

A brief historical account of the origin, progress, and present state of St. Thomas's Hospital, Southwark / By a student of medicine [i.e. B. Golding].

Contributors

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Joseph Henry Green 3

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HISTORICAL ACCOUNT
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ORIGIN, PROGRESS,
AND
PRESENT STATE
OF
St. Thomas's Hospital,
SOUTHWARK.

BY A STUDENT OF MEDICINE.

LONDON.

PRINTED BY W. THORNE, RED LION COURT, FLEET STREET;

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ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL, SOUTHWARK.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

THE mind of man is naturally of too active a turn to remain contented with a limited acquaintance of things, as they appear from a superficial view of their present state; it reverts to their origin, examines their source, and attempts to follow their progressive advancement towards perfection.

The intellectual faculties are irresistably impelled to exercise themselves by reflection and research; and in this way is the human capacity led to improvement.

The thirst of knowledge then becomes so predominant, that its gratification is productive of much rational delight; and we find, by indulging these pleasing efforts of mental inquiry, in the intricate and varied gradations of science, our ideas become enlarged, and our conceptions expanded. In order, however, to understand accurately what we deem worthy of being known, it is sometimes essentially necessary to consult the opinions of those who

have gone before us, for much assistance is frequently to be derived from a perusal of the writings of the older authors; to appreciate the justness and value of their laborious acquirements is wisdom, and to be well acquainted with *their* knowledge, is what makes one man wiser than another. History, therefore, furnishes us with useful and amusing instructions, and impresses things on our minds with a force not easily eradicated; hence, flows that *amor patriæ*, that is more or less implanted in every breast; that *esprit du corps*, that attaches men to the societies they have been educated in or served under; hence comes that veneration we pay to the good deeds of our ancestors; and, hence, that noble emulation; that ambition of rivalling their merit, by which the stock of human knowledge is increased, and posterity benefited.

These remarks are also eminently true, when applied to the principle and practice of every virtue dear to the heart of man; and a knowledge of the liberal and charitable inclinations of our predecessors, should be an incentive for us to follow their example in doing good.

What can more plainly evince the bountiful intentions of our ancestors, not only towards the needy of their own times, but those of succeeding ages, than the extensive receptacles they established for the relief of the diseased poor? Such edifices are the everlasting monuments of real beneficence, they are the sure criterion of a happy and well governed state; and such establishments may strictly be said to constitute, at the present day, much of the glory of the British empire.

“ ————— *splendida facta*

“ *Nulla unquam ex animis tollent oblivia nostris.*”

Whilst the generous heart feels elated in contemplating the benefit bestowed on suffering humanity, and the weight of wretchedness relieved by these hospitable mansions, it turns to honour the name of Henry, whose liberality, and to revere that of Edward, whose piety, first set the example of princely munificence to succeeding benefactors of mankind.

Every quarter of this metropolis is ornamented with structures, sacred to the most benign of virtues, Charity! and no species of distress exists, but the friendly asylums of benevolence are open, to alleviate the poignancy of suffering woe.

Among the numerous edifices deserving of notice, St. Thomas's Hospital in Southwark, from its magnitude, antiquity, and above all, its national utility, is entitled to peculiar consideration; as a palace to the poor and miserable, and as a friendly solace to the diseased pilgrim, whilst he wanders through this wretched life, it claims the regard of the contemplative philanthropist; and as an establishment pre-eminently useful, when considered as a leading school for the advancement of medical and chirurgical improvement, it no less deserves the notice of professional men. It has long been instrumental in the wide diffusion of skillful knowledge and sound practice in the healing Art; and yet, notwithstanding its honest claims to notoriety, the great celebrity of its physicians, its surgeons, and its professional teachers, and the numerous students annually resorting to it from all parts of the world, for their professional instruction, no proper history of it has hitherto been published. To remedy in some measure this deficiency, the following brief description of its government and principal advantages, is attempted to be given; and, it is presumed, that it may be both amusing and useful, until some other person, better qualified for the task, shall turn his attention to the subject, and enunciate if not a more accurate, yet a more minute account of an institution, which (although its usefulness is fully acknowledged) has been hitherto too much disregarded.

The historical part is so intimately connected with the great and various political changes, which have transpired in the last six centuries, that to illustrate many of the leading features in the description, a reference must necessarily be had to dates and persons, in order to familiarize the different periods more strongly to the mind; and it will be evident, that those who are most conversant in English History, will be best able to comprehend how the

Charity first emerged from obscurity, and to follow with accuracy the steps by which it arrived at its present state.

To commence the annexed account with clearness, and to follow it equally with perspicuity, it will be right to take a retrospect, somewhat beyond the origin of the Hospital, and revert to the memorable period of that bigotry and superstition, which universally involved the Christian world; when an ardent zeal for the catholic faith, and a blind devotion to the cross, prevailed like a contagious mania amongst the southern states of Europe; which, under the chimerical attempt to rescue the Holy Land from the dominion of the infidels, embarked in a most sanguinary warfare, dignified by them with the appellation of the Holy War! England, it is well known, co-operated most actively in this great undertaking; and her princes suffered in common with the rest of the crusaders, every kind of deprivation and hardship.

Next to an acquaintance with the origin and history of this hospital, comes the knowledge of its government, management, and extensive usefulness, which will be subdivided into its laws, internal economy of its household, &c. Its order and regulations have ever been regarded as of infinite importance, and therefore the consideration of them will be a prominent feature in the following account.

No part of St. Thomas's Hospital, perhaps, is more completely, or more neatly executed, than the duties of the kitchen and the cellar; in the former, a supply of provisions for a very large number of people, is made with the greatest order and exactness, in the smallest compass, and with the utmost cleanliness. These are advantages which are worthy of being enumerated, and deserving of peculiar notice, as they reflect no small share of credit upon the wisdom of those, who have the more immediate direction of the interior departments.

The plan of government of any establishment, which experience shows to be superior to others of a similar nature, must at all times be interesting, as much information is frequently to be gained therefrom; this remark is equally

true, when applied to the executive power of a nation, or only regarded as it relates to the different departments of an hospital: in the former sense, it involves the consideration of the well-being of a state, and leads us to compare the extent of privileges enjoyed by the people of different kingdoms.

With respect to our own country, a knowledge of its admirable distribution of power, leads the reflecting mind to understand, that the liberty of Englishmen is derived from a well blended system of monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy. This has been often varying, but always balances itself again by the strength of the constitution; like the human frame, it is liable to accident and disease, and like that, it has sometimes submitted to operations, nay, even to a loss of parts, for the safety of the whole. The murder of King Charles, and the loss of America, I might adduce, as familiar instances. In the latter sense, it furnishes us with ideas, how a large body is to be directed, and teaches us to ascertain, by inquiry, how it is to be supplied with requisites in a given station, or before it can be put in motion.

This is a necessary consideration ere a ship can sail, or a regiment can march; before a workhouse can be established, or an hospital commence its charitable purposes.

Ancient History of St. Thomas's Hospital.

IN the reigns of William Rufus and Henry the 1st. the spirit of religion was most strongly manifested in various ways, and in none more than by the foundations which were so generally endowed for the purposes of religious duties.

Amongst the many enthusiasts of the times, one Alewin Childe, citizen of London, A.D. 1081, founded at Bermondsey a monastery for Cluniack monks, which he dedicated to St. Saviour, and endowed with a liberal revenue. About the same period, or a little before, a convent of nuns was founded near the present situation of St. Thomas's Hospital by one Mary, the owner of a ferry-

boat for conveying persons over the river Thames, previously to the erection of London bridge. It is said, that being a virgin, she accumulated money sufficient to endow this convent handsomely, and leave it in a flourishing state at her death.

Some years afterwards, from a cause inexplicable at the present day, it became converted into a college of priests by a noble lady named Swithin; but this latter establishment, we learn, proving like the former one, of but short duration, it was refounded and appropriated, in 1106, to the use of canons regular, by Sir W. Pont de l'Arch and William Daunly, Norman knights.

After continuing as a monastery upwards of a century, and retaining its original name of St. Mary Overie or Ovary's, it was destroyed by fire, Anno 1207. The prior and assembly, in order to prevent any relaxation in their religious duties, deemed it necessary that same year to found a temporary hospital, where they performed their ritual ceremonies and said mass, whilst their priory was rebuilding. This was constructed in the celleries grounded against the wall of the monastery, in the year 1213, by order of Richard, prior of Bermondsey, who named it the Almonry, for converts and poor children. But at the desire of Peter de Rupibus, or de la Roch, bishop of Winchester, anno 1228, that hospital was removed to the present site of St. Thomas's, for the benefit of good air and water. At this remote distance of time, the former of these considerations would appear to us to be ill-judged; but, notwithstanding the present confined part of Southwark, in which the building stands, it was at that time, comparatively speaking, in the country: and a reference to ancient maps, proves to us that it was surrounded by high trees, and the ground for some distance around it was unoccupied. Peter de Rupibus contributed largely to its erection, and it was dedicated to St. Thomas the Martyr; i. e. Thomas à Becket, who was murdered at Canterbury in 1171, and whose tomb was to be seen in the cathedral of that city till destroyed by Cromwell the Protector. His death was considered as so flagrant an

act, that a pilgrimage to his tomb was thought to atone for many sins; and through the indulgence of the church, this ambitious and turbulent prelate became canonized as a saint; numerous miracles were said to be wrought at his tomb, thousands visited the spot with religious awe and veneration, and the shrine became enriched with spontaneous offerings from all parts of the world, of whatever was costly or magnificent, or whatever fanaticism could render acceptable; these, of course, were seized during the spoliations of the civil wars, or by men in power during the commonwealth. The honors here enumerated, which were paid to the memory of a pretended martyr to his religion, and whose ingratitude alone marked him out as unworthy of life, are sufficient to show the popish bigotry of the times.

As the road to Canterbury lay through London, and the only passage over the Thames was in this neighbourhood, so it was ordained that pilgrims, in their journey to and from Canterbury, might lodge and board at Saint Thomas's Hospital; and in the event of sickness or lameness, should be taken care of in that house till their recovery. In its neighbourhood is still to be seen that famous inn from whence Chaucer, the father of English poetry, set out with his merry companions on their pilgrimage; the *Tabard Inn*, now called the *Talbot*, has placed over its gateway the following inscription, by order of its present proprietor, Robert Bristow, Esq. of Broxmore, Wilts, who insisted on this mark of antiquity being affixed there.

"This is the Inn where Geoffry Chaucer, Knight, and his nine and twenty Pilgrims lodged on their Journey to Canterbury, Anno 1388."

It is well deserving the attention of the curious, for traces of its ancient extent are yet remaining; the following quotation, extracted from Mr. Ogle's revision of this merry poets Canterbury Tales in 1741, from the older edition of Thomas Speight, Anno 1687, is illustrative of this particular.

"It

" It so befel, that season, on a day,
In *Southwark*, at the *Tabard-Inn* I lay;
Ready, by morn, my progress to pursue:
A pilgrimage to see was all my view!

" When at our Inn, before the fall of night,
Lo! twenty-nine in fellowship alight:
Strangers, that chanc'd in company to fall;
Unlike the men, but Pilgrims they were all.

" To *Canterbury*, each propos'd to ride:
The house was roomy, and the stables wide;
Well serv'd was ev'ry beast and ev'ry guest,
And man and horse were treated with the best.

" I talk'd with each, with each familiar grew;
Was one will all, before the sun withdrew;
And one and all agreed, at dawn of day,
To *Canterbury Town* to take their way."

Although, in reality, St. Thomas's Hospital was erected in its situation with the consent of the Prior or Abbot of Bermondsey, and held of their religious house till 1482, when one of the Abbots granted it to the master of the hospital, in whose successors it remained till surrendered to Henry VIII; it was by reason of the monies bestowed upon it by Peter de Rupibus, considered as being under the patronage and management of the Bishop of Winchester, whose palace was here situated, and who, at that time, had a considerable revenue arising from the public Stews, which were licensed by government to be kept in the Borough of Southwark, under the inspection of the bishops and their agents.

Pennant, in his "*Antiquities of London*," says, that the Bordello or Stews, in Southwark, "were permitted and openly licensed by government under certain laws or regulations. They were farmed out; even a Lord Mayor, the great Sir William Walworth, did not disdain to own them; and he rented them to the froes, i. e. the bawds of Flanders. Among other regulations, no stew-holder was to admit married women; nor were they to keep open their houses on Sundays; nor were they to admit any women who had on them the perilous infirmity of burning, &c.—These infamous houses were suppressed by Henry VIII.

“ The pretence of these establishments, was to prevent the debauching the wives and daughters of the citizens, so that all, who had not the gift of continence, might have places to repair to.

“ Perhaps, in days when thousands were tied up by vows of celibacy, these haunts might have been necessary, for neither cowl nor cope had virtue sufficient to annihilate the strongest of human passions.” See Pennant's History, &c. of London.*

Probably, the object of placing these receptacles for the indulgence of sensual gratification under the jurisdiction of the bishops, was to maintain a stricter discipline over them; and by licensing, under the semblance of lenity, what could never be arbitrarily restrained, it was, perhaps, considered the most effectual way of preventing the contagion of immorality from extending abroad, when its indecency could be so readily confined within limited bounds. From this we find, that in England, as in most other countries, the depravities of human nature commenced shewing themselves at the then court-end of the metropolis, which the Borough originally was. At the present day, it cannot be clearly ascertained, what was the actual amount of the revenues belonging to St. Thomas's Hospital under the popish clergy; but it is presumed, it must have been fluctuating, though occasionally assisted by the bountiful donations of individuals, for as trade began to flourish, many persons travelled into other

* They had subsisted from time out of mind, as appears by the sanction given to them by an act of parliament in the 8th year of Henry the 2d.; they were suppressed by sound of trumpet, the proclamation stating them to be no longer privileged brothels.

The unfortunate females contained in them are said to have been forbidden the rights of the church so long as they continued their life of incontinence, and were excluded from christian burial if they were not reconciled before their death. In consequence of this, a plot of ground, called the Single Woman's Church-yard, was appointed for them, at some distance from the parish church.

See Howel's History of London and Westminster.

countries; and after amassing large fortunes, returned to close the evening of their days in their own.

A salutary and an useful opinion at that time very generally prevailed amongst the religious votaries, that not only the prayers of the righteous after their death, but deeds of charity during their life-time, were indispensibly required to ensure them the possession of another world.

Many religious asylums were in consequence endowed by liberal-minded individuals with large sums, for mass to be said for the repose of their souls; whilst others contributed to the support of the then existing charities.

The different commercial societies were very bountiful in their gifts; amongst them is deserving of particular notice, "The Brotherhood of St. Thomas à Becket, the most ancient that can be traced, which had been established towards the close of the 13th century, and received in 1406 from Henry IV. a charter of confirmation, under which it long flourished, to the mutual interest of the adventurers and the country."*

Nothing worth particularizing appears to have occurred in the ancient history of this hospital, till that remarkable epoch in our country, the reign of Henry VIII. rendered illustrious by the memorable change in our religion.

That monarch, from peculiar circumstances, became the unholy instrument of an innovation in religious principles, which totally subverted the preponderance of Romish superstition in these realms.

At the commencement of the reformation by Martin Luther, he defended the papal power with all the argument and school divinity he was master of, in his book entitled "*Assertio Septem Sacramentorum, adversus Martinum Lutherum, &c.*" and with such temporary effect, as to gain from Pope Julius II. the flattering appellation of "Defender of the Faith."

* Vide Anderson's Commerce, and Dr. Hughson's London.

