

SIR PAUL PINDAR
AND HIS
BISHOPSGATE MANSION.

BY

C. W. F. GOSS, F.S.A.

ON the west side of Bishopsgate, nearly opposite Widegate Street—anciently Berwardes Lane—stood the stately Elizabethan mansion, frequented by two Stuart Kings, occupied by a Venetian ambassador, and the “country” residence of the princely merchant, Sir Paul Pindar, in whose day Bishopsgate without the city wall was quite rural, for close by to the east stretched the open country from the Tower to the Hospital of St. Mary Spital, with its hedgerows and trees and pleasant fields “for the citizens to walk in and take the air.” On the west, Moorfields lay open towards Hoxton, while Finsbury Fields, with windmills dotted about, were famous for archery, which had been a great pastime of the citizens in the middle ages.

Even as late as the beginning of the seventeenth century, while Pindar's gardeners were engaged in planning his park and gardens, citizens were accustomed to repair to Finsbury Fields for archery exercise, as may be gathered from the following extract from *Clarke's Lives* :—

John Rainolds, being in London in 1602, “he desired to refresh himself by walking abroad into the open aer, and for that end went into Finsburie—fields where manie archers were shooting with their long bows, and it so fell out, that one of their arrows met him and stroke him upon the very brest.”

The earliest reference to the land upon which the mansion was subsequently built is that of the year 1246,

when Simon Fitz Mary granted land "towards that which was Radulphi Dunnyng's." It was a portion of what had been commonly known as Ralph Dunning's land, that Sir Paul Pindar, three and a half centuries later, acquired for his house, and close to it, if not actually the spot upon which he built his mansion, formerly stood "le Breghous" (Bridgehouse), belonging successively to John Wynton, Hugh de Wygornia, John de Thunderly, Alderman Sir John de Pulteney and to Thomas de Leuesham in 1337, in which year a complaint was lodged with the Alderman of Bishopsgate Ward, to the effect that after heavy rains, the waters from the fields of the Bishop of London, in Berwardes Lane, continually flooded the church of the Hospital of St. Mary Spital, owing to the arch under the "Bruggehous," then held by Thomas de Leuesham, skinner, being choked up.¹ Normally the flood waters from the fields had their course under the arch of the Bridgehouse, down to and along the edge of Finsbury Fields and Moorfields to join "Depediche."

The earliest documentary evidence of the site, the writer has been able to discover, is that of the year 1530, when John Hasyldwood de Maydewell, of Northampton, conveyed to Sir William Hollys, four messuages in the parish of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate. On the 10th February, 1543, Alderman Sir William Hollys was "seised of 3 messuages and 1 garden lying in the parish of St. Botolph . . . held of the King in free burgage by fealty only, and are worth per ann., clear, £11 . 3 . 4."²

Sir William Hollys—Sheriff in 1527–28, Mayor in 1539–40, and ancestor of the Dukes of Newcastle—died on the 20th October, 1542, and the property then passed to his son Thomas, who in the following year transferred it to Robert Wood:—

"This indenture made the 12th, day of March in the 34th. yere of the reigne of . . . Henry VIII . . . Between Thomas Hollys of

¹ Cal. Letter Books, G.

² Inq.p.m. 34 Henry VIII, No. 19.

Newstead in the Countie of Lincoln, esquier sonne and heire of Sir William Hollys Knight late of London, Alderman, deceased on that one partie and Robert Wood, citizen & brewer of London on that other ptie Witnesseth that the said Thomas Hollys for the some of Twenty and foure pounds paide to hym by the said Robert Wood . . . hath bargayned and solde . . . unto the said Robert Wood . . . All that his tenements gardens . . . lying and being in the prsshe of saint Botulphe without Bisshoppesgate . . . that ys to say betweene the mesuage or tent there called the sign of the Half Moone, belonging to the prsshe Church of saint Mychel upon Cornehull . . . wherein the said Robert Wood now dwelleth on the portion of north and weste and the mesuage or tenement there called the sign of the Crowne late belonging to the late Hospitall of our Lady without Bisshoppesgate . . . and late in the tenure of one John Newton pulter on the south ptie and the Kings highway leding from Bisshoppesgate unto Shordyche on the east. . . . TO HAVE and to hold all the aforsaid tenements and gardens . . . unto the said Robert Wood his heires and assignes forever . . .

For me Thomas Hollys.¹

The "Half Moon" mentioned in the Indenture was originally a brewhouse of considerable extent, 53 feet by 30 feet, and at one time belonging to Thomas Luffen, draper, who in the year 1482 gave it to the fraternity of "Our Lady of St. Anne," founded in Cornhill.

