

Chester Cathedral after the Restoration

By THE VEN. R. V. H. BURNE,

NO time was lost at the Restoration in restoring the Cathedral to its former state and use. Charles II came back from "his travels" on May 22, 1660, and on June 13 Henry Bridgeman, third son of old Bishop Bridgeman, was appointed Dean. One of his first duties would have been to welcome the new Bishop, an account of whose arrival has been left us by Dr. Thomas Cowper.¹ "Almost all the gentry and clergy of Cheshire," he writes, "went out to meet Dr. Bryan Walton, who was coming to take possession of the Bishopric. The militia both of City and County were drawn up along Forest Street, and at the Bars the Mayor and Corporation in their formalities received their new Bishop and proceeded before him to the palace amidst the acclamations of the people, expressing the greatest joy for the restoration of Episcopacy. On his arrival he immediately put on his robes and hastened to perform his devotions in the Cathedral." Another account² adds, "At his entering the Cathedral he was received by Dr. Bridgeman (the Dean) and all the members of the Chapter, who paid their respects to their Diocesan, and having walked round the Choir in the manner of a procession, they conducted him to his throne."

We have first to enquire who were all the members of the Chapter and how far they were the same as those who were ejected from their prebends by Parliament. Old Dean Mallory had died in Chester on April 3, 1644, at the age of 78. Poor man, he lived to see five of his sons give their lives for the King, but was spared seeing the surrender of the City. Prebendary Essex Clarke had also died and was buried at Tilston, the church from which he had been ejected, on January 5, 1653/54. The rest of the Chapter were still alive and could re-assemble at Chester full of tales of poverty and hardship, always excepting the Puritan, John Lee, of whom more hereafter.

There would be *William Bispham*, who had been Subdean in 1641-43. He could tell how he had been deprived of his living of Eccleston in 1644 and how he had been accused of joining with Archdeacon Snell, Rector of Waverton, and with Prebendary Duckworth in equipping a man and a horse for the Royal army. (The horse proved to be a most unmanageable brute and it must have been a relief to its rider when it was killed at Edgehill.) Bispham is said to have fled abroad, "*hinc inde agitatus*," as his epitaph on the wall of the north Choir aisle records. His wife, however, remained in Chester in a house in S. Oswald's Ward, and so probably in the precincts, and in 1645 there were three in her family, not counting the soldier quartered on her, and she had only two pecks of meal left. ⁽³⁾ In 1646 she was allowed a sixth of her husband's living.

¹Cowper MS. Note book marked "VII c.c." Also quoted by Ormerod 1. 248.

²*Ibid.* 13.c.c.

³*Cheshire Sheaf* 3rd ser. iv. 60, quoting Harl. MS. 2185.

Charles Duckworth, his partner in the horse, was ejected from Dodleston Rectory in 1646, but remained nearby in Flintshire.

Edmund Moreton also remained on the spot, for he was in Chester all through the siege and was one of the Commissioners appointed by the Governor, Lord Byron, to treat with the enemy and arrange the terms of surrender.⁴ He had been ejected from Sephton and from Tattenhall in 1645, but his wife Elizabeth was allowed a fifth of the income of the former benefice.

Robert Morgan, who was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, had been a member of the Chapter only since July 1, 1642, when he succeeded another Welshman, David Lloyd. (Lloyd's stay at the Cathedral was very brief. Appointed in 1639, he resigned in 1642 in order to become Dean of S. Asaph.) Morgan had two livings in Anglesey as well as his Chester prebend, and as he had the foresight to purchase in 1642 what remained of a long lease of the tithes of one of them (Llanddyfnan), he still had something to live on during the Commonwealth although deprived of both his benefices. At the Restoration these were restored to him together with his prebend, *pace* the Dictionary of National Biography. He was also made Archdeacon of Merioneth. He left Chester in 1666 to become Bishop of Bangor.

Thomas Mallory would be the only newcomer, joining the Chapter in July 1660. He was the fourth son of the late Dean and had been Rector of Northenden since 1634. The Dean and Chapter presented him to S. Mary's, Chester, in February, 1662, and in April of that year he was given a Dispensation to hold Eccleston, co. Lancs., whither he betook himself in 1663. He died there in 1671.⁵

All these would have had a hard struggle to live unless they were possessed of ample private means or could have a chaplaincy in a noble household, for even school teaching was forbidden then for the same reason that it is today in State schools. *John Lee*, Vicar of Great Budworth, was the one exception, for being an avowed Puritan he fared well at the hands of Parliament. On June 3, 1646, the Committee for Plundered Ministers ordered that he should have the profits of his prebend in view of "his great worth, the services to the Church of his pen and ministry, his extraordinary pains in the Assembly of Divines, and his suffering in estate for fidelity to the cause of God and Parliament." How his estate suffered is not clear, for he was President of Sion College in 1645, he retained his living of Great Budworth until 1648 and in addition had been presented by the House of Commons on July 27, 1643, to the sequestered living of St. Mary's-at-Hill in the London Diocese, and in 1645 to the Rectory of Charlwood in Surrey, which last living he bestowed upon his son. The following year he secured Astbury (Cheshire) for himself,⁶ valued at £800 a year, the ejected minister being Thomas Dod, a former prebendary of Lee's own cathedral, and to it he added Brightwell (Berks). He was also appointed one of the Triers in 1653. The Restoration found Lee in the benefice

⁴*Chester Archeological Journal* (C.A.J.) N.S. xxv. 195.

⁵*Sheaf*, o.s. 1, 90, 95.

⁶"The people would not pay tithes to him, so he returned to Great Budworth in 1649." The Rev. L.M. Farrell in *C.A.J.* N.S. xxi, 163.

of Solihull, which he soon afterwards resigned through illhealth and went to live at Sutton Coldfield where he died on May 16, 1662. It may therefore have been illhealth which prevented Lee from joining his former colleagues at Chester in 1660, but what the colleagues thought is revealed in a resolution passed in chapter on April 8, 1662, to the effect that his house in the precincts should be used for someone else, in view of "his continual absenting himself from us, notwithstanding due and lawful summons, not to mention the disservices he hath done us, and his disaffection to us now."

On his death his stall was filled by Michael Evans, Rector of Llanfaelog, and in 1663 Simon Land succeeded Thomas Mallory. The new Dean, as we have seen, was Henry Bridgeman. Educated at Oriel College, Oxford, he became a fellow of Brazenose, but resigned his fellowship to become Rector of Barrow in 1639 and of Bangor Isycoed (his father's old living) in 1640. In 1648 his father appointed him to the Archdeaconry of Richmond, which, considering the date, could only have been a defiant gesture on the part of the old man, who died at Kinnerley in Shropshire four years later. During the Civil War Henry Bridgeman, who owned a house in Northgate Ward during the siege⁷, was chaplain to the Earl of Derby. At the Restoration he was rewarded for his services to the Royal cause by being made Dean of Chester and Prebendary of York, his two benefices were restored to him and he added to them the sinecure living of Llanrwst. He also became a D.D. The Archdeaconry of Richmond he vacated on being made Dean. Sir Peter Leycester, writing at Tabley Hall at this time, says, "He hath beautified and repaired the Dean's house in Abbey Court very much." Philip Henry, father of the famous Matthew Henry, who could not be expected to be so sympathetic, recorded in his diary in December, 1661, that Bridgeman was "busy in repairing the Dean's house as if he were to live in it for ever." It was a large house, for it paid tax for twelve hearths.⁸ That the Dean was not without his enemies and traducers is shewn by a certificate preserved at the Public Record Office and signed by William Bispham, Charles Duckworth, Robert Moreton, Thomas Mallory and Thomas Bridge, Reader in Theology, and dated September 1st, 1668. It is in Latin and testifies to the high excellence and merits of the Dean, as to his learning, loyalty and conformity to the Church; lauding his attention to the music of the choir, his liberality in improving the Dean and Chapter's houses, and his faithful administration of discipline. An accompanying letter, also in Latin, states that the Dean has been "attacked by the rage of calumny by some mean spirits, as the dogs of Arcadia feared not to bark at the moon⁹."

The minor officials of the Cathedral were not so fortunate as the Chapter, for only three out of the six Petty Canons (Henry Biddulph, William Clarke (sen.) and John Pilkington) returned to duty in 1660 and only two of the Lay Clerks or Conducts (Mr. Maxey and Peter Stringer). The latter had served the Cathedral all his life, beginning as a chorister in 1627 and going on to be a Conduct in 1637. In 1662 he

⁷*C.A.J.*, N.S. xxv, 241.

⁸*Lancs. and Ches. Record Soc.* LII, p. 54.

⁹*L. & P. Dom. Chas. II*, No. 66.

was ordained and made a Petty Canon and in addition was Organist, Chanter (or Precentor) and Master of the Choristers.¹⁰ There is no doubt that all these officials had a struggle to live during the Commonwealth and we have evidence for this. On January 2, 1655/56 the Committee for Plundered Ministers ordered the payment of £5 towards the relief of Peter Warner, "one of the late singing men" in Chester Cathedral, and on July 15 of the same year they directed the treasurer to pay £20 to several "members and officers of the late hierarchy." Again, on December 1, 1657, £10 was paid by the Trustees for the Maintenance of Ministers to six of the officials including Pilkington, Stringer and Biddulph, and on February 3 of the following year another £5 was so distributed.¹¹

One official remains to be dealt with and that is Thomas Bridge, who held the office of Lecturer created by Queen Elizabeth in 1582. He remained in Chester, living in a house in St. Oswald's Ward with 17 in his household and he shared with Dr. Moreton the honour of being chosen to act as a Commissioner to make terms with the besiegers. He was afterwards charged with distributing muskets provided by Lord Cholmondley to any who were ready to serve against Parliament about the year 1642. He was also Rector of Malpas (upper mediety) to which he was restored in 1660. After the fall of the City he was made chaplain to Lord Cholmondley and later on held the same post under the Earl of Northumberland at Petworth in Sussex. In 1654 he seems to have swallowed his scruples and been admitted by the Committee of Triers to the Rectory of Tillington in the same county.¹²

THE CATHEDRAL DURING THE COMMONWEALTH.