The sincerity of his religious dispositions, however, shortly became put to the test; upon being refused a dispensation, which he applied for to repudiate his wife and marry Anna Boleyn, his attachment to the see of Rome quickly vanished, and he proclaimed himself head of the church. Notwithstanding all the papal anathemas, he abolished the catholic houses, and seized the ecclesiastical funds for his own use. For this he had a well-grounded pretence; he affected to be disgusted with the iniquitous conduct of the religious devotees. A monastic life, he found to be one of secret voluptuous enjoyment; and it is said, many well-authenticated proofs were adduced, of extensive convents being converted into nurseries by the parturient nuns.*

St. Thomas's Hospital was surrendered, July 15th, 1549, by Richard, bishop of Winton, the abbot, clerk, master, and one brother; it was then vulgarly called Thomas à Becket's Hospital; its yearly revenue was 47*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* and it consisted of a master, brethren, three lay-sisters, who had victuals and firing allowed them; and forty beds for poor, infirm, and impotent people.

* The sums of money Henry acquired were immense. During the years 1546 and 1548, no less than three hundred and seventy-six lesser monasteries were dissolved, and their vast revenues granted to the crown by parliament; the latter amounting to 32,000*l.* per year, besides their goods and chattels, which amounted to 100,000*l.*

The greater monasteries shared a similar fate; and thus, in less than two years, the king seized upon the whole monastic revenue and other property; the tricks of the priests were exposed, their pretended miracles detected, and the relics and other instruments of their superstition turned into derision.

Among the rest, a great wooden idol, called Darvel Gatherin, was brought from Wales to London, and (to complete Henry's apostacy) was cut up for fuel to burn friar Forest, who had presumed to deny his supremacy. The king, under various pretences, suppressed no less than six hundred and forty-five religious foundations, of which, twenty-eight had abbots, who enjoyed seats in parliament; ninety colleges and free chapels, and one hundred and ten hospitals.

Vide Herbert's Henry viii. Goodwin's Annals, Dr. Hughson's London, Stow, Hollinshed, and Burnet's History of the Reformation.

An annual pension was at that time payable by the master, and 2s. 1d. by the curate, to the archdeacon of Surrey, as an acknowledgment of certain claims Amitius, archdeacon of Surrey, had originally upon the establishment. Very shortly after its dissolution, it was refounded by the name of the Hospital of the Holy Trinity.

One of the benefits which mankind reaped from the exercise of the popish religion, was the maintenance of the poor and infirm in the hospitals belonging to the monasteries; these were no doubt to display, in an ostensible manner, the sentiments entertained by the priests in regard to the sufferings of the miserable, and to be considered as some sort of remuneration for the vast revenues they acquired from the laity.

After the Reformation began to establish itself, these objects became a burden to society at large, and the frigid hand of charity was for some time withheld, till order, regularity, and religious principles, were more firmly fixed.

Although the commencement of Henry's reign had been wise, popular, and useful, the brilliancy of its latter part was obscured by tyranny, sensuality, and disgraceful intemperance; and it appears he felt sensible, at the close of his life, of the alienation of the hearts of his subjects: and, whether on this account, or to atone for his worldly sins, he proposed to win the good opinion of the citizens of London, by granting them lands and endowments for the maintenance of four hospitals; but dying before this laudable intention could be completed, his son and successor, Edward the Sixth, became the founder of Bridewell and Christ's Hospital, and refounder of St. Thomas's. This amiable prince, who ascended the throne at the early age of ten years, exhibited such traits of benevolence, as to excel all his predecessors in charitable endowments, and would perhaps have further contributed to the alleviation of human misery, had not his inclinations been frustrated by his intriguing ministers, or if his valuable life had been longer spared to assume the firmness and wisdom manhood would have rendered subservient

to the completion of all his virtuous intentions. Under these disadvantages, however, the benign wishes by which he was actuated, for the period of six years, amply sufficed to immortalize his name, and insure him the well-merited praises of a great benefactor of mankind.

After the preamble to his charter, which confirmed to the city the ancient title to certain valuable property and privileges, and which adverts to various places in the Borough and surrounding parishes, heretofore given to the citizens, except the house, gardens, and park of the late Duke of Suffolk (now the Mint), and the King's Bench, the instrument proceeds thus: "And that the said mayor, commonalty, and citizens, and their successors, may have and enjoy all the franchises, immunities, and privileges whatever, which any archbishop of Canterbury, and which the said Charles late Duke of Suffolk, or any master, brethren, or sisters of the late hospital of St. Thomas's, in Southwark aforesaid; or any abbot of the said monastery of St. Saviours, St. Mary Bermondsey, next Southwark aforesaid, in the county aforesaid; or any prior and convent of the priory of St. Mary Overie, ever had or enjoyed, or which we hold or enjoy, or our most dear father Henry the VIIIth, late King of England, had or enjoyed, or ought to have, hold, and enjoy the same:—and that none of our heirs or successors may intermeddle in this our grant."

This charter, bearing date the 29th day of April, it appears, was *purchased* by the city for 647*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*; and as the hospital was even at that time considered of great consequence, I find the sum of 1100*l.* was spent in its repairs.

In Speed's Chronicle it is related, that Edward VI. hearing a sermon, two years afterwards, preached by Bishop Nicholas Ridley (afterwards named the Martyr), the subject of which was exhorting the rich to be charitable to the poor, the king was so struck with the goodness of his discourse, that he commanded the bishop not to leave Windsor without seeing him again; and after dinner, the king, sitting in the hall, made the bishop sit by him, and

would not allow him to uncover his head. His majesty told him he was *touched* with his sermon, and would immediately show him the good effects of it, but at the same time it was proper that he (the bishop) should advise in what manner he could best carry his intention into execution.

The good Ridley, being unprepared for such a question, recommended the king to direct his determination to the lord mayor of London, who would be better able to confer with him about it. Accordingly, his majesty signed letters to the lord mayor, and delivered them in charge to the bishop, that same day, who carried them into the city, and conferred with the mayor and aldermen, who shortly drew out the noble plan of four city hospitals, and showed it to their sovereign: this plan, with some little amendments, he adopted, as far as respected three hospitals. The rich monastery of Grey Friars in Smithfield, with all its estates, he gave for the use of Christ's Hospital, as a seminary for the education and maintenance of poor fatherless children. The ancient palace of the late king, called Bridewell, near the ground on which the present establishment stands, he gave to be converted into a house of hospitality for receiving poor wayfaring people, and into a place of correction for the punishment and employment of strumpets, knavish persons, masterless men, and idle vagrants. This palace had been the occasional residence of Henry VIII. his father, and was inhabited by him during the time the legality of his marriage with Queen Catharine was deciding: it had also been recently fitted up for the reception of Charles the Vth, Emperor of Germany and King of Spain, who visited England in that monarch's reign, but who it seems lodged at the monastery of the Black Friars, near the site of the present building.

The newly founded hospital of the Holy Trinity (St. Thomas's), thence called the King's Hospital, Edward handsomely re-endowed for "*wounded soldiers, blind, maimed, and diseased persons.*"

About a month before the termination of this amiable

monarch's short but auspicious reign, he incorporated, by a charter dated June 6th, 1553, the lord mayor, commonalty, and city of London, in succession, as perpetual governors of this hospital (which then received the name of St. Thomas the Apostle), with St. Bartholomew's, Christ's, and Bridewell; together with possession of all the goods and revenues pertaining to them.

We are lost in admiration when we reflect on the extensive benefit this monarch conferred upon his people: words can but feebly express the obligations of posterity; yet gratitude, which is one of the most pleasing of all earthly duties, can always in some measure be shown by recording, with honourable praise, the names and charitable actions of such as have distinguished themselves in virtue. An ability to do good and hurt has ever been looked upon as a branch of the royal prerogative, which, as it begets in the minds of men a certain awe and veneration for the person in whom it is lodged, so must it render his influence great and the person himself a favourite of fortune. Princes are acknowledged to be created for the good of their subjects, but how much more frequently do we find the contrary of this position is the case! Unfortunately, princes are but men, possessed of greater facilities to indulge the vicious passions of human nature; we therefore generally find in them, that individual considerations are suffered to arrest the advancement of public good; and their people have ever been ready to confess them virtuous and good, if their conduct has not been heinously wrong. The restraints very wisely imposed on our monarchs by that foundation of our liberty, Magna Charta, have perhaps tended to prevent that abuse of power so conspicuous in the absolute monarchies of other countries; yet the annals of our own nation amply testify that England has not been without *Rulers*, who, regardless of their own glory, have found means to overstep these restraints, and assume to themselves that power which, in the hands of the people, should be exerted to check their ignoble actions.

In whom has this truth been better exemplified than in Henry the VIIIth, who, it may be said, never spared a

man in his anger, nor a woman in his guilty passions? How much then ought we not to appreciate the sublime sentiments of Edward, and his pious zeal in the furtherance of charity, who, with the example of his father before him, and by following the steps which disgraced the latter years of his reign, might with equal facility have rendered himself a terror instead of a blessing to mankind.

“Ὁ ἀρχὼν ἀγαθὸς κοινὸν ἀγαθὸν ἐστίν.”

From this period the affairs of St. Thomas's Hospital began to wear a flourishing aspect, and proceeded with increased comfort and regularity, in proportion to the enlightened state of the times and rapid advances of learning, which prior to this had been greatly restrained by the contracted views of the clergy professing the Catholic faith, and who were then the only people of education or learning in this country, or indeed any other where papal superstition prevailed.

“From monkish ignorance the land was freed ;

“And every country school-master could read.”

Under the fostering protection of the lord mayor and citizens of London, the royal hospitals continued to disseminate much good amongst the poorer classes of the community. After the lapse of some years, as the times changed, so did the value of money and estates progressively alter ; and the endowment of St. Thomas's Hospital, which originally was fully sufficient for all its purposes, became too limited for the maintenance and support of that general benefit it was calculated to be of, without the charitable donations of benevolent persons being super-added.

Accordingly we find, by presents and legacies, its annual income became greatly augmented by private contributions, which soon amounted to a much larger stock than the primary royal foundation.

By a Proclamation of Queen Elizabeth, dated the 7th day of July 1580, in the 22d year of her reign, I find, when her Majesty became apprehensive, that from the increased

magnitude of the metropolis, and the then confined state of London, the health of her subjects would be endangered; and not only the ravages of contagious diseases, as the plague, apprehended, but the "*sustentation of vituall foode*" enhanced, she forbid all manner of persons from increasing the number of buildings under severe penalties, which were to be "*forfaitable*" for the use of the city hospitals.

The city very wisely embraced every opportunity to assist its revenues, and many fines and forfeitures incurred by infringing upon certain rules and laws of the city were charitably given towards the support of the hospital.

Thus we find, about the year 1694, a law was enacted to prevent the dealings of unlicensed people in the streets of London, and the penalties thence arising were voted for the use of St. Thomas's.

Many disinterested persons even concealed their good deeds, and, influenced by the purest motives in the performance of the most worthy of all actions, contributed their pecuniary aid *secretly* to the charity.

The great hall is ornamented with the names of hundreds who rendered their assistance at different periods to which the several sums they gave are prefixed, that neither their memories nor their noble example may ever be forgotten.

This hospital, like every other institution of national importance, was occasionally somewhat influenced by the party zeal of the times; and happy was it for the cause of humanity, that, whilst different parties were engaged in continual disputes with regard to religious opinions and political changes, all agreed in one point, Charity! and all appeared emulous to outvie each other in that respect.

It will be unnecessary to enter more fully into a review of the little improvements which were from time to time made, as convenience and comfort suggested; for nothing arose to disturb materially its order or its harmony down to the period when the establishment became remodelled and the building enlarged.

In the abstract of the great charter of confirmation,
No. 51.

granted by Charles II. to the city on his restoration 1663, I find the charter of Edward acknowledged, and thus mentioned: "Edward the VIth, anno 4, in his charter, grants to the mayor of London, &c. several messuages in Southwark, with their appurtenances, except the capital messuage called Southwark Palace, the Park, and Antelope, with all the garden-ground, buildings, &c. thereto belonging—He further grants the manor of Southwark, belonging to the monastery of Bermondsey, with all appurtenances, and also the manor and borough of Southwark, late parcel of the possessions of the Archbishop of Canterbury, &c." This serves to prove the ancient respectability of the borough of Southwark; and that, although it is seldom visited by the gentry of the metropolis at the present day, it was formerly a place of no mean consideration. Here was originally the seat of royalty, the residence of the church, and the station of the public places for theatrical amusements: many vestiges of its former grandeur are yet remaining, from the palace of King John at Bermondsey to the archbishop's at Lambeth.

The bishops of Winchester and Rochester, the abbots of Waverley and of St. Augustine's in Canterbury, as also those of Battel and Hyde, and the prior of Lewes, had here their temporary residences. The extensive buildings, formerly occupied by the prelates of Winchester, though subsequently converted into warehouses and manufactories, situated close to the southern bank of the Thames, were but very recently destroyed by fire; and when their interior apartments were thrown open by that devouring element, a fine specimen of Gothic architecture was afforded to the admirers of antiquity.

In Winchester-house the bishops of that see resided during the time required for their attendance in parliament, until the civil wars. The manor of Southwark, vulgarly called the Clink, is still under their jurisdiction.

A part of the Borough retains to this day the name of the Park; hence we find Park-street, the Maze, great and little Maze Ponds. Many other appropriate names of the boundaries and places are also indicative of their original

proprietors: thus it is not difficult to trace the derivation of Cardinal Cap Alley, Canterbury Square, Rochester, Winchester, York, Suffolk, White and Red Cross Streets, &c. &c.

By the ravages of time the hospital became in a state of dilapidation, and in the year 1669 it was considered advisable to rebuild it; the funds, however, required replenishing for that purpose, the revenues being inadequate to bear the expences. Voluntary subscriptions were opened in consequence of such insufficiency; and by the bounty of the lord mayor, aldermen, and citizens of London, who have ever been foremost in deeds of charity, the present building was erected.

The alacrity with which many private individuals aided the undertaking, afforded a gratifying instance of British generosity, and of the lively interest they took in alleviating the sufferings of their fellow-creatures.

In rebuilding the hospital, the improvements were so extensive that scarcely any of the original fabric remained. The only part that can be known as having belonged to the former building is the small stone front, supported by pillars, having a statue of Edward VI. placed in it, and four statues of maimed hospital patients, with a clock at the upper extremity, under a circular pediment surmounted by a dome.

On it is the following modern inscription.

“ KING EDWARD the SIXTH, of pious memory, in the year of our Lord 1552. Founded and Endowed this HOSPITAL of St. THOMAS the Apostle, *together with the Hospital of Christ and Bridewell in London.*”

This front, which is facing the east, was open to the Borough, until three wards, forming a wing towards the north side, were erected, in 1707, at the sole charge of Mr. Guy (one of the governors to this hospital, and founder of the contiguous one bearing his name); and three corresponding wards on the opposite side, in 1708, at the expense of Thomas Frederick, Esq. governor, and citizen of London.

A pair of large iron gates attached to stone piers, at

their extremities having two statues of patients upon them, and forming the principal entrance towards the Borough High-street, were subsequently added.

These gates enclosing the court, at which carriages are permitted to enter, are daily open from nine in the morning till four o'clock in the afternoon.

To preserve uniformity in the whole building, this square is relieved by a beautiful colonnade of pillars around it; which, however, renders the two ground wards (Elizabeth's and Lydia's) much narrower and more confined than the four higher ones (Queen's, Dorcas's, Ann's, and Mary's); seats are placed next the wall on either side, under the colonnade, for the female patients, to whom the whole of this square is appropriated.

