

THE BIOGRAPHY OF SIR WILLIAM HARPER ALDERMAN OF LONDON, FOUNDER OF THE BEDFORD SCHOOL CHARITIES.

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Among the good results arising from an increased attention paid to the history and antiquities of the City of London, promoted and fostered by the efforts of this Society, not the least interesting is the illustration which the Biography of the most eminent Citizens of former ages has received from the investigations of several persevering inquirers. I need only allude to some of the most prominent works—such as Burgon's *Life of Sir Thomas Gresham*, Brewer's *Life and Times of John Carpenter*, the worthy Town Clerk whose memory is now honoured as the Founder of the City of London School, and the memoirs of his more eminent contemporary Sir Thomas Whittington, written by the Rev. Samuel Lysons, M.A. under the title of *The Model Merchant of the Middle Ages*, (8vo. 1860). More recently Mr. Orridge has produced his interesting compilation regarding Philip Malpas and Sir Thomas Cooke, two aldermen highly distinguished in the political transactions of the fifteenth century, and ancestors of the great families of Bacon and Cecill, in the pages of the *Society's Transactions*,* whilst our Secretary Mr. Milbourn has commemorated the history of Sir John Milbourne, the founder of the Milbourne almshouses,† and more briefly, in our last year's Part, all the more eminent members of the Vintners' Company.‡

Such indeed are the riches of Civic Biography that some surprise must be entertained that they have not more frequently afforded subjects for investigation, and that no general or comprehensive work of this character has hitherto been composed. Large and valuable collections for the purpose were amassed by the late Mr. Gregory of the Lord Mayor's Court Office, but were unfortunately dispersed after his death, though I am happy to remark that portions of them have found their way into the Library of the Corporation at Guildhall.

* Vol. III. pp. 285—307.

† Vol. III. pp. 138 *et seqq.*

‡ Vol. III. pp. 448—470.

A lady already distinguished by her biographical works, Mrs. Matthew Hall, the author of *The Queens before the Conquest* (two vols. 1854), has, I understand, for many years been engaged in preparing materials for lives of the Lord Mayors, and I am sure that you will all unite with me in expressing a hope that she will bring her design to a successful completion. I will only add these two further general remarks, that there is a curious anecdotal volume, dated in the year 1800, which presents, under the title of *City Biography*, sketches of some sixty of the more conspicuous citizens of the preceding half-century;* and that Mr. Orridge's† volume, entitled *The Citizens of London and their Rulers, from 1060 to 1867*, 8vo. 1867, contains a very useful summary of the biography of the Lord Mayors, accompanied by pedigrees of the more distinguished of their descendants among the nobility and aristocracy.

When the Dissolution of the Monasteries had put a stop to the dedication of superfluous wealth to religious uses, and it was no longer bequeathed to the four orders of friars or to other devotional purposes, it became very much the practice to direct its stream to the promotion of education. This object was earnestly pursued during the sixteenth century, and for some time after many great benefactors devoted their liberality in this manner. It was necessarily done under the sanction of the Crown, which continually assumes the credit really due to private munificence: for we find throughout the country that the grammar-schools which were founded by individuals, or by local corporations, yet received designation as the Free Grammar Schools of King Edward the Sixth, of Queen Elizabeth, or of James the First, as the case might be. This rule was even followed in the great instance of the Charter-house in London, which was at first attributed to the foundation of King James, though posterity now rightly honours the name of Thomas Sutton.

Among the Civic Benefactors none deserve commemoration more than the Founders of Schools, of one of whom, Sir Wolstan Dixie, the founder of the School at Market Bosworth in Leicestershire, a copious

* See note on "Woodcocks' Lives," &c. in p. 93.

† Since this was written the Society has to lament the loss of their zealous colleague: who, no longer ago than the meeting at Mercers' Hall in 1869, read an animated paper on some of the more eminent members of that Company. Benjamin Brogden Orridge, esq. F.G.S. was a member of the Court of Common Council for the Ward of Cheap, and took a very active and useful part in the affairs of the City Library at Guildhall. He died on the 17th July, 1870, in his 57th year.

memoir was presented to this Society by Mr. Brewer, and has been published in our Transactions.*

I believe that Mr. Brewer has directed his attention to the biography of other great citizens the founders of Grammar Schools, and I hope that more of his valuable memoirs will be hereafter given to the public. I have hastily compiled a list of Schools founded by Citizens of London, which I have no doubt would be lengthened if revised by Mr. Brewer.†

Lord Mayor.

1498	Sir John Percival	M ^r Taylor	Macclesfield
1509	Stephen Gennings	M ^r Taylor	Wolverhampton
1515	Sir George Monoux	Draper	Walthamstow
1545	Sir William Laxton	Grocer	Oundle
1548	Sir John Gresham	Mercer	Holt, in Norfolk
1550	Sir Rowland Hill	Mercer	Drayton, in Shropshire
1551	Sir Andrew Judd	Skinner	Tonbridge
1554	Sir Thomas White	M ^r Taylor	St. John's Coll. Oxford, subsidiary to the London sch. of M. T. Co. and to those of Reading and Bristol
1562	Sir William Harper	M ^r Taylor	Bedford
1567	Lawrence Sheriff	Grocer	Rugby
1593	Sir Wolstan Dixie	Skinner	Market Bosworth

We all know Knight's *Life of Dean Colet*, the Founder of St. Paul's School, published early in the last century; but I do not recollect any other separate work of this nature, except a small quarto pamphlet, which contains an essay on the life of *Sir Andrew Judd* Founder of the School at Tonbridge, which was written by George Maberley Smith, scholar of the school, and recited by him before the governors, being the Master and officers of the Skinners' Company, at their annual visitation held in 1849. This, of course, from the position of the author, is rather a scholastic essay than the embodiment of any amount of historical research.

My attention has now been directed to this subject in connection with the task I have undertaken in conjunction with Mr. J. Jackson Howard, LL.D., to edit for this Society the *Visitation of London*, made in the year 1568. You will recollect from the portions of that work which have been already issued, that it has been the plan of the Editors to place opposite each Pedigree a Note giving some additional particulars of the family therein set forth, with references to other pub-

* Vol. II. pp. 25-36.

† Since this was in type Mr. Brewer also has finally quitted his sphere of usefulness.

lications in which further genealogical or biographical details may be found. In pursuing this plan with regard to the family of Harper, my attention has been directed to a small volume printed in 1856, which bears this title :

THE BEDFORD SCHOOLS AND CHARITIES OF SIR WILLIAM HARPER. History of this celebrated Endowment; the Act of Parliament and scheme of Rules for its management; and a Memoir of Sir William Harper. Compiled by JAMES WYATT, and dedicated (by special permission) to the Trustees of the Charity. Bedford, 1856. 8vo.

