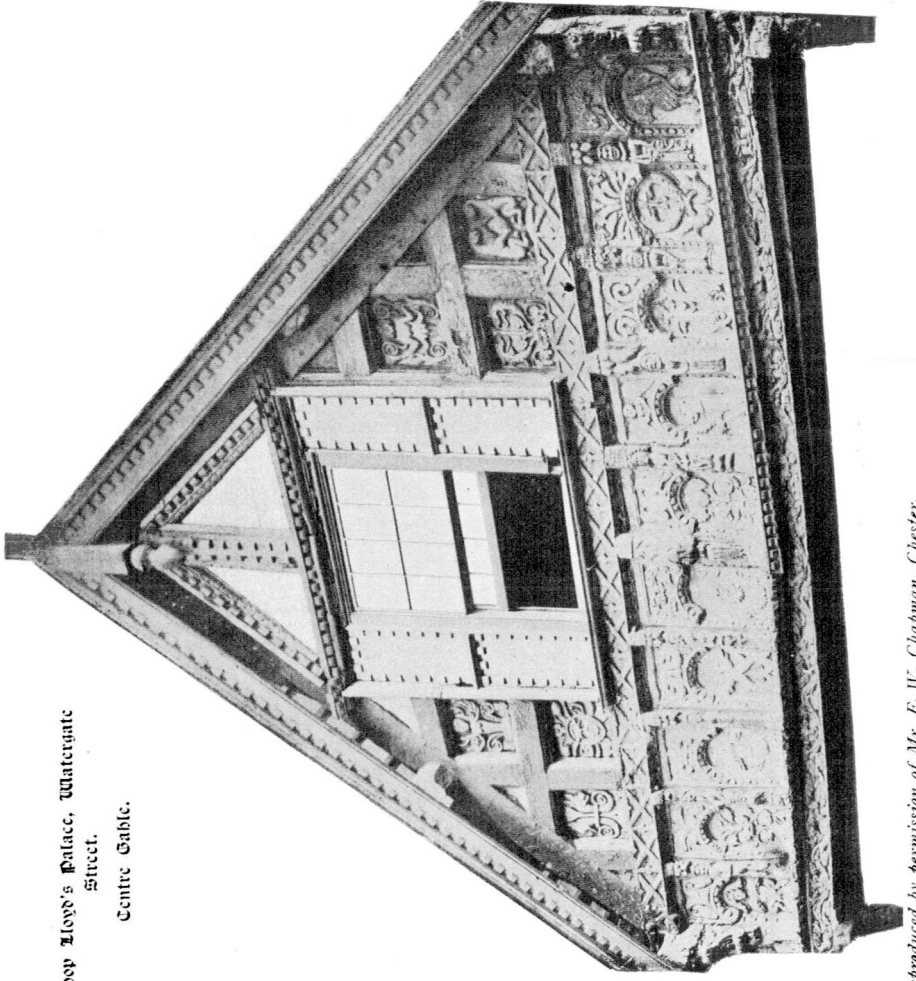




Bishop Lloyd's Palace, Watergate  
Street.

Centre Gable.



Reproduced by permission of Mr. F. W. Chapman, Chester.



## Bishop Lloyd's Palace

BY RUPERT H. MORRIS

**T**HE Citizens of Chester and all lovers of antiquity are much indebted to the generosity of Mr. Alderman Charles Brown for preserving in Chester the interesting house in Watergate Street, with its rich and quaint carving, known as Bishop Lloyd's Palace. Our American cousins have made more than one attempt to carry off into the New World some of the objects of archæological interest in Chester and other towns in the Old Country. Rumour whispers that while very many pseudo-antiques have been borne away in triumph, to the great profit of the dealers, genuine specimens of old work, such as chimney-pieces and the like, have accompanied them. Some New-World lovers of antiquity had cast their eyes upon Bishop Lloyd's Palace, and were quite prepared, as we understand, to transport it bodily across the Atlantic, when Mr. Charles Brown, with the ardent love for his native city which has distinguished his long and busy life, came forward in time, and by becoming its purchaser prevented the removal of so characteristic an edifice from Chester.

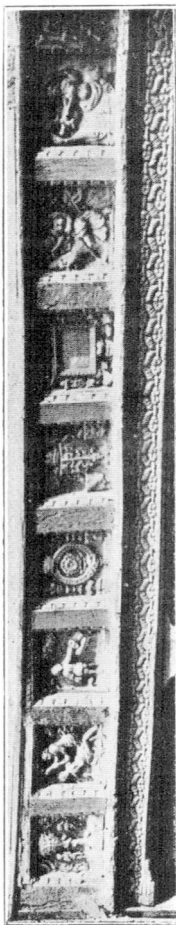
The house owes its name to Bishop George Lloyd, who was Bishop of Chester from 1604 to 1615. Of Welsh birth, the son of Meredydd ap John of Llanelian-yn-

