

that every one of the biographers, from Ruffhead to Carruthers, had quoted from those Manuscripts, and all without discovering it. This patent objection, however, was soon and satisfactorily disposed of. The *Illustrated News* subsequently published, and for the first time, as believed, "a highly interesting and characteristic" letter from Bolingbroke to Pope, which letter *The Athenæum* showed, as in duty bound, was a forgery, and which, as subsequently appeared, had been copied, by some unknown person, from that rare and recondite work Dodsley's *Annual Register*. The reply settled the patent. "Is it possible," said the *Illustrated News*, "a censor so authoritative can be ignorant of, or can have forgotten, the death of the poet's father at Twickenham in 1717?"

Mr. CORNEY says that it is not for him to explain "how far the fact in question has become patent." Certainly not; but until Mr. CORNEY or some other person shall have shown that the fact brought forward by Mr. Edwards had been published before — that there was at least a possibility of its having become patent — my question (2nd S. iii. 462.) will not have been answered. Concede all that Mr. CORNEY asks, and he only proves that the fact was latent, not patent. D.

*Alexander Pope of Broad Street; his Residence there from 1677 to 1685.*—I had thought a discussion of this subject was one of the things of the past, and expected no more to see the pages of "N. & Q." occupied with the question.

In May last I wrote a short article, giving to the world for the first time the fact that "Alexander Pope, presumed to be the poet's father, resided, in the year 1677, in Broad Street, City." Mr. Edward Edwards, of the Free Library, Manchester, kindly supplied the fact from a diminutive London Directory (probably the earliest book of the kind) published in the year 1677, — the existence of which must certainly by this time be "patent" to the readers of "N. & Q." — and I took upon myself to ask for farther evidence in support of the discovery.

Pope being in fashion, the subject was immediately handled by different journals. *The Athenæum* immediately published several columns, bringing forward other most important and valuable particulars. "N. & Q." gave some interesting articles; the *Illustrated London News* mentioned the subject, although in a spirit of ungenerous depreciation; the poet Bryant, in his paper, the *New York Evening Post*, published the article with a short comment, which was reprinted in several American periodicals; while many of the local journals in this country informed their readers in the "Literary column," that Pope's father carried on his business and made his money in Broad Street. The discussion conse-

quent on the discovery is, however, not allowed to rest embalmed in the old numbers of these periodicals. The *London Directory* is once more taken from the shelf, and the claim to the discovery (if it is worth so calling) is disputed.

In "N. & Q." for November 14th appears an article from the able pen of Mr. BOLTON CORNEY, stating that some years ago he lent a copy of this "precious" work to Mr. Peter Cunningham, who, with himself, had known the fact, and had conversed on the subject, many years since, and that Mr. Edward Edwards' discovery was evidently occasioned by Mr. BOLTON CORNEY's account of the Directory given in "N. & Q." in May last.

I am sorry to have to confute this conjecture, because no aspirant in discovery is more deserving the honour of a literary compliment than the gentleman owning the precious book; but the truth must be told. Mr. Edward Edwards knew of the entry, "*Alexand. Pope,*" some time before the account of the Directory appeared in your valuable pages. Mr. Saxe Bannister, one day in April last, in a conversation about the poet, informed me of the discovery made by the librarian of the Free Library, to whom I addressed a note, and received his polite reply, with the information required. A few weeks afterwards the item was announced in the *Adversaria* appended to my Catalogue.

If the claimants to the discovery knew of the fact "many years since," why not have published it in "N. & Q.?" I really cannot see the value of placing a light under a bushel, and keeping for nine whole years a fact quiet and snug, that would have interested the late Mr. Croker, Mr. Carruthers, and a score of gentlemen anxious about the history of the poet. Surely, in a much less time than nine years, all the parish registers in London could have been searched. To Mr. Edwards, therefore, belongs any honour which attaches to the discovery; it being through his instrumentality that the fact was brought before the literary world.

*Pope's Father still living in Broad Street in 1685.*—A curious document has just been shown to me, which I trust before long I may be allowed to publish *verbatim*. It consists of a receipt for money loaned to one Saunders by the elder Pope. All that I can say at present is, that it contains the name, *Alexander Pope*, in full; and mentions his living in Broad Street, as a "dealer," in the year 1684. The memorandum appears to be in the handwriting of a scrivener or clerk, and is very regular and legible. But the signature, *Walter Saunders*, is roughly executed, and is not at first sight intelligible. This document, then, when published, will leave only three years and a month or two to be accounted for, instead of eleven years — the time that elapsed betwixt the record of the old *London Directory* (that in 1677 Pope's father was a merchant in Broad Street) and the year

1688, which gave to the world "Pope and the Pretender."  
JOHN CAMDEN HOTTEN.  
Piccadilly.

*Warburton's Vindication of the Essay on Man.*—In Dr. Johnson's *Life of Pope* it is stated that Warburton "From month to month continued a *Vindication of the Essay on Man* in the literary journal of that time called *The Republic of Letters*."