The Memoir of Sir William Harper, contained in this book, I find to be so very injudicious a production, and at the same time so inaccurate, although it claims to have been published under the special patronage of the Trustees of the Bedford Charity, that I think it requires some public animadversion; and, as it concerns one of the munificent old Citizens of London, whose name is now among the best known in the long list of Benefactors, I imagine that its examination and correction cannot be made more properly than in the presence of the London and Middlesex Society.

The writer has managed to fill eleven pages; but, as he himself admits, with very "scanty biographical notices or historical memoranda." The rest is all bombast, in the original and proper sense of that word, that is to say, mere stuffing—imaginary statements, made upon presumption, and expressed in an inflated and impertinent tone; as, for example,—

"The chief records that exist of him show him to have been intelligent, persevering, and philanthropic. The very circumstance of the citizens of London choosing him as their Lord Mayor, at a time when the brightest stars of Great Britain were in the ascendant, proves him to have been not only a person of high moral sentiments, but also a man of wealth and intellect, one in whom his guild and the city could place the highest confidence and reliance. We find that he was born in the town of Bedford, and that his parents were in very humble circumstances, and that his education was most insignificant."

Now, for all this, the only foundation is that Stowe states that Sir William was "son to William Harper of the town of Bedford." For Mr. Wyatt's assertions that his parents were in very humble circumstances, and that his education was most insignificant, the authority is simply *nil*.

The other known facts of Sir William Harper's life,—that he was a Merchant Taylor by company, served Sheriff and Lord Mayor, married, and died, are eked out by some particulars regarding the Company of

Merchant Taylors, and by several passages from Machyn's Diary, in which the name of Harper occurs.

One of these is introduced by Mr. Wyatt after this fashion :—

“ We have said that the only records of Master Harper show him to have been philanthropic; there is one, however, which shows that he participated in the bigotry of the day. The point least to be admired in his character was his religious profession, and an amount of inconsistency is displayed which would hardly be expected from so otherwise sound and good a man. That he was a professed Papist there can be no doubt, for we find entries in the Diary referred to of his attending mass. For instance—The 29 day of August (1555) was the day of the Decollation of Saint John Baptist, the Merchant Taylors kept mass at St. John's beyond Smithfield, and my Lord of St. John's did offer at mass, and Sir Harry Hubblethorne, Sir Thomas White, and Master Harper, aldermen, and all the clothing; and after the four wardens of the yeomanry, and all the company of the Taylors, a penny a piece: and the quire hung with cloth of Arras. And after mass to the Taylors' Hall to dinner.”

Now, this was in the reign of Queen Mary, when all had to conform to her religion. There is therefore nothing surprising in finding master Harper, being an alderman, giving his attendance, as in duty bound, upon the principal religious feast of the Merchant Taylors' company. The patron saint of that company was St. John the Baptist, after whose name Sir Thomas White, the contemporary and associate of Sir William Harper, named the college of his foundation at Oxford, which is still flourishing in all honour and prosperity. It was customary for the Merchant Taylors to observe this feast by going in procession to the priory church of the Knights Hospitallers at Clerkenwell, which was dedicated to St. John, and Machyn describes the solemnity again in 1557, the last year in which it was celebrated.

“ The 29th day of August was the Merchant Taylors' feast on the Decollation of St. John Baptist, and my Lord Mayor (Sir Thomas Offley) and Sir Thomas White, and Master Harper, sheriff, and Master Row, and all the clothing, and the four wardens of the yeomanry, and the company, heard mass at Saint John's in Smithfield, and offered every man a penny. And from thence to the hall to dinner, two and two together.”

But Mr. Wyatt's greatest misapprehension of all is exhibited in the following passage :—

“ It was during his Shrievalty that the circumstance occurred which certainly does appear like a blot on his fair fame. There were thirteen Protestant martyrs, eleven men and two women, to be burnt at Stratford le Bow, and Sir William Harper attended to see the sentence carried out. So far it might be

argued that his official position compelled his attendance: doubtless that was so, but we can find no good defence for his tampering with the poor creatures before the execution. The event is thus described by John Foxe :—When these thirteen were condemned, and the day appointed they should suffer, which was the 27th day of June 1556, they were carried from Newgate in London the said day to Stratford le Bow (which was the place appointed for their martyrdom) and there divided into two parts, in two several chambers. Afterward the Sheriff who then attended upon them came to the one part and told them that the other had recanted, and their lives therefore should be saved, willing and exhorting them to do the like, and not to cast away themselves; unto whom they answered that their faith was not built upon man, but on Christ crucified. Then the Sheriff, perceiving no good to be done with them, went to the other part and said (like a liar) the like to them, that they whom he had been with before had recanted and should therefore not suffer death, counselling them to do the like, and not wilfully to kill themselves, but to play the wise men, &c. Unto whom they answered as their brethren had done before, that their faith was not builded on man, but on Christ and his sure word, &c. Now when he saw it bootied not to persuade, (for they were, God be praised, surely grounded on the Rock Jesus Christ,) he then led them to the place where they should suffer: and being all there together, most earnestly they prayed unto God, and joyfully went to the stake, and kissed it, and embraced it very heartily. And so they were all burned in one fire. It is quite certain (adds Mr. Wyatt by way of comment,) that Sir William Harper was at that time as rigid a Papist as Bloody Queen Mary, his Royal mistress, could desire; but in the subsequent reign he conformed to the Protestant church, and was zealous for the faith.”

An examination of dates shows at once that Mr. Wyatt's censure is founded on misconception. Foxe tells us that the holocaust at Stratford le Bow was perpetrated on the 27th of June 1556. It is true that Harper was then Sheriff elect, having been “chosen” (or nominated by the Lord Mayor) as Sheriff for the King and Queen (Philip and Mary) at the Grocers' feast held on the 15th of that same month.* But the Sheriffs, as every Londoner knows, do not enter into office until after Michaelmas day, on the morrow of which they are sworn at Westminster. It was therefore clearly one of the two sheriffs of the previous year † whose conduct at the burning of the thirteen martyrs is described by Foxe, and not Sir William Harper. Besides, it may be questioned whether the Sheriff's proceedings, whoever he may have been, were not dictated rather by motives of commiseration, than of religious zeal. His object was to save the lives of the condemned, even

* Machyn, p. 108.

† They were Thomas Leigh, mercer, afterwards Lord Mayor in the first year of Elizabeth's reign, and John Machell, clothworker.

if by cajoling and deceiving them. Foxe's own side-note is, "A practice of policy in the Sheriff of London," *not one of cruelty or bigotry.*

But, leaving Mr. Wyatt, let us trace for ourselves William Harper's career. His name occurs in 1537 in the list of the Merchant Taylors' Company in the Public Record office. In 1553 he was elected by the Court of Aldermen to be the Second Alderman of the Bridge Ward Without, and in 1556 he was elected Alderman of Dowgate Ward. In the same year he was nominated for Sheriff, by the Lord Mayor of that year, Sir William Garrard. The event is thus commemorated by Machyn: "The xv. of June was the Grocers' feast; and there dined the Lord Mayor and fourteen Aldermen, and my Lord Chief Justice (Sir William Portman), master Cholmley the Recorder, and many worshipful men; and my Lady Mayoress, and many ladies and Aldermen's wives and gentlewomen. There was Master of the company master White, Grocer and Alderman, and master Grafton and master Greenway wardens. And master Harper, alderman, Merchant Taylor, was chosen Sheriff for the King."

