

*Papers read at a Meeting of the London
and Middlesex Archæological Society, on
Wednesday, the 27th June, 1883.*

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society was held, by the kind permission of the Prime Warden and Court of the Goldsmiths' Company, in their hall, Foster Lane, on Wednesday afternoon. There was a good muster of members and friends of the society, amongst those present being Mr. Alderman Staples, F.S.A., who occupied the chair, Major G. Lambert, F.S.A., Mr. A. White, F.S.A., Mr. T. Milbourn (Honorary Secretary Surrey Archæological Society), Mr. J. E. Price, F.S.A., Mr. Deputy Fowler, Mr. Pitman, C.C., Mr. Rome, C.C., Major Joseph, Mr. Mayhew, Mr. Sergeant, Mr. Rowsell, Mr. Walter Prideaux, &c.

ST. VEDAST, FOSTER LANE.

Previous to the meeting at Goldsmiths' Hall, the members visited the Church of St. Vedast *alias* Foster, Foster Lane, where every facility was given for an inspection of the church and plate by Mr. Churchwarden Sergeant. The communion-table was simple and unadorned, and there was nothing to remind one of the contentions over ritualistic symbols which, as far as St. Vedast is concerned, are now happily at rest. The church is one of Sir Christopher Wren's and, (as Mr. Milbourn observed,) it is not perhaps one, of his most successful efforts. The matting was taken up, that the visitors might be able to see the inscriptions on the stone slabs, after which a paper was read by Mr. MILBOURN, the Honorary Secretary of the Surrey Archæological Society, as follows:—

ST. VEDAST *alias* FOSTER.

Stow mentions this church merely as St. Fauster's, and states that the lane, in which it stands received its designation therefrom, but it does not appear that there was at any time a saint in the Roman calendar who bore the name of Foster. Newcourt, in his *Repertorium*, states the church to have been dedicated to St. Vedast, who was Bishop of Arras, in Artois, concerning whom it is stated that Clodovens or Clovis, the first Christian king of France, about the year A.D. 484, going to visit St. Remigius, Bishop of Rheims, took along with him this Vedast, a very holy and devout man, who, whilst on their journey, restored the sight of a blind man. The king being come to St. Remigius, was baptized by him, and, returning home, left Vedast with St. Remigius, with whom he remained and grew famous for his great virtue and piety, and at last, was so well esteemed by the Bishop, that he ordained him Bishop of Arras. St. Vedast is said to have died in the reign of Clotarius, King of France, A.D. 566. The date of the foundation of the church is unknown.

The living is a rectory, and appears first to have been vested in the prior and convent of Christ Church, Canterbury, but afterwards transferred to the Archbishop of that See. After the great fire in A.D. 1666, the parish church of St. Michael-le-Querne having been destroyed, that parish was annexed to the parish of St. Vedast, and this was appointed the church of both parishes, and at a recent date, the parishes of St. Matthew, Friday Street, and St. Peter-le-Cheap have also been annexed, under the Bishop of London's Union of Benefices Act.

The first recorded rector was Walter de London, who was presented to the rectory July 16th, A.D. 1328, by the Prior and Convent of Christ Church, Canterbury, they being the patrons.

In A.D. 1396, 20th, Richard II., dissension occurred between the masters of the trade of saddlers and the workmen of the same trade, because the workmen were accustomed to array themselves in a new like suit and meet once a year at Stratford, on the feast of the Assumption

(August 15th), and from thence came to this church of St. Vedast to hear mass on the same day in honour of the Virgin.

On July 12th, the same year, the masters attended before the Mayor and Aldermen, when it was ruled that the said workmen should in future be under the ruling of the masters, and also that in future they should have no fraternity meetings or other unlawful thing, under a penalty.

William Tryster gave to the parson and churchwardens for the maintenance of a chaplain to sing for his soul for ever, as much land as, with 8*l.* 10*s.* paid for the rent of divers tenements by Simon Atwell, to the increase or augmentation of the present living, would amount to, 18*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* per annum. Sr. Albert Copeman was the chantry priest, and is described as being 39 years of age, and a man of mean quality and learning—his salary being 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Geffery Gates gave to maintain a priest to sing for his soul and the soul of his wife for ever, as much land as would produce 8*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum, but one Christopher Tury considering that this was not sufficient to support the charge of the chantry, gave in augmentation divers tenements of the annual value of 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* John Merkhame was the chantry priest at the time of the dissolution of colleges and chantries, *temp.* Edward VI.

