

St. Andrew's Church, Holborn. London Churches, III

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# The Musical Times.

MARCH 1, 1905.

## ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, HOLBORN. LONDON CHURCHES, III.\*

*Gloster.*—My lord of Ely, when I was last in Holborn,  
I saw good strawberries in your garden there ;  
I do beseech you send for some of them.

*Ely.*—Marry, and will, my lord, with all my heart.

*King Richard III.*, Act 3, Sc. iv.

The 'good strawberries' and the 'bourne' have long ago disappeared from Holborn; and the 'hole,' through which the 'bourne' formerly flowed, has largely lost its characteristic by the erection of Holborn Viaduct, which destroyed the terrible hill that middle-aged Londoners remember so well. The etymology of the word Holborn is easily traced. Rising in the Hampstead and Highgate hills were three great brooks—Hole-bourne, Ty-bourne, and West-bourne. The first of this trio of streams made its way Thamesward, via Kentish Town—a corruption of Cantlers, or Kantloes, after which a Prebendal stall in St. Paul's Cathedral is named

—and passing under what is now St. Pancras Railway station, it gradually broadened along the entire length of what is now Farringdon Street, and then emptied itself into London's great water-way. At the bottom of Holborn Hill the stream—there called the Fleet river—was, in the 13th century, 'of such breadth and depth that ten or twelve ships at once, with merchandise, were wont to come to the Bridge of Fleet, and some of them to Holborn Bridge. In 1669 Holborn Bridge was a structure built of red brick with stone dressings; and, as will be seen by our view on page 155, boats could be hired which would probably take the rowers to Clerkenwell (the Clerk's well) and beyond.

In the Conqueror's survey Holborn appears to have been a village, situate in the Hundred of Osulvestane, or Osulston, subsequently Holeburne, wherein the King had two *Cotarii*, or cottagers, who paid to his bailiff or sheriff an annual sum of twenty *denarii*, or pence. The will of John de Kyркеby, Bishop of Ely (1290) refers to Holborn as a suburb of London, having its vineyards gardens, &c. ('Omnes domos suas de Holeburne, in suburbis London, cum vineis, gardiniis,' &c.). In 1329 the parish was styled 'St. Andrew in Purtepul, without the Bar, in the Suburb of London.' And the section of the rare map by Ralph Agas—which we reproduce below—shows that in 1591,

\* Previous illustrated articles of this series have been (i.) St. Giles's, Cripplegate, September, 1903; and (ii.) St. Anne's, Soho, February, 1904.



SECTION (REDUCED FACSIMILE) OF THE MAP OF LONDON PREPARED BY RALPH AGAS, circa 1591.

three hundred years later than the date of the bishop's will, all the ground stretching from Shoe Lane to Chancery Lane was laid out as gardens, with trees and shrubs, and, without doubt, 'good strawberries.' By-the-way, it is not without interest to note that Mr. Agas resided in this district, as (in 1606) he wrote from 'his lodgings in holborne at fetter lane nere the signe of the helmet.'

Holborn, as in the present day, was a very important thoroughfare in olden times, but ghastly indeed were the scenes then frequently witnessed. Along its narrow and jolting roadway criminals were taken from Newgate to the gallows at Tyburn, there to be hanged for various offences, such as murder, forgery, or theft. These executorial processions used to be witnessed by crowds of people on foot and at the windows along the route. It is said that an old inhabitant of Holborn made a practice of giving his clerks a holiday every execution-day in order that they might 'see the show,' saying to them: 'Go, ye young rogues, go to school, and improve!' Titus Oates and Dangerfield were publicly whipped at the cart's tail along Holborn.

In pleasant contrast to the repulsive customs of those brutalising days, we may turn to a philanthropic incident and its beneficent results. In the winter of 1827 a Dr. William Marsden found on the steps of St. Andrew's church a poor girl of eighteen years of age perishing from disease and famine. He conveyed her to three or four different hospitals, but not being provided with the necessary letters the poor sufferer was refused admission. The kind doctor then took her to a lodging close by, but she died two days afterwards, unknown and friendless. This distressing event—one by no means uncommon at that time—determined Dr. Marsden to found a hospital on the principle of free and instant admission, with the result that the Royal Free Hospital in Gray's Inn Road—an Institution worthy of benevolent support—was thereupon founded.

The church of St. Andrew's, Holborn, like so many of the venerable sanctuaries of London, teems with interest, regarded from various points of view. In 1297 the church was given by Gladerinus, a priest, or presbyter, to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, on condition that the Abbot and Convent of St. Saviour, Bermondsey, should hold the same of that Cathedral. They held it till 1547, paying the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's 12*d.* per annum, when, on the dissolution of monasteries, it passed to the Crown. Nothing seems to be known of the original building, but in 1446 the steeple of the present edifice was commenced, and the church 'was builded by the money given of devotion of good people, then used to be gathered by the men and women of the parish in boxes, in ales, shootings, &c., for the only purpose, through the parish weekly, during the time of these works, as by their accounts may and doth appear.' This 15th century church escaped the great fire of London; but as its main portion became so dilapidated it was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren

in the year 1686. The great architect, however, preserved the original tower, which he re-cased, and this ancient part of the structure can be recognised by the large and original buttresses and the fine Gothic arch of the interior, as shown in the illustration on p. 161. The largest of Wren's churches, St. Andrew's suffered much at the 'restoring' hands of Teulon in 1872. As a well-known ecclesiologist says: 'He did a lot of mischief, and never ought to have been allowed to touch a Wren church. He carted away the fine old organ case and a quantity of good pewing and woodwork, including the unique "Christening pew" placed under the organ-loft. In St. Martin's Ludgate one can see exactly how a Wren church ought to be restored; in St. Andrew's how it ought not to be done.'