It would appear that Robert Wood, during his lifetime, disposed of the greater part of the property transferred to him by Thomas Hollys, probably with a view to purchasing the "Half Moon" brewhouse, of which he was already the tenant as a brewer. There is a record of Thomas Hunt, mercer, granting to Robert Wood, brewer, in 1554, a quitclaim of a message called the "Half Moone" in the parish of St. Botolph. At the date of Wood's death on the 25th June, 1574, the estate consisted of the "Half Moon" brewhouse and an adjoining tenement only, as will be appreciated by the following extract:—

"Robert Wood was seised in his demesne as of fee of a message, called the 'signe of the halfe moone with one other tenement thereto

¹ Bishopsgate Inst. deeds.

adjoining situate in the parish of St. Butulph without Busshopsgate London, now or late in the tenure of Joan Wood, widow . . . John Wood is his son and next heir and is aged 18 years and more.”¹

To whom the said Robert had transferred that property it is impossible to trace; but at his death, it is clear that his son John became the possessor of the “Half Moon” brewhouse, and one other adjoining tenement only. John, however, acquired 8 other tenements, for whereas in his will, the “Half Moon” and 9 tenements are expressly stated, there is no mention of the 3 messuages and gardens lying between Bishopsgate highway on the east, Finsbury Fields on the west, the “Half Moon” on the north, and the “Crown,” adjoining Bethlehem Hospital’s land, on the south, all of which his father had purchased from Thomas Hollys in 1543.

By the will of 1583, John left the Brewhouse and adjoining tenement, and also his newly acquired 8 tenements, to his mother Joan, who on the 13th December, 1597, three years before her death, which occurred on the 25th November, 1600, sold to Ralph Pindar the “Half Moon” brewhouse, with the yards, garden, etc., upon condition that the said Ralph and his heirs, should for ever, from and after her decease, pay to the parson and churchwardens of the parish of St. Botolph Bishopsgate, the sum of £20 for the use of the poor of the Parish. Here again it will be seen that there is no reference to the three messuages her husband purchased from Thomas Hollys.

About this time, it would appear that the three messuages and gardens, already referred to as having been disposed of by Robert Wood, came into the market. These Ralph probably purchased for his brother Paul, who at that time was engaged in Italy. Upon his return to England in 1599, Paul immediately set to work to adapt the two messuages on the south, to form part

¹ Inq.p.m. 17 Elizabeth, No. 94.

of his mansion, and to pull down that on the north, upon the site of which he erected the Bishopsgate Street front of his historic house, completing it in 1600.

That Pindar did unite with his mansion the two or more houses on the south of it, is clearly evidenced by the fact, that he caused to be cut away the northern part of the ground floor rooms of the house, adjoining his new structure, to make room for a doorway and a passage, giving access to the great reception room and to the principal part of the mansion at the rear. The passage, which was composed of black and white marble, was four feet three inches wide, and the handsomely carved pedimented portico was five feet six inches wide. This doorway, which existed until the early years of the nineteenth century, was, in design, well proportioned and beautiful, the door frame being enriched with carving.

After Pindar's death, the house facing Bishopsgate Street was divided again into three separate houses, subsequently numbered 169, 170 and 171, and the curious position of the doorway gave one the impression that No. 170 possessed two fine entrances, while the northern part of the mansion itself, as we remember it, numbered 169, had no doorway.