On examining the eighteen volumes of that work, I am able to state that no vindication of Pope or his system of Optimism is to be found in it, but on the contrary a very able attack upon the whole doctrine in vol. xiv. p. 254., where the sentiments of the poem are said to be derived from Shaftesbury, and its blemishes hinted at, as from the pride and peevishness of the poet. Parts of the article read amazingly like *The Dialogues concerning Natural Religion*. On turning, however, to the *Works of the Learned*, vol. iv. p. 425., vol. v. pp. 56. 89. 159. 330., the vindication in question may be found. C. M. S.

*Dr. Stephen Hales* (2<sup>nd</sup> S. iv. 343.)—I can offer some confirmation of L. L.'s conjecture as to the relationship of William and Robert Hales to Dr. Stephen Hales. Stephen Hales was a native of this parish, and, as appears by the register, was baptized on Sept. 20, 1677. The book also records the baptism of ten other children of the same parents, and among them of a Robert, on Jan. 4, 1664, and of a William, on March 9, 1675. On referring to the only notices of Dr. Hales which I have at hand, I find that while Gorton agrees with the register as to the date of his birth, the *Encyclopædia Britannica* places it in 1667, — a date which (not to speak of other authority) is evidently inconsistent with the next statement of the writer in the *Encyclopædia*, that he became a Fellow of Benet College in 1702.

J. C. ROBERTSON.

Bekesbourne, near Canterbury.

*Pope "of Gentle Blood."*—Mr. Hunter has published the 5th No. of his *Critical and Historical Tracts*. The subject is one calculated just now to attract considerable attention. It is *Pope; his Descent and Family Connections*. Mr. Hunter's experience in genealogical researches is well known, and the inquiry which he has instituted in the work before us, namely, how far Pope was justified when he speaks of his birth thus—

"Of gentle blood (part shed in honour's cause,  
While yet in Britain honour had applause,  
Each parent sprung;"

is one for which he is peculiarly fitted. The reader curious in Pope matters will of course examine the details for himself. We will for the

general reader quote Mr. Hunter's summing up of the evidence which he has collected:

"On the whole, then, it will appear that Pope descended of a clerical family, the members of it being much connected with the University of Oxford; but that at present we can trace him only to a person of his own name, who was rector of Thruxton and prebendary (if the incumbents are so called) of Middleton and Ichen-Abbots, in the diocese of Winchester: that these, being rather conspicuous pieces of preferment, place him in the higher rank of the clergy of his time, and seem to be but the beginning of the offices he would have held in the Church, had he not died in rather early life, and had not the changes at that time imminent, stopped him in his course:—that, though we cannot ascend beyond him on evidence that would bear a close examination, there is strong presumptive evidence that he was either identical or nearly connected with an Alexander Pope of Oxford, the friend of Dr. Barcroft, and the son-in-law of the famous John Dodd of Fawsley, and the father of Dr. Walter Pope, the Gresham Professor, the Poet, and the miscellaneous writer, who was half-brother of Dr. John Wilkins, the Bishop of Chester, who married a sister of the Protector Cromwell:—that there is no reason to believe, on account of disparity of rank, that he was not of the same stock as the Popes, Earls of Downe, but, on the contrary, that nothing can be more probable than that the family tradition was correct, which delivered thus much and no more:—that his Oxfordshire ancestors did spring, as the Earl of Downe did, from people of small account living at Deddington, near Banbury.

"And that, on his mother's side, he sprang from persons who had possessed land of their own at Towthorpe, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, from perhaps an early period, but who, from the time of Elizabeth, were lords of the manor:—that one of them who died in the reign of James I. was an opulent person, and intimate with some of the principal families in the county:—that he left the greater part of his possessions to his nephew, William Turner, the Poet's grandfather:—that in his hands the family estate did not receive any material additions, and perhaps rather decayed:—that he had the charge of not fewer than seventeen children, nearly all of whom grew to man and woman's estate:—that of the sons, two died during the Civil Wars, in which one of them was slain, and the other went abroad and served in the Spanish army, and at his death gave property, not very inconsiderable remains of the family estate, to Edith Pope, his favourite sister.

"And that, this being the case, there is nothing of exaggeration or of boasting, when the Poet has to meet the charge of being of obscure birth, in asserting that he sprang 'of gentle blood.'"

#### THE DIFFICULTIES OF CHAUCER.

"The Shippes Hopposteries."

The word is variously spelt in the different editions: *hopposteries*, *hoppoteris*, *hoppostoris*, &c. The passage runs thus:—

"The tirant, with the prey by force yraft;  
The toun destroyed, ther was nothing laft.  
Yet saw I brent the shippes hopposteres,  
The hunte ystrangled with the wilde beres."

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*Hoppostères*, making a double rhyme with *bères*, seems decidedly preferable to *hoppostoris*—*bóris*