Very little is known about the fate of the cathedrals in England during the Commonwealth and practically nothing about Chester. The fabric does not seem to have been seriously damaged. It is true that Randle Holme in his list of buildings damaged and destroyed by the siege includes "the ruine of the great church," but gives no details;¹³ and Sir Peter Leycester, writing in 1660 of Bishop Bridgeman, says "he lies buried, chair and almost church and all, in the said cathedral ruins of St. Werburgh, at Chester," but as Bishop Bridgeman was not buried there but at Kinnerley near Oswestry in Shropshire we may be allowed to doubt the historical accuracy of the old knight's statement. Unfortunately the Cathedral accounts are missing for the years 1660-1664, so that we have no means of knowing how much had to be spent in restoration work during those first four years; when they do begin there is no suggestion of any extra expenditure caused by the War. The Chapter House seems to be an exception, for the Chapter Minute book records that at the fourth meeting of the Chapter it was decided to move to the Vestry because "the old meeting place for the Chapter is ruynat and in decay," but they were only away from it eight months, February to October,

¹⁰See Dr. Bridge in *C.A.J.* N.S. xix, Pt. II.

¹¹*The Puritans in Power* by G. B. Tatham, p. 284, quoting *Plundered Ministers Accounts*, ed. W. A. Shaw, II, 108.

¹²Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy* (revised).

¹³*C.A.J.* N.S. xxv, 205.

1661. Dr. Cowper, writing in 1728,¹⁴ however, says that the Chapter House “fared very ill at the time of the Great Rebellion in England, the roof whereof was entirely stript and the windows taken away.” We are also told that the lead was taken from the roof of the cloisters. Be that as it may, the Chapter House was in use during this period as the following extracts from the Accounts show.

1671	Oct. 24, paid for a carpet for the Chapter House	13	6
1676	Dec. 19, for making up a breach in the Chapter house wall	1	8
1681	May 3, pd. Tho. Rogers for securing old Chapter house windows	15	0
1691	Dec. 8, for coals to burn in the Chapter house last audit		9
1697	Nov. 16, for a carpet for the Chapter house and a cushion for the churc	5	0

It is worth noticing in this connection that the Refectory, “lately used” for the King’s School, was repaired by the City in 1657. £60 was levied on the freemen and contributions invited from non-freemen. To commemorate this Mr. Peter Leigh the Mayor, had his initials and date inscribed on the wall over the former dais, with two shields, one bearing the arms then used by the mayors, and the other the arms of the Ironmongers Company of which Leigh was a member.

Mr. P (shield) L.M.

16 (shield) 57.

The first shield bears the arms, a sword erect between three garbs, and the second, a chevron between three steel gads, three swivels, the centre one palewise, the others chevronwise.¹⁵

But if the Cathedral escaped there is no doubt that the Bishop’s Palace, which adjoined it, suffered severely. Dr. Cowper says that in 1650 “The Bishop’s palace, with all the furniture, was sold, Dec. 13, to Robert Moller and William Richardson for £1059.” In 1673 Bishop Wilkins took a case to the Consistory Court at York to try and recover some of the cost of dilapidations from his predecessor. Evidence was given there that one Mr. Richardson of Boughton “pretended to have bought the palace of the Parliament.....about the year 1646” and had stripped the lead off the Great Hall and the Green Hall which opened out of it (both on the site of the present Choir School playground). Also “a great part of the palace...was demolished and that part of it that was left standing was made use of for the common gaol of the county, so that when Bishop Walton came to be Bishop there it was very ruinous.”¹⁶ Furthermore the City Assembly Books for March 25, 1651, record, “Ordered that certain committees shall treat with Mr. Richardson for the purchase of the late Bishop’s palace for the City’s use.”¹⁷ Bishop Walton had to spend £1500 to make it habitable, and Bishop Hall spent £700. In 1664 tax was paid on 17 hearths, five of which were due to “new building,” not counting the one in “The Lord Bishop’s garden house new built” which was in the Northgate Ward, whereas the palace was in St. Oswald’s.¹⁸

One deficiency that undoubtedly had to be made good was the Cathedral silver plate, for none of the old plate survived the Civil War. The legend that it

¹⁴ Cowper MS. *A Cursive View of Chester*, 1728.

¹⁵ Mr. P. H. Lawson, F.S.A. in *The King’s School Magazine* (Autumn, 1951), pp. 37, 38.

¹⁶ *C.A.J.*, N.S. xxxvii, Pt. II.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* xxv, 205.

¹⁸ *Lancs. and Ches. Record Soc.* LI, pp. 57, 60.

still lies hidden in some secret hiding place may be discounted; it is much more likely to have been sacrificed in the Royal cause or confiscated by a victorious Parliament. Anyhow, none of the plate now in use is earlier than 1662, and it is quite evident from an examination of it that in that year a set of Communion vessels was obtained consisting of

2 large flagons	2 chalices
2 large patens	2 candlesticks
2 small patens	2 maces.

The flagons bear the arms of Bishop Hall (1662-1668) and so were presumably his gift. Peter Stringer, the Precentor, said in evidence in 1673 that he thought the Bishop spent £100 on it.¹⁶ The two small patens bear the arms of Dean Bridgeman, in one case alone and in the other impaled with the arms of the See of Chester. One of the two maces also bears the Dean's arms. The other may have done so, but the top of it where the inscription would have been has been clumsily replaced at some later date. The two large patens and the candlesticks, though evidently part of the set, bear no inscription or arms.¹⁹ The large alms dish was made in 1669 and I suggest that it was bought to replace the original one which was stolen by a thief in 1671 (see below p. 33).

Our survey of the Cathedral at the Restoration would not be complete without a statement about the finances. It so happens that a rental of the Cathedral property has been preserved in the back pages of a MS. copy of the statutes compiled by Ellis Rycroft in 1663.²⁰ This gives the total income of the Dean and Chapter in that year as £984 12s. 8d. which is almost the same as it was in 1582, the year of the Leicester award. But if we allow for one rental of £40 being counted twice over and a mistake in addition which the good Ellis Rycroft has corrected in a re-cast on the inside of the cover but has not corrected in the text, the total is whittled down to £934 os. 6d. There follows a list of the annual payments which had to be made exclusive of any money spent on the day to day expenses of the Cathedral.

To the Dean	120 0 0	Butler	6 0 0
6 Prebendaries	160 0 0	Cook	6 0 0
Divinity Lecturer	40 0 0	Barber	2 0 0
6 Petty Canons	90 0 0	Glasier	6 13 4
6 Conducts	60 0 0	Slater	6 13 4
Organist	12 0 0	Overseer	3 0 0
Master of the Choristers	10 0 0	Bell keeper	1 10 0
8 choristers	26 13 4	Clock keeper	1 6 8
2 schoolmasters	32 0 0	Minister of Shotwick	15 0 0
24 King's Scholars	80 0 0	Minister of Bromborough	4 6 8
6 Almsmen	40 0 0	Minister of Chelford	4 6 8
Subdean (extra)	2 0 0	Minister of Ince	4 6 8
Receiver (extra)	4 0 0	Minister of Wirvin	3 6 8
Treasurer (extra)	4 0 0	Minister of S. Bridget's	4 0 0
Chanter (extra)	2 0 0	Minister of S. Oswald's	1 13 4
Sacrist (extra)	2 0 0	his assistant at Easter	13 4
Steward	6 13 4	Procurations to the Bishop	3 13 6
Counsell	2 0 0	Gable rent to the City	6 3
Chapter Clerk	3 6 8	King's rent	106 16 5
Auditor	10 0 0		
2 subsacrist (vergers)	12 0 0	The whole paymts. are	£910 7 2
2 porters	10 0 0		

¹⁹*Church Plate of the City of Chester* by T. Stanley Ball. (Sherratt and Hughes).

²⁰Preserved in the Cathedral Library.

It is not surprising that in these circumstances the fabric of the cathedral was neglected and that considerable borrowing took place.

The Dean and Chapter in 1664 were constituted as follows:

Dr. Henry Bridgeman, D.D., Dean, 1660
 Mr. William Bispham, M.A., Subdean, 1634.
 Mr. Charles Duckworth, M.A., 1634
 Dr. Edward Moreton, D.D., 1637
 Dr. Robert Morgan, D.D., 1642
 Mr. Michael Evans, B.D. (vice John Lee), 1662
 Mr. Simon Land, M.A. (vice Thomas Mallory), 1663.
 Mr. Thomas Bridge was Lecturer, and the Petty Canons were
 Mr. Peter Stringer, who was also Chanter, Organist and Master of the choristers
 Mr. Thomas Ottye
 Mr. William Ottye
 Mr. Pilkington

Note that there were now four Petty Canons instead of six.

Simon Land at the time of his appointment was Vicar of S. Oswald's and continued as such until 1666 when he gave way to Laurence Fogg. Michael Evans was M.A. of Magdalen College, Oxford and B.D. of St. John's College, Cambridge (1642). He is perhaps the Evans who was Treasurer of Bangor in 1660.²¹

As has already been said, there is nothing in the Accounts for the year 1664 to suggest large scale repairs of War damage. Moses Dalby was paid £35 for "glazing about the church according to agreement," the north aisle of the choir was re-slatted and the plumber and carpenter received £3 9s. 10d. and £4 14s. 3d. respectively for work done over the Broad Aisle, but that was all. The organ, however, was thoroughly over-hauled and decorated after twenty years of dis-use. Dr. Bridge calls it a new organ, but the prices paid do not bear this out.

1665	Feb. 7, pd. Anne and Richard Meacock for soder for the organ	1	8	2
	pd. William Darwell for leather for the organ	1	14	8
	pd. Mr. Reas and John Frye for making the organ	19	14	8
	April 25, pd. Mr. Basnett for coloure for the organ		8	6
	April 26, pd. Mr. Doley for gold for Mr. Hodges use at the organ	1	15	6
	May 22, pd. Mr. Hodges for painting the organ and stuffe found by him	36	3	0
	June 30, pd. Mr. Bispham wch. he laid out to buy gold to gild the organ and colure	22	0	0
	pd. Thomas Dunning carver for carving about the organ	10	0	0
		<hr/>		
		93	4	6

Other interesting items are

1664	Jan. 1, pd. John Ward for carving the gilt work over the screene	1	14	8
	pd. Urian Minshull for dyeing the cloth for the reading deske		6	8
	pd. Thomas Bradburne for the use of Mr. William Clark who was sent for to the Quire at my Ld. of Ormond's coming to Chester	1	7	6

²¹*Calamy Revised.* (Matthews).