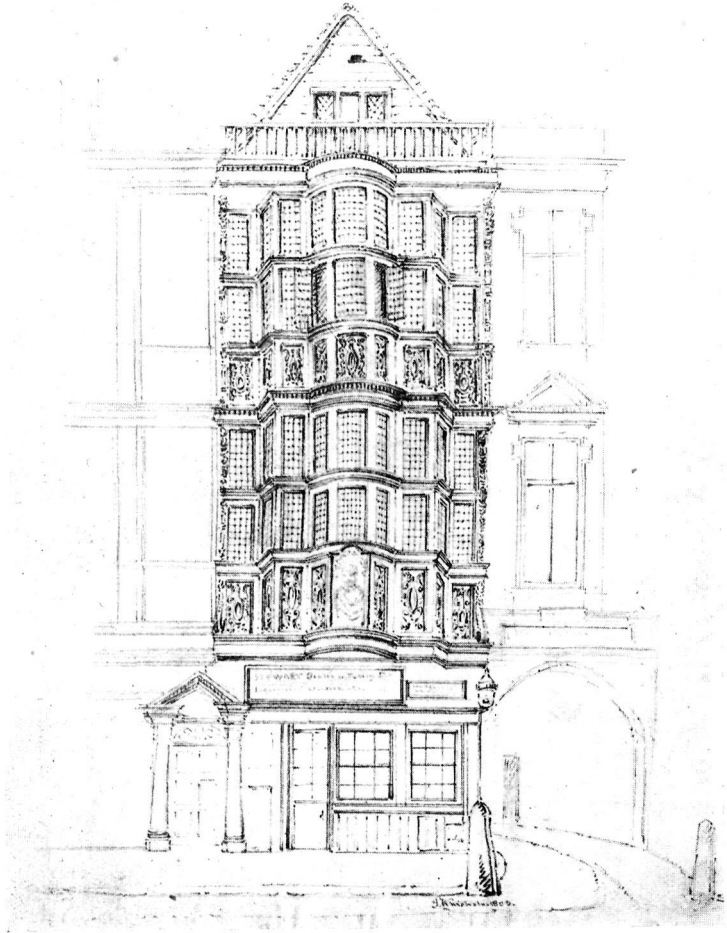
In her trade with continental nations, England was extremely prosperous during the reign of Elizabeth, and her merchants became so affluent, that they speedily began to erect for themselves much more pretentious houses, some of them exhibiting a Renaissance inspiration which had probably filtered through Germany, Flanders or Italy. The change in architectural style began simply with the introduction of ornamental details, but it quickly spread to the entire construction, and Pindar's house, it may be said, marked the point of transition.

The house was of four storeys above the ground floor rooms. Of its kind, it was one of the finest examples in London, and particularly remarkable for its ornate

façade and its quaintly shaped and extensive overhanging oriel windows on the first and second storeys, surmounted by an ornamented gable of two floors, the lower of the two having in the centre a door admitting to a wide gallery, protected by a carved balustrade.

The north-eastern front of this Bishopsgate Street house was, in fact, one immense bay window of extraordinary delicacy and beauty, the central part of which was semi-circular, with an angular projection on each side, the whole being richly adorned with mouldings, carved fruit, foliage and delightful little figures, and wonderful cartouches surrounded by scroll work, deeply carved in eighteen panels, resembling studded metal work—no cartouche being quite like any of the others. Nine of these panels appeared under the windows of the first storey, and nine under the windows of the second storey, the lower centre panel carrying the arms of the City of London. The projecting oriel, supported by deeply carved caryatid and grotesque brackets, served as a canopy for the ground floor, on the underpart of which projection were heavy and spiritedly carved grapes and foliage.

The principal part of the house, however, was in Half Moon Alley, immediately behind the portion facing Bishopsgate Street, just described, and though its spacious exterior had no special interest, its interior ornamentation was incomparably rich. On the south side of the newly erected portion of the house with its great oriel window was an extension, consisting of two dwelling houses, adapted by Pindar to serve his purpose as an enlargement of his house, and on the northern side was a pointed arched gateway in the style of the fourteenth century, with rooms on three floors above it. This ancient gateway may originally have been the entrance to the "Bruggehous" held by Thomas de Leuesham in 1337, already referred to. If, however, the gateway was not there when Sir Paul built his



THE "SIR PAUL PINDAR," SHOWING PART OF THE ORIGINAL EXTENSION OF THE MANSION AND THE 14TH CENTURY ARCH, FROM A DRAWING BY J. WHICHELO, 1803.

mansion house, he must have caused the stones composing it to be transported from some fourteenth century building about to be demolished. Be that as it may, Pindar certainly built the rooms above it about the year 1616, shortly after his recall from the Court of Turkey. This archway gave access to that part of the mansion facing Half Moon Alley and the stables, park and gardens.

This house was not only an object of curiosity, on account of its architectural beauty, which even in Pindar's time must have been considered something exceptional; but also an object for meditation, because of the wonderful liberality and hospitality, as well as for the wealth of its builder, to whose purse and loyalty James the First and his successor were beholden on many occasions.

From a long sojourn in Italy, Pindar had acquired considerable taste in art and a love for the beautiful in domestic architecture, and he brought his knowledge of architectural style and taste to bear upon the structure that was to become historical and one of curiosity.

In its original state his house was "equal, if not superior, in splendour and extent to any structure, not only within its immediate vicinity, but probably to any in the metropolis." It had a frontage of about 90 feet, with a depth of 158 feet, including domestic offices, etc., with stables and riding covered way extending for a further 200 feet.

