walter Baynes purchased the moiety of this estate in 1696, it appears to have been with an eye to the building speculations, which, in *Baynes Row* and *Warner Street*, have handed down his name, and that of his future partner, John Warner. But his attention was first directed to the *Cold Spring* situate upon his moiety, and which, in 1697, he converted into a *Bath*, spoken of, eleven years



J & H S Storer del & sc

Cold Bath
as it appeared 1811



Boundary House, Muswell Hill.

afterwards, in the "New View," as "the most noted and *first* about London." The latter part of this assertion, as it was written so near the time at which it states the origin of our Cold Bath, is sufficient to disprove the story of its having been the bath of Nell Gwynn, whom a *nude* figure, on porcelain, preserved by the proprietor, is said to represent. Most probably, the spring was discovered by Mr. Baynes, at the commencement of his building operations: certainly, none of the legal instruments relating to the estate, of an earlier period, make mention of it. The "New View" says of this gentleman, that "he undertook, and yet manages, this business of cold-bathing:" very possibly, therefore, he resided in the Bath House, and died in it; as he was buried in the old church of St. James, where his monument was erected by his only son, Walter, against the south wall of the nave. His death took place in 1745, at the age of 91. The inscription described him as "of the Middle Temple, gent.," and "2nd son of Richard Baynes, of Laingley, county of York, gent." He was one of the original promoters of the Charity School in this parish, and its first treasurer, retaining that office fifteen years.

In Mr. Baynes's time, the charge for bathing was 2*s.*; or, in the case of patients who from weakness required "the chair," 2*s.* 6*d.* The chair was suspended from the cieling, in such manner that a person placed in it could be thereby lowered into the water, and drawn up again in the same way:—a part of the apparatus still remains. The hours were from five o'clock in the morning till one in the afternoon. The water was at the acmé of its reputation

in 1700. Of its utility in cases of weakness, more especially, there can be no question. Besides which, its efficacy is stated in the cure of scorbutic complaints, nervous affections, rheumatism, chronic disorders, &c. It is a chalybeate, and deposits a saline incrustation. The spring is said to supply 20,000 gallons daily: the height to which it rises in the marble receptacles prepared for it, is four feet seven inches. For a single bath, the charge is now 1*s.*; or the visitant may subscribe by the month, quarter, or year. There are besides all the requisite conveniences for shower and warm bathing.

Until the sale of the estate in 1811, the Bath-House, with the garden in which it stood, comprised an area of 103 feet by sixty, enclosed by a brick wall, with a summer-house resembling a little tower at each angle. The house had several gables, and the whole external appearance was singular and antique. The freehold being divided into three lots, was bought, for £3,830., by the Trustees of the Fever Hospital now at Pancras, whose intention it was to erect that hospital on the site. Relinquishing their design, through the interference of the county magistrates, and the opposition it excited in the neighbourhood, they let the garden on building leases, and the whole is now covered with houses, the bath remaining in the midst. The substantial dwellings on the north-east and south-west sides of the Square, are the original erections in the time of Baynes and Warner.

Great Bath Street, at the sale, produced £8560.; Great Warner Street, £9085. The latter included the spacious carriage and stable yard,

half an acre in extent, with dwellings, &c., called *Red-Lion Yard*, and which alone sold for £2030. In Great Bath Street is said to have died the celebrated, eccentric, or, to say all in a word, "highly-illuminated" *Baron Swedenborg*, the founder of the sect of Swedenborgians, or members of the New Church, whose gifts, agreeably to their belief, are so remarkable. The noble Swede was charged by many with insanity; but if the "memorable relations," which seem to justify the charge, were expunged from his works, much of the remainder would appear the result both of sense and piety.

Against the front of one of the houses in Baynes Row, is a tablet, beneath a kind of pediment, ornamented with various devices, and with the initials I P, (probably those of the builder,) the motto "In God is all our Trust," (which is that of the Tilers' and Bricklayers' Company,) and the date 1737; the whole executed in brick-work. Below is a plain stone, in a brick border, inscribed "Baynes Street," with the same date. Dorrington Street, which adjoins, took name from Thomas Dorrington, citizen and bricklayer of London, to whom Messrs. Baynes and Warner demised the ground for building. The hidden course of the Fleet divides the end of this street from Mount Pleasant, and, forming the parochial boundary, terminates our route in this direction. But it will be necessary, before we quit the spot, to describe an important object immediately connected with it—the House of Correction for the County of Middlesex.

This extensive structure, it was observed, stands on that part of the Jervoise estate formerly known

by the name of *Gardiner's Farm, or Field:* it was completed in 1794, when the prisoners were removed into it from the old building called Clerkenwell Bridewell. The magistrates paid £2125. to Thomas Clarke Jervoise, Esq. for the freehold ground. The whole cost of the building, including that purchase, was at least £70,000.; of which £62,000. were raised by a *tontine*, in shares of £100. each, secured upon the county rate. For some years after the erection of this prison, its construction, site, internal management, &c., were leading topics in political circles; and in 1799 and 1800, the ill repute into which it had fallen, and the circumstance of a small degree of similarity in form, occasioned its receiving, from popular odium, the name of the English *Bastile.** Among other points much discussed, were the height, and consequent salubrity, of the spot it occupied; some, as Malcolm observed, asserting that it stood upon an elevation, others, that it was situ-

* In the month of July, 1800, Mr. John Aris then being governor of the prison, a riot took place, which, it was judged, required the interference of the military. In consequence, a party of the *Clerkenwell Volunteers* entered the prison with fixed bayonets, and provided with eighteen rounds of ball cartridge. They were assailed on their way by a multitude, who threw stones, and continued to cry, "Down with the Bastile!" The prisoners had not been locked up for several previous nights, and made repeated declarations that they were *starving*. On the entrance of the armed party into the several yards, they submitted without further resistance. The volunteers remained in the prison during the night, and were relieved next morning; the building being thus occupied for several days.—It may not be irrelevant here to remark, that the Clerkenwell Volunteers were esteemed as numerous and effective as any similar body of men in or near the metropolis. They were several times reviewed by the king; and on one occasion were found to be above nine hundred strong, exclusive of about thirty horse.

ated in a valley. That author, therefore, "endeavoured to compare the ground with that of the neighbouring streets;" and, as the result, informs us, that "it is on a level with Swinton Street and Gray's Inn Lane, and not more than six feet lower than Meux's brew-house in Liquor-pond Street; scarcely lower than Guildford Street; on a level with the Spa Fields; and as high as the roofs of many of the houses in the space between Gray's Inn Lane and Coppice Row; higher than Clerkenwell Workhouse, and the first floors of the houses at Bagnigge Wells:—from Pentonville it appears to be very low, and so doth the whole of London." This is evidently the language of an extenuator, or apologist. It would be easy to show in what degree it is incorrect: but waving minutiæ, it will suffice to remark, that this prison stands on the side of a gentle slope, rising from what must necessarily be lower ground than any in the vicinity, being the bed of one of those natural streams that always take the bottoms of valleys for their course, while the west wall runs along the margin of the stream in question, which is the little river Fleet. It should be added, that the spot was swampy in itself; and having been long used as a public laystall, had become a mountain of the deposits usually collected together at such receptacles. But on the other hand, it is only justice to state, all the original disadvantages of situation appear to have been completely obviated by the measures adopted with that view. The mountain of rubbish was removed; and care taken, both by means of piles, and foundations of very unusual depth and solidity, to provide at once for the security of the building, and for such a

degree of elevation as should be necessary to the health of its inmates. As regards the internal construction, since it was built literally upon the plan of the *benevolent* Howard, the great retriever of the long-abused condition of the incarcerated, it must appear singular that so much blame should have attached to its erectors on that head. Humanity itself should recollect, that it was intended for a House of *Correction;* and as an experiment in the treatment of convicted felons, and hardened offenders. Possibly, its discipline, at first, was too severe; but if so, there is reason to believe that it has long been greatly ameliorated. Perhaps, too, much of the complaint formerly made would not have been called into existence, had the structure been restricted to its first purpose of correcting the *convicted:* whereas, at a time of great political ferment, persons charged with high treason were most injudiciously confined within it, yet against whom, in some instances, no crime could eventually be proved.

The prison is almost entirely of brick, and, externally, presents little more to the eye than long lines of lofty and massy wall, broken only by buttresses. To the north and east, this outward wall was greatly extended in 1824, so as to enclose a large separate area, in which it is the intention of the magistrates to erect a distinct place of confinement for females; but no progress has been yet made in the building designed. In front, the length of wall is relieved by the Governor's House, with a garden, enclosed by a paling, before it. Contiguous is the Gate, of Portland stone, rusticated, in a heavy style, and with this inscription at top: "*The House of Cor-*

rection for the County of Middlesex. 1794." The only ornament (if such it can be called) attempted, is the appropriate one of fetters.

After passing the gate, the various buildings appear, standing in the midst of the area enclosed by the external wall, and taking the general form of the letter H. A large garden, which supplies the prison with vegetables, forms the east, north, and west sides of the area. The first impression of the visitor, on his examination of the interior, is that created by the extreme cleanliness of every part: the walls and cielings of all the cells, corridores, galleries, stair-cases, &c., being kept constantly white-washed. The ventilation, from side to side, and from top to bottom, is equally perfect; air being communicated from without by a number of iron gratings, and distributed by other gratings, dispersed throughout the building, both in the internal walls, and in the floors of the galleries and corridores. The cells have not the slightest appearance of dampness, being elevated at least fifteen feet above the channel of the Fleet. In each is a straw bed, with blankets and a coverlet; all which are suspended against the walls by day, and placed in a concave wooden receptacle, to serve as a bedstead, at night. The allowance of food to each prisoner, is one pound and a quarter of bread daily, with six ounces of meat (when boiled down) three times a week, soup on other days, and gruel for breakfast. Provisions are not permitted to be conveyed to persons confined here; and they may be visited only on one day in every month, between the hours of one and four. Neither fees, nor what is called garnish, are allowed. The tread-mill was

adopted in 1822: it is established here on an ingenious principle, by which a wheel is worked in each of the eight different yards, while a shaft, running through, connects the whole. The power of the mill has not yet been applied to any purpose of profit, but is very capable of application to many. The due employment of the prisoners is secured by this instrument; and it is just to add, that their classification, according to the nature of their offences, is as complete as the extent of the prison will admit.

The *chapel* towers above the crowd of slated roofs which this edifice presents to the spectator who may be placed on any of the neighbouring elevations. It is of octagonal form, and the best adapted to its purposes of any in the prisons of the metropolis. The arrangements of the interior are such, that each class of prisoners arrives at its proper place without observation of the rest, and sits in like seclusion, though all have an equal view of the minister. There are also pews concealed from every one but the clergyman and clerk; being intended for the accommodation of such persons of apparent respectability, as may be confined merely on suspicion of offences, of which it is possible they may be found innocent. This chapel was opened September 28th, 1794; when Dr. Gabriel read the service, and Dr. Glasse preached, from the text, "I was in prison, and ye came unto me." A great number of magistrates, and other gentlemen, were present; and seventy prisoners attended, in new clothing. The salary of the chaplain is £400. per annum; and he is restricted from officiating at any other place of worship. The medical attendant has £400. per annum, as stated in our account of the

New Prison, for his services at both establishments. The governor's salary is £400. per annum.

In 1806, the number of commitments to this House of Correction was 1987; in 1825, it was 6087, or more than three fold: an enormous increase in nineteen years, and, as evincing a corresponding increase in crime, worthy the most serious consideration of the philanthropist.

Route V.

FROM OLDHAM PLACE, BY BAGNIGGE-WELLS ROAD, TO BATTLE-BRIDGE: AND THENCE, BY THE NEW ROAD, CLAREMONT SQUARE, AND AMWELL STREET, TO THE NEW-RIVER HEAD, AND ISLINGTON SPA.

The first object of interest in or near the line of the present route, is Wilmington Square, which lies a little to our right, and takes name from one of the titles of the Marquess of Northampton, who is *Baron* Wilmington. This Square was commenced when the Spa Fields in general began to be covered with erections, but is still unfinished. It will be completed in a form more circumscribed than was at first determined on, and with houses of a less lofty character. The Plan of the Parish will show both its now intended extent, as marked by the enclosure nearest Tysoe and Yardley Streets, and its dimensions as originally contemplated. On this spot, and in the immediate neighbourhood, were held the celebrated *Spa-Fields Meetings* of Nov. 15th and Dec. 2nd, 1816; the site being then literally *fields*, and perfectly qualified for the reception of assemblages amounting to many thousand persons. The focus of the proceedings, on both occasions, was a public-house contiguous, called the *Merlin's Cave*, which, as well as a few adjoining dwellings, then stood with the fields directly in its front, and commanded a very pleasing prospect. This house, from which Merlin Place is called, has existed upwards of a century; but the origin of its sign is unknown. Here, Henry Hunt, of radical celebrity, presided at the meetings

spoken of; but, certainly, was not implicated in the lawless outrages that grew out of the last. For participating in those outrages, a poor disbanded sailor, named Cashman, suffered death in the following year: and the elder Watson, with others, was tried for high treason, but acquitted. Arthur Thistlewood, one of those who at that time escaped conviction, was afterwards less fortunate; being condemned and executed for the prominent part he took in the Cato-Street conspiracy.

Guildford Street East, leading from Bagnigge-Wells Road into Wilmington Square, was originally meant as a counterpart to Guildford Street West, which stands on the opposite ascent from the valley of the Fleet, in the parish of St. Pancras. The road now constructing by the county magistrates along the north side of the new prison wall, and filling up the valley in its course, was then intended to cross their ground more to the south, so as to form a direct line of communication between the two streets; but this plan was abandoned, in order to carry the boundary of the prison to its present extent.

The *New Great Sewer* lately formed by the Commissioners of Sewers for the Holborn and Finsbury Divisions, is a neighbouring feature of some importance. In magnitude of diameter, and solidity of construction, it vies with the chief erections of its kind in modern times. It is in effect a new channel for the river Fleet, whose discoloured stream it receives behind Bagnigge-Wells gardens, and conducts it by a straight course, in lieu of the ancient winding one through the county ground, nearly to the older tunnel, which, at Dorrington Street, continues its

conveyance towards the Thames. The cost of this undertaking, so far as it has been at present carried, exceeds £6000.; and the Commissioners, at a court recently held, ordered £1000. per annum, being £500. for each of their divisions, to be set apart for its continuance towards Battle-Bridge. The improvement it will effect in this entire neighbourhood will be great. By means of the roads that are to cross it at various points where the Fleet formerly presented an obstruction, new communications will be opened between the west end of the town and Clerkenwell, as well as with Islington and the great north road. Several streets on the Pancras side of the channel are already forming, in anticipation of the advantages to be derived from this important work.

Beneath the front garden of a house in Spring Place, and extending under the foot-pavement almost to the turnpike-gate called the Pantheon Gate, lies the capacious receptacle of a *Mineral Spring*, which in former times was in considerable repute, both as a chalybeate, and for its supposed efficacy in the cure of sore eyes. This is one of the ancient springs spoken of by Stow as "having the fall of their overflowings" into the River of Wells, (now the river Fleet,) and "much increasing its stream." About one hundred and forty years since, it was the occasion of giving the elegant epithet of *Black Mary's Hole* to a small old house on this, and a few others on the opposite side of the road, from the following circumstance. In the single house eastward of the road, (long removed, though the others remain), immediately contiguous to the fountain, lived a black

woman, named Mary Woolaston, who rented this spring, or conduit, of Robert Harvey, Esq., and made a living by the sale of its water to the citizens: when, from the lowness of the site, and the name of the vendor, the spot acquired this appellation. Mary dying, and the place obtaining a character for licentiousness, Walter Baynes, Esq., in whose hands the ground then was, enclosed the conduit for public use, about the year 1697, in such manner as to give it greatly the appearance of a huge oven; and recorded his work by an inscription on a stone which remained till 1803, but was then carried away in the night by some unknown person. About ten years back, when Spring Place was erected, the builder removed every external appearance of Walter Baynes's labours, and converted the receptacle beneath into a cess-pool for the drainage of his houses. The spring thus degraded, and its situation concealed, it is probable that the lapse of a few more years would have effaced the memory of it for ever, had not an accident rediscovered it in the summer of 1826. Its covering, which was only of boards, having rotted, suddenly gave way, and left a large chasm in the foot-path. After some efforts, not perfectly successful, to turn off the drainage, it was then arched with brick-work, and a leaden pump placed over it, in the garden beneath which it chiefly lies. But the pump being stolen during the following winter, the spring has again fallen into neglect; and, possibly, this page alone will prevent its being totally forgotten.—A much stronger chalybeate, on the same side of the road, but about thirty yards nearer Exmouth Street, will be remembered by many of our readers to have

been conducted by a simple pipe from the earth, before the present houses, called GUILDFORD PLACE, were built. The water, with permission of the proprietor of the field, was retailed by a poor person at a halfpenny per glass.

The "battery and breast-work" spoken of at page 34, as having been erected by the Parliament during the civil wars, "contiguous to a part of the present Bagnigge-Wells Road," was situated very near this spot. We are told that it stood on "the hill east of Black Mary's Hole:" the corner of Exmouth Street, and of the road we are pursuing, therefore, will most likely mark its site, being the brow of the eminence, and exactly calculated for the defence of the highway to London, the approaches to which it was the Parliament's object to guard.

BAKER STREET, which, when completed, and the road from Gray's Inn Lane formed, must become a leading thoroughfare, reminds us that we are arrived at that part of the estate of William Lloyd Baker, Esq., which was not leased, like the remainder, to the New River Company. Here, at the north-west corner, we notice a respectable tavern and tea-gardens, called the *Union*; where was formerly a public-house, of vulgar fame, known by the name of the *Bull in the Pound*. The buildings contemplated to extend up the slope from this point, eastward, to Amwell Street, and, northward, to Myddleton Gardens, have been before alluded to;* and the general plan of the parish will afford a correct idea of the several squares and streets, as at

* Vide p. 22.



J & H S Storer delt & sculp.

Belvidere Gardens.



Bagnigge Wells.

present intended to be formed. In this place it will be proper only to add, that great part of the site is as yet occupied by Mr. George Randell's well-known *Tile-kilns*, and extensive adjoining premises. Any stranger who inspects the spot, must feel surprise at the extent to which the clay, which is the natural soil, has been removed for the purpose of this manufacture. Mr. Randell's lease, however, will expire at Lady-day, 1828; and he is bound by one of its covenants to restore the ground to such a level, that "cattle can depasture thereon." The change of aspect to be produced by the projected erections, will of necessity be most striking and complete.

Bagnigge-Wells Road, from hence, is only partially in Clerkenwell, the buildings on the right hand alone being in our parish, while those on the left are in that of St. Pancras. This division, it is apparent, constitutes the house called *Bagnigge Wells* a portion of the latter parish; but we must not on that account entirely omit to mention a place of public entertainment so long established, and so immediately contiguous.

The house originally called *Bagnigge House*, is said, in Rede's Anecdotes, and with some appearance of probability, to have been a country residence of Nell Gwynn, the celebrated mistress of Charles II. At that time the valley possessed various amenities that have since vanished: in particular, the river Fleet, running in rear of this residence, was a clear stream, and not degraded to the office it now sustains. For some unknown reason, this stream had acquired the local epithet of the river *Bagnigge*; and hence the house was called Bagnigge House, and the bot-

tom in which it stood Bagnigge Vale. In memory of its supposed proprietor, the owner of some small tenements near the north end of the gardens styled them "Nell Gwynn's Buildings;" but the inscription was erased before 1803.

Mr. Lysons says, the house was opened for public reception about the year 1757, in consequence of the discovery of the mineral springs in its gardens at that period. In point of fact, the *medicinal qualities* of these springs were then discovered, by a Mr. Hughes, the occupant, who, having found the water to have an ill effect upon his flower-beds, in which he was curious, was led to inquire the cause, and, with the assistance of a medical friend, arrived at it. But the *wells*, far from being a discovery of his time, were steined in a substantial, workmanlike manner when he came into possession. Mineral waters being then much sought after, he took advantage of the knowledge he had gained, and opened the gardens with much success. The house had been of a public character, however, it would appear, long before: for, close to the north end of the garden wall, facing the road, there yet appears this inscription:

+
S T
THIS IS BAGNIGGE
HOVSE NEARE
THE PINDER A
WAKEFEILDE
1680

Such an inscription we can scarcely suppose would have been affixed to a private dwelling. The "Pinder a Wakefeilde," in modern English the *Pinder of Wakefield*—meaning the bailiff, or keeper,

of the *pinfold*, or pound, at Wakefield—was a noted personage in Robin Hood's band. A public-house near St. Chad's Well, bearing this sign, yet remains; and, possibly, was then of more celebrity than Bagnigge-House: but in that case, as Malcolm observed, it should seem the proprietor of the latter "was concerned with the Pinder, or *he* would hardly have pointed it out as a place well known." The inscription is cut in a plain square stone, which, together with a grotesque head, defaced by time and weather, placed above it, was removed from over an old gothic portal that formed part of the ancient residence.

When the gardens were first opened as a public spa, the place was called "The *Royal* Bagnigge Wells," probably in allusion to a monarch's meretricious connection with the occupant of former days. The waters were drunk at 3*d.* each person, or delivered at the pump-room at 8*d.* per gallon. The springs are two in number; the one chalybeate, the other cathartic. They have for years shared the neglect that has attached to all mineral waters not possessing the recommendations of distance and the expense of a journey to procure them; though, possibly, in common with the rest in this neighbourhood, their virtues may equal those of the most celebrated spas. An abortive attempt to revive them was made in 1819; but they are now in total disuse. A curious mezzotinto print of these wells was published by J. R. Smith in 1772. As a place of resort on Sundays, for tea-drinking, &c., the gardens have been long well-known. They were at first considerably larger than at present, and were laid out and

decorated in the old-fashioned manner, with walks in formal lines, and a profusion of leaden statues, alcoves, and fountains. They were curtailed of all the ground westward of the river Fleet soon after December, 1813; when, in consequence of the bankruptcy of the tenant, the whole of the moveables were sold by public auction. The fixtures and fittings-up were then described as comprising "a temple, a grotto, arbours, boxes, large lead figures, pumps, shrubs, 200 drinking tables, 350 forms," &c. &c. The *Temple* and *Grotto*, (as they are called), remain. The former is a roofed, circular colonnade, formed by a double row of pillars and pilasters, with an interior ballustrade. In its centre is a double pump, one piston of which supplied the chalybeate, the other the cathartic water. The grotto is a little *castellated* building, of two apartments, open to the gardens, in form an irregular sexagon, and covered for the most part with shells, stones, glass, &c. In the *Long Room*, at one end, is a fine-toned organ; at the other a bust, in alto-relievo, said to be of Nell Gwynn, in a circular border composed of a variety of fruits, and supposed to allude to her original occupation of selling fruit at the playhouses. Both the bust and border are painted to resemble nature: and on each side is a shield of arms, also painted, and gilt; that on the lady's left containing the old royal arms of England, and the one on her right the same, impaled with others, which, it has been erroneously thought, might be her own. Were their colouring correct, they would be the arms of Seymour, Duke of Somerset, as given by Gwillim; but the association of either

coat with Nell Gwynn, or with Bagnigge-House, it might be difficult to explain. These specimens of carved work were placed over a chimney-piece in the ancient mansion, and probably were executed soon after its first conversion to public uses. They were afterwards fixed up in a small building, called Nell Gwynn's Room, that stood in the garden prior to the alterations of late years; and were removed, in a very dilapidated state, to the situation they now occupy, by the present proprietor of the Wells, and by him restored, painted, and gilt as they appear. The Garter of the Order so styled, in similar workmanship, was over another chimney-piece; but this has been totally destroyed. Old Bagnigge House seems to have stood principally on the site of the brewery which adjoins northwards: and when that building was commenced by the proprietor who failed in 1813, its remaining vestiges, the before-mentioned inscription and grotesque head excepted, were condemned to make room for the new erection.

Myddelton Gardens cover several acres of the western slope of the hill rising on our right. This is the solitary spot in Clerkenwell, to which the rage for building has not as yet extended. The gardens comprise a great number of small enclosures, most of which are in the hands of private individuals, generally resident in this parish, who cultivate them for their amusement. From Gray's Inn Lane, which forms the brow of the eminence on the opposite side of the valley, the view of Myddelton Gardens, with the little summer-houses attached to many of them, has a pleasing effect.

The *London Gymnasium* is situated on an elevated

part of our ascent from the valley, and was formerly one of the largest of these gardens. The author of a pamphlet under the title of "Gymnastics, and their Influence on the Mind and Body considered," states his belief that the spot "has the advantage of the purest air about London." It commands a pretty view of Hampstead and Primrose Hill. Here is the central station of the *London Gymnastic Society*, instituted in the spring of 1826, with the avowed intention of reviving the knowledge and practice of Gymnastics in England. With this view, a meeting, open to all persons, was first held at the Mechanics' Theatre, Southampton Buildings; Dr. Gilchrist, the well-known oriental scholar, in the chair. Professor Voelker, from Germany, who had been for some time in this country as a private teacher of Gymnastics, also attended, and made a liberal offer of his instructions gratuitously. A provisional committee being constituted, procured this exercise ground: and the society was then regularly formed, consisting of a president, two vice-presidents, a treasurer, a committee of twenty, and an indefinite number of subscribers. Within little more than three months from its commencement, nearly nine hundred pupils were admitted; which making branch gymnasiums necessary, such were established in the New Road, Mary-le-bone; at Goldsmith's Place, Hackney Road; and near the Green Man, Kent Road. The terms of subscription are, for a year, 1*l.* 1*s.*; for six months, 12*s.*; for one month, 2*s.* 6*d.*. The utility of such institutions, to persons suffering from too unremitted study, or from excessive devotion to any sedentary pursuit, is beyond question—provided only that they

do not, through emulation, excite the weakly to exertions, not less prejudicial than the employments from the effects of which they are endeavouring to escape. The over ardent in literature, at the desk, &c. are liable to become equally so at the gymnasium. As to the objections commonly urged against establishments of this kind, they are so well refuted in the sensible little pamphlet just mentioned, that the reader who entertains such, or who feels any general interest in the subject, cannot do better than refer to it.

The part of Bagnigge-Wells Road we are now traversing was formerly called *Bagnigge Wash*, from its then lying much lower than at present, and being constantly more or less overflowed by the waters of the Fleet. For this reason, the Act of the 16th of George III., by authority of which the road-way of the declivity called Penton Place was formed, denominated that way "The Road to Bagnigge Wash."

In 1798, a dispute arose as to whether Bagnigge Place and Hamilton Row, two rows of small houses on the right, were in Clerkenwell or St. Pancras. But in 1802, the authorities of Clerkenwell obtained a decision in a court of law in favour of their constituting parts of this parish.

Proceeding to Battle-Bridge, we follow the winding of the Fleet, whose offensive stream is soon again very agreeably concealed. From a small bridge over the river at this spot, which was superseded by the extensive tunnel now hiding its course to a considerable distance, the last half of the name of Battle-*Bridge* is derived. The first has been supposed to commemorate the celebrated *Battle* between the Roman general, Suetonius Paulinus,

and the British Queen Boadicea, which appears from history to have been fought not far from London, A. D. 61. Tacitus describes the position taken up by the Imperial Commander, in expectation of the attack of the Britons, (who advanced from London), as possessing the advantages of "a narrow approach, and the shelter of a forest in rear."* Assuming the approach described to be the valley between Pentonville and Gray's Inn Lane, and which, it is likely, was distinguished by a road from the capital in the earliest times—the line of the Roman army to extend east from about where now stands the Small-Pox Hospital—and the forest in rear to mean the great forest of Middlesex—there is nothing improbable in the supposition, that this was the actual scene of that memorable engagement. Perhaps the chief argument against it might be drawn from the circumstance, that Tacitus, who so precisely marks the localities of the field of conflict, takes no notice of the *River Fleet*, which meandered through the valley, and which, in some degree, would have fronted and flanked the Roman position. Yet the importance, in military operations, of much more insignificant streams than the Fleet then was, is well known. Again, if the spot were named from this remarkable contest, it seems likely, considering the period at which it was fought, that such name would have been conveyed to us in somewhat of a British or Saxon form, and not have waited rather more than one thousand years for transmission through the Norman *bataille*. And it is worthy notice, that the in-

* "Deligitque locum arctis faucibus, et à tergo silvâ clausum." Tacit. Ann. lib. xiv. c. 34.

genious and industrious author of the "History of Islington," who has chiefly enlarged upon this supposed derivation, gives as corresponding examples the two towns called *Battle* in Yorkshire and Sussex, both of which obtained that appellation from contests that took place in, or immediately preceding, the Norman times. But on the other hand again, the agreement between the description, so far as it goes, of Tacitus, and the above-mentioned ancient localities of Battle-bridge; the yet remaining traces of a Roman *Camp* in the vicinity, near Islington Workhouse; and the voice of tradition through a long series of years; are considerations to which the antiquary will give their due weight, before he decides a point, which, after all, the best conjectures can only plausibly determine.

The extent of road usually passing under the denomination of Battle-bridge, includes the confines of three parishes; namely, Clerkenwell, Islington, and St. Pancras. In the reign of Edward VI., as recorded by Stow, "a Miller of *Battaile Bridge* was set on the pillory in Cheape, and had both his eares cut off, for seditious words by him spoken against the Duke of Somerset." And one "Cliffe, an honest cobler, dwelling at *Battel Bridge*," was the reputed author of a book, printed in 1589, called "The Cobbler's Book;" which charged the Church of England with maintaining idolatry, in the habits of the clergy, fonts, baptism by women, saints' days, bishoping of children, &c. &c. At present, Battle-Bridge consists chiefly of small houses, inhabited by shop-keepers and artisans. The lowness of its situation exposes it to floods after continued rains, or on

the breaking-up of frosts that have been accompanied with much snow: some remarkable effects of which visitations are detailed at page 30.

