

## A FORGOTTEN CHAPTER IN LOCAL HISTORY; ST. ANDREW'S, HOLBORN.

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THE sources of topographical history are many and varied and the searcher into the past of a particular locality may find interesting information concerning it in the most unlikely quarters. One source, which I think is generally very much neglected, is the law reports—the record of decided cases in the courts—which will well repay the enquirer for the time and trouble taken in wading through page after page of what is to most people dull and unintelligible matter. He may even come across a forgotten or omitted chapter in local history, such as the subject of these notes, which is culled principally from Carrington and Payne's Reports, one of those "goodly octavoës," as Dickens describes them, "with a red label behind and that underdone pie-crust-cover which is technically known as law calf."

The case which is somewhat quaintly entitled "*Cook, Esq. v. Bankes*," turned upon the question whether or not the Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, were a part of the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn. This, it must be explained, was in 1826 when the extra-parochiality of the Inns of Court and Chancery was a very burning subject. I need hardly say it has been long since settled by various Acts of Parliament, but at that time, and indeed long after, there was a strong desire on the part of the parishes to break down the extra-parochial privileges. Besides litigation this took the form of attempting to beat the bounds within the sacred precincts, and there is for instance a tradition at Lincoln's Inn, which

may or may not be founded on fact, that on a certain Ascension Day in the last century a sanguinary encounter took place between the porters of the Inn and the beadle and charity boys of St. Giles, who attempted, after the manner of a mediaeval assault, to climb over the wall separating Lincoln's Inn Fields from the Inn and were repulsed with many broken heads.

Counsel for the Plaintiff sought to prove his case by old entries made by a churchwarden in a book consisting mainly of statements relative to repairs done to "Lincoln's Inn Chapel." *But on reading these I was surprised to find that the Chapel referred to was not the well-known chapel in Lincoln's Inn but a chapel styled "Lincoln's Inn Chapel" attached to St. Andrew's Church, Holborn. The following are some of the entries cited:—*

Memorandum, 25 Eliz., Item. The first three pews in Lincoln's Inn Chapel were made by Balian, carpenter, at the assignment of Mr. Heryn, then church-warden and cost the parish £5 which eight pews cost in all £10 16s. and better as appears in Mr. Roper's accounts.

Memorandum, 25 Eliz. That this year also in the month of July, 1583, all the glass windows in the church, especially the window in Lincoln's Inn Chapel, a little before now glazed with many fair coats, or escutcheons of arms emblazoned at the only charges of Mr. Steward that married Mrs. Compion, were pitifully shaken, rent and broken down as all the houses round about that part of the parish almost were, with a monstrous and huge blast of the gunpowder, that lately was set on fire and blew up all the gunpowder house, and other tenements in Fetter Lane, to the destruction of many houses and the spoiling of much goods thereabouts, yea and to the death of one or two men.

Several other entries were read relative to the chapel and its connexion with Lincoln's Inn and one is all the more surprised that it should have existed when the Inn had a commodious chapel within its walls. St. Andrew's church, Holborn was a very old church dating back to the fourteenth century. It escaped the Great Fire, but was so decayed that it had to be taken down except the tower which was after-

wards repaired. The present church was built by Sir Christopher Wren in 1676 and it is curious to note that it does not contain a "Lincoln's Inn Chapel." On the other side of the question, the present Lincoln's Inn Chapel was built by Inigo Jones in 1620-3, and it may be that the omission of the chapel in the new St. Andrew's Church was caused by this fact.

But this cannot entirely explain the additional chapel because Lincoln's Inn had had a previous chapel which was probably quite as old as the original St. Andrew's Church. The "Black Books" of Lincoln's Inn also are completely silent as to the chapel at St. Andrew, and I do not think it is referred to in any account of the Inn. It does not appear also that the chapel was used by members of the Inn.

It was certainly not erected or assigned to Lincoln's Inn as a compliment or at their request, and so one comes to the conclusion that its existence was due principally to a desire on the part of the parish to emphasize the contention that part of the Inn was in the parish of St. Andrew's and was therefore liable to Poor Rate. This, as I have noted above is a long since settled question, but it seems a plausible explanation of the mystery of the apparently unwanted and certainly unnecessary chapel.

In conclusion, although immaterial for the purpose of this article, it is interesting to note that in the case which contains this forgotten chapter of local history it was decided by Chief Justice Abbot that, like what the soldier said in another celebrated trial, the statements given were not evidence, and a verdict was given for the defendants.

The Rev. Edwin Bedford, M.A., Rector of St. Andrew's, Holborn, to whom Mr. Whitaker's paper was shown, has kindly drawn attention to the following which appear in the MS. of Bentley's *Some Monuments of Antiquities . . . 1584*. It perhaps may throw light upon the mystery:—

Item. The four Inns of Chancery [Court] were accustomed to pay unto the Parson of the Parish quarterly, 4/6 that is rd. a house for every Sunday in the year . . . besides their offerings on All Hallows Day, Christmas and Candlemas Day, which also they were accustomed to pay to the said parson as appears by the books of his reckonings. 3 Eliz.

Item. Anno 6 Hen. VII, I find that the 4 Principals of the 4 inns or houses of Chancery paid yearly a mark each to the Church for the maintenance of a Chantry priest that sang mass at the 4 Altars before the seats and pews of every house.

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