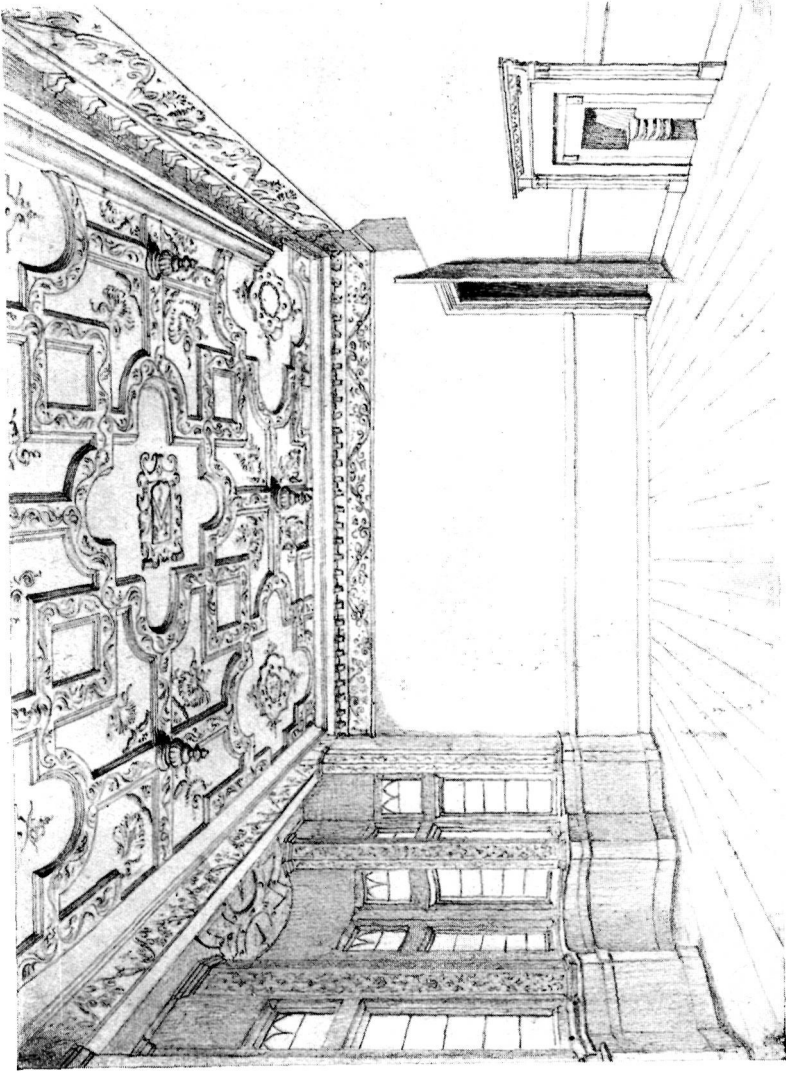
That it was a great mansion is evidenced by the fact that in the year 1617, while Pindar was representing the King at the Court of the Sultan of Turkey, Piere Contarini came to England as Venetian Ambassador at the Court of James I. Landing at Gravesend, he quietly proceeded to London to seek suitable quarters for the Embassy, and after viewing several noble houses, he selected the newly erected house belonging to Paul Pindar in Bishopsgate. In his diary, Contarini

writes that "he was fortunate to secure a house in an airy and fashionable quarter. . . . It was a little too much in the country; but it was near the most fashionable theatres, especially those that keep the best trained dogs for bear and bull baiting. It was spacious and handsome, and had a gallery which was easily turned into a chapel, by putting up a decent altar at the farther end."