Between the pillars supporting the stone front is a passage leading to the second court, that separates the women's wards from the mens', and is inhabited by some of the officers and servants of the charity; viz. the curate, steward, butler, porter, and cook: it has a colonnade also, except at the centre of the north front, occupied by the chapel, which is ornamented with four lofty and beautiful pilasters, though of no regular order; these pilasters surmount a pediment placed on high pedestals.

The buildings above the colonnades are adorned with pilasters of the Ionic order.

Here is placed a brass statue of Edward the Sixth, of great merit, by Sheemakers, erected by Charles Joye, Esq. one of the worthy presidents, by the appointment of his will in 1737, with the following inscription:

HAEC STATVA
EDVARDI SEXTI REGIS
PRINCIPIS OPTIMI
PIETATE ET SAPIENTIA
SUPRA ANNOS INSIGNIS
SAECVLI SVI DECORIS ET ORNAMENTI
VALETVDINARII HVJVS
CONDITORIS MUNIFICENTISSIMI
CAROLVS IOYE ARMIGER
QVAESTOR EJVSDEM INTEGERRIMVS

TESTAMENTO SVO
VT HIC PONERETVR CAVIT
A. D. MDCCXXXVII.

Facing the chapel, to the south, is a side entrance to the hospital from St. Thomas's Street, where accidents are usually brought in: a porter is stationed at it, to examine the patients' tickets who have leave of absence granted them, and to prevent the admission of improper persons, or a thoroughfare being made through the hospital; he is expected to keep a watchful eye over the convalescents, that they do not steal out and purchase strong drinks, and to be always in readiness to receive accidents requiring admittance, either by day or night.

Above the columns, on the east side, is the large hall, where the governors meet to transact business and other matters relating to the hospital.

Underneath is a broad passage leading to the next square, having on one side the treasurer's office, or counting-house; on its other side, part of the steward's office, with its adjoining room, where the patients return thanks and are dismissed after being cured.

In the third court or square, which is perfectly quadrangular, and appropriated for the reception of male patients, the old hospital and its monkish appendages originally stood, though, by the munificence of Sir Robert Clayton, knight, lord mayor, and president, who greatly improved the present very capacious square at his own expense, not a vestige of the ancient fabric, which was a low swampy structure of the monastic order, can be traced. Sir Robert Clayton contributed 600*l.* towards rebuilding the hospital, and endowed it by will with 2300*l.* more: he was also a worthy benefactor to other charitable institutions.

In the middle of the square is a well-executed stone statue of that bountiful man, with an appropriate Latin inscription recounting his generosity, erected by the governors during his life-time "*as a monument of their esteem of so much worth.*"

Roberto Claytonio Equiti
 in Agro Northamptoniensi nato
 Civi Londinensi et Urbis Prætori,
 Hujus Nosocomii Præsidi.
 Novi Pauperum Engastuli Vice Præsidi
 Et Fautori Benefico.
 Quod in Magistratu semper Æquus,
 Patriæ Libertatis et Fidei Reformatæ,
 Vindex fuit acerrimus.
 Quod præter alia Liberalitatis suæ
 Erga Egenos Monumenta
 Puellarum in Christi
 Orphantorophio Cubiculum
 Suis Sumptibus extrui Curavit;
 Quod ad hanc Domum Reficendam Libras
 primum D C. erogavit Vivus,
 Et insuper MMCCC Testamento Legavit;
 Ob tanta Viri Merita Hanc Statuam
 Quam Honoris causa Viventi Posuerant
 Nosocomii Curatores A. D. MDCCI
 In Memoriam Mortui Decoraverunt
 A^o. D. MDCCXIV.

A beautiful colonnade, surmounted by a plain, neat, horizontal entablature, surrounds this square, on every side of which are two wards, excepting the western, occupied by the matron's apartments, and one side of the hall.

At each angle of this square, excepting that to the south-east, is a capacious staircase leading to every ward. The fronts of these six wards (named Jacob's, King's, Edward's, William's, Henry's, and Luke's) are adorned with high slender Ionic pilasters: beneath the colonnades, seats are placed for the patients, as in the first square.

The ground floor to the east is taken up by the surgery and patients' admission-rooms; that to the west by part of the steward's office and counting-house; that to the north partly by store-rooms, and partly by a side opening to the new lecturing theatre of anatomy, with its demonstrating and dissecting rooms, museum, &c; and that to the south by the apothecary's elaboratory, which is a most complete department.

A passage is left at the south-east corner of this square, which leads to three other extensive wards for male patients, Abraham's, George's, and Isaac's, two of which are the largest in the hospital; they are situated over each other, and form, with the back of the before-mentioned court, an oblong square, including a small plot of ground. In the middle angle, at the upper part of the building, is a beautiful operating theatre with an excellent sky-light:

THEATRVM HOC CHIRVRGICVM
DE NOVO CONFORMANDVM AC DECORANDVM
SYMPTV SVQ CVRAVIT
GEORGIVS ARNOLD ARMIGER
SENATOR LONDINENSIS ET HVJUS NOSOCOMII
PRAESES MERITISSIMO COLENDVS
ANN: DOM: MDCCLI

To the right of the above-mentioned wards is a spacious and airy yard for the recreation of the patients: across this yard are situated the foul wards; that occupied by the lewd women, containing thirty beds, is called Magdalen's Ward; above it are two others, erected in 1717, and named Job's and Naple's Wards, having about thirty beds in each, and allotted exclusively to the venereal male patients.

It is worthy of being remarked, that this was the first hospital in London that had wards in it expressly for foul patients. The places for the reception of venereal cases belonging to St. Bartholomew's were, until the last few years, at the bottom of Kent-street in the Borough.*

Some other hospitals appropriate their garrets to this purpose, whilst others expressly forbid any cases of this kind from being received: if they are admitted, it is in an indirect manner, as if suffering under some other malady, and placed along with the clean patients.

Although the former of these inconveniences is but trifling in comparison with the other, yet the ill conse-

* In this street anciently stood the Loke or Lazar House, for the reception of leprous people, the date or foundation of which is uncertain.

quences which must result from the unavoidable intercourse by this means likely to take place between persons of abandoned morals and those of respectable characters, must be obvious to every one.

In the yard to which I have just alluded, are placed the brewhouse, bakehouse, warm and cold baths, and till very lately the anatomical theatre and dissecting room. A clean bath is always kept warm, to prevent delay in case of accidents requiring its assistance.

The cold bath is not without merit; it is well contrived, and is plentifully supplied with good water from a large reservoir: its dimensions are about five feet deep, six or seven long, and three wide.

A large back gate opens into St. Thomas's Broad Way, and through it those who die in the hospital are conveyed to the burial ground, or removed by their friends; and all the disagreeable traffic is effectually prevented from disturbing the front squares.

Within the iron gates, at the side entrance, are some excellent and roomy houses, occupied by the treasurer, apothecary, register, and rector of the parish.

The whole hospital contains 19 wards and 430 beds, besides convenient rooms for the servants of the charity, and the ground it covers is equal in space to the entire extent of St. Thomas's Street, from the Borough High-street to the Broad Way.

Convenience appears to have been most particularly studied in the arrangement of the different departments in this hospital, which gives it an advantage not to be found in others of later date.

The numerous colonnades connecting all parts of the building to each other, defend the patients from wet, and admit of a ready communication with every part in the most inclement weather, without the slightest inconvenience; in short, the comforts of this institution are so manifold, that any further attempt at description on that head would be doing an injustice to its merits.

It has been in another place remarked, that the hospital was originally removed to its present situation, partly for

the benefit of good water: this advantage still remains; and the water here is said to be preferable to that of any other part of Southwark.

The kitchen, the bakehouse, and the brewhouse, are so well contrived, and so extremely well managed, that they deserve particular attention. I shall have to speak of them hereafter.

Such a reference to morality is apparent throughout the construction of this hospital, that it ought not in this place to be passed unnoticed. The womens' apartments are seen to be divided from the mens' by the square, tenanted by some of the principal officers; and the wards for the reception of the venereal patients are distinctly placed at a remote extremity of the premises. Great attention seems to be paid to the preservation of this good order, for it is directed that no foul patients shall be admitted into the chapel, or be suffered to sit on the benches in the square, until their cure is accomplished, and they are about to leave the hospital; then, and not till then, do they enjoy equal liberty with the rest of the patients: the lewd women, for obvious reasons, are exempted from this privilege.

In a moral point of view, this order cannot be enough commended; but formerly another consideration had no doubt some weight, for, before the nature of the venereal disease was so perfectly understood (as at the present day), the fears of the vulgar ascribed very marvellous properties to it, and they credulously supposed that even a seat could be contaminated by one labouring under that complaint, which would propagate its baneful influence to a healthy person simply by the contact of a part freed from the intervention of external covering.

In reviewing the preceding pages, we are naturally brought to a brief conclusion of what has been advanced, and this may be given in a small compass.

Whether we survey certain parts of St. Thomas's Hospital, or consider the whole combined, we are equally struck with its grand and commanding appearance.

Many persons have censured this way of constructing a

large establishment, and have considered it especially unappropriate for an hospital. The plan of having squares behind each other are thought too confined, and not allowing of a free circulation of pure air, so essential to structures of this nature.

My Lord Bacon, however, who ought to be esteemed as of great authority in architectural knowledge, approves I believe of a similar design, as the best and most regular for a large establishment, by reason of the facility with which a proper communication may be preserved with all its connexions, and proposes (as near as I can draw the comparison) a similar plan for a royal palace.*

The site of the hospital, when relatively considered as standing in Southwark, is perhaps a confined one; but whoever has seen and attended to the quadrangles, and the way of admitting a regular circulation of air into the different wards, has been ready to acknowledge, that neither impurity of air, nor insalubrity of situation, can be advanced as constituting any of the defects of St. Thomas's Hospital.

The white stone pilasters in every square afford a happy contrast to the red brick body of the building, and relieve, with a peculiar lightness, what would otherwise appear not so agreeable.

Instead of that sombre heavy appearance, which is so frequently complained of as making an hospital resemble a prison or place of punishment, and striking an awe in the sufferers who apply for relief, it bears a greater similarity to an agreeable private mansion.

The concealment of the roof, on either side of the quadrangle erected by Sir Robert Clayton, is a model of good taste, and does honour to the architect.

The beautiful colonnades, surrounding the different courts, give them an air not merely of elegance but grandeur, and the harmony and magnitude of the whole building deservedly entitle it to the character of a stately edifice.

* Vide Bacon's Essays.

GENERAL VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

In acknowledging the utility of St. Thomas's Hospital, and admiring the manner in which it is governed, we are insensibly led to pay a just tribute of applause to the city of London, which has long been celebrated for its example in the completion of benevolent works, and to confess that much of that generous spirit, which reflects such honour upon the national character, is deducible from this source.

Whilst the hospitals were under the direction of the clergy, charity was regarded as a secondary consideration; a pretence for employing the vast revenues they obtained from the rates levied on the laity by permission of the popes; and the government of these receptacles for relieving the distressed was so irregularly conducted, that their utility was extremely limited.

This truth became at last too notorious to escape animadversion, and we find Sir Richard Gresham, lord mayor of London, had the honour of representing the subject to Henry VIII. and of first suggesting the plan for their improvement.*

* Petition of Sir Richard Gresham to the King.†

"**MOST** redowted, puyasant, and noble prince, My most dreadd, beloved, and naturall Soveraigne lorde, I your poore, humble, and most obedient Servaint, dailly considering, and ever more and more perceivying by your vertuous begynnyng, and charitable proceedings in all your causes, your persone and majestie royall, to be elected and chosen vessel of God, by whom not only the very and true worde of God is and shall be sett forth, and according to the trewgh and verytie of the same; but also to be he whom God hath constituted and ordeyned, both to redresse and reforme all crimes, offences and enormities beyng repugnant to his doctrine, or to the detryment of the common welth, and hurt of the poore people beyng your natural subjects; and farther to foresee and vigilantly to provide for the charitable reformation of the same. Which thynk hath, and yet doth encourage me, and also my bounden dewtie obligeth me, in especiall beyng most unworthy youre levetenant, and mayer of your Cytie Royall of London, to enforme and advertise your

† Cotton Library, Cleop. E. 4. p. 222.

Although that thoughtless monarch neglected so favourable an opportunity of being extensively serviceable to the poor, and it remained for his successor to improve the hint and complete the good work, much merit was due to

most gracious highnes of one thing in especiall, for the ayde and comfort of the poore, syke, blynde, aged, and impotent persons beyng not able to help themselves, nor having no place certen where they may be refreshed, or lodged at, tyll they be holpen and cured of their diseases and sickness. So it is most gracious lorde, that nere and within the cytie of London, be iij hospitalls or spytells, commonly called Seynt Georges Spytell, Seynt Barthilmewe's Spytel, and Seynt Thomas Spytell, and the new abbey of Tower Hill, founded of good devotion by auncient fathers, and endowed with great possessions and rents, only for the releefe, comforte and helping of the poore, and impotent people lying in every street, offending every clene persone passing by the way with theyre fylthy and nasty savors. Wherefore may it please your merciful goodness enclined to pytie and compassion, for the reliefe of Christs very images, created to his own similitude, to order by your high authoritie, as supreme head of this church of England, or otherwise by your sage discrecion, that your mayor of your cytie of London, and his brethren the aldermen for the time being, shall and may from henceforth, have the order, disposition, rule, and governaunce both of all the lands, tenements, and renewes apperteynyng and belongyn to the said hospitals, governours of them, and of the ministers which be, or shall be withwyn any of them: and then your grace shall facillie perceyve that where now a small number of chanons, priests, and monkes be founde for theyr own profit only, and not for the common utilitie of the realme, a great number of poore, needy, syke, and indugent persones shall be refreshed, maynteyned, and comforted; and also healed and cured of their infermities frankly and freely by physicions, surgeons, and potycaries, which shall have stipende and salarie only for that purpose: so that all impotent persones not able to labour shall be releved, and all sturdy beggars not willing to labour shall be punished, for the which doying your grace shall not alonely merit highly towards God, but shewe yourselffe to be more charitable to the poore, than your noble progenitor kyng Edgar, foundour of so many monasteries; kyng Henry the Thirde, renewer of Westmynster; or kyng Edward the Thirde, foundor of the new Abbey; or kyng Henry the Fifth, foundor of Syon and Shene; but also shall have the name of conservator, protectour, and defendour of the poore people, with their contynual prayer for your health, welthe, and prosperitie long to endure.

" Your humble and most

" obedient servant,

" RYCHARD GRESHAM."

the city of London ; and it is fair to presume, it was on this account, as well as from the estimation in which its magistrates were held, that Edward the VIth invested them with the governance of the royal hospitals.

The benefits derived by transferring these establishments from papal jurisdiction to those who evinced the enlarged spirit of protestant benevolence quickly became apparent, and afforded a striking contrast of the two religions, as they influenced the prosperity of this country.

When, through the munificence of Edward, the Lord Mayor and citizens became possessed of the means to provide for the several indigences of the poor, they appointed proper persons to direct and superintend each of the hospitals confided to their care. In making this arrangement, it was necessary to enact such laws as should not require abrogation, and constitute such appointments as should be well upheld ; for every well-regulated corporation is modelled after a military system, by dividing the command and the executive power into employments variously disposed, whereby strict discipline can be observed and regularity maintained, the subordinate officer being made amenable to the superior ; so that command is tempered by a ready submission to orders on the part of the inferior in rank, and the useless exercise of authority is prevented.

Precisely upon such a plan is St. Thomas's Hospital arranged ; and its appointments may be enumerated in the following order, which will afterwards be treated of respectively.

1st. *The Governors*, who, when assembled, have the supreme direction of the charity, and the filling up of all the other appointments.