John Russell gave to the finding of a yearly anniversary or obit for the soul of Andrew Secheford for ever, and a lamp to burn in the body of the church, one tenement of the yearly value of 60*s.*

Dame Elizabeth Thurston gave 100*l.* in money for the maintenance of Jesus and Our Lady's mass, and certain psalms—this produced 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum.

Mr. Cote, in the time of King Henry VIII., gave 160*l.* to purchase therewith lands to find a priest to sing for him and others for ever, but the certificate of Edward VI. states that no lands had been bought, but that one, Mr. Hartop, found a priest with the interest of the money. This certificate further states that there were 460 houseling people in the parish, and that Sir Richard Ridge was parson, his

stipend amounting to 33*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, and that he served the cure with his curate and the assistance of the chantry priests.

From Cardinal Pole's Pension Book, being a record of the pensions granted at the time of the Dissolution to the chantry priests, we find that John Markeham received a pension of 100*s.*, Albert Chapman, 100*s.*, and William Doughty, 100*s.* Henry Cote, citizen and goldsmith, Sheriff of London A.D. 1490, and who died A.D. 1509, erected a chapel here, dedicated to St. Dunstan, patron saint of the Guild of Goldsmiths. This Henry Cote stands first on the list of citizens who were elected to wait upon the Chief Butler of England at the coronation of King Richard III. at Westminster. John Thurston, Sheriff of London A.D. 1516, appears to have given 100*l.* towards the building of this chapel by his testament. In the the time of Edward VI. the church possessed five bells in the steeple and a "sance" bell. Malcolm states that the celebrated antiquary John Leland was buried here.

To Stow, and his continuator Strype, we are indebted for some particulars of the early Church, and the only record extant, of the principal monuments which existed in the church, destroyed by the great fire in 1666. Thus it is recorded, that in A.D. 1614, the early church was repaired, the gravestones new squared and laid, the pews new made, a window in the north aisle enlarged, the rest of the windows new glazed, and the whole throughout trimmed and beautified. It is further stated that a plot of land, in breadth about twenty yards and above, and twenty feet in length, was added to the church at the chancel end, to lengthen the church, which ground was given to the parish, out of a fair court, then belonging unto the Saddlers' Company. In addition to Henry Cote and John Thurston before mentioned, the following persons are recorded to have been here buried, viz. : William Trist, cellarer to the King, A.D. 1425; Alderman John Browne Sergeant Painter, deceased A.D. 1532, who is described as having been a great benefactor; Richard Galder, A.D. 1544; John Standelfe and John Standelfe, citizens and goldsmiths, were also buried here. John Standelfe, sen., gave by his will a tenement in Fleet Street after the death of

John, his son, to the rector of, as it is called, St. John Vedast, and to the keepers or wardens of the Goldsmiths for ever, to find a perpetual lamp in the chancel of the church of St. Vedast, to hold an anniversary for his soul, and of Matilda his wife, and to distribute 21s. 8*d.* to thirteen poor of the Goldsmiths' trade, to pray for his soul. Machyn, in his diary, records the burial here on April 9th, A.D. 1552, of M. Morgayne, goldsmith; also on September 19th, A.D. 1559, of Oswald See, Goldsmith, "With a dosen of skochyons of armes, and prestes and clarkes syngyng." He further records, that on March 1st, 1560-1, was buried one Master Bumsted, gentleman, "vj skochyons of armes." Machyn in these entries styles the church, St. Foster's.

In the early church were the following monuments: a fair stone in the chancel to the memory Master Thomas Baby, chaplain to the Goldsmiths, who died November 3rd, 1452; a fair stone by the communion table to John Lonyson, esquire, master of the Mint of England, and citizen and goldsmith of London, who died May 21st, A.D. 1583, in the 59th year of his age; a monument in the wall south of the choir to the memory of Christopher Wase, citizen and goldsmith, who died September 22nd, A.D. 1605, aged 66 years; a small monument in the wall with a gilt plate to Robert Marsh, citizen and grocer, of London, and Florence his first wife; he died October 7th, 1602, aged 65 years and three days; a fair plated stone under the communion table to Mistress Martha Prescott, the wife of Alderman Alexander Prescott, who died November 26th, A.D. 1616; here also on a fair plated gravestone in the middle aisle was an inscription in verse to the memory of Agnes, the wife of William Milborne, Chamberlain of the City of London, who died July 12th, A.D. 1505.