Thomas Bradburne was one of the two vergers and the Duke of Ormonde was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and therefore often passed through Chester on his way to and from that island. He was generally given a present of wine (See p. 33). Who the William Clark was who was called in to augment the choir on this occasion is not known.

1664	pd. for carrying the new hangings from My Lady Calveleys and to John Ward and others for viewing the carved work	4	6
1666	March 31, paid Raph Almond for 5 dosen hookes for the new Hangings & putting them up	3	6
	May 1, paid Mr. Maycocke for lining the hangings	2	17 0

These hangings have always been thought to be the Raphael tapestry now on the west wall of the refectory. Lady Calveley, the reputed donor, was the wife of the last of the Calveleys of Lea Hall, now in the parish of Aldford. She was left a widow in 1648 and is said, according to a MS. in the British Museum,²² to have built Calveley Hall on Milton Green in 1674. If this is correct, the hangings which came to the Cathedral in 1664 could not have come from there but must have come from Lea Hall, unless they came from her town house in Chester. For she had a town house in 1662, when on February 3 she was granted a seat in St. Oswald's Church. The Chancellor, John Wainwright, pronounced that "Whereas the Virtuous Lady, Dame Mary Calveley, widow, a constant and good Churchman and frequenter of Divine [service], especially at the Cathedral, where her charity hath been eminently extended, is now an inhabitant within the City of Chester, and hath a good and considerable estate lying within the Parish of St. Oswald in the same City etc."²³ Mr. Thomas Hughes, who quotes this document, says that Lea Hall in those days was in the parish of St. Oswald, Bruera being a chapel of the same.

It is, however, possible that the "hangings" do not refer to the tapestry at all, which may have quite a different provenance. For in November or December, 1907, the late T. Stanley Ball, author of "Church Plate of the City of Chester", wrote an article in the Wigan Examiner on the tapestry and claimed to be able "to throw some additional light upon its history," but unfortunately did not give the source of his information. In the article he wrote, "Bishop Bridgeman purchased a set of tapestries from his Royal Master the King, worked at the Royal Tapestry works at Mortlake from the original designs of Raphael. What became of them is not known, save that he presented one to the Cathedral Church of Chester, one to the Collegiate Church of Manchester and one to his own Church at Wigan."²⁴ It has been suggested that Ball's special information came from Canon Bridgeman's notes which may have been still in the library of Wigan Rectory when he wrote his article and may have contained extracts from Bishop Bridgeman's private account books. These are the two theories and the reader must choose between them. Certainly Mr. Ball must have had some source of information to have enabled him to be so dogmatic upon the subject. Would that he had told us what that source was. And certainly Manchester and Wigan have Raphael tapestries to this day.

²²Harl. M.S. 2010 f. 43. See *Sheaf*, 3rd ser. xvii, 36, 47, and xviii, 32.

²³*Sheaf*, O.S. III, 250. The house was taxed on 15 hearths. *Lancs. and Ches. Record Sos*, LII.

²⁴Information contributed by Mr. A. J. Hawkes, F.S.A., who also made the suggestion which follows,

1666	May 29, pd. for 3 fox tails	1	0
This is the only entry of its kind and is a strange one to find in a Cathedral city.			
1666	June 9, paide John fletcher for ringing for the victory obtained against the Dutch	8	0
	Aug. 23, paide for ringing the thanksgiving day for the victory obtained against the Dutch	10	0

This was the Battle off Lowestoft on June 3, news of which reached Pepys in London on the 8th.

1669	July 4, pd. for cutting the weedes in the sprice		6
	paid for slateing of the South Ile & for slates, lime, timber and for all other materialls	16	16
	& for tyreing of the same ²⁵	1	8
1670	April 2, for a quart of sacke to the gentleman who summoned the Deane about arrears	2	6
	Nov. 14, paid for repairing the staires to the pulpitt	15	0
	paid for flagging & tyleing the Ile to the pulpitt	9	0
1671	March 18, pd. the glazier for mending the places broake by the thiefe & other places	2	0

It is interesting to learn that the thief was caught and proved to be a notorious highwayman. He was arrested at York in the following December and found to have melted down some Church plate, thought, from the fragments that remained, to have been stolen from Chester Cathedral, viz., Two silver candlesticks or "altars," and a large silver-gilt "charger."²⁶ It is noteworthy that the present alms dish is not part of the set of plate purchased in 1662, but bears the date mark 1669. The candlesticks on the high altar, however, are part of the 1662 set, so that it must have been some other candlesticks that were stolen. Highwaymen when seen at close quarters were not the romantic people we are accustomed to think them, but just burglars on horseback.

1671	April 8, Given to Dr. John Campsius by Mr. Deane's order	10	0
	Oct. 17. paid for Common prayer bookes	4	3
	Oct. 28 paid for Wyne and bottles presented to the Ld. Leift. of Ireland coming and goeing	2	3
1673	Dec. 6 Raph Almond for hasps & staples for the stocks	4	0
	Dec. 16 pd. Andrew Andrew (sic) for the stocks	9	0
674	March 18, for bonfire and Ringing when peace was proclaimed	4	6

This was the Peace which ended the war with the Dutch, a war which had been arranged by the King himself in alliance with Louis XIV by the Secret Treaty of Dover and which had always been very unpopular in the country.

1675	Jan. 17. Wm. Jackson for tyreing the side ile	15	0
	April 26 pd. for morning draughts for Jackson and Dunbabin	1	0

²⁵"Tyreing," pronounced "teering" today, means plastering under the tiles.

²⁶*L. and P. Dom. Chas. II.* No. 72. Dec. 1672.

These "morning draughts" first appear in the Accounts on Jan. 17, 1674, and continue to the end of the century. Dunbabin was the glazier. A good deal of work was done on the Broad Aisle (nave) during 1675. The materials included 8 loads of sand, 6 loads of clay and 136 bars of lead costing £12 14s. 6; while £14 15 1 was paid to the plumbers and £9 7 0 to Thos. ffoulkes, a carpenter.²⁷

1674	Nov. 19. pd. for morning draughts for workmen all the worke	1	9	8
1675	Nov. 7. For making a paire of staires at the west end of the Schoole for the Scholars to goe to a fire		7	8

THE BISHOPS OF CHESTER.

Little has been said about the Bishops of Chester so far, for they do not seem to have had much to do with the Cathedral in this period.

Bishop George Hall (1662-1668), who died from a wound inflicted by a knife in his pocket when he fell from a mound in the garden of Wigan Rectory, was buried at Wigan, but a copy of his Latin epitaph, written by himself, is affixed to the south-west wall of the Cathedral nave, near the great west doors. It is, perhaps naturally, self-depreciatory in tone. Bishop Hall, however, will always be remembered for his gift of silver plate (see above p. 30).

Bishop John Wilkins (1668-1672), who followed him, had sided with Parliament in the Civil War and during the Commonwealth was Warden of Wadham College, Oxford. In 1659 he was made Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, an appointment he owed to his nephew, Richard Cromwell, for in 1656 Wilkins had married Oliver Cromwell's sister. It seems surprising that a man with a record like that should have been made a bishop by Charles II. Anthony à Wood, who sounds a little biassed, says that it was "by the endeavours of George, Duke of Buckingham, a favourer of fanaticism and atheism,"²⁸ but it was part of the policy of the Government to win over as many Puritans as possible. As a matter of fact they had nothing to fear from Wilkins' puritanism, for he was much more a scientist than an ecclesiastic and while at Wadham had taken a leading part in founding the Royal Society. Among his writings is an attempt to construct an universal language—a sort of 17th century Esperanto; and also an attempt to prove that the earth is one of the planets and that the moon may be inhabited. He even suggested the possibility of someday journeying to it. "I do seriously and upon good grounds affirm it possible," he wrote, "to make a flying chariot; in which a man may sit and give such a motion unto it as shall convey him through the air." The good bishop was a little before his time. In the midst of his essay on an Universal Language he digresses to show by careful measurements that the Ark could easily have contained the animals that were put into it together with the food that they would require. A diagrammatic illustration shows how all the different animals were stowed away.²⁹

²⁷He is described as a carpenter in the Holy Trinity (Chester) registers (p. 112) under date Sept. 12, 1656.

²⁸Wood's *Athenae Oxonienses*, III, 968.

²⁹These books are all in the Cathedral library.

Bishop John Pearson (1672-1686) was also a member of the Royal Society, but a theologian rather than a scientist, in fact the greatest English theologian of his day. Like his predecessor he had been Master of Trinity College, Cambridge. He held a Visitation of his Diocese in 1674 and the following year "visited" the Cathedral and issued Injunctions on the lines of those issued by Bishop Bridgeman (see p. 40). He held a second Visitation of the Cathedral in 1677. He died in 1686 and was buried without any memorial in the sanctuary of the Cathedral, with the result that the position of his grave was forgotten and only discovered by accident in 1841. Though a brilliant scholar, or perhaps because of it, he left his mark on the Church of England rather than on Chester Diocese.

By 1675 there had been many changes in the Chapter which had been reconstituted at the Restoration. In 1666 Dr. Robert Morgan was made Bishop of St. Asaph and in 1670 Michael Evans died. Charles Duckworth followed him to the grave in 1673 and Dr. Edward Moreton the next year. Dean Bridgeman was consecrated Bishop of Man on October 1, 1671, but retained his Deanery. The Chapter in 1675 was as follows:

William Bispham, M.A., Subdean, 1634
 Simon Land, M.A., 1663
 William Finemore, M.A., 1666
 Phineas Bury, M.A., 1670
 Laurence Fogge, D.D., 1673
 William Thompson, M.A., 1675

William Finemore was the son of a gentleman living at Hincksey near Oxford. He went to Christ Church at the beginning of the Civil War, took his B.A. in 1646 and his M.A. in 1649. At some date he tutored young Philip Henry, father of the more famous Matthew Henry, who had come up to Christ Church in 1647. Finemore became Vicar of Runcorn in 1662, Prebendary and Archdeacon of Chester in 1666 and died in 1686. He was buried in the Cathedral where there is a tablet to his memory in S. Erasmus Chapel. Perhaps the most valuable thing he ever did was to nominate a boy named Thomas Wilson to be a scholar at the King's School in 1683, who became the celebrated Bishop of Sodor and Man. There can be no doubt that the three years he spent at the King's School gave Wilson the start he needed and enabled him to go on to Trinity College, Dublin.