2nd. *The Committee*, composed of a convenient number of the Governors, appointed to meet at regular intervals, having power vested in them to execute certain duties of the charity, subject to the approval of the body of Governors.

3rd. *The President*, who is the head amongst the Governors, and presides as chairman in their general court or assembly.

4th. *The Treasurer*, who is the superior resident officer on the establishment, and who assists the Committee in managing the receipts and disbursements of the funds of the charity.

5th. *The Steward*, the officer next in rank to the Treasurer, who superintends the interior œconomy of the institution, &c.

6th. *The inferior Officers*, all of whom have separate duties to fulfil, differing from each other, and who individually execute the commands of the superior officers.

Thus, in explaining the order of this hospital, I am disposed to consider it as resembling a republican form of government, because the distinct offices and parts of it are wisely distributed amongst many, who mutually assist each other. These offices are so admirably balanced, and their equipoise is so extremely well maintained, that neither of them preponderates, and the temporary interruption of any one does not disorder the great scheme. All the duties are properly executed by their reciprocal concurrence; and thus, by their harmony, they assist to disseminate that greatest of all blessings, health; and conduce to that most material of all ends, the public good!

OF THE GOVERNORS.

From the tenour of the original charter granted by Edward, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London, in succession, were entitled to the right of being Governors to the royal hospitals; and this they retained to themselves for many years.

But, in process of time, they considered themselves at liberty to nominate other persons as participators in the honour; and, in doing so, they appear to have been regulated by a wise regard to the interest and prosperity of the charity; for, in proportion as the metropolis and the number of its inhabitants increased, the size of the city hospitals required enlarging; and this could only be done either by borrowing sums of money, or by admitting of Governors upon a more general plan, who, when elected, were expected to present a handsome gratuity.

The funds of St. Thomas's Hospital more particularly required replenishing; and, as a remuneration to those opulent and respectable characters who subscribed largely to its wants, a share in the administration of its government was extended to them.

In course of time, when the revenues were manifestly the accumulation of private gifts, rather than the donation of the original founder, the government of the city became gradually dispensed with, though the *supreme authority* of the head magistrate and aldermen remained. Thus the private benefactors in some measure outweighed and superseded the power of the city as a corporation, and from thence by degrees the management of St. Thomas's Hospital became vested in the hands of private persons; and thus it continued and prospered.*

The corporation at length finding their rights encroached upon by the Governors, were obliged to enact rules to preserve their privileges; and the Court of Aldermen had to insist upon their right of being Governors, and that without paying any fee.

In the year 1691, I find forty Governors were presented to the Lord Mayor for his approbation.

In 1699 an attempt was made by the city to restore the Governors of the four hospitals to their ancient constitution; and it was enacted that none but freemen should be

* About the year 1676, at that period of our history when the factions known by the vulgar epithets of Whig and Tory divided the kingdom, the two great hospitals in London were materially influenced by each of those parties. The Whigs or Conventiclers prevailed at St. Thomas's, whilst the Tories or High Churchmen had the preponderance at St. Bartholomew's. The disturbances arising from the contrivers and promoters of those political contests, which had a tendency to destroy religious liberties, form a disgraceful retrospect in the history of this country; and yet at that time, happily for the poor, the opulence of the city was politically engaged in its noble charities, and the feuds of discordant principles and malevolent sectarianism resolved themselves into a party opposition of experiment, which could best govern a charity, and best form a school for the improvement of the healing art. This is a circumstance the more to be wondered at, as it forms an exception to the common result of religious and political controversies.

elected Governors. The Common Council also subsequently declared their right of being Governors, agreeably to the spirit of the charter, without paying the accustomed fee: this occasioned a great contrariety of opinion as to the propriety of acceding to their demand; at length the point was finally compromised, by allowing a certain number to be elected every three years.*

In that unfortunate delusion, the South Sea scheme, whilst thousands of respectable families became impoverished, others, on the contrary, were enriched, and some of the immense fortunes which several individuals amassed, were either presented during their life, or bequeathed at their death, to different charitable institutions. Vast sums of money appear to have been devoted to benevolent purposes shortly after that period; and the city hospitals of course shared largely in the advantages thence arising. The government of St. Thomas's Hospital again became more widely diffused, and numbers claimed the privileges to which their bounty entitled them.

Since that time the Governors have been progressively increasing; and as no limitation is set to the number, they amount at the present day to some hundreds, and of course are annually increasing.

The admirers of disinterested goodness are here naturally led to contemplate, with the liveliest emotions, the worth, and venerate, with the warmest sentiments of gratitude, the memories of those benefactors to St. Thomas's Hospital, whose names adorn the tablets in the great hall, and throw a lustre on the country that gave them birth.

“ Μισθὸς ἀρετῆς αἶνος.”

* Mr. Bowen, in his History of Bethlem, says, “ A contest had long subsisted between the common council of the city of London and the acting governors of all the royal hospitals; the former claiming a right to be admitted governors in virtue of the several royal charters. This dispute has been happily settled by a compromise, which allows the admission of twelve of the common council to each hospital. Application was made to Parliament in 1782, and a bill passed, which fully establishes this agreement; and the friends of these noble charities have now the satisfaction to be assured that the government of them is settled in a mode best calculated to promote their prosperity.”

Whilst the benevolent mind feels a secret pleasure in recording the virtues of such as have distinguished themselves in philanthropy, it cannot help adding a prayer that such examples may be generally imitated. A late elegant female writer has observed, that "to relieve the distressed is the greatest happiness that man can enjoy in this life—the love of humanity is the most disinterested of sentiments, and the more extensive and diffused it is, the more it is sublime."*

If those who are charitably disposed were to look for a remuneration of their good works, the fallacy of their expectations would operate disadvantageously to humanity, and few would be found willing to exert themselves in its cause: happily, however, for the suffering poor, the public institutions in this metropolis amply testify, that there are many persons who, uninfluenced by such narrow sentiments, prove that their generosity is commensurate with their ability to do good, and who, in indulging this amiable disposition, experience the most refined delight of the human heart.

Upon taking a transient view of the subject, it would seem that the poor are principally those who are benefited by the gratuitous donations of the rich; if, however, we enter more minutely into the considerations from whence that supposition is deduced, it would require no depth of argument to prove that every part of the community is indirectly assisted by the well-applied bounty of the affluent, who thus entail obligations on mankind, and make posterity their debtor.

The ceremony of creating a Governor to St. Thomas's Hospital is merely to have him proposed as a person of acknowledged worth, and one likely to be serviceable to the charity: he is then presented by the committee to the general court of Governors for their acceptance.

On his admission he is expected to present 50*l.* or upwards, to the charity; but it is to be understood, that

* Madame de Genlis.

money alone will not purchase a Governor's staff, for the honour must be obtained by election.

It was formerly customary to present to every Governor, upon his election, what was designated a Charge, which explained to him the nature of his appointment, and the duties connected therewith. This is particularly required, and ought never to be disused; for, as the subscribers to charitable institutions are generally persons not merely of opulence but of worth, it is reasonable to suppose they do not consider it beneath their notice to ascertain the manner in which their bounty is distributed, and how the establishment is conducted which they have undertaken to support; and it is a natural inference to believe they would consider their duty but half accomplished, if they failed to devote some portion of their time in assisting its government, when called upon to do so; by the due execution of which, conjoined with the wisdom, prudence, and foresight of its rulers, rather than by pecuniary grants, the charity is perhaps more materially benefitted.

A Governor to an hospital, when his duties are rightly understood and properly performed, is in every respect a person of consequence to the world, inasmuch as on his exertions depend the comfort, welfare, and sometimes perhaps even the existence, of many of the poorer sort of the community. To sum up his duties in a small compass, it would seem that, as he engages to promote the sacred views of charity, he avails himself of every opportunity to improve the advantages he possesses, by sacrificing individual comfort to public good, and regularly attends the periodical calls of the establishment when it requires the benefit of his personal attendance. By this means scarcely a day passes in which he is not enabled to perform some useful action; and what sensation can be more heart-felt than that which arises from the ability to relieve the poor, and mitigate the sufferings of humanity!

The principal duties appertaining to the Governors of St. Thomas's Hospital are the enacting of laws, confirming of edicts, and voting in every thing of importance, especially the election of superior officers.

For purposes of this nature they are summoned to meet, when they constitute a general court; which, assembling regularly once a year, investigates the important business of the hospital, passes through the wards and different departments, and sees that every thing is comfortable and well arranged.*

This court may be considered as the supreme authority, as it has the appointing of the inferior courts or committees and sanctioning their proceedings, the filling all the vacancies in the several offices, and has all the discretionary improvements, or at least confirming such, as are suggested by the committees.

The election of superior officers is perhaps one of the most material duties of the general court, and is therefore particularly regarded by the Governors, each of whom is early apprized of any vacancy requiring to be filled up, and has a summons specifying the day of election, and requesting the favour of his attendance.

Here it may not be irrelative to say a few words on the subject in question, so far as it regards the professional appointments.

The privilege of voting at elections, enjoyed by the governors of all public institutions, is sometimes so far abused as to be prejudicial to the ends of charity, by being made subservient to private views and friendly accommodation; hence we find the places to such establishments are oftentimes indirectly purchased; and this is done by the candidates having it in their power to create new governors at their pleasure, by paying the usual fees.† At the royal hospitals, however, the case is widely

* The time for assembling is in the month of July, when a dinner is provided, which is called the venison feast, because a buck is by right of custom presented from the royal forest.

† Candour and a regard to truth compels us, though unwillingly, to acknowledge that this is but too prevalent at the public infirmaries, dispensaries, and even some of the less respectable hospitals. The Governors reserve their votes until the day of balloting arrives, to promote opposition, and encourage a hard contested election; they are persuaded, that as each candidate, to ensure success, pays the gratuity for a certain

different; an election cannot be turned by bribery and corruption; for the qualifications required in their Governors, as well as the formalities used at their nomination, which impress them with an idea of their own responsibility, are sufficient to prevent unjust practices; besides, their known respectability serves to maintain the purity of election, and prevent either favour or affection from obstructing the advancement of merit, which, if disregarded, would reflect disgrace upon an honour that can only be extended to persons of reputation and acknowledged integrity.

Every Governor, uninfluenced by party considerations, or such as would militate against the welfare of the charity, is ready to distrust the efficiency of his own judgment in deciding whether an individual who demands his support be entitled to it; for if any preconceived opinion were formed in favour of a friend, it might operate detrimentally to the prosperity of the institution: therefore a reference is almost invariably had to the principal resident officer (the Treasurer), who is better able to decide as to the competency of the candidates, by reason of the facilities he possesses of noticing their conduct whilst acquiring their professional knowledge. And here it is to be understood, that every person who offers himself to a respectable hospital, is supposed to have received his education at that hospital, and to be well acquainted with every thing of importance, or worthy of being known, belonging to it. On this account it is customary, in appointing a person to the office of Surgeon, to select him from amongst those who have attended the hospital some few years in the capacity of apprentices, under the manage-

number of new Governors, who are all entitled to a vote, the funds of the charity are by this means greatly augmented: thus the appointment is publicly sold, and he who can bear the most expence becomes the fortunate rival, to the exclusion of others perhaps more meritorious. Surely the absurdity by which a policy so short-sighted is dictated must be obvious to every one, as manifestly prejudicial rather than advantageous to the views of charity; and such indiscreet conduct on the part of the Governors can only be deserving of severe animadversion.

ment and instruction of the former surgeons; though it appears that it does not necessarily follow that such apprentices have any absolute claims upon the Governors beyond what their merit and acquirements entitle them to.*

Not only are the principal resident officers consulted at St. Thomas's Hospital, but the sense and approbation of those, to whom the candidate aspires to become a colleague, are commonly procured, and also allowed to have some weight with the Governors, who, by these excellent means of directing their choice and regulating their votes accordingly, have hitherto executed the nice duties of election in a way highly creditable to themselves, have selected men of real ability for their Physicians and Surgeons, and, above all, have maintained the honour and respectability of this ancient charity.

* This leads me to a premature digression: the near relation which it bears to the present remarks must be my apology for bringing it forward, and adverting to an erroneous opinion that very generally obtains.—The contiguity of St. Thomas's Hospital and that founded by the late Mr. Guy to each other, has led to a prevailing belief that they are very intimately connected; and hence they have been denominated the *United Hospitals*: this, which originated in individual design, has been maintained by vague conjecture; but it would seem they are no farther connected than that mutual arrangement which has been made for reciprocal accommodation in the surgical and anatomical departments, to benefit the pupils attending each, and widen the field for their improvement in the healing art, without increasing the heavy expences with which they are encumbered. Ignorance of this fact seems to have produced an erroneous idea with regard to elections, and given a pretext for the senior candidate at either hospital to imagine himself entitled to an undisputed election, at whichever the vacancy happens to be. The fallacy of these expectations was proved by the unsuccessful attempt which was some few years since made by a senior apprentice of St. Thomas's Hospital against a junior of Mr. Guy's, to be returned eligible for a vacancy at the latter. This evinced the weakness of his claims, though supported by the exertions of the Surgeons at St. Thomas's Hospital, who had believed this intimate connexion existed between the two, and who afterwards, in justice to themselves, remonstrated against the propriety of the election, though ineffectually; and thus was it clearly manifested to what a limited extent the union ought to be acknowledged, as well as the relative subsistent connection between those who govern these great charities.

The custom of electing surgeons to an hospital from the juniors of those who have been educated at it, is praiseworthy on the part of the Governors, and is of national utility; it holds out an encouragement to the study of a profession which must ever be high in the public estimation; it liberally patronizes the valuable science of surgery, and, by stimulating the youthful mind to its cultivation with the hopes of ultimate reward, it incites that exercise of talent, which, without some prospect (though remote) of honour and emolument, would too often be consigned to oblivion.*

To the credit of the Governors of St. Thomas's Hospital be it spoken, that their patronage has not been limited, but, on the contrary, widely diffused; not merely confined to that class of pupils, the apprentices, who in number are very few, but extended to the numerous dressers and students, whose industry and research seem to have been greatly encouraged, as appears by the regulations made to that effect. This patronage has been on various occasions shown in favour of superior merit;

* I have often thought, as so much depends upon making a judicious choice of a surgeon, that not merely the higher officers should be consulted, but even some of the most respectable of such as are called the servants of the charity (as the sisters or head nurses) should be privately requested to offer an opinion; for, as they are accustomed to observe the daily conduct of the gentlemen while filling a subordinate rank, or rather completing a probationary state (during which time various cases of danger and sickness must have been intrusted to their superintendence), they are able to attest whether a candidate has uniformly been attentive and humane to the objects of misery and distress under his care; for without these good qualities, a surgeon must be a terror instead of a blessing to his fellow creatures, and the greater his abilities are, the more dangerous must they render one who is callous to the feelings of humanity. These hints, which at first sight would appear irrelevant and unnecessary, I am persuaded would be beneficial if attended to; at all events, if such were known to be objects of consideration with the Governors, they would operate advantageously to the charity, by disposing the juniors of the profession to an emulation in the fulfilment of their duties, when convinced that their conduct was daily subject to notice; and surely every one, who understands the nature of the various employments in a large hospital, must readily allow this is a matter of no trifling importance.

and, indeed, instances are not wanted to prove that they have even elected surgeons of great abilities to the hospitals from the most meritorious, though they may not have been apprentices.

A very sensible writer has observed, that those who possess one good public appointment should rest satisfied, or, at least, should be discouraged in their attempts to attain any more: this is an excellent idea; it is strictly applicable to the places of trust in public charities, and ought ever to be remembered by those electors who have the filling up of professional vacancies in a large hospital; for how can an individual (whether he be a physician or a surgeon), who has the duties of one public station to complete as well as those of his private practice, attend properly to the engagements of another, which must require a larger portion of time to have its duties conducted with regularity than any single person can possibly bestow?