There were also monuments to the memory of Laurence Hawes, citizen and fishmonger, and Ursula, his wife. He died April 10th, A.D. 1588; she died November 24th, A.D. 1614. Of William Fuller, D.D., some time vicar of St. Giles, Cripplegate, and Dean of Durham, who deceased A.D. 1659. And of Robert South, and Elizabeth, his wife, who was afterwards the wife of Richard Gurney, Sheriff A.D.

1633, afterwards knighted and created a baronet, and was Lord Mayor of London A.D. 1641. The said Robert South died A.D. 1624; Elizabeth died in A.D. 1633. Lewis, son of Robert South, was also buried here in 1659, and Anne, his daughter, in A.D. 1649. These last two monuments are the only memorials which escaped destruction in the great fire of A.D. 1666, and will be found in the present edifice.

The Church suffered greatly in the Great Fire, but not so much as to prevent it being repaired; it was, therefore, restored, and the steeple or tower stood until A.D. 1694, but in that year, being found very much weakened by the late fire, it was taken down and entirely rebuilt as you see it at present, under the direction of Sir Christopher Wren, the church being finished in A.D. 1697, and the pewing and ornaments finished A.D. 1698.

Thomas Rotherham, chaplain to King Edward IV., Bishop of Rochester, afterwards Bishop of Lincoln, Lord Chancellor, afterwards translated to the Archbishopric of York, was at one time rector of this parish, having been presented to the rectory September 26th, 1465, which he resigned in 1467. This venerable prelate died of plague at Cawood, May 29th, A.D. 1500, aged 76 years.

Godwin mentions the discovery of a curious stone coffin in 1836 opposite the house, No. 17, Cheapside; this coffin he describes as consisting of a block of freestone, about 7 ft. long and 15 in. thick, hollowed out to receive the body, with a deeper sinking for the head and shoulders; it tapered gradually from the bottom to the top and both ends were square. When found it contained a skeleton, and was covered with a flat stone, which was destroyed during the excavation, and the coffin itself much broken. This coffin was placed in a vault in the small burial-ground on the north side of the church. In the churchyard there is a school-house, which was built and endowed by Mr. J. Johnson, citizen and goldsmith of London, an inhabitant of the parish, A.D. 1694, but this is now dis-used.

Mr. LAMBERT gave a brief description of the plate, which was quite plain, and which dated back in one case to the year 1608.

On the motion of Mr. MILBOURN, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the rector, the Rev. Sparrow Simpson, D.D., who was away in Scotland, and to Mr. Churchwarden Sergeant, and his brother churchwardens for their kindness and courtesy in permitting this visit of the society.

ST. ANNE AND ST. AGNES,

WITHIN ALDERSGATE.

The party then proceeded to the Church of St. Anne and St. Agnes, where the following paper was read by Mr. T. Milbourn :—

ST. ANNE AND ST. AGNES WITHIN ALDERSGATE.

This church was formerly called St. Anne in the Willows, but there is no evidence as to the source from whence it derived this name. Stow states that some people say it was so named from willows growing thereabouts, but that in his time there was no void space for willows to grow other than the churchyard, in which were some high ash trees and certain other fair trees. Newcourt in his *Repertorium*, mentions a tradition in the parish that the church was built by two sisters named Anne and Agnes, but there does not appear any foundation for this story.

The living is a rectory subject to the archdeacon. Newcourt states that the advowson of this church was of old in the gift of the Dean of the Collegiate Church of St. Martin-le-Grand, and was probably given or at least confirmed to him and his successors by William the Conqueror, as was that of St. Alphage, and, like that, continued in the gift of the said Dean and his successors till King Henry VII. annexed their collegiate church with all its appurtenances to the Abbey of Westminster, by virtue whereof, the abbot and convent of that Abbey, and after them the Abbot of Westminster, continued patrons of the church, until Queen Mary, by her letters patent, dated March 3rd, in the first year of her reign, gave the advowson (among others) to the then Bishop of London and his successors for ever, and

in whom it hath continued ever since. After the Great Fire in A.D. 1666, the church of the parish of St. John Zachary having been destroyed, that parish was annexed to the parish of St. Anne and St. Agnes, and this church was appointed the parish church of both parishes. The rectory of St. John Zachary being in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, the presentation is made alternately.