Phineas Bury took his degree of B.A. at Wadham College, Oxford, in 1652, and remained there as Fellow until he came to Chester Cathedral in 1670. His living (in 1675) was the Rectory of Southrop, Glos. He died in London, January 28, 1678/9.

Laurence Fogge was the son of Robert Fogge, the minister who was intruded into Bishop Bridgeman's living of Bangor-on-Dee (then in the Chester Diocese) in 1646. He was ordained first by ministers of the Cambridgeshire Association in 1558, but

received Episcopal ordination in Galloway in 1661, at which time he was Rector of Hawarden, which also was in the Chester Diocese. As he explained to Calamy in a letter written in 1702, he was not ejected from Hawarden where he had been among the first to restore the Prayer Book in 1660, but he resigned the living at the end of July, 1662, because he "scrupled the declaration against resistance to government required by the Act [of Uniformity]." For three years he remained in retirement, but a judicial interpretation of the "Oxford Oath" given by Lord Justice Bridgeman removed his doubts and in 1666 he became curate of Prestwich. In 1672 he was presented by the Dean and Chapter of Chester to the Vicarage of St. Oswald's, a post which he continued to hold after he became a Prebendary in 1673 and only relinquished it when he was made Dean in 1691. He also held the Vicarage of Plemstall which was in the gift of Sir John Bridgeman.³⁰

William Thompson succeeded Dr. Moreton on July 26, 1675. He was a Cumberland man and went to Queen's College, Oxford, in 1631 aged 18. He took his B.A. in 1635 and his M.A. in 1639. He was Vicar of Childwall, Lancs. in 1664 and Rector of S. Peter's, Chester (1663-1693). In 1681 he was given the Rectory of Thurstaston. He died on January 9, 1693 and was buried in the Cathedral.

We turn now to the Chapter Minute Book. The minutes are disappointingly short and are concerned chiefly with the granting of leases and the appointing to offices, but now and then they throw a little light on the daily life of the Cathedral. In 1669 Bishop Bridgeman's Injunction relative to the obsolete offices of Cater, Butler, Porter, Cook, Baker and Barber were at last carried out. The Bishop had ordered that the salaries attached to these offices should be used to augment the stipends of the Petty Canons, but the Chapter confess that "since his Majesties happy restoration [they] have been granted under seale to Mr. Nathaniel Brooke of London, Stationer, and others, who have commenced a suit against the Dean and Chapter." It was now decided to buy out these lessees for the sum of £100, and if the Cathedral funds could not afford it "we engage ourselves to take it up out of our respective salaries,"—the income (£22) to be "paid as an augmentation unto the places of 4 pettie Cannons priests, each of which shall in their turns quarterly read morning prayers at 6 o'clock in the Quire." In these degenerate days we may perhaps feel that the Canons fully earned their extra money. It was also decided that the number of the Petty Canons should be made up to six, though this was not done.

In 1670 there was trouble with a Bedesman, one Richard Whitby, who despised the statutes and the "godly admonitions of the Dean, which he hath not only declared by words but confirmed by his contemptuous actions, having neither performed due reverence to his Governor, nor devotion to his God in this Quire, openly avowing that he careth not for the place, and is not only a person of bad example but of an evil life, being much given to excessive drinking, vile detracting and several other vicious habits." In consequence he was suspended, and the King was to be "petitioned to place some other almsman in his room." All the bedesmen in those days were appointed by the Crown.

³⁰Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis*, p. 136, note (Chetham Soc. 1845).

In 1672 the sexton of St. Oswald's was the offender, albeit unwittingly. The Dean and Chapter were very jealous of their rights over St. Oswald's Church in the South Transept and when the parish appointed a new sexton without their knowledge or consent the poor man had to bear the brunt of the Dean's displeasure. His abject apology was copied into the Chapter Minute Book and here it is:

"Whereas I John Deane of the City of Chester Butcher was upon Tuesday was a sevenight being the 12th day of this instant June elected sexton in place of William Catterall deceased for the parish of St. Oswald's by Alderman William Ince, Mr. John Radcliff and some others, and by virtue thereof I thought I had sufficient power to break ground in the Church of St. Werburg otherwise sometimes called by the name of St. Oswald, which being part of the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary in Chester and the Dean and Chapter of the same maintaining the fabric of the said Church at their own proper cost and charge, I perceive that I could not lawfully do so, and therefore when I was going about to make the first grave in the same after my said pretended election for Richard Mercer, Clothworker, I was forbid so to do by Dr. Henry Bridgeman the present Dean of the said Cathedral in behalf of himself and the Chapter whose right it is alone to nominate and make the Clerk or Sexton of this place. Wherefore I did humbly on my knees beg pardon of the Dean and Chapter for my undue intrusion and invasion into the said office. and utterly renouncing all power, right or title unto the same.....do humbly beseech the said Dean and Chapter.....that they will be pleased to bestow the same office of sexton in their said Church and Churchyard of St. Oswald upon mee....."

This the Dean and Chapter graciously consented to do.

On November 25, 1671, the Dean's signature is changed to "Hen. Sodorens; Ep. Dec. Cestriae," and it was while he was residing in his island Diocese that he wrote a long letter to the Subdean and Precentor dated June 9, 1673, which throws a good deal of light upon the burial customs in the Cathedral in those days.³¹

"Mr. Subdeane Bispham &
Mr. Chanter Stringer

There is an hon'ble Maid lately deceased at Mr. John Anderson's, being the Hope and Anchor in our Northgate Street within the City of Chester, viz. the Lady Jane Montgomery, sister to the Right Hon'ble Hughe Earle of Mount Alexander in the Kingdome of Ireland; who being a great lover of the Ceremonies of our Church while shee lived desired to bee buried in our Church when shee dyed. And since shee had the Quire so much in her heart living I adjudged it fitt to bury her in the heart of our Quire now shee is dead, her executors paying to the Cathedral all customary dues and justifiable fees which belong unto us. Now by reason of the late distraction in this Kingdome and my frequent absences from this Church, my memory not well serving mee in every particular thereof, and the Rt. Reverend John [Pearson] Lord Bishop of Chester having a great kindness for her family, as well as a great love unto Justice, desiring that shee may not be imposed upon by any kind of Exaction; You being the most antient stagers now resident in this Church, I doe require you upon virtue of your oaths formerly taken that you declare unto mee in writing what the former fees and customs have been in like case; that as I may not impose upon such hon'ble persons, so neither prejudice our successors in this Church; since our late Leiger bookes and other writings and Records of the Church, which should have informed us of former use and customes, have been miserably plunderd and by violent hands taken away in the late warres between King and Parliament; and though I have used all manner of imaginable diligence and charg to retrieve them, yet could not regaine them, but do beeleave they were burnt in the late great fire of the City of London. I pray you deale

³¹Also printed in *Sheaf*, O.S. t. 261.

faithfully and impartially, for what you declare in writing under your hands I intend to enter into the Chapter book *in perpetuum rei memoriam*, that it may be a standing rule and direction for our Successors, whom I would not have doe anything unwarrantably. I have sent my Chaplaine Mr. Francis Wood, to you with this letter, that he may have full discours with you about the praemises, by whom I shall expect a full answer thereunto. So commending Myself kindly to you, I rest

Your very loving freind
Henric: Ep^{us} Sodor et Monae.
Decanus Cestriae.

June the 9th, 1673.

These two ancient stagers took Prebendary Duckworth, who was only two years junior to Bispham, into collaboration and together the three of them concocted the following reply.

Rt. Reverend Mr. Deane,

Wee received your Ldship's letter of the nineth of this instant June, 1673, and in obedience thereunto wee return your Ldship this answer. 1st, That all the burials or Lestalls in the South side of the Cathedral commonly called St. Oswald's Church doe belong unto the Deane and Chapter of this Church; who have sometime leased them unto the Vicar of St. Oswald's upon the rent of five pounds a year payable at Easter; as namely to Mr. William Case before the warrs and to Mr. William Boardman since the warrs, and the present Vicar, Mr. Laurence Fogg, doth enjoy them upon the like annual rent. 2ndly, That in the body of the Cathedrall old Mr. Alderman John Radcliff, Grandfather, and Alderman John Radcliff, Father to John Radcliff, Esq. late Recorder of this City, paid unto the Deane and Chapter for their sepulture under the great marble stone in the middle Alley such considerable summes of money as they demanded. And the said late Recorder's wife, Mrs. Dorothy Radcliff, dying in the year after her Mother and Daughter and others of that family, Wee, considering the great mortality that was amongst them, demanded only five pounds of them for breaking up the ground near the place for her to be buried in, before we would suffer the ground to be broken; and though hee did grumble at it at first, yet your Ldship may remember hee sent his servant, Mr.....Jones to your Ldship, that hee would satisfye the Deane and Chapter in their demands. And now that hee is dead himself, considering how kind a neighbour hee hath beene in affording us his Councell upon all occasions, though in your Ldship's absence I demanded five pounds for his burial there of his Executors, yet wee leave it to your Ldship's wisdome to return or abate him what you please.