Unfortunately, however, many Governors are not of this opinion; hence the reason why some of them are occasionally pleased to sanction the election of men who rank high in their profession, and who, instead of grasping with avidity at every public situation within their reach, ought rather to support a junior in its attainment; for that which would be of but trifling consequence to the former, would serve to bring a young man into notice, who, for want of this kind of introduction to the world, is frequently doomed to waste transcendant abilities uselessly, or sacrifice his early but valuable years in a subordinate sphere, when his acquirements should procure him a leading place, to render his knowledge more extensively useful.

The impolicy of filling professional vacancies by men highly exalted is apparent, and obviously destructive to the ends of charity: for, even in some of those men of eminence who owe their rise solely to these respectable places, we see it daily exemplified, that they are unmindful of their original obligations, and, as if totally forgetting the way by which they arrived at rank, reputation, and honour,

neglect the duties of their public station, or perform them so irregularly, that, instead of promoting, they obstruct the intentions of benevolence; whilst, if they entertained more refined principles of rectitude, they would resign to others the execution of what they perform with indifference, and, when they fail to complete the injunctions of a charity, decline receiving the reward due to their proper fulfilment.*

The Governors of the royal hospitals were formerly very attentive to those regulations which maintained the prosperity of their charities, and hence we find they made such prudent orders, and enacted such salutary laws, as were from time to time deemed necessary. Amongst the many excellent rules and regulations adopted at different periods, it was directed, in 1557, that every officer should be elected annually: this was not intended to exclude those who had officiated the preceding year, for they were again nominated; but by such an order the Governors thought themselves enabled to preserve their privileges, and to prevent any abuse of power on the part of those who had the executive duties of the charities to perform. Even so lately as the year 1692, I find every officer, not excepting the President, was to be annually chosen in May. This law had a powerful tendency to excite emulation in those who held places of confidence, as it rewarded, by a continuance, those who had properly fulfilled

* These remarks I could not forbear making, because an instance of this inattention on the part of the Governors to a large hospital was but recently a subject of notoriety and animadversion, where one professional man of eminence retained at the same time the appointments to two charities, besides other public places of minor consideration, and an extensive private practice.

I should be sorry to have it inferred that I have a disposition to form any uncandid comparison between some other hospitals and that which I now have the honour of particularizing; but I cannot refrain from asserting, that such irregularities as those just adverted to, have hitherto been discouraged at St. Thomas's Hospital; and therefore I think at other institutions the error ought to point out its own effectual correction, and that would consist in selecting young surgeons to these appointments.

the duties of the establishment, whilst it effectually deterred others from being inattentive to the trust reposed in them. For several years this good custom was regularly enforced, until at last it ceased to be practised publicly with the superior officers, though it is still continued with the inferior ones. The ceremony passes yearly on St. Matthew's day, in the gallery of Christ's hospital, before the Lord Mayor and Governors, and is worthy the attention of such as have curiosity to inquire into ancient customs.* It remains as a specimen of the original constitution, though without any absolute utility at the present day, as the superior resident officer, with the committee of Governors, at either of the royal hospitals, can remove any inferior who is unmindful of his duty, without waiting till the time comes round.

Example has always been considered more prevailing than precept, and therefore we find the Governors anciently prescribed certain limits even to their own authority, the better to bias their officers and servants. It may perhaps not be unamusing if I adduce the form of a Charge, which was invariably read to the Governors of the city hospitals, on their election, by the clerk, as appears from a curious publication printed in the reign of Queen Mary, 1557.

“ Your charge shall be in this government, that every of you endeavor your selves with all your wisdomes and powers faithfullie and diligently to serve in this vocation and calling ; which is an office of high trust and worship ; for ye are called to be the faithful and true distributors

* The menial servants of each hospital, who are obliged to attend, lay down their staves, the insignia of their office, at the feet of his Lordship, and retire: after a short interval they are called, and if no proof of misbehaviour be alledged against them they are immediately reinstated. The original order runs thus :—“ Then shall be called in before the said Courte, all the Bedells, who shall deliver up their staves and depart the howse, that the opinion of the Court may be harde touchinge the doing of their duties. To the entent, yf any of them be faultye, that he or they may be rebuked or dismissed, at the discretion of the said Court, and thereupon to deliver unto such as then remayne, their staves, and again establish them.”

and disposers of the goods of Almighty God to his poor and needy members. In the which office and calling, yf ye shall be found negligent and unfaithfull, you shall not onelie declare your selves to be the most unthankfull and unworthie Servants of Almighty God, being put in trust to see to the reliefe and succor of his poor and needy flock; But also ye shall shew your selves to be very notable and great enemyes to that worke, which most highlie doth advaunce and beautifie the comon weale of this realme, and chiefly of this Citie of London. For by this most comendable and notable policie, Idelnes the enemye of all vertue is suppressed and banished; The tender youth of the nedy and idle beggars vertuously brought up; The Number of sicke, sore and miserable people, refreshed, harbored and cured of their maladies; And the vile and sturdy strumpet compelled to labour and travaile in profitable exercises. Requiring every of you, faithfully to travaile in this your Office and callinge; that this worke may have his perfection, and that the nedy Number committed to your charge be diligently and holsomleye provided for. And for your care towards these poore and nedye members of Christe, you shall be rewarded at his hand, and receive his blessinge in this world, and in the world to come the joyes everlasting."

This shows the high sense which the Governors formerly entertained of their own important trust, as their orders manifested their desire of impressing others with the like sentiments.

The Governors of St. Thomas's, in common with those of the other hospitals, were originally possessed of power to inflict punishments for the better regulation of the patients; and I find directions for erecting stocks and a whipping-post within the walls of the hospital (the former of which have not been removed many years), and likewise orders for patients to be whipped for misdemeanors.

Such as had been relieved and cured at this hospital, if found begging afterwards in the streets, were sent to Bridewell; and the foul patients, particularly lewd women,

were whipped before they were discharged, and severely admonished to pursue a better course of life.

To an ordeal so painful, that serves to show us that immorality and indecency were more discountenanced than at present, we should be inclined to suppose few could bear to subject themselves; the contrary, however, appears to have been the case, for many were necessarily obliged to submit to it, or suffer, without any prospects of relief, all the horrors of a loathsome malady, which, under such circumstances as the unchaste women at that time laboured, soon bore its unfortunate victims to the grave.

In order that the poor might be kept from idleness, a hand-mill was purchased to grind corn; flax was also dressed, and other light employments followed, to engage the leisure time of the convalescents in a way profitably to the institution.

It is much to be wondered at, that the Governors should have allowed any relaxation in this respect, and suffer so salutary an order to be discontinued for the want of attention to enforce it; because, as a great proportion of the patients have only trifling surgical complaints, they could during their cure, without detriment to themselves, contribute by their daily work to their own maintenance, by assisting at some employment not operose, and lighten the burden of their expences on the charity.

Shell-fish were forbidden to be sold in the hospital; and the beadles were directed to apprehend in their districts, all rogues, masterless men, and fishwives, who happened to be found going about without a licence, and pass them on to Bridewell, the hospital of correction.

Many other exceedingly good arrangements were made, and, in the year 1757, a general abstract of the orders was delivered to each of the Governors; but, as they are more particularly applicable to specific purposes, I shall give them under their appropriate heads.

OF THE COMMITTEE.

What is now understood by a Committee, appears to be what was originally designated an ordinary court, as expressed in the book heretofore alluded to, entitled, "The Order of the Hospitalls of K. Henry the viijth and K. Edward the vjth—1557."

"By the Maior, Cominaltie, and Citizens of London, Governours of the Possessions, Revenues, and Goods of the sayd Hospitalls," which used to meet at stated times, "to examine, order, and punish any officers that should be found to offend at any time within the hospital." This ordinary court afterwards became changed to the name of Committee, at a time perhaps when its duties also became altered; and it subsequently was subdivided into two, a Grand and a Sub-Committee. The former consisted of a certain number of the Governors, who were to meet occasionally, when the affairs of the charity required their presence, to transact business of more importance than the latter had power to execute, and yet not so momentous as to require the assembly of a general court. The latter was likewise composed of Governors, who were qualified to meet at stated periods, to transact the ordinary business, to examine any propositions of the Treasurer, to assist in the auditing his accounts, to make any temporary improvements, and to settle with him the estates, and the renewal of the leases, belonging to the charity;* both Committees reporting their proceedings from time to time to the general court of Governors, whose approbation made any proposal of theirs become a law.

Of late, the duties of these Committees have so far

* The revenues of St. Thomas's Hospital are derived principally from its landed estates; to which may be added a small floating capital, for temporary purposes, in the funds. Although not so affluent as those of the contiguous hospital, they are flourishing, and fully adequate, with œconomy and management, to sustain every necessary expence of the charity, and even to admit of all those little comforts which are so essential to the recovery of the poor victims of disease who seek refuge within its walls.

become blended and intermixed, that one Committee is thought efficient to execute the business which formerly appertained to both: this Committee commonly attends about three or four times yearly; and, in order that every Governor may make himself acquainted with the duties of the charity, it is customary for six to be called upon at regular intervals, to relieve an equal number of those who have officiated for the regular period. The members of the Committee remain in office two years; and although the regular affairs of the charity do not generally require them to meet very frequently, yet if any unforeseen occurrence renders it necessary for the Treasurer to call them together oftener, he has always the power of doing so by a circular notice.

When any improvements are going on at the hospital, they of necessity meet oftener, and indeed on some occasions so frequently as every fortnight or three weeks. The whole number of them is more than twenty; and although it is desirable that all should meet regularly, yet if four or five only assemble, they are competent, with the Treasurer, to transact business, but less than that number are not allowed to act.

The Committee is open to every Governor who feels disposed to interest himself particularly in the management of the hospital; and it is rather to be wondered at, as so good an opportunity presents itself to the benevolent man of being greatly serviceable at so trifling a sacrifice of his own convenience, that more of them are not desirous of attending.

To have due time to complete the necessary affairs of the charity, a dinner is provided at the hospital for the Committee, whenever they meet upon business.

Some reflections have been thrown upon hospital dinners, by those who are impressed with a belief that they diminish the funds of the poor unnecessarily; but when it is understood, that the allowance for these occasions is limited to less than 200*l.* a year, out of an annual income of nearly 10,000*l.* those reflections are beneath consideration.

The purport of hospital dinners is to bring such gentlemen of the Committee together as a premium in money would not induce to come, or who, under other circumstances, might not attend; and to prevent them, when collected for the business of the charity, from separating before that business is finished.

Another proper purpose is, to make the Treasurer acquainted with every Governor, by keeping him a proper table on public days, without putting him to an extraordinary expence: in every high department of our Government something of the same nature is allowed. A third advantage is, it gives the Committee an opportunity of ascertaining correctly all the advantages the establishment possesses in relation to the quality of the diet given to the patients: for on these occasions the common articles of the household, with which the patients themselves are fed, are served up, as the meat, bread, beer, butter, cheese, &c.; and the Governors composing the Committee see that they are all good and wholesome for the purposes of the charity.

On some occasions they visit the wards of the hospital; this ceremony, I think, should never be dispensed with.

When any thing of importance, relative to the establishment or its officers, is likely to be a subject of investigation with the general court of Governors, it is commonly brought before the Committee in the first place; and, indeed, the Committee execute a variety of different matters, such as settling little misunderstandings, correcting abuses or mal-practices, regulating the conduct of the officers and servants, and directing the different changes required in the charity, which, without its timely interference, conjunctively with the Treasurer, might proceed to great lengths, might occasion the necessity of calling together a general court, and perhaps materially affect the well being of the charity.

OF THE PRESIDENT.

The first Lord Mayor of London who commenced the government of the city hospitals as principal director,

according to the intentions of Edward the Sixth, we find was Sir George Barne, who being sent for to the court at Whitehall, April 10th, 1553, the King presented to him St. Thomas's Hospital and Bridewell; and for their maintenance appropriated the bedding and furniture, and the value of seven hundred marks in land, late of the possession of the suppressed house of Savoy, called Savoy Rents, which was intended by Henry VII. as an hospital for a hundred distressed people, and had been completely repaired by Henry the VIIIth; the grant specifying these hospitals to be for the commonalty and citizens of London, as stated in the charter of incorporation of the four hospitals, June 6th, 1553. It was quickly resolved to appoint a President to each hospital as substitute for the Lord Mayor, to transact business when his lordship was unable to attend. The Presidents were selected from the court of aldermen, and the duties they had then to perform may be gathered from the following Charge, as extracted from the orders of the hospital, dated "*Martis, vicesimo octavo die Septembris, Anno Phil. et Mariæ quarto et quinto.*"

"The President of every severall howse shal be taken as chief Ruler and Governour, next unto the Lord Maior for the time being, of the howse whereunto he is chosen. And his authority shalbe, from tyme to tyme at his pleasure, and as to him shall seme good, to cause the number of the Governors to be called together; and to reprove, and reprehend any governour in his Office, if there shall appere good cause unto him. And all Courts for waighty matters, shall by the President be appointed; and without his personn, shall no waightie matters be determined or agreed upon."

From this it appears, the office of President was both honourable and powerful; it included the superior duties, and was only inferior to the highest civic officer (the Lord Mayor), who, when present at either of the hospitals in his formalities, took the chair of the President. At St. Thomas's Hospital the President was, and is now, considered as the moving spring of the Governors; he receives his appointment from the majority of them when assem-

bled in a general court; he sits as chairman when they meet; and has certain privileges attached to his office, as, for instance, a double or casting vote in the election of officers, &c.

For many years subsequently to the ecclesiastical reformation, the office of President was well managed and regularly conducted, according to the ancient constitution; but, during the contests of Whig and Tory, when the former party prevailed at St. Thomas's, and when its revenues were so considerably augmented by individual bounty, and its government became gradually vested in the hands of private persons (in consequence of the enlarged method of constituting governors), certain irregularities stole in, and the imperative injunctions of the charter became gradually departed from, though the vital interests of the charity did not materially suffer from such discrepancy.

The persons, however, who were so liberal in their benefactions, contrived also to preserve the power and benefits of them to their party; they chose the President from the court of aldermen, but they took especial care this alderman should be a Whig. The Presidents, therefore, were, for several successive years, decidedly of the Whig party. Amongst them are to be mentioned numerous illustrious men: the names of Campbell, Heathcote, Eyle, and the patriotic Barnard, are well known as celebrated citizens; they adorn the pages of history, though their portraits, which are admirably depicted, fade, little regarded, in the great hall. Some of them were very instrumental in bringing over King William; and, to commemorate that event, the pictures of William and his consort Mary hang in the hall, whilst an annual Whig toast has been yearly observed at the venison feast of the Governors:—" *To the immortal Memory of King William and his good Queen Mary.*"

The tablets in the great hall attest how bountiful many of the Presidents were to the hospital: they afford a gratifying proof of that liberality with which the institution has been assisted by individuals ever since its foundation,

and strongly evince the utility of riches when applied to such benevolent purposes. How noble is the inclination to render affluence subservient to general good ! and what a contrast is there between that inclination and a desire to employ it for the indulgence of sensuality ! The first is the sublime and godlike sentiment of the philosopher ; the last is the narrow disposition of the minion of luxury and idleness. Thus, like every other possession, riches ought not to be esteemed as a blessing when individual enjoyment is the sole object in their accumulation ; but when estimated because they put a person in a capacity to do many acts of charity and works of public benefit, they are indeed valuable, and teach the friend of mankind to exclaim with the Cyrenean Sage,*

“ Χαῖρε πάτερ, χαῖρ’ αὐθι· δίδου δ’ ἀρετὴν τ’ ἀφένος τε.
Οὐτ’ ἀρετῆς ἄτερ ὅλβος ἐπίσταται ἄνδρας ἀεξεῖν
Οὐτ’ ἀρετῇ, ἀφένοιο. δίδου δ’ ἀρετὴν τε καὶ ὀλβον.”