From a series of papers on stained glass before and after the Gothic revival, contributed to *The Architect* by Mr. T. Francis Bumpus, we derive the following information concerning the glass in the church:

The stained glass in the great east window is a fine example of the work of Joshua Price, to whom we are deeply indebted for the manner in which he, and a few others, kept the art of glass-painting alive in this country during the 17th and 18th centuries. It is a work unequalled—unequalled that is for the 18th century, especially in its use of 'pot metal glass'—and, together with the stone altar and the decoration of the sanctuary generally, forms a valuable memorial of Dr. Sacheverell, to whom they are due, and who is buried beneath the altar. Some armorial glass in the windows at the eastern ends of the galleries is likewise remarkable for the magnificence and brilliancy of its tinctures. The date of these, and of the great east window would, I should think, be about 1710-14.

Previous to the making of that wonderful example of engineering skill, the Holborn Viaduct (opened by Queen Victoria on November 6, 1869), the church had to be reached by steps upward from the sloping side-walk (as shown in our illustration on p. 157), but now one has to descend, owing to the altered street level. The church is mentioned as having been originally situated 'in a spacious cemetery'; therefore it is no wonder that in its churchyard and in its extensive vaults an immense number of bodies were interred; indeed, when the new road through this *campo santo* was made (in 1869), no fewer than some 12,000 remains were removed and re-interred at Ilford cemetery. The various visitations of the plague must have tested the interment capacities of these old London churchyards to a marvellous extent, e.g., at St. Andrew's, it is recorded that, in February, 1563: 'Here, by God's mercy, the plague did cease; whereof died in this parish this year to the number of four hundred, four score, and ten'; while in the year 1583 we learn that 'The great heap of dead men's bones and skulls that lay unseemly and offensive at the east end of the church, near Shoe-lane, were all this year buried in a pit.'

Preserved in the archives of St. Andrew's Church is a very interesting and informing manuscript volume written by Churchwarden Thomas Bentley, who held office in 1584. This volume—which



really ought to be printed by one of the learned societies—is entitled:—

Sume Monuments of Antiquitie worthy [of] memory collected and gathered together out of sundry old accounts had and made by ye churchwardens, lightwardens, and such like officers of ye parish since ye time of King Henry ye sixth by Thomas Bentley gent. sometyme an unprofitable member and churchwarden of ye parish in ye year of our Lord 1584.

From the pages of this valuable tome we cull the following extract concerning the plague, to which

Churchwarden Bentley's book must be subjected to further quotation. Here are some quaint extracts concerning the Churchwardens, the spelling being modernized:

The churchwardens of the parish took a woman's gown to pledge for their duties belonging to the church at a funeral.

The churchwardens compelled 'Sir Harry,' the priest, to pay 4*d.* as a fine for driving a cart across the churchyard to the rectory.

The churchwardens used to lend chalices, vestments, missals, &c., to noblemen, parishioners and others, 'but always for money' (!)



THE RIVER FLEET, THE BOURNE AT THE BOTTOM OF HOLBORN HILL.

*From a water-colour drawing, circa 1700, in the Guildhall Library.*

terrible scourge reference has just been made:

#### VIEWS OF YE PLAGUE.

Item, it is appoynted and comanded yt in ye tyme of every great plague and mortalitie there shall be a vestry called and kept in every prshe, as well wthin ye lyberties of ye Citie as wthout, to elect and choose Viewers, Searchers, Keepers, Watchers, Surveyours, Collectours, Providers, Delyverours, and such like officers of men and women to be attendant about ye sick shutt up of ye plague in every prsh:—as also to put in speedy practyse all such other good and godly orders and proceedings as in that behalf are or shal be from tyme to tyme sett forth and comanded for the safety and welth of ye people.

And these Viewers at their election must be sworn to make true report according to their knowledge and ye choyse of them to be made by ye discretion of ye Curate of ye church and iii or iiii substanciall men of ye parish.

This extract is interesting as furnishing a 16th century foreshadowing of the sanitary precautions and nursing methods of our own day.

The churchwardens this year [1556] received 35*s.* of the communicants at Easter. This money was called Houseling Money in old time; the which was used to be received by the light-wardens in Henry VII and VIII time appears in old accounts also in the 6th year of Queen Mary the light-wardens received it at God's board and called it the *Hali* Pence. The same in old time was received of the Inns of Court and Chancery also by the light-wardens as appears in the accounts.

['Houseling Money' means Eucharist offerings; and *Hali* Pence signifies Holy pence.]

Coming to later times—the early years of the 18th century—we find some equally entertaining entries in the Vestry Minutes. Here is one, suggestive of the pews being cells to be locked and unlocked—doubtless with profit—by female turnkeys:

Agreed that Mrs. Cornish be pewkeeper in the room of Mrs. Bugden, and that Mrs. Bugden's daughter keep the keys till the Sunday night after Candlemass day, and then she is to deliver the keys to Mrs. Cornish who is to pay Mrs. Bugden's daughter ten shillings out of the profit of the pews arising after Lady day next or wthin fourteen days after Lady day. (January 23, 1727.)

Book of Orders from ye privie Counsell a<sup>o</sup> 1580.

Orders from ye Lord Maior made a<sup>o</sup> 1582.

Book of Orders from ye Counsayl 1580.

Later, the 18th century lotteries appear to have been favoured by the clergy, as (in 1767) a lady residing in Holborn had a lottery-ticket presented to her by her husband, and on the Sunday preceding the drawing her success was prayed for in the parish church of St. Andrew's in these words: 'The prayers of this congregation are desired for the success of a person engaged in a new undertaking.'

