

MR. JASPER YARDELEY,

SECOND MASTER OF ABBOT'S HOSPITAL,
GUILDFORD.

[Mr. Jasper Yardeley was the Master of Abbot's Hospital, under whose rule the Inventory of 1633, printed in the last Vol. of *Surrey Collections*, XXX, p. 38, was drawn up.—Ed.]

BY

PHILIP PALMER.

THE death of Archbishop Abbot on Aug. 4th, 1633, was the immediate cause of the Inventory being taken. The document¹ bears witness to the importance of the work done for the Hospital by Jasper Yardeley, but a brief retrospect bears much stronger witness. Mr. Richard Abbot was admitted the first Master in 1622. Only five Brothers and four Sisters were admitted that year, but the roll was complete by 1626. For the first seven years no account of Receipts and Expenditure appears in the Ledger. The Master appears to have left too much in the hands of Mr. Richard Brigham, the Founder's trusted "Controller of my house." Incidentally we learn that "M^r Controller" was at the Hospital on Aug. 21st, 1629; that he made up the Accounts, and a balance was left in the Chest amounting to £38: 12s. 0d., and £7 had been paid out for Coal not yet delivered. He also told the Master that expenses were to be paid out of stock. On the following 6th Nov., the time for

¹ Printed in Vol. XXX.

balancing the half-yearly account, "M^r Controller" writes from Lambeth as follows:—

M^r Abbott. I kindly commende me to yo^u: My Lo^d. hath appoynted the Maior of Guildford and his Bretheren to make y^e Stable of the hospitall, into such necessarie romes, as they shall thinke fitt, for poore people to worke in: & for manufacture to imploye them therein, hath appoynted certaine other romes, to be made and builte, as they shall give order. His Gra: pleasure is therefore, y^t yo^u furnish them, wth such monies as they shall have neede of; for y^e finishing & altering of y^e said building, out of y^e money remayning in yo^r Custodie, in y^e Treasure house, of y^t money y^t was appoynted for y^e same purpose, & let them leave notes of what they take & receive: y^t so a stricte accompte maye be kepte thereof. And likewise for yo^r last accompte w^{ch} yo^u sent me I have heare sent it yo^u back againe y^t yo^u may paye yo^r selfe likewise out of y^t money for my Lo^d purposeth ya^t all recking hereafter should be payed out of y^t stocke of y^e house, and so much I let yo^u understand at my last being wth yo^u: therefore yo^u must not send any yo^r accom^{tes} hereafter to me: Thus kindly commending me to yo^u I rest.

Lambeth: 6: November
1629:

Yo^r loving freind
Ri: Brigham

My lo^d: is informed yo^u make his Hospitall a store house for Corne & is much displeas'd wth it: therfore yo^u must not suffer it.

[On fly-leaf]

To my very loving
friend M^r Richard
Abbott at Guildford
Hospitall give these
I pray.

In consequence of this letter, on Nov. 23rd, Mr. Jo. Champion, Gent., of Guildford, wrote a statement of account in the Ledger, showing that the disbursements had then absorbed the whole of the "reddie money" left in the Chest by "M^r Controller" on Aug. 21st.

Mr. Richard Abbot died March 2nd following, and was buried at Holy Trinity, Guildford.

The following letter, from the Archbishop to the Mayor of Guildford, speaks for itself:—

After my hartie comendacons I am first to thaunk you ⁊ the rest of the Corporacon for the kindenes ⁊ Care wth yo^u shewed unto me, by the decent interringe of my Brother, yo^r late Neighbour & Master of my hospitall. And secondly I am to signifie unto yo^u That I have bene very carefull to provide a fitt Governour in the Roome of my Brother Richard, w^{ch} conserneth me the more because things are yet unsetled, ⁊ neede a man of some learninge ⁊ good experiance who may by his paynes establish that wth my Brother by reason of his educacon otherwise was not hable to performe. I have therefore sent unto you this bearer M^r Yardeley whome I know to be an honest and peaceable man, but I holde him to be the fitter for this service Because I have had much tryall of him in Guideinge my Lo^d Whitguyfte hospitall at Croydon. And our Saviour hath tought me That he who is faithfull in litle wil be faithful in much. I pray you therefore M^r Maior ⁊ yo^r Deputie in yo^r absence to take two or three of yo^r Brethren wth yo^u ⁊ M^r Champion and in the Chapell of my Hospitall, before yo^u ⁊ the poore Bretheren ⁊ Sisters to lett M^r Yardeley reade the statute, that consernethe the Master, ⁊ then to take the Oath of Supremacie to the Kinge As also the oath apperteyninge to the Master. And then to bringe him to the Lodginge, w^{ch} my Brother had, ⁊ puttinge him therin to leave him in the same: Of all w^{ch} I pray M^r Champion to make a shorte record in the Leger Book of the hospitall. And so wishinge the Blessinge of God, uppon yo^u ⁊ yo^r Towne I leave you to the Almightye ⁊ remayne