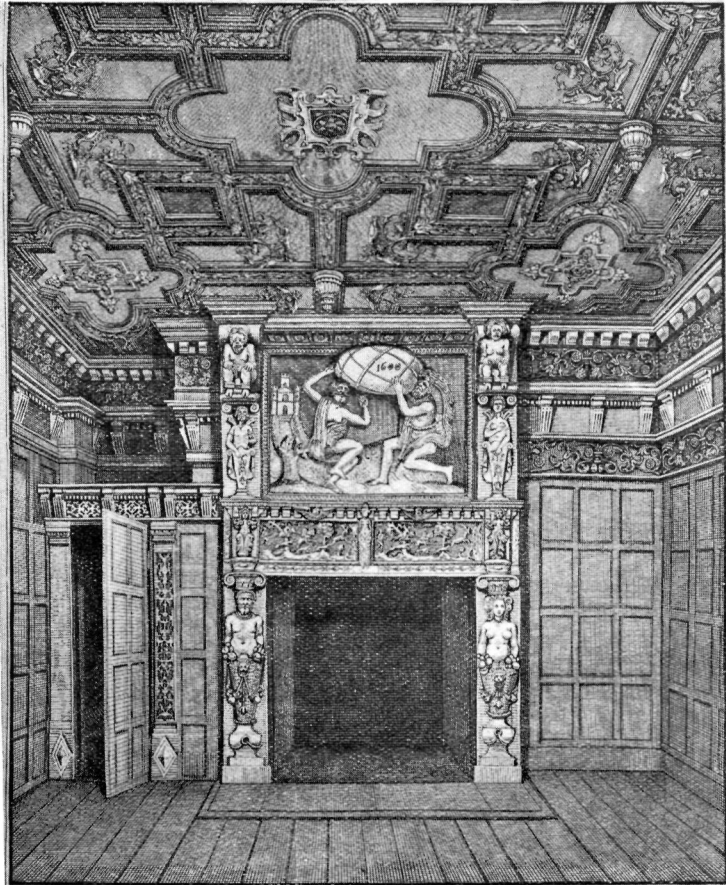
To this elegant and commodious habitation he removed his establishment; returning to Gravesend for a few days prior to that fixed for his public entry into London, in order that he might be conveyed to Whitehall in befitting state by the master of ceremonies in the royal barges. After presenting his credentials to James I, he returned to Bishopsgate, where he resided until 1618.

The immense wealth of Pindar fully justified an establishment in keeping with his position as merchant and ambassador, and we cannot suppose that so eminent a person in city and court life could have supported his rank and close association with the King in a less pretentious house. Not only did James I and Charles I draw largely on Pindar's money chest in their necessities, but they also visited his house and extensive and well-stocked park, with its mulberry trees planted at the request of King James, who had been keen on encouraging the silk trade; moreover, being a man of singular enterprise and influence, Pindar would naturally wish to live and to entertain as sumptuously as did some of the more wealthy of his brother citizens.

The great reception room on the first floor of the front part of the house had a superb plaster ceiling, symmetrical in its pattern with floriated strap panels, a central panel carrying the arms of Paul Pindar. There were four similar panels, one in each corner of the room, the whole being decorated with representations of birds, pomegranates, oak leaves and various plants, flowers and fruits. The ribs, carrying four heavy



ROOM OF SIR PAUL PINDAR'S MANSION AFTER IT HAD BEEN STRIPPED OF ITS PANELLING, FROM A DRAWING BY J. P. EMSLIE, 1881.



DESIGNED AND DRAWN BY J. J. COOPER.

SCULPTURE BY JOHN BULL.

DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE.

EAST VIEW OF A ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF SIR PAUL PINDAR'S BISHOPSCATE STREET.
 ORIGINAL DESIGN OF THE BAROQUE STYLE IN THE
 LATTER PART OF THE REIGN OF CHARLES II. 1660.
 THE WOODEN FIRE PLACE FROM THE FLOOR TO THE UPPER PART OF THE CORNICE OF STYING THE END IS OF STONE
 THE UPPER PART THE FOLLAGE AND THE CORNICE ARE OF PLASTER ON THE END OF 1660.
 LONDON, PUBLISHED AS THE ACT DIRECTS BY JOHN WOODS, SURVEYOR OF HIS MAJESTY'S BUILDINGS, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

pendants at the points of intersection, were also ornamented with a repeating pattern of a variety of foliage. All the ornaments, as well as the heavy cornice and frieze, were of plaster. This ceiling was in existence as late as the year 1881, when a drawing was made by J. P. Emslie.

The noble and massive chimney piece in this remarkably fine room reached to the ceiling. The lower part of this was of stone, and contained two tablets depicting a stag hunt, surrounded by cherubims, figures and foliage, supported by two massive figures—a male and a female—emerging from heavily carved fruit baskets on either side. The upper part, however, was of plaster, and consisted of a basso-relievo of two figures—Hercules and Atlas—supporting a conical shaped globe bearing the date 1600, with two grotesque figures on each side. All the rest, from the floor to the lower cornice, was of oak. The plain wainscot panelling, in fairly large squares divided by wide framing, was crowned by rich carving, the pilasters and the woodwork of the oriel being similarly treated. In September, 1811, the whole of the ornaments were barbarously cut away to make the room, so it was stated, “a little comfortable.” Although such vandalism cannot be excused, the removal of the ornaments certainly rendered the room more suitable to the simpler tastes of the then occupants, and nine years later the fine chimney piece was removed.