The worthy character who now fills the office of President, is not less attentive to the prosperity of this ancient charity than his predecessors, and equally with them has well merited claims to a niche in the Temple of Fame. The name of Sir Charles Price will long remain synonymous with an upright citizen and a friend to his country.

OF THE TREASURER.

If any one station in life is productive of more real satisfaction than another to the virtuous heart, it must surely be that which places an individual in a way to be extensively useful, and enlarges his opportunities of doing good.

Whilst the pleasure of contributing to the renovation of health, of dispensing blessings to the afflicted, and of diffusing comfort to the unfortunate, is considered an object of enviable attainment, the office of Treasurer to a charitable institution must be a most gratifying appointment to the really benevolent man, who is thereby enabled to mitigate the sorrows of the needy and friendless, to

* Callimachus.

lessen the sufferings of disease or accident, and alleviate many of the miseries of humanity. How honourable must the office be in an hospital of such magnitude as St. Thomas's, where, in the choice of a proper person, the utmost circumspection is necessary, and the individual who is selected must be of the strictest integrity and unsullied reputation. The place, if rightly understood, is one of great consequence and respectability; it requires a man of sense, temper, abilities, and worth: Stowe, in his Survey of London, remarks, that, "according to the repute a Treasurer hath, so the hospital flourisheth, and benefactions come in plentifully." Great trust is vested in him, and the distribution of a large fund, not much less than £. 10,000 a year in charity. This power has too often, in other charities, been a temptation to imprudence: but in all the city hospitals, as a security against that temptation, the Treasurers find sureties for a larger sum than they usually receive for the expences of the charities; and their accounts are quarterly examined by a committee, appointed to audit them. The Treasurer's charge in the year 1557 (only four years after the charter was granted by Edward, during the mayoralty of Mr. Offley) was as follows; and though it will seem to have a closer allusion to Bridewell and Christ Hospitals, than to St. Thomas's or St. Bartholomew's, yet it is applicable to all.

"Your Office and charge is to receve and paye all such sommes of mony as by any meanes shall appertayne or belong to the relievinge and comfortinge of the poore children of this House and Pencioners heere paid; and to make a true and just accompte thereof within iii months at the furthest, after th' end of every year, duringe the time that you shall remaine Thresorer. And the same your Accompte to be made unto the Auditors thereunto appointed; and what somme or sommes of mony in the foote of your Accompte by them shalbe found due to the said Howse, you shall pay within xxtie daies at the farthest after the said Audite be done and finished, unto the Thresorer whiche shall succeed yow, except yow remaine Thresorer your selfe.

“ And whereas the Clerke, to th'intent you should be lesse troubled, is appointed to many Recepts and Payments, You shall for the more securitie therein, once every moneth call him to an accompt. And on the Sater-day before the moneths end, you shall at *Ordinary Courts* appoint two Auditors, aswell to audite the same his accompte, As alsoe the accompte of Blackwellhall, or other such like; And if it be the said Clerke or any other whose accompte shalbe so Audited, doe not deliver unto yow the mony found to remaine in their hands by the said Auditors, within three dayes next after the furthest, the same being by you demaunded; yow shall then advertise the Lord Maior thereof (the President being not in Towne) and what any of them shall advise yow therein, the same to doe, for your better safety in that behalfe. And although here be limited one moneth for them to accompte; yet yow shall at your pleasure at any time within the moneth, your selfe call them to accompte, and use such means as may be for the most suertie therein; detaining into your owne custodie the over-plus, if any money be in their hands; or by any other waies and means, as to yow shall seem good in that behalfe. Provided alwayes that the Clerke of this Howse exceade not at any time in arearage x l. at the most. And as yow shall receive the over-plus from him, or any other of the Officers at any time being found; So shall yow, if aparant neede require for payments to be made by them, deliver suche competent somme or sommes of mony, as to your discretion shall seme good.

“ You shall at your first entrance into your Office, or within one moneth after at the furthest, receive into your hands an *inventorie* of all and all maner of goods in the said hospitall, aswell at the hands of the Matron, as also at any other Officer charged in this Howse; and the same shall be indented th' one part thereof to remaine in your custodie, and the other in the custodie of the persons charged. And at every years end, to peruse the Inventory of the goods, during your abidinge in Office. And if it shall happen that any suth Officer charged, shall depart in your time; you shall se the goods in all respects what-

soever, that were by Indenture comited to the parties so departing, delivered over by Indenture as before, into the custodie of the new Officers, what or whosoever they be. And if there be any parte or parcell thereof wantinge, which in conscience ought to be answered, yow shall cause the partie so departinge away, to pay for the same, yf otherwise they cannot geve accompt thereof to your satisfaction, or els to bring them before a Court, that order may be taken therein.

“ You have also authoritie to call before yow all such personnes or Officers, as have the collection or gathering of any somme or sommes of mony dew to the said howse, and to demaund an accompt of their doeing; aswell of the Collectours of the parishes, as also of the Scrutiners, Almoners, Renters and others whosoever.

“ And all the Officers in this House, aswell Men as Women whosoever (taking wages of the Citie) not behaving themselves faithfully in their Officers wherein they serve; when any suche thinge shall happen; yow shall call them before yow, and admonish them for the first and second tyme at the most. But if thoffence be very grevous, and to the hinderance of the howse; Then the matter shall be brought before the Court, and the parties thereunto answer, and abide such order as shalbe taken in that behalfe.

“ And you shall not make paiment of any somme or sommes of money for any manner of provision of the said Hospitall, except it be for Nursinge of children and ordinary Pencions, Wages, and Fees, before it be condescended and determind by iiij of the Governours, and one of them to be an Almoner: From whose hands yow shall have the Bill for your sufficient warrant in that behalfe.

“ Also yow must diligently forsee, that such necessities and provisions as are to be made, as of Butter, Cheese, Hering, Wood, Cole, and other whatsoever; that the same be provided in due time, to the profit and commoditie of the said Howses. And if any withdrawinge of the sommes graunted to the maintenance of the said Howses, shall at any time appeare unto yow, by reason

whereof the said Howses may come to any great after-deale, You shall then geve knowledge thereof in due time, desiringe the ayde and helpe of the rest of the Governours for the redinesse thereof.

“ And forasmuch as your Office must of necessitie be an Office of much paines and attendance, by reason whereof yow shall have occasion to be oftener in the Hospitall than other of the Governours shalbe. It is therefore ordered, that yow with one Almoner shall from time to time, in the absence of other the Governours, have power and authoritie to examine all such Beggars, Vagabondes, Strumpets, or single women gotten with childe, and other personnes that shall happen to be taken and brought before you by the Bedles, or els sent by the Alderman, Deputie, or Cunstable of any warde of this City. And them to examine, commit to prison, reprove, banishe, put to Labour, punishe, or being deceased, to admit into the Hospitalls at your discretion. And your warrant in sending any to the Hospitalls, shalbe sufficient to the Hospituler, for the receaving of the same.

“ This is your Charge, which we require of you diligently to observe. And your Labours and paines herein shalbe rewarded at the hands of Almighty God, whom ye chiefly serue in this Office. For, as the Apostle saith, Godliness shall have his reward, not only in this world, but also in the world to come.”

Formerly, the Treasurers were from time to time either changed or re-elected; but now the office is retained for life.

At the present day, the Treasurer has no salary; but he has a good house, with the same allowances to it as the other officers, and an agreeable patronage, for he is complimented with the privilege of appointing all the inferior officers, and his recommendation has great weight in the election of others. He has a counting-house with clerks, to transact the accounts of the hospital, &c. and indeed, when the circumstances are duly considered which I have pointed out, the income to be carefully expended, the necessary discipline to be observed, by enforcing the proper regulations for the preservation of good order

amongst the patients, with whom some ill disposed and troublesome persons must unavoidably be associated, it will appear evident, that the choice of a proper person qualified to act as Treasurer is very material, and that the respectability of the situation is such as will add dignity, with power, to the exertions of any gentleman of good understanding. As the superior resident officer on the establishment, he is to be understood as filling the place of a Vice-President; for, as the President attends only on such occasions as require a general court, much of that business which of right belongs to the latter falls to him. In the absence of the President, he not only convenes general courts when necessary, but presides at them, and enjoys all the privileges belonging to the chair, as, for instance, a double or casting vote at elections, &c. The duties of the Treasurer at St. Thomas's Hospital are similar to those attached to that officer at St. Bartholomew's, differing only in some trivial particulars; and as the Charge of the latter is in print, I shall adduce it.

“ Having been elected at a general court of Governors of this Hospital to the important office of their Treasurer, it is thought fit and proper that the most material duties of the situation should thus be imparted to you; viz.

“ You shall reside in the house within the hospital appropriated for that purpose, as occupied by your predecessors.

“ As the superior resident officer, you shall have the control over all the other officers and servants in every department; and, in case of complaint or the discovery of any abuses or misconduct, you shall forthwith endeavour to correct the same, and submit the circumstances thereof to the almoners, the house committee, or a general court, if you shall find occasion; and, in the event of any serious delinquency or offence, you may in the mean time suspend the offender from his or her employment.

“ You shall report to the house committee all legacies and benefactions bequeathed or given to this hospital, and shall receive the same, with all dividends, annuities, and interest on all monies in the public funds and on all other securities belonging to the said hospital, and

such monies as may be in the hands of the renter, according to the tenor of his charge, so that the balance in the renter's hands shall not at any time exceed two hundred pounds.

“ You shall make all payments exceeding twenty pounds, and order the renter to give notice to persons whose bills shall have been audited, to come to the hospital 'counting-house, to receive their money, on such early day after the audit as shall be convenient to yourself.

“ You shall advance such sums of money to the steward as may be needful for payment of the provisions provided by him, according to the usual custom of his office ; and, for so doing, an order of the Committee for auditing the Steward's accounts, and the receipt of the Steward, shall be your indemnity.

“ You shall from time to time enter your several receipts and payments in a book or books to be kept for that purpose ; and you shall yearly, on the view day in the months of March or April, produce to the auditors a true and perfect general account, in writing, of all the monies paid and received by you in the preceding year, that the same may be examined by them.

“ When the balance of cash shall exceed the sum of three thousand pounds, the almoners shall consider with you whether any and what sum may be laid out in the funds, and they shall thereupon make a minute for investing such part of that balance as they shall see fit, always leaving sufficient cash in hand for the purposes of the hospital ; giving you notice of such minute, with which you are forthwith to comply, by investing the sum so ordered in the same names as the other funds of the hospital may be placed.

“ You shall, together with the president and two other Governors (to be appointed by the House Committee), stand possessed of all the property of the hospital vested in the public funds ; and direct summonses to be issued for all committees and general courts, at all which and other public occasions you shall, in the absence of the President, take the chair.

“ You shall view the landed estates, houses, and other property of the hospital, previous to their being let, with two of the almoners or of the house committee, and such of the officers of the house as you shall think necessary ; and report thereon to the Committee, for the better enabling them to do the same. And you shall generally do, or cause to be done, every other act of duty usually performed and exercised by your predecessor for the benefit and good order of this Institution.

“ These several duties, together with so much of the renter's charges as may apply to your office, and not herein before specified, shall be considered as constituting your Charge, which you are desired conscientiously to observe ; and, in recompence of your pains, you shall be assured of the merits laid up for you in the promises and blood of Jesus Christ our Saviour.”

The records of St. Thomas's Hospital bear testimony of the numerous respectable characters who have done honour to the office of Treasurer : but where all appear to have emulated each other in conducting their important trust with rectitude and principle, it would perhaps be unjust to particularize individuals ; yet a common sense of the worth of the present officer, Abel Chapman, Esq. will not suffer me to neglect this opportunity of passing a deserved eulogium on his upright conduct, and of acknowledging that no person can be better qualified to fill this respectable situation, or better able to execute the duties appertaining to it. This trifling meed of praise to merit, from one whom the present worthy Treasurer does not even know, arises from an attentive observance of his uniform good management, and not from any desire to bestow praise where it is not due. Whilst, therefore, we insensibly pay the well-merited commendation to such individuals as reflect credit on themselves and honour on the places they fill, it is but a duty we owe the public weal to pray for the health and safety of such disinterested characters as live but to do good, and render themselves generally useful to mankind.

" You shall keep a day book, in which shall be regularly entered all the business and occurrences of the hospital, and also all messages left or applications made by tenants and others.

" You shall lay the said day book, audit book, and cash books, upon the table where the Almoners meet, on every day of their meeting, and also at every meeting of any Committee, for the inspection of the Almoners and other Governors of the hospital.

" On the first day of the Almoners' meeting in every month, you shall procure the cash account of the preceding month to be examined and checked by them; and if found right, signed with their initials.

" You shall take care that the annual account of the hospital affairs (usually audited in March or April) be signed in your ledger by at least six of the auditors, and that it contains an account of all rents becoming due to the Michaelmas preceding, and of all receipts and payments up to the 31st day of December in every year preceding such audit.

" You shall consider the foregoing regulations as constituting the principal duties of your Office. And, in addition thereto, you shall on no account absent yourself from the hospital without the consent of the Treasurer or two of the Almoners, in case of his absence. And, if you shall at any time perceive any thing done by any Officer or other person of this house that may be unprofitable, or may occasion disorder or slander to the same, you shall forthwith declare it to the Treasurer or Almoners, or one of them, and no further meddle therein."

At St. Thomas's Hospital, there is no person who ostensibly bears the name of Renter, for the person who officiates as Treasurer's clerk, likewise completes the duties which would devolve upon that appointment, if such an one were deemed necessary; and, in truth, the duties appertaining to both, approximate to each other so closely, that they ought to be deemed as branches of the same department, incapable of being disunited, rather than as

separate appointments, requiring different persons to fulfil them. At St. Thomas's, the Clerk, by means of this bifarious capacity, unites in himself a knowledge of the duties belonging to each; and on this account, perhaps, *both* are better understood and performed by one and the same individual, under the control of the Treasurer, than they would be if divided between two persons, as at St. Bartholomew's.

OF THE STEWARD.

To ensure the prosperity of an Institution designed for charitable purposes, much depends upon the judicious choice of a person to fill the situation of Steward, because in none of the officers is there more rectitude and integrity of principle required than in him who possesses this station. To the reflecting mind, that surveys with pleasurable gratification the various departments of such an extensive establishment as St. Thomas's Hospital, and comprehends the relative importance of each, when individually considered as appertaining to and influencing the organized whole, it will be evident that he should be a man of diligence and activity, to perform his numerous engagements with promptitude and effect, when it is understood that this department embraces all, or the greater part of the acting superintendence and management of the internal arrangements of the institution.

At St. Thomas's Hospital, the Steward, as second resident officer, presides over those who are employed in the fulfilment of the orders and regulations given and made, from time to time, by the General Court Committee and Treasurer; and in the absence of the latter officer, he officiates as his deputy. Besides these duties (which alone, and abstractedly considered, would make him recognized as a person of no mean estimation in the scale of importance), there are others exclusively his own, and which can only devolve to his performance. The interior œconomy of the hospital, including the provisioning of the patients, for instance, by virtue of his office, of right belongs to him; and this constituted his original duty, as will be shown by the subjoined Charge:

“ Your office shalbe to provide all such necessarie victuals as shalbe assigned from tyme to tyme by the Thresorer or Almoners of the Howse, to the use of the poore; and the same soe provided, ye shall deliver the due proportion appinted for euery meale unto the Cooke. And this shall you dailie doe, in the presence of the Matron or one of the Almoners of the Howse.