The second Sheriff was elected at a court of hustings in Guildhall on Midsummer Day, but one had previously been "nominated (as Stowe says, *tit. Temporall Government,*) by the Lord Maior according to his prerogative." This was done at the Grocers' feast June 10, 1555 (Machyn, p. 30), as again in 1556. The Mercers called their annual feast a Supper, as appears from Machyn, pp. 205, 288; and on that occasion, on the night of the 25th July, 1559, "there supped my Lord Mayor (Sir Thomas Leigh, Mercer), and my Lord Treasurer and divers of the Council, and divers Aldermen; and there was chosen the Sheriff for the Queen,—master Lodge, alderman and Grocer, for the year to come." This ceremony of nominating one of the Sheriffs, by the Lord Mayor "drinking to" some wealthy and capable citizen, is circumstantially described in 1583 by the recorder Fleetwood in a letter to Lord Burghley, printed in Ellis's *Original Letters*, I. ii. 290, and Nichols's *Progresses, &c. of Queen Elizabeth*, edit. 1823, ii. 410. It was performed that year by the Lord Mayor Sir Edward Osborne at Haberdashers' Hall, with the great standing cup, the gift of Sir William Garrard, being full of hypocras; and an announcement was immediately carried by the Swordbearer to Alderman Masham the nominee, then dining at the Grocers' feast. Of an earlier date is the anecdote related by Stowe and Grafton, that Sir Henry Colet, when Mayor in 1487, drank to his carver, then waiting

upon him, who thereupon took his seat as Sheriff, and was afterwards Sir John Percival, Mayor in 1499.

As Machyn contributes so largely to the incidents of Sir William Harper's career, I will not omit what is related by that minute eye-witness of his inauguration as Lord Mayor. He was elected to the chief magistracy in 1561, on the 29th September, being Michaelmas day. On the morrow, my Lord Mayor and the Aldermen and the new Sheriffs (Alexander Avenon and Humphrey Baskerville, both aldermen), took their barges at the Three Cranes in the Vintry,* whence they proceeded to Westminster, and so into the Court of Exchequer, where they took their oaths; and Sir Rowland Hill † was armed with a chopping knife, when, one holding a white rod, he with the knife cut the rod asunder before all the people; ‡ and afterwards they returned to London to their places to dinner—my Lord Mayor, and all the Aldermen, and many worshipful men.

On the 29th of September the new Mayor took his barge towards Westminster, with all the Aldermen in their scarlet, and all the crafts of London in their liveries, their barges displaying the banners and arms of every occupation. There was a goodly foist § made with streamers, targets, and banners, and great shooting of guns and blowing of trumpets. And at xij. of the clock my Lord Mayor and the Aldermen, on their return, landed at Paul's Wharf, and thence proceeded to Paul's churchyard; where there met him a Pageant gorgeously made, having children as the *dramatis personæ*, with divers instruments playing and singing. Again, after dinner, || he went to St. Paul's with trumpets, and with many ¶ men in blue gowns and caps and hose, and blue satin sleeves, carrying targets and shields of arms.

* See London and Middlesex Archæological Transactions, ii. 404, 440.

† Sir Rowland Hill was perhaps the senior alderman then present. He died on the 28th of the month following: see Machyn, p. 271.

‡ This well-known ceremony of tenure has been preserved to the present day.

§ A barge fitted up.

|| Machyn does not here say "after dinner," but such was always the order of proceeding, as on the following Lord Mayor's day the company went "to Guildhall to dinner (where there dined many of the Council and all the Judges and many noble men and women), and *after dinner* the Mayor and all the Aldermen yede to Paul's, with all the goodly musick."

¶ The number is left blank in the MS. The next year there were *sixty* poor men in blue gowns and red caps. I believe they usually corresponded to the years of the Lord Mayor's age.

We will further pursue from the same source some of the other ceremonials and occurrences of Sir William Harper's mayoralty:—

On the 1st of November (being All Saints day) went to St. Paul's the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, in the afternoon, and all the crafts of London in their liveries, with four-score men all provided with torches; and my Lord Mayor tarried until night, and so went home with all torches lighted, for my Lord Mayor tarried the sermon, which was made by the Bishop of London (Grindal).

On the 5th of the same month the Lord Mayor was chief mourner at the funeral of the late alderman Sir Rowland Hill, solemnised in the church of St. Stephen's Walbrook.

On the Twelfth day of Christmas the Lord Mayor and Aldermen again went to Paul's with all the crafts in their liveries, and the bachelors; and afterwards there came into Cheapside a Lord of Misrule* from Whitechapel, with a great company carrying guns and halberts, and trumpets blowing, his men "well heseen" in their attire. He went through Newgate out of the city, and in again at Ludgate, and so about Paul's, on to Cheapside, and so home by way of Aldgate.

Subsequently, in the same month, the young Duke of Norfolk, conducted by the master and wardens and all the clothing of the Fishmongers, was brought to the Guildhall and there made free of that company, as his grandfather the last Duke had been before him. He afterwards dined with the Lord Mayor, the Fishmongers' company dining at the King's Head in Fish Street.

On the 12th of May, 1562, there was a great fray, upon which my Lord Mayor and two Sheriffs were sent for, and they had much ado to pacify the people. Divers were hurt, and certain were carried prisoners to Newgate and the counters. The rest of the passage † is obscure, but mention is made of "the best archers in London," and "the master of the common hunt." However, the next night my Lord Mayor commanded that certain constables should keep all Smithfield, standing in array in harness, to see who would be so bold as to come and make any business; and my Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs in their own persons did walk about Smithfield to see whether any would make any assault, as they had done the night before.

* On the 27th of December preceding a Lord of Misrule—whether the same it is not clear—had come riding through London, in complete gilt harness, with a hundred great horse and gentlemen riding gorgeously with chains of gold; and had joined the Christmas festivities in the Temple. See Machyn, p. 274.

† Machyn, p. 282.

On the 1st of July was the Feast of the Merchant Taylors, the Lord Mayor's own Company; of which Machyn (himself also a Merchant Taylor,) gives a full account. He names among the more distinguished guests, my Lord Mayor, the Earl of Sussex, the Earl of Kildare, Sir ——— Stanley, (Aldermen) Sir Thomas White, Sir Thomas Offley and master Ro(bert Offley?), Sir William Hewett, Sir Martin Bowes, master Cowper, master Allen, master Gilbert, master Chamberlain, master Champion, master Avenon, master Malory, and master Baskerville (these all Aldermen); and the Master and four Wardens and the clerks and the beadle of the Skinners; Garter and Clarenceux kings of arms were also there, the latter (William Hervey) being a leading member of the Skinners; and many worshipful men, and many ladies and gentlewomen. And they had against the dinner more than fourscore bucks and four stags.* On this occasion the Lord Mayor drank to master William Allen, whereby he was "elected Sheriff for the Queen for the year ensuing."