The *Piece of Land* mentioned at page 104 as belonging to Clerkenwell, though within the boundary of the parish of St. Mary Islington, lies in the fields a little north-east of this spot. It is surrounded with a railing, placed in July, 1821, to mark its line of extent as awarded by the arbitrator appointed by the Court of King's Bench, in a suit between this parish and Mr. William Horsfall, owner of the adjoining ground. It contains 3 roods, 39½ perches. The Regent's Canal Basin is contiguous to its west side: and it approaches to within fourteen feet of that canal on the north.

In re-ascending to the higher part of the parish by the New Road, we purpose to notice only the objects occurring on the *right:* those in the contrary direction will be described in the concluding route through the district of Pentonville, to which they properly belong. Upon this plan, *York Place, Clarence Place,* and *Queen's Row,* come under immediate mention: but with regard to them it need only be said, that they consist of cheerfully-situated, and, for the most part, very respectable houses; though, in the latter point of view, taking the whole line into the account, there is a considerable variety. The space between this road and the fronts of all buildings erected by its sides, is fixed by the act which authorised its formation at not less than fifty feet: and, very lately, a case was decided in a court of law against a party who had built upon the space so enacted to be left open.

CLAREMONT SQUARE is situated precisely on the crown of the eminence fronting Pentonville, and may be said to constitute the greatest improvement the parish has received for many years. It is now nearly finished, by the completion of the houses on the south side: those on the west were built several years since, and were at first called *Myddelton Terrace*. To the north it is open to the New Road. The truly ornamental centre is formed by the spacious reservoir of the New River Company, commonly called the *High Pond;* which was constructed some time before the year 1730, and was at first enclosed by a wooden railing, within which, on the south side, stood a building for conveying the water into this basin from the works at the New River Head. To the railed enclosure succeeded an unsightly high brick wall, which remained till the summer of 1826; but an elegant iron railing being then substituted, and a view of the interior thus again opened, the contrast became truly striking. At the same time the form of the enclosure was altered, so as to render it parallel to the lines of the external buildings; the prospect from which of this fine sheet of water, with its bank ornamented with shrubs and trees, is remarkably pleasing. In effecting these alterations, the Company were assisted by the contribution of £150. from the Trustees of the turnpike road, and a subscription from the inhabitants of the surrounding houses: speaking of which, it is impossible not to lament, that, owing to the residents north of the reservoir not adding a sum required by the Company to the amount obtained, a brick wall was re-erected opposite their abodes. To the west, the general improvement was

increased by a considerable reduction in the height of the thoroughfare, effected by the Commissioners for Paving. An act of necessity was here converted into a public advantage; for, in this and other instances, the late Highgate and Hampstead Trust having reduced the level of *their* roads, adjoining the Commission's, the latter were compelled to take a corresponding step, in order to preserve an equality of surface. Before the close of the year, the neighbourhood, and the public at large, were much benefitted by the setting back and greatly widening the footway before the contiguous line of handsome new erections called CLAREMONT TERRACE.

AMWELL STREET descends the hill towards the lower part of the parish from the west side of Claremont Square. Its name, together with those of *Upper* and *Lower Chadwell Street*, *Myddelton Square*, and *River Street*, all adjoining, bespeak the ground to be the property of the New River Company, as will better appear from the account which foliows. Of these streets, &c., the one by which we are pursuing our route is that nearest completion. It is to be regretted that this wide and otherwise handsome street was not planned in a straight line; which would have greatly added to the effect from either end, and have given it an appearance surpassed by few on this side London.

The NEW RIVER was one of the most important and beneficial undertakings ever entered upon in this kingdom; the object it so successfully accomplished, being no other than the unfailing supply of our vast capital with pure and wholesome water. "No one," exclaims Pennant, with an honest nationality,

" ought to be ignorant that this unspeakable benefit is owing to a *Welshman!*"*

The conduits, of old erected in various parts of London, and fed by pipes connecting them with springs situated at considerable distances—of which springs, *one* was on the parochial land at Muswell Hill—began, before the reign of Elizabeth, to be felt inadequate to the wants of a daily-extending metropolis. In that reign, therefore, and the succeeding one, three acts of Parliament were passed, granting full powers to the citizens to bring " a river," or " fresh stream of running water," from any part of Middlesex or Hertfordshire, " to the north part of the city of London." After much calculation of the labour and cost, the project was laid aside as impracticable: till, on the 28th of March, 1609, Mr. Hugh Myddelton, a native of Denbigh, but a citizen and goldsmith of London, (with whom the design had originated,) made an offer to the Court of Common Council to begin the work within two months, on condition of their transferring to him the powers granted by the two last acts, being of the 3rd and 4th James I. The offer was accepted; and the transference made by letter of attorney from the Lord Mayor and Common Council, dated April 1st following; which was farther confirmed by indentures between the parties, executed on the 21st of the same month.

Thus furnished with as ample authority as he could desire, the spirited " undertaker," as he was called, commenced by a laborious survey of all the principal springs in the two counties; and at length

* Account of London: 4to. p. 184.

made choice of two, the one called *Amwell,* in the vicinity of Hertford, the other *Chadwell,* near Ware. The distance of these springs from each other is about two miles, and of each from London about twenty miles; but to unite and convey their waters to the capital, it was found necessary, in order to avoid the numerous eminences and valleys, to conduct them by a circuitous route of nearly thirty-nine miles. And after every exertion to preserve as nearly as possible a level surface, "the depth of the trench in some places descended full 30 foot, if not more; whereas, in other places, it required as sprightfull arte againe to mount it over a valley in a trough betweene a couple of hills, and the trough all the while borne up by woodden arches, some of them fixed in the ground very deepe, and rising in height above 23 foot."* Besides which necessary and expected difficulties, the projector had many others to contend with; as the malice and derision of the vulgar and envious, and the hindrances and vexatious complaints of persons through whose grounds the channel was to pass. When at length he had surmounted all these, and brought the water to the neighbourhood of Enfield, the fortune he had previously acquired by a copper, or (as some say) a silver mine in Cardiganshire, was entirely swallowed up; and he was compelled to entreat the Lord Mayor and Common Council to interest themselves in the completion of his work. But they refusing, he applied to the King; who, by indenture under the great seal, dated May 2, 1612, agreed to pay half the expense, past

* Stow's Survey, p. 13.

and to come, upon a moiety of the undertaking being made over to him.* The design henceforward proceeded without interruption; and on Michaelmas Day, 1613, the water was admitted into what had been formerly "an open, idell pool," but was now enlarged into a sufficiently capacious basin for its reception, and from that time called the *New-River Head*. The ceremonies used on that occasion are thus detailed in Stow's Survey.

"Being brought to the intended cisterne, but not (as yet) the water admitted entrance thereinto, on Michaelmasse-day, in anno 1613, being the day when Sir Thomas Myddelton, brother to the said Hugh Myddelton, was elected Lord Maior of London for the yeere ensuing, in the afternoone of the same daye, Sir John Swinerton, Knt. and Lord Maior of London, accompanied with the said Sir Thomas, Sir Henry Montague, Knt. Recorder of London, and many of the worthy Aldermen, rode to see the cisterne, and first issuing of the water thereinto, which was performed in this manner:

"A troope of labourers, to the number of 60 or more, well apparelled, and wearing green Monmouth caps, all alike, carryed spades, shovels, pickaxes,

* In pursuance of this agreement, it appears, by the books of the Exchequer, that the following sums were paid to Mr. Myddelton on the king's account;—

	£.	s.	d.
At Easter, 1611	569	17	11½
At Michaelmas, in ditto	2,242	19	5½
At Easter, Anno 1613	1,000	0	0
At Michaelmas, in ditto	2,034	7	6½
On the 28th of September, 1614	1,500	0	0
Sum total	£7,347	4	11½

and such like instruments of laborious imployment, marching after drummes twice or thrice about the cisterne, presented themselves before the mount, where the Lord Maior, Aldermen, and a worthy company beside, stood to behold them; and one man (in behalf of all the rest) delivered this speech:

"Long have we labour'd, long desir'd, and pray'd
For this great work's perfection; and by th' ayd
Of Heav'n, and good men's wishes, 'tis at length
Happily conquer'd, by cost, art, and strength.
And after five yeeres deare expence in dayes,
Travaile, and payne, beside the infinite wayes
Of malice, envy, false suggestions,
Able to daunt the spirits of mighty ones
In wealth and courage. This, a work so rare,
Onely by one man's industry, cost, and care,
Is brought to blest effect, so much withstood;
His only ayme the Citie's generall good.
And where (before) many unjust complaints,
Enviously seated, caused oft restraints,
Stops, and great crosses, to our master's charge,
And the work's hindrance, Favour now at large
Spreads herself open to him, and commends,
To admiration, both his paines and ends,
(The King's most gracious love). Perfection draws
Favour from Princes, and from all applause.
Then, worthy Magistrates, to whose content
(Next to the State) all this great care was bent;
And for the publicke good (which grace requires)
Your loves and furtherance chiefly he desires,
To cherish these proceedings, which may give
Courage to some that may hereafter live,
To practice deedes of goodnesse and of fame,
And gladly light their actions by his name.

* * * * * *

"Now for the fruits then:—Flow forth, precious spring,
So long and dearely sought for, and now bring
Comfort to all that love thee: loudly sing,
And with thy chrystal murmurs strook together
Bid all thy true *wel-wishers* welcome hither."

"At which words the flood gates flew open, the streame ranne gallantly into the cisterne, drummes

and trumpets sounding in a triumphall manner, and a brave peale of chambers gave full issue to the intended entertainment."

A print, entitled "Sir Hugh Myddelton's Glory," was published, representing the ceremony of opening the basin. One of the most difficult parts of the work still remained to be accomplished, which was to convey the water to the various parts of the metropolis. The cost of the conveyance being very great, and a considerable time elapsing before the use of New-River water became generally adopted, it was long ere the shares, into which the undertaking had been divided soon after its commencement, produced any profit. The completion of the work, however, was so pleasing to King James, that he conferred on its projector the dignities of knight and baronet; and, June 21st, 1619, incorporated the shareholders, under the title of "The Governors and Company of the New River brought from Chadwell and Amwell to London." Sir Hugh Myddelton was appointed the first governor; Robert Bateman of London, skinner, deputy-governor; Rowland Backhouse, of London, mercer, treasurer; all to continue in their offices till Tuesday after the feast of All Saints, 1620; William Lewin to be clerk for life. Though the king was proprietor of one half of the concern, he was precluded from any part in the management, (which it was thought might lead to undue influence,) and only allowed a representative at the meetings of the company, to prevent injustice to the royal interest. The number of shares being seventy-two, and the thirty-six originally reserved by Sir Hugh Myddelton being now

divided between himself and twenty-eight other persons, the government was vested in the twenty-nine *Adventurers*, as they were called, who represented Sir Hugh's moiety, and who were, in fact, the company incorporated. The *King's Shares*, as the other moiety was called, were re-granted to Sir Hugh Myddelton by Charles I., by a deed under the great seal, dated Nov. 18, 1636, (on account of the then unpromising aspect of the undertaking,) in consideration of a fee-farm rent of £500. per annum, which is still paid yearly into the king's exchequer, and almost entirely out of what were the royal shares, Sir Hugh having burdened only two of those belonging to the adventurers with a proportion in the payment of this annuity. From that time the king's proxy ceased to appear in the company's courts. The exclusion of the holders of king's shares from the direction, and their subjection also to the fee-farm rent, of course renders them less valuable than the adventurers' shares. Many of the latter having by alienation been divided into fractional parts, Lord Chancellor Cowper, in 1711, decreed that the possessors of two or more fractional parts of a share may jointly depute a person to represent them in the government of the company. Whereupon, every person so deputed becomes capable of being elected one of the twenty-nine representatives of the whole, who are intrusted with the direction; and whenever a vacancy occurs, the remaining twenty-eight elect.

The following scale of the dividends received by the proprietors at various periods, will afford some insight into the changes in value of the shares :

Anno	£.	s.	d.
1633 (the first)	15	3	3
1636 (the second)	3	4	2

(At this period, instead of a farther dividend, a call upon the proprietors being expected, Charles I. alienated his moiety.)

1640	33	2	8
1680	145	1	8
1700	201	16	6
1720	214	15	7
1794	431	5	8
1810	522	9	0
1813	190	0	3
1821	337	10	8

The decrease in the amount of the dividends since 1810, is attributable to the vast expense incurred by the Company, in the substitution of large concealed iron pipes for the infinite number of smaller wooden ones that formerly overlaid all their ground between the Head and the metropolis; to the cost of improved machinery; and to the establishment of some rival companies. The value of shares has greatly fluctuated. One was once sold by auction, after a contest between two obstinate bidders, for £14,000. In the time of the historian Maitland, King's shares were worth five thousand guineas each; and in the beginning of 1805, one was sold at the Senegal Coffee-house for £4400. At Garraway's, in 1813, an Adventurer's share produced £8000., and, in 1814, £7450. In August, 1822, a moiety of one of the same shares was sold for £4725. Owing to the rebuilding of London Bridge, the Company

took upon themselves to supply the tenants of the London Bridge Water Company, engaging to pay an annuity equal to the then dividend for the residue of the lease of that concern.

To return to Sir Hugh Myddelton, the original *adventurer,* but for whose enterprise and perseverance an undertaking so truly beneficial in its consequences might never have been carried into effect.—The project that made the fortunes of his successors in the proprietorship, was ruinous to himself; and he was obliged to sell all his shares, of both classes, with the exception of a certain number which he bequeathed to the Goldsmiths' Company, to be applied to charitable purposes. In his latter days he had recourse to the profession of a civil engineer for subsistence; and in that capacity still rendered services to his country, by the happiness of his schemes for mining, draining, &c. The period of his death, and place of his interment, are unknown. The former, in Chalmers' Biographical Dictionary, and other works, is stated to have been the year 1631; but this is inconsistent with the account of King Charles's alienation to him of the royal moiety in 1636. His poverty and obscurity, towards the close of life, are evidence that his decease took place before any considerable returns were made upon the shares he retained.* He left one son,

* On this subject, the following letter appeared in the Gentleman's Magazine for September, 1809:—

"*Kemberton, near Shiffnal,*
"Mr. Urban, *Salop, Sept.* 8.

"There having been a traditional report, that the celebrated Sir Hugh Middleton, in the latter period of his life,

William, who married, and had several children. William's eldest daughter, Elizabeth, married Mr. John Grene, and died in 1675. His son, Hugh, was the last heir-male; but left daughters, one of whom was resident at Nottingham, as appears from the following inscription, which was affixed to "the north wall, under the tower," of the old church of St. James, agreeably to the late Mr. Rhodes's collection of epitaphs copied before the destruction of that building:—

retired to this village, where he resided some time in great indigence, under the assumed name of Raymond; and that, during such residence, he was actually employed in the paving of the street; I was induced to examine the parish register, and found the following entries, in Latin and English, which I send for insertion; as I trust they will, in a great degree, remove the doubts that have so long existed as to the place of his interment.

"Yours &c.

"Richard Slaney,

"Rector of Kemberton.

"'Gulielmus Raymond, generosus alienus, *alias Hugh Middleton, esq.* sic dictus, obijt die 10, & sepultus fuit 11 die Martii, 1702, & jacet erga prospectum Orientalem extra sed prope munia Ecclesiæ.

"'Affidavit brought 13 day.'

"Englished thus:

"'William Raymond, gentleman, so called, *otherwise called by the name of Hugh Middleton, esq.* dyed March 10, and was buryed ye 11 day of ye month, lyeth interred at ye end of ye Chancell, towards ye East, without ye wall of ye Chancell, but nigh ym.'

"N. B. The words in Italick are struck out with a pen; but are legible if the Register is held up to the light. R. S."

We must remark the probability that this was some other person of the name, both from *this* Hugh Middleton being titled *esquire*, and the year in which his death is stated. Supposing (which is extremely unlikely) *Sir* Hugh to have only arrived at manhood when he commenced the New River, he would have attained the very uncommon age of a hundred and fourteen in 1702.

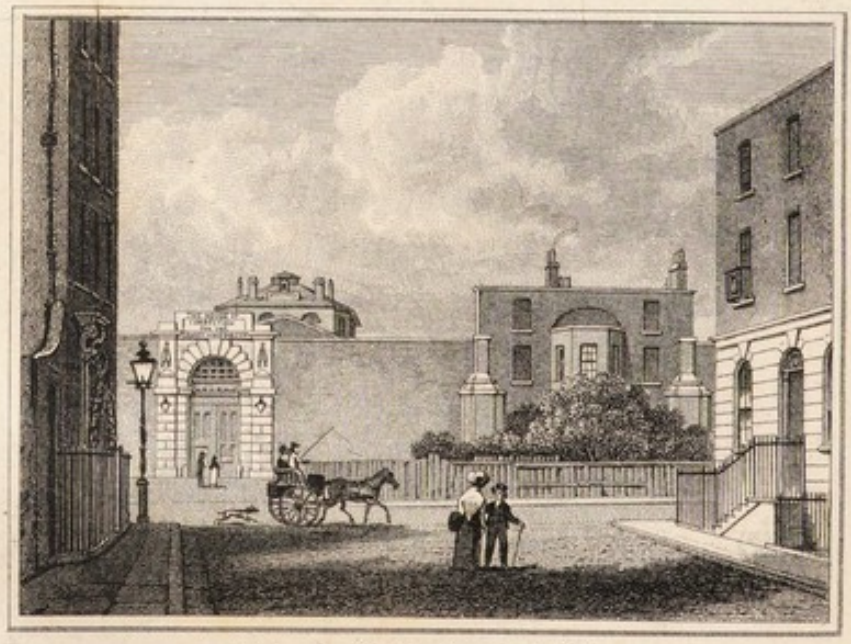
"Near this place lies interred ye body of Mrs. Elizabeth Myddleton, eldest daughter of Sir Hugh M. kt. and bart., of Nottingham, who departed this life Jan. 6th 1725, in the 43d year of her age."

Lady Myddelton, the mother of the last baronet, according to the Gentleman's Magazine, (Vol. LIV. p. 805,) "received a pension of £20. per annum from the Goldsmiths' Company, which, after her death, was, at the solicitation of Mr. Harvey, of Chigwell, in Essex, continued to her son Sir Hugh, but was not his sole support, he being possessed of other property. He afforded a melancholy proof of a fact, the truth of which we have too frequent evidence of, namely, that a man may convey his blood, but not his brains, to his posterity. All *his* employment, and all *his* amusement, consisted in drinking ale in any company he could pick up. Mr. Harvey took care of him, and put him to board in the house of a sober farmer at or near Chigwell, on whom he could depend; and there he lived and died, a striking and unhappy contrast to his great ancestor." It should be observed that the conduct of the Goldsmiths' Company, in granting an annuity to Lady Myddelton and her son, must be viewed as *ex gratiâ*, since they receive no direct benefit from the bequest of the first Sir Hugh Myddelton, but are merely the channel through which such benefit is conveyed to the poor members of their Company. A female descendant of the family was some years since allowed an annuity of £20. by the Corporation of London: and in July, 1808, the sum of £50. was granted to a male descendant in distressed circumstances. In Goldsmiths' Hall is an original portrait of Sir Hugh, in very good preservation.



J. & H.S. Storer del. & Sculp.

New Prison.



Prison, Cold Bath Fields.

From an exact mensuration of the course of the New River, taken by Henry Mill, Surveyor to the Company, in 1723, its whole length appeared to be 38 miles, 3 quarters, and 16 poles. It is crossed by more than 200 bridges, and has upwards of 40 sluices: and both above and below its stream run numerous currents of land waters, as well as many brooks and rivulets. Its course from the fountain-head is by Hoddesdon, Cheshunt, Enfield, Hornsey, Stoke-Newington, and Islington, to this parish. It enters Clerkenwell at the bridge under Goswell Road, and, flowing along the front of Owen's Row, again submerges beneath St. John's Street Road: whence it proceeds, between Myddelton Place and Sadler's Wells, till it reaches a third bridge, on passing which it enters the Company's private grounds, and is soon afterwards received by the spacious basin called its *Head*. But it is not the waters of Amwell and Chadwell alone, that now reach this destined spot: for experience taught the Company, that an insufficient flow from those springs, especially during the summer months, was liable to occur; for which reason they borrowed from the overplus of the mill-stream of the river Lea. This practice, after some years, became a subject of litigation, which was finally determined by an Act of Parliament about the year 1738. It was at that time agreed, that the New River Company, in consideration of their paying a sum of money towards improving the navigation of the Lea, and continuing to pay an annuity for that purpose, should have a certain quantity of water from the mill-stream, to be measured by a balance-engine and guage, then constructed near Hertford, and

rebuilt about 1770. The Company have since bought the mill, with the unrestricted use of the water.*

The original New River Head comprised only a small part of the circular basin now called the *Inner Pond;* but which for more than a century has been nearly surrounded with another, of irregular figure, but much larger dimensions, styled the *Outer Pond,* which latter also has received augmentations at various periods. A general view of these basins impresses the idea of a lake; and the Engineer's residence on the south bank was observed by Malcolm to convey that of a nobleman's villa. A walk, skirted by flower-beds, and planted with trees, encircles the inner pond; the communication between which and the exterior one is by an arch under a rustic bridge, covered with ivy, and ornamented with two colossal figures, in stone, personifying the rivers Thames and Isis. A similar walk extends round the outer pond: and beyond this, as represented in our view, is seen the lofty engine-house. The whole being enclosed by a brick wall, few persons are aware of the extent, or

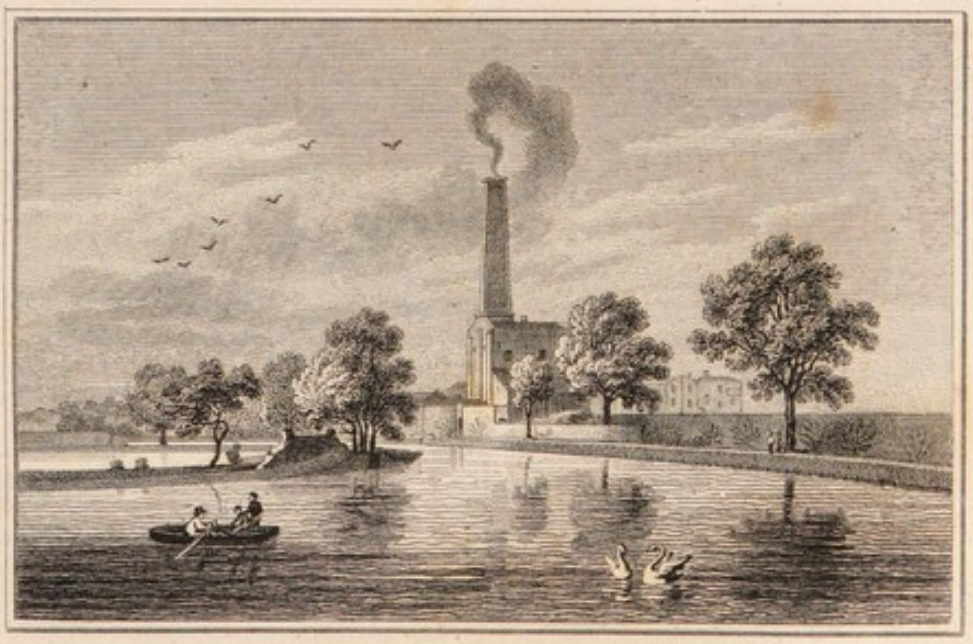
* The European Magazine for October, 1814, relates an anecdote of an agreement made shortly after that in 1738, which was rendered a good bargain for the Company by the dexterity of their Surveyor.—" ' Finding the quantity (of the Lea River water) first agreed upon too small for their purpose, the New River Company offered to give *double* the price it then paid, for a pipe of *double* the diameter. To this the agent of the Lea River Company weakly assented, being so grossly ignorant of the business, as not to be aware that two orifices are to each other as the *squares* of their diameters. In consequence of this want of a very slight tincture of mathematical knowledge, the Lea River Company was obliged to furnish *four* times the quantity of water which it originally supplied, for only *twice* the sum which it at first received. Well might their agent exclaim, like the pupil in Jean Jacques, ' Oh! I see mathematics may be good for something.' "



J. & H.S. Storer delt. & sculp.

New River Head.

Shewing the Inner & Outer Ponds



Engine House New River Head

pleasing character, of the interior.* From the Head, whose elevation is 85 feet above the level of the Thames, the water is conveyed by sluices into various large cisterns of brick-work; and from the latter into the vast main-pipes which carry it to all parts of the metropolis. The residence just mentioned is built over two of these cisterns. The south front of this house, looking towards Garnault Place, has the inscription, "Erected A° 1613: Restored A° 1782." The restoration took place under the direction of Robert Mylne, Esq., late Engineer to the Company, whose son, William Chadwell Mylne, Esq., is the present Engineer. A noble apartment on the first floor received its present form and decorations, which are in the old style of magnificence, from Mr. John Grene, before-mentioned, who married a daughter of Sir William Myddelton, and was Clerk to the Company in the reign of William III. It was by him called the Court-room, and was intended for the meetings of the proprietors. The oaken wainscot is finely carved, by the celebrated Grinlin Gibbons, to represent fruit, game, fish, shells, &c. The royal arms over the mantel-piece, though respectably executed, evince the work of an inferior artist: they are remarkable for the motto, *Je main tien dray*, which king William chose to adopt, instead of "Dieu

* The Head, like the High Pond, was formerly unenclosed from the public, and was consequently frequented for fishing, in the same manner as the banks of the river now are. Thus, E. Dower, author of the "Salopian Esquire," in a volume published in 1738, writes, "There patient anglers do the fishes tease." And the High Pond appears from a print dated 1730 (vide p. 348) to have been equally visited by the votaries to patience and Isaac Walton.

et mon droit." A portrait of this monarch, surrounded with the attributes ascribed to him by the loyalty of his age, is painted on the central compartment of the ceiling; the rest of which is richly ornamented in stucco, and contains the arms of Myddelton and Grene. Those of the former were, argent, on a pile vert, three wolves' heads of the field.* Mr. Grene also added the wings, comprising two smaller apartments, the cieling of each of which bears a medallion of the Company's seal, with the motto ET PLUI SUPER UNAM CIUITATEM, surrounded with a border, in which, with intervals between the figures, appears the date 1693. The Board-room, a fine lofty apartment, much larger than either of the preceding, constitutes a building of itself, and was added under the direction of the present Mr. Mylne. Here, with other paintings, is a portrait of Sir Hugh Myddelton, a good copy from that at Goldsmiths' Hall. An original, which belonged to the Company, was destroyed when their former premises in Dorset Street, White-friars, were burnt down many years since. Those premises were first erected after Mr. Grene's improvements of the house at the Head; and were built in consequence of the inconveniences of the approach to the latter, derived from its then *countrified* situation. All such inconveniences having vanished with the increase of build-

* Edmondson says:—"Sir Hugh Myddelton, who brought the New River water to London, bore for his arms, originally, Argent, on a *bend* vert, three wolves' heads erased of the field: which he changed to Argent, on a *pile* vert, three wolves' heads of the first. In memory of that undertaking, the *pile* has always been esteemed as a badge of honour, and as such granted by the royal family as an augmentation."

ings in our parish, the Company again removed their offices, and place of meeting, to this spot, about ten years back; at which time arose the Board-room just mentioned, and the house adjoining, wherein resides the Secretary, John Paul Rowe, Esq. The extensive premises in Dorset Street, which were rebuilt on a very enlarged scale after the fire, are now let to the City Gas Company, at a rental of more than £2000. per annum.