And for those who, 3rdly, bury in the side Alleys of the Quire, they have usually paid five pound; and we know your Ldship does well remember that you received no less from Mr. Thomas Simons, a Lancashyre man, who dyed at Mr. Thomas Clarke's, the Petty Canon. 4thly, And for those that were buryed in the body of the Quire, they have usually paid ten pounds for the ground or upward, according to the vicinitye and eminencye of the place; only the members of the Church and those that have descended from them have had the Indulgences to be buryed gratis according to their qualities; which if greater, in St. Mary's Chappell, betwixt he Quire and the East end of the said Chappell, where the Dean and Prebendaries are usually buryed; as your brother, Mr. Dove Bridgeman was, and your Excellent Mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Bridgeman, and your own two daughters, Mrs. Henrietta and Mrs. Katherine Bridgeman and your daughter Grenhalgh's wife³² Mrs. Catherine Grenhalgh, all in the vaulted sepulchre which your Father, my L'd John Bridgeman, B'p of Chester did in his life time by consent of the Deane and Chapter build for the buryall of the branches of his family and which your Ldship and wee all of the Chapter have delivered our Assents and Consents to be continued unto your family solely and

³²The word is "daughter" in the original.

p'petually. Further Wee certifie that the blacks that cover the Pulpit and Cushion doe belong to the Deane and Chapter. If the Corps bee sung into the Church and at the Grave the least that the Quire men have usually had was forty shillings. There is also due for the use of the bells to the Deane and Chapter for one day twenty shillings besides satisfaction to bee given to the Ringers. There is also due to the Virgers for a passing peale ten groates if they tole the great bell. If the fourth bell, eight groates, from both which the Chanter usually had eight pence.

Your Ldships humble Servants

William Bispham, Subd.
Charles Duckworth, P'bend.
Peter Stringer, P'centor."

We cannot help wondering whether it occurred to the writers of this very informative letter that before long they would be testing the truth of their statements with their own bodies, for Peter Stringer died a few days later and Charles Duckworth a few months later. He, however, was buried at his own parish church of Dodleston and we do not know where the body of Stringer was interred. The Dean and Bispham lived for another decade or more. Peter Stringer³³ was a great loss, for he was not only Petty Canon, Organist and Master of the Choristers, but also Deputy Receiver and Treasurer, and being on the spot, did most of the work. This is revealed in the decision of the Chapter to appoint his son, John, to succeed him, in the following terms.

"Whereas the late nominated Receiver Mr. William Finmore and Treasurer Mr. Phineas Bury being now both absent and at so great a distance that we presume they are utterly ignorant of the premature departure of their said substitute in those their respective offices," and as salaries must be paid and rents must first be gathered in and there are duties to be paid to the King and others which cannot admit of any delay, they appoint John Stringer to succeed his father in all the offices formerly held by him (except that of Precentor) and allow him his house and garden on a service tenure "for his more commodious attendance upon the duties of the forenamed places."

This is signed by the Dean, Subdean, Duckworth and Finmore on June 25. At the same Chapter William Ottye, Petty Canon, was made Precentor.

The next volume of the Minute Book which begins in 1674 opens with some interesting regulations for the conduct of divine service, from which we learn that the sermon on Sunday morning was usually preached in S. Oswald's because it was impossible to have two sermons, one in the choir and one in the south transept, going on at the same time. So on Sunday morning the Dean, prebendaries and choir moved into S. Oswald's.

Then follows a most interesting order about the cathedral music which throws a welcome light on a very little-known subject. To understand it we must remember that "full services" means settings for the canticle for (usually) four parts without solo passages and that "verse services" consist largely of solo passages, and that "hymns" here means canticles.

³³For further information about Peter Stringer see Dr. J. C. Bridge in *C.A.J.* N.S. xix, Pt. II, p. 92.

“Whereas every one cominge to the publick services of God ought to join and bear part therein, yet when full services and anthems are sung few of those who either are not skilled in music or have not copies thereof pricked out can join in the said worship or be edified thereby; It is ordered that instead of full services after each lesson either verse services of the hymns shall be sung wherein one or two singing at once, the words may be the more distinctly attended to and in heart joined with by the congregation, or the said hymns shall be sung in the ordinary chanting tune which all who frequent cathedrals may easily bear a part in, and instead of full anthems verse anthems shall be also used for the reason before suggested and before each anthem one of the singing men shall audibly declare what portion of Scripture is then to be sung.”

The burden of this is that the Dean and Chapter in their desire to encourage the congregation to take part in the service ordered that either canticles and anthems with solo passages should be sung so that the words would be more likely to be heard or else that an ordinary chant should be used for the canticles instead of a setting.

Bishop Pearson's Injunctions, dated September 24, 1675, follow fairly closely those of Bishop Bridgeman, but the following items are new. Choir practice for the boys was to be for half an hour after morning and for an hour after evening service, and for the men one hour a week.

As there were not enough houses to accommodate all the Cathedral staff “Be it therefore decreed....that the houses betwixt the Deanery and the Kaleyard on the north side of the way [i.e. in Abbey Street] shall be the houses appropriated to 4 Petty Canons and those which are now in the possession of Mr. Garenciers and of Robert Carter (after his removal or other accommodation) appropriated to other two Petty Canons.” It would appear from this that in those days there were four houses in Abbey Street, where now there are six. Carter was one of the Choirmen.

Other items of interest from the Chapter Book in this year and the next year are

(1) “If the Precentor is absent from the choir the senior petty cannon present shall supply his place in appointing what service or anthem shall be playd or sung.”

(2) The verger, Henry Hughes, is to ride the light horse when necessary, for which he is to receive £4 a year.

(3) “It is also decreed that the second wainscote seate from the choristers seate on the south side of the Quire of the Church be kept for the Dean and Prebends' wives to sit in and noone else.”

In 1676 there was trouble with the Petty Canons, of whom there were only three at this time, not counting John Stringer, the organist. They were William Ottey, Thomas Clark and Dudley Garenciers. Ottey had already been suspended once in 1674 “for that he did by insolent and contemptuous behaviour and words unfit to be mentioned villify the Subdean & Prebends to their faces in the audience of the Choirmen,” but was soon restored. What happened in 1676 can be learned from the entry in the Chapter Book dated May 3, 1677.

“Whereas Mr. Thomas Clarke, one of the Petty Canons of this church, hath formerly absented himself from the service of this Quire without procuring any to officiate in his name & hath not performed the conditions upon which some addition to his salary was promised (which promise was made by reason of a strait we were

brought into about 10 months since through Mr. Garenciers mutining & drawing Mr. Otty (the only Petty Canon we had beside them) into the same crime, we do declare that he has thereby rendered himself unworthy of receiving any benefits by the aforesaid conditional promise especially during his unlicensed absence." And sure enough in the Accounts we find "augmentation £2 10s. od." erased under the name of "Mr. Clarke sacrist." Garenciers was restored in November of that year, appointed Rector of Handley in 1684, and in 1694 was promoted to be a Prebendary. In 1690 he had two boys at the King's School named Theophilus and Athanasius respectively. Poor boys!

The other two offenders must have been restored earlier, for in October they "complained in the Chapter House that they were too few to perform the service of the Church," with the result that "wee did appoint Mr. Francis Wood constantly to read six o'clock prayers till Xmas & no longer without further order." The Accounts show that in the last quarter of that year (1677) two new Petty Canons were appointed, Mr. Mace and Mr. Fearn, but here again the Chapter were unfortunate in their choice, for on June 23, 1679, Mace was expelled for slandering Mr. Fogge and the last we hear of him is that on Nov. 27, 1680 the Dean and Chap. ordered two shillings a week to be paid to John Mace, "late Petty Canon of the Quire & now prisoner in Norgate." His successor was Mr. James Graham who lasted only four years, for on November 8, 1682 he "hath this day come into the Quire in the time of Divine Service much distempered in drink and there slept during a great part of the Service." He was discharged. We must at least give the Dean and Chapter credit for trying to preserve discipline, and hope that these men were not typical of the clergy of that day.

THE ACCOUNTS 1676-1683.

In June and July, 1677, extensive repairs were carried out to the roof of the church involving the use of 2000 slates and nearly three tons of lead, the latter costing £24 os. od. The carpenter was paid £7 odd and the plumber £14. The total cost was over £64. The Treasurer was authorised to borrow £100 for six months to pay for this work.

1677	Oct. 23, pd. Jo. Malbone for yron cramps for ten o'clock bell-clapper	7	0
	This would be the bell rung for matins.		
	Aug. Allowed Mr. Thompson for 6 quarts of canary presented to the Recorder and a tasting pint among them	16	3
	Oct. 29 Pd. Thos. Bradburn for Ringing at the good tidings of the contract between the Prince of Aurange and for a bonfire on the account	2	6

The other party to the contract was of course Princess Mary, daughter of James, Duke of York.† This Protestant match was naturally very popular with a nation threatened by the Romanising influence of Charles II (secretly) and of the Duke of York (openly). Mary was only 15 at this date and was married a month later.

†When the news was announced to her poor Mary cried all that afternoon and the whole of the following day. *Mary II.*, Hester W. Chapman (Jonathan Cape) p. 63.

1678	Nov. 26 pd. for Chapter's dinner at Wolfe's Head	13	8
	Nov. 29. pd. on the same account	1	4 0
	Oct. 30. pd. for certaine stuff, given by consent of the Brethren, to secure our good Bp. from the wind	1	14 0
	for silk, rings, tape & making them up	3	10
	Nov. 11. pd. Hen. Hughes for 8 quire candlesticks	1	4
	Nov. 25. Given Mr. Otty for the quiremen's dinner	1	0 0

The accounts for the years 1679 and 1680 are missing.

1681	March 3. pd. James Mort per note for flagging the broad Isle by the Quier door	10	8 0
	Sept. 12. pd. for venison Feast at Bp. of Man's for 6 bottles of claret	7	8 2 6 6
	(Nov.) 2 quarts of canary drunk at the Dean's by Dean & Chapter & 4 pt. of claret at the Dean's dinner	8	4
	Dec. 6 pd. Henry Hughes for a journey in to Wirral & for ringing to welcome the Bp. of Durham	5	0
1682	Feb. 14. For scouring altar candlesticks		6
(1682)	March 3. pd. Tho. Rogers mason for flagging the p'bends quadrangle cloyster and church	11	8 0
	pd. for carrying away Rubbish from Abbey Court cloisters etc.	7	0

These two extracts taken together make it appear that the Prebends' quadrangle which was flagged was the Abbey Square.

	May 5. pd. Isaac Cross for forms in the quire	3	6 0
	June 13, for making up the prison wall ³⁴	1	0 0
	July 22. for the Dean's kneeling bench	3	0
	Aug. 14. pd. chymney money for Mr. Biddulphs house	3	0
	Nov. 9. pd. Jo. Dunbabin for church & school windows	7	7 0

These were the windows broken in the Monmouth riot on September 11th, for which see below.