* Machyn never fails to describe the annual feast of the Merchant-taylors, during the eight years to which his Diary relates, except in 1558, when there is an *hiatus* of some months. He usually notices the large amount of venison which was provided, viz.

	Bucks.	Stags.
In 1555	58	2
1556	50	4
1557	60 (two of which the master, George Eyton, gave to his parish, "to make merry.")	
1559	30, "besides all other meats."	
1560	(great cheer).	
1561	(the numbers left blank.)	
1562	fourscore and more bucks and 4 stags.	

Harper was probably present at most, if not all, of these feasts, though Machyn does not happen to name him at any of them; but his biographer Mr. Wyatt has somehow caught hold of the feast of 1559 (only), upon which he makes these remarks:—"It appears that master Harper, like most Bedford men, was fully alive to the importance of a good dinner, for we find that under his direction at one of the feasts there were 'xxx bukes be-syd al odur mettes.' Thirty bucks beside all other meats formed a tolerably substantial proof of our townsman's ability to cater for his guild." As usual, Mr. Wyatt is totally wrong, both in his facts and inferences. There is nothing to intimate that Harper was caterer for his Company in 1559, and the above figures show that the number of bucks was unusually small in that year. But, moreover, the venison was in great measure, if not entirely, sent to the City companies as presents, by the great men who came as visitors, or who bestowed this portion of the feast by annual grant. Thus in Kempe's *Lossley Manuscripts*, p. 160, will be found a warrant from the Mar-

On the 20th of July the Lord Mayor and all the Aldermen graced a wedding with their presence, and it is the most fully described of any of the civic weddings which Machyn has introduced into his Diary. It was on the occasion of the marriage of Elizabeth the younger daughter of John Nicholls, gentleman, "comptroller of the works at London bridge, and all other lands and revenues of the same, and in charge for provision of corn to the city of London:"* she was wedded to Edmund Cooke, of Lesnes abbey in Kent, gentleman. After this "goodly wedding" they went home to the Bridge-house to dinner: for there was as great a dinner as ever was seen on such an occasion, no manner of meats or drinks wanting that money could procure; and all manner of music; and afterwards a goodly masque at midnight. Again, on the day following, there was still "great cheer at the Bridge-house;"† and after supper came three masques;‡ the first in cloth of gold; the next of friars; and the third of nuns; and afterwards the friars and nuns danced together. This occurred, it will be remembered, only three years after real friars and nuns had been finally dismissed in this country after the death of Queen Mary.§ Master Thomas Becon, the celebrated Protestant preacher, had made a sermon at the wedding;

quess of Winchester to the keeper of the great park of Nonesuch, transferring to the wardens of the Grocers, for their feast in 1556, the fee buck to which he was entitled by virtue of his office of High Treasurer of England. In 1561 the Grocers had thirty bucks and some stags at their feast, and in the same year the Skinners had eight bucks and three stags. (Machyn, p. 260.)

* Pedigree of Nicholls in the Visitation of London, 1568. A full account of this family of Nicholl or Nicholls, among whom were Dr. William Nicholls, Dean of Chester (ob. 1657), and Colonel Richard Nicolls, Groom of the Bed-chamber to James Duke of York (ob. 1672), is printed in *The Topographer and Genealogist*, 1858, iii. 533—544.

† The Bridge-house, which occupied a large plot of ground on the south side of the Thames a little below London Bridge, is described by Stowe as a store-house for stone, timber, or whatsoever pertained to the building or repairing of the bridge. Connected with it there were divers granaries for laying up of corn for the service of the City, and ten ovens for baking bread for the relief of poor citizens when need should require. These were built pursuant to the will of Sir Joseph Thurstan, Sheriff in 1517, who left 200*l.* for the purpose. There was also adjoining "a fair brewhouse for serving the City with beer."

‡ A marriage masque is represented in the curious Elizabethan painting of the life of Sir Henry Unton, and engraved in Strutt, *Manners and Customs*, vol. iii. pl. xi.

§ See Machyn, p. 204, as to the friars of Greenwich and Smithfield, the nuns of Syon, and monks of Westminster.

but whether he returned to witness the revelry of the following night our chronicler doth not say.

On the 1st of August the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, and all the crafts of London, repaired to Guildhall to elect the second Sheriff, when they made choice of Alderman Chamberlain, ironmonger.

The 18th of September was the day of the Visitation of the Conduit-heads, and the accompanying hunting of the hare and fox, upon which I have to make some remarks presently.

Such are the transactions of Harper's mayoralty in which Machyn relates him to have been personally engaged; and it will be allowed that they are curiously illustrative of the various incidents of London life in the early days of good Queen Bess.

With respect to the last of them Mr. Wyatt's remarks are as sapient as before :—

"It is very remarkable (he thinks) that of the few records of this great man, there should be one in existence detailing the particulars of his going *hunting!* Although a man of undoubted benevolence and humanity, he had no morbid and ascetic antipathies to the national amusements; and we cannot say that we have less respect for him on that account. The passage describing this event occurs in Stowe, b. i. p. 25, and is also noticed in Knight's London. Stowe is speaking of the ancient conduits of London, which he says were regularly visited in former times, and particularly on the 18th of September 1562, the Lord Mayor (Harper), the aldermen, and many worshipful persons, and divers of the masters and wardens of the twelve companies, rid to the conduit heads for to see them after the old custom. Afore dinner they hunted the hare, and killed her; and thence to dinner at the head of the conduit.* There was a good number entertained with good cheer by the chamberlain. And after dinner they went to hunting the fox. There was a great cry for a mile, and at length the hounds killed him at the end of St. Giles's, with great hallooing at his death, and blowing of horns. And so rode through London, my Lord Mayor Harper with all his company, home to his own place in Lombard Street."

* The conduit-heads appear to have been at Paddington, and formed as early as the reign of Henry III. when Gilbert Sanford granted to the citizens liberty to convey water from Tybourn by pipes of lead to the City. Stowe describes the course in which the water was conveyed: from Paddington to James head was 510 rods, from James head on the hill to the Mewsgate 102 rods, from the Mewsgate to the Cross in Cheap, where a cistern of lead cased in stone called the Great Conduit was formed, was 484 rods. See the curious chapter of Stowe's *Survey*, on Rivers, Brooks, Bourns, Pools, Wells, and Conduits of fresh water, serving the City. On St. Andrew's day (November 30) 1560, there was no water in any conduit in London but in Lothbury; on the 14th of the following month two men were whipped who had cut the leaden pipes, and occasioned the mischief. Machyn, pp. 245, 246.