The rectors of St. Andrew's—their names are recorded from the year 1322—have included famous dignitaries of the church, some of whom have adorned the Episcopal bench: *e.g.*, Richard Bancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury in the 17th century; John King, Bishop of London in 1621, who was punningly described by King James 'the King of preachers'; John Hacket, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield in 1661; Edward Stillingfleet, Bishop of Worcester in 1689, a prelate so handsome in appearance that he was called 'the beauty of holiness.' Perhaps the most famous of all the rectors, by reason of his political propensities, was Dr. Henry Sacheverell. A hot-headed partisan, he was tried by impeachment for preaching political sermons—one before the Lord Mayor in St. Paul's Cathedral in 1709—and suspended from his clerical ministrations for three years. But at the expiration of his sentence in 1713, Queen Anne presented Sacheverell to the rectory of St. Andrew's, Holborn! Although he afterwards sank into comparative oblivion, Sacheverell quarrelled with his parishioners, notably with one William Whiston, whom he ordered out of the church and forbad to enter it again. In the course of some research among old London newspapers for the purposes of this article, we accidentally came across the following amusing reference to the redoubtable Dr. Sacheverell, as recorded in the *Weekly Journal or Saturday's Post* of November 23, 1717:

Last Saturday Dr. Sacheverell, with his Lady, came to Town from Derbyshire, she being perfectly recover'd of the Fall she had in her Coach. The Doctor was met as far as St. Albans by about 2 or 300 Horse of his Parishioners and Friends; he treated them all the Way to Town, and upon his Arrival the Bells of St. Andrew in Holborn were rung to bid him welcome.

From this it may be inferred that the Doctor 'treated' these '2 or 300 Horse of his Parishioners' better than he did Mr. Whiston. He died June 5,

1724, and was buried in the chancel of the church. Twenty-three years later the *General Advertiser* of September 29, 1747, contained the following information, set forth in two separate paragraphs:

Yesterday John Lamb Sexton of St. Andrew's Church, Holborn, was committed to Newgate by the Lord Mayor for being concerned with the Grave-digger of the said Parish, in stealing 150 Lead Coffins out of the Vault of the said Church, several of which were found in his House.

Among the Leaden Coffins taken out of the Vaults under St. Andrew's Church, Holborn, are found those of the late Rev. Dr. Sacheverell and the noted Sally Salisbury.

The coupling together of these two names is most amusing. This sepulchral desecration called forth a threepenny pamphlet entitled:

A genuine narrative of the sacrilegious Impiety of John Lamb, the sexton and Wm. Bilby, the grave-digger of St. Andrew's, Holborn.

While on this grave subject, some extracts from the Vestry Minutes may be given. They are of the year 1717:

Ordered That whereas Thomas Abraham late Grave digger of this Parish hath been detected of several misdemeanours comitted by him in his office as robbing the dead and other enormities by him most sacrilegiously practised wee therefore discharge him from his said employment.

Ordered that four new Bearers be provided to officiate as such for this parish and their fees be as usuall.

Ordered that the Bearers take care of the Pall in their turns each Bearer to discharge that duty for one month and so consequently monthly from time to time as the Churchwardens shall direct.

Agreed that the Sexton be upon the death of every person satisfied what Bell must be used upon that occasion, before any bell be used, and that the Sexton use no other Bell but such as shall be required or desired to be so used, and that the Churchwarden for the time being be satisfied what bell is to be used before any Bell be made use of upon that occasion.

The Registers of St. Andrew's, which date from 1558, contain some interesting entries. Among the baptisms we find the names of Richard Savage the poet, and friend of Dr. Johnson, and Henry Addington, a former Speaker of the House of Commons and Prime Minister, whose administration evoked the couplet:

Pitt is to Addington  
As London is to Paddington.

But of greater interest is the following entry, which we give *literatim et verbatim*:

BAPTISMS SOLEMNIZED IN THE PARISH OF ST. ANDREW, HOLBORN, LONDON, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, IN THE YEAR 1817.						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1817. July 31.  No. 633.	Benjamin son of  said to be about 12 years old.	Isaac & Maria	D. Israeli.	King's Road.	Gentleman.	J. Thimbleby.

Two younger brothers (Raphael and James) of the aforesaid Benjamin were baptized in the same church on July 11, as was also a sister (Sarah) on August 28 in the same year.

In regard to the Marriage Registers there is preserved in the Registry of the church a book which throws a curious light on nuptial customs during the Commonwealth. The volume is entitled :

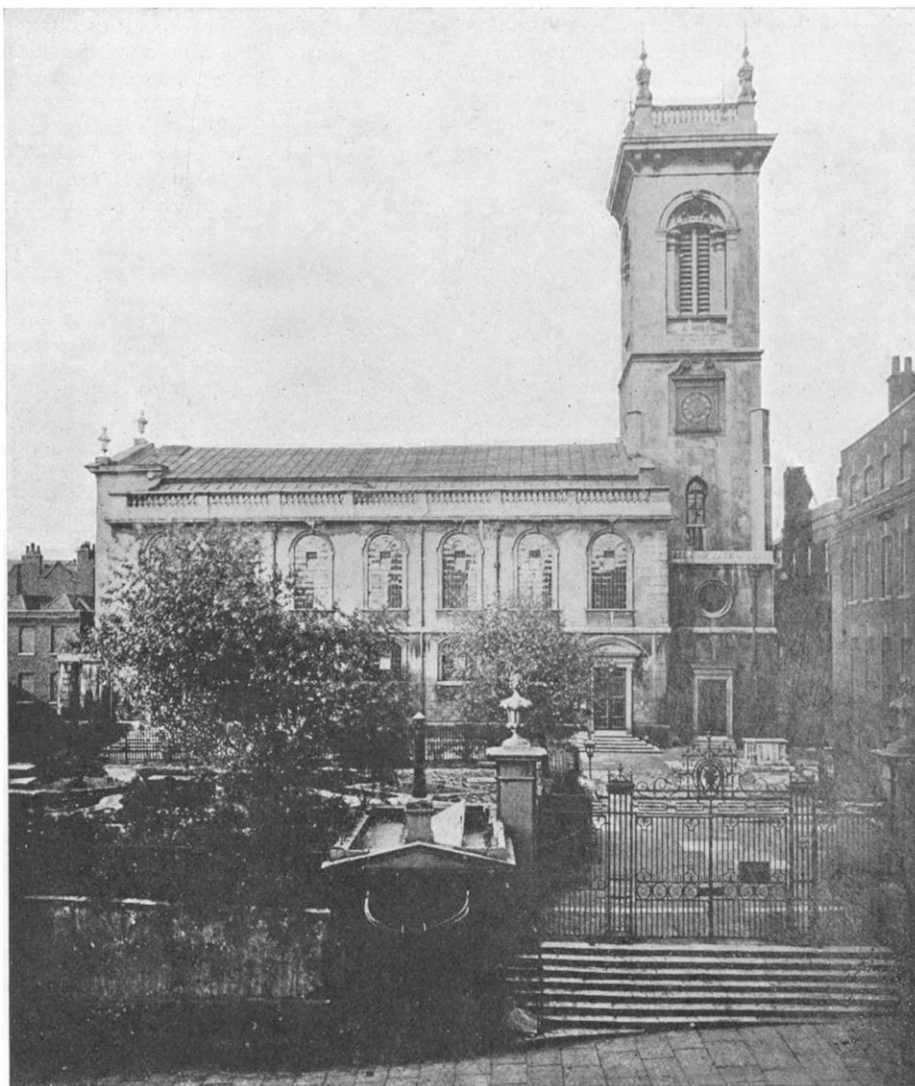
Anno Domini, 1653.