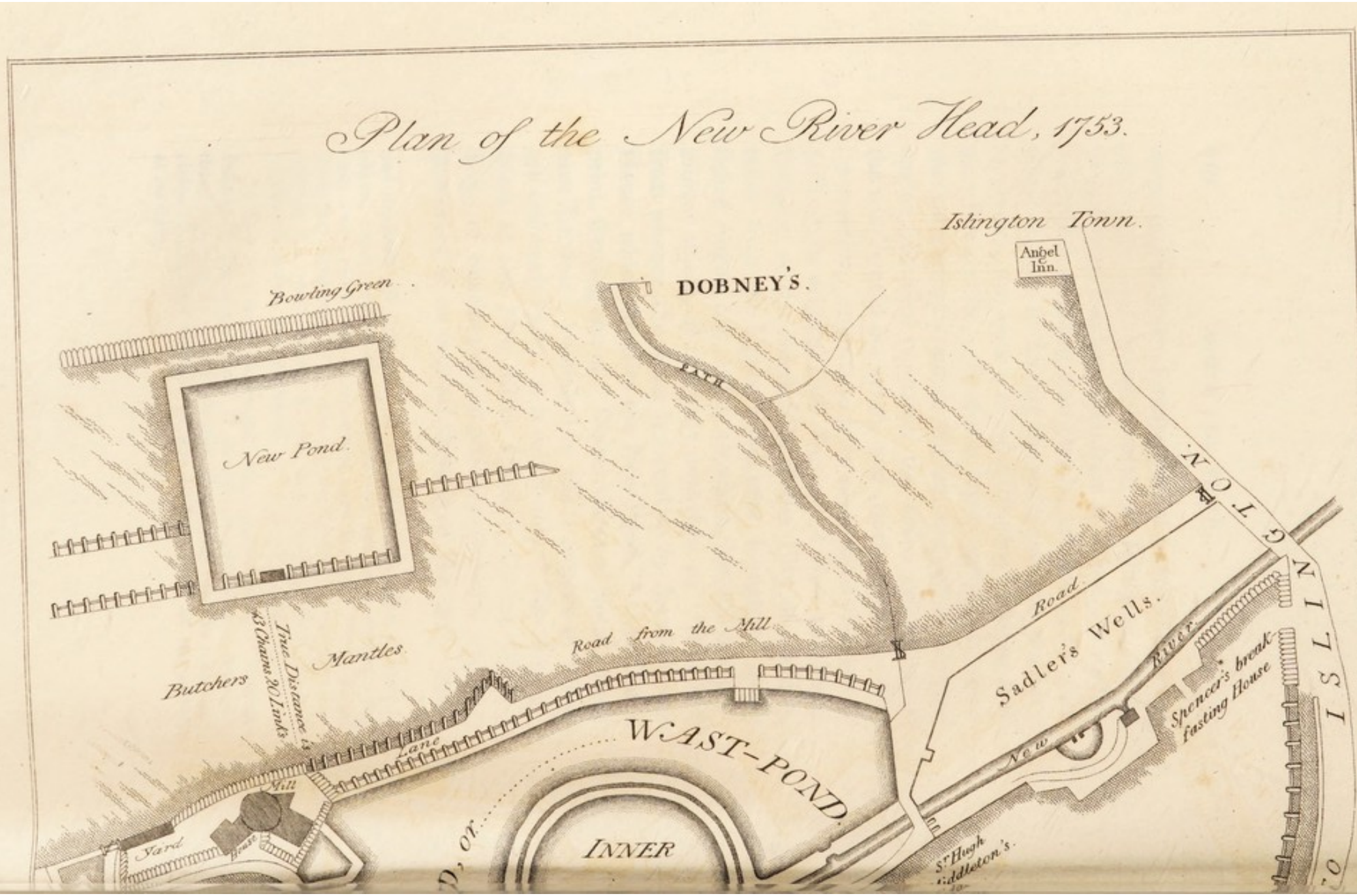
The Engineer's residence was originally called "The Water-House;* of which Hollar, in 1665,

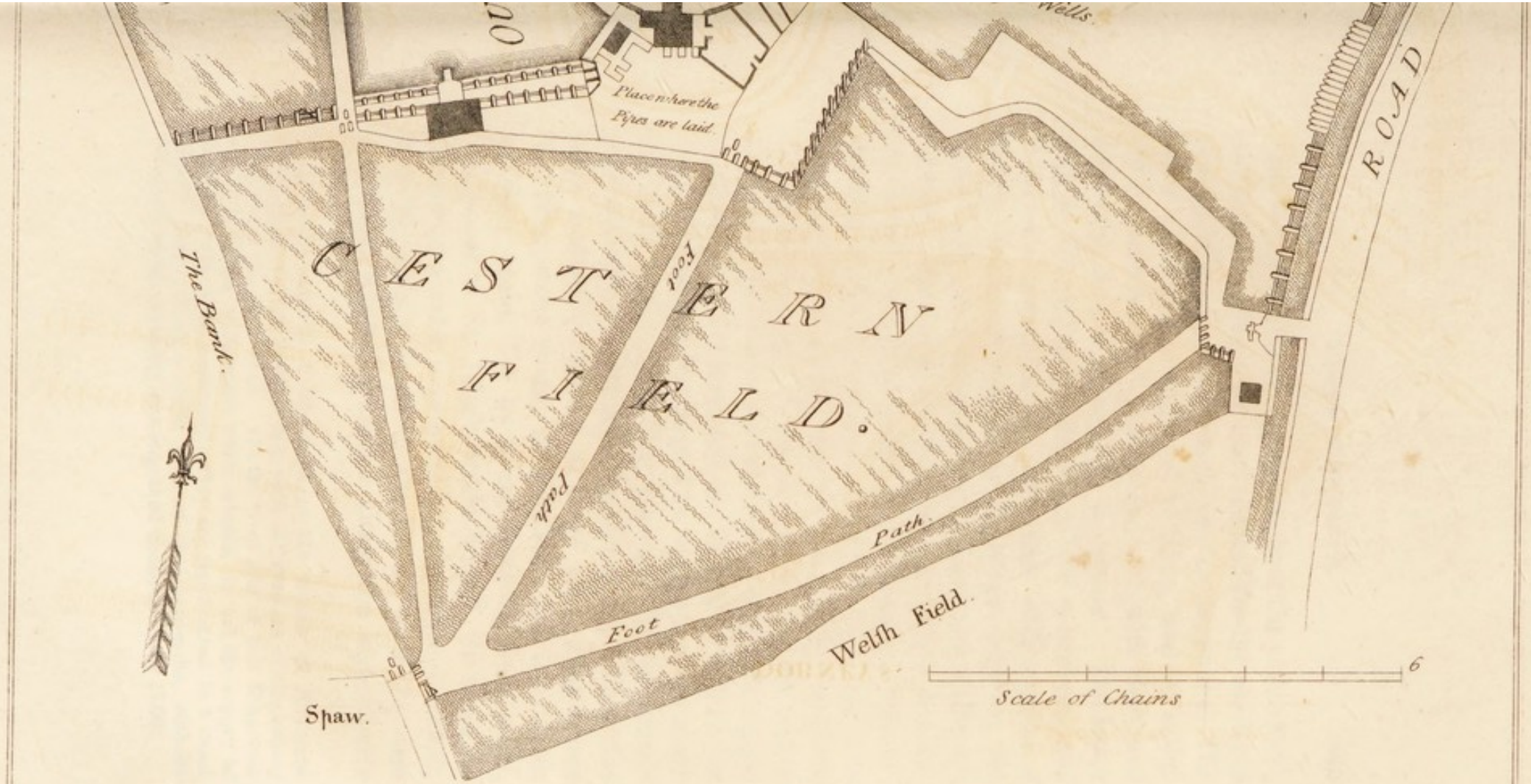
* Curious mention is made of this house in a small tract of eight pages, printed in 1642, called "A Diurnal of Dangers," appearing intended as a burlesque upon the rising troubles of the times, before the Civil War actually broke out.—"The Tuesday night, these contrivers, these Covenanters, 20 of them, pretended to be merry, (note the villanie of these rogues), because it was neer Islington, and thought it was a Guarrison Towne, and knew they should have good ale and cakes for pillage (impudent villains that dare pillage their own Country) went all into the *Water-house*, and called in freely for all varieties, spared no cost (* * they knew how to come by it again): The Master of the house, though it were midnight, was loath to put them out again, especially being such profitable guests: Yet having been up the night before, desired they would excuse him, and suffer him to goe to bed: They (cunning traitors) were presently as willing as he, that they might act their deede of darkness, their helbred purpose, (for now comes on the horror of it): the servant being drunke asleepe, they got with all speede about their businesse, in came the hundred barrels of gunpowder, (the cunning pioneers had sprung a mine under the water, which they had accesse to through the cellar): when they had laid the barrels under water, made their traines sure, and were ready to fire the match, a damp put the candle out, and (as good luck would have it) there was no fire in the house: One of them steps to *Clarken-well* to fetch fire, which when hee had, the watch, seeing a man run hastily with fire toward Islington, the houre being late, and the times dangerous, they follow him at-heels, not only to the house, but in and down into the cellar, broke open their barrels, conveyed away their fire, apprehended the conspirators, or, as sure as we are here, they had (before morning) blown up the New River,

engraved two views, forming part of a series of twelve prints, the rest being devoted to Islington, or to prospects of London taken from this spot. Close to where the building now stands, containing the two steam engines for forcing the water into the auxiliary reservoirs, was once a *Wind-Mill*, used for filling that near Pentonville. To this a lower square structure was subsequently added, wherein was placed a horse-engine, intended to answer the same purpose when the wind would not serve, and which, shortly after its erection, appears to have superseded the use of sails in the original mill. For in "A New and Exact Prospect of the North Side of the City of London, taken from the Upper Pond near Islington," published August 5th, 1730, in which this mill is a prominent object, it is simply described as "The Mill from whence the water is forced up *by horses* to the House which supplies the New Pond."* And in a print, forming one of "Divers Views of Noted Places near London," published in 1731, (copies of which are extremely rare), it is called only "The *Engine-house* at the New River Head." George Palmer, Esq., of Shacklewell, in addition to these prints, is possessed of an original drawing of the mill, taken

and drowned all Islington, to the utter desolation of cheese-cakes, cakes, lamb-pies, stued prunes, custards, creame, and fools: nay, there's not a man would have bin left. The plotters were that night carryed to the powdering-tub, where they now remaine in a sweet pickle: if ever they come to tryall, they will be hanged, drawn, and quartered, and glad they 'scape so too."

* This is a most interesting print, published by "Thomas Bakewell, Birching Lane:" it consists of two sheets, together three feet long, by nearly two feet broad, and conveys with precision all the chief features of the northern skirt of our parish at its date.


Plan of the New River Head, 1753.
Islington Town.
Angel Inn.
DOBNEY'S.
Bowling Green
New Pond.
PATH
Road from the Mill
Mantles
Butchers
True Distance 43 Chains 20 Links
Lane
WAST-POND.
INNER
Yard
Road
Sadler's Wells.
River
New
Spencer's breakfasting House
ISLINGTON.



J & H S Storer. sc

Jno Champion fec.

from the south, as it appeared about the year 1753; and to his kindness we are indebted for the ability to present this completely *rural* view to the public. The lower part of the mill yet remains, and is called the "round house:" it is roofed over with tiles, and converted into a depository for stores. The lower part of the square building also is in existence; and contains a water-wheel, connected with a series of pumps, by which, in lieu of the steam engines, the water is occasionally conveyed to the Pentonville reservoir. The level of this reservoir, which was before mentioned when speaking of Claremont Square, is thirty-six feet above that of the Head: its use is to supply Islington, and the western, and such other parts of London, and the vicinity, as stand too high to receive the water from the original basin: when the supply of those parts is complete, the fluid returns into the reservoir through the large iron syphons on its south and west banks, and thus prevents the dangerous consequences of overcharging the pipes. From the same reservoir, another of large size, situate near the Hampstead Road, is supplied: and there is an auxiliary basin, fed by a cut from the river itself, contiguous to St. John's Street Road.* In some instances, the water is projected by the engines directly into the main pipes from the Head; as is the case with those which are carried along the higher parts

* There was also a Reservoir at the corner of Rosoman Street, opposite the London Spa, until the erection of the houses there about the year 1812. On the west side of this Reservoir was a building, with which water-wheels, to aid the supply of London, were once connected: they are represented in a small inferior print, giving a north view of the metropolis, without date, but which probably was engraved about the year 1780.

of Islington to Holloway. A steam engine, on Newcomen's principle, was erected here before 1767: in that year it was so greatly improved by the celebrated engineer, John Smeaton, as to be considered the most perfect that could be devised, until the wonders since achieved by the genius of Watt. The building in which Smeaton's engine was placed, greatly resembled a church tower: it was succeeded by the present engine-house, which bears the date 1818 on its lofty chimney, but the lower part was erected considerably earlier. The engines are each of seventy-four horse power. Altogether, the works of this flourishing Company, as exhibited by the River-Head, and its various connections and dependencies, afford a truly curious and admirable illustration of the powers of machinery and hydraulics.

Green Terrace, a pleasing row of houses looking towards the New River Company's grounds from the south-east, is named in memory of Mr. John *Grene,* their former clerk, who has been more than once mentioned. The houses are proceeding rapidly towards completion; and the triangular area in their front is now (October, 1827) surrounding with an iron railing.

Lloyd's Row, named from a former possessor of the Baker estate, on a part of which it stands, forms the north-east side of the same area. The plot here retained by the proprietors of that estate, comprehends the greater part of this Row, and the later erections called Eliza Place and Charlotte Street, with the *Islington Spa,* and *Gardens,* in the midst. The gardens anciently comprised the entire plot spoken of, and were totally unincumbered with build-



Islington Spa.



J & H S Storer delt & sculp.

Sadler's Wells.

ings, except those belonging to the Spa itself. Malcolm (so lately as 1803) spoke of them as "really very beautiful." "Pedestals and vases," he says, "are grouped with taste, under some extremely picturesque trees, whose foliage is seen to much advantage from the neighbouring *fields*." "If," he adds, "the waters here possessed no healing virtues, I am very sure a walk from London, on a fine morning, to breakfast, would restore a valetudinarian." At the present time, a person might make the tour of the houses which enclose these gardens, and remain ignorant that a remnant of their former pleasing umbrage exists within. Yet they were once the daily resort of all the rank, wealth, and fashion, as well as of all the votarists of pleasure and dissipation, in the metropolis!

The proximity of ISLINGTON SPA to the town of the same name, at a time when it was comparatively remote from the *town* of Clerkenwell, occasioned its receiving the appellation it still bears. Its second title, NEW TUNBRIDGE WELLS, being derived from the similarity of the water to that of Tunbridge in Kent, affords some guide to the period of our Spa's first use. For we know that Tunbridge Wells came into vogue in the reign of Charles I.; and the reputation of *these* Wells, therefore, must have arisen subsequently. They are said, and perhaps with truth, to have been opened to the public as early as the year 1640. But the political agitations that immediately followed, would suffice to prevent the extension of their celebrity during that reign; and in that of Charles II., the Kentish waters eclipsed the fame of all others. In the Gazette of September,

1685, however, soon after James II. ascended the throne, was inserted a rather curious advertisement, from which our Spa appears both to have been then well known, and to have been recently sold.—"Whereas Mr. John Langley, of London, merchant, who bought the Rhinoceros, and *Islington Wells*, hath been represented by divers of his malicious adversaries to be a person of no estate or reputation, nor able to discharge his debts," &c. Other advertisements, from 1690 to 1692, state the seasons at which "the Well near Islington, called New Tunbridge," would open "for drinking the Medicinal Waters, where the poor may have the same gratis, bringing a certificate under the hand of a known physician or apothecary." The price of admission to the gardens at this period was *three-pence*. In 1691 was published "Islington Wells, or the Three-penny Academy," a low burlesque poem, generally supposed to have been written by Edward, or, as he is commonly called, Ned Ward, a writer of some celebrity in his day. The same author wrote another piece, of similar character, in 1699, which he called "A Walk to Islington: with a Description of New Tunbridge Wells, and Sadler's Musick-house." In this latter, the entrance to the place is described as

"a gate,
"Where abundance of rabble peept in at a grate."

Speaking of the walks, he says

"Where lime-trees were placed at a regular distance,
"And *Scrapers* were giving their wofull assistance;"

and in the course of his perambulation, it appears, he sought amusement

"Within a large shed, built on purpose for dancing;"

as well as in sundry erections

"For raffling, and lott'ries, and such sort of trade."

In his description of the characters, the *Beau* is humourously prominent. He is attired with a "wig," which, in accordance with the prevailing fashion, was "so bushy,"

"That he looked (as a body may modestly speak it)
Like a calf with bald face peeping out of a thicket."

But these extracts, few and brief as they may appear, are almost the only ones that could be made from the whole poem, without just offence to the improved delicacy of the present age.

In 1700 we find the Spa again advertised. At that period, there was "musick for dancing all day long every Monday and Thursday during the summer season:—no mask to be admitted." In less than thirty years afterwards, the fame of the waters began to be pre-eminent; so that Hampstead Wells, and others within a short distance of London, sunk into insignificance and neglect. But the year 1733 was reserved for the completion of their celebrity: for in June of that year, as the Gentleman's Magazine informs us, "their Royal Highnesses the Princesses Amelia and Caroline (daughters of George II.) frequented these Gardens daily, for the purpose of drinking the waters; when such was the concourse of nobility and others, that the proprietor took above £30. in one morning. On the birth-day of the Princesses, as they passed through the Spa-Field, which was generally filled with carriages, they were saluted with a discharge of 21 guns, a compliment which was always paid them on their arrival; and,

in the evening, there was a great bonfire, and the guns were again discharged several times. On ceasing to visit the Gardens, the Princess Amelia presented the Master with twenty-five guineas, each of the water-servers with three guineas, and one guinea to each of the other attendants." The visits of the Princesses are alluded to in "The Humours of New Tunbridge Wells at Islington, a Lyric Poem," printed in 1734, whose author's name was Lockman. This production commenced with the following verses, calculated to convey an idea of the motley assemblages that here met.

"Whence comes it that the shining Great,
To titles born, and awful state,
Thus condescend, thus check their will;
And scud away to Tunbridge Wells,
To mix with vulgar beaux and belles?
Ye sages, your famed glasses raise,
Survey this meteor's dazzling blaze,
And say, portends it good, or ill?

"Soon as Aurora gilds the skies,
With brighter charms the ladies rise
To dart forth beams that save or kill:
No homage at the toilette paid
(Their lovely features unsurvey'd)
Sweet negligence her influence lends,
And all the artless graces blends,
That form the tempting dishabille.

"Behold the walks, a chequer'd shade,
In the gay pride of green array'd;
How bright the sun! the air how still!
In wild confusion there we view
Red ribbons group'd with aprons blue,
Scrapes, curtsies, nods, winks, smiles, and frowns;
Lords, milkmaids, dutchesses, and clowns,
In their all-various dishabille."

Among the personages described as visitants are,

"Immortal NASH, dread King of Bath;"

and (as the notes inform us) a "MR. MARTIN, by some called the *Tunbridge Knight,* an inoffensive gentleman, known chiefly by the yellow cockade in his hat, and the hawk he carried upon his fist:" also, "DR. M., a sort of Physician, famed for his pills;" who, "being refused his doctor's degree at Cambridge, vowed, with a noble indignation, he'd ruin that University—*his* son should go to Oxford!" Each of these characters is represented in a frontispiece to the poem, which also gives a view of the gardens, with the coffee-room, &c. Above, in a car supported by clouds, and drawn by butterflies, is *Caprice,* blowing bubbles. A very similar view, engraved by G. Bickham, Jun., ornaments a folio volume of songs, published in 1737, and forms the head-piece to one of them, which consists of the commencing verses of the lyric poem just given. The Wells also furnished the subject of a dramatic piece, in two acts, by the elder Colman, called "The Spleen, or Islington Spa," which was performed at Drury Lane Theatre, and printed, in 1776; as well as to two medical pamphlets, the one published in 1751, under the title of "Experimental Observations on the Water of the Mineral Spring near Islington, commonly called New Tunbridge Wells;" and the other printed for J. Howard, a late proprietor of the Gardens, and called "A Treatise on the Mineral Spring at the New Tunbridge Wells near Islington, with rules for drinking the waters, and a plan of diet for invalids labouring under chronic complaints: by Hugh Smith, M. D."

In 1777, the then proprietor, a Mr. Henry Holland, declared in an advertisement the number of persons daily receiving benefit from these waters "scarcely

to be credited." Notwithstanding, the Spa was then upon its decline; as appeared from the failure of the advertiser in the following year. The lease, of which thirteen years were unexpired, was sold by Mr. Skinner, in September, 1778. The purchaser was Mr. John Howard; who immediately gave notice that the Gardens were open every morning for drinking the waters, and in the afternoon for tea: "the subscription for the season, one guinea; non-subscribers drinking the waters, 6d. each morning." Among the attractions added by Mr. Howard, at various periods, were, a bowling-green, and what was termed a Minor Vauxhall, together with astronomical lectures during Lent, accompanied by an orrery, &c. But at length, relinquishing the idea of re-establishing the celebrity of the place, Mr. H. caused the greater part of the coffee-room to be pulled down; and about the year 1810 commenced the building of Charlotte Street, &c., to the destruction of a very considerable portion of the gardens, as well as of the ancient entrance, which was situate where No. 6, Eliza Place, now stands. The well, however, continued open to the public, a new and neat entrance being erected in Lloyd's Row, and the proprietor taking up his abode in the adjoining house. This is the entrance represented in our view: but the house appears as enlarged and new-fronted by the present proprietor, Mr. Hardy, who re-opened the gardens, as a spa only, in the Spring of 1826. Though so much curtailed in size, the disposition of the walks and trees has still a very pleasing effect; and Mr. Hardy has added a variety of embellishments, such as statues, inscriptions applicable to the healing

powers of the waters, &c. The well, and grotto-work in which it is enclosed, remain nearly in their original state, in a hollow, to which there is a winding descent: but the balustrade represented as surrounding it in the old prints lately spoken of, has long disappeared. A small part of the former coffee-room exists; and its orchestra was only removed during some alterations made in the Summer of 1827. In this room, which originally was about forty feet long, was a printed statement, dated May 1st, 1727, of the specific gravity of the most celebrated mineral waters, (extracted from Boyle's Memoirs,) in which that of this spring was said to be 3 oz. 4 dr. 36 gr., or two grains lighter than the Tunbridge water, and seven grains lighter than common water. Here also were testimonials of the virtues of the spring, one of which has been preserved, and is now suspended in a little cell constructed in the grotto-work. It runs thus:—

"The two following lines were curiously cut in the bark of one of the trees in the walks, but now defaced:

"Obstructum reserat; durum terit; humidum siccat;
Debile fortificat,—si tamen arte bibas."

(Here follows a doggerel paraphrase, "by a gentleman who was restored to health by this water, after an extreme ill state of constitution for more than 30 years, and drinking almost all the other mineral waters in the kingdom without effect.")

"And the same gentleman left the following lines in his apartment here when he left it after his cure:

"For three times ten years I travell'd the globe;
Consulted whole tribes of the physical robe;
Drank the waters of Tunbridge, Bath, Harrowgate, Dulwich,
Spa, Epsom, (and all by advice of the College);
But in vain'—till to ISLINGTON waters I came,
To try if my cure would add to their fame.
In less than six weeks they produced a belief,
This would be the place of my long-sought relief;
Before six weeks more had finished their course,
Full of spirits and strength I mounted my horse;
Gave praise to my God, and rode cheerfully home,
Overjoyed with the thoughts of sweet hours to come.
May thou, great Jehovah! give equal success
To all who resort to this place for redress."

The water of Islington Spa, on being chemically analysed, is found to combine a peculiar modification of sulphate of iron with an aperient of salt. Buchan speaks of it as "a pleasant, clear, light chalybeate; serviceable to restore the appetite, brace the relaxed habits, and raise the spirits: hence," he adds, "it may be of use in *hypochondriac, paralytic,* and other *nervous* disorders. It is also recommended in *female weaknesses:*" and "in the *gravel, palsy,* and *diseases of the skin,* the Islington Spa deserves much more of the public regard than it has lately obtained." It may be added, that after violent attacks of *fever,* when all the vital energies appear exhausted, and languor and debility pervade the frame, this Spa has been successfully used as a restorative, after bark, and the other usual tonics, have been employed in vain. The present terms for drinking the waters, are "One year, £1. 1*s.*; half a year, 15*s.*; quarter of a year, 10*s.* 6*d.*, one month, 5*s.*: visitors, 6*d.* each (quantity not limited); or delivered at 6*d.* per gallon."

Until the commencement of the buildings now approaching completion on the New River Company's estate, a spring rose naturally from the earth near the south wall of their upper reservoir, whose taste and qualities very closely assimilated with those of the Spa just described. This spring was obliterated by the road running along the south side of the present Claremont Square.

Route VI.

FROM ISLINGTON SPA, BY SADLER'S WELLS, PART OF ST. JOHN'S STREET ROAD, THE ANGEL INN, AND HIGH STREET, TO THE PARISH BOUNDARY IN LIVERPOOL ROAD: RETURNING TO THE ANGEL, AND THENCE, BY GOSWELL ROAD, TO THE STONES' END, GOSWELL STREET.

Soon after the Restoration, on the drama's becoming emancipated from the shackles of the Puritans, a novel species of amusement became general, under the denomination of *Music-Houses*. None of these, and there were many, particularly in the suburbs of the metropolis, appear to have attained and preserved the celebrity of Sadler's Music-house, which was a wooden building, erected on the north side of the New River Head some time before 1683. Besides his proprietorship of this establishment, Sadler was a surveyor of the highways: and in the year mentioned, his servants, while digging in his garden for gravel, intended for the repair of the roads, discovered a well of mineral water, which shortly came in such repute for its medicinal qualities, as to be visited, it is said, by "five or six hundred people every morning." That number at least is mentioned in an account of the discovery of the Well, given in a tract partially referred to by Sir John Hawkins, Lysons, &c., which was entitled "A true and exact Account of Sadler's Well; or, the new Mineral Waters lately found at Islington: treating of its Nature and Virtues. Together with an Enumeration of the chiefest Diseases which it is good for, and against which it may be used; and the man-

ner and order of taking it. Published for publick good by T. G. (Thomas Guidot) Doctor of Physick. London: printed for Thomas Malthus, at the Sun in the Poultry, 1684." This writer says, "The new Well at Islington is a certain spring in the middle of a garden belonging to the Musick-house built by Mr. Sadler, on the north side of the great cistern that receives the New River water near Islington." The water is described as of a ferruginous nature, though not so strongly impregnated with iron as that of Tunbridge Wells, which however it greatly resembled; and is highly recommended for its efficacy in removing obstructions in the system, and purifying the blood. But this tract was probably only a time-serving puff, to invite the real or fanciful valetudinarian; it being the period at which it was the height of fashion to resort to all such places, either in hope of relief, or for mere amusement.

Malcolm takes notice of a petition from the proprietor to the House of Commons, many years past, stating that the site was a place of public entertainment in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. If this assertion (he adds) is correct—but no proof is adduced—Sadler was far from being the first possessor for musical purposes and drinking. It is more certain that the water had obtained celebrity for its *medicinal* properties at a still earlier period. Dr. Guidot, in the pamphlet just spoken of, says that, even before the Reformation, "it was accounted sacred, and called Holy-well. The priests belonging to the priory of *Clarken-well* using to attend there, made the people believe that the virtue of the water proceeded from the efficacy of their prayers;—these

superstitions were the occasion of its being arched over and concealed at the time of the Reformation." And in this state, the same writer observes, "it grew out of remembrance, and was wholly lost," *i. e.* until re-discovered by Sadler's men, as above mentioned. By the priests belonging to the priory of *Clarken-well*, must be meant those of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. It is observable that this account by "T. G." appears the source of the error of that usually very correct topographer, Lysons, in confounding *Sadler's Wells* with *New Tunbridge Wells*, and describing them as one and the same spring. Finding the like salutary qualities attributed to each, and not imagining that *two* such healing fountains could arise so nearly together, Mr. L. was led to speak of New Tunbridge Wells as the discovery of Sadler. In this error he was followed by several other writers; until it was detected by a correspondent of the Gentleman's Magazine, in the number of that miscellany for December, 1813.

How long Sadler remained here after his discovery of the well, has not been clearly ascertained. The water continued to be advertised under his name until after the beginning of the last century,* though

* The following Advertisement appeared in the "Post-Boy," as also in the "Flying Post," June, 1697:—"Sadler's excellent Steel Waters at Islington, having been obstructed for some years past, are now opened and current again, and the waters are found to be in their full vigour, strength, and virtue, as ever they were, as is attested and assured by the physicians who have since fully tried them. They have been for several years known and experimented to be very effectual for the cure of all hectick and hypochondriacal heat, for beginning consumptions, for melancholy distempers, the scurvey, diabetes, for bringing away gravel, stones in the kidneys and bladder, and several other diseases." The Wells were again advertised in the "Postman" of April 27th, and October 9th, 1700.

in the year 1699 the building was called "*Miles's* Music-House." A picture of the frequenters, not much to their advantage, yet so minutely touched as to give it every appearance of fidelity, occurs in a dramatic piece entitled "The Weekly Comedy, as it is daily acted at most Coffee-houses in London," whose author was Ned Ward.* This is accompanied by a truly disgusting relation of a fellow eating a live cock here, which occasioned "abundance of Inns of Court beaus, and * * *, mingled with an innumerable swarm of the blew-frock order, to flock into Miles's Music-house." The "Walk to Islington,"† by the same writer, spoken of in the preceding Route, affords some account of the performers and amusements, in his customary strain of low, sarcastic humour. Entering, he ascends a gallery, the front of which is painted with the mythological stories of Apollo and Daphne, Jupiter and Europa, &c., and which seems to have been appropriated to the genteeler part of the company, as, on looking over to "examine the pit," he chiefly notices "butchers, bailiffs, and prize-fighters," mixed with "house-breakers and padders," "deer-stealers," and other "vermin trained up to the gallows." But, even for this rude assemblage, music has charms; as is evinced by the silence which ensues when

"*Lady Squab*, with her moonified face,
"By the side of the organ resumes her old place."

* Published periodically, in half-sheets folio. The first number appeared in May, 1699. It was afterwards inserted in Ward's Miscellaneous Works, under the title of "The Humours of a Coffee-house."

† This also was assigned a place in the Miscellaneous Works, 1703; and again in 1717, 8vo.

Meanwhile, the motley groupe regale on ale, cheese-cakes, and tobacco; and the female vocalist is succeeded by "a fiddler in scarlet," appropriately said to resemble Mars rather than Orpheus, who

> "runs up in *alt* with a hey-diddle-diddle,
> "To shew what a fool he can make of a fiddle."

Then follows a damsel, "armed amazon-like," though only of the age of eleven, who performs a sword-dance; and next another juvenile exhibitor,

> "In dancing a jig lies the chief of whose graces,
> And making strange musick-house, monkey-like faces."

Lastly, in a clown's dress, comes "honest friend Thomas," who, it appears, supports the two-fold character of buffoon and waiter: but his performance (a dance) is treated with lenity by the poet, on account of his filling "good Nantz."

The Wells continued to be a place of meeting for low disorderly characters during a number of years following. In 1712 was published a tract, now rare, entitled, "God's Judgment against Murderers: or an Account of a Cruel and Barbarous Murther committed on Thursday Night, the 14th of August, at *Sadler's Music-House*, near Islington, on the body of Mr. Waite, a Lieutenant of a Man of War, by one Mr. French, a Lawyer of the Temple; shewing how they Quarrell'd about Women. With an Account of his Examination before the Worshipful Justice Ward, and his Commitment to Newgate." One passage in this tract is too applicable to be omitted. "This famous Place," says the writer, "called *Sadler's Wells*, otherwise *Miles's Musick-House*, is so well known to most people in Town, that I need not des-

cribe it. It is a daily Meeting or Rendezvous of People who go thither to divert themselves; and tho' 'tis in many very Innocent, and in the People of the House only getting an Honest Livelihood, yet the Method of so doing is apt to draw many unaccountable and disorderly Persons to frequent it." Then follows a particular account of the manner of the Lieutenant's death, "near the Organ-Loft," of which the substance is sufficiently conveyed by the title-page.

According to Sir John Hawkins, the owner of the Wells and Music-house after Sadler was not Miles, but "one Francis Forcer, a musician, and the composer of many songs printed in the Theatre of Music, published by Henry Playford and John Carr in the years 1685, 6, and 7."* But it is clear that Miles was proprietor before Francis Forcer *Junior,* and might therefore be an intermediate possessor. The younger Forcer had received a liberal education; and, on leaving Oxford, entered Gray's Inn, and was afterwards called to the bar, where for a short period he practised. He was remarkably gentlemanly in his manners, and in person unusually tall and athletic. He died at an advanced age, in April, 1743, at the Wells, which for many years had been his place of residence.† A sketch of his character is given in "The New River, a Poem, by

* History of Music, vol. iv. p. 380.