Now, to any one who has read of the ancient state of the Mayor of London, there will be nothing strange in his going hunting. He always kept four Esquires of his Household, and one of them was the Common Hunt, attendant upon whom were two men also maintained in the Mayor's house.* From the earliest times hunting had not been unknown to Londoners. FitzStephen in the reign of Henry II. says, "Many of the citizens delight themselves in hawks and hounds, for they have liberty of hunting in Middlesex, Hertfordshire, all Chilton, and in Kent to the water of Cray."

I do not find that Stowe has noticed the custom of visiting the Conduit-heads, and therefore the account given by Machyn is the more valuable. Mr. Wyatt quotes it as from Stowe, but he means Strype's edition of Stowe, and Strype took it from Machyn's Diary.

When Mr. Wyatt comes to speak of Sir William Harper's matrimonial alliances he is not more to be relied upon. The name of his wife "dame Alice" appears in the deed of gift (dated in the 8th Eliz.) which transferred to the corporation of the town of Bedford the thirteen acres and one rood of meadow in the parish of St. Andrew Holborn, which are the site of the rich estates now possessed by the charity. So Mr. Wyatt tells his readers that "the worthy Knight and the Dame Alice visited Bedford, and made a grant for the School." But this visit to Bedford is of his own imagining, and so in all probability is the statement that Dame Alice was buried in the tomb in St. Paul's church, Bedford. If that had been the case there can be little doubt that her name would have been there commemorated. It is far more probable that she died, and was buried, in London.†

The thirteen acres and one rood had been purchased of Dr. Cæsar Adelmare, and Mr. Wyatt says "It has been stated (he does not tell where) that Dame Alice was a daughter of Dr. Adelmare, and that he gave her and her husband the land out of natural love and affection." Afterwards the biographer adds, "it is quite certain Dame Alice was not his daughter. * * * It is probable however that she was related to him, for the name of Alice was a favourite one in the family."

Now, the pedigree of Harper in the London Visitation favours no such idea. It furnishes these particulars of Dame Alice,—that she was a widow when married to Harper; that her maiden name was

* Stowe, *Survey*,—List of Officers belonging to the Lord Mayor's howse.

† See Postscript in p. 93.

Tomlinson, her first husband Richard Harison of Shropshire, by whom she had an only daughter, Beatrice, married to Prestwood; and that she died on the 10th Oct. 1569, having had (so far as appears) no issue by Sir William. Very shortly before her death she is thus mentioned in the will of Thomas Thomlynson *alias* Towreson, Citizen and Merchant Taylor, living in the parish of St. Mildred Poultry:

“It'm, I bequethe to Sir William Harper, Alderman of London, and to my lady his wyffe, my cosen, to either of them a blacke gowne.”*

Mr. Wyatt next volunteers the statement that, after remaining a widower a short time, Sir William Harper “married a native of Bedford, of whom we have obtained very little information, except that she was of a very different disposition to her husband. She was neither just nor generous.” The whole of this is gratuitous assumption on the part of Mr. Wyatt, even from his very first assertion that the lady was “a native of Bedford.” Asserting this, Mr. Wyatt yet cannot describe her parentage. Nor does it appear in the Visitation, although her arms are there given, viz. Per chevron gules and argent, three trefoils counterchanged, on a chief of the second three martlets of the first. But yet there is no surname. I have lately discovered, in Sir William Harper's will, the name of “Richard Lethers my wife's brother,” an obscure and unknown name certainly, but I presume that it may have been that of the second Lady Harper before her marriage.



Sir William Harper died on the 27th Feb. 1573-4, in the 77th year of his age: leaving, as it appears, in the tenure of his widow, the great house in Lombard street in which he had kept his mayoralty, and where former mayors, Sir John Percival and Sir Thomas Offley, who were both Merchant Taylors, had kept their mayoralties † in the years 1499 and 1557. It is related by Herbert, in his *History of the Twelve Great Livery Companies*, that Sir William Harper's lease of this mansion was near expiring at the time of his death. “It shows (remarks Herbert,) the control exercised by government (meaning the

* Recorded in the Hustings Court Guildhall Roll 256, 7 dorso, 11 Eliz.

† Herbert, *City Companies*, i. 168. The house stood in the parish of St. Mary Woolnoth, as appears by Sir William Harper's will, and in 1605 was occupied by a Mr. Butler, mentioned by Wm. Smith, Rouge Dragon, when noticing Harper in his List of Mayors and Sheriffs. Was it the same which subsequently became the mansion of Sir Robert Vyner, and was converted into the General Post Office?

Queen's ministers and councillors) over the (London) companies at this time, that persons wanting favours of them scarcely ever applied in such cases direct to the Companies; but, if they had court influence, instructed some great person to interfere for them. Lady Harper procured Lord Burghley to write, in order to obtain low terms for her on this occasion. The company offered her a new lease for 21 years at an additional rent of only 10*l.*, but the lady wanted it at less. Lord Burghley wrote again, and was again humbly replied to by the company. They determined, after further negotiation, not to sacrifice their premises, finding their tenant would come to no terms, and attempted to eject her. Matters were coming to extremity, but were prevented by the lord mayor (Hawes), who, having learned from court that such a contempt of the Lord Treasurer's authority might be attended with serious consequences, wrote himself, to advise the wardens to compromise. They gave Lady Harper 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* to quit possession, and afterwards let the house to Richard Offley, son of Sir Thomas, for the 21 years, at 13*l.* 6*s.* a-year more rent, and 410*l.* fine."

This is Herbert's account of the transaction, and we may remark that the result of this matter of house-agency, when properly understood, merely proves these two points: first that the Offley interest in the Merchant Taylors' Company was triumphant over that of the widowed Lady Harper; and, secondly, that the Company were successful in defending their proper rights against Court influence. But the Bedford biographer regards it as "a proof that the lady was very mercenary in her desire and very unfair in her demands," appending this absurd exclamation, "How unlike all the acts of her late husband and of the Dame Alice, the first wife!" the only act of Dame Alice of which he has any proof being that she married Sir William, and that, being his wife, (for some legal reason, no doubt,) her name was placed with his in his deed of gift to the town of Bedford.

Mr. Wyatt's fictions do not end even after relating Sir William's death and abusing the widow. He adds this account of an imaginary picture:—

The only portrait known to have been taken of Sir William Harper was that painted for the Merchant Taylors' Company, and hung up in their hall. Unfortunately, this was lost at the great fire of London. Granger, in his Biographical History, gives a portrait from a rare print in the possession of Mr. St. Aubyn, which is said to have been taken from the picture burnt in the ~~old~~ hall of Merchant Taylors. The portrait given in this work is taken from Granger's, for the use of the trustees, who have kindly lent the plate to embellish this publication. Some years back, a committee was appointed to ascertain if a genuine portrait existed, with power to purchase it under a certain sum. The

inquiries have not yet been attended with success, although it is believed that there is one in existence which belonged to the Harper family.