PUBLICATIONS AND MARRIAGES.

Here beginneth the Register booke of St. Andrewes Holborne of such Publications and Marriages as have been published either in the Church or Markett place Together with the severall dayes of publication since the Nine and Twentieth day of September 1653.

An Agreement and intent of Marriage betweene Symon Ffarmer gent. of Christ Church and Susanna Raynesford of Andrewes Holborne gent. was published on three Lords Dayes in the publike meeting place comonly called the Church of Andrewes Holborne aforesaid videl<sup>t</sup>. :—On the 26th day of February On the 5th and on the 12th dayes of March 1653.

It will be observed that the 'publication' was sometimes made in the market-place, and that the prefix 'St.' is omitted from the name of the church, which in the second extract is called a 'publique



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, BEFORE HOLBORN VIADUCT WAS MADE.  
THE SMALL BUILDING ON THE LEFT OF THE GATEWAY WAS THE PARISH FIRE-ENGINE STATION.  
(Photograph by Mr. J. T. Slater.)

We give two extracts from this 17th century book :

An Agreement and Intent of Marriage betweene Richard Jones chirurgeon and Mary Bridges daughter of James Bridges of the City of Worcester Mercer both of the parish of Andrewes Holborne was published three Market Dayes in Newgate Markett and in three severall weekes videl<sup>t</sup>. :—On the 19th on the 25th and on the 30th dayes of November 1653.

meeting place.' Both the couples mentioned in the above 'publications' were 'married by Thomas Lisle Esqre. Justice of the peace,' and not by a clergyman.

The marriage of the famous lawyer, Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634) to his second wife, relict of Sir William Hatton, is recorded in November, 1598 ; but the ceremony was irregular, having



taken place in a private house. Here is a contemporary reference to this union of hearts :

The seventh of this moneth the quenes attorney married the Lady Hatton, to the great admiration of all men, that after so many large and likely offers she should decline to a man of his qualitie, and they will not believe it was without a misterie.

On Sunday, May 1, 1808, William Hazlitt was married to Sarah Stoddart, one of the witnesses to the marriage being Mary Ann Lamb, the bridesmaid. Mary's brother Charles was also present at the ceremony, as he records in a letter, written seven years later, to Southey. Here is the extract, written in Charles Lamb's inimitable style :

I am going to stand godfather ; I don't like the business. I cannot muster up decorum for these occasions ; I shall certainly disgrace the font. I was at Hazlitt's marriage, and had like to have been turned out several times during the ceremony. Anything awful makes me laugh. I misbehaved once at a funeral. Yet I can read about these ceremonies with pious and proper feelings. The realities of life only seem the mockeries.

Passing on to the Burial Registers, we find recorded therein the interment of Daniel Purcell, brother of the famous Henry of that ilk. His (Daniel's) remains were deposited at St. Andrew's Church—of which he was organist—in the month of November, 1717, the entry reading :

Daniell Purcell from Fetter Lane ye 26th.

This entry gives approximately the date of Daniel Purcell's death, which we believe is now made known for the first time. Some of his biographers give his death-year as 1718, and none of these investigators could have searched the St. Andrew's registers, or they would have found the above information. John Hughes (1677-1720), one of the best minor poets of the Queen Anne period, is also buried here. He was an amateur violinist, and took active part in the concerts given by Thomas Britton, the musical small-coal man in Clerkenwell, which music-makings were honoured with the presence of Handel. In a letter to Rorer, Handel—writing after his first visit to England in 1710—says :

Pray give my compliments to Mr. Hughes. I shall take the liberty of writing to him at the first opportunity. In the meantime if he will honour me with his commands, and will add to them one of his charming English poems, he will do me the greatest kindness. Since I left you, I have made some progress in the language.

It should not be forgotten that John Hughes wrote the words of the air, 'Would you gain the tender creature?' which occurs in 'Acis and Galatea.' The most pathetic entry in the burial register is, however, that of Thomas Chatterton, the ill-fated poet, of whom Wordsworth wrote :

The marvellous boy,  
The sleepless soul, that perished in his pride.

His suicidal end in his eighteenth year, the fact that he was buried in a pauper's grave—the ground now occupied by Farringdon Avenue—and that his Christian name is wrongly stated (William, instead of Thomas) in the burial entry, deepen the

tragedy of his untimely death from starvation. The sad event took place in a lonely lodging at Brooke Street, Holborn, on August 24, 1770. Three months previously he had contributed to one of the London newspapers an open letter, signed 'Probus,' and addressed to Lord Mayor Beckford, which gained him an interview with the Lord Mayor. A second letter was written and sent for publication, but it never appeared owing to the death of Beckford. This unpublished communication Chatterton sent to a friend accompanied with this endorsement :

Accepted by Bingley, set for and thrown out of the North Briton 21 June, on account of the lord mayor's death.