† In 1735, from having been disturbed by legal interference, or some other cause, Forcer thought proper to petition Parliament for a *licence*, stating, that "the place had been used for music, rope-dancing, a short pantomime, and the sale of liquor, for forty years before;" thus referring the commencement of these entertainments to 1695: his application, however, was rejected.

William Garbott," printed in 8vo., without date, but probably about 1725, " by voluntary subscription." This author says of Forcer, amongst other flattering things,

" All things conspire to please the best they can,
Walks, waiters, river, liquor, and the MAN.
* * * * *
Miles in his way obliging was, we know,
Yet F——r's language doth the softer flow;
Behaviour far genteeler of the two,
By birth a gentleman, and breeding too."

Though the numbers of this versifier are little less prosaic than they are prolix, they may be thought to merit quotation when historically illustrative. After meandering with the river which is the subject of his lay, from its source till it reaches the Music-house, he describes that object, with the gardens and amusements, in the following lines:—

" Thro' Islington then glides my best-loved theme,
And *Miles's Garden* washes with his stream:
Now *F——r's Garden* is its proper name,
Though Miles the man was who first got it fame:
And tho' it's own'd Miles first did make it known,
F——r improves the same, we all must own.
There you may sit under the shady trees,
And drink and smoak, fann'd by a gentle breeze;
Behold the fish how wantonly they play,
And catch them also, if you please, you may.
Two noble Swans swim by this garden-side,
Of water-fowl the glory and the pride;
Which to the Garden no small beauty are;
Were they but *black*, they would be much more rare:
With ducks so tame, that from your hand they'll feed,
And, I believe, for that they sometimes bleed.
A noble Walk likewise adorns the place,
To which the river adds a greater grace:
There you may sit, or walk, do which you please,
Which best you like, and suits most with your ease.

" Now to the *Show-room* let's awhile repair,
To see the active feats performed there.

How the bold Dutchman on the rope doth bound,
With greater air than others on the ground:
What capers does he cut! how backward leaps!
With Andrew Merry eyeing all his steps:
His comick humours with delight you see,
Pleasing unto the best of company.

* * *

The famous Tumbler lately is come o'er,
Who was the wonder of the other shore;
France, Spain, and Holland, and High-Germany,
Sweden, and Denmark, and fam'd Italy,
His active feats did with amazement see,
Which done by Man they thought could never be.
Among the rest, he falleth from on high,
Head-foremost from the upper gallery;
And in his fall performs a somerset,—
The women shriek, in dread he'll break his neck;
And gently on his feet comes to the ground,
To the amazement of beholders round.
Black Scaramouch, and Harlequin of fame,
The Ladder- dance, with forty I could name,
Full as diverting, and of later date,
You may see there, at a much cheaper rate,
Than at THE HOUSE, as well performed too;
You only pay for liquors, not for show;
Such as neat Brandy, Southam Cyder fine,
And grape's true juice as e'er was press'd from vine."

Forcer had greatly extended and improved the pantomimes, rope-dancing, tumbling, &c. He continued *lessee* of the premises until the time of his death: and directed, by his will, the lease of the house he then lived in, called or known by the name of Sadler's Wells, together with the scenery, implements, stock, furniture, household stuff, and things thereunto belonging, to be sold, for the purpose of paying his *specialty*, and other debts. The direction was carried into effect soon after his decease: an event that probably strengthened the hopes of the proprietors of the rival exhibition then open, called the *New Wells*, near the London Spa.*

* By "THE HOUSE," in the lines above quoted from Gar-

There is a view of old Sadler's Wells, as a head-piece, in a quarto volume of songs, with musick, called "Universal Harmony, or the Gentleman and Ladies Social Companion," which was published periodically during 1745 and 1746. The boundary of the premises, towards the river-head, was a wall, occupying the place of the present iron rails; and near the river was a gate, inscribed, under a pediment, *Sadler's Wells.* Towards the south, the building had, in the first story, seven windows, four of them with ancient casements, and three having modern sashes: the last were probably an addition made to the Music-house by Forcer, for the purpose of habitation; and a single female, looking out at one of them, seems to confirm that conjecture. Of the basement story, an indistinctness of the engraving, and the height of the wall, make the features more uncertain. The *Well-house,* it has been supposed by some, might be the smaller building under a distinct roof, which stands near where the entrance-gates by the River-Head are now erected.* In the foreground the New River is introduced, with a couple

bott's poem, is perhaps meant the *New Wells*, at which the custom of supplying liquor might not obtain, and therefore the entertainments might justly be considered dearer than where the liquors *only* were charged, and "the shew" thrown into the bargain.

* The old *Well*, we are told by Malcolm—but the fact is not otherwise authenticated—"was accidentally discovered some time since, *in the space between the New-River and the stage-door*, and is said to have been encircled with stone, with a descent of several steps." Persons who have had an intimate acquaintance with the theatre for the last half-century, have no recollection of this discovery: and as it is known that springs yet exist *under the orchestra and stage*, it seems probable that the ancient healing fountain might be traced to *that* situation.

of swans.* The musical piece, to which this view forms an introduction, is called—

A New Song on Sadler's Wells; set by Mr. Brett.

"At eve, when Silvan's shady scene
Is clad with spreading branches green;
And vary'd sweets all round display'd,
To grace the pleasant flow'ry mead;
Then those who are willing joys to taste,
Where pleasures flow, and blessings last,
And God of Health in transport dwells,
Must all repair to Sadler's Wells.

"There pleasant streams of Middleton
In gentle murmurs glide along;
In which the sporting fishes play,
To close each weary'd Summer's day:
And Musick's charms in lulling sounds
Of mirth and harmony abounds;
While nymphs and swains, with beaus and belles,
All praise the joys of Sadler's Wells,

"The herds around o'er herbage green,
And bleating flocks, are sporting seen;
While Phœbus, with its brightest rays,
The fertile soil doth seem to praise:
And Zephyrs with their gentlest gales,
Breathing more sweets than flow'ry vales,
Which give new health, and heat repells:
Such are the joys of Sadler's Wells."

The London Daily Post of Thursday, July 17, 1740, contained the following advertisement:

"SADLER'S-WELLS.
Tho Usual Diversions
at
Sadler's-Wells,

* A pretty exact copy of this view was appended to one of the modern Theatre, from the S. W., taken from a drawing by R. C. Andrews (many years the excellent scene-painter,) in 1792, and published in Wilkinson's "Londina Illustrata," June, 1814. Hogarth also introduced part of a building inscribed "Sadler's Wells" in his piece called *Evening*, published in 1738; but this view is so slight and imperfect as to appear inserted from recollection, and intended only to convey *some* idea of the locality of the supposed scene.

Adjoining to the New-River Head, Islington,
Will begin this Day at Five o'Clock with Variety of Rope-Dancing, Tumbling, Singing, and several new Grand Dances, both Serious and Comic.
With a new Entertainment, call'd
The Birth of Venus;
or
Harlequin Paris.
Concluding with the Loves of
Zephyrus and Flora.
The Scenes, Machines, Dresses, and Musick, being entirely new."

And the same newspaper, for Saturday, July 3, 1742, the following:

"SADLER'S WELLS. At Sadler's Wells, adjoining to the New River Head, Islington, this evening at five o'clock, will begin the usual diversions. Consisting of Rope-dancing by Madem. Kerman, Mr. Bodin, just arrived from Holland, and others. Tumbling by Mons. Dominique, Mr. Kerman, Mr. Bodin, Mr. Williams, and others; Singing by Mr. Hemskirk and Mr. Brett; variety of Dances (both serious and comic) by Mons. Dumont, Mons. Baudouin, Mr. Davenport, Mr. Osbeldiston, Mr. Rayner, Mrs. Bullock, Mrs. La Font, Mrs. Rayner, Mrs. Phillips, Miss Story, Master Matthews, and Miss Wright. With several extraordinary performances by M. Henderick Kerman, the famous ladder-dancer."

The Grand Jury of the County, in May, 1744, presented this Theatre as a place of "great extravagance, luxury, idleness, and ill-fame," together also with the *New Wells*, as mentioned in our account of the latter. Their presentment ran: "The Proprietors of the House and Diversions called SADLER'S WELLS, adjoining to the New River Head, in or near Islington, late one Forcer's, now pretended to be opened and carried on by *John Warren*, within this county, where there is frequently a resort of great numbers of loose, disorderly people." As in the former instance, this presentment was followed by no apparent detriment to the concern; and in 1751,

this, and all the other theatres of its kind, acquired a more permanent character by the well-known *licensing* Act of the 25th of King George II. The "Connoisseur," for July, 1756, notices the surprising feats of activity exhibited here; some of which are also described in chapters 5 and 6 of Strutt's "Sports and Pastimes."

The next proprietor whose name has been preserved, was *Rosoman*, the builder of *Rosoman Street*, who in 1765 pulled down the old wooden building, and erected the Theatre on an enlarged scale in its present form, at the expense, as it is said, of £4225. It is remarkable that the original structure was taken down, and the new one covered in, in the short space of seven weeks. In fitting up the interior, every attention was paid to accommodating the audience with *liquor* during the performance; and for that purpose the seats had backs, with ledged shelves at the top, so as to secure the bottles for each row of visitors in succession; and the glasses, having only short stems, were turned down over the mouths of the bottles. The terms upon which this objectionable trait of the old Theatre was for many years continued, are thus expressed in a bill of 1773: "Ticket for the boxes 3s. which will entitle the bearer to a pint of Port, Mountain, Lisbon, or Punch. Ticket for the pit 1s. 6d. Ticket for the gallery 1s. either of which, with an additional sixpence, will entitle the bearer to a pint of either of the aforesaid liquors. Any person choosing a second pint, may have it at 1s. the price paid at every other public place."* At benefits, the

* There was a temporary revival of this custom during the seasons of 1803, 4, and 5; when wine was supplied at 2s. the bottle, and 1s. the pint.

performers, relying on their own popularity to fill the house, usually announced, "boxes 3s. pit and gallery 1s. 6d. Those who chuse wine may have it at 2s. a bottle."

In 1778, the whole interior of the House was taken down, and materially improved. The ceiling being considerably raised, and the ascent both of the boxes and pit increased, the spectator not only enjoyed a freer air, but commanded from every part a complete view of the stage. About the same period, if not some years earlier, Charles Dibdin the elder composed several extremely clever and very favourite pieces for this Theatre; and a niche was not unfrequently occupied in the daily papers by "Intelligence from Sadler's Wells." The music was popular, the dances novel, and the pantomimes celebrated for their comic tricks and changes. The latter, indeed, were admirably supported by that "truly excellent master of dumb-shew, Signor Grimaldi," father of the not less celebrated actor of the same name, (whom sickness has driven into premature retirement,) and grandfather of the present representative of what might be appropriately termed the *family* characters. Nor was Du Bois, the predecessor of the Grimaldis, a clown of less celebrity in his time: to which it may be added, that the performances of Richer at this theatre on the tight rope are supposed to have never been surpassed. Rosoman was succeeded in the property by the famous comedian, Thomas King, of Drury Lane Theatre. Messrs. Arnold, Sarjant, and Wroughton, afterwards purchased it for £12,000. While conducted by the parties last-mentioned, occurred the "*dog-mania*," thus described by the facetious vete-

ran dramatist, Frederick Reynolds, in his recently-published "Life and Times."

"A subordinate but enterprising actor, of the name of Costello, collected, at the great fairs of Frankfort and Leipsic, a complete company of canine performers, and arriving with them in England, Wroughton, then manager of Sadler's Wells, engaged him and his wonderful troop. They were fourteen in all, and, unlike those straggling dancing dogs still occasionally seen in the streets, they all acted respondently, and conjointly, with a truth that appeared almost the effect of reason. The *star*, the real star of the company, was an actor named Moustache; and the piece produced, as a vehicle for their first appearance, was called the *Deserter*. As, formerly, all London flocked to Goodman's Fields to see Garrick, so now the rage was to visit Spa Fields, to see Moustache and his coadjutors. The night I was first present at this performance, Sadler's Wells, in point of fashion, resembled the Opera House on a Saturday night, during the height of the season; princes, peers, puppies, and pickpockets, all crowding to see what Jack Churchill, with his accustomed propensity to punning, used to term the illustrious *dog-stars*. The actors were so well dressed, and so much in earnest—Moustache particularly, as the *Deserter*, in his little uniform, with smart musket and helmet—that, in a slight degree, they actually preserved the interest of the story, and the illusion of the scene. By the temptation of a hot supper, which was unseen by the audience, they were made, among other feats, to ascend scaling ladders, and storm a fort, and, on a retreat being sounded, to

rush down again, as in panic and dismay." The House cleared not less than £10,000. by the season in which the canine exhibitors were introduced.*

Subsequently, Sadler's Wells became the joint property of Mr. Wroughton; Mr. Siddons, (husband of the great tragic actress); Mr. Richard Hughes, proprietor of several provincial theatres; Mr. Coates, a linen-draper; and Mr. Arnold, junior. In 1802, it was purchased (with the exception of Mr. Hughes's share,) by Mr. Charles Dibdin, junior; Mr. Thomas Dibdin, his brother, author of "The Cabinet," &c. &c.; Mr. Reeve, the composer; Mr. Andrews, the scene-painter; and others. The present proprietors are, Mr. Richard Hughes, Junior (the proprietor of Vauxhall); Mr. Dickson, of Barbican; Mr. Grimaldi; and Mrs. Jones, relict of the late Mr. Jones, of Brunswick Square. The acting managers, since the sway of Mr. Charles Dibdin, junior, have been Mr. Grimaldi, Mr. Howard Payne, Mr. Egerton, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Thomas Dibdin. The latter gentleman, treading in the steps of his father and brother Charles, and inheriting all the family dramatic genius, has been for several years past the sole inventor and writer of the variety of pieces which have been here produced. Most of these, it is scarcely necessary to say, have been ballets, pantomimes, musical pieces, melo-drames, with a few, though bagatelles, of a more regular cast: indeed, this Theatre has for some time joined its fellow "Minors" in the endeavour to assimilate its productions to the sterling plays and after-

* The concern had been just previously at so low an ebb, as to give occasion for the remark, that "if Wroughton had not brought the dogs to the Theatre, the Theatre would have gone to the dogs."

pieces of the English drama. The public taste has no doubt called for this change; which, through an hitherto fortunate audacity, is at length becoming so complete, that the legal check lamented by Malcolm —that the pieces performed at such smaller houses "*must* be accompanied by music, written in rhyme, and pronounced in recitative"— cannot be said any longer to operate.

In 1802, the interior was again very greatly improved, at an expense of about £1500. Some years prior to that event, the proscenium had borne in succession the appropriate mottoes, "Hence, loathed Melancholy," and "Mirth, admit me of thy crew." The last was succeeded by drop-boards, communicating the titles of the successive pieces as they were acted; a plan which recalls to mind one of the most ancient usages of the English theatre, that of nailing upon a pole, near the centre of the stage, the name of the drama under performance, On the present proscenium are the royal arms. The cieling is painted and gilt in panels, with a circular centre, representing Cupids flying with flower-wreaths. The theatre consists of a pit, a single tier of boxes, and a gallery. The fronts of the two latter are tastefully painted in panels, with gilt mouldings. There are ten private, and two stage boxes. The number of spectators whom this theatre will accommodate, is about two thousand. The prices of admission are, boxes, 4s.; pit, 2s.; gallery, 1s.

On the 2nd of April, 1804, being Easter Monday, and the usual period for commencing the season here, a novel species of entertainment was produced, under the title of *Naumachia*. An immense tank was con-

structed under the stage, and extending beyond it, which was filled by a communication with the New River, and could be emptied again at pleasure. On this aquatic stage, (the boards being removed,) was given a mimic representation of the *Siege of Gibraltar:* in which real vessels of considerable size bombarded that fortress, but were (of course) subdued by the garrison, and several of them in appearance burnt, when British generosity to a fallen foe interposed to save their crews from "a watery grave." The success of this novelty, though at first doubtful, was, after a time, "prodigious," and might be said to constitute a new era in the annals of Sadler's Wells, which for many seasons following was generally called the *Aquatic Theatre,* and was patronised not only by numbers of the nobility, but by the present Lord High Admiral, H. R. H. the Duke of Clarence. A variety of pieces were subsequently produced, concluding with a grand scene for the *finale* on "real water."* But this practice has been discontinued since 1823, when the tank for containing the water was destroyed, and the opportunity taken for lowering the stage three feet. At the same period, the Theatre was new-roofed, and the handsome dwelling-house, at the end next the New-River Head, which had been the residence in succession of King, Wrough-

* The present scene-painter to the Theatre, Mr. Thomas Greenwood, who is the worthy successor to his father in the same capacity, thus records the *eclat* with which the water was received, in his little volume styled "Rhyming Reminiscences:"

"Attraction was needed, the town to engage,
So DICK* emptied the *River*, that year, on the stage:
The House *overflowed*, and became quite the ton,
And the *Wells*, for some seasons, went *swimmingly* on."

* Mr. Richard Hughes.

ton, &c., converted into a *saloon* and *wine-room*—a conversion to be lamented by all who desire the union, to the utmost practicable extent, of public morals with public amusement. During the late season, *Pony Races*, which had been adopted on several previous occasions, were recurred to on an extended scale, and not without considerable success. Next season, a revival of the *aquatic* spectacles is understood to be contemplated.

We must take our leave of this interesting little Theatre with the narration of an incident of a melancholy kind. On the evening of Thursday, October 15th, 1807, a set of pickpockets and other low characters had taken their station in the pit; and, towards the close of the performance, in order to create the confusion that facilitates their designs, got up a sham battle amongst themselves. To increase the alarm thus excited in the vicinity of the mock combatants, two or three of the party, with the exclamation of "*a fight!*" made as though they were leaving the house. The cry was generally mistaken for that of "*fire!*" and in an instant all was consternation. An universal rush towards the doors took place. In vain the managers appeared upon the stage, and assured the audience that neither light nor smoke were any where visible—in vain they had recourse to speaking trumpets, to make their voices heard above the uproar. Never were the extravagant effects of a *panic* more forcibly illustrated. While some, in their endeavours to find the readiest outlet, clambered from the pit into the boxes, others threw themselves from the boxes, and even from the gallery, into the pit. The pressure that ensued was truly dreadful;

particularly on the gallery stairs, which, being narrow, were crammed to actual suffocation. Indeed, the alarm had been greatest among that part of the audience, possibly from their being the most remote from its cause. Here, not less than eighteen persons met death under one of its most agonizing forms; two others were with difficulty recovered; and many more received injuries of a very serious character. At the inquest which was held in the Theatre on the following day, the spectacle presented by the dead bodies of the sufferers was afflicting in the extreme. All possible recompence was made to the friends of these unfortunate persons by the proprietors; who also prosecuted, to conviction and punishment, the offenders by whose outcry such unnecessary terror had been excited: and the produce of two free benefits was subsequently divided amongst those, who by this distressing occurrence were deprived of the support of their fathers or husbands.

On the south bank of the New River, looking both upon Sadler's Wells Theatre and the Company's enclosed grounds, we notice a house bearing the sign of Sir Hugh Myddelton, and commonly known as the *Myddelton's Head.* Hogarth, in his piece called "Evening," recently alluded to, represents part of the ancient house, with its sign projecting from the corner. A picture, now placed in the bar of the tavern, was painted in the time of Rosoman, and contains the portraits of twenty-nine persons, including Rosoman himself, who formed a convivial club, called the *Sadler's-Wells Club,* that here held its meetings. The theatrical manager and builder appears in the centre: at his right hand is Mr. Hough, his partner:

many of the others were actors, or otherwise connected with the theatre; Mr. Greenwood, grandfather of the present scene-painter, being of this number; and the rest tradesmen of property, (including Mr. Justice Keeling, a brewer,) most of whom resided in the neighbourhood. The proprietor, on a proper application being made to him, favours the curious with a printed list, containing the names, and some description, of nearly all the parties represented; which list is stated to have been "compiled by the late Mr. Mark Lonsdale, formerly Manager." The picture is in an old-fashioned but handsome gilt frame, carved to resemble vine-leaves and branches, with bunches of grapes, large Chinese figures, &c.

Myddelton Place commences with the tavern just mentioned; and extends thence, with a paved footway between the houses and the New River, to St. John's Street Road. The appearance of the *Theatre* from this walk, is not without some features of the picturesque; especially since its dark brick walls have been coated to resemble stone, which adds much to the effect of the tall poplars and other trees surrounding it. The poplars were planted about forty-five years since: the considerable open space, lying along the side of the River, in which they stand, has been the exclusive *theatre* (if we may so speak,) of the late *pony-races*, which on all former occasions were extended to the stage, and witnessed in the house by the audience. Most of the houses composing Myddelton Place, are erections of late years. A considerable portion of the ground in their rear, extending to St. John's Street Road, was formerly a garden, cultivated by an eccentric being named Lane,

and thence called *Lane's Garden.* The major part of the same ground is now occupied by the New-River Company's auxiliary basin, (spoken of at page 349,) with the circular cistern-house, from which the *City* is principally supplied. Before Lane's time, but within the recollection of old inhabitants, the spot was a cow-layer; when *Spencer's Breakfasting-House* stood near the east end of Myddelton Place, facing the New River, and welcomed all comers with a morning meal at the rate of 4d. each. This house, which was of celebrity in its day, with the cow-layer, and the wooden fence that surrounded the greater part of the ground, are laid down in an original plan of the New-River Head, and its vicinity, executed in the year 1753.

Arlington Street is a modern-built avenue, conducting from the west entrance of Sadler's Wells to Lower Chadwell Street and St. John's Street Road.

In Lower Chadwell Street, which is still unfinished, is a small neat structure, built in 1823-4 as a place of worship for a congregation of the Calvinistic Methodist persuasion, and at first called *Providence Chapel.* Becoming vacant, through the removal of that congregation, in the Spring of 1827, it was reopened in the course of a few months as a *Scotch Church,* which it continues.

The same street forms the east approach to Myddelton Square, as Upper Chadwell Street does the west. This Square, so far as at present completed, consists of large and excellent houses, which, on the south side, command an extremely pleasing back view of the New-River Head, with the Company's grounds, and residence of their Engineer. In size

it exceeds Claremont Square; but is rendered less open by the *New Church*, which occupies a considerable portion of the central area. The Church, however, forms a handsome object in itself; and merits a more particular account, than, owing to circumstances with which it is unnecessary to trouble the reader, can be at present given. That account, therefore, will come in the shape of an *Appendix*, with which our work will be concluded.

The part of St. John's Street Road called HERMITAGE PLACE—a row of very respectable private houses, erected within the last fifteen years—faces us as we quit Lower Chadwell Street. This Place arose on the expiration of the lease of a former occupant, a Mr. Young, who had here a large old house and brewery. Its name is a memorial of that by which the entire estate it stands on was anciently called, namely, the *Hermitage Field*. Probably, in the early papal times, some holy anchorite had his abode on this then secluded spot, and gave occasion for the epithet it has since borne. About the year 1610, Lady Alice Owen, widow of Sir Thomas Owen, one of the judges of the court of common pleas to Queen Elizabeth, purchased the field, and built thereon a charitable institution, which we shall immediately describe. By her will, dated June 10th, 1613, she bequeathed it, together with a small farm at Orset, in Essex, for the support of the same foundation, to the Brewers' Company, to whom its value is since infinitely increased by its being covered with buildings. The east side of St. John's Street Road, from the south-west corner of Rawstorne Street to the public-house called the Old Red Lion,

and the west side of Goswell Road, from the south-east corner of the same street to the end of Gwynne's Buildings, with all the interior erections, now constitute this estate.

Over the entrance to a low range of buildings abutting on the public-house just named, we read the following inscription:—

These TEN ALMS HOUSES with the FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
adjoining were built and endowed in the year 1613
by Lady Alice Owen and by her Will left to the government of the
Worshipful Company of Brewers of the City of London
In commemoration of which this stone is placed in the year 1788
EDWARD BOND, Esq. Master
MR. BENJAMIN SMITH } Wardens*
MR. SAMUEL WATLINGTON }

The above date is that only of the wall and entrance-gate, which divide the court before the Alms-Houses from the foot-way: the Alms-Houses themselves are those erected by Lady Owen; as is the *original* Grammar-School; for to this also a modern addition, for the better accommodation of the Master, has been made in front. The Alms-houses, agreeably to the statutes of the foundress, are for *ten* poor widows, who are required to be of "good fame and name," to have been inhabitants for seven years prior to their election of the parish and town of Islington, to be above fifty years of age when admitted, to be "single and unmarried," and to continue alms-women no longer than they shall keep themselves so. The Free Grammar School is for

* Among the *Exchequer Records* we find:
"Aliciæ Owen Licentia concessa ædificandi Hospitalem in com. Middlesex." 10 *Pars Orig. anno* 6 *Rot.* 57 *Jac. I.*
Aliciæ Owen viduæ, Licentia concessa fundandi Hospitalem in Islington." 4 *Pars Orig. anno* 8 *Rot.* 2 *Jac. I.*

thirty boys, of whom *twenty-four* are to be from Islington, and the remaining *six* from Clerkenwell. The widows, it is directed by the same statutes, shall receive 16*s.* 8*d.* per quarter each, and 6*l.* per annum between them in "sea-coal;" also, "one cloth gown" each, "of three yards of broad cloth," once in two years. The custos, or schoolmaster, to have the school-house to live in, with the garden (which at first was of considerable size) for his recreation, and the salary of £20. per annum, with 10*s.* per annum for overlooking the alms-people, and attending to the orders of the donor made in their behalf.* "Devout and godly prayers" are also, "at due hours and times, to be read and said" by the Master to the alms-people, who are required to be "duly and daily present, except hindered by sickness, or some tolerable cause." The Company are enjoined once in every year, between Easter and Whitsuntide, to "take pains to go and visit" the School and Alms-houses, and then to visit the donor's tomb "in the church;" allowing 30*s.*, "for a refreshing unto them," on every such occasion. With regard to the admittance of the boys, they must be elected by the Worshipful Company, on application made to them by memorial, which must be certified by the minister and churchwardens of the parish to which they belong. All the regulations, it should be added, were committed to the Company with a discretionary power for their alteration as time and occasion should require.

It is worthy observation, that the foundress evi-

* The salary has been since raised to £30., at which it continues; but a *gratuity* is, by custom, added.

dently regarded her charity as situated in *Islington;* and by "the church" in which her tomb was to be visited, she intended the church of that parish, as will presently appear. And that this was agreeable to the current opinion of the times, is seen from the Exchequer Record of the 8th of James I., which describes the foundation as in that town. The "New View of London" heads its brief account with the words "*Islington* Alms-Houses," although the description it gives of the boundary line of Clerkenwell plainly includes them in our parish. And to the continuance of the same opinion, we are indebted for a notice of the institution by that industrious topographer, Lysons; who, in his "Environs of London," (in which he omits Clerkenwell), introduces his account of this charity under "Islington; though he explains, somewhat obscurely it may be thought, that it was founded "in that part of Islington which lies within the parish of St. James, Clerkenwell."

An account of the origin of Lady Owen's foundation is given in a MS. book in the keeping of the Schoolmaster, which was written by D. Davies, who for forty years held that situation, and who states his narration to be the substance of a MS. which he found in the school-room, soon after his appointment in September, 1750.* The story is curious; and,

* The book also contains, in the same hand, a copy of the original "Orders and Regulations, to be read quarterly to the Alms-women by order of the donor;—ordained the 20th day of September, 1613:" together with a register of the names of the alms-women and boys; similar registers having been kept from the commencement of the institution, and being still continued. "Alice Plummer," it appears from this register, was a resident alms-woman 32 years and a half.

it may be observed, agrees with the relation in Stow's Survey, as well as with the traditionary accounts noticed in the Gentleman's Magazine and other publications, except in a few unimportant particulars. Lady Owen, we are told, was the daughter of a gentleman of the name of Wilkes, who was a considerable land-owner in Islington, (and in *Clerkenwell,* it should have been added). Walking one morning, while Miss Wilkes, on her father's estate, attended by her maid-servant, she came to this spot, then a cow-layer, where was a woman milking. From a whim of the moment, she determined to try if she had not skill to milk a cow; and stooping for that purpose, an arrow from a gentleman's bow pierced and carried away with it her high-crowned hat. The archer, we may conclude, was only diverting himself in a manner usual in those times; but the accident was naturally alarming to Miss Wilkes, as, had she not been in her milking posture, it might have proved fatal. Impressed by so striking an escape, she made a resolution to raise some monument of her gratitude to Providence on the spot, should she ever possess the power. Three years before her death, being at that time the widow of her *third* husband, she carried that resolution into effect, by the erection of this School and Alms-houses. In commemoration of the event that led to the foundation, three *arrows* were fixed, one on the apex, and the other two on the corners, of the gable-front of the original school: the existence of these, in a perfect state, is remembered by persons living, and the shaft of one of them is yet remaining. Agreeably to Stow, the cost to the foundress, for the purchase

of the land, and for the buildings, amounted to £1,776.

The tomb of this lady, which the Brewers' Company were enjoined yearly to visit, stood near the end of the south aisle of the *old* church of Islington, which was taken down in 1751. It was a large and costly monument of white and veined marble, enriched with cherubim, fruit, and foliage, and with two columns and an entablature of the Corinthian order; the whole enclosed by an iron railing. It contained the effigy of Lady Owen, reclining on her left side as reading a book; with smaller figures in relief, of eleven of her children and grand-children, all in a kneeling posture. The inscription was as follows:—

Under the hope of the Resurrection,

Here lyeth the body of *Alice Owen*, widowe, the daughter of Thomas Wilkes. She was first married to Henry Robinson, by whom she had six sonnes, John, William, Henry, John, Thomas, and Henry; which said Henry, the younger, was married unto Mary, the daughter of Sir William Glover, Knt. Alderman of London; and five daughters, Margaret, married to Sir John Bret, of Edmunton, in the Co. of Middx. Knt.; Susan; Ann; and Ann the younger, married to Robert Rich, of Horndon on the Hill, in the Co. of Essex, Esq.; and Alice, married to John Washborne, of Wichingford, in the Co. of Worcester, Esq.