Yo^r verie lovinge friend

Lambeth March 24
1629.

G. Cant.

Such was Mr. Yardeley's introduction.

The day following the date of the letter, Mr. Champion recorded in the Ledger the fulfilment of the Archbishop's directions, and Mr. "Maior" and others appended their signatures.

Upon Mr. Jasper Yardeley now devolved the task of settling and establishing the affairs of the Hospital. He began his first financial account the same day—

"our Lady daie 1630 and XXVth of Marche and the first day of my being Master."

One of his first acts was—

“Borrowed of Mr Maior Tirrey 150 slates.

Paid for nayles to nayle them on the Turrettes 00 00 01½”

These were from the neighbouring “Manufactory,” and were returned when the Turrets were leaded. From the tops of the Turrets to the bottom of the Well, and all between, reparation or refitting is recorded, and twice during the first half-year the Master had to charge three and sixpence horse hire to visit Lambeth. His accounts are beautifully rendered, and whereas he found at his coming £34: 16s. 0d. in the Common Chest, he left there when he rendered his last statement in 1639—£266: 17s. 5d., notwithstanding the great expenditure upon repairs and purchase of articles for daily use.

What is to be inferred from the following entry is not quite certain:—

Lady Day to Michaelmas 1632.

“Paid for cleaning before y^e gate for y^e Kings coming
00 00 06.”

When Archbishop Abbot placed the Crown upon the King's head in Westminster Abbey, some of the on-lookers saw in its apparent instability an evil omen. The same Archbishop had set up the Royal Arms over the outer gate of the Hospital. A similar omen seems to be hidden under this entry:—

1635-6 “Paid to Mr Myles that set up my Lo^s tombe for putting up
a crown over the Kings Armes over the gate w^{ch} y^e wynde
decay^d 00 05 00.”

Jasper Yardeley died May 31st, 1639. The half-yearly account of receipts which he began another hand ended:—

“Rece^d of the executors of Mr Yardley the xiiij daye of
June the summe of ffive pounce w^{ch} by his last will he
gave to the house to buy Coales. I saie rece^d £005 00 00.”

His Memorial in Holy Trinity Church was an inscription “under the Statue of a Man Breast-high” (to quote

John Aubrey). Together with the Church, it was destroyed in 1740. Two fragments, bearing the greater part of the inscription chance to have been preserved, and Aubrey's copy is here corrected as far as these fragments allow:—

“Nere this Place lyes y^e body of Jasper Yardley, Gent. the second Master of Trinity Hospitall of this Towne: he gave to three parishes of Guilford 20 Nobles a piece, for y^e Apparelling and placeing of poore Children Thence: Also to S^t Martines Ludgate where he was borne, Whittington Colledge, S^t Andrewes in Holborne, S^t Bridget, S^t James Clarkenwell, S^t Sepulchres, S^t Giles Cripple-Gate, Islington, S^t Mary White-Chapell, All-Hallowes the great, S^t Leonard Shoreditch, S^t Giles in y^e feilds, and to Fulham in the County of Middlesex, 40^l a piece Likewise he gave to Croydon, S^t George in Southwarke, and Lambeth in y^e County of Surrey 40^l a piece to be put forth yearely Gratis, by their Church-Wardens in 5^l Parcells to the severale poore of each Parishe: for stocke to sett them to worke, or for Traiding. He also gave Legacies to all y^e poore of y^e Hospitals of Gilford and Croydon and was otherwise Charitable to his kindred.

He dyed the 31 of May 1639, being aged 59. { His Exeç. were George Bland of Arundell in Surrey (*sic*),¹ gent: & Will. Langhorne, gent.”

¹ Aubrey corrected “Arundell in Surrey” into “Aurendell in Sussex,” but the stone is inscribed as above.—ED.