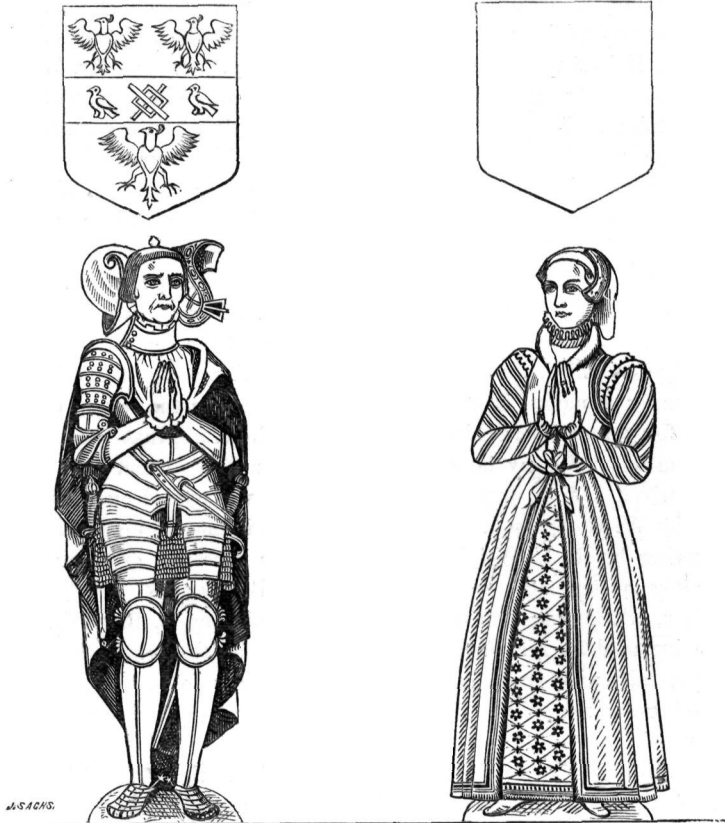
There are, unfortunately, too many facilities for the discovery (or manufacture) of historical portraits; and if an unscrupulous purveyor were encouraged by a credulous committee, no doubt a picture of Sir William Harper would very soon be forthcoming. But, as Mr. Wyatt wrote some years ago, let us hope that the committee he speaks of was not credulous. They may wisely have rested satisfied with such representations of their Founder as had been provided by their predecessors. These we shall presently describe, but let us first dispose of Mr. Wyatt's statements, which are altogether unfounded. There is really no record of any portrait having been painted for the Merchant Taylors' Company, nor hung up in their hall, nor burnt in the great fire of London. The portrait noticed by Granger, engraved by W. Richardson, was copied from one of a series of wood blocks figuring all the Lord Mayors of the reign of Elizabeth (to the year 1601); but many of these heads, as Granger remarks, served over and over again in the course of the book, for several Lord Mayors. How far, therefore, that named Sir William Harper may be genuine is questionable. From this book (upon which I shall append a note) the head was copied on a copperplate by W. Richardson. Richardson's print is the original of a line-engraving by R. L. Wright, prefixed to *An Account of the Public Charities of the town of Bedford*, by R. B. HANKIN, of Bedford, solicitor, 1828, 8vo.; and the last is again copied by R. Baker for the plate included in Mr. Wyatt's book. This is all that can be said on the portrait, with truth, and all that ought ever to be said, unless, beyond every reasonable hope, a genuine picture should really be discovered.

Sir William Harper died, as already stated, on the 27th February, 1573-4, probably at his house in Lombard Street, where he had made his last will (hereafter inserted at length) on the 27th October preceding. In compliance with his testamentary injunctions his body was taken for burial to the parish church of St. Paul in Bedford. I have not found any account of the funeral, but many persons whom he desired to attend are named in the will.

In the north aisle of the chancel of the church a table tomb was erected,* upon the slab of which were placed figures in brass plates

* It now stands in the chancel opposite the south door, to which spot it was removed about the year 1828. Hankin's *Bedford School*, p. 36.

(two feet in height) of Sir William Harper and his second wife, of which engravings are now given.* His figure is remarkable from representing him in armour, as a knight, his alderman's gown being worn

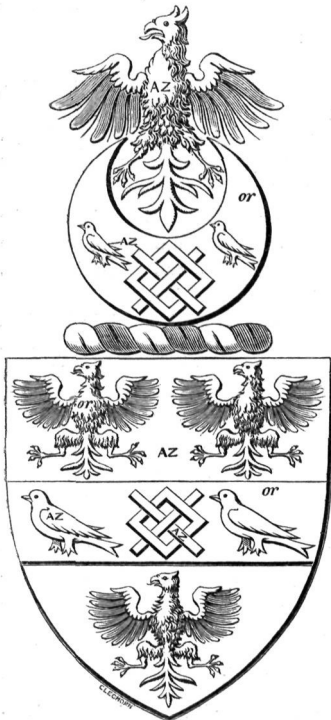


Obijt 27^o die Februarij 1573. A^o aetatis suae 77^o.

Here vnder lieth buried the body of Sir William Harper, Knight, Alderman and late Lord Mayor of the Cittie of London, with the dame Margarett his last wife, w^o Sir William was borne in this towne of Bedford, and here fouded & gave lande for the mayntenance of a Grämer schoole,

* I beg to acknowledge the kindness of Major Heales, F.S.A., a member of the Council of the London and Middlesex Society, in furnishing rubbings of these figures for the use of the engraver. They have been previously published only in the rare work, Fisher's *Bedfordshire Collections*, 4to, 1812.

over the armour. It will be remembered that the effigy of Alderman Sir John Crosby (ob. 1475) in the church of Great St. Helen's is similarly attired, and probably several other examples in effigies* may be found, but I believe this is unique as a sepulchral brass.



Above the figures were two shields of arms, one over Sir William's head, of Harper only, the other over the lady's head, lost many years since (as appears from T. Fisher's etching) †

These arms, as authorised by the Heralds in the *London Visitation*, ‡ are, Azure, on a fess between three eagles displayed or a fret between two martlets of the first. Crest, upon a crescent or, charged with a fret between two martlets azure, an eagle displayed of the last.

Harper's arms and crest are composed of the same charges and tinctures as the arms of Lord Chancellor Audley, which were, Quarterly or and azure, per pale indented, two eagles or, over all a bend of the second quarter, on the bend a fret between two martlets of the first quarter. (I follow the blason of the original grant 18 March, 1538. See

Lord Braybrooke's *Audley End*, 4to. 1836, p. 23.) There must surely have been some origin for this similarity beyond mere accident. The *fret* came from the simple bearing of the ancient Audleys.

* As those of Sir Thomas Rowe, Lord Mayor 1567, and Sir Henry Rowe, Lord Mayor 1607 (both kneeling figures), formerly in Hackney church, engraved in Robinson's History of that parish.

† The original slab remains in the pavement of the same chapel: but a new slab having been provided for the tomb, the brasses were reset in it, with the remaining shield in the centre.