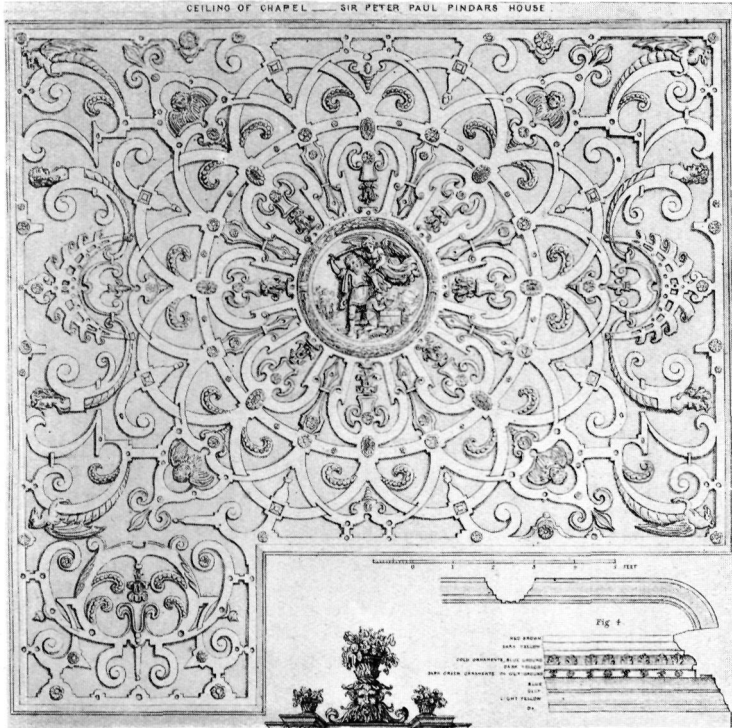
The ceiling in the chapel was equally rich in character, consisting of a central device, representing an angel appearing before Abraham, and preventing the uplifted sword falling on the neck of Isaac about to be offered as a human sacrifice. From this device radiated a beautiful design within an ornamented circle, nine feet in diameter, and surrounded by a series of interlaced semi-circles with roses, cherubims, mermaids, winged dragons and other grotesques. The deep cornice was picked out in gold, red, brown, yellow and blue, with dark green ornaments on a gold ground, and gold

ornaments on a blue ground. In general, the other ceilings in the house abounded in ribands, shields, and a variety of curious flowers and figures within compartments of different shapes and sizes, while the projecting ribs were enriched with oak leaves and various vegetable forms. The deep cornices were constructed in a series of highly ornamented, and in some instances tinted, mouldings. So exceptional was the whole of the ornamentation in beauty and design, that it is sad to know that only two of the ceilings have been preserved.

The gallery referred to by the Venetian Ambassador was situated at the back of the part already described, and faced Half Moon Alley. In length it was 86 feet, and in breadth it varied from 29 feet 10 inches to 35 feet.

About 340 feet to the rear of the Bishopsgate frontage, on the right-hand side of Half Moon Alley, and about twenty-five feet west of the "Half Moon" brewhouse, there stood until April, 1857, though stripped of its ornamentation, a singular and lofty Gothic building of three storeys with a gabled roof, the architectural style of which appeared to be of an earlier date than that of the mansion itself, with which it had been connected by rows of trees, hedges and walks, and in all probability it had been "the country retreat" of Sir William Hollys or Hollies in the first half of the sixteenth century.

The building, which had a frontage of 20 feet and a depth of 40 feet, was variably known as "The Lodge," "Park keeper's house," and to the inhabitants as the "Image House." It may have been the lodge entrance to the gardens and beautiful park stretching away to Finsbury Fields; but more probably it was used by Pindar as a banqueting house. Although it was not so richly ornamented and adorned as was the mansion, it had on its stuccoed over-hanging front four medallions surrounded by a frame moulding of fruit, foliage, flowers, etc., one at each side of the bay windows, both on the first and second storeys. Each of the four compartments contained a female figure, wrought in stucco.



CEILING OF CHAPEL IN SIR PAUL PINDAR'S MANSION.



ST PAUL PINDAR'S LODGE OR GARDEN HOUSE, HALF MOON ALLEY BISHOPSGATE STREET.

Printed & Published by W. G. & Co. in Strand Street.

The frames in the two upper compartments, which carried the figures representing Spring and Summer, were oval, surmounted by two reclining figures, while those of the two lower compartments were rectangular, within which were the figures of Peace and Plenty, indicative of the purpose to which the structure may have been dedicated. The figure representing Peace was in a sitting posture, while that of Plenty was standing, bearing a cornucopia. The plaster ceilings, like those in the mansion, were of graceful designs, wrought into groups of figures, flowers and foliage and other forms of ornamentation, blended in such a fashion as to produce the most pleasing effects.