The second husband was William Elkin, Esq. Alderman of the City of London, by whom she had issue only Ursula Elkin, married to Sir Roger Owen, of Condover, in the Co. of Salopp, Knt.

The third husband was Thomas Owen, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas to Queen Elizabeth.

This matron having advanced and enriched all her children, kept greate hospitalitie: shee also in her life time so furthered the publique weale of this state, as her charitable deeds to the Citie of London, both Universities, Oxford and Cambridge, especiallie this towne of Islington, can testifie; a monument of her piety to future ages being extant in the S. end of this Towne, more worthie and largelie expressing her pietie than these gowlden letters, as much as deedes are above wordes. She having lived religiously to God, sufficientlie for nature, but not for her



Antient Mantle-piece St John's Lane J & H S Storer delt & sculpt



Remains of the Monument of Lady Owen.

children and friends, her just soulle is in the hands of the Almightie, when her bodie departed on the 26th day of November, anno d'ni 1613.

Over the entrance to the School-room from the original porch, which is now enclosed by the modern building in front, we observe a stone slab, supported by brackets, the edge of which is inscribed, "PART OF LADY OWEN'S MONUMENT 1753." Nine out of the eleven figures of the lady's children and grandchildren, which adorned the face of her tomb, constitute the "part" mentioned. These are represented in our plate, having been removed from their elevated situation on the slab, and placed, for this view, somewhat in their probable order on the monument. It may be considered singular, that the sentiment of respect for the foundress, which led to the preservation of these figures, should not have exerted itself in rescuing from destruction the effigy of Lady Owen herself, and the other more important portions of this once elaborate memorial. Entering the school-room, a lozenge-shaped tablet appears over the door, bearing the arms of *Wilkes;* which are, *Arg. a pomegranate tree on a mount, proper, fruited Or.** This apartment, which is sufficiently roomy and convenient, has three large windows, each divided by heavy mullions of brick-work, and glazed in the old casement manner. The boys are here taught read-

* The monument in Islington Church contained Lady Owen's arms, viz. 1. *Arg. a pomegranate tree on a mount, proper, fruited Or;* Wilkes. 2. *Azure, three roebucks trippant Or. three lozenges Gules on a chevronel Or:* Robinson, *impaled with* Wilkes. 3. *Gules, a bar on a fess Argent, between two tigers courant Or, three mullets pierced Sable;* Elkin, *impaled with* Wilkes. 4. *Gules, a chevron between three lions rampant Or;* Owen, *impaled with* Wilkes.

ing, writing, arithmetic, and the Latin grammar. The present master, who has also some private scholars, introduced the Madras system of education, with the sanction of the governors, in 1825, and, as usual, with the most beneficial effects.

The *Old Red Lion* public-house, which adjoins the Alms-houses, is remarkable as having been for a time the residence of *Thomas Paine,* author of the "Rights of Man," &c., who, in his lodgings here, wrote some of his works.

Arlington Place, on the opposite side of the way, arose just prior to Arlington Street. On the site, till then, stood an old house called *Goose Farm,* with two large barn-like buildings, which had been originally its appurtenances, and a number of pens for sheep intended for the London market. "Goose Farm" is said to have derived its appellation from having been in like manner a receptacle for droves of *geese,* at an earlier period.

The *Angel Inn,* from its size and elevation, is a conspicuous object at the angle which faces the terminations of St. John's Street, Goswell, and the City Roads. It also forms the point from which diverge the Great North and the New Roads. This house is still very commonly, but inaccurately, called "The Angel *at Islington;*" as it stands on the Clerkenwell side of the line between the two parishes, which takes the centre of the carriage-way along High Street, and the Liverpool Road, until it arrives opposite the boundary-stone in the latter. The Angel is said to have been an established inn upwards of two hundred years; during the greater part of which it was usual to consider it as the final

resting-place for travellers to London, who, if they reached it towards night-fall, would seldom venture to encounter the remaining perils of their journey till morning.* From its situation, it was always the peculiar resort of salesmen, farmers, and graziers, attending Smithfield market. At present, having been rebuilt in 1819, it is a house of more general business; comprising, on a handsome scale, all the customary accommodations of a hotel and tavern, together with a coach-office, subsequently added.

The ancient house presented the usual features of a large old country inn, having a long front, with an overhanging tiled roof, and two rows of windows, twelve in each row, independent of those on the basement story. The principal entrance was beneath a projection, which extended along a portion of the front, and had a wooden gallery at top. The inn-yard, approached by a gateway in the centre, was nearly a quadrangle, having double galleries, supported by plain columns and carved pilasters, with caryatides and other figures. Here were the principal evidences of the antiquity of the building. The galleries had no doubt been often thronged with spectators of dramatic entertainments, at the period when inn-yards were customarily employed for such purposes;—a custom more particularly alluded to on a former occasion.† A lease of the entire premises was sold by auction on the 18th of January, 1819; for some time previously to which the estate had been in Chancery. At the re-building, besides restoring the *Angel* on its present extensive scale,

* Vide p. 31. † Vide p. 226.

two large houses, with shops, each calculated for a considerable business, were erected in HIGH STREET, on a part of the ancient site.

The *Peacock*, another house of public accommodation, is only a few doors farther on the left. This has been the general house of call for mail and other coaches, travelling the Great North Road, during several years past; in that respect much resembling the "Elephant and Castle" of the southern suburbs; and it still enjoys so extensive a trade in the same line, that the establishment of a rival coach-office at the *Angel* has not in appearance diminished the number of vehicles continually drawing up before it.

The *White Lion*, now a public-house and wine-vaults at the south east corner of the street of the same name, was originally an *inn*, much frequented by cattle-drovers, and others connected with the trade of Smithfield. It then comprised the two dwelling-houses adjoining, at this time in the occupation of Mr. Becket, grocer, and Mr. Slade, coach-builder; and extended also in the opposite or northward direction, until this latter portion was pulled down to make an opening to White Lion *Row*, as it was then called, being that part of the existing White Lion *Street*, which was built between the years 1770 and 1780. Where Mr. Becket's shop now is, was the gateway to the inn-yard; over which, the sign, a lion rampant, executed in relief, and painted white, was inserted in the front of the building. The sign remains in its first position; and by its date, 1714, shews that of the original erection.

At the north-east corner of the same street, stood a more ancient, and apparently a very spacious man-



New River Head 1733.



J & E S Storer del. & sc.

Antient Houses High Street.

Islington.

sion, what remains of which has been divided into two houses, now occupied by Mr. Middleton, grocer, and Mr. Wallis, stationer. The shop of the former has a stuccoed cieling; and in the room above it is another, much richer and more elaborate. In the last-mentioned room was formerly a chimney-piece of free-stone, carved with the story of Orpheus charming the beasts; but this having been removed, about five years since, by a bricklayer, resident in the neighbourhood, was found, on the author's inquiry, to have been converted within the last twelvemonth into *a covering for a drain*. The first floor of Mr. Wallis's house, though it has been divided into a suite of rooms, appears to have been originally a gallery, the wainscotting on each side of which remains, surmounted by a cornice carved in wood; and in one of the rooms is a lofty chimney-piece, also of wood, and carved in a similar manner. An evident break in the cornice at the west end, shews that the mansion at first extended farther in that direction. The general style of the carved work will not permit us to consider it older than the reign of Queen Anne; though the cielings just spoken of may possibly be referred to that of Charles II., which perhaps was the period of the mansion's erection. Tradition asserts this house to have been built in the time of Queen Elizabeth; but this is countenanced *only* by the external projection of the upper story. Before the building of White-Lion Street, it was occupied as a ladies' school; and the grounds until the same period were still extensive: previously, it is said to have been a tavern: but, in the first instance, there can be little doubt, it was the man-

sion of some considerable private gentleman—perhaps nobleman—who, after all, *might* live in the Elizabethan times, since both the stucco and carved work, it is possible, may have been executed during renovations of the first erection.

Several of the houses extending northwardly from this, derive a more decidedly antique air, externally at least, from the union of bay windows with their projecting stories; but all within them is of recent date, and the fronts of some have been much modernized of late years. We present a view of these houses, taken in the summer of 1827; and the Gentleman's Magazine devoted an engraving to them in August, 1823. The latter represented the *Three Hats* public-house, (which in our plate is distinguished by the board against its front), pretty nearly as it now appears. The Three Hats has been long a well-known place of resort. In Bickerstaffe's Comedy of "The Hypocrite," *Mawworm* thus mentions it:—"Till I went after him, (Dr. Cantwell), I was always a roving after fantastical delights. I used to go, every Sunday evening, to the *Three Hats* at Islington!—it's a public-house!—mayhap your ladyship may know it," &c.

The *Toll-house* included in our view stands within the boundary of Clerkenwell; its fellow, on the opposite side of the gate, is in Islington. They are each of octagonal form, brick-built, with slated roofs; and make as creditable an appearance as most in the environs of London. This turnpike, commonly called *Islington Turnpike*, was erected in the year 1808, at the expense of about £700., including the weighing-engine. On digging for the foundations,

the ground was discovered to have been raised at least six feet, by the successive accumulations of ballast, gravel, &c. laid upon it.

LIVERPOOL ROAD, which branches from the turnpike, was not so called until the year 1826: till then, it was commonly known as the *Back Road*, from its relative position to Upper Street, Islington. There is nothing more interesting in this part of our Route, than the *Stone* which marks its conclusion in this direction, together with the parochial boundary. The line of division between Clerkenwell and Islington now runs westwardly; exactly defining the limits of Pentonville towards the north, until it reaches the neighbourhood of Battle-bridge, at which point we met it on a former Route.

Having returned to the Angel Inn, we proceed to notice the different objects of interest in GOSWELL ROAD.

After passing the angular cluster of houses which stands at the meeting of this and St. John's Street Roads, we observe *Gwynne's Buildings*, forming part of the eastern line of the Brewers' Company's estate. This row of houses was erected in 1763. The leases having expired at Midsummer, 1827, an individual has taken the whole for a term of 21 years from the Company, and is now converting the major part of their front gardens into *shops*. The lease of the *Crown and Woolpack* public-house, and some adjoining buildings, in St. John's Street Road, having also expired at the same period, the opportunity will be taken to run a road, twenty feet wide, from the site of that public-house to the south end of Gwynne's Buildings; at which latter point the New River Company have

granted permission to carry it, by an extension of the bridge under Goswell Road, to the east corner of Owen's Row. This design, it is understood, will be carried into effect on the completion of the house now building for the new *Crown and Woolpack*; when the old house bearing that sign, which is yet occupied, will be taken down for the purpose.

The *Coach-stand* opposite Gwynne's Buildings, established in 1808, is in the parish of Clerkenwell; the railed triangular garden beside it is in that of Islington. Opposite the point of the triangle, and on the line between the parishes, a handsome *Obelisk* was erected, at the expence of the City Road Trust, towards the close of 1826: it is of stone, ornamented with a vase at top, and supports two large gas lamps. Our parochial border, running southwardly from the coach-stand, includes the footway, but not the buildings, on the east side of Goswell Road, except in the case of the houses numbered 100 to 115, which *are* in this parish: from the latter number, it takes the middle of the road, and of Goswell Street, until it arrives opposite the north wall of the Charter-house grounds, to which point it was previously described.*

Farther south, on the right, is the entrance to that institution of the Society of Friends, or Quakers, the removal of which to this site was spoken of in describing the old *Quakers' Workhouse*, situate in Corporation Lane.† That removal, it was stated, took place in the year 1786. The ground, which is a large square plot, forming part of the ancient

* Vide p. 114. † Vide p. 231.

Hermitage Field, was taken of the Brewers' Company, under the sanction of the court of Chancery, on a lease for 148 years, commencing at Midsummer, 1786; the rent to be £16. per annum for the first 84½ years, and £50. per annum for the remainder of the term. To this building were removed the poor people, the Meeting, and the School: the latter existed here until recently; but the Meeting, which was chiefly intended for the accommodation of the old or infirm inmates, was discontinued about fifteen years since. Malcolm's account of the institution in 1803, would as justly describe it during several years afterwards. Apartments, he says, are here "provided for twelve men and twelve women, being poor, and of the Society of Friends. The number of boys and girls is not limited. The inmates of every description amount at this time to 68. Six different meetings in London, together with some legacies and voluntary contributions, support the charity, and provide rewards for those females who preserve the places obtained for them, which are 30*s.* for the first, and 40*s.* for the second and third years. If they behave with propriety, they are allowed £40. as a marriage portion: the boys have £20. The institution gives £10., and the Meeting which sends the boy £15., as apprentice fees. The house, meeting, schools, apartments, and stairs, are as white and clean as brushes and industry will make them. The cielings are remarkably high, and the windows large: consequently, the rooms are perfectly dry, and well aired. The outside has the appearance of a villa, surrounded as it is by pleasure-grounds, gardens, and trees."—To that part of this

description which relates to the *building*, truth compels us to take an objection. The cielings of *all* the rooms are not remarkable for their height: and it is a fact, that the Society have been induced to remove the institution to Croydon, in Surrey, partly, at least, on account of the dampness of the lower apartments, and their fears for the health of those who occupied them. This removal took place at Midsummer, 1825; since when the structure has been deserted.

Our view is from the large garden which extends south from the building, and shows it to be of regular and pleasing proportions. The representation may derive interest from the circumstance, that the whole will shortly disappear; the Society having determined to let the entire plot on building leases for seventy years. The erection of houses has already commenced on the east side. Since the Spring of 1827, the Calvinistic Methodist congregation which at that time removed from Providence Chapel, Lower Chadwell Street, have partially occupied the Friends' edifice, and given it the denomination of *Bethel Chapel*.

The situation of the "battery and breast-work at Mount Mill," on the east side of Goswell Road, near the Stones' End, to which we alluded at page 33, was beyond the verge of our parish: it may, however, be again briefly spoken of before concluding this Route. The *mount*, there is reason to believe, did not exist when the Parliament constructed here a part of those lines and fortifications, with which, in expectation of an attack from the King, they surrounded the city. This eminence, it is rather

likely, originated in the interment of that vast number of persons, who, it is known, were buried here during the great plague in the reign of Charles II. Upon this artificial elevation a *mill* was erected, from which it took its name. The ground being afterwards levelled, became a physic-garden, and has been many years built upon.

In Spencer Place, on the opposite side of Goswell Road, is a small *Meeting-House,* erected for the use of a congregation of Particular Baptists in the year 1814.

Route VII.

THROUGH THE DISTRICT OF PENTONVILLE.

Early in the progress of this History, Pentonville was stated to have taken its rise about the year 1780. The remark was correct as regards the general mass of buildings bearing that appellation: but some detached lines of houses had been erecting during the ten years previous. *After* 1780, building proceeded here with almost unexampled rapidity; owing, in great degree, to the beauty and salubrity of the situation, being the western slope of a fine eminence, which commanded very pleasing views of the hills of Highgate and Hampstead, and a charming stretch of pasture-land studded with foliage. The form of the district is nearly an oblong, whose longest sides are to the north and south. It is bounded on the north by the fields lying in the parish of St. Mary Islington, (now also nearly covered with houses); on the east by those parts of the High Street, and Liverpool Road, recently described; on the south by the New Road leading from the Angel Inn to Battle Bridge; and on the west by a low tract of land which divides it from Maiden Lane and the parish of St. Pancras. The streets are wide, and disposed upon an unusually regular plan, being almost all built at right angles; and their descent keeps them generally clean and dry. The houses are for the most part of a very respectable class, and numbers of them handsome. The *name* of Pentonville, it is well known, is derived from the late Henry Penton, Esq., who was the chief owner of the soil, and who dying in January,

1812, (aged 75), was interred here in his private vault.

The only events of historical importance particularly affecting this district, have been two; the erection of a Chapel for the use of its inhabitants, and the attempt to obtain an Act of the Legislature for its disjunction, except as to the care of the poor, from the rest of Clerkenwell. For the better connection of our subjects, we shall first notice the last-mentioned event, though the former, in the order of time, preceded it.

The attempt alluded to grew out of that obstinate contest for the Perpetual Curacy of this parish, between the friends of the late Rev. Henry Foster and those of the Rev. Richard Lendon, which, after three years' duration, was terminated in June, 1807, by the licensing of the former gentleman, after the decision of a suit in equity in his favour. In the Spring of 1807, or a little prior to that decision, the adherents of the unsuccessful candidate made application to Parliament, for leave to bring in a Bill, whose objects may be briefly described as, 1st, to separate the three districts of *St. James, St. John,* and *Pentonville,* and place the concerns of each, as a distinct parish, under the control of a Select Vestry; 2ndly, to invest the *three* Select Vestries with the care and management of the poor of the parish, in lieu of the Guardians of the Poor; 3rdly, to entrust *each* Select Vestry, in lieu of the Trustees of the Church, with the care of its peculiar church or chapel, and charge the district over which it presided with the future expence of supporting and repairing the same; 4thly,

to apportion the parish debts for building the Workhouse and St. James's Church, and for repairing St. John's Church, among the three districts; and, 5thly, to vest the advowson, or right of presentation to each church or chapel, in its own Vestry, and provide a maintenance for each minister chargeable upon the district to which he should be attached. The resolution to which the Author has hitherto scrupulously adhered, of refraining from the expression of his personal sentiments on every subject that may have engendered recent party-spirit in the parish, must here operate to prevent a comment upon the objects detailed. In accordance with the same resolution, he will simply state, that the Bill, by which it was hoped those objects would be accomplished, was successfully opposed; and that the opposing parties, agreeably to their own petition to the House of Commons, were, "The Reverend Henry Foster, Clerk, A. M.; several of the Inhabitants in Vestry assembled; the Trustees for Building a New Church (St. James's) at Clerkenwell: the Guardians of the Poor of the said Parish; the Commissioners for Repairing the Highways of the same Parish; the Commissioners for Paving, Lighting, and Watching that part of the said Parish called St. James's; certain Bondholders and Annuitants (who had advanced money for parochial purposes); and several persons, Freeholders in, and others, Parishioners of, the said Parish." The Commissioners for Paving, &c., and Vestry, of St. John's district, with many of its inhabitants, were favourable to the proposed measure; as it promised to confirm and make effectual that sepa-

ration of their part of the parish from the mother-church, which Queen Anne's Commissioners contemplated, and intended should take place.

The proceedings connected with the rise of PENTONVILLE CHAPEL were more complicated, and must be related at greater length. While a very small portion of the district was as yet built upon, and Penton Street, though named, was only in progress, Mr. Penton perceived the advantages that might be expected to flow from the erection of a place of public worship upon some part of his estate. He therefore, early in the year 1777, entered into a friendly arrangement with the Commissioners for Paving, &c. that part of the Parish called St. James's, in pursuance of which a clause was inserted in a Bill then carrying through Parliament, by which those Commissioners were empowered to build such a place of public worship, as an appendant to the mother-church, "near Penton Street." The Bill passed*; and, in December of the same year, Mr. Penton made application to the Commissioners to carry that part of their new Act into execution. The latter shewed no unwillingness; and even surveyed the ground, and advertised for loans, both by way of bond and annuity, as authorized by the Act, to enable them to proceed with the intended Chapel: but an unexpected obstacle arose. The Act provided that the erection should be "with the privity, approbation, and consent," not only of Mr. Penton, but of "the Minister of the Parish Church of St. James, Clerk-

* 17th Geo. III. cap. 63. being the Commissioners' *second* Local Act.

enwell, for the time being:" and though the last-mentioned gentleman (the Rev. William Sellon) did not withhold his consent, he started what appeared an "insuperable difficulty" to the Board for Paving, &c., as is recorded in their Minutes. This was the necessity, as it seemed to him, for a bond to the Bishop of London, for the regular and certain payment of the salary to the Minister of the Chapel; which bond neither the Commissioners, nor the Churchwardens, when afterwards applied to, felt themselves in a situation to give. Upon this the matter dropped, so far as connected with the Commissioners for Paving, &c. until nearly ten years had elapsed.

But in the mean time the erection of a Chapel had commenced, by means of a private subscription; and in October, 1787, the building was in a state of forwardness. The Commissioners now met the proprietors, and proposed to them to take this Chapel under their direction, as that which the Act had authorized them to build. The proprietors, there seems every reason to believe, would have been disposed to concur with such an arrangement; but, in the absence of Mr. Sellon, who neither attended the meeting, nor deputed any person on his behalf, they could not be satisfied with the security offered by the Board, unaccompanied as it was by the Minister's assent, or by any intimation of his views as to the appointment of a Minister for the Chapel. Under such circumstances, though the erection proceeded, the plan of uniting it, as a chapel of ease, to the mother-church, was for that time defeated; but it was opened notwithstanding, in 1788, under the provisions of the

Toleration Act, and its religious services assimilated as nearly as possible to those of the Establishment. The first Minister was Mr. Joel Abraham Knight, who had previously preached at Spa Fields Chapel, and who, after twelve months ministration at this place of worship, quitted it, upon a misunderstanding with the proprietors, for the chapel in Tottenham Court Road. At this period, our Chapel being considered as strictly *private property*, admittance was granted to the seatholders exclusively; all others being prevented from entering by a *bar*, which was entrusted to the door-keeper, who could raise and lower it at pleasure. Matters stood thus until 1790; when an event not immediately connected with this Chapel was attended with important results in relation to it.

The present parochial Church of St. James was at that time in progress; but the Trustees who had been appointed to superintend its erection, finding that the sum of £8000, which Parliament had empowered them to raise, would prove quite inadequate to its completion, were making application to the Legislature for powers to borrow a farther sum to the same amount. In this they were opposed by the inhabitants of Pentonville; until a compromise was effected by the introduction of clauses, empowering, or rather obliging, the Trustees to purchase also the new Chapel for their use. With these clauses, the Bill passed; and, agreeably to its enactments, the proprietors, who were fifty-five in number, received for their Chapel the sum of £5000, in bonds of £100 each, transferable, and bearing interest at four

per cent.* The lease granted by Henry Penton, Esq. of the ground for the Chapel and cemetery, was included in the purchase; and by its terms, confirmed by the Act, the Trustees bound themselves to the annual payment of the rent of £40., together with a fine of twenty guineas for its renewal at the end of every twenty-one years. By the same Act, the Trustees are to keep the Chapel and its appurtenances in repair, and pay the yearly sum of £20. to the Minister of the parish for the time being: the Minister to be also entitled to the pew-rents and surplice-fees; and, on his part, sufficiently to provide for the Cure of the Chapel, and pay reasonable stipends to the officiating Minister, Clerk, Organist, and Attendants. In consideration of the purchase of the Chapel, and that three of the pews, and a vault under it, should be secured to him and his assigns, Henry Penton, Esq. conveyed to the Trustees the fee-simple of that *piece of land*, of about one acre in extent, situate in the parish of St. Mary Islington, which has been already more than once spoken of. Three other vaults under the Chapel, and two in the burying-ground, were secured to individuals who had severally bought them: with these exceptions, the entire building, cemetery, and appurtenances, including the chapel furniture, and two lodges erected at the north entrance, became thenceforth the property of the parish, and was vested in the Trustees to whom the erection and maintenance of the Church of St. James

* To form a correct estimate of the first expence of the Chapel to the parish, we must add, for additional furniture and alterations, £147. 2*s*. 5*d*.: making a total of £5147. 2*s*. 5*d*.

were committed, as a Chapel of Ease to that Church, as originally contemplated.

The area included by the Chapel and its burying-ground, as it was consecrated by the Bishop of London, June 8th, 1791, is in the form of the letter T, and extends, north and south, from Collier Street to the New Road; east and west, from Rodney Street to Cumming Street. The greatest length of the plot, from north to south, is 367 feet; its greatest breadth, from east to west, 240 feet. The front of the Chapel is towards the New Road; where, however, the original plan of erecting handsome houses, as wings to the edifice, was not carried into effect; and the space intended for those erections is now part of the cemetery.* A happy consequence of this alteration of design is, that the ground left unoccupied by buildings, but neatly enclosed by a dwarf wall and iron railing, is of considerable size, and affords a view of the Chapel on every side. The front is approached by a semicircular area, bounded by a gravelled carriage-way, which connects the two entrance-gates from the road. Like the rest of the building, it is principally of brick, but has a neat stone frontispiece, composed by Ionic pilasters supporting a pediment; in the centre of which is a clock, and crowned by a cupola and bell. Beneath is a large window, surmounted by a fan; and below that, the principal entrance between two round-headed niches, with another door on either side, leading to the galleries. The sides of the Chapel, which are plain, have each two tiers of windows, containing seven in the upper

* An elevation of the Chapel and adjoining houses, as at first planned, is suspended in the Vestry of St. James's Church.

range, and six in the lower: each also has an entrance, near the north extremity, formed by a neat Ionic portico, which is approached from the low burying-ground by a considerable flight of steps. In rear, at the end of the cemetery, are two commodious lodges, forming a residence for the Chapel Clerk.

The interior has much simple elegance, and is in all respects equally creditable with the rest of the edifice to the taste and skill of the architect, Mr. Aaron Henry Hurst;* or if any thing may be excepted from this praise, it is the ceiling, which, being flat, and almost devoid of ornament, makes an appearance somewhat injurious to the general effect. Here are pews for 700 persons, including those in the galleries;† which latter are supported by very well-executed Ionic pillars, painted to imitate marble. At the south end is a small organ; with a gallery on each side for the children belonging to Pentonville Charity Schools. The altar is at the opposite, or *northern* extremity: a position that might have been considered sacrilegious in the olden time, as well as that of the Chapel itself, for it stands nearly due north and south. A semicircular sacrarium, arched above, and with an Ionic pilaster at each angle, contains a recess in its centre, in which is placed the altar-piece, composed of two parts. The lowermost,

* This gentleman was one of the original proprietors, and died at his house in Hatton Garden, in 1799, at the age of thirty-nine. He was then just rising into the reputation which his talents deserved. He lies interred in one of the vaults, which he purchased, under the Chapel.

† The Act, it may be here observed, provides that the price of SEATS shall in no case *exceed* 10*s*. each per annum.

immediately over the table, is inscribed, in gold letters on a black ground, with the Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments, and Creed; these are divided by four gilt reeded pillars, which support an entablature, also gilt, immediately below which are the initials I. H. S. Above is an excellent picture, presented, prior to the first opening of the Chapel, by Mr. Samuel Walker, one of the proprietors, who purchased it of an amateur artist, Mr. John Frearson, for no more than £70. The subject is Christ raising the Ruler's Daughter. In the execution there is a high union of beauty, delicacy, and grace; with much of the general manner, and style of colouring, of West, though certainly without the characteristic *power* of that celebrated painter. It has been justly observed of this picture, that the artist has preserved in it that beautifully placid countenance in the Saviour, so often repeated by the most esteemed masters. "He has thrown the principal light on the graceful female whose respiration is just restored; and given her that share of beauty, through the traces of disease and death, necessary to preserve the interest of the piece. The fine linen of her drapery, and the details of the couch, are extremely well managed. The mother's face and attitude express every thing we could wish: her features shew wonder, and she seems divided between attention to her child and gratitude to Christ. The Apostles' heads are all excellent; and the contrast they afford to the figures just mentioned, by their calm expression of knowledge of and confidence in the Saviour's miracles, may justly be admired." The picture is inclosed in a gilt frame; on the upper part of which is inscribed, "Talitha Cumi.

Mark v. 41." In the semicircular compartment over it, is painted the customary emblem of the Holy Spirit, a descending dove, encircled by a glory. Within the rails, on each side of the sacrarium, is a niche, filled by a mural monument; and above are two neat tablets: but neither the inscriptions on these, nor on a few other memorials in the Chapel, are of general interest. The pulpit stands at the distance of a few feet from the altar railings: it is quite plain, and without the common accompaniment of a sounding-board. A pedestal and vase, designed after the antique, and decorated with fruit and flowers, compose the font, which is of artificial stone, executed at Coade's manufactory, but painted to resemble marble in 1816. The dimensions of the interior are as follow:—

	FT.	IN.
Depth of the Vestibule	5	3
Length, from the Vestibule to the Sacrarium	66	0
Depth of the Sacrarium	17	0
Width of Ditto	16	6
Extreme Length	88	3
Extreme Width	48	0

The Chapel underwent a complete survey and reparation in 1816, when various improvements were made: in particular, the nakedness of the ceiling was relieved by a handsome circular ornament in the centre, so contrived as at the same time to ventilate the building by a connected aperture in the roof. At this period, also, the galleries for the charity children were enlarged by the substitution of *convex* for *concave* fronts, with light iron balustrades in lieu of the previous panels. The interior was again "repaired and beautified," as appears by an inscription on the organ-gallery, in 1823.

It is proper to add to this description, that the substructure consists of well-built and excellent vaults, lighted and aired by sash-windows, and ventilated besides by flues in the arches, which have their outlets at the top of the Chapel. This mode of ventilation may perhaps be considered *unique*; and it is yet farther improved by lateral gratings in all the divisions. The entrance to these vaults is from the north end, whence a wide central arch reaches to the south extremity, where is the funeral receptacle of the Penton family. A series of cross arches, on both sides, opens into the principal one: in them are the various divisions, two thirds of which are private property, and have, in most instances, their owners' names inscribed on brass plates upon the doors. The coffins are all dry, and perfect; owing not less to the admirable system of ventilation just described, than to the rule which obtains here, as at St. James's Church, forbidding the interment of any corpse, except in an interior enclosure of stone or metal. From the same circumstances, the vaults may be explored without a chance of exposure to tainted air, or to any species of disgust or danger.