‡ Also for Harper of Camberwell in the *Visitation of Surrey*, 1623, but the connection of that family with the Alderman has not yet been ascertained.

Another monument was erected in 1768, in obedience to the Act of Parliament presently mentioned, at the east end of the same aisle. Who the sculptor was I have not learned, but he inserted portrait medallions of Sir William and Lady Harper, for which his only authority, if he cared for any, could be the sepulchral brasses. This monument bears the following inscription:—*

Sacred to the memory of Sir WILLIAM HARPUR, Knight, a native of this place, and in 1561 was Lord Mayor of London, and of Dame ALICE his wife,

Who, by their virtue and industry, and God's blessing upon both, acquired an ample fortune, which, joined with a beneficent mind, both disposed and enabled them to communicate their benevolence to mankind in general,

Their peculiar charity and munificence to this town in particular, where in the infancy of the Reformation they, by Royal Charter, erected a Protestant Free School, for the education of youth in Grammar, Learning, and Good Manners, and in the firm and genuine principles of the Reformed Religion.

This pious foundation they originally endowed with land situated in London, which, by many fine and stately buildings since erected on it, is now increased to a large estate, the revenues whereof afford an ample provision for the Master, Usher, and Boys; a large surplus also for other Charitable Exhibitions in this Town.

The Mayor and other gentlemen who are trustees for this estate, and dispensers of this Charity, and who 'tis hoped will ever continue to discharge this sacred trust agreeable to the spirited design of their munificent Benefactors, have in a grateful sense of their benefits caused this Monument to be erected, that the influence of their example may follow the respect done to their memory, and their good name, which the Wise Man compares to precious ointment, may for ever retain and communicate its fragraney after their bodies (here interred) have been long since in noisomness and corruption.

NON SIBI SED BONO PUBLICO.

One hesitates to whose authorship we may attribute this rambling and incoherent effusion, so characteristic in its expressions of the period at which it was written, and yet so badly put together, and so imaginative in its conception. It seems quite unworthy of the master of the grammar school, who was then the Rev. George Bridle, as it would be now of a junior scholar. Unlike the sculptor of the founder's

* At this period it had become the practice to spell the name *Harpur* instead of Harper, and that spelling is now maintained for Harpur Street, a small street on the Bedford estate. The family of Harpur-Crewe, advanced to a Baronetcy in 1626, and which took the additional name of Crewe in 1808, is of high antiquity in Warwickshire and Derbyshire, and quite unconnected with that of our worthy citizen.

statue (hereafter described), the writer disdained to take the unassuming contemporary memorial as the model either of his diction or his statements. Disregarding the fact there recorded, that Sir William Harpur lay buried with

Dame Margaret his last wife.

and the circumstance that his former lady was not even represented on the tomb, as so often was the case in other monuments of the time, it displaces dame Margaret to make room for dame Alice, to whom imaginary virtues are attributed, resting solely, as I have already shown, upon the occurrence of her name in the deed of gift. This eighteenth-century epitaph was evidently the poetic fountain from whence the biographer, whose work we have been examining, first drew his inspiration. The "thirteen acres and one rood," so fortunately seated on the immediate outskirts of the great metropolis as to have become the site of "many fine and stately buildings," have the retrospective effect of endowing the worthy alderman and his wife, not only with "an ample fortune," but with virtue and industry, a beneficent mind, and "peculiar charity and munificence."

A more sober view of the matter leads to these conclusions—that Sir William Harper invested his money fortunately, and that he performed a good deed in devoting his estate to the purposes it has so well fulfilled. In so doing he was merely following the course which was generally taken at the same period by other public benefactors. There was no "peculiar munificence" in this act. The value of his gift owes its extraordinary increase to causes that have arisen since his death, and which could never have entered into his imagination.

With regard to Sir William Harper's foundation, I will only state the purport of its two most important records, referring for further particulars to Carlisle's *Endowed Grammar Schools*, 1818, J. D. Parry's *Illustrations of Bedfordshire*, 1827, and the other works which are devoted to its history.

By indenture dated 22 April, 8th Eliz. 1566, made between the mayor and commonalty of the town of Bedford of the one part, and Sir William Harper and dame Alice, his then wife, of the other part; after reciting letters patent of King Edward VI., dated 15th August, 1552, for founding a free grammar-school at the town of Bedford, in a message there called *the Free School House*, which the said Sir William Harper of late built; the said Sir William and dame Alice

granted to the mayor and commonalty the said school-house with the premises adjoining, and also thirteen acres and one rood of meadow lying in divers parcels in or near the parish of St. Andrew Holborn, in the county of Middlesex.

By an Act of Parliament of 4 George III., reciting that under building leases several new streets were formed on the trust estate, viz., Bedford Street, Bedford Row, Bedford Court, Prince's Street, Theobalds Road, North Street, East Street, Lamb's Conduit Street, Queen's Street, Eagle Street, Boswell Court, and several other streets and courts thereto adjoining in the parishes of St. Andrew Holborn and St. George Queen Square, which were likely to produce a clear rental of £3,000 per annum,* the Corporation of Bedford were empowered as trustees to manage the estate and to carry into execution the rules for the management of the school, and also to erect in the chancel of St. Paul's church in Bedford a monument of marble to the memory of Sir William Harper, and likewise a statue in front of the grammar-school.

These monuments were both accordingly erected; that in the church has been already noticed. The statue was placed in a niche over the doorway of the school-house, erected in 1767.† It is remarkable as being in the costume of the last century, and not of the founder's own day; exhibiting a full cravat, a long coat with lapells, knee-breeches, and shoes with buckles! The head is bare. The aldermanic gown is worn, but thrown back. Altogether, it would seem as if the sculptor set himself the task to translate the sepulchral effigy of the Elizabethan alderman into one of the Georgian era. On a tablet below the statue is this inscription:—

Ecce Viator ! Corporea Effigies
GULIELMI HARPUR, Equitis Aurati
Scholæ istius
Quam cernis amplam et ornatam
Munificentissimi Fundatoris.
Si Animæ picturam spectare velis,
in Charta Beneficiorum invenias
delineatam.

* At the period of the Fourteenth Report of the Charity Commissioners, 1861-3, the total yearly income of the trustees had risen to £13,211 5s. 3d.

† There is a view of this school-house in J. D. Parry's *Illustrations of Bedfordshire*, 4to. 1827. That author falls into the mistake that the burning of the steeple of St. Paul's Cathedral (June 4, 1561) was during Harper's mayoralty.

THE WILL OF SIR WILLIAM HARPER.