In the first floor room was a handsome chimney-piece, eight feet high and seven feet wide, of the style associated with the sixteenth century. In the centre was a heavily carved mask, and the decoration, consisting of leaves, fruits and ribands, was particularly graceful. Here, too, was an elegant ceiling with floriated ovals and other decoration similar to that which appeared on the chimney-piece. The walls were wainscoted in severely plain panels, and the staircase, though destitute of ornament, was sturdily substantial, with a newel of uncommon design. Other tenements in the vicinity of the Lodge had also received similar artistic treatment.

Before the year 1666, the city had been both the business and dwelling place of the merchant princes; but after the Great Fire, business men began to desert the city as a dwelling place, and to build new houses for themselves in the suburbs, and so Bishopsgate, without the wall, boasted a long line of gabled half-timbered houses of considerable excellence, extending from Bedlam Gate to Shoreditch, but the back windows all looked on to open fields, and having fortunately escaped the devastation wrought by the Great Fire, the street retained its ancient appearance of dignity and beauty long after the rest of London had been rebuilt; but

gradually many of the picturesque houses of the noblemen and wealthy citizens, representing the best work of the Elizabethan period, with their over-sailing storeys and projecting gutters, which were so striking a feature of Bishopsgate, were swept away, making room for smaller and less pretentious habitations, while on the land, formerly occupied by Bethlehem Hospital on the south of the Mansion, and that which was commonly known as Ralph Dunning's land on the north, almost imperceptibly there sprang up in the middle of the eighteenth century, numerous small tenements in a series of narrow and tortuous alleys and passages, leaving Pindar's house and park as the solitary relic of the bygone past, with the London workhouse for its immediate neighbour on the south, while on the north there were the "Half Moon" brewhouse, and at least some forty cottages in and about Half Moon Alley. The presence of the occupants of these cottages tended to drive away the richer classes and leave only the very poor.

That this extraordinary growth of tenements, within a few yards of the city gate, should have been permitted at this time, clearly shows that the edicts of the latter part of the sixteenth and the beginning of the seventeenth centuries, forbidding the erection of buildings on the outlying fields and open spaces, for a distance of three miles beyond the city wall, were not rigorously acted upon by those responsible for safeguarding the health of the citizens residing within the wall, which the orders in council were framed to protect.

Pindar's brother Ralph, who was deputy-Alderman of the ward, was not without blame in this respect, for shortly after the Mansion had been completed, he, already living near the Mansion, proceeded to acquire the adjoining property.

In an indenture dated 28th February, 1611, Ciprian Morsse, sadler, conveyed to Henry Harris "a messuage

or tenement with shoppes, etc.," which on 4th March, 1613, Harris sold to Ralph Pindar for the sum of £66:—

"All that messuage or tenemente with shoppes, cellars, sollers, chambers, roomes, entries, yardes, backsides, outhouses and sheds . . . lately in the tenure or occupation of Jane Bramley . . . situate and beinge in the parish of Saint Botolphe without Busshoppsgate London and next adioyning towards the north to the messuage or brewhouse of the said Ralphe Pyndar commonly knowne by the name of the "Half Moone."

thus reuniting in one ownership, adjacent tenements, that had been separated for some fifty years or more, and within a few weeks after such purchase, Ralph journeyed to Constantinople to visit his brother Paul, who at that time represented this country as Ambassador there. Shortly after his return to England, Ralph acquired, on the 10th May, 1614, other property in Half Moon Alley for £143 10s. od. from Robert and Thomas Springe:—

"All those tenements and gardens thereunto adioyninge and apperteyning wth thappurtennces w^{ch} were sometymes three tenements and three gardens and after were made into three tenements one yard and one garden and next are two tenements and two gardens situate lienge and being in the prshe of St. Buttolphes without Busshoppsgate."¹

Ralph now embarked upon a building scheme, erecting some 23 small houses on his land adjoining the "Half Moon" brewhouse. Ralph died, and was buried in the Church of St. Botolph on the 28th of May, 1622, leaving 33 messuages, 3 gardens and the brewhouse to his sons, Paul and Matthew, who, according to an Indenture bearing date 8th October, 1624, granted to their kinsmen, Lawrence Hill and James Speght, the whole of the property above mentioned, and in the year following, seven of the eight tenements, left to the parish by the will of Joan Wood, were rebuilt.