	Nov. 25. for 2 qwt. canary & 2 of claret at Subd' chamber	6	8
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Last year the dinner was held in the Dean's house and 4 quarts of claret were consumed as well as 2 of canary.

	Nov. 28. pd. Mr. Minshal for a collation at Wolf's Head	4	7 6
1683	Nov. 15. pd. Attorney Taylor for his pains & losses in sueing a beggarly knavish tenant	3	0

And on this irascible note the Accounts end for the time being and do not begin again until 1689.

DEAN ARDERNE 1682-1692.

Dean Henry Bridgeman, Bishop of Man, died on May 15th, 1682 and was succeeded by James Arderne, D.D., who was the fifth son of Ralph Arderne of Harden and Alvanley. He went to S. John's College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. in 1656. He was ordained in 1660 and in 1666 obtained the curacy of S. Botolph, Aldersgate, which he held until he was Dean of Chester. He was also chaplain in ordinary to Charles II, who gave him the living of Davenham, Cheshire, on January 10, 1681. His attachment to the Crown survived the accession of the

³⁴The prison comprised the two houses adjoining the Gateway into Abbey Square. Hemingway's *History of Chester*, II. 15.

Romanist Duke of York to the throne and "is said to have subjected him to many affronts and indignities in the vicinity of Chester."³⁵ He was installed Dean of Chester on July 12, 1682. His term of office was full of incident, covering as it did the last three years of Charles II, the whole of the reign of James II and the first four years of William and Mary. He had hardly been in Chester two months before the Duke of Monmouth, illegitimate son of Charles II, arrived, with dire results to the Cathedral.

THE MONMOUTH RIOT.

Monmouth at this time was posing as the Protestant Prince in opposition to the King's brother and heir, James, Duke of York, and to this end he arranged a semi-royal progress through Staffordshire and Cheshire. He entered Cheshire from Trentham (where he had passed the previous night) on Saturday, September 9, dined at the Crown Hotel at Nantwich and reached Chester at six o'clock in the evening escorted by some of the nobility and gentry of the County. He was received by the Mayor, George Mainwaring, at the Bars and lodged in his house in Watergate Street, but entertained to meals at the Plume of Feathers in Bridge Street. That evening, says a report to the Secretary of State, "the Dean sent for the keys of the churches, but the Rabble broke into St. John's Church on Saturday through the windows and rang the bells."³⁶ Breakfast with the Mayor on Sunday morning was accompanied by "a great deal of rabble always shouting and throwing up their hats."³⁷ Monmouth after breakfast went to church at the Cathedral accompanied by Mr. Williams, the Recorder, where one of the Prebendaries—one report says it was a minor canon—made most of his opportunity in his sermon, "telling him his duty [and] of Disobedience and [of] of Achitophell, Henry 1st of France, and that God would blast all the wicked and mischievous devices against the King, and make the memory of their wicked names stink in the grave." There is obviously a reference here to Dryden's satirical poem, "Absalom and Achitophell", which had appeared less than a year before this and had created a great sensation. In the poem, Absalom, the son who rebelled against his father, stood for Monmouth, and Achitophell, the young man's evil counsellor, for the Earl of Shaftesbury, who at this time was a prisoner in the Tower. The reference to Henry I of France could not have been obvious to his hearers, for he was an unimportant Capetian king (1031-1060), but it appears that for a short time he took up arms against his father, Robert I, and that may have been the reason why he figured in the sermon. After this lecture from the unnamed prebendary Monmouth went back to the Plume of Feathers for dinner and returned to the Cathedral for another service in the afternoon. This time he probably fared better, for the preacher was Dr. Fogge, whose Protestant tendencies were well known and it was noticed that he omitted to pray for the Queen and the Duke of York by name and prayed only for the King and the Royal Family. That afternoon the Duke also

³⁵Ormerod, II. 83.

³⁶*Lancs. and Ches. Hist. Soc.* N.S. x. p. 84.

³⁷*Hist. MSS. Com.* VII. 533.

found time to stand Godfather in Holy Trinity Church to the Mayor's little daughter, who was christened Henrietta. He left Chester next morning (Monday the 10th), slept the night at Peel Hall, Bromborough, and on the Tuesday rode in the Wallasey Races and won a £60 prize, "by contrivance of the man that rid against him," says one report rather unkindly. He sent the silver cup which he won back to Chester as a present for his goddaughter, "at which news the people here grew so mad that all the streets were full of bonfire, the church doors were broken open to ring the bells, contrary to the Dean and the minister's orders, and nothing was heard in the streets but a Munmouth, a Munmouth." The rioting was renewed on Wednesday night when the Duke's horse which had won the race was led through the streets, the Duke himself being at Rock Savage, near Runcorn. It was on one of these nights that the mob "furiously forced the doors of the cathedral church and destroyed most of the painted glass, burst open the little vestrys and cupboards, wherein were the surplices and hoods belonging to the clergy, which they rent to rags and carried away; they beat to pieces the baptismal font, pulled down some monuments, attempted to demolish the organ, and committed other most enormous outrages."³⁸ We have already noted that it cost seven guineas to put the glass back in the windows.

BISHOP CARTWRIGHT.

The next event was the death of Bishop Pearson and arrival of Bishop Cartwright D.D., for whom nobody has a good word to say. This is not on account of his Romanising tendencies, but because he appears to have been an unscrupulous time server, whose great object in life was his own advancement.³⁹ Like his predecessor, John Wilkins, he contrived to hold office under both Parliament and Crown, and to the latter he professed such ardent loyalty that in 1672 he was made chaplain in ordinary to the King and attached himself to James, Duke of York. When the latter ascended the throne in 1685 Cartwright preached a sermon at Ripon, of which collegiate church he was Dean, so strongly in favour of the absolute power of the Crown that James made him bishop in the following year. Though he was only at Chester for two years—for he had to fly the country at the Revolution—he left his mark on the Diocese. His connection with the Cathedral is recorded in his diary, which is preserved in the Cathedral library.⁴⁰ Consecrated on October 17, 1686, he entered his Diocese on November 12 by way of Richmond, reached Wigan on the 27th and entered Chester on the 30th. On December 1 "I was sung into the Cathedral by the choir in procession and enthroned by Mr. Dean, and sung back into the palace for prayers." It was not long before he made his presence felt in the Cathedral. On January 19, 1687, "I admonished Mr. Ottway, the precentor, in the church, of his neglecting services and anthems, and his teaching of the quire; and he refusing to amend, and be the packhorse, as he called it, to the choir and

³⁸Cowper MS. quoted in Ormerod, i. 248.

³⁹Canon Sanders in *C.A.J.* N.S. iv, 2.

⁴⁰Printed by the Camden Soc. in 1840.

choristers, I told him I should take care to provide a better in his room, and one that should attend to God's service better, and pay more respect to his superiors, he behaving himself very insolently towards the Subdean at that very time."

William Ottye appears as Minor Canon and Precentor in 1664 when the Accounts begin and he is still in that dual office in 1694, so the Bishop's threat came to nothing. It was not the first time he had been insolent to the Subdean (see p. 40).

The next person the Bishop had to admonish was Mr. Morrey, probably the Peter Morrey who was Dean Arderne's curate and to whom the Dean left certain articles of apparel in his will.⁴¹ "Jan. 31, Mr. Morrey preached in the cathedral, and I admonished him to mend his prayer, in which he gave not the King his titles, and to be wary of reflecting so imprudently as he did upon the King's religion, which he took thankfully and promised amendment." Even the laity did not escape the Bishop's censure. "Feb. 13, I preached in the cathedral at Chester, being the first Sunday in Lent to the greatest congregation that ever I saw, a sermon on Repentance. God give a blessing to it!....I rebuked, as they deserved, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Crutchley, Mrs. Eaton, and her sister, for talking and laughing in the church; and they accused Mr. Hudleston for being as guilty as themselves." The diary, however, gives praise where praise is due. On February 6 Dr. Wroe, Prebendary, "preached an excellent sermon on the King's inauguration, which I requested him to print, as highly seasonable." On March 4 "Dr. Fogg preached an excellent sermon on Repentance." On the 20th "Mr. Archdeacon Allen preached an excellent and seasonable sermon, and he and Mr. Thane [another Prebendary] dined with me."

VISIT OF JAMES II.

Bishop Cartwright spent the summer months of the year 1687 in London, returning to Cheshire on July 27, and on August 27 King James II visited Chester. He was on a progress through the west of England to prepare the ground for the repeal of the penal laws against Roman Catholics, which he had temporarily suspended. He had already visited Bath, Gloucester and Worcester.⁴² Cartwright records in his diary, "His Majesty came to the palace in Chester about four in the afternoon. I met him at the palace gates, attended by the Dean and Prebends, and about forty more of the clergy, and afterwards introduced them to kiss his hand, Mr. Dean making an excellent speech to him. Then his Majesty went and viewed the choir; after that the castle, to which he walked on foot, and I waited at his cushion till I saw him in bed."

Perhaps the King viewed the choir in order to see where he was going to perform on the morrow, and it would be on this occasion that he observed the unsatisfactory condition of the cloisters, "with resentment and displeasure," the Bishop afterwards told the Dean and Chapter. The "excellent speech" of the

⁴¹Ormerod, II, 40.

⁴²Samuel Pepys, *The Saviour of the Navy*, by Arthur Bryant, p. 222. Pepys accompanied James as far as Worcester, where he got so absorbed in the manuscripts of the Cathedral library that he was left behind and returned to London.

Dean is worth reproducing in full both as illustrating the Dean's character and also as showing the lengths that loyal churchmen would go in support of their belief in the Divine Right of Kings.⁴³

"Allow us, Great Sir, to express our loyal joy in beholding here the face of your sacred Majesty. Our eyes are now blest while we see amongst us that mighty and wonderful King, who equals in clemency his late Royal Brother; in the sincerity of his religious purpose his Father the glorious Martyr; in other princely virtues both his grandfathers, the great Henry [IV] of France in courage and conduct of wars and King James I of England in wisdom and defence of this National Church. And what more recommends this generous patronage, he preserves that altar from being overthrown at which he does not worship. 'Twere to be wished true that all who enjoy this protection had returned suitably their thankful addresses⁴⁴. However it be, we humbly hope that your Majesty, like God, (whom in governing power you represent upon earth, and in pardoning-mercy you do imitate) will be kind to the unthankful, and according to your accustomed goodness will spare the place for the smaller visible number of good men therein.