In the name of God amen. The seaventh and twentie daie of October in the fyftenthe yeare of the reigne of o^r soveraigne Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Quene of Englonde France and Irelonde defendour of the faithe, &c. I Sir WILLIAM HARPER knighte and alderman of the Citie of London being of perfect mynd and memory, thanckes be geven to almightie God, doe ordeigne and make this my presente laste will and testament in manner and forme followinge: First I bequeathe my soull to almightie God my Creator and to Jesus Christe my saviour and Redeemer, and my body to be decentlie buried by the discrecion of myne Executrix here after named, within the parrishe churche of St. Paull in the towne of Bedford. Item I geve to the worshipfull Company of the Marchant tailors for a remembrance of the good will I bare unto them vj*l*. xiijs. iiij*l*. in ready mony to make a Cuppe wthall to remayne to th^e use of the said Company. Item I geve to my welbelovid frindes William Albany, Thomas Riggess, Thomas Muschampe, Humfrey Stephens, Edwarde Thorne, and Richard Lethers my wife's brother, if they will take the paynes to be presente at my buriall at Bedford aforesaid, to every of them a blacke gowne. Item I geve and bequeethe unto my welbelovid frendes Mrs. Muschampe wife of the said Thomas Muschampe and to mistres Ballinger wief to Mr. Gabriell Ballinger to either of them a blacke gowne if they will take the paines to be at my said buriall. Item I geve to Paull Warner, William Malton bedle of the warde of Dowgate, Richard Richardson and to Thomas Addams if they wilbe presente at my buriall at Bedford aforesaide, to either of them a blacke cote. Item I geve to Tenne poore men which shalbe present at my buriall Tenne blacke gownes of vs. iiij*l*. the yard. Item I geve to my servantes Phillippe Cotton and David Bellett yf they happen to be dwellinge wth me at the tyme of my decease to either of them a blacke gowne and a cote and to every other man servante that shall happen to be dwellinge wth me at the tyme of my decease a blacke cote. Item I geve to every maide servaunte that shall happen to be dwellinge wth me at the tyme of my decease a blacke gowne. Item I geve to be distributed by the discrecion of my Executrix the somme of ffortie shillings. Item I geve to the poor people of St Mary Wolnothes parishe in London where I now dwell the somme of Twentie shillings. Item I geve to Elizabeth Peltिंगale widowe the somme of xiijs. iiij*l*. The Residue of all my goodes and cattels, Leases for yeares, plaite, monie, juells and household stuffe, my buriall expenses, lafull debtes and legacies being paid, I geve and bequeathe to my welbelovid wief dame Margarete Harper whom I ordeigne and make hole and full Executrix of this my last will and testament. And my dear frendes William Albany, Thomas Riggess, Thomas Muschamp, and Edward Thorne Overseers of this my last will and testament. In witnes whereof I have to this my last will and testament putt my hand and seall the daye and yeare above written. By me William Harper. Sealed subscribed and delivered in the presens of these witnesses, Thomas Ramsay alderman, William Abraham, Cutberte Buckle, William Softley no^r.

Proved at London 6 April 1574 on the oath of Edward Orwell notary public,

proctor for dame Margaret Harper relict and Executrix. (Reg. Prerog. Court, 14 Martyn.)

The present seal of the Bedford charity, of which an engraving is appended, was probably made in 1764, shortly after the passing of the Act of Parliament before mentioned. It bears the arms of Sir William Harper, impaling those of his first wife (*Thomlinson*.)



SEAL OF THE BEDFORD CHARITY.

Portraits of Elizabethan Lord Mayors.

These prints are thus described in Granger's *Biographical History of England*:—

"A set of the Lord Mayors of London, from the first year of Queen Elizabeth to 1601; when the prints, which are cut in wood, were published. Some of them serve for several Mayors. Under the portraits are mentioned their charitable gifts, and places of burial, with a few other particulars. Among them are seven Clothworkers, six Drapers, one Fishmonger, two Goldsmiths, six Grocers, five Haberdashers, four Ironmongers, five Mercers, two Salters, two Skinners, two Merchant Taylors, and one Vintner."

The set therefore is complete; but only one copy is known to be preserved. It was in the valuable collection of Joseph Gulston, esq.; at the sale of which in 1786 it was purchased by Sir John St. Aubyn, Bart. F.R.S. who permitted the heads of Sir William Harper and others to be copied by Richardson the printseller. After Sir John's death the set of portraits was again sold at Phillips's on the 7th April 1840, for 29l. 8s., and acquired by the Rt. Hon. Thomas Grenville. It did not accompany Mr. Grenville's library of books to the British Museum; but, as prints, remained in the possession of his niece, and I am informed that it does so still.

I find it remarked by one who wrote in 1825, that "neither Sir William Musgrave,

Horace Walpole, antiquary Storey, Mr. Towneley, Mr. Bindley, or Sir Mark Masterman Sykes, had a single impression of any one of these portraits." (MS. note in a copy of *Granger* in my possession); and I have made a recent inquiry in the Print Room of the British Museum without discovering any. But I find that as many as six were copied (on copper) by W. Richardson, by favour of Sir John St. Aubyn, although only two of them (Lee and Harper) are mentioned in the 1824 edition of *Granger*. The following is a list of Richardson's copies:—

Lord Mayor	Published
1558 Sir Thomas Lee	179..
1561 Sir William Harper . . .	1793
1592 Sir William Roe	1796
1597 Sir Richard Salstonstall .	1794
1599 Sir Nicholas Mosley . . .	179..
1600 Sir William Ryder	1797

Woodcocks' Lives of Illustrious Lords Mayors and Aldermen of London. With a Brief History of the City of London. Also a Chronological List of the Lords Mayors and Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, from the earliest period to the present time. (No date.) This imperfect work forms a small 8vo. volume. The title-page is in chromolithography, as is the frontispiece, a portrait of Henrie Fitz Alwine, Kt. first Lord Mayor of London, and so also thirteen plates of Arms of Companies; besides which there are three (second-hand) steel engravings of the new Royal Exchange. The History of London occupies 79 pages, the lives of Lord Mayors and Aldermen 296, and the lists of Mayors (to 1846) and Sheriffs (to 1844), followed by an account of the Queen's Visit to the City in 1837, fill up to the 322d page; prefatory pages viii. No name of author appears, but the plates are chromolithographed chiefly by W. and R. Woodcock, Warwick Lane. The lives of Lord Mayors are only nineteen in number, including the well-known names of Walworth, Whittington, Philpot, Rockesley (misspelt Rockesby), Spencer, among those of the olden time, and Beckford, Gyll, Wilkes, and Waithman, among those of modern days; of Aldermen Sir John Crosby, Fabyan the chronicler, Sir William FitzWilliam, and a few more; whilst the well-known biographies of Sir Thomas Gresham and of his two relatives Sir Richard and Sir John Gresham occupy nearly one-third of the whole. Altogether the work is one of little value, and scarce any originality: but, as copies will probably be scarce, I have thought it worth while to add this note.

Postscript.—My expectation (p. 62) has been entirely confirmed on examining the parish register of St. Mary's Woolnoth, where I have found the following entry:—

"The xvth day of October 1569 was buried Dame Alice Harper, late wife of Sr William Harper knight and Alderman of London, and lyeth in a vault made of brick, the mouthe beinge before his pewe dore in the North Isle of this Church."