Rhos, co. Denbigh, by Janet, his wife, daughter of Hugh Conwy, he derived his descent from Gruffydd, youngest son of Ednyfed Vychan, by the beauteous Gwenllian, daughter of the famous Rhys-ap-Gruffydd, Prince of South Wales.<sup>1</sup> One of the Bishop's brothers was David Lloyd, who was Mayor of Chester in 1593-4. David appears to have been a man of resolute temper, perhaps with a little of the choleric disposition ascribed to his countrymen, for he sent one of his Sheriffs, John Fraunces, to prison at the Northgate, and among the letters in the Great Letter Book (No. 100) is one in humble terms from the imprisoned Sheriff craving his liberty. In the same Collection there are other letters referring to the vigilance with which he watched the Port of Chester to prevent the passage from Ireland of recusants and others who were deemed dangerous to the Queen's safety. Another letter (104), dated 4th July, 1594, is from "Gruffyth Wynne, Mayor of Denbigh, to his loving cousin Mr. David Lloid, begging him to send him from Chester a person who is understood to dwell there, and to be willing to accomplish the worke, as he [the Mayor of Denbigh] may have need of him, it being probable that some urgent busines will fall out to be doune for the Quene here the latter end of this weeke, and that iff it should soe fall," he is "unprovided of eny to supply the office of ane execucion." Another brother was Morgan Lloyd, Mayor of Beaumaris.<sup>1</sup>

George Lloyd was a member of Cambridge University, and became a Fellow of Magdalene College. In 1596 he was presented to the Rectory of Llanrwst, and afterwards became Rector of Heswall in the Wirral, and Divinity Reader in the Cathedral of Chester. He was

<sup>1</sup> Mr. J. Paul Rylands, F.S.A. (from Lansdowne MS., 79), in "Sheaf," February 1st, 1882.





Bishop Lloyd's Palace, Watergate Street, Chester.

Panels on beam above Row.

*Reproduced by permission of Mr. F. W. Chapman, Chester.*

consecrated Bishop of Sodor and Man in 1600, and translated to Chester in January 4th, 1604.

According to the custom of the times, he held with his bishopric two livings—Thornton-le-Moors, where he died, 1st August, 1615, and Bangor Monachorum in Flintshire. His wife was Anne, daughter to John Wilkinson of Norwich, by whom he had a family of three sons and three daughters, the eldest of whom, Alice, married Thomas Yale, son of Dr. Yale, one of the Ecclesiastical Officials of the Diocese.

The front of "the Palace" is elaborately carved with the figures of various nondescript animals and male and female heads. Among the figures are the Bear and Ragged Staff, a dolphin embowed, a sow, a lion, and curious resemblances to the "Diana of the Ephesians" and certain Buddhist forms.

In the lower series of panels is a representation of scenes from Sacred History, commencing with 1. Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden; 2. The Murder of Abel; 3. The Sacrifice of Isaac; 8. The Annunciation; 9. The Prophecy to the Blessed Virgin, "A sword shall pierce through thine own heart." In panel 4 is the Tudor Rose, surrounded by the Garter and legend "Honi Soit qui mal y pense," and the Royal Initials I. R. (Jacobus Rex). In panel 5 is the Bishop's shield, bearing the three legs of Man, surmounted by a mitre. The 4th panel would determine the date of the carving to be not earlier than 1603, when King James came to the English throne. The 5th panel does not contradict this, as Bishop Lloyd may have chosen to retain on this shield the arms of Man even after he had been translated to Chester. On either side of the larger shield in this panel are two smaller shields,

on one of which may be distinguished a double-headed eagle; but the photograph before me is not sufficiently distinct to determine this exactly. The arms (according to Mr. J. Paul Rylands), of Rowland Lloyd, the Bishop's eldest brother, were—"Arms: Quarterly, 1st and 4th Gules, a Chevron between three mullets or. 2nd and 3rd Ermine, a lion rampant sable."

Bishop Lloyd is stated<sup>1</sup> to have been buried in the choir of Chester Cathedral, near to the grave of Bishop Downham. A brass plate affixed to the alabaster stone bore the following inscription :

"*Immatura mors hoc conclusit sepulchro cor Georgii Lloyd, cujus memoriam reveretur Cestria. Natione fuit Camber, educatione Cantabr. theologiae doctor, theologorum ductor, Sodorensi praefuit et profuit Episcopatus, quinquennio praefectus pacto. Mater Anglia repetiit prolem et dignata est sinu Episcopatus Cestrensis, ubi, undecim messibus non sine procellis dolorum elapsis, quinquagesimo quinto anno aetatis suae anno, et primo die mensis Augusti, anno Domini 1615, lacrimatus, lacrimandus obiit.*

"*Nec pudet vitae, nec piget mortis.*"

This inscription adds nothing to what has been stated in the above remarks, except the allusion to the "storms" and "sorrows" which distressed the eleven years of his Episcopate at Chester. He was reputed to have been unduly lenient to the nonconforming clergy, and would therefore not seem to have had so much to contend against as his predecessor, Bishop Chaderton, who was pressed severely by the Council, and resisted by his clergy in his attempts to exercise discipline in the Diocese in accordance with the views of the supreme lay authority.

---

<sup>1</sup> Ormerod i. 164.