	£	s.	d.
Lost by his death on this essay	-	-	1 11 6
Gained in elegies	-	-	2 2 0
„ in essays	-	-	3 3 0
Am glad he is dead by	-	-	3 13 6

But it is now time to turn to matters more strictly musical. As no history of this interesting church has been written, the material for even a 'chatty' article on its various interests has had to be gleaned from various sources. In regard to the organ, the MS. book of Churchwarden Bentley—a tome probably hidden during the Commonwealth, and thereby fortunately preserved—furnishes some curious information. It is thus set forth :

9 Henry viii.—Item. The lytle orgaynes were made, and bought at the charges of the parish and devotion of good people and purchased by the churchwardens. They cost as I can gather £6. Ye loft for ye sayd orgaynes was built ye same year and stood the parish in 40s.

2 Edward vi.—Item. My Lord of Lincoln had given a payre of orgaynes to the church.

1 Mary.—Item. The parish gave young Whyte £5 for ye great orgaynes which his father gave to ye church.

A still more interesting entry is the following, of the year 1572, which we give *literatim et verbatim* :

Md yt ye sayd Langston [churchwarden] without leave of ye parishoners or consent of ye Vestry & clean against ye mynd of ye parson solde awaye ye great Orgaynes given by Mr Whyte & for wh. ye parish payd V℥ to young Whyte, & was at greater charges for a loft to sett them upp on not long before. He puld down ye loft & sold these fayre Orgaynes & excellent Instrument for X℥ Xs unto ye Deane of Westminster & ye Mynster Church ther wher now they stand & cannot be bought for any money so highly are they esteemed of for their goodness.

This information furnishes some fresh light on the history of the organ in Westminster Abbey—information that, we believe, has not hitherto been known.

As the actual Vestry Minutes now existing do not go back beyond 1714, nothing is discoverable as to the builders or scope of these ancient orgaynes, or the organists who played thereupon. We must therefore pass on to the year 1684, when the memorable contest between Father Smith and Renatus Harris began at the Temple Church for the building of the organ in that venerable

sanctuary. Harris, it will be remembered, lost the day, and it is said that a portion of the instrument which he had erected in the Temple Church for the competition was re-erected in St. Andrew's Church, Holborn. Hawkins says that when Sacheverell became rector (in 1713) he 'found an organ in the church of Harris's building, which, having never been paid for, had, from the time of its erection, in 1699, been shut up,' and so on. (Hawkins's *History of Music*, 1859 edn., p. 759). As Hawkins is inaccurate in other parts of his statement, he cannot be relied upon in regard to the silence of the instrument in the church for fourteen years. For one

splendid case.' Ah! what has become of that 'splendid case'? Hatton also records that 'the church is very well and regularly Pew'd uniform,' and that 'there are Prayers every day in the week at 6, 11, and 3 in the Summer, and at 7, 11, and 3 in the Winter.'

The Historical Documents Commission Report (vol. vii., p. 689) gives some contemporary information on the subject of the Harris organ in St. Andrew's. This is contained in a folio paper volume, consisting, as the Report says, 'of eighty-nine pages of cases submitted to Serjeant Pengelly, and of his opinion thereon in 1719 and later years.'



THE INTERIOR OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.

(*Photograph by Mr. J. T. Slater.*)

thing, the first of the Charity School annual festivals—which afterwards became so familiar a feature in St. Paul's Cathedral—was held in St. Andrew's Church, on June 8, 1704, when nearly 2,000 children were present. Now, is it at all likely that the Harris organ remained silent on that occasion? Let us turn to Hatton's 'New View of London' (1708) and see what he has to say regarding the instrument in St. Andrew's: 'Here is also a very fine organ made by Mr. Harris.' So unusual a circumstance as a locked-up and silent organ would almost certainly have been recorded by Hatton. Another old writer says: 'The organ is very large, and contained in a most

The learned counsel's 'opinion' is thus stated:

The case (which is not dated) states that about 27 years ago an organ was erected in the church, but no organist was appointed for many years afterwards. About the year 1715 Dr. Sacheverell, being then rector, and the organ being unpaid for, went about the parish and raised money sufficient to pay the debt. At that time one Mr. Purcell played the said organ, without being elected or appointed organist or without having any fixed salary, and he died about ten years since; on whose death Dr. Sacheverell summoned and procured a meeting of the parishioners when he recommended them to do what they thought proper as to the choice of an organist and his salary; and the parishioners then agreed to allow £50 per ann. There were seven candidates and a day appointed for the election; but the rector and a select vestry alone chose



one Mr. Greene, who officiated for some months and resigned, when the select vestry chose Mr. Heysham [Isham], who died a month ago. [Isham died in June, 1726.]

The circumstances attending the erection of the Harris organ engaged the serious attention of the Vestry in January 1717. Here is a Minute thereupon, now made public for the first time :

The Question being put what answer should be given to Mr. Harris the organ-maker concerning a Letter he had caused to be written to the Churchwardens dat. eleventh January 1717 the same was Referred to Mr. Greenway to give an answer upon the first opportunity who promised to write an answer accordingly and the Churchwardens are to signe or subscribe same.

The letter referred to, evidently written to Mr. Renatus Harris's solicitor, reads thus :

Sr.