The first sermon preached in Pentonville Chapel was for the benefit of an institution that may be considered coeval with it, having been founded in 1788. This was the *Pentonville Charity School*, which, from a very humble beginning, has risen into comparative importance. The original School-house was at No. 7, Hermes Street: where for a considerable time were instructed no more than twelve boys, and the same number of girls; but in 1811 schools were erected purposely for the children in

Collier Street,* where an inscription on the front of the building gives the date of the infant institution, and that of its removal to this spot. Here one hundred and twenty children are now educated on Dr. Bell's system, (which was introduced in 1816), and instructed in the principles of religion according to the doctrines of the Established Church. Of this number, the funds enable the governors to clothe sixty annually, to furnish them with new linen twice a year, and to give the whole shoes at Christmas. The following list of *Benefactions* appears on two tables in the Chapel :—

		£	s.	d.
1792.	Surplus of Subscriptions for the purpose of applying to Parliament for opening Pentonville Chapel as a Chapel of Ease to St. James, Clerkenwell ..... *A Donation*	13	15	6
	Mr. W. Till..... *Ditto* ..	10	10	0
1794.	From the original Proprietors of Pentonville Chapel ..... *A Donation*	12	10	0
1795.	Mr. Thomas Rudd..... *by Will*	20	0	0
1796.	Mr. Paul Hamilton ..... *A Donation*	10	0	0
1798.	Ditto ....*by Will*	50	0	0
	Mr. Thomas Hitchins, *by Will*, the Interest of £1000. 3 per Cents. Annuities, producing annually	30	0	0
1801.	Mrs. Martha Bodlige .....*by Will*	20	0	0
1803.	Mr. John Davenport, senior....*A Donation*	5	0	0
	Mr. W. Elgie.....*Ditto*...	7	7	0
1805.	Mrs. Elizabeth Hardwick....*Ditto of a Parish Bond*.....	100	0	0
1806.	Mr. Thomas Sharwood.....*A Donation*	50	0	0
1810.	Mr. Peter Keates .....*Ditto*..	5	0	0
1811.	The Trustees of Mr. Andrew Newton, by the hands of the Rev. H. H. Baber. *A Donation*	200	0	0
	Mr. Thomas Taylor .....*Ditto*..	17	12	0
	Mr. Henry Wylie.... .....*Ditto*..	20	0	0

* Named from Mr. *Thomas Collier*, a proprietor of the Chapel, and one of the Trustees for the rest of the owners: in which latter capacity he was joined with Mr. *Abraham Rhodes* and Mr. *Alexander Cumming*.



Pentonville Chapel.

J & H S Storer delt & sculp.



Pentonville Schools.



London Female Penitentiary.
from the garden



J & H S Storer delt & sc

The Friends Schools.

		£.	s.	d.
1817.	W. Mellish, Esq. M. P. .....*Donations*	36	15	0
	Mrs. Bridges .....*A Donation*	5	0	0
	Mrs. Judith Foxcroft..... ...*by Will*	20	0	0
	The Worshipful Company of Ironmongers .. .. *Four Donations*	36	13	2
	Sundry Donations under £5. to this time ...	75	6	0
1818.	R. Fearon, Esq. .....*A Donation*	10	0	0
1820.	Wm. Chapman, Esq. .....*by Will*	20	0	0
1822.	— Smith, Esq., Rodney Street ..*A Donation*	10	10	0
1823.	Sundry small Donations to this time.....	88	17	6

Other benefactions have accrued to the Charity since the date of the last-mentioned; but they are not of particular importance, with the exception of a donation of £100. from the late Wm. Stelfox, Esq., of Penton Place; who dying in July, 1827, bequeathed also the reversion of all his funded property, producing about £100. per annum, to this School, contingent upon the decease of a person now living.

A little westward of Pentonville Chapel, fronting the New Road, stands that truly excellent charitable institution, the London Female Penitentiary. This was originally *Cumming House*, having been erected for his own residence by John Cumming, Esq., from whom the neighbouring street, called Cumming Street, takes name. This gentleman, with his brother Alexander, took considerable tracts of land from Mr. Penton, for the purpose of reletting to builders. After Mr. Cumming's death, the house was taken by a Madame Florance, who here presided over a small establishment of *Nuns*, in connection with a Roman Catholic seminary for young ladies. Madame Florance quitted in 1806: and the London Female Penitentiary having been instituted on the 1st of January in the following year, its Committee purchased the lease and fixtures, and fitted up

the building for the reception of about thirty-five females. Nearly at the same time, a house in John Street, (No. 6), was taken as an infirmary; but this latter was abandoned as soon as competent additions could be made to the principal structure. In 1811, an east wing was erected, in size equal to the original building; and before the close of the next year, a contract was entered into for another addition, to extend one hundred feet from the rear, along the east side of the garden, and to include both an Infirmary and a Prompt Reception Ward. On the completion of these designs, the whole was found capable of accommodating 100 females. We present a view, taken from the garden: in front, the Institution is very properly secluded, in a great degree, from the public, by a lofty brick wall.

Early after the formation of this benevolent establishment, his present Majesty, then Prince Regent, became its Patron; the Presidentship is graced by the name of Wilberforce; and in the List of Vice-Presidents and Subscribers are many of the nobility, and some dignitaries of the church. The late Lord Bishop of Durham bequeathed to the Penitentiary £500.; and the late Joseph Stonard, Esq., of Stamford Hill, £100.:—these were the last considerable legacies; without which, it should be known, the twelvemonth's expenditure would have much exceeded the income: indeed, without an augmentation of the *annual subscriptions*, by which the institution is mainly supported, the number of inmates, we are informed, must of necessity be lessened. The Twentieth Annual Report, read May 3rd, 1827, contained the following

" *Statement from the commencement of the Institution in* 1807, *to the present period, of the total number of Objects who have applied, been received, and disposed of.*

" Applications	3829	
" Received	1469	
" Placed out to Service		442
" Reconciled and restored to their Friends		432
" Married, (besides 34 more from service, or from their friends)		8
" Left the house at their own request		185
" Discharged from various causes		241
" Eloped		26
" Left from ill health		10
" Sent to their parish		3
" Left on account of pregnancy		6
" Died in the Institution		22
		1375
" In the House on the 1st April, 1827		94
		1469"

Should an account be desired of the circumstances under which the inmates of this establishment are in general received by it, with its effects while they remain beneath its shelter, such could not be better conveyed than by an extract from the Report made in 1811. Of those who apply, we are informed by that document, " the average age is from fifteen to twenty years. Some who have been received were poor orphan children, who, in their tender years, had fallen into the hands of designing women, by whom they had been treated with atrocious barbarity. Others, when neither destitute nor forsaken, *voluntarily* abandoned their vicious courses, at once detesting their sin, and dreading its consequences. Some, who, having been discharged from workhouses when restored to health, were unable from want of character to get a livelihood, sought refuge in the Peniten-

tiary, that they might not be tempted to return to the paths of vice. A few also, who, in moments of despair, had attempted to lay violent hands on themselves, have become its penitent, thankful, and happy inmates. Again, others have been received, who had been betrayed at a very early age, under fallacious promises of marriage. And some, who, attracted by the hope of better wages and finer clothes, had imprudently left the country for London; where, being unable to obtain places, they had been inveigled into houses of ill-fame. Many have applied from the unrelenting conduct of their relations or friends, who had refused to be reconciled to them. And not a few from serious and alarming apprehensions of the consequences of sin, not only in this, but in a future world." It may be added, that the females are employed in household work in all its branches, and particularly the business of the laundry, in order to qualify them for services: those, whose health will not permit their undertaking any laborious occupation, besides the lighter parts of household employment, are engaged in plain work, and in making family and child-bed linen. The institution is open for inspection on the first Thursday in the months of January, April, July, and October, between twelve and four o'clock; admittance by an order from the Secretary.

Ascending the hill from the Chapel, we pass KING'S ROW, built prior to 1774; as in the minutes of the Commissioners for Paving, &c. for August in that year, we find an order for the substitution of its present appellation for its original one, which was *Happy-Man Row*.

At the termination of King's Row, stands the *Belvidere Tavern;* connected with which, as appears by the plan of the New River Head, &c., dated 1753, was formerly a "bowling-green," bounded by a row of palings. A house of entertainment, called *Busby's Folly*, occurs in an old map, which must have been on this spot; and the same house appears to have been subsequently called *Penny's Folly*. The Act for making the New Road did not pass till 1755; so that the approach till then, from the metropolis to this house, was necessarily by the ancient foot-path across the fields, which many readers will remember to have run in the line of the present Amwell Street. Traces of the bowling-green are visible in the level greensward, which now, surrounded by a gravelled walk, by alcoves, and seats for visitors, constitutes the *Tea-gardens*, which are also used as a *Racket-ground*. The Tavern is large and commodious; and formerly, no doubt, enjoyed a pleasing prospect; from which, perhaps, its name, being probably a corruption from *belvéder*, the French for a turret, or terrace, commanding an agreeable view.

The name of "*Dobney's*" occurs contiguously in the plan just spoken of; marking the site of a more celebrated bowling-green, with tea-gardens, ponds, &c., which lay between the modern White Lion Street, and that line of handsome houses, built about 1790, called Winchester Place. Of the original occupier nothing is known, except his name of *D'Aubigny*, which was corrupted into *Daubeny* and *Dobney*. In 1767, the premises were fresh planned and laid out by a person named Johnson. About fifty-five years since, *Price*, an equestrian performer, exhibited feats of horseman-

ship here; while an opponent, of the name of *Sampson*, had a similar exhibition in a field behind the old public-house called the Three Hats. Possibly, these were among the earliest professors of equestrianism in this country; as we read of no such performances in the annals of the various "*Wells*," and other such places of popular amusement, at any earlier period; and the exhibitions of the celebrated Philip Astley, we know, were of a later date. Until the building of Pentonville, the only carriage-way to *Dobney's*, was one leading from High Street under the gateway of the White Lion Inn, and continued thence to the Bowling-green; which latter, with the tea-rooms and gardens, fell into disuse soon after Penton Street was erected. *Dobney's Place*, and *Dobney's Court*, contiguous to Penton and White Lion Streets, are memorials of the ancient house and grounds, a part of whose site they occupy. The cluster of houses nearly adjoining, called *Penton Grove*, the property of Robert Fearon, Esq., is supposed to stand on the actual spot where D'Aubigny resided.

At No. 16, Winchester Place, for fifteen years resided *Thomas Cooke*, too justly characterised as "a rapacious and wicked old miser," whose birth-place has been by some fixed at St. Guise, a small village near Norwich, by others at Clewer, near Windsor. Being about eighty-six years old, according to his own report, just before he died in 1811, the year of his nativity must have been 1725 or 1726. His father is said to have been an itinerant fiddler, who leaving this son destitute, he was brought up by an aged grandmother. The little education he received, he acquired as he grew up, by his own industry, and

(to his particular credit be it added) at his own expence. After living as a common porter with a Mr. Postle, a dry-salter and paper-manufacturer near Norwich—subsequently in the same capacity with a sugar-baker in London—and then becoming an exciseman—he was appointed to an office, in quality of the last-mentioned occupation, which he contrived to make the basis of his future fortune. He became inspector of the exciseable concerns of a large paper-manufactory near Tottenham; and having discovered that frauds on the revenue were committed in it, he determined upon connivance, and the profits he might obtain thereby, until some opportunity should occur for turning his knowledge to greater advantage. Such an opportunity arrived: the manufacturer died; and Cooke, by well-timed threats of exposure, alarmed his widow into a marriage with himself, and consequently became possessed of his late employer's business and entire property. The lease of the mills expiring, and being disappointed in his expectations of renewing it, he took a large sugar concern in Puddle Dock; where, however, his want of experience in the trade subjected him to loss at the outset. So unpropitious a beginning he speedily found means to redeem: and from this period of his life, his previous habits of parsimony and meanness settled into those of the confirmed and daily more incurable miser. His stratagems to obtain either money, or money's worth, from persons of more liberal disposition than himself, were numerous. His most favourite one was that of pretending indisposition near the door of some stranger whom he thought adapted to his purpose. His sham illness procured him admission,

with a glass of wine, or more substantial refreshment; then "feeling himself better," he would begin to take particular notice of the children, ask their names, and at last, with a peculiar manner of his own, request to have those names *in writing*. Taking leave with a profusion of thanks—after due care to mention his place of abode, and to hint that he was the possessor of considerable property—the good people began to entertain a surmise that "the gentleman" must have some intention of remembering the children to their advantage—probably in his *will*—and they were not long in resolving to take every opportunity of cultivating his good opinion. Then would pour in geese, turkeys, pheasants, fish, &c. &c. upon the delighted Cooke; with sometimes a dozen of the wine *he had praised so much*: till at length, by having possessed himself of a number of such good friends, his housekeeping expences were not only reduced to almost nothing, but he began to derive money from the *sale* of the choicest presents, reserving the worst for the consumption of himself and family. To detail his other meannesses would be almost an endless task. His writing-paper he obtained by purloining pieces from the Bank, at his daily visits there; his ink by carrying about a large vial, and begging it of his friends; and he constantly used the latter article as a substitute for blacking. He was a perfect pest to every medical man, from whom he thought he could smuggle advice for some constitutional complaints he was afflicted with. His wife died of a broken heart, occasioned by his ill-treatment. He kept a horse—having converted the kitchen of his house in Winchester Place into a stable for its reception—and

once, when travelling, paid handsomely for *trespass*, in turning it to feed in a meadow by the road-side, after having practised the same expedient on many previous occasions with impunity. He bought a chaise;—but, unable to bear the idea of the expence of a chaise-house, he kept the body in his bed-chamber, and placed the wheels upright against the walls of his garden till they rotted. But he did a few *good* actions. For the last fourteen or fifteen years of his life, he gave a guinea annually to Pentonville Charity School: about 1805-6, he contributed £20. towards furnishing the Clerkenwell Volunteers with great-coats: he was once known to be generous to a family in distress. On a particular occasion he was so extravagantly open-handed to a club, as to give a guinea to drink his health upon his birthday! But these are the only recorded liberalities of his long life. In the year 1806 he quitted Winchester Place, having been served with an ejectment by his landlord, who could neither get him to repair the house, nor suffer it to be repaired so long as he remained in it. He removed, when thus compelled, to No. 85, White Lion-street; where he died, August 26th, 1811, worth £127,205. Three per cents. consolidated Bank Annuities. The bulk of this large property he bequeathed to charitable institutions; leaving only a few small legacies to individuals. His "Life," by W. Chamberlaine, was published in 1814; and from that little work the substance of most of the previous particulars has been derived. In the register of *Islington* parish, occurs the following note of his interment: "Thomas Cooke, buried 30 Aug. 1811, aged 85."

Leaving Winchester Place, and passing the end

of Barron Street, we reach CLAREMONT PLACE, extending nearly to the Angel Inn, and consisting for the most part of handsome private residences, the majority of very recent erection. Here stands *Claremont Chapel*, erected for the use of the Independent or Congregational Dissenters, by Thomas Wilson, Esq., of Highbury, a gentleman well known among Nonconformists for his generous patronage of their religious principles and cause. The building, which will accommodate 1500 persons, and cost upwards of £7000., was opened October 1st, 1819; when the Rev. T. Raffles, LL. D., of Liverpool, and the Rev. J. Leifchild, of Bristol, preached to crowded auditories. A congregation of the Independent order was established here in March 1820; and in June, 1822, they invited the Rev. John Blackburn, then of Finchingfield, Essex, to be their pastor. That gentleman is the present minister. The engraving gives a better idea of the front of this chapel, with its handsome Ionic portico, than could be conveyed by description. The interior is neatly fitted up with a pulpit and pews of oak; together with unusually capacious galleries, which, sweeping entirely round the walls, and forming an oval in the centre of the building, have a rather singular and not unpleasing effect. There are also upper galleries, of a light and elegant appearance, for the Sunday-school children attached to this chapel; for whose instruction spacious rooms have been erected in rear. It should be added, that Mr. Wilson, prior to building this structure, purchased the freehold ground, which he has vested in trustees for the use of Protestant Dissenters of the Independent denomination for ever.

We retrace our steps along the New Road as far as the Belvidere Tavern, which forms the south-west angle of PENTON STREET—the *High Street*, as without impropriety it might be called, of Pentonville—particularly on Sundays, when, in fine weather, it is thronged with citizens, hastening to or returning from the fields which commence a little beyond its northern extremity. This street is of considerable but unequal width, and by no means regularly built; though it contains several very good houses, particularly at the upper end, which, till within these ten years, was in immediate contiguity to rural objects, and commanded a very pleasing and extensive prospect. WHITE LION and HENRY STREETS intersect it at right angles: as do CHAPEL and JOHN STREETS farther north. *Pentonville Watch-house*, and one of the parochial engine-houses, stand at the corner of Chapel Street, and were previously described.*

North of John Street, with a large garden sloping to the west from its front, is a house which has been the residence of two persons of more than ordinary celebrity. The first was *Doctor de Valangin*, born at Berne, in Switzerland, about the year 1719 or 1720, and who studied medicine at Leyden under the celebrated Boerhaave. But, though educated for this line of life, political connexions procured him, some time after his arrival in England, a diplomatic appointment from George II. to the Court of Madrid: he, however, declined the intended honour, and recurring to medicine, thenceforward adopted it as a rofession, and fixed his abode in Soho Square. In

* *Vide* pages 284—7.

1768 he published "A Treatise on Diet:" and having shortly afterwards removed to Fore Street, Cripplegate, soon acquired a very extensive practice. About 1772, he purchased the ground on which he erected this house, on a plan more fanciful than convenient, which was laid down by himself, giving it the name of *Hermes Hill*. At that period, this was almost the only dwelling on or near the spot, White Conduit House excepted. He continued also to hold the house in Fore Street till his death.

His pursuit of all the branches of knowledge connected with his profession, was extremely sedulous: and the result is said to have been the discovery of several simple preparations, which he found of eminent service in particular cases: one of these, called the *Balsam of Life*, he presented to Apothecaries' Hall, where it is still sold under his name. Besides his diploma from the Royal College of Physicians of London, he received, unsolicited, others from Scotland, Holland, and Switzerland: and for several years before his death he had been Physician to the Royal Freemasons' Charity. For some favour conferred upon the Lorimers' Company, he was presented with the livery of that Corporation, and twice served the office of Master.

By his first wife he had three children, of whom two sons survived him: the third, a daughter, dying at nine years of age, was buried, by her father's directions, *in the garden* at Hermes Hill. His second and surviving wife was a Mrs. Hillier, (widow of an architect), by whom he had no issue.

Dr. De Valangin had much taste in music and painting: in the former art he was not an unsuccess-

ful performer, and he left behind him remarks on the theory of composition. His paintings formed a very choice collection; but were dispersed by sale, agreeably to the directions of his will. An accident was the immediate cause of his death, at an advanced age. Alighting from his carriage at Hampstead, on the 2nd of January, 1805, the ground being frosty, he slipped and fell: though not apparently much injured, he predicted that this event would shorten his life: and his prediction was verified on the 1st of March, after four days' confinement to his bed. He was interred in a vault under Cripplegate Church; to which the remains of his daughter before-mentioned had, by order of his executors, been removed the preceding day.

His character as a physician was as much established by a peculiarly kind and consolatory manner, as by professional skill; and from native benevolence of disposition, it was his constant custom to regulate the amount of his fees by the presumed ability of his patients to afford them. From the mode of his daughter's interment, it may be inferred that his notions with regard to religion were at variance with commonly received opinions; but he was never known to obtrude his sentiments on such subjects; and as his creed, whatever it might be, produced no improper latitude in his moral conduct, we are the less entitled to enquire into the doctrines associated with an apparently correct life, and an uniformly amiable behaviour.

Early in 1811, Hermes Hill became the residence of a very opposite and more remarkable character, the celebrated *William Huntington,* whose name will

be remembered so long as his eccentric literary productions in prose and rhyme shall continue to excite the admiration of his followers, or to find a place in the libraries of the curious. Though a glance at the numerous writings of this very singular man, would lead us to believe that a complete history of his life might easily be extracted from them, yet, in reality, his rambling manner of relating all the incidents relating to himself, added to his total neglect of chronology, must render such a task one of considerable difficulty. According to his own account, he was an illegitimate child, born about the year 1744, in the parish of Cranbrook, in the Weald of Kent. His reputed father was a day-labourer; his real parent a farmer in the vicinity; and he was the tenth out of the eleven children whom his mother bore either to the poor man to whom she was married, (and who appears to have very patiently submitted to his shame), or to his richer neighbour. The latter, at his mother's instance, procured William's admission into a free school; at which, he tells us, he only learned to write a little, and to read in the New Testament. His childhood, owing to the extreme poverty of the family to whose number he had so imperfect a title to form an addition, was one continued scene of discomfort and privation, of which he ever afterwards retained a vivid remembrance. His occupations, as he grew up, and after he had arrived at maturity, were extremely various: at first he was an errand-boy; then a day-labourer; and, at various periods of his life, a general servant, a gardener, a cobbler, and a coal-heaver. It was at Ewell, in Surrey, where he lived as a gentleman's gardener, that he felt his first motions to the

ministry : having, it may be presumed, by the time he took up his abode there, so far supplied the deficiencies in his education, as to be able to read the Scriptures with some degree of readiness ; an achievement which, at an earlier period, he states his inability to accomplish. At this place, he says, " I exhorted the people till I disturbed almost the whole parish, and raised a very great outcry against myself, and the simple few that followed me." And again : " I continued preaching at Ewell Marsh, and the Lord was with me. My congregation increased till the little thatched house was full of hearers ; and the Lord often visited us with precious gales from the everlasting hills, and made that little thatched hovel a Bethel to us ; yea, the house of God in reality, and the very gate of heaven." In this little thatched hovel, he elsewhere tells us, he lived with his wife and child, in " a ready-furnished room, at two shillings per week ;" frequently having, for all his other occasions, only " eighteen or twenty pence, sometimes two shillings, and sometimes half a crown ;" yet living " through the whole week upon that only, without contracting any debt." Losing his situation at Ewell through a conscientious refusal to work in his master's garden on Sundays, he removed to Thames-Ditton, where he " carried coals in the river for fourteen months at ten shillings per week, and preached during that time on the Lord's day, and one evening lecture during the week." Here he put on his first " parsonic attire ;" being enabled to do so by a gentleman's giving him an old black coat and waistcoat, which, being very large, made a complete suit for him ; and thus, instead of looking like a

ploughman, or fisherman, as he had hitherto done when delivering his religious exhortations, he "appeared in the external habit of a priest." Some trying circumstances next led him to adopt his profession of cobbler. But, he says, "I found it impossible to preach five or six times a week, and carry on the business of cobbling at the same time. Wherefore I determined to give up this employment, and continue in the work of God only, whatever I might suffer.—At this time I rented a little cottage at three pounds eighteen shillings per annum; and we had about half as much furniture to put in it as a porter would carry at one load." His resolution became the means of "exercising his faith and patience very sharply at times:" but he persevered; and his fame spreading, he was at length invited, and *advertised*, to preach, on a particular evening, in Margaret Street Chapel, London.—"At this I was sorely offended, being very much averse to preaching in London, for several reasons. First, because I had been told it abounded so much with all sorts of errors, that I was afraid of falling into them, there were so many that lay in wait to deceive: secondly, because I had no learning, and therefore feared I should not be able to deliver myself with any degree of propriety; and, as I knew nothing of Greek or Hebrew, nor even of the English grammar, that I should be exposed to the scourging tongue of every critic. However, I preached that night; and soon after found myself induced, by sundry persuasions, to preach the word of God statedly in that very chapel." Shortly afterwards, the numerous calls upon his ministerial labours made it necessary for him to hire a horse; which led some

of his London auditors to *present* him one. His reflections on this donation were in his customary tone; for the liberality of his followers had ere this supplied his wants on a great variety of occasions. "I believe this horse was the gift of God; because he tells me in his word that all the beasts of the forest are his, and so are the cattle on a thousand hills. I have often thought, that if my horse could have spoken, he would have had more to say than Balaam's ass; as he might have said, '*I am an answer to my master's prayers.*'" Prayer, indeed, was his resource in all emergencies, whether important or mean; and of this he gives a variety of instances, that have been sufficiently commented upon; particularly his yearly petitions for, and as regular receipt of, his "parsonic livery;" as well as "his making free," as he terms it, for specific articles of clothing whenever he required them, and which articles invariably arrived to his wishes. All these matters he recounts in the apparent simplicity of his heart; and without discovering any thing in the relation either of the profane or the ludicrous. With the like simplicity he writes: "At another time, when Providence had been exercising my faith and patience till the cupboard was quite empty, in answer to a simple prayer he sent me one of the largest *hams* I ever saw. Indeed, I saw clearly that I had nothing to do but to pray, to study, and to preach; for God took care for me, and my family also." His apology for this constant disposition to look upwards for the supply of his minutest necessities, is both ready and ingenious:— "Some (of an independent fortune) have condemned my prayers as carnal, in praying for such temporal

things: but I know that they have taken many worse steps, both to accumulate and to keep their independence; and I think it is better to beg than to steal, as say those who speak proverbs." At last, in consequence of a dream in which he was commanded to "prophecy upon the *thick boughs*," he felt "it suddenly impressed on his mind to leave Thames-Ditton, and take a house in London." On removing, so greatly had his effects increased, that he "loaded two large carts with furniture and other necessaries; besides a post-chaise well filled with children and cats." Here, at a time when he was twenty pounds in debt for the necessaries of life, he was induced to *build a chapel*; by which, when he had finished it, notwithstanding all the assistance given him, he was in arrears £1000. more. Yet his friends were not few, as appears from his account of the "free-will offerings which the people brought." "The first," he says, "offered about eleven pounds, and laid it on the foundation at the beginning of the building. A good gentleman, with whom I had but little acquaintance, and of whom I bought a load of timber, sent it in with a bill and receipt in full, as a present to the Chapel of Providenee. Another good man came with tears in his eyes and blessed me, and desired to paint my pulpit, desk, &c. as a present to the chapel. Another person gave half a dozen chairs for the vestry; and my friends Mr. and Mrs. Lyons furnished me with a tea-chest well stored, and a set of china. My good friends Mr. and Mrs. Smith furnished me with a very handsome bed, bedstead, and all its furniture and necessaries, that I might not be under the necessity of walking home in the cold winter

nights. A daughter of mine in the faith gave me a looking-glass for my chapel-study. Another gave me a book-case for the vestry. And my good friend Mr. E. seemed to level all his displeasure at the devil; for he was in hopes I should be enabled, through the gracious arm of the Lord, to cut Rahab in pieces; therefore he furnished me with a sword of the Spirit—a new Bible, with morocco binding and silver clasps." In the end, he went on and prospered; while his congregation so increased, that the heat of the chapel in service-time became almost unbearable. He in consequence thought of building an addition to it on an adjoining piece of land; but was deterred from executing this plan by the sum demanded for ground-rent—100 guineas per annum! His reflections upon this event were characteristic. "*The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth he hath given to the children of men*:—And so I found it, and they are determined to make the most of it." But he discovered a cure for this untoward circumstance: for, "finding nothing could be done with the earth-holders, I turned my eyes another way, and determined to build my stories in the heavens, (Amos, ix. 6.) where I should find more room and less rent; and to this my friends agreed; namely, to raise the chapel one story higher, and to carry a flight of galleries all round it." Among other means by which he defrayed this accumulation of expences, one was the sale of his various works. These, chiefly owing to the opposition they encountered, ran through numerous editions: the principal of them are "The Bank of Faith," and "The Kingdom of Heaven taken by Prayer." In spite of all their peculiarities,

they are no mean instances of ability in an unlettered man: and though it is believed that their deficiencies in point of grammar were supplied by some correcting hand, yet there are wild flowers of native genius in many a page, which assuredly must have been all his own.* Eventually, the chapel (situated in Titchfield

* Among the most characteristic traits in these singular productions, are the passages in which he gives the grounds of his *name* and *title*. The latter will be best explained in his own words: but his *name*, it is necessary to observe, was not that he originally went by, which was HUNT. Being obliged, in early life, to fly from the parish in which he then resided, by the demand made upon him for the support of an illegitimate child, he had recourse, among other expedients for concealment, to that which he thus relates.

"If I change my name, the law may follow me for that; and if I let the present name stand, I may by that be traced by means of the newspapers. There's but one way for me to escape, and that is by an addition; an addition is no change, and addition is no robbery. Well thought on, said I, it is *i, n, g, t, o, n,* which is to be joined to *H, u, n, t;* which, when put together, make HUNTINGTON. And thus matters were settled without being guilty of an exchange, or of committing a robbery; for the letters of the alphabet are the portion of every man. And from that hour it was settled; nor did I ever make a single blunder for any body to find it out. The wisdom and assiduity that I shewed in the contrivance and quick dispatch of this business, are a sharp reproof to the sluggishness of my informers: for there are some hundreds of them that have been labouring for years in pulling this name to pieces, and they have not removed one letter of it yet; when I, though a very indifferent compiler, fixed it in less than an hour. With this name I was born again, and with this name I was baptized with the Holy Ghost; and I will appeal to any man of sense, if a person has not a just right to go by the name that he was born and baptized with."

* * * * * *

"Some have been inquiring what I mean by S. S. at the end of my name; and various constructions have been put upon it. —I now choose to inform my readers of my meaning. You know *we clergy* are very fond of titles of honour; some are called Lords Spiritual, though we have no such lords but in the persons of the ever-blessed Trinity; others are named Doctors of Divinity, and Prebends, though God gives no such titles; therefore I cannot conscientiously add D D. to my func-

Street) which the produce of these writings assisted him to build, or at least to pay for, was burnt down: and by that time, such was the ascendancy he had acquired over the minds of his congregation, that the wealthier part of them soon settled among themselves that they would build him another; which they did in Gray's Inn Lane, (and a much larger and more commodious one), at an expence exceeding £9,000. A day was fixed for opening it: but the preacher, having by this time arrived at a full sense of his own importance, refused to officiate in the new structure till it should be made his own personal freehold; and so great was the devotion of all concerned in the building, that they unanimously resigned their shares in his favour. Then, on the front of the edifice, appeared the inscription, "PROVIDENCE CHAPEL: *Erected by William Huntington*, ANNO 1811."