“ Alsoe yow shall diligently forsee what necessarie provisions are to be made, as of butter, cheese, fishe, wood, cole, &c. and in due time geue knowledge thereof unto the Thresorer, or one of the Almoners of this Howse, that provision may be made accordingly.

“ You shall not embezell, or convay any maner of victuals, either to your owne use, or to the use of any person, other then to th’ use of this Howse as aforesaid; upon pain to be deprived of the Howse and lose your office for ever.

“ And attendant shall yow be upon the Rentar, what tyme any buildinge shalbe for this Howse, and upon the workemen, and carefully to overse them in all respects.

“ This is your Charge, which se that yow doe, and have not to doe with any other mans office; but if yow espie any not to doe their duties faithfully, you shall geue warninge thereof to the Governors and to medle no further.”

By the above quotation, it will be seen that the place of Steward was formerly somewhat circumscribed and bounded by narrow limitations. At the present day it is quite the contrary; for, along with the many wise improvements which have taken place subsequent to the ecclesiastical reformation, and since the enactment of those rules and ordinances first deemed necessary for the government of the charity in its infant state, it has been thought advisable to improve the respectability of the appointment, as much as it could admit of, without counteracting the purposes for which it is calculated.

It has progressively had a multiplicity of connexions or consecutive appurtenances superadded to the primary duties; for the proper execution of which its salary has

been, within the last four years, liberally augmented; which being adequate to support a gentleman most creditably, renders the situation worthy the acceptance of a person of talents and information. The verity of this remark is exemplified in the present possessor (Mr. Nash), a gentleman of cultivated understanding and erudition, whose mind is well stored with knowledge and classical literature, and whose abilities were for many years devoted to the study of the medical science. I could enlarge upon this circumstance with much inward satisfaction, and point out the benefits thence accruing to the charity; but shall decline doing so, because a prolix digression needs an elaborate apology: and here I avoid it, on a full conviction that my remarks can be anticipated by the sagacious reader, who will, by a moment's reflection, perceive how much better Mr. Nash is qualified for his station, by reason of his acquirements, than any person whose studies may not have been directed to a similarity of professional pursuits.

As next in rank beneath the Treasurer, the Steward has a house in an agreeable part of the hospital, with a convenient office attached, and the services of a clerk are allowed him. His office is daily open, from nine o'clock in the morning until four in the afternoon, for transacting various duties. He grants to proper objects of distress petitions for procuring admittance into the hospital; and as he keeps an accurate account of the number of vacant beds, he is thereby enabled to specify, on the day for receiving new patients, how many of them can be accommodated. He dismisses such persons as are pronounced by their medical attendants to be cured, or whose advanced convalescency admits of their giving place to new applicants. Besides these, there are others whose state of debility temporarily requires the aid of air more conducive to health than that which circulates in the purlieu of an hospital: to these the Steward either grants leave of return after they have tried a short residence in the country, or he accommodates them with an extra patient's petition, which extends to them the privilege of being gratuitously

supplied with medicine and medical advice, by regularly attending on certain specified days at the hospital, till the perfect re-establishment of their health.

At the dismissal of the patients who are restored to health, he inquires individually whether they are satisfied with the treatment they have experienced whilst in the hospital, and whether the conduct of the officers and servants, appointed to attend upon them during the progress of their diseases, had been consonant to the imperative injunctions of the charity. If they answer in the affirmative, their acknowledgment usually implies their gratitude for the blessings they have received, and constitutes the ceremony that is denominated returning thanks for their cure: if they reply to his interrogations in the negative, he is bound to take cognizance of their disapprobation, and investigate the grounds and authenticity of their complaints, which, if valid, he reports as a grievance requiring correction; if, however, the allegations are of a very trifling nature, he effectually guards against their recurrence.

On the days for receiving fresh patients, the Steward regulates the admission of such cases as are pronounced by the professional officers to be in most need of immediate relief, and most in danger from neglect or delay. He takes the accustomed hospital fees, and ascertains the respectability of the securities required to be invariably given by the new comers, who are then assorted and respectively placed in appropriate wards. Equally the protector of the patients under his care, as he is the guardian of the menials under his control, whilst he sees that the latter are not annoyed or disturbed in the performance of their duties by the dictatorial impertinence of the sick, he at the same time presides over the quietude and composure of the former, by insisting upon the most kind, gentle, and unremitting attention being paid to them by the servants. He passes through the wards frequently, to see that every thing is comfortable and well arranged: he inquires into the conduct of the patients; and if he does not happen to witness, on all occasions, the irregu-

larities which may fortuitously prevail among them, he is speedily informed of the circumstances, and as quickly exerts his best endeavours to ensure their correction. In this capacity of superintendant over the harmony and concord of the hospital, he is wisely "*open to all parties, and influenced by none.*"

Although he is not entrusted with the power of appointing the inferior officers and servants of the charity (that privilege, as has been already stated, belonging solely to the Treasurer), and therefore, strictly speaking, is not a responsible guarantee to the superior powers for their integrity, he pays them their quarterly wages, and is required to investigate the proper performance of their respective duties. Whilst he is the warm encomiast of those whose behaviour challenges commendatory recompence, he admonishes, with lenient reproof, those who have shown themselves inattentive to the propriety of their demeanour: this applies to their first error; if they commit themselves a second time, and appear regardless of the duties entrusted to their execution, he very properly censures them with greater severity: a third fault is customarily visited by a punishment commensurate with its moral turpitude, and that which wisdom and a lively attention to the interest of the charity suggests as an effectual dernier resort; I mean the discharge of the offenders from their situations.

The Steward estimates the expence of all the articles necessary for the expenditure of the charity, not only of provisions for the daily maintenance of the patients, but the requisite implements, utensils, and furniture appertaining to the use of the household: of the former may be enumerated meat, flour, milk, beer, &c. which he is bound to provide of a good and wholesome quality; and the articles of beds and bedding, coals, candles, brushes, &c. comprise some of the latter, which are likewise required to be of a proper description. These he procures, by the consent of the Committee and Treasurer, from such tradesmen as are best approved of; and although a prudent attention to frugality pervades and is the order of

the day, not only in his department but in every other, it is not suffered to degenerate into a parsimonious denial of any thing essentially necessary, so as to operate disadvantageously to the cause of charity, by confining the liberty of supplying the hospital with requisites to such only as can be procured at the lowest prices and the cheapest rate.

*"Nullum numen abest si sit prudentia."**

The estimate of the Steward's expences is entered officially into the book of his department, to correspond with such bills as are sent in to Mr. Treasurer for payment. He is enjoined to inquire into the state of every article belonging to the hospital at certain regular periods, of which he has to make an inventory, and report accordingly.

When he examines into the state of the bedding, bed furniture, and linen, he is usually assisted by the matron, the superior who presides over the female servants.

Besides the duties here enumerated, many others of minor consideration might be added; but I confidently believe those adduced will suffice to convey a tolerably correct idea of the office of Steward, and clearly demonstrate, that it is an office of trust, of confidence, and of essential consequence. Some persons have considered it as approximating in its nature to that of a purser in a ship of war; indeed, so far as a rough comparison obtains, the place of Steward, in some particulars, would seem slightly analogous to that of a provisioning officer both in the army and naval services: it is, however, far more diversified by the variety of its employments, and therefore their apparent identity can be maintained only to a limited extent.

And here let not the sentiments of indifference obtrude themselves into the mind upon reading the definitions of an appointment characterized by a multifarious display of lesser and seemingly trifling duties, which many would

* Juv. Sat. x. v. 365.

consider as undeserving of much attention, or at best only calculated to elicit ideas of levity and sarcasm, to render nugatory the remarks which ascribe such importance upon it, whilst estimating its relative consequence in the grand scale.

They who deem no particulars trivial which advance the vital interests of a charity, and through this means extend such incalculable benefits to the poor, I am convinced will subscribe to acknowledge, that it confers on this place the rank of great respectability, and one of most honourable attainment.

We are now brought to investigate the nature of those duties which appertain to the more humble, though not the less essential appointments, comprised under the distinguishing names of inferior officers and servants of the charity; these will be briefly considered in regular succession, according to their gradations in rank or relation to each other in importance; they may be enumerated in the following order:

BUTLER
COOK
BEADLES
PORTERS

BAKER
BREWER
CARPENTER
BATHMEN.

A knowledge of these offices is entitled to some little notice, as they enable us to estimate with greater precision the extent of other advantages, and to form a more correct opinion as to the order and harmony of the higher departments.

In some of the large charities of this metropolis, the revenues of which are perhaps more affluent than those of St. Thomas's Hospital, we find there are a multiplicity of inferior servants; but daily experience convinces us, that the comforts found in them are not always proportionable to the number of their menials. This truth requires no exemplification; many inconveniences arising from that source could be enumerated, were not such a detail foreign to the purport of this inquiry. It, however, is not to be denied, that more irregularities have found their way into families where many servants are kept, than where but few

are employed. Within the range of our own observation, we find the verity of this remark is strictly applicable to public institutions; and on this account, we comprehend the reason why the inferior duties are so much better executed at some charities than at others. In some, where the revenues have been rather slender, we have been agreeably surprised at beholding a combination of good management, order, and cleanliness, most astonishingly displayed; in others, of rich endowment, possessing every essential advantage to constitute comfort, we have, with equal astonishment, noticed diametrically the reverse, when reasoning *a priori* would have induced us to conclude differently.

Amongst many servants it is not to be wondered at, that some idle, and consequently ill disposed ones must be intermingled: the promiscuous intercourse of the meritorious and worthless seldom produces any alteration which preponderates in favour of the former; and therefore, whilst we usually have to deplore the force of example, we are compelled to subscribe to the truism, that the perverted inclinations of human nature more readily imbibe improper notions, and acquiesce in the dictates of the idle and bad, than listen to the precepts of the industrious and good. This seems to have been had in view by the original directors of St. Thomas's Hospital, and we find they very wisely appointed only such a number of servants as could be constantly employed. If they erred in any particular, it is more properly imputable to the opposite extreme, for as no person is maintained on the establishment who has not plenty of work to keep him from idleness; whilst laziness and its probable consequences are effectually prevented, the duty may thereby be rendered arduous and perhaps rather too severe. This, however, is an error which, as it points out its own correction, is on the right side, and one easily amended; for as it guards against the burthen of maintaining useless persons, it lays the basis for all the essential æconomical arrangements, and tends to augment the *real* purposes of a cha-

riety. Where many inferior officers and servants are employed, on the contrary, a large proportion of the funds of benevolence is frequently wasted in their maintenance, wages, and support.

It has been heretofore observed, that the inferior rank of officers are appointed by the Treasurer; the propriety of this nomination being vested in his hands is unquestionable, for as they are entirely under his controul, and usually near his person, he must be the more proper one to choose such as have to officiate as his subordinates. Nearly all of them have residences within the building, and a salary allowed them; and after a certain number of years, when incapacitated by long servitude, or the infirmities of age, from continuing their duties, they are superannuated, and a comfortable provision made to cheer the decline of life, from the funds of the charity. Here, as at St. Bartholomew's, it is understood that no officer or servant can be permitted to perform the duties of his office by deputy. If any officer or servant receive fee, Christmas-box, or other perquisite, from tradesmen serving the hospital, or from patients or persons visiting patients, he is discharged, and rendered incapable of being again employed. This is as generally known to all as possible, by the boards which are affixed to every ward.

“NO MONEY OR PRESENT TO BE RECEIVED FROM PATIENTS OR THEIR FRIENDS ON ANY PRETENCE WHATSOEVER.”

It is the duty of every officer and servant belonging to this hospital, generally to promote the true interests of the charity, as well by his own diligence and example in the department wherein he may be employed, as by recommending to others a strict observance of the Rules and Orders, and upon no account to connive at, or conceal any infringement of them by others.

THE BUTLER,

In his official capacity, is next to the steward, and may be said to preside over the baker and brewer; he serves out the daily quantity of bread and beer allowed to the

patients every morning and evening, agreeably to the list which he receives to that effect from the steward, who has to inform him of the alterations, (if any are made) in the regular allowance. The tallies of the baker and brewer were formerly in the custody and keeping of the Treasurer, who was to be apprised, (as the order enjoined) whenever either meat or drink was brought into the hospital; but since the introduction of those arrangements, admitting of these necessary articles being made within the walls of St. Thomas's, the tallies have been either kept by the steward or butler, who has to announce the usual hours for meals, by the ringing of a bell through the different squares, and order the patients to attend accordingly.

THE COOK

Is not under the jurisdiction of the butler, but receives directions from the Treasurer and steward, though principally the latter; and has the serving out such food as is provided in the kitchen for the patients, according to the orders of that officer, who has to specify the various changes directed to be made in their regimen by the medical attendants. For this purpose, tables of the different diets are kept by the Cook, on which are marked the specific quantity of each kind of diet required, not only for each ward, but for every individual patient. From the blue livery, ordered to be worn by the Cook, as directed in the original charge, I judge the duties of this place were executed by a man-servant. At the present day, a female and her assistant, are fully competent for all the business of that department. Her duties resemble those of the cook at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, of which the following is a transcript.

"You shall take care that the weights, scales, and all necessary measures in your department, shall always be in good order.

"You shall carefully weigh or measure the meat, milk, and all such other provisions as shall be committed to your charge, both on the receiving them, and on the delivery for the different persons within the hospital; and

shall enter all you receive, under their different heads, in a book to be kept by you for that purpose.

“ You shall take notice, that the provisions of every description which you receive be of a good quality ; and if you at any time find them otherwise, you are required to make immediate complaint thereof to the steward.

“ You shall take care, that the provisions of all kinds be properly dressed, and ready to be delivered for the use of the different wards at the appointed hours, namely, breakfast from eight o'clock from Lady-Day to Michaelmas, and half past eight from Michaelmas to Lady-Day ; dinner at one o'clock ; and you shall regulate the quantity without partiality, according to the board hung up in the kitchen, to which you are required to pay particular attention. You shall not receive any fee or gratuity from any patient of this hospital, nor from any other person on their account ; nor shall you deliver provisions at any other, than the appointed times already specified.

“ You shall, on the delivery of the provisions, take care to use all proper dispatch, and preserve good order and regularity amongst the persons who come for them ; and you shall take care, that such persons do not remain longer than is absolutely necessary.

“ You shall not commit, nor suffer to be committed, any waste or embezzlement of any provisions, or other articles, entrusted to your charge, but carefully use, to the utmost of your power, every economy in your department, for the benefit of the hospital.

“ You shall take care that the coppers, and all other utensils, together with the dressers, tables, and other articles belonging to your kitchen, be kept sweet and clean, and in good repair.

“ You shall on no account receive, nor accept any fee or gratuity from any tradesman, or other person employed by or about the hospital.

“ You shall occupy the apartments allotted you, and not harbour, nor receive therein, any inmate or lodger ; nor absent yourself from the hospital, without the consent of the Treasurer.

“ These are the principal duties of your office, which you are most strictly enjoined to perform; and, if you shall discover any improper conduct in any servant or person belonging to this hospital, you shall on no account conceal the same, but take an early opportunity to make it known, either to the Treasurer or Steward, and no further meddle therein.”

In my opinion, the kitchen is one of the best arranged places in St. Thomas's Hospital, and more deserving the attention of the curious, than any other department. To use the language of a late surgeon to this noble charity (who interested himself materially in its welfare; and, who often confessed, he had the reputation and prosperity of this Institution more at heart, than any other consideration,) “ *It does not appear to admit of further improvement.*” To the honour of the late Mr. Birch, and the present worthy Steward, it must be admitted, that the excellence of this department is, in a great measure, deducible from their united exertions.