Some time since wee each of us recd. a Lr. from you relateing to ye organ made and sett up by Mr. Harris wee have showed your Lr. to the vestry and the organ not being made and sett up either by order of the vestry or any parish meeting or by order or direction of any of the parishioners unless by one Mr. Battersby formerly Churchwarden who might doe the same of his owne accord and they are informed that Mr. Harris agreed with the said Mr. Battersby to be paid for the organ by moneys to be raised by subscription and that according to Mr. Harris agreem<sup>t</sup>. there have been considerable sumes of money raised and paid him by subscription Therefore if he hath made an organ that requires more money than he can raise by subscription he must blaine himself, for that the money he hath already recd. would pay for a very good organ and the vestry tell us they cannot doe anything in it or doe they believe (as Mr. Harris case stands) that he can by Law recover anything ag<sup>t</sup>. the parish for the Organ and if Mr. Harris thinks that the moneys he recd. is not sufficient for the paym<sup>t</sup>. of the organ the most he can desire is to re-imburse the parishioners what he hath already recd. and to have their leive to take away the organ making good the Gallery where it stands All which wee thought fitt to lett you know and as to what you pretend to sue us as Churchwardens wee doubt not but you may be easely informed that no prosecution or proper proceeding doth lye against us or the parish for the organ.

Wee are

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1718.

(Sr.)

Your Humble Servts.

To Mr. John Andrews } Wm. Hayden } Churchwardens.  
over ag<sup>t</sup>. King Charles's } Wm. Clever }  
head in James Street }  
Westm<sup>r</sup>.

(In margin) :

If Mr. Harris thinks he can raise more money by subscription he may doe as he pleases.

The next entries in the Vestry Minutes in regard to the organ are as follows, with their respective dates :

March 31, 1718.

The question being putt whether the person Employed to look after the organ should have a yearly salary for looking after and keeping in repair the said Organ or not It was agreed that a Sallary should be allowed him and that Mr. Isham [the organist] do bring an account of such Sallaries as are usually paid by other churches in and about the Citty, and Mr. Isham reported 10<sup>l</sup>. the usuall allowance Paid by other Churches.

May 1, 1719.

It is also agreed that Mr. Christopher Shrider be paid eight pounds for his service in looking after the organ this last year which eight pounds when paid him is to be in full of all demands except Locks and Keys amounting to Eleven shills and six pence.

March 27, 1723.

The Question being putt whether Mr. Shriders debt for looking after the Organ should be paid to him by Mr. Stanton out of the money in his hands (Reced. by the said Mr. Stanton out of Thavies's rents) or not Agreed that Mr. Stanton shall pay him for four years due at Lady day last after the rate of eight pounds per annum takeing the said Shriders receipt for the same.

Agreed that the Churchwarden Lawrence (calling to his assistance 2 or more of the vestry) may agree with the said Shrider or any other person for the looking after and cleaning the organ for the future.

As Shrider appears to have had charge of the organ, it may be assumed that the Vestry had not made its peace with Renatus Harris ; but the following entry serves to show that matters had ultimately been amicably arranged between the parties, and moreover that Harris had added 'the Ecco's and Swelling' to the original Temple Church instrument, or rather that portion of it in St. Andrew's Church :

8 April, 1735.

Ordered that Mr. Harris, the Organ Builder, be paid the Ballance of his Bill for making the Ecco's and Swelling amounting to twenty-three pounds and also the sume of twenty-eight pounds being the sallary for three years and an halfe due and ending at Lady day last for cleaning and keeping the Organ in Tune by Mr. Horsnail, the Churchwarden, out of Thavies's estate.

The Harris organ was subsequently enlarged by various builders, including (in 1842 and 1872) Messrs. Hill & Son. A further enlargement, with new action throughout, has just been completed by Messrs. Hill, thus providing the church with almost a new instrument, which is announced to be opened on March 1. Here is the specification of the rebuilt organ :

#### GREAT ORGAN (12 Stops).

	Feet.		Feet.
Double Diapason .. ..	16	Twelfth .. ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
*Open Diapason No. 1 ..	8	Fifteenth .. ..	2
*Open Diapason, No. 2 ..	8	Mixture (4 ranks).	
Stopped Diapason .. ..	8	Mixture (3 ranks).	
*Harmonic Flute .. ..	4	*Posaune .. ..	8
Principal .. ..	4	*Clarion .. ..	4

#### SWELL ORGAN (14 Stops).

Bourdon .. ..	16	Mixture (5 ranks).	
Open Diapason .. ..	8	*Double Trumpet ..	16
Viol d'amour .. ..	8	*Horn .. ..	8
Voix céleste (to B flat)	8	*Oboe .. ..	8
Stopped Diapason .. ..	8	*Clarion .. ..	4
Principal .. ..	4	*Vox Humana .. ..	8
Wald Flute .. ..	4	Tremulant (acted upon by	
Fifteenth .. ..	2	draw-stop, also by pedal).	

#### CHOIR ORGAN (11 Stops).

Lieblich Bourdon .. ..	16	Orchestral Oboe .. ..	8
Open Diapason .. ..	8	Clarinet .. ..	8
Dulciana .. ..	8	(The above stops are enclosed	
Gamba .. ..	8	in a swell box.)	
Clarabella .. ..	8	*Tuba .. ..	8
Principal .. ..	4	Tremulant (acted upon by	
Stopped Flute .. ..	4	draw-stop, also by pedal).	
Harmonic Piccolo .. ..	2		

#### PEDAL ORGAN (8 Stops).

Sub-Bass .. ..	32	Bourdon .. ..	16
Open Diapason .. ..	16	Bass Flute .. ..	8
Open Diapason .. ..	16	*Trombone .. ..	16
Principal .. ..	8	*Trumpet .. ..	8

\* These stops are upon a heavier wind pressure.



THE ORGAN IN ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.

THE VIEW SHOWS THE PERPENDICULAR ARCH AND WEST WINDOW OF THE OLD CHURCH.

*(Photograph by Mr. Greaves, Clapham Road.)*

COUPLERS.		
Swell to Great.	Swell Super-Octave.	Great to Pedal.
Choir to Great.	Swell Sub-Octave.	Choir to Pedal.
Swell to Choir.	Swell to Pedal.	Tremulant Pedal.