So great grace certainly heals their infidelity and revolt, especially when they are thus united to believe (in) and adhere to a Prince of whom we have had the experience that he will no sooner receed from his promises than he would fly from an enemy in the field.

As for what concerns us of this Royal Foundation, with all humility I undertake for myself and several of my brethren that we will continue to advance amongst your subjects the strictest principles of a mannerly, peaceful and active loyalty making earnest prayers to Almighty God that he would in this world grant your Majesty length of days and hereafter eternal life and glory."

It is small wonder that after this speech it was rumoured that when Cartwright should be translated to Salisbury, Dean Arderne would be the next Bishop of Chester.

The next day the King went into the choir of the Cathedral at nine o'clock, "where he healed 350 persons. After which he went to his devotions in the Shire Hall, and Mr. Penn held forth in the Tennis Court, and I preached in the Cathedral" This was the celebrated William Penn, the Quaker, lately returned from America where he had founded the Colony which still bears his name. He supported the King because he thought his desire for religious toleration was genuine, and the King showed him favour because he found it useful to have an honest man about him who would have influence among the Dissenters.⁴⁵ On the third day Chester saw very little of the King, for he rose at six and was in the saddle by 7.30 *en route* for St. Winifred's Well at Holywell where he was presented with the shift which his great grandmother, Mary Queen of Scots, wore when she was beheaded.⁴⁶ In the evening the Bishop took the opportunity to put in a good word for the Dean, recommending him to the King "for better encouragement, because he was daily affronted for his zeal in his service by the Whigs." James left Chester next day (August 30), after he had "had mass in the presence chamber where he did eat. From thence I attended him into the choir, where he healed 450 people; from thence to the penthouse [Pentice] where he breakfasted under a state (sic), and from thence took horse about ten of the clock.....The King left £20 to the house servants."

⁴³Printed in *C.A.J.* N.S. v. 323 (1895) and in Ormerod, II, 40. The punctuation and capitals have been modernised.

⁴⁴Before he left, James expressed his displeasure that there was no loyal address forthcoming from Chester. *C.A.J.* N.S. IV, p. 16.

⁴⁵The Tennis court was the Tennis court theatre. It stood on the south side of Foregate Street opposite the Nag's Head and next to Astbury's, the monumental mason. *Sheaf*, 3rd ser. XLIV, 42. There is no authority for the oft-repeated statement that James heard Mass in the Castle chapel.

⁴⁶Cowper MSS.

The Bishop now had time to carry out his Visitation of the Cathedral which he fixed for September 6, but adjourned it till October 4 "by reason of Mr. Dean's sickness." On October 6 we are astonished to read "I concluded my Visitation *and suspended Mr. Dean*; the sentence to be published, if not taken off before, on Sunday three weeks." However, the Bishop seems to have relented, for on October 24 he wrote from Oxford, "I wrote to the Chancellor of Chester not to publish the suspension against the Dean till further order from me, according to the Dean's desire, by letter." There is no hint in the Diary of what the Dean was accused.

The Bishop's Injunctions⁴⁷ are for the most part copied verbatim from those of Bishop Pearson, but No. 5 and No. 6 are new.

No. 5 orders that the cathedral archives "henceforth be kept and secured in a strong chest, on which are to be three locks of different work, of which the Dean to have one key, the Subdean another, and the Senior Prebendary the third....." There is little doubt that this is the chest now used as a collecting box standing in the south transept. Only one of the three locks is the original one.

It is strange that the Bishop should have ordered this, for only the year before, on November 26, 1686, the Dean and Chapter had ordered "that a convenient way be made to the room over the Abbey Gate and that the Common Chest be brought thither and that the same room be used for the service of the Church and that all books and writings relating to the Dean and Chapter be brought to the Common Chest there and not to be delivered out without an undertaking for the restoring of them again." In November, 1698, the great room over the Abbey Gate was ordered to be fitted up as an Audit Room. This was done in 1690 at a cost of about £24.

No. 6 deals with the fabric of the cathedral and singles out the Cloisters for criticism. "And for that the cloisters of the said Church are much out of repair and become rather scandalous than useful to it, which the King's Majesty lately observed with resentment and displeasure upon his own royal view; it is enjoined and decreed that the Dean and Chapter take all convenient, speedy and effectual course for repairing and covering of them above with lead or slate and purging and securing them below from sordid prophanation and indecencies before the 24th of June next ensuing and that the Treasurer do not pay any portion....or dividend to the Dean or any of the Prebends till this be done and the Church be out of debt," to which has been added later "except their annual stipends as by statute."

It was in this year (1687) that the marble font which stands at the west end of the cathedral was given by Bishop Moreton of Kildare, a son of that Prebendary Moreton who was Bishop Lloyd's nominee. On a slab on the west wall near it is a Latin inscription to say that as an infant he found it brick and later as Bishop had changed it into marble.* As he was baptised in 1641 the "brick" font would be the one given by Bishop Bridgeman, which would have been "beat to pieces" in the Monmouth riot.

⁴⁷They are to be found copied into a book of leases preserved in the Muniment Room.

*An obvious reference to Augustus Caesar's boast that he found Rome brick and left it marble.

Meanwhile William Bispham had died in 1686; his memorial is on the wall of the north aisle of the choir and his gravestone lies in the Abbot's Passage covered at the time of writing by a pile of beams out of the roof. It is said that it is an old tombstone with an other inscription on the reverse side.

VISIT OF WILLIAM III.

William and Mary were proclaimed King and Queen of England on February 13, 1689. On Sunday, June 10, in the same year William paid a hurried visit to Chester on his way to the reduction of Ireland. It is interesting to contrast his visit with that of the King whom he had just displaced. "King William came to Combermere," writes Dr. Cowper, "and the next day to Col. Whitley's at Peel Hall, and on Sunday morning arrived at Chester and went immediately to the Cathedral where, being seated in the Episcopal throne, he heard divine service and a sermon preached by Dr. Stratford, the then Bishop; after which the Bishop desired of his Majesty to accept of a dinner at the Palace, but the King declined and set out immediately for Gayton Hall in Wirral, the seat of William Glegg Esq. upon whom the King was the following day pleased to confer the honour of knighthood; and all things being ready for his embarkation, from thence proceeded to the reduction of Ireland."

No mention is made of the Mayor and Aldermen being presented to him, perhaps because some of them had ridden out to Peel Hall on the 7th to wait upon the King there,⁴⁸ and we get the impression of a soldier whose mind is fixed on the campaign ahead of him and who has no time for ceremony, as indeed he had not, for he left on Monday morning for Hoylake where the fleet awaited him while his army lay encamped at Leasowe, and they sailed at midday with the tide. Macaulay's account agrees with Dr. Cowper's in the main, though it is of course much shorter. He says the King set out from London on June 4 and in four days (i.e. on Friday, June 8) "the King arrived at Chester where a fleet of transports was awaiting the signal for sailing."⁴⁹

Further confirmation is obtained from the Accounts for June 10.

"For ringing Fryday Saturday and Sunday for the King's and Prince George's coming to Town"

10 0

Prince George of Denmark, Queen Anne's husband, accompanied the expedition to Ireland and had to make his own way to Chester. He had hoped for a seat in the King's coach, but William managed to give him the slip for he was a crashing bore.

One other event of a less martial character occurred about this time which should be recorded. In October, 1689, Bishop Stratford ordained in his private chapel, (now S. Anselm's) Thomas Wilson, a former King's School boy and a native of Burton, Wirral. Wilson was at that time acting as assistant curate to his uncle, Dr. Sherlock, Rector of Winwick but afterwards became the famous Bishop of Sodor and Man (1697-1755).

⁴⁸See the Corporation Accounts for June 7. "To moneys spent wn. sent severall to wait on ye King at Peele—3s. 6d."

⁴⁹*History of England*. II. p. 176 (1873 ed.). Is it possible that Macaulay pictured the fleet lying off Crane Wharf in the River Dee?

Dean Arderne "died unmarried at his new house at Kelsale near Delamere"⁵⁰ on September 18, 1691. He bequeathed all his property to the cathedral. "I give to the glory of God and the service of the Cathedral Church of Chester, more particularly for a small beginning of a public library of books; but if a library cannot be had, that the Fathers of the first three hundred years that I have, together with the commonplace book which I made out of them, of controversies, may be set up in the Chapter House for the use of the dean and prebends; and if this doe not take place a further use hereof is, that this may be kept as a stock whereby they may defend the rights and privileges of this ecclesiastical corporation and that it may serve to defray the expenses of procuring an Act of Parliament for disposing of the great lease, when it shall fall, called Jollive's lease, so as shall be most conducive to the welfare of this Cathedral and to the public good. Excepting only, out of this my whole grant to them, my best suit, as gown, cassock, hat, silk stockings, doublet and breeches, which I desire be given to my curate, Mr. Peter Morrey, and that my executors do take care of his preferment, he leaving a very good place to come to me."⁵¹

Dean Arderne was given the Vicarage of Neston in 1689 by the Chapter which would necessitate the services of a curate, and his executors carried out his wishes by letting Morrey succeed him there as vicar. The Dean in his will also desired to be buried in the choir, near the foot of the altar, with an inscription upon a cheap stone or brass, set up in the wall, to the effect that he left his money to the Cathedral because he considered it "a sort of sacrilege to sweep away all from the Church and Charity into the possession of their lay kindred who are not needy." This inscription can be found today on the wall of the south choir aisle.

DEAN LAURENCE FOGGE (1692-1718)

Laurence Fogge, the subdean, succeeded Arderne as Dean, and the Chapter was now constituted as follows:

William Thompson, M.A.	1675
Richard Wright, B.D.	1677
Richard Wroe, D.D.	1678
John Allen, M.A.	1686
John Thane, D.D.	1686
Edmund Entwistle, D.D.	1691

All these except William Thompson are new since we last looked at the Chapter in 1675.