The former had the credit of suggesting many recent improvements, highly advantageous to the Charity, and beneficial to the poor unfortunates within its walls. So long as the endeavours of this individual to alleviate human distress are deserving of commendation, his real worth will be acknowledged; his memory will be cherished by the admirers of benevolence, and his loss to St. Thomas's Hospital will excite the tributary offering of a tear.

The management and order observed in the kitchen are truly amazing; for whilst provisions are preparing for upwards of four hundred patients, if a person happens to enter ten minutes before dinner time, it will be impossible to notice any thing going forward. It affords a striking contrast to the want of neatness, so customarily observed in the uncleanly bustle of a kitchen belonging to a private family. Two large coppers, admirably contrived, (so as to be fronted by a screen, which defends the smoke and steam from observation) contain the different joints of meat. The dexterity with which the food

is served out, is equally pleasing. Between the hours of one and two o'clock, when the bell rings to announce the dinner hour, those convalescent patients who are able, go with the nurses for the allowances of their wards. The quantity is accurately weighed in the joint, and when taken up to the wards, is subdivided by the sister or head nurse.

OF THE BAKER.

The department of the Baker is extremely well managed, and is not undeserving of notice. The bakehouse is well constructed and convenient; its duties are executed by two persons, who bake every day in the week, excepting Sunday.

The patients are supplied with bread baked on the preceding day; a small loaf, corresponding to a small three-penny one in size, is regularly issued, except on Saturdays, when that quantity is doubled. The quality of the flour made use of, is particularly attended to, and the yeast to leaven the bread with, which is supplied by the brewer, cannot be better. It has been frequently acknowledged by the patients themselves, that bread, equal in quality to that which they are supplied with at St. Thomas's Hospital, cannot be procured at their own habitations; their confession is a sure criterion, because we customarily see them backward to applaud, and ready to condemn.

The ingratitude of the poor is proverbial, and we rarely find them thankful for charitable aid; which, although optional in its extension, they deem only a duty from the affluent to the needy, and of course unentitled to the appellation of a meritorious virtue.

OF THE BREWER.

As of the preceding officer, little need be said, his duties are implied by his department. The extensive brew-house in our survey, invites some attention. Here only one sort of beer is brewed, which is done regularly three times a month; about a hundred gallons are daily served out by the butler.

Although the beer is weak, its goodness may be relied on ; no noxious drug enters its composition ; the hop gives it an aromatic bitter flavour, very agreeable to the stomach ; and it is thought to be well calculated for the common beverage of the patients.

OF THE BEADLES.

The Beadles were originally a certain number of men appointed by the Lord Mayor and Governors of the Royal Hospitals, to range through the different parts and wards of the city of London, to clear them from loiterers, beggars, and idle vagrants ; and not only to prevent them from extorting eleemosynary aid, by their feigned tales of wretchedness, from the sympathizing credulity of the benevolent, but to guard against the common attendants of mendicity, roguery, and thieving. They were directed to apprehend all such country vagabonds as attempted to make their way into London, that vast emporium for rogues and masterless men, and who, without being able to give a satisfactory account of themselves, were found strolling about its environs. They were ordered to carry them to Bridewell, for examination as to their real or pretended misfortunes : if afflicted with disease, they were sent to St. Thomas's Hospital ; but if healthy, detained at the house of correction, where they were taught the way to procure an honest livelihood by means of laborious exercise, assisted by an occasional well-timed punishment. At that time it was not uncommon for children to be left deserted by their parents in the streets : such as were found in this helpless state by the Beadles, were (after being conveyed to Bridewell to learn the pleasure of the Governors as to their disposal) sent to Christ's Hospital, to be clothed, maintained and educated.

The Orders of the Beadles in 1557 were the following :

“ First, you shall every day, two and two together, walk through your wards appointed, with your staffs in your hands ; and all such vagrant and idle persons, as you shall find in your walks, or in any place abroad, you

shall apprehend and convey to Bridewell. And if you chance to be resisted by way of the said vagrants and evill persons, yow shall call for aid to euery Constable next adjoyning to assist you. And if he refuse so to doe, to take his name, and to goe to the Lord Mayor, and deliver unto him the disobedience of the said Constable. And if the Lord Mayor doe not presently cause such Constables to be punished, then at the next Court of Aldermen yow are to attend and make your complaint, whereby the law may be executed accordingly.

“ Item, if any of your citizens die within your walkes, you are to giue your attendance at the houses of them so deseased; and to see that no rogues or idle persons resort thither to trouble the street.

“ And if any thing be given you of benevolence for your travail, to take it thankfully, without calling ought of dutie. And if you be not of your selves able to cleare the streets of such; then yow shall call to your aid such Beadles, whose walks are next adjoyning, to aid and assist you therein. And yow shall distribute to them part of such money as shall be given unto yow. And yow shall not intrude your selves to none other burials out of your wards or walkes, but unto such as yow shall be called by your fellow Beadles.

“ Item, one of yow every Sunday, with the rest of the Beadles of the other howses, shall give your attendance at Paul's Cross at the Sermon-time, to visit all the streets and lanes adjoyning, and there to apprehend all such vagrant and idle persons as shall be there found by yow, or any of yow; and to carry them, as well men as women and children, to Bridewell; whereby there may be order taken according to the law prescribed.

“ And if any of yow shall be found negligent in performing these Orders aboue said, or any other orders hereafter made and deuised; upon every fault found, your staffes shall be taken from yow, and to be seclused for ever more for serving in those romes.

“ Whereof assure your selves, without any favour or

otherwise, to be punished according to the Governours discretion."

In the above Charge we notice a qualification in favour of the Beadles, who alone were permitted to receive gratuitous reward. We are, however, induced to believe that these officers were not allowed to accept pecuniary recompence from such persons as were in the hospitals, but merely from those citizens who could afford it, and whose property they in some measure protected. This permission probably was intended as a stimulus to inspire them with a watchful attention to the order and quietude of the wards within their control; and this could only be done by arresting all the idle vagabonds, who made pilfering a principal part of their employment. These Beadles were all to attend upon the Lord Mayor and Governors on general court days and public ceremonies, at Guildhall, the Sessions' House, and Bridewell; but on other occasions they were so arranged, that two or three were considered as more particularly appertaining to the household of each of the royal charitable establishments.

The original number at St. Thomas's Hospital, we are informed, was two or three; though for the last few years we have only heard of one who bore the name of Beadle. The excess of duty, which rightly belonged to two, was performed by the head porter. The duties of this one were various, for he acted as Collector, in warning all such tenants as rented property under the Governors of the hospital, when their money became due at the Treasurer's office; he also officiated as clerk to the vicar or hospitaller, during the performance of service in the chapel.

OF THE PORTERS.

There are three Porters at St. Thomas's Hospital, each having fifty pounds per annum; one of them is denominated the head, and the others are called the under porters. Their duty will be shown by the original charge.

THE PORTER'S CHARGE.

You shalbe attendant diligentlie and carefully in looking to the gates, chiefly in the winter evenings, and see them shut in at a due hour, and after they be shut in, to be circumspect whom you let in and out. And after the houre of nine of the clocke in the winter season, not to open the gates in any wise, except on a very great occasion. And in somer season, you shall kepe the gates open no longer than nine of the clocke, and you shall, after they be shut in, neither let any in nor out after ten of the clocke at the furthest.

Fail you not this to observe, as you will answer thereunto, if any complaint come thereof, before the Governours. And you shall not make or medle in any other man's office, but duely doe your owne. But if you se any thing amisse in them, you shall certefie the Governours thereof, that they may take order therein.

The head porter performs duty at the front gates of the Hospital facing the Borough High Street, which are open from ten o'clock in the morning till four in the afternoon; he is occasionally employed in waiting with summonses upon the Governors, when the Treasurer deems it adviseable to call a general court, or committee; and he has also to notify to the friends and securities of the patients, when any die in the hospital, that they are to remove the body forthwith, or pay the fee of a guinea at the Steward's office for its decent interment.

The two under porters remain alternately at the side gate of the hospital towards St. Thomas's Street, and relieve each other at regular intervals. Here the greatest attention is required, because the patients have to pass through it when leave of absence is granted them, and have to return the same way. Their duty is to prevent the ingress of improper persons; and to admit the relatives of patients who come to see them at proper hours, and decently apparelled. They see that patients do not steal out without the Steward's permission, who, when he grants leave, marks their ticket, which is detained at the porter's

lodge till their return. This obstruction to the natural disposition of the patients, who seize every opportunity to purchase strong drinks, is highly beneficial, because a disregard to this particular, would be conniving at every kind of intemperance; and we know that one act of excess frequently renders abortive the skilful treatment of the medical officers for many months.

Notwithstanding the utmost attention of the porters, we find the contiguity of several pot-houses to St. Thomas's, affords the means of introducing spirits into the hospital, and the temptation is too great to be resisted. However, it is but justice to acknowledge, that when any patients are found intoxicated, they are dismissed from the hospital.

The porters are required to attend on Thursdays, and at all other times, as occasion requires, at the Counting-house, at the room for taking in and discharging patients, and at all Courts and Committees, with the gown livery and staff of office, and to walk before the Governors upon such and all other occasions; to superintend and take care of the pumps, so that they may be always found in an useful state, and that the wards and other parts of the hospital be at all times plentifully supplied with water; frequently exercise the fire engine; to attend the Coroner at all Inquests held within the Hospital, and follow his directions upon all such occasions.

At nine o'clock in the evening the side gate of the hospital is shut, and a watchman is stationed at it, where he remains till six in the morning. He is ordered to admit nobody into the hospital after eleven o'clock. This order is wisely intended to manifest to the dresser for the week, who, in the capacity of house surgeon, presides over the health and safety of the patients, and has to sleep in the hospital during the time of his attendance, that he is expected to be in bed by that time, where he can be found in case any thing requires his ready aid in the wards. There is an exception in favour of the admission of accidents, which are received into the hospital at all hours and at all seasons.

The watchman has the unfortunate person taken to a proper ward, where the most prompt assistance is immediately afforded.

He is bound to pass through the different squares of the hospital during the night, to see that all are quiet and comfortable. He regularly calls the hour through every part of the building; and thus, in the event of that greatest of calamities amidst the sick, a fire, his immediate alarm would be instrumental in arresting its progress.

He has also to take care that all the lamps are lighted in due time, and that they all continue properly burning.

OF THE CARPENTER.

In St. Thomas's Hospital, as in a ship of war, a carpenter must be generally in requisition; a person understanding his business has, in consequence, been maintained on the establishment, who finds sufficient employment in the little improvements and occasional reparations of the Hospital.

THE BATHMAN,

As his name implies, has the regulation of the warm and cold baths. He keeps them clean, preserves a constant supply of good water in reservoirs belonging to them, and is bound to have them always in readiness, fit to receive patients. The benefits of this arrangement will be apparent to those who conceive the advantages of bathing in many cases of disease or accident. If an incarcerated hernia happens to be brought into the hospital, immediate relief is not prevented by delay, every thing is in readiness for its manual reduction. An adjoining room (for undressing the patient in) is heated with flues, and here every facility is offered for relieving the sufferer whilst under the salutary influence of the bath. The Bathman has many lesser employments, such as helping the porters in sweeping and cleansing the squares and courts of the hospital; in short, he is desired to render his assistance to others on all ordinary occasions when it is required.

Besides the servants here enumerated there are the Apo-

thecary's man and the Surgery man's assistant, who have duties of an inferior nature to perform; they attend to the dead-house, remove the bodies of such as die in any of the wards; and, when buried under the direction of the hospital, they conduct the funeral and take the body for interment. There are two or three other supernumeraries, who have no particular assigned office, but who extend their aid to such servants as require it therein; these persons are usually selected, *pro tempore*, from the convalescent patients who are industriously inclined and disposed to make themselves useful.

SUMMARY REVIEW.

We are now brought to a conclusion of the subject that has occupied so many pages of the *New Medical and Physical Journal*; and whilst we are sensible that to many readers the account must have failed in imparting interest, we shall not waste time by offering an unnecessary apology for its length, because we hope it will be believed that a less minute detail would have left the description but an imperfect one. Our object in commencing the task we have been engaged in, was to hold up to public view the beneficial arrangements established in one of the most respectable endowments of the British Empire; to record such particulars as were not generally known, and to explain the principal advantages of a charity so antient and yet so well conducted as St. Thomas's Hospital. We have neither time nor inclination to draw comparisons between its well executed government and that of other establishments intended for like purposes, but we cannot avoid recommending its whole chain of connections to view, as a good specimen of order and regularity, worthy of being considered as a pattern for all future institutions of a similar nature.

From a summary review of the observations relative to the different duties appointed to be performed by the officers and servants of this charity, it will be seen, that all are so ordained as to be mutually dependant upon each

other, and the employments appertaining to each are materially influenced by their reciprocal accordance.

The election of officers, with the making and confirming of edicts, constitute the chief concern of the general assembly of governors; and whilst the supreme authority is vested in their hands, the management of the estates, receipts and expenditure of the revenues falls to the province of the committee; and the internal regulations, with the appointment of the inferior servants, devolve upon the Treasurer. To preserve an uniform and watchful regard to the prosperity of this noble establishment, the charge given to every description of officers and servants enjoins not only the propriety of a strict attention to their own conduct, but also to that of their colleagues; and the orders imperatively require of every one to report to the higher powers, without further interference, any dereliction of duty or irregularity committed by such as fill a subordinate appointment.

The re-endowment of this noble structure by King Edward the Sixth was attended by such an useful system of government, that but little room was left for improvement in the material points connected with its execution; but in some of the minor particulars, as the œconomical arrangements, the subsequent exertion of human prudence was not made inefficaciously; and therefore, without detracting from its original advantages, it must be admitted, that by comparing the nature of the various duties as they are now performed with what they were primarily, a secret pleasure is experienced at beholding many wise emendations in some, and useful additions in others, which have been from time to time made, and a glow of exultation is felt in observing the correct system at which the united departments have now arrived.

Like the gradation of a state, or of the legislative code of a nation, towards perfection, the advancement of St. Thomas's Hospital has been progressive and complete. Its present utility is almost universally known among the needy and distressed of this country. Adulatory praise would be doing an injustice to its merits, for its benevo-

lent purposes have established its name upon a firmer basis than any that ephemeral eulogy can bestow ; let us therefore hope, that as it promises to continue a lasting monument of protestant munificence to the afflicted poor, it will increase and deserve that exalted reputation which at present distinguishes it from other institutions, and for ages remain an honor to the English nation and the benevolence of such worthy characters as have been its patrons and supporters.

“ Each other gift which God on man bestows,
Its proper bounds and due restriction knows;
To one fixed purpose dedicates its pow’r,
And finishing its act, exists no more.
Thus, in obedience to what heaven decrees,
Knowledge shall fail and prophecy shall cease;
But lasting Charity’s more ample sway,
Nor bound by time, nor subject to decay,
In happy triumph shall for ever live,
And endless good diffuse and endless praise receive.”

PRIOR.

THE END.

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 nevolence of such worthy characters as have been its pa-
 trons and supporters.

"That other will which God on earth bestows
 For good and evil, and the world knows
 To see that good is better than the evil,
 And that a good man is more than a man,
 That in obedience to what heaven desires,
 Knowledge shall fall and poverty shall cease;
 But fasting, that is more a sign of power,
 Not good to me, nor subject to decay,
 In every thing I am for ever free,
 And endless good diffuse and endless praise receive."

PRIDE.

THE END.