## ACCESSORIES.

Four Combination	Pistons to Great and Pedal.
Four	Pedals to Great and Pedal.
One	Adjustable Piston to Great and Pedal.
Four	Pistons to Swell Organ.
One	Adjustable Piston to Swell Organ.
Three	Pistons to Choir Organ.
One	Piston to add Great Organ to Composition Pedals.
Poppet Pedal acting upon Great to Pedal Coupler.	
Manual Compass CC to C: Pedal Compass CCCC to F.	
Tubular-pneumatic action throughout. Detached Console.	
Hydraulic blowing (Messrs. Watkins & Watson's high-pressure Motor), the water being supplied from the main of the London Hydraulic Power Company, at a pressure of about 700 lbs. to the square inch.	

The first recorded organist of the church was Daniel Purcell (1660?-1717), who is said to have begun his duties in 1713—probably at the request of the rector, Dr. Sacheverell, and not by being officially elected by the Vestry. After Daniel Purcell's death, in 1717,—to which we have already referred—there appeared :

THE PSALMS SET FULL for the Organ or Harpsichord as they are Plaid in Churches and Chappels in the manner given out; as also with their Interludes of great Variety, by MR. DANIEL PURCELL, late Organist of St. Andrew's, Holborn.

We give a specimen of the 'given out' and 'Interludes' from this Purcellian publication :

THE 100 PSALM TUNE GIVEN OUT.



THE 100 PSALM TUNE WITH THE INTERLUDES.



The candidates for the organistship immediately after Daniel Purcell's death included his nephew Edward, who appears to have inserted the following advertisement in one of the leading newspapers of the day :

Whereas Edward Purcell, only son to the famous Mr. Henry Purcell, stands candidate for the Organist's place of St. Andrew, Holbourn, in the room of his Uncle, Mr. Daniel Purcell, deceased, This is to give Notice that the Place is to be decided by a General Poll of House-keepers of the said Parish, whom he humbly hopes, notwithstanding the false and malicious Reports of his being a Papist, will be assistant to him in obtaining the said Place.

N.B.—The Election will begin upon Tuesday the 17th, at Nine in the Morning, and continue till Friday following, to Four in the Afternoon.—(*Daily Courant*, December 11, 1717.)

At a meeting of the Select Vestry, held on February 17, 1718, the following Minutes were entered upon the records :

The Question being putt whether the Vestry should take the election of an Organist into their nomination or not, it was agreed in the affirmative.

The Question being putt whether the Vestry should now proceed upon the said election or not, it was agreed by a majority to proceed forthwith.



The continuation of the Minutes we give in facsimile, as showing the method adopted by the Select Vestry in recording the votes of its members :

*The Candidates names are as followeth viz:*

Mr. Short \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Isham \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Young \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Green ||||| \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Pursil \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Haydon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Harris \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. East \_\_\_\_\_

Voted nemine contradicente That Mr. Green is ellected Organist of the Parish Church of St. Andrew, Holborne.

Mr. (afterwards the celebrated Dr. Maurice) Greene held the appointment for about a month, as the following Minute, dated April 3, 1718, will show :

Mr. Green ye Organist, being elected Organist of Saint Paul's and his place as Organist of this Church thereby being become vacant, the Vestry do order that his salary be continued to Sunday the 4th of May inclusive.

Itt is also Ordered that such person who shall be elected Organist of this Parish in the room of Mr. Green, shall be obliged to a constant personall attendance on all Sundays and Holydays.

The several candidates named for Organist in the Room of Mr. Green are as follows, viz. :

Mr. George Haydon + \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Charles Young \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Edward Pursil \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. John Isham +++++ \_\_\_\_\_

Agreed that Mr. Isham be elected Organist of the Parish Church of Saint Andrew, Holborne, in the room of Mr. Greene, and that he have a yearly salary of Fifty pounds payd him out of the Bells and Palls.

'What's in a name?' the St. Andrew's vestrymen may have said about 'Mr. Edward Pursil,' judging from the result of their voting. The John Isham then elected came from St. Anne's Church, Soho, where he had succeeded Dr. Croft.

The next organist of St. Andrew's was a most distinguished man, the celebrated blind performer, John Stanley (1714-1786). He was only a boy of twelve at the time of his appointment, concerning

which the following advertisement—now for the first time reprinted—from *The London Journal* of August 13, 1726, may not be without interest :

*To the worthy Inhabitants of the Parish of  
 St. Andrew's Holbourn,*  
 The place of Organist being vacant, your Vote  
 and Interest are desired for  
 JOHN STANLEY,  
 the Blind Youth,  
 who was Educated under Mr. Green, Organist of  
 St. Paul's Cathedral.  
*N.B.* Mr. Short, one of the Candidates, has  
 no less than three places, viz. Organist of  
 St. Sepulchre's, and St. Dunstan's, Stepney, and  
 one in the Play-House.  
*N.B.* The Report of the Blind Youth's Father  
 having a Place of Four or Five Hundred Pounds  
 a Year under the Government is without Founda-  
 tion, he having no Place of any Value whatsoever.  
 The Election begins on MONDAY morning next.

The result of the contest is thus recorded in *The Weekly Journal, or the British Gazetteer*, of Saturday, August 20, 1726 :

There having been a Poll at St. Andrew's, Holbourn, for the Place of Organist of that Church in the Room of Mr. Isham, deceased ; the same ended last Wednesday Night, when the Choice fell by a great Majority upon Mr. Stanley, a Youth who has had the Misfortune to be blind, but having been educated under Mr. Green, Organist of St. Paul's, and being endowed with an extraordinary Genius for Musick, is the Admiration of all that ever heard his Performances.

The career of John Stanley is so well known that there is no need to give detailed particulars, except to mention that he was one of the greatest, if not the greatest, organist of his day. He held

the organistship of St. Andrew's for sixty years, and for fifty-two years of that time he was also organist of the Temple Church, where Handel and some fifty other organists are said to have assembled in order to hear him play. He became Master of the King's Musick in succession to Dr. Boyce, and he led the band himself, using a Stainer violin for orchestral work and a Cremona for solo playing. In spite of his blindness Stanley was a good player at skittles, shovel-board, billiards, and whist, for which he used perforated cards.