Some few years before his end, death deprived him of his first "dame," who had borne him thirteen children, seven of whom survived him. He afterwards married the wealthy widow of the late Sir James Sanderson, Bart., and daughter of the patriotic Alderman Skinner; who is related to have first repaired to "Providence Chapel" with the view of finding a subject for ridicule in the preacher of

tion, though some hundreds have been spiritually healed under my ministry; nor have I fourteen pounds to spare to buy the dissenting title of D.D. Being thus circumstanced, I cannot call myself a Lord Spiritual, because Peter, the pope's enemy, condemns it: nor can I call myself Lord High Primate, because supremacy, in the scriptures, is applied only to kings, and never to ministers of the gospel. As I cannot get at D. D. for the want of cash, neither can I get at M.A. for the want of learning; therefore I am compelled to fly for refuge to S. S., by which I mean *Sinner Saved;* or, that I am made wise to Salvation."

whom she afterwards became the wife. Hermes Hill has been already said to have become his abode early in 1811. Here he passed the remainder of his days, in a state of comparative affluence, that afforded a strong contrast with his early condition. He died, July 1st, 1813, at Tunbridge Wells; whence his remains where removed to Lewes for interment. The stone at his grave-head exhibits the following epitaph, dictated by himself a few days prior to his death :—

Here lies
THE COAL HEAVER,
Who departed this Life
July 1, 1813,
in the 60th year of his age,
beloved of his God,
but abhorred of men.

The Omniscient Judge, at the Grand Assize, shall ratify and confirm this to the confusion of many thousands; for England and its metropolis shall know that there hath been a PROPHET among them.

W. H. S. S.

Shortly after his death, his household furniture at Hermes Hill, together with his handsome coach, chariot, the library he had acquired of late years, and other effects, were sold by public auction, which lasted four days : and it was curious to mark the unfeigned veneration, approaching almost to idolatry, that possessed the minds of numbers of his hearers and friends on this occasion ; all bidding, to the utmost extent of their individual ability, in order to obtain some precious relic of their admired teacher. An old elbow chair, in which he was accustomed to sit, sold for *sixty guineas!*—an ordinary pair of spectacles fetched seven guineas; a common silver snuff-box, five guineas; and every article of plate

from 23*s*. to 26*s*. per ounce! The whole produce of the sale exceeded £1800.

A correspondent, who is in possession of a relic of Mr. Huntington (the *cover* of his Bible), has transmitted these verses, which, on account of their characteristic lineaments, are inserted.

The sons of Science, and of Fame,
With God are not preferr'd,
He gives to some of little name,
The treasure of his word;
AMOS was call'd from servile clans,
To preach to dying souls,
BUNYAN, from brazing leaky pans,
And HUNT, from "heaving coals."

This rustic scann'd the truth with care,
And by the Spirit's aid,
Made wiser than his teachers were,
Resign'd his sable trade;
He took the Gospel Trump in hand;
Now—like a ram's horn found,
And then—his pliant lips command
Its tones of silvery sound.

Behold him with well-order'd prayer,
Begirt the throne of grace,
And hear him sweetly pleading there
The precious promises;
Now see he dauntless "prophesies,
The thickest boughs among:"
And now like dew, the doctrine lies,
Upon the list'ning throng.

But ah! (the Fathers, where are they,
Do Prophets ever live?)
They see their master snatch'd away,
And for his mantle strive;
The hallow'd relics held to view,
Who can incline to spare,
For guineas five his glasses go,
And sixty pounds his chair.

Unbless'd, each zealot, who could pass,
This Lot—so rich a prize,
Might he, beholding through His glass,
See with the Prophet's eyes:
And happy he, so cheap who bought
The Prophet's easy chair,
If with His spirit, doubly fraught
He rests serenely there.

Inscrib'd with notes on doctrine high
To one that Bible fell,
Who took the kernel out—and I
Inglorious, got the shell;
Here I replace the sacred tome,
From human comment free,
Untouch'd by Huntingtonian thumb,
Yet no less dear to me.

Considerable additions were made to the house occupied by Dr. De Valangin, prior to its becoming the residence of William Huntington. These were effected by the preacher's zealous friend and supporter, Mr. Aldridge, timber-merchant, of Aldersgate Street, whose property the premises became after the doctor's decease. When these alterations were made, an additional dwelling was erected in rear, in which Mr. Aldridge himself for some time resided; and the two houses continue to be distinctly occupied. The original seat of Dr. De Valangin consisted of a rather singular looking brick tower, with wings descending, as it were, by steps on each side. His successor in the possession brought the buildings to an uniform height, so as to present a handsome elevation to the garden which adorns the slope in front. On the cieling of one of the rooms on the first floor, is a picture, placed there by Dr. De Valangin, representing the sleep of Endymion on Mount Lat-

mos, as caused by Cynthia, who rests on a cloud regarding him.

WHITE-CONDUIT HOUSE stands at the north extremity of Penton Street; but only a part of its *grounds* are in our parish, the remainder, with the house itself, being in that of St. Mary, Islington. These premises, long so rurally situated, are at length almost surrounded with buildings; and appear destined, at no distant period, to share the fate of "Dobney's." Already a street, named WARREN STREET, from the proprietor lately deceased, has been partly erected at the east end of the gardens, and threatens to extend its encroachment upon them. To the north and west they are so nearly enclosed, as completely to destroy a prospect, which a writer, who has been frequently quoted, considered to be unequalled by any other "view *from* London."

The rise of this celebrated tea-house the author has not been able to trace; but several circumstances induce our inscribing to it the duration of at least a century. In May, 1760, it was the subject of a mock-heroic poem in blank verse, published in the Gentleman's Magazine. The anonymous author of "The Sunday Ramble," which appeared in 1774, gave the following description:—"The garden is formed into several pleasing walks, prettily disposed: at the end of the principal one is a painting, which serves to render it much longer in appearance than it really is; and in the middle of the garden is a round fish-pond, encompassed with a great number of very genteel boxes for company, curiously cut into the hedges, and adorned with a variety of Flemish and other paintings: there are likewise two handsome

tea-rooms, one over the other, as well as several inferior ones in the dwelling-house." The fish-pond was filled up several years since, and its site planted; the paintings spoken of have been defaced, or removed; and a new dancing and tea-room, called the *Apollo Room*, has been built at the west end, with some subordinate erections in other situations: but with these exceptions, the account just quoted would be applicable at the present time. These gardens, decidedly, are more extensive, and planned in better taste, than any others of their class in the environs: and though "White-Conduit *Loaves*," which formed one of the regular "London Cries" before the augmentation in the price of bread during the revolutionary war, have since lost their celebrity, the house and grounds seem to possess all the attractions they ever did, when the metropolis "pours forth its congregated throngs" on Sundays. On other fine evenings, also, this place has many visitors: some drawn to it by its bowling-green and Dutch-pin grounds; others by the "concerts" to be gratuitously heard in the long room, accompanied by a piano and good organ. In the summer of 1826, a "Minor Vauxhall" was established here; and the speculation is supposed to have proved a lucrative one to its projectors: but, owing to the nightly disturbances, and encouragement to immorality, thereby occasioned, it was suppressed by magisterial authority on the proprietor's next application for the renewal of his *licence*.

A former possessor of White-Conduit House was *Mr. Christopher Bartholomew*, who to the inheritance of a good fortune added the accomplishments of a

gentlemanly behaviour, and a superior turn of mind. His management of the concern procured him profits, that till his time were unprecedented: not only this house and tea-gardens, but the Angel Inn, were at one period his freeholds: he rented lands in the neighbourhood to the amount of £2000 per annum: and was believed to have realised property to the amount of £50,000. With all these advantages, he fell a victim to an unconquerable propensity for gambling in the lottery. It is said that he has spent upwards of 2000 guineas in one day in insuring numbers; till at length, being obliged to dispose of these premises from his accumulated embarrassments, he passed the last thirteen years of his life in poverty. But, his mind engaged to the last by the mania that had ruined him, he conceived a *presentiment* about two years before his death, that, could he purchase a particular number, it would prove the restoration of his fortunes. A friend enabled him to buy the half of a 16th of the favourite number, taking the other half himself; when, singular to say, it proved a prize of £20,000. With the money thus obtained, he was wise enough to buy an annuity of £60 per annum; but, recurring to his former habit, he subsequently disposed of it, and lost all. Being now reduced to utter distress, he passed the short remainder of his life in a mean lodging in Angel Court, Windmill Street, near the Haymarket; where, in March, 1809, he breathed his last, at the age of 68.

White-Conduit House derives its name from an old *Conduit*, now in ruins, but which was nearly perfect until about twelve or fourteen years back.

The external part, or casing, of this structure was entirely of white stone; but its arch was turned with a mixture of brick and flints. On the front could be deciphered, till the period just mentioned, the date 1641; with the initials of Thomas Sutton, the founder of the Charter-house, and his arms.* These circumstances sufficiently explained, that this was an erection, or restoration of some previous building, by the Protestant founder of the institution now called the Charter-house, but which in the Catholic times was a monastery bearing the name of the *Chartreuse*. To that monastery water was conducted hence, by means of various pipes and receptacles connected with it. The Society of Antiquaries have a drawing by G. Vertue, from an ancient parchment roll, which exhibited a survey of the pipes, &c., leading to the Chartreuse, as well as of those forming a branch supply to the Priory of St. John, Clerkenwell.

The original spring, which even yet is not quite obliterated, issued from the ground at the distance of 43 perches north from the conduit-house; and was conducted into the latter by a brick channel, which was discovered a very few years since by the builders of the houses since erected all around. In the conduit was a massy leaden cistern, with an aperture at bottom for carrying off the waste water through a pipe of the same metal. This cistern was stolen during the modern *improvements* of the neighbourhood. Between the conduit and Penton Street, three wells, or receptacles, have been broken into at

* Or, on a chevron between 3 annulets, as many crescents of the field.

various times, and re-covered: remains of two of them, the one circular, and the other square, and both of very strong brick-work, are still visible close to the railing which forms the northern boundary of the street mentioned. There was also a smaller conduit, connected in all probability with the larger, at the back of White-Conduit Gardens, and immediately contiguous to where now stands Warren Street. From both buildings, pipes appear to have led to the Chartreuse, and were frequently met with in digging for the foundations of the houses of Pentonville. They were uniformly of lead, and in diameter about three inches, exclusive of the thickness of the metal, which was at least half an inch.

The last general inspection of the pipes, by order of the governors of the Charter-house, was made in 1654; but the supply of water was then found so much reduced, and the probable expence of restoring it so great, that they directed the adoption of New River water in lieu. So late as Dr. De Valangin's time, however, his house was supplied with water by a communication from the ancient conduit: and there remain two wells on the premises of Mr. Fearon, in Penton Grove, which the agents of the Charter-house, about the year 1794, appeared to imagine were receptacles connected with the fountain-head; for they at that time applied there for *water-rent*, threatening to cut off the supply if their demands were not acceded to. The rent was refused: whether any attempts were made to divert the water is unknown; but it is certain that the wells remain, and without any appearance of communication with the old conduit of the Carthusians.—Our view is

from a drawing taken some years back; and exhibits the conduit in a much more perfect state than it now is, with the circular end of the long room of the tavern, and the Apollo-Room at a little distance in front. The houses delineated in the perspective are part of Penton Street.

Descending the hill through John Street, Rodney Street presents itself, the northern extremity of which is fenced by a wall forming the boundary of the parish; the other extremity opens into the New Road. About the middle of Rodney Street, Henry Street ascends eastward, on its southern side is Ann Street, Hermes Street above, extends from John Street to the New Road. Opposite to Rodney Street, in the road just named, is Penton Place, a steep declivity towards the River Fleet; proceeding along Clarence Place appears Weston Street, another descent meeting the end of Penton Place at a point formerly called Bagnigge Wash; beyond Weston Street is York Place, opposite to which is Pleasant Row. Returning to John Street, Collier Street is seen extending westward: these two streets take name from Mr. John Collier, many years collector of the rents of Henry Penton, Esq. Cumming, Southampton, Wellington, and Winchester Streets, range in parallel lines north and south; North Street and Battle Bridge terminate this north-west district of our parish.

Our route should not conclude without some notice of an object, which, though it makes no part of this parish, may with strict justice be said to come *under* it. We allude to the TUNNEL beneath Pentonville hill, formed to continue the line of the Regent's

Canal at a spot, where the elevation of the ground presented an insurmountable obstacle to proceeding with it as an open cut. This canal, which has accomplished the union of the Thames with the Grand Junction Canal, and thereby with nearly all the other navigable waters, and places of commercial importance, in England, was commenced at Paddington in 1812, and opened with a grand aquatic procession, August 1, 1820. The tunnel begins about 200 yards westward of White-Conduit House, and terminates about 30 yards eastward of that part of the New River which flows between Colebrooke Row and the City Road. It is perfectly straight and level throughout its whole length, which is 970 yards. Its height is 19 feet, 6 inches; its width 17 feet, 6 inches. In its course, it passes under White-Conduit Gardens, Warren Street, White-Conduit Street, Chapel Place, Union Square, the north-east corner of Chapel Street, the Liverpool Road, Islington Upper Street, the extensive premises of Mr. Rhodes, cow-keeper, and the New River, which latter had its stream diverted westward while the work was proceeding below its customary bed. The soil through which it is carried is a blue clay, with occasional small veins of sand, and very thin layers of stone. But few minerals occurred in the progress of the excavation: and the only organic remains discovered, were some fragments of *elephants'* bones near the eastern extremity, which were deposited with the Geological Society.

Perhaps this is the only instance in canal navigation, in which a passage of the kind has been constructed below such a series of buildings, whose inhabitants continued in the occupation of them

throughout the work. Neither was any material injury done to either of the houses; the few that sustained some damage by a trifling settlement of the ground beneath them, being afterwards substantially repaired. The difficulty of such an undertaking must be readily appreciated; and its uninterrupted and complete success entitles the engineer, Mr. Morgan, to all possible praise.

The mode of passage through the tunnel at first adopted was this:—As soon as the canal-boats approached the entrance, a plank was suspended over the water from the bow on each side. A navigator lay at his length along each plank; and by working his feet against the sides of the solid brick arch, impelled the vessel with considerable swiftness. In the case of barges, whose width would not permit the use of planks, the only difference was, that the navigator lay along the bow of the barge itself, and plied his feet in the same manner. In the spring of 1826, a steam-boat of four-horse power, constructed purposely for this service, was employed to tow a number of boats and barges at one time. The passage by this mode has a truly *tartarean* aspect. The smoke, the fire, and the noise of the engine, uniting with the deep gloom of the arch, the blackness of the water, the crashing of the vessels against the sides of the tunnel and each other, and the lurid light that glimmers beyond each distant extremity, form an aggregate of *infernalia*, that must be witnessed to be adequately conceived. When a single canal-boat or barge arrives, and the navigators choose to proceed rather than wait the coming-up of others, the original mode of passage is still resorted to.

APPENDIX.

CHURCH OF ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST,

MYDDELTON SQUARE.

This is one of the numerous edifices erected by authority, and at the expense, of His Majesty's Commissioners appointed by the Act 58 Geo. III. cap. 45, (and whose powers have been enlarged and extended by subsequent acts,) "for building and promoting the building of additional churches in populous parishes." The general form and proportions of this church are good, and it possesses an air of pleasing simplicity. The taste of the architect, W. C. Mylne, Esq., is chiefly exhibited in the west front, which consists of a tower and two lateral divisions. In the centre of the former is a lofty entrance-arch, ornamented with receding columns and mouldings, and surmounted by crockets and a finial. The upper part is of very pleasing design, and terminated by an open trefoil parapet, with pinnacles at the angles. In each of the lateral divisions is a single pointed window, at a considerable height from the ground. This front, on approaching from Amwell Street, has a purity and elegance of aspect which must be appreciated by every observer. The side elevations, and east end, though they cannot be said to display any particular beauty, are at least in keeping with the principal front, as they sufficiently maintain the

Gothic character. On the apex of the east end is a stone cross.

The simplicity of the interior has been thought too severe, though, certainly, the ceiling, and the east window, cannot be included in this censure. The former is decorated with ribs, intersecting each other diagonally, with large and finely-executed bosses at their junctures. Each of these bosses acts as a ventilator, by means of apertures communicating with the roof. The east window is entirely of painted glass, for the most part in small compartments of various colours; at the top is a glory, with a descending dove, and the initials of *Jesus Hominum Salvator;* and below, on three several panes, are the names and arms of the Bishop of London and of the architect, with a record of the parochial authorities during whose period of office the building was completed. There are also two ranges of windows on each side; of which, the upper ones are lofty, and elegantly pointed, the lower are small, and square-headed. The glass of all these is plain: their mullions possess the singularity of being of *cast-iron*. The altar-piece is Gothic, painted to resemble marble, and inscribed with the Lord's Prayer, Decalogue, and Creed. Over its centre is a carving of the King's arms, painted and gilt. Description, at this period, can be carried little farther, as what is called the *furnishing* of the church is not yet completed. For this latter purpose, the parish vestry, Sept. 19, 1827, voted £2000., the disbursement of which is intrusted to a committee of its own appointing. The whole number of *rented seats* is 749, of which 270 are contained in the galleries; and the

free seats are, in all, 1166—total, 1915; exclusive of fourteen sittings secured to the New-River Company.

The principal dimensions of this edifice are as follow:—

	FT.	IN.
Length of the body within the walls	104	0
Breadth of ditto	61	0
Height of ditto	34	6
Height of the tower to the top of the parapet	94	0
Ditto to the top of the pinnacles	106	0
Interior diameter of ditto	17	6
Thickness of the walls of ditto	3	0
Length of the lateral divisions	14	2
Breadth of ditto	12	3

The whole cost of the structure to the commissioners was £16,000. The *site*, it should be observed, was *presented* by the New-River Company; and the east window was the gift of Thomas Handley, Esq. The *minister* is the Rev. Thomas Mortimer, M. A., who received his appointment, agreeably to the act, from the parochial incumbent: on the decease of the latter, it is provided, that the presentation shall be in the Bishop of London. The pew-rents, it is further enacted, shall be allotted to the minister, with the reservation of £30 per annum as a salary for the clerk.

January 1, 1828, this church was consecrated by Dr. William Howley, Lord Bishop of London, in the presence of a very numerous congregation. The morning service was afterwards read by the minister; and Handel's beautiful anthem, "Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people," was sung by Mr. Pyne: the whole concluding with a sermon from the right reverend bishop, who took for his text, Psalm lxxxiv. 10,—"*For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand.*"

The area consecrated includes that occupied by the building alone; it being expressly stipulated, on the part of the New-River Company, that the surrounding enclosure shall not be appropriated as a cemetery, but be an ornamental centre to the square, for the benefit of its inhabitants.

A *district* will be attached to St. Mark's Church, to be governed, as to all ecclesiastical purposes, by a *vestry*, composed of twenty-one residents in that district. By the vestry one churchwarden will be appointed, and the appointment of another will be in the minister. The *boundaries* allotted to the district, we have reason to believe may be stated as follows:—

Commence at the south end of Penton Street, and take the east side of that street; the south side of White-Lion Street; the west side of High Street, from the White Lion to the Angel Inn; southern side of Goswell Road, to the corner of Wynyatt Street; the north side of Wynyatt Street; the north sides of Myddelton and Exmouth Streets; the east side of Bagnigge-Wells Road, from Exmouth Street to Penton Place; the rear of the north-east side of Penton Place; and the rear of Queen's Row, whence an oblique line to the south-east corner of Penton Street, will reach the point of outset.

Woodbridge House and Estate.

In our account of the site of Clerkenwell, page 24, we alluded to the governors of the Seckford Almshouses, situated at Woodbridge, in Suffolk, as forming a division of the "*landed proprietorship*" of the parish; and in page 240 of our history noticed

as standing at the east end of St. James' Walk, Woodbridge House, with a brief description of the Woodbridge Estate, whence its name is derived. Of this estate, George Friend, Esq., an opulent man, and one of the scarlet dyers to the East-India Company, was a principal lessee, by whom, in 1807, it was bequeathed as a mark of respect and friendship to William Cook, Esq., vestry clerk of Clerkenwell, upwards of thirty years with Abraham Rhodes, Esq., whose high repute as a gentleman and scholar has been already recorded.

On entering into possession of the estate, Mr. Cook took down the ancient residence and wooden dyehouses, and in their stead erected the noble mansion, an engraving whereof we prefix, as no less an object of interest to our publication than it will now be to this parish, as the conspicuous and connecting point of the intended new streets.

At an expense of upwards of £4000, Mr. Cook began his grand scale of improvements, on the assurance and in full anticipation of a new lease; but the present trustees, Sir W. Draper Best, Knight, and Sir John Leach, Knight, not ratifying the promise of the churchwardens of Woodbridge, the late lessee had no alternative but to accept, at considerable loss, a compensation in lieu of renewal.

Mr. Cook had here, like his predecessor and father-in-law, Mr. Rhodes, long resided and practised as a solicitor; and in the re-erection of Woodbridge House seems to have proved himself a friend to the Seckford charity, as well as a benefactor to Clerkenwell.

Since the leases under the Seckford charity ex-

pired at Michaelmas last, the governors have (by pulling down the old dwelling of the late Mr. Rhodes, the extensive offices adjoining, and other premises,) commenced the plan of two new streets, which were projected, in part, by Mr. Cook twenty years ago, for improving not only the Woodbridge Estate, but more especially this central and commanding site of Clerkenwell on its various lines of communication. One of those streets to run from Clerkenwell Green, diagonally, to St. John Street, passing *Woodbridge House*, half way, thus connecting the intended new opening from Fleet Market, direct to Islington and the north. The other to extend from Woodbridge Street, middle of Aylesbury Street, where it will be enlarged, across to Corporation Row, laterally with the back of Woodbridge House, that residence forming the east boundary, and centre of both the new streets.

It may be proper in this place to observe, that, for the plan of the parish, we are greatly indebted to the survey of *Thomas Hornor*, Esq., Colosseum, Regents' Park, as taken by him in 1807. The original plan was executed by him under the direction and patronage of Mr. Cook when vestry clerk, who fostered his rising genius, and liberally patronised his professional pursuits. Mr. Hornor's name now ranks with names of the first artist-like talent, and scientific taste of the present day, and the public owe to Mr. Cook the early introduction to their notice of that spirited and enterprising gentleman.

FINIS.

INDEX.

A.

Acre of Land in Islington Parish, 104, 330, 404.
Aggas's View of London, 14, 179.
Albemarle, Duchess of, 218, *note.*
Street, 122.
Albion Place, 166, 170.
Amwell Street, 332.
Ancient Houses, Clerkenwell Close, 218.
High Street, 390.
St. John's Street, 113.
Angel Inn, 81, 226, 388.
Ann Street, 440.
Anomalies, Parochial, 96.
Arlington Place, 388.
Street, 380.
Ashby Street, Upper and Lower, 276-7.
Aylesbury Chapel, 79.
Family, 79.
House, 152, 221.
Robert, Earl of, 261.
Street, 221.

B.

Bagnigge Place, 327.
Wash, 22, 35, 327.
Wells, 321.
Road, 34, 35, 208.
Baker Street, 320.
Baptist's Head, St. John's Lane, 113, 166.
Bartholomew, Christopher, 436.
Bass-relief of Charles I., 162.
Bath Street, Great, 304, 308.
Battery and Breast-work near Bagnigge-Wells Road, 34, *note*, 320.
Battery and Breast-work at Mount Mill, 33, 396.
Battle-Bridge, 30, *note*, 327.
Baynes Row, 304, 306, 309.
Walter, 300, 304, 305, 306.
Bedingfield, Sir Henry, Memorial of, 194.
Bell, Bishop, Memorial of, 191.
Belvidere Tavern, 415.
Berkeley, Colonel, 165.
George Lord, 165.
Lady Elizabeth, 165.
Do. Monument of, 186.
Sir Maurice, 165.
Street, 164.
Black Mary's Hole, 318.
Bocher, or Butt Close, 172.
Booth, Rev. Sir George, Bart., 164.
Boundaries of Clerkenwell, 34.
Bowling-Green Lane, 255.
Brayne's Row, 293.
Bridewell Walk, 246, 253.
Briset, Jordan and Muriel, 11, 44, 48, 59.
Britton, Thomas, 232.
Brook Hill, 268.
Bull in the Pound, 320.
Bull's Head Public House, 232.
Burial Grounds, 104, 250, 261.
Burnet, Bishop, 156, 200.
Monument of, 192.
Hon. Sir Thomas, Knt., 200.
Mrs. Mary, 162.
Rev. Gilbert, 161.
Busby's Folly, 415.

C.

Cage, The, 243.
Cantelows, Manor of, 25.
Cat Mummy, 211.
Cave, Edward, 133.
Cavendish, noble family of, 215.
Chadwell Street, Upper and Lower, 332, 380.
Challoner, Sir Thomas, 212, 214.
Chapel Street, 421.
Charke, Charlotte, 249.
Charity-Schools, 227, 409.
Charles Street, 277.
Charlotte Street, 350.
Charter-house, 115, 438.
Claremont Chapel, 420.
Place, 420.
Square, 331.
Terrace, 332.
Clarence Place, 380.

Clerical Duty and Remuneration, 88.
Clerkenwell in the reign of the Conqueror, 4; in the time of Fitz-Stephen, 6; Etymology of, 9; in the Monastic Times, 10; in the reign of Elizabeth, 14; when Stow wrote, 15; in 1708, 1710, and 1724, 20; in 1735, 1753, 1755, and 1772, 21; population returns for, in 1801, 1811, and 1821, 23; landed proprietorship of, 24; manorial history of, 24 to 27; boundaries of, 27; roads in, 30 to 35; soil, 35; climate, 36; particular history and description of, 110 to 442.
Clerkenwell Bridewell, 243.
Charity Schools, 227.
Close, 211.
Green, 236.
Parochial Sunday School, 238.
Volunteers, 310, *note.*
Work-house, 256, 304.
Clerks, the Ancient, 41 to 43.
Clerks' Well, 9, 39, 40, 85, 102, 262.
Cloisters of St. Mary's Priory, 49, 196.
Cobham, Lord, 299.
Row, 300.
Cockneys' Feast, 228.
Coffins found in St. John's Street Road, 277.
Cold Bath, 306.
Fields, 21.
Liberty, 25.
Square, 304, 308.
Collier, Thomas, 410, *note.*
Street, 410, 440.
Compton, Eliza, singular letter of, 273, *note.*
noble family of, 272.
Street, 118.
Cooke, Thomas, the Miser, 416.
Cooper's, Messrs., Premises in St. John's Lane, 166.
Coppice Row, 6, *note*, 256.
Corker, Father, 86.
Corporation Lane, 252.
Row, *ibid.*
Crawford's Passage, 260.
Cromwell House, 218.
Place, *ibid.*
Crosse, Thomas, Benefactions of, 175, 229.
Monument of, 193,
Crown Tavern, 211.
Crown and Woolpack Public-house, 393.
Cuckinge-Stoole, The, 243.
Cumming House, 411.
John and Alexander, 410, 411.
Place, 440.
Street, 411, 440.
Cut-throat Lane, 252.

D.

D'Aubigny's, or Dobney's, 415.
Davies, Rev. James, Monument of, 206.
Davies and Marsh's Distillery, 303.
De Valangin, Dr., 421.
Dillon, Rev. R. C., 99.
Dog-mania at Sadler's Wells, 372.
Domesday Book, the Site considered with reference to, 1, object of, 2.
Dorrington Street, 309.
Dove's Printing Office, 154.
Drake, Edward, 83.
Ducking Pond, 297.

E.

Ecclesiastical History before the Reformation, 39 to 71.
since the Reformation, 72 to 99.
Eclipse, the celebrated Horse, 170, *note.*
Eliza Place, 350.
Etymology of Clerkenwell, 9.
Exmouth Street, 293.

F.

Fag's Well, 9, 175.
Faulkner, Rev. W. E. L., 99.
Finsbury Bank for Savings, 152.
Dispensary, 119.
Fitz-Stephen's Description of London, 6.
Fleet, the River, 5, 28 to 30, 317.
Forcer, Francis, 365.
Forest of Middlesex, 3.
Forster, Sir Thomas, 113, 167.
Foster, Rev. Henry, 207.
Friends' School, 394.

G.

Gardiner's Farm, 305, 310.
Garnault Place, 278.
Gentleman's Magazine, Letters in, on demolition of old church of St. James, 197.
George's Court, 170.
Goose Farm, 388.
Goswell Road, 31, 32, 34, 393.
Green Man, St. John's Lane, 169.
Terrace, 350.

Grene, Mr. John, 341, 345, 350.
Guardians of the Poor, 98.
Guildford Place, 320.
Street East, 317.
Gwynne's Buildings, 393.
Gymnasium, The, 325.

H.

Hamilton Row, 327.
Henry Street, 421, 440.
Hermes Hill, 422.
Street, 440.
Hermitage Field, 381. 395.
Place, *ibid.*
Hicks, Sir Baptist, 111, 112, *note.*
Hicks's Hall, 110.
Highgate and Hampstead Trust, 34, 289.
High Pond, New River Company's, 34, *note*, 331, 345, *note.*
Highway-rate, a former, 292, *note.*
Hockley-in-the-Hole, 260.
Honey-Coat Yard, 227.
House of Correction, 309.
Huntingdon, Selina, Countess of, 294.
Huntington, William, 423.
Hurst, Aaron Henry, 406, and *note.*

I. J.

Islington Road, 271.
Spa, 350.
Turnpike, 392.
Jack Adams, 90, 267.
Straw, 65.
Jervoise Estate, 302, 305,
Jervoise Clarke, 302, 306.
Thomas Clarke, *ibid.*
Jerusalem Court, 141.
Passage, 155.
John Street, 421, 440.

K.

King's Row, 414.
King Street, 118.

L.

Landed Proprietorship of Clerkenwell, 24.
Lane's Garden, 379.
Liberties of the Manor of St. John, 27.
Liverpool Road, 393.
Lloyd's Row, 350.
London Female Penitentiary, 411.
Gymnasium, 325.
Spa, 254.
Lunt's Coffee House, 236.

M.