At some time in the reign of King Edward III. a perpetual chantry was founded here, for the souls of Thomas Juvenall and Alice his wife. To this chantry a chaplain was instituted in the thirty-third year of the same king's reign, and the chantry was then stated to have been lately founded.

Sir William Gregory, citizen and skinner, Sheriff A.D. 1436, and Mayor of London, A.D. 1451, founded an obit in this church, to support which he gave all his lands and tenements in the parish, of the annual value of 19*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, and was here buried. John Werke gave for the founding an obit, and divers other charges, all his lands and tenements, of the yearly value of 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Edward Redknapp gave unto Lewis Sutton and Agnes his wife, to keep an obit for his soul for ever, all those his lands lying in Greenwich Lane, of the yearly value of 20*s.*

When the certificate of colleges and chantries was made in the 1 Edward VI., Mr. John Hopton, Doctor of Divinity, was parson of the parish, the yearly value of his living being 8*l.*, and he found one priest to serve the cure. The certificate also states that there were 300 houseling people in the parish.

In 1 Edward VI., the church possessed five great bells and one small bell, in the steeple. To Stow we are indebted for particulars relating to this church prior to the Great Fire in A.D. 1666. From his valuable record we glean that the church was greatly damaged, if not entirely destroyed, by fire in the year A.D. 1548, but was shortly after reinstated. In the year 1624 it was again repaired, and "richly and very worthily beautified." In the years 1629 and 1630 the steeple, which appears to have become decayed and defective, was repaired "with great care, and much cost"; a new

turret was erected for the "sance" bell; the walls of the two churchyards (the greater and the less) were raised, two fair-arched doors made in the middle of them, with a very fair-arched entrance to the church on the south side of it; and the alley or passage from St. Anne's Lane into Noble Street raised, levelled, and, with freestone, very handsomely paved.

In this edifice were monuments to the memory of Thomas Bekhemton, Clerk of the Pipe, who was buried in A.D. 1429. Ralph Caldwell, gentleman, of Gray's Inn, buried in 1527. John, Lord Sheffield and John Herenden, esquire, citizen and mercer, buried in 1572. A handsome small monument existed in the north wall of the choir to the memory of Edward Herenden, esquire, citizen and mercer of London, and Millescent, his wife, A.D. 1572, a smaller monument than the other to the memory of Edmund Herenden, gentleman, son and heir of the before mentioned Edward Herenden, esquire, who died April 10th, 1590. A fair-plated stone under the communion-table, to the memory of Stephen Brakynbury, gentleman usher to King Henry VIII., King Edward VI., Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth, and Joan, his wife, which Stephen died February 2nd, A.D. 1563. On another stone by the communion-table, a Latin inscription to Master John Pemberton, who died September 12th, A.D. 1499. And in the chancel an inscription to Francis Spenser, eldest son of Richard Spenser, esquire, who died June 20th, A.D. 1629.

In the year 1666 the whole building was destroyed in the Great Fire, and in 1680 the present church erected on the site under the direction of Sir Christopher Wren. The south entrance, which was originally executed in red brick (as indeed was the remainder of the church), was afterwards restored in stone, and the walls of the church have since been covered with cement. The original cost of the church was 2,448*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*

The first rector on record is John Chimerby, who was presented July 5th, A.D. 1322. Alanus Percy, who was presented to the rectory May 6th, A.D. 1515, was the third son of Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland. He was

admitted to the church of St. Mary-at-Hill, October 25th, A.D. 1521, which he enjoyed almost forty years. Richard Edwards was rector of this church during the Great Fire in 1666, having been presented to the rectory September 5th 1662.

GOLDSMITHS' HALL.

PAPER BY MAJOR GEORGE LAMBERT, F.S.A.

The members afterwards assembled in Goldsmiths' Hall, Mr. Alderman STAPLES, in the absence of the Prime Warden, presiding.

Warden Major G. LAMBERT read the following paper on the



HISTORY OF THE GOLDSMITHS' COMPANY.

From the very earliest of time we read of gold. The sacred historian, so early as in Genesis ii. mentions the fact that the river which watered the garden of Eden had four heads, and the first was called Pison, that is it, that compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is much gold (Genesis ii. 11.) And the gold of that land is good. Now as no date can possibly be given for the time of Adam, gold must have been known to the ancients long before any