There are numerous engravings and drawings of a fragment of Pindar's Mansion, but not one of them affords the remotest idea of the large area it originally

¹ Hustings Roll, 291-13.

covered, neither in frontage nor in depth. There is good reason for stating that the original façade extended some distance southward, probably from the gate-house entrance into Half Moon Alley up to Crown Yard, embracing as one fabric the five houses, which, previous to the renumbering of Bishopsgate, were numbered 169 to 173, for in two of the houses, Nos. 170 and 171, there were ceilings similar in some respects to those in the Mansion, No. 169, with grotesque figures of the same workmanship, and at No. 170, the ceiling of the first floor room, if less elaborate, appeared to be a continuation of that in the corresponding room of No. 169, already described. This ceiling is preserved in the Museum at South Kensington.

The house, domestic offices and stables had a depth of 360 feet and a frontage of some 90 feet, with gardens on the south side, the full extent in width, from Half Moon Alley to the land belonging to Bethlehem Hospital, being 152 feet.

Further evidence of the original extent of the Bishopsgate frontage of the merchant's Mansion, is afforded by a document dated the 13th September, 1712:—

“George Bewes was possessed of five front and two back houses in Bishopsgate Street without the Gate . . . opposite almost to the workhouse formerly Sir Paul Pindar's.”

This then, shows that London Workhouse had been built on what formerly constituted part of the property of the liberal and wealthy owner of the Mansion, and a year before his death, at which time he was deemed to be insolvent, Sir Paul must have sold the land to the City Corporation, when the workhouse was founded by Act of Parliament in 1649. The workhouse was 420 feet deep and had a frontage of 22 feet. In pursuance of the power granted to the Common Council to purchase and alter “divers houses and tenements in Bishopsgate Street, to make them convenient for the confinement . . . of vagrants, disorderly persons and distressed children,” the Corporation not only acquired part of

Sir Paul's land, but Nos. 172 and 173 were subsequently purchased. Pending the erection of the workhouse, the Corporation let these two houses at a rent of £94 per annum.

At the death of Sir Paul Pindar in 1650, his Mansion, together with twenty messuages and tenements, descended to Mary, daughter and heiress of his nephew Paul, who had died seven years previously. According to an indenture dated 21st March, 1659, Mary Pindar and Mathew, her uncle, conveyed the property to William Dudley, who received the honour of Knighthood in 1660.

Shortly after the conveyance of the property, Mary became the third wife of Sir William Dudley, and on the 20th November, 1660—

“Sir William Dudley of Clapton alias Clopton in the County of Northton (Northampton) Barronett and Dame Mary his wife, the only daughter and heire of Paul Pindar late of London Esquire deceased . . . for Two Thousand and Five hundred pounds,” sold the whole of the twenty-three messuages to Peter Browne, including the mansion which had been divided into three messuages which said three messuages were heretofore one great message or used as one great message, and heretofore in the tenure possession or occupation of Sir Paul Pindar, Knight, deceased one of the messuages was sometimes the possessions and inheritance of Sir William Holles, Knight deceased.”

Twelve years after the conveyance Peter Browne suffered a loss by fire, for on the 12th June, 1672, a part of the property was burnt to the ground. The writer, however, has been unable to discover which part was destroyed; probably some of the tenements at the rear of the mansion house.

Part of Sir Paul's property subsequently passed into the hands of Peter Foster, grocer, who in a deed, 2 George I (1715) granted to William Knight, plumber, land and messuages on the south of Half Moon Alley, with a frontage on the east of 152 feet, on the west 146 feet, on the north 101 feet, and on the south 112 feet. This conveyance consisted of a portion of the

former park and gardens at the rear of the stables and coach houses. The remainder of the park, in which Sir Paul had bred and fattened the "venison" he so frequently provided for the parish feasts, had long given place to small and dingy dwelling houses and tenements, and the formation of a network of courts, alleys and passages. Indeed, the original lay-out of his property had been completely destroyed, and the neighbourhood became "too much pestered with people, a great cause of infection," to quote the words of John Stow, who, in his *Survey*, frequently lamented the multiplicity of tenements.

From the foregoing it will be gathered that the Mansion, with its Park and gardens extending back to Finsbury Fields, a distance of 1,400 feet, had passed through many vicissitudes, and had been cut about, sold and resold by some of its many owners. Within a century after the death of its builder, a considerable part of the property came into the possession of the Rt. Hon. William Wildman, second Viscount Barrington, who with his wife Mary, daughter and heiress of Henry Lovell, on the 23rd