The next organist was James Evance, concerning whose election the following resolutions were passed at a General Meeting of the Parishioners held on June 2, 1786 :

That the salary of the organist be fifty pounds, out of which he is to pay the Blower £3.

That in case a Poll be demanded the candidates deposit before the opening of the Poll in equal shares in the hands of the Upper Churchwarden the sum of Twenty Pounds to defray the expenses thereof.

A poll, which lasted for three days and at which no fewer than 1,919 parishioners voted, resulted in



JOHN STANLEY, MUS.B. (1714-1786).

THE BLIND ORGANIST OF ST. ANDREW'S, HOLBORN, AND OF THE TEMPLE CHURCH.  
(From the portrait by James McArdell.)

He died at his house in Hatton Garden on May 19, 1786. His death is thus recorded in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of that month :

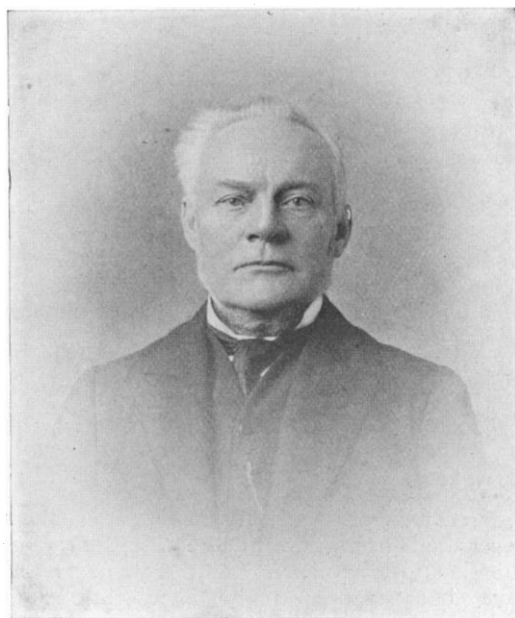
19th. In Hatton-Garden, John Stanley Esq, master of his Majesty's band of musicians, and organist to the society of the Temple, and St. Andrew's Holborn ; and on the evening of this 27th his remains were interred in the new burying-ground of St. Andrew's. At that parish church, on the 28th [Sunday] instead of the usual voluntary, a solemn dirge, and after service, 'I know that my Redeemer liveth' were, with great propriety, given upon that organ on which Mr. Stanley had, with much eminence, displayed his musical abilities near 60 years.

the election of Mr. Evance, who received 1,041 votes. We may pass on to mention, and make very honourable mention, of the most distinguished organist of St. Andrew's in modern times, the late Dr. James Higgs, who held the office from 1867 to 1895, and of whom an obituary notice, with portrait, appeared in THE MUSICAL TIMES of June and August, 1902. To Mr. Higgs succeeded Mr. Harold Phillips, who fully maintained the musical traditions of the church.

The present organist of St. Andrew's is Mr. Frank George Mitford Ogbourne. He studied under

various teachers, including the late William Beavan and Mr. E. H. Thorne. He has always devoted himself to the organ and church music, his previous appointments having included St. Mary's, Kilburn, St. George's, Campden Hill, All Saints', Norfolk Square, and St. Mary-the-Virgin, Chelsea. For about six years he deputized for Dr. Creser at the Chapel Royal, though he had no official appointment as assistant-organist, taking the entire duty during Dr. Creser's absence in India, when he played at several important memorial services. On July 1, 1903, he was selected, upon the recommendation of Sir George Martin, from among a large number of candidates as organist of St. Andrew's, Holborn, where a full choral service is effectively rendered. For twenty years Mr. Ogbourne has been

the present rebuilding of the organ at St. Andrew's is entirely to his specification. From his boyhood he has studied mechanical engineering, and to this



THE LATE DR. JAMES HIGGS.

(*Photograph by Messrs. Alfred Ellis and Walery.*)

a professor of the organ at Trinity College, and he has given organ recitals at various places, including the Royal Albert Hall and the Crystal Palace. Organ-construction is one of his special studies, and



MR. F. G. M. OGBOURNE.

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.

(*Photograph by Mr. Greaves, Clapham Road.*)

day machinery of all kinds and his various models constitute his favourite hobby.

For valued help in the preparation of this article we are specially indebted to the kindness of the Rector of St. Andrew's, Holborn, the Rev. Dacre Craven, M.A., for allowing search to be made in the church's archives under his care and in copying extracts, &c.; to Mr. J. T. Slater, a former churchwarden, for his photographs; to Mr. John S. Bumpus, whose knowledge of London churches is commensurate with his willingness to impart it; and to Mr. F. G. M. Ogbourne, organist and choirmaster of the church.

DOTTED CROTCHET.

### A LONG-LOST PORTRAIT OF MENDELSSOHN

In his biography of Mendelssohn, contributed to the 'Dictionary of Music and Musicians,' Sir George Grove admits his inability to trace the portrait of the composer painted by Horace Vernet in Rome during the winter of 1830-31. Even, as Sir George states, the efforts of M. Edouard Detaille, the painter, failed to discover the picture. Its history during the intervening seventy-four years since it was painted can be briefly told. The portrait was sent by Vernet to the Mendelssohn family at Berlin. Then it became successively the property of Mendelssohn's sister, Fanny Hensel, upon whose death (in 1847) it passed to her

husband, who died in 1861. An artist friend of Hensel's then acquired, either by purchase or bequest, the portrait, and it has remained in the possession of his widow until quite recently. It is now the property of Herr Geheimrath Ernst von Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, of Berlin, nephew of the composer, and by his kind and special permission we are enabled to reproduce it as one of our special supplements.

Horace Vernet—or, to give him his full name, Emile Jean Horace Vernet—was born at Paris, June 30, 1789, and died there January 17, 1863. An exceedingly brilliant and vigorous artist, he