Richard Wright was born in 1640 in Nantwich and went to Brazenose Collage, Oxford, in 1657 where he took his B.A. in 1660, his M.A. in 1663 and his B.D. in 1672. In the following year he was made Rector of St. Mary's, Chester.

⁵⁰Cowper MSS.

⁵¹Ormerod II, 83.

Richard Wroe was the son of a yeoman, born in 1641 at Prestwich. He went to Jesus College, Cambridge, in 1658 and was a Fellow of it from 1662 to 1669. He took his B.D. in 1672 and his D.D. in 1686. He was Vicar of Bowdon from 1674 to 1690 and Fellow of the Collegiate Church of Manchester from 1675, becoming Master of it in 1684, and at the same time Vicar of Garstang. Bishop Pearson appointed him his Domestic Chaplain in 1678 and also a Prebendary of the Cathedral. In 1696 he relinquished Garstang for the living of West Kirby. He died in January, 1717 and his epitaph is in the Cathedral. He had a great reputation as a preacher and earned the title of "silver-tongued."⁵²

John Allen was made Prebendary in 1686 and almost immediately married "Madam Margaret Bridgman." He died in 1700.⁵³

John Thane was the son of a physician in Norfolk and was born at King's Lynn, but when his father moved to Shrewsbury he finished his schooling there and proceeded to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated M.A. He came to Chester with his uncle, Bishop John Pearson, in 1673 and was collated to a vacant stall on April 17, 1686. In 1690 he was given the living of Northenden by the Dean and Chapter, and in 1693 married Penelope Hide. During the vacancy after Bishop Stratford's death Queen Anne appointed Thane Archdeacon of Chester, when he took his D.D. He died on June 30, 1727 and was buried in the Cathedral, where his inscription can still be seen. His wife was among the ladies who founded the Blue Girls School.

Edmund Entwistle was the younger son of John Entwistle, armiger, of Ormskirk. He matriculated at Brazenose College, Oxford, in 1676 at the age of 16, took his B.A. in 1680 and his M.A. in 1682. He was made Prebendary in 1691 at the age of 31, becoming at the same time Chaplain to the Bishop, Dr. Stratford, and Rector of Barrow. He took his D.D. in 1693 and was appointed Archdeacon of Chester two years later. His first wife was a daughter of Bishop Stratford and on her death he married Priscilla, daughter of Sir Thomas Bunbury Bart., the Bishop officiating in his private chapel. Sir Thomas Bunbury lived in Abbey Square. Entwistle died on September 15, 1707, and was buried in the Cathedral, where a tablet to his memory is to be found on the south wall of the nave.

The new Dean had the same disciplinary problems as his predecessor, as the following extract from the Chapter Book will show. At a special Chapter meeting held on October 16, 1693, it was recorded

"That whereas Henry Hughes, one of the vergers of this Church, did on the 14th of this inst. October not only impute to Mr. Dean the giving orders which he gave not, but in a most rude, irreverent and impudent manner, in the Broad Ile of the said Church (tho' commanded to forbear and to go about his employment) yet did reproachfully and clamourously pursue Mr. Dean with the said false imputation often repeated....he shall acknowledge his offence before the members of the Quire, in these words, distinctly and respectfully pronounced by him after the Precentor reading them to him" and is to have no pay until he has done so,

⁵²See Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis*, I, 30.

⁵³Cathedral Registers.

Thus did the Dean try to "save face," but the picture of him being pursued through the nave of his own cathedral by an irate verger must have caused considerable amusement to those who witnessed it.

THE ACCOUNTS. 1689-1701.

1690	Feb. 19 pd. for making cleane the free school stairs after the great snow	6.
1690	April 19. To Tho. Rogers for worke done about the church in full to this day	7 15 0
	May 22, for timber and carpenter work done at the back of the Quire	7 10 0
	May 30, For searg (serge) cotton and silk to face the Bps. throne	1 5 0
	July 10, for ringing for K. Williams successe at the Boyne and before for his arrival in Ireland	10 0
	Nov. 3, pd. the Mayor's officer for attendance when the vergers were arrested and their expenses at Mr. Tithers	4 2
	ffor 6 Russia leather chaires for the roome over the Abbey gate	1 ? ?
	ff scowring and sufting (sic) the 6 chaires	?
	ffor the grate and nigerd irons	1 12 0
1691	Dec. 8, Paid for ringing when Genl. Ginkill came to Town from Ireland	2 0
	May 24, Paid for ringing on the news of our beating the French fleet	1 6
This was the Battle of Cape Le Hogue which was begun on May 19 and not finished till May 24. By this victory all fears of an invasion by the French were removed.		
	May 30, Paid for carrying away the dungill from the Bps garden door	1 0
1695	Sept. For ringing for the taking of Namur	3 6
1696	July 27 Pd. for mending a bench whereon the Poor sit	9
	Aug. 1 Jo Ambrose for cleansing the leads and pulling up the elders etc.	1 6
	Oct. 15 Lost in putting Church money into the Mint which was received before the 4 of May	
	I put in £3 and received £1 13 0	1 7 0

This refers to the renewal of the coinage undertaken by the Government in this year. The old coinage had suffered so much by being clipped that it was ceasing to be a medium of exchange. The Government undertook to replace all coins at their face value which were handed in before May 2, the loss being paid for out of revenue. It looks as though the Treasurer thought the date was May 4 and was penalised for being two days late.

1697	April 3 Payd Tho. Jones for work about the pentice by the Maiden Ile for carrying into the Chapter House the timber and slates that fell over the Maiden Ile door	9 0
	April 24, pd. Cradock for slating over the Maiden Ile door as per note	6.
	Aug. 19 for pulling up weeds over the Cloyster and cleansing the gutters	4 6
	Sept. 17 for ringing for news of the Peace	6
		3 0

This was the Peace of Ryswick by which Louis XIV was forced to acknowledge William III as King of England and to surrender all the conquests he had made since 1678 (Nimwegen).

	April 24 Given to a distressed merchant sent to me from the Dean	1 0
	To a distressed man and woman	6

For some reason the accounts for this year have been written out again and in the second version there is a significant change in the above item, as follows:—

April 24 Given to a distressed merchant and a woman who pretended they were sent by the Dean	1 6
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The cloisters seem to have been in a very bad state of repair at this time, and what follows is the natural sequel to the elders and weeds which had been allowed to grow on the roofs.

1699 Jan. 25, for carrying away the slates that fell from the Cloyster	1 0
March 19 To Tho. Hancock the mason for making up the ends of the Cloyster	8 13 0
to labourers for levelling the rubbish	7 11
More to Ambrose for work	3 0
April 28. To Ambrose and his wife and two others for cleansing the Tabernacle work	1 6
For cleansing the Tapestry at the altar	1 10 0
July 31 paid two workmen for clensing the top of the Cloysters, being about 10 days work	12 10
Nov. 28 To Thomas Hancock mason, glaziers and other workmen in full for work over and above my lords gift	9 16 3

Apparently Bishop Stratford had taken a hand in restoring the cathedral and his lead had stimulated the Dean and Chapter to do likewise. And now follows a headache for historians, for it was Bishop Bridgeman who in 1626 built six stone cottages for the conducts.

Sept. 30 Paid to Alban Grey for timber etc. for the Conducts houses given by Bp. Hall	7 5 4
Nov. 4, paid Math. Badders note for slates for the Ch. and Bishop Halls houses	7 16 0

Can it be that the Commonwealth had made such a gap in men's memories that the origin of these houses was already forgotten and that Bishop Hall was credited with them?

“THE EXPOSED CHILD.”

By Elizabeth's Poor Law each parish was made responsible for its own poor; the Cathedral precincts being extra-parochial would have had to do the same. It was not likely that there would be any poor in need of relief in such a respectable quarter, but it did sometimes happen that an unwanted baby was left on the doorstep of one of the Chapter houses and thus became a charge on the Cathedral until it was seven years old and could be apprenticed. Here are two examples.

1699 Jan. 11 to Edward Gibbons for the exposed child	15 0
Dec. 12 Paid Edward Gibbons for clothes for the exposed girl	1 0 0
1700 July 24 To Edward Gibbons daughter for Midsummer Qr. for the exposed girl and the odd time to her putting to apprentice and 1/- given her	1 1 0
Sept. 11 for clothes, linnens etc for Eliz Abby the exposed girl, and the Indentures and bond for putting her apprentice	2 5 0

And so the poor little mite was sent out into the world with a fictitious surname and a real shilling, the first money, probably, that she had ever possessed.

	July 18. To Mr. Lea for a horse and charges of his journey to Conway to search after the mother of the exposed boy	10 0
	Nov. 21 For 19 weeks nursing the exposed boy from July the 6th when it was found to Nov. 23, besides 2/- received of Mr. Dean towards it	1 16 0
1701	A note of Wilson the Joiner for a coffin for the exposed boy and work in the choir	5 4

S. THOMAS' COURT.

A peep at life in Abbey Square during the last decade of this century is afforded us by the records of St. Thomas' Court,⁵¹ the private court of the Dean and Chapter which they inherited from the Abbot.

October 25, 1693. "Wee the Grand Jury etc. doe present.....Mrs. Swift, widdow, for not keeping the Abbey Court well in repaire, and do amerce her in the sum of ten shillings.....

We present the Dean and Chapter for not repairing the Court-house; and also for a dunghill before the Register office and we doe amerce them in 13s. and 4d.

We present Mrs. Swift, widdow, for suffering part of her house in the Abbey Court, which she holds from the Dean and Chapter, to go to ruine and decay; and we order her to repaire the same before the next Court Leet to be held for this manor, upon paine of six pound.....

April 1695. We present the Deane and Chapter for not keeping the stocks in repaire, and amerce them in one shilling.....

We order that Mrs. Elizabeth Swift do keep the common well in the Abbey Court duly enclosed, to prevent the danger of persons being drowned or hurt in said well, upon paine of twenty shillings."

The well which Mrs. Swift, the brewer's wife of that day, neglected to enclose, is now built over by No. 7 Abbey Square. The Courthouse in Randle Holme's plan is next to the Abbey Gateway.

⁵¹*Sheaf*, O.S. 1, 28.