Magniac, Francis, 151.
Manorial History of Clerkenwell, 24 to 27.
Manor of Cantelows. 25.
St. John of Jerusalem, 25.
Market Street, 271.
Mendham's, Mr., House in Red Lion Street, 174, *note.*
Merlin's Cave, 316.
Place, *ibid.*
Metropolis Roads Commissioners, 34, 289.
Michell, Simon, 79, 93, 143, 170.
Middlesex House of Correction, 309.
Miles's Music House, 363.
Mills mentioned by Fitz-Stephen, 7.
Milne, Rev. Robert, 99.
Mount Mill, 33, 396.
Mulberry Gardens, 251.
Muswell Hill, 37, 289.
Mutton Lane, 268.
Myddleton Gardens, 325.
Place, 379.
Sir Hugh, 333, 340.
Square, 332, 380, 443.
Street, 278.
Myddleton's Head, 378.
Mysteries, the Ancient, 42.

N.

Nell Gwynn, 307, 321, 324.
Newcastle, Dukes of, 215.
House, *ibid.*
Margaret, Duchess of, 217.
Place, 215.
New Prison, 243.
Walk, 237.
New River, 332.
Head, 344.
Upper Pond, 34, *note*, 331, 345, *note.*
New Road, 35, 330.
Tunbridge Wells, 351.
Wells, 254, 367.
North Street, 440.
Northampton Family, 272.
House, *ibid.*
Place, 271.
Square, 277.
Street, 32, 269.
Northumberland Arms, 179.
Nuns' Hall, 215, 220.

O.

Obelisk on the Parochial Boundary 394.

Oldcastle, Sir John, 299.
's, Field, 305.
Oldham Gardens, 303.
James Oldham, *ibid.*
Place, *ibid.*
Old Red Lion, 388.
Queen's Head, St. John's Lane, 169.
Owen, Lady Alice, 381, 384.
's, Alms-houses, 382.
Monument, 386.

P.

Paine, Thomas, 388.
Pantheon, The, 294.
Pardon Church Yard, 114.
Passage, *ibid.*
Parish Annals, 74 to 91.
Clerks of London, 10, 43, *note.*
Officers, 97.
Parochial Estates, &c., Account of, 100 to 109.
Paving &c. Commissioners for, St. James's, 279 to 292.
St. John's, 282, *note.*
Peacock Inn, 390.
Peed, Rev. Dewel, 87.
Penitentiary, London Female, 411.
Penny's Folly, 415.
Penton Grove, 416, 439.
Henry, 398.
Monument of, 193.
Place, 35, 327.
Street, 421.
Pentonville, 21, 398 to 442.
Chapel, 104, 401.
Charity School, 409.
Perceval Street, 269.
Pickled-Egg Walk, 260.
Pleasant Place, 440.
Row, *ibid.*
Population of Clerkenwell at various periods, 20 to 23.
Found in St. John's Street, 279.
Providence Chapel, 380.

Q.

Quakers' Meeting House, St. John's Street, 114.
Workhouse, 246, 250, 394.
Queen's Row, 330.

R.

Randell's, Mr., Tile-kilns, 321.
Ray Street, 261.
Rectors and Lecturers of St. John's Church, 149.
Red-Bull Theatre, 222.
Yard, *ibid.*
Red Lion Street, 170.
Yard, 309.
Rhodes, Abraham, 239, 410, *note.*
River of Wells, 5, 9, 28.
Street, 332.
Roads in Clerkenwell, 30 to 35.
Robins, Thomas, Ancient House of, 154.
Rodney Street, 440.
Roman Catholic Convent in St. John's Square, 86.
Rosoman, the Builder, 253, 371, 378.
Rosoman's Row, 253.
Street, *ibid.*
Upper, 278.
Routes through the Parish, 110 to 442.

S.

Sackville, Isabella, 46, 187.
Sadler's Music-house, 360.
Wells, 360 to 378.
Club, 378.
Sclater, Francis, Monument of, 194.
School-house Yard, 227.
Scotch Church, Lower Chadwell Street, 380.
Seckforde, Thomas, 240.
Sellon, Rev. William, 237, 295, 402.
Monument of, 206.
Sessions-house, Clerkenwell Green, 113, 176.
Sewer, new great, 6, *note*, 317.
Sheppard, Rev. Thomas, 98.
Short's Buildings, 246.
Sibbald, Dr., 83 to 85, *and note.*
Simons, an Armenian Jew, 171.
Site, History of the, 1 to 38.
Skin Market, 271.
Skinners' Estate, 25.
Well, 42, 43, 265.
Small-Pox Hospital, 301.
Smith Street, Upper and Lower, 277.
Soil of Clerkenwell, 35.
Soup-House, 257.
Southampton Street, 440.
Spa Fields, 24, *note*, 29.
Chapel, 294.
Meeting, 316.
Sparke, Dr., 83, 84.
Spencer Place, 397
Sir John, 273.
Street, 277.
Spencer's Breakfasting House, 380

Spring Place, 318.
Stelfox, William, 411.
Stewards for Promoting Charity, 88, 228.
St. James's Church, 72, 74, 76, 80, 83, 92, 104, 179 to 211.
Walk, 237.
St. John of Jerusalem, Knights of, 50 to 58.
Manor of, 24 to 27.
Priory of, 50 to 71, 73, 74, 75, 79, 122.
St. John's Church, 61, 73, 79, 93, 99, 138.
Gate, 126.
Lane, 164.
North Postern, 155.
Square, 122.
Street, 110, 113.
Road, 31, 32, 34, 271.
St. Mark's Church, 381, 443.
St. Mary, Priory of, 44 to 50.
Sunday School, Parochial, 238.
Prison, Ray Street, 104.
Sutton Street, 118.
Swan Alley, 118.
Market, *ibid*, 271.
Swedenborg, Baron, 09.

T.

Three Hats Public-house, 92.
Trusler, Dr., 171.
Trustees of the Church, 98.
Tunnel under Pentonville Hill, 440.
Turnmill Brook, 29.
Street, 174.

U. V.

Union Tavern, 320.
Vaults, in Ray Street, 262.
Vestries, 80, 88, 98, 99.
Vicarage House, the Ancient, 80, 27
Vineyard, The, 256.
Gardens, 12, 256.
Walk, 256.
Vineyards in England, 12, *note*.
Volunteers, The Clerkenwell, 10, *note*.

W.

Warner, Robert, 302, 306.
Street, 306, 308.
Warren Street, 435.
Watch-house, Pentonville, 284, 287, 421.
Ray Street, 104, 284.
St. James's, 278, 287.
Water-house, The, 347, and *note*.
Weever, John, 211.
his Monument in St. James's Church, 185.
Welch Charity School, 179.
Well called Clerkenwell, 9, 39, 40, 85, 102, 262.
Wells mentioned by Fitz-Stephen, 9.
River of, 5, 9, 28.
Weston, Sir William, 69.
Monument of, 187.
Whiskin Street, 253.
White Conduit, The, 437.
House, 435.
White Lion Public-house, 390.
Street, 390, 421.
Swan, St. John's Lane, 169.
Wilderness Row, 114.
Chapel, 116.
Wilks, Heaton, 151.
John, *ibid*.
Wilmington Square, 316.
Winchester Place, 415.
Street, 440.
Windmill Hill, 305.
Wingrove Place, 253.
Wood, Roger, Monument of, 194.
Sir William, Monument of, 195.
Wood's Close, 32, 269.
Woodbridge Estate, 106, 240.
Street, 222.
Woolaston, Mary, 319.
Work-house, The, 256, 304.
Wynyatt Street, 277.

Y.

York Place, 330.

EMBELLISHED WORKS

Executed and Published by J. & H. S. STORER,

CHAPEL STREET, PENTONVILLE.

---

1. THE ANTIQUARIAN AND TOPOGRAPHICAL CABINET; containing a Series of 612 beautiful Engravings of the most interesting Objects of Curiosity in Great Britain.

This work comprises an assemblage of Views, &c. interesting to the Antiquary, the Topographer, and the Admirer of Picturesque Scenery. The *venerable* CATHEDRAL, the *ancient* CASTLE, the *ruined* ABBEY, the *baronial* MANSION, the *modern* PALACE, the DRUIDICAL CROMLECH, or *Logan Stone*, the *sculptured* FONT, the *elegant* CROSS, the *picturesque* VIEW;—in short, whatever scene may be supposed either interesting in itself, or from association with interesting objects, is included. The whole Work forms SIX handsome Volumes Royal 8vo. at £1. 6s. each, in boards. It may also be had in Numbers, each containing Ten beautiful Engravings, price 2s. 6d.

"The present Work is compressed into a form so extremely small, that without a neatness and clearness in the engravings, which cannot be exceeded, and perhaps has never yet been equalled, it would scarcely suffice to give any correct idea of the objects. The plates are all so luminously distinct, and in all respects so admirably executed, that the eye dwells upon them with much satisfaction. Each volume contains no less than 102 of these plates, representing some of the most striking objects of antiquarian curiosity in England and Wales; and to each a short but sensible account is prefixed."

British Critic.

"Among the works which may be deemed a valuable acquisition to the admirers of antiquities, and the lovers of picturesque beauties, the Antiquarian and Topographical Cabinet justly appears as claiming a distinguished preference. This elegant work possesses a degree of luminous and perspicuous execution in the plates, that cannot fail in fixing the admiration of the eye, and insensibly charming every imagination connected with genuine taste. In fact, as an useful aud entertaining work, connected in one, nothing of this nature has hitherto appeared so highly finished, and at so small an expense.

Universal Magazine.

2. THE PORT-FOLIO: a COLLECTION OF ENGRAVINGS from Antiquarian, Architectural, and Topographical Subjects, Curious Works of Art, &c. with Descriptions.

"The interest of these graphic and literary delineations is great and obvious. The Connoisseur and Antiquary—the travelled Man of Taste—and the Student of British History,—equally demand a Publication of this nature. It may, indeed, be confidently argued, that such a Work is peculiarly calculated to throw lights of intelligence on the Science of Antiquities, and the History of National Manners. A Work of this character, upon a plan so economical, was never attempted until the appearance of the ANTIQUARIAN and TOPOGRAPHICAL CABINET, of which highly esteemed Collection the PORT-FOLIO may be considered a Second Series."

Published in Twenty-four Numbers, each Number, price 2*s.* 6*d.* containing Eight Plates, and One Sheet of Letter-press. A few Copies are printed on large Paper, at 4*s.* per Number. India Paper Proofs 8*s.* each Number—the whole forming Four handsome Volumes.

3. ONE HUNDRED VIEWS IN EDINBURGH and its VICINITY; comprising interesting Remains of Antiquity, Public Buildings, and Picturesque Scenery, with Descriptions, and a History of Edinburgh from the Earliest Times. In Two Volumes, price £3. 2*s*. 6*d*. Demy 8vo.; or £5. Super Royal 8vo.

To accompany this Work, or for framing, a Panoramic View of EDINBURGH is engraved, nearly Two Feet in length, which represents the whole range of the City, from its Western Suburbs to Salisbury Craigs, and Arthur's Seat on the East, giving at once a complete idea of its romantic site.—Price 8*s*.

"I should be very much at a loss, if I were obliged to say positively, either at what hour, or from what point of view, the external appearance of this City is productive of the noblest effect. I walk round and round it, and survey it from east, west, north, and south, and every where it assumes some new and glorious aspect, which delights me so much at the moment, that I am inclined to think I have at last hit upon the true station from whence to survey its beauties. A few steps bring me to some new eminence, from which, some yet wider, and more diversified picture of its magnificence, opens itself to my eyes; or, perhaps, to some winding ravine, the dark and precipitous sides of which, while they shut out much of this imposing expanse of magnitude, form a deep and concentrating framework, in whose centre, some one isolated fragment assumes a character of sublimity, that seems to throw the wider field of variety and splendour into temporary shade. I have at last given up the attempt; and am contented to let my admiration be as impartial as the charm is universal."

[*Paul's Letters to his Kinsfolk.*

"I received in course the Views, and when I express the very great pleasure I felt on inspecting them, I am aware that no such expression can do justice to the merit you are entitled to for favouring the public with a work at once so extremely elegant and economical. I confess I did not anticipate such excellence, and clearly perceive that the publication will have a great run here.

"I am, Sir, Yours,

"Edinburgh, December 6. "ALEX. JAMESON."

"To Messrs. Storer.

From the Rev. W. M. Wade.

"To the Topographer, to the Antiquary, and to those ingenious artists whose labours are so necessary to the illustration and embellishment of works *produced* by Topographers and Antiquaries, Scotland presents a nearly untrodden field. Your late work is almost the only local history that has yet been brought out in North Britain, with the elegance which is so invariably a characterestic of English works of the kind."

"Paisley, near Glasgow, January 22.

"To Messrs. Storer."

4. DELINEATIONS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE; being Views of the Principal Seats of Nobility and Gentry; and other objects of prominent Interest in that County. With Historical and Descriptive Notices. Dedicated, by Permission, to his Grace the DUKE OF BEAUFORT, K. G., Lord Lieutenant of the County of Gloucester, &c., &c., &c.

This work is completed in One Volume, and may be had in Twelve Parts, each containg Four Engravings price 5*s*. Super-royal 8vo.; or 9*s*. 4to., with Proofs of the Plates on India Paper.

"The Empress Catherine of Russia, when anxious to improve the appearance of her dominions, conceived that this could not be better effected than by inducing her nobility to erect, in various parts of them, splendid and tasteful mansions. Intent on such object, she sought the best examples to place before them; and the proud pre-eminence of Great Britain was so evident in this respect, that the service of Worcester porcelain, which she condescended to order, was, at her express command, decorated with paintings of the principal

country seats in England. Since then, landscape gardening and architectural ornament have become more chaste, and while the former has been imitated in some choice instances in Germany and France, the latter has been acknowledged as more consistent with the simple majesty of Greek, or the elegant tracery of Gothic remains. Well assured of the truth of this fact, we have taken up the hitherto published Numbers of the Delineations of Gloucestershire, and find the Messrs. Storer, whose engravings we have always admired, obviating the objection of diminutive size, and avoiding an extension which must have occasioned a higher price than five shillings a number. The fourth plate in the first number, and the third in the second, show more particularly the extent of those powers, which have presented to us these excellent engravings. It is with pleasure, too, we see the coats of arms of the respective owners put under the different views in the same tasteful manner as formerly distinguished Milton's work of a similar nature: a practice, by the way, highly useful."—*Gents. Mag.*

5. THE RURAL WALKS OF COWPER; displayed in a Series of Fifteen elegant Views near Olney, Bucks. Representing the Scenery exemplified in his Poems; with Descriptive Sketches, and a Memoir of the Poet's Life.

The subjects engraved are the Yardley Oak, Peasant's Nest, Rustic Bridge, View from the Alcove, the Avenue, Monumental Urn in the Wilderness, Temple in the Wilderness, Weston Lodge, Cowper's Residence, Weston Hall, The Elms, The Shrubbery, Town of Olney and Olney Bridge, Cowper's Residence at Olney, his Summer-house, The Vicarage, and a Fac-simile of the Poet's Hand-writing.

The admirers of Cowper will have an opportunity of contemplating in this volume the places which delighted the fancy and exercised the powers of that original Writer; and every possessor of his Works will find it a pleasing Addenda. The volume is printed on various sizes, in order to accompany the several editions of the Poems. Price, demy 8vo. 10*s.* 6*d.*; demy 12mo. 7*s.* 6*d.*; and 18mo. 5*s.*

> "For I have loved the rural walk through lanes
> Of grassy swarth, close cropped by nibbling sheep.
> And skirted thick with intertexture firm
> Of thorny boughs: have loved the rural walk
> O'er hills, through valleys, and by rivers' brink." COWPER.

The Rev. Dr. Johnson, in the Preface affixed to "Private Correspondence of William Cowper, Esq." (lately published), observes—"The editing these letters has been a work of labour to me; but it has been a pleasant one. It has recalled to my recollection time and places long past and lost sight of, but never to be forgotten; and by the help of an elegant little volume (The Rural Walks), in which the scenery about Olney and Weston is faithfully delineated, has at intervals almost beguiled me into an imagination, that I was still there and my revered relative with me."

6. HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES of the CATHEDRAL CHURCHES of GREAT BRITAIN; with complete Lists of Bishops and Deans: illustrated with highly-finished Engravings.

LIST OF THE CATHEDRALS.—Bangor, Bath, Bristol, Canterbury, Carlisle, Chester, Chichester, Durham, Ely, Exeter, Gloucester, Hereford, Landaff, Lichfield, Lincoln, Norwich, Oxford, Peterborough, Rochester, Salisbury, St. Asaph's, St. David's, St. Paul's, Wells, Winchester, Worcester, and York.

Each Cathedral may be had separately, price 5*s.* in demy 8vo.; or 8*s.* super royal 8vo.—A few Copies are printed in 4to., with India paper proofs of the Plates, 14*s.* each Part.—The whole Work forms four handsome Volumes.

"Every one who has an eye to see and a soul to feel must, on entering York Cathedral or Chapter-house, the Cathedrals of Lincoln and Winchester, or on

contemplating the majestic front of Peterborough Cathedral, experience irresistible impressions of mingled solemnity and delight, such as none but similar edifices are capable of producing. If he should inquire when were these extraordinary specimens of architectural skill, rivalling in their execution, and surpassing in sublimity, the proudest structures of Athens and Rome, erected; what would be his astonishment, had he not previously ascertained the fact, on being told in reply that "they were built during the dark ages!" When but few even of the clergy could read, and scarcely any of them could write their own names; when nobles lay upon straw, and thought a fresh supply of clean straw in their chamber, once a week, a great luxury; when Monarchs usually travelled on horseback, and when they met wrestled with each other for the amusement of their courtiers: then it was that architects whose names have not reached us, and whose manners and course of instruction are merely conjectured, raised buildings almost to the clouds, with stones most of which they might have carried under their arms. Rude men, untaught by science, applied the principles of arcuation, of thrust, and of pressure, to an extent that would have made Wren and Jones tremble. Men, ignorant of metaphysical theories, so blended forms and magnitudes, light and shade, as to produce the artificial infinite and the real sublime. Men who lived in the grossest superstition erected temples for the worship of God, which seem as if intended to rival in durability the earth on which they stand; and which, after the lapse of several ages, are still unequalled, not only in point of magnificence of structure, but in their tendency to dilate the mind, and to leave upon the soul the most deep and solemn impressions. This is an anomaly in the history of the fine arts which has never been adequately explained: the investigation of the subject, however, is worthy of the attention of the philosophic and inquisitive.

"The History and Antiquities of the several Cathedrals now before us are extremely interesting and correct. They not only present a connected account of the progress of each edifice, from its original foundation to the present period, interspersed with scientific observations upon the successive modification in the architecture of the middle ages, but they exhibit also a comprehensive although a concise view of the origin, progress, and actual state of the several Episcopal Sees; including much curious information relative to the introduction of Christianity into the British Isle. The numerous Rites, Ceremonies, and Customs, introduced from time to time by the Romish, and rejected by the Protestant Church, are noticed as they chronologically occurred, according to the place of their first adoption. The various persecutions, either experienced or practised by the clergy, are fairly recorded; and, in most instances, the real virtues and vices of ecclesiastics faithfully portrayed.

"It is the intention of the proprietors of this Work to comprise the description of all the Cathedrals of Great Britain within the compass of four volumes. That which is now on our table is devoted to the Cathedrals of Canterbury, Chichester, Lincoln, Oxford, Peterborough, and Winchester. The description of the first of these Edifices is illustrated by eighteen Engravings; the second by nine; the third by ten, and each of the remaining three by nine. The points of view are happily chosen, and the light and shade judiciously thrown. Some of the Plates, indeed, exhibit very striking specimens of accuracy and force of expression: among these we may name the interior View of Canterbury Cathedral from Becket's Crown, and the S. W. View of that Cathedral; the magnificent West Fronts of the Cathedrals of Lincoln, and Peterborough; the Chapter-house at Lincoln; the Interior, and Guymond's Tomb, Oxford Cathedral; the rich Ruins of the Cloister at Peterborough; and Winchester Cathedral, from the ruins of Wolvsey. Besides the several interior and exterior views of the different buildings, there is given a Ground Plan of each Cathedral; on which, however, by a very ingenious contrivance, the groining of the roof is sketched." *Eclectic Review.*

"This is the first volume of a work which is intended to illustrate the History and Antiquities of all the Cathedrals in the kingdom. The Plates are very prettily executed; and the various points in which the views are taken show great judgment and taste, and are peculiarly calculated to present the mind with that *admonitus locorum*, or association of pleasing ideas, which is often attached, from various causes, to these ancient and venerable piles; and fastidious indeed must the taste of that man be, who is not gratified with the beauties which this volume exhibits." *British Critic.*

Executed by J. & H. S. Storer.

"The first volume of this very neat and uniformly-elegant representations of our Cathedral Churches was duly noticed in our Vol. LXXXV. . p. 58; the second in Vol. LXXXVI. i. p. 432; the third in Vol. LXXXIX. i. p. 59; and we have now to announce the completion of it with the same commendation which its merits at first demanded. Seldom, indeed, have we seen so extensive and laborious a work carried on with the same unabated ardour; the concluding portions being at least equal, if not superior, to the earlier ones. From these pleasing volumes we extract the following List of the several Cathedral Churches, with the dates of their erection:—

	DATE.	STYLE.	DIMENSIONS. *Length.* feet.	*Breadth.* feet.	HEIGHT. feet.
St. Asaph . . .	1469 . .	Gothic	179 . .	68	
Choir Ditto	Rebuilt in 1780	Gothic			
Bangor	1496 . .	Gothic	214 . .	60	
Bath . . .	1530 West Front	Gothic	235 . .	72	
Bristol	1311 . .	Gothic	175 . .	73	
Canterbury	1184 & 1411	Saxon and Gothic	530 ext. 514 int.	71	130
Carlisle . .	1133 & 1450	Saxon pillars, pointed arches	180 . .	71	
Chester	1120 . .	Part Saxon	372 . .	74	
Chichester . .	1099 . .	Saxon and Gothic	410 . .	90	Spire 300
St. David's . . .	1180 . .	Part Saxon	290 . .	76	127
Durham .	from 1093 to 1126	Saxon, pointed windows	411 . .	74	Tower 214
Ely	1087 . .	Saxon	517 . .	73	
Exeter . .	1138 to 1369	Saxon Gothic windows	390 . .	74	140
Gloucester .	1220 to 1460	Saxon pillars, Goth. windows	432 ext. 406 int.	84	Tower built 1460 176 225
Hereford . . .	1079 . .	Saxon	352 . .	74	Tower 144
Landaff	1120 . .	Pointed arches in ruins	270 . .	70	
Lincoln . .	1088 to 1324	Gothic	524 . .	80	Central tower 300 Western ditto 281
Litchfield . . .	1238 . .	Gothic	400 . .	66	Spire 258
Norwich . . .	1096 . .	Saxon & Gothic	411 . .	71	Steeple 313
Oxford .	part 1004, part 1119	Saxon	154 . .	54	144
St. Paul's .	1675 to 1710	Grecian	500 E. to W. 248 N. to S.	107	356
Peterboro' . .	970 & 1170	Saxon Gothic	471 . .	156	
Rochester . . .	1130 . .	Saxon	335 . .	68	156
Salisbury . . .	1220 . .	Gothic	473 . .	99	Spire 399 Nave 81
Wells . . .	1239 . .	Gothic	371 . .	67	Tower 160
Winchester	1079 & 1366	Part Sax. Part Goth.	554 . .	16	78
Worcester .	1084 & 1218	Gothic	394 . .	74	200
York	1327 .	Gothic	524 . .	213	

Gents. Mag.

7. AN ELUCIDATION of the PRINCIPLES of ENGLISH ARCHITECTURE, usually denominated Gothic.

Embellished with 23 Plates of Examples, taken from the Cathedral Church of Exeter, and comprising an Explanation of all the Terms used in that admired Style of Building. In Demy 8vo., price 8*s*.; Super Royal, 16*s*.

*** This Work is intended to illustrate, and forms a desirable Accompaniment to, the Cathedrals.

Embellished with appropriate Engravings,

8. MEMOIRS OF THE REV. JOHN NEWTON, some time a Slave in Africa, afterwards Curate of Olney, Bucks, and subsequently Rector of St. Mary Woolnoth, Lombard-street, London, in a Series of Letters written by Himself. Price 1*s*. 6*d*.

9. A Handsome FURNITURE PRINT of the Newly-erected COLLEGE at HIGHBURY, Middlesex; representing the North-west Front, with its picturesque Plantations.—The Plate is inscribed, by Permission, to Thomas Wilson, Esq., Treasurer of the College; and engraved in a highly-finished style.—Size of the Print, 13 inches by 8.—The Impressions are taken off on half sheet Colombier Paper. Price 8*s*.; Proofs on India Paper, 12*s*.

The Building is accurately delineated from the Original Drawings of the Architect, JOHN DAVIES, Esq., and in order to give a correct display of the whole Edifice, the South-East Front is likewise represented by a Vignette engraved under the View.

10. THE UNIVERSITY AND CITY OF OXFORD; displayed in a Series of Seventy-two Views, drawn and engraved by J. and H. S. STORER: accompanied with Descriptions, Historical and Architectural, by ROWLEY LASCELLES, Esq.

In the Selection and classification of the Plates, the various Specimens of Architecture, Ancient and Modern, have been attended to; and certain curious Relics of Art, such as Crosiers, &c., superbly wrought, and of exquisite beauty, are introduced, being entirely new to graphic representation.

The Work is completed in Eighteen Numbers, each containing Four beautiful Plates and One Sheet of Letter-press, forming altogether a handsome Octavo Volume, at the moderate Price of 2*l*. 5*s*. A few Sets of India Paper Proofs of the Plates are taken off at 5*s*. per Number.

*** Several interesting Wood-cuts are interspersed through the Work.

11. THE OXFORD VISITOR; or, Picturesque Views of all the Colleges and Halls of the University, Public Buildings of the City, and representations of curious Works of Art which are preserved in the several Colleges: with appropriate Historical Descriptions. By J. and H. S. STORER.

It has long been a matter of complaint, that although so many publications have issued from the press at different times, relative to the University of Oxford, nothing has yet appeared at a moderate price, calculated to give any idea of the variety and grandeur of its Buildings. Numerous Guides and Walks through Oxford have been published, but these scarcely pretend to any-

thing beyond a descriptive account of this famous Seat of Learning; and where any attempt has been made to give a resemblance of some striking object connected with the University, the deficiency of execution is in general so visible, as to excite astonishment and regret that nothing further has been accomplished, especially considering the importance of the subject and the present highly improved state of the arts.

The Work comprises Fifty-six beautiful Views, showing all the Colleges and Halls of the University, Public Buildings of the City, and representations of curious Works of Art, such as superbly-wrought Crosiers, Pieces of Ancient Plate, and other interesting Vestiges of Antiquity, many of which are not exhibited to Visitors unless particularly inquired for, and are, indeed, little known to the Public. In Royal 18mo. price 1*l.* in boards.

12. WALKS IN OXFORD, by W. M. WADE, descriptive of the Colleges, Halls, and Public Buildings of the University; with an Introductory Outline of the Academical History of Oxford. To which is added, a concise History of the City. Illustrated by Seventy-two Views of the Colleges and Public Buildings, drawn and engraved by J. and H. S. STORER. In Two Vols. price 1*l.* 1*s.* in boards; or on large paper, 1*l.* 12*s.*

13. DESCRIPTION of the ABBEY at FONTHILL, with Engravings, price 12*s.* on Royal paper; another edition, in 8vo., price 4*s.*

This description was written, and the drawings made by permission of Mr. Beckford, during his residence at the Abbey, before its splendid interior decorations were deranged by auctioneers, brokers, and porters.

14. HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION of the PARISH OF CLERKENWELL, Illustrated by numerous Copper-plate Engravings, representing its Ancient Monastic Buildings, the Mansions of Nobility and Gentry who formerly occupied this once fashionable and courtly Suburb of the Metropolis; with other Objects of Celebrity and Importance, and a Plan of the Parish. Price, in boards, 12mo., 15*s.*; in 8vo., with Proofs of the Plates on India paper, £1. 10*s*

Now publishing, dedicated by Permission to his Royal Highness the Duke of GLOUCESTER, Chancellor of the University,

16. ILLUSTRATIONS of the UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE: being a Series of Picturesque Views, representing the Colleges, Halls, and other Buildings of the University, &c. Each Part contains Four Engravings, executed in the Line Manner. Demy 8vo. 5*s.* each Part; demy 4to. 7*s.* 6*d.*; India Proofs on 4to. paper, 10*s.* 6*d.*

"The University of Cambridge, in the present improved state of its architectural features, is calculated to engage the attention and excite the admiration of all who possess a refinement capable of appreciating its beauties. This celebrated seat of science and the Muses has of late been rapidly advancing to a degree of external splendour which gives it an eminent rank among the mag-

nificent institutions of its own peculiar order, and confers the greatest honour upon those distinguished persons whose munificence and taste have directed a renovation so grand and extensive. Having made this introductory observation, it may be unnecessary to enter upon any apology for the present undertaking, or advert to what has been already effected towards a graphical display of this interesting subject. It may, however, be remarked, that of some of the most superb edifices which now adorn the University, no representation whatever has yet appeared, and many others of a character equally imposing being yet in progress, the proprietors conceive that a work, executed in a uniform manner, and upon a scale of sufficient magnitude to mark with accuracy the delicacy of architectural detail, will be acceptable to the University and to the public in general.

It is intended to engrave a series of plates, representing the most approved Views of each College and Hall, and especially of such portions of them as are of recent erection; to them will be added the different Parochial Churches, and some specimens of the Domestic Architecture which formerly obtained in Cambridge; many Curiosities of various kinds being deposited in the Museum and in different Colleges, it is proposed to engrave such of them as are most in esteem. Numerous Drawings are already made, and the Plates will be executed by Messrs. STORER, whose perseverance and talent in this line have been evinced by the production of a series of Engravings of each of our Cathedral Churches, a work never before completed, though in several instances commenced, besides many other publications of a similar nature. The Plates will be published in Parts, each Part containing Four Views; and for the convenience of gentlemen who wish to make their own selection, each Plate may be purchased separately."

LONDON: COE & MOORE, PRINTERS, 27, OLD CHANGE.