

that preceded Cromwell's death, the citizens of London saw five men put to death for conspiracy—a number that exceeded, by more than twice, the death-roll of those who had suffered for treason within the city walls, during the previous four years of Cromwell's rule. These were the sights and sounds that signalled the Protectorate when, according to Mr. Frederic Harrison, it was 'in the zenith of its power.'

And as regards Cromwell himself, Slingsby's death went before him unto judgment. The true nature of the man was evident. Cromwell's subjects knew that conspiracies formed an important feature in his statecraft; they suspected that he utilised Henshaw to obtain the death of Gerard and Vowel; in Slingsby's death there was no disguise. The cry of Cromwell's prisoner, 'I see that I am trepanned'—the sight of the helpless, luckless man, ensnared by Cromwell's servants—made manifest to the people of England how like, in thought, act, and deed, their Protector was to that old Tempter who deceived in order that he might destroy, and destroyed to found on his deception a spacious supremacy, that 'murderer from the beginning,' who 'stood not in the truth, because there was no truth in him.'

REGINALD F. D. PALGRAVE.

(*To be continued.*)

LETTERS OF THE REV. WILLIAM AYERST, 1706–1721.

THE following letters, which have been transcribed from the originals in the Bodleian Library, seem to me of some interest as throwing fresh light on the attempt to introduce episcopacy and a liturgy on the Anglican model into Prussia at the beginning of the eighteenth century; and as containing some minute details of Lord Strafford's diplomatic career, and of the negotiations in which he bore a part, which have not been previously recorded. Ayerst was a shrewd observer, and seems to have rightly gauged the character of the news-loving master of University, to whose eager curiosity we are indebted for the rich and varied contents of the Ballard correspondence. The letters have occupied so much space that it has not been found practicable to annotate them. But most of the allusions will require no explanation to readers of 'The Life of Archbishop Sharp,' by his son archdeacon Sharp; of 'The Wentworth Papers,' selected and edited by J. J. Cartwright, in which several mentions of Ayerst occur; and of Hearne's 'Remarks and Collections,' now in course of publication by the Oxford Historical Society. As Ayerst has not found a place in the 'Dictionary of National Biography,' I have prefixed to his letters the account of his life which he forwarded to Dr. R. Rawlinson for insertion in his proposed continuation of Wood's 'Athenæ Oxonienses.' If any

other unpublished letters of Ayerst written during the negotiations which led to the peace of Utrecht are still extant, they may contain matter of greater importance than those here printed.

C. E. DOBLE.

*Autobiography of William Ayerst. (From Rawlinson's MS. Collections for a Continuation of Wood's 'Athenæ,' Rawl. J. fol. 16, 105 sqq.)*

'WILLIAM AYERST, son of Thomas Ayerst, some time Scholar of University College Oxford and afterwards Vicar of Shorn in Kent (in the Chancel of which Church he lies buried with the following Inscription, which being placed over him by His Son William, of whom we are speaking, and containing an Account of the Right of this Family to the Four Scholarships of University College founded by Mr Robert Gunsley Rector of Tilsey in Surry by his Will dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 1618, is here thought proper to be inserted. . . .)

'This William was born at Shorn aforesaid the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 1688, and educated at the Grammar Schools of Rochester & Maidstone, at the Latter of which he was elected in 1698 into one of Mr Gunsley's Scholarships, matriculated as a Member of University College the 20<sup>th</sup> March 1688, took the Degree of B.A. 21 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1708, and had That of A.M. confer'd on him by Diploma dated the 7<sup>th</sup> Nov: 1707 being then abroad with the Queen's Ambassador at Berlin. He received Deacon's Orders at Fulham from the B<sup>p</sup> of London the 2<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1704 and Priests at the same place & from the same Bishop the 30<sup>th</sup> May 1708. In 1705 he was appointed Chaplain to Thomas Lord Raby Queen Anne's Ambassador to Frederick the First King of Prussia. In 1711 he attended His Excellency in the same Quality on His Embassy to the States General, and in 1712 to the Congress of Utrecht, (at which that Lord, then created Earl of Strafford, was appointed one of Her Majesties Plenipotentiaries) during which Congress he became His Excellency's Secretary, and was afterwards appointed Her Majesties Secretary to the British Embassy to the States General by patent under the Great Seal dated 18<sup>th</sup> May 1714. In which post he continued some time after the accession of King George to the Crown, and upon his Revocation had the customary Present from the States of a Gold Chain and Medal. In April 1716 he was collated by D<sup>r</sup> Robinson B<sup>p</sup> of London to the Rectory of Birch Magna in Essex. June the 15<sup>th</sup> 1717 he took the Degree of B.D, said by mistake in the Oxford Catalogue to be that of D.D, and the same Month went out *ad eundem* at Cambridge, when he was admitted to a Fellowship in Queen's College, to which he had been elected some years before, while abroad in the service of the publick: which Fellowship he resign'd the year following, upon Bishop Robinson's generously purchasing in his favour and

uniting for ever the Rectory of Birch Parva to that of Birch Magna. In 1720 he attended His Excell<sup>cy</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Robert Sutton, in his Embassy to the French King Louis XV, in quality of Chaplain & Secretary, and upon his Return home was, by the Recommendation of Arch Bishop Wake, presented by the Lord Chancellor to the Rectory of Gravesend, to which he was instituted by B<sup>p</sup> Atterbury in the Tower of London the 31<sup>st</sup> Jan: 1723; and at the same time was also presented by the King to the adjoining Vicarage of Northfleet, to which he was instituted the 23 Feb<sup>r</sup> following & inducted the 26<sup>th</sup>. In Oct<sup>r</sup> 1724, upon the Death of D<sup>r</sup> Bowers B<sup>p</sup> of Chichester, he was likewise presented by His Majesty to a Prebend of Canterbury and install'd Nov<sup>r</sup> 5<sup>th</sup>. The 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 1726 he resign'd Gravesend & Northfleet in favour of Tho: Harris, M.A. in exchange for the Rectory of Stourmouth in the Diocess of Cant<sup>r</sup>, to which he was presented by D<sup>r</sup> Bradford B<sup>p</sup> of Rochester, instituted the 15<sup>th</sup> Octob<sup>r</sup> and inducted the 2<sup>d</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> following. The 25<sup>th</sup> of the same Month he was presented by the Dean & chapter of Canterbury to the united Rectorys of S<sup>t</sup> George the Martyr & S<sup>t</sup> Mary Magdalen in the City of Canterbury, to which he was instituted the 8<sup>th</sup> & inducted the 12 Dec<sup>r</sup> following.

'He was created D.D. by Arch Bishop Wake the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1728, confirm'd by patent under the Great Seal the 7<sup>th</sup> of the same month. In Nov<sup>r</sup> 1729 he was presented by the Dean & Chapter of Canterbury to the united Rectorys of S<sup>t</sup> Swithin London-Stone & S<sup>t</sup> Mary Bothaw, to which he was instituted & inducted the 19<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> following. and resign'd the Rectory of Stourmouth, by the Leave of B<sup>p</sup> Bradford, in favour of Hopton Williams, M.A. in exchange for the united Rectorys of North Cray & Rokesby in the Diocess of Rochester, to which he was presented by S<sup>r</sup> Thomas D'Aeth, instituted the 24<sup>th</sup> and inducted the 28<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1729. He has publish'd, 1. C. Crispi Sallustii Quæ supersunt cum Indicibus et variis Lectionibus, in 12<sup>o</sup> printed at the Theater at Oxford 1701, and dedicated to S<sup>r</sup> Joseph Williamson, afterwards republished by the Bookseller without the Dedication. 2. The Duty & Motives of praying for Peace. A Sermon preach'd before their Excellencies the Lord Privy Seal and the Right Honourable Thomas Earl of Strafford Her Majesty's Plenipotentiaries at the Congress of Utrecht in S<sup>t</sup> John's Church Utrecht <sup>JAN. 27</sup> <sup>FEB. 7</sup> <sup>9. 8. 1</sup> 711. publish'd by their Excellencies Command at Utrecht 1712 in Quarto, and republish'd at London in 1712 in Octavo, on Psalm 122, Vers. 6, 7, 8, and dedicated to the two Plenipotentiaries.'

'Cant<sup>r</sup> April the 18<sup>th</sup> 1733.

'Rev<sup>d</sup>: Sir—Mr Isaac Terry having deliver'd me the Paper, You sent through his hands, concerning my self; I have, according to Your permission, taken the Liberty to alter it, & return it in the

contained in the Inclosed. Your account of Gunsley's Will is not altogether exact, and I once design'd to have sent You an Abstract of it, & will do it still, if you think it material. But having put over my Father an Inscription on purpose to perpetuate the Memory of my Family's Right to M<sup>r</sup> Gunsley's Scholarships, I hope Inserting That may do as well, and better answer my Intention, since it will probably remain in your Book, when the Marble or at least the Inscription shall be worn out. Or if you think it improper to insert it in the Body of the Narration, you may do it at the Bottom of the page in a Note. The precise Time of my Election into one of these Scholarship's I have no Memorandum of, but as I staid at School (according to the Direction or permission of the Founder's Will) about 2 years after my Election before I went to the University, I am pretty sure I am right in the year 1698. But University College Register will inform you more exactly, if it be worth while to consult it upon such a Circumstance. The Days likewise of my Institution & Induction to Birch Magna, and of the Union of Birch Parva to it, I cannot find any Memorandum of, having lost or mislaid those Instruments; But these Circumstances may be found in the B<sup>p</sup> of London's Register, the first in April 1716, and the Latter in 1717 or 1718. The Rest of the Dates I have taken from the Instruments themselves, by which You will see there is a double mistake in the Oxford Catalogue with respect to my degrees; my Diploma for my Master's being dated not the 8<sup>d</sup> but 7<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1707, and that said to be the Degree of DD. was only of B.D. The *Sallust* dedicated to S<sup>r</sup> Joseph Williamson, was afterwards republished by the Bookseller, without the Dedication, or any mention of me, which perhaps may be the occasion of Your omitting it, You having never perhaps seen the first Edition, which was sold off in a very little time, as being of a convenient form for Schools, nor have I seen a copy of it for several years, besides one I have by me.

'I thought proper to accompany the Paper with these Remarks, & if in any thing else I can be of any Use to you, you may freely command

' Sir

' Your most Humble Servant

' W<sup>\*</sup>: AYERST.

'I did not succeed D<sup>r</sup> Bowers upon his being made a Bishop, he holding the Prebend in Co<sup>m</sup>endam. Nor did I succeed to S<sup>t</sup> Swithin's upon the Death of M<sup>r</sup> Elstob. He was succeeded by M<sup>r</sup> Wroughton, and I succeeded the latter. But this Circumstance I think is not necessary to be mention'd, nor That of my succeeding M<sup>r</sup> Cook in S<sup>t</sup> George's Canterbury. Nor are perhaps my Exchange's of Livings with M<sup>r</sup> Harris & M<sup>r</sup> Williams, tho' These I have mention'd in the Narration, but You may put them out or let

them stand, as You think best, as the whole is submitted to Your Correction.

‘Upon 2<sup>d</sup> Thoughts I have subjoined an Abstract of Gunsley’s Will, which may not be improper to follow the Narration by way of Note, and have scored the passages on which my Family claims a *preference*.’<sup>1</sup>

Endorsed: ‘Rec<sup>d</sup> 19 April 1788 by me B. R.’

BALLARD MS. LETTERS (VOL. XVII.)

11.<sup>2</sup> *W. Ayerst to Dr. A. Charlett.*

‘Berlin, Feb. y<sup>e</sup> 26. N.S. [1706].

‘Reverend & Hon<sup>d</sup> Sr—The last Honour You did me of Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> came to my hands y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> Instant. I was Yesterday to see D<sup>r</sup> Jablonski, who is highly sensible of y<sup>e</sup> great esteem You are pleas’d to express of any Services he may have done to our Church, & is no less ravish’d at y<sup>e</sup> seasonable Declaration Geneva has so publicly made in its favour: He hopes to draw some good Use from it in y<sup>e</sup> Cause in w<sup>ch</sup> he is engag’d: He was a Sunday or two ago at My Lords at Dinner & afterwards at Chappel with us, & assure’s us He will very often do it to give y<sup>e</sup> People of y<sup>e</sup> Country an Example, who yet whether thro’ Curiosity or Devotion dont much want it: He y<sup>m</sup> & since gives me still Hopes y<sup>t</sup> now this Marriage & Hurry at Court is over, y<sup>e</sup> projected Design of a Liturgy & Conformity w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Church of Eng. may go on. For some particular Reasons, concerning y<sup>t</sup> matter, he desires mightily to know something of y<sup>e</sup> Customs of our Queen’s Chaplains, & particularly whether there be any *set Form of an Order or Mandamus* in use when y<sup>e</sup> Queen or y<sup>e</sup> Dean of y<sup>e</sup> Chappel wou’d command y<sup>m</sup> to meet together, or upon any other occasion of y<sup>t</sup> Nature. He knowing Your self to be one of y<sup>m</sup> has desired me to write & beg y<sup>e</sup> favour of an Information especially in y<sup>t</sup> point.

‘As for y<sup>e</sup> *Faith & Practise of a C. of E. man* w<sup>ch</sup> y<sup>e</sup> D<sup>r</sup> assured me was translated & to be presented to all y<sup>e</sup> Reform’d on New Years Day last, twas unfortunately not finish’d time enough, & therefore is now reserv’d either to y<sup>e</sup> next New Year, or some more favorable Opportunity when y<sup>e</sup> Design of y<sup>e</sup> Liturgy shall be farther Advanc’d. Tho’ as for a good opinion of y<sup>e</sup> Ch. of Eng. neither Reform’d nor Lutherans do so much want for y<sup>t</sup> as Love to one Another to unite under its Form. They contend openly in Print

<sup>1</sup> Bawl. J. fol. 18. 29, adds little but the remark: ‘These two preferments [North Cray and St. Swithin’s] with his Prebend he now holds, living, or rather existing, in his prebendal House, without ever seeing His two parishes, and with great difficulty even keeping his Residance in the Cathedral according to the Statutes.’ Ayerst died 9 May 1765 (Le Neve-Hardy, *Fasti*, i. 50).

<sup>2</sup> The letters have been here placed in chronological order, and the folios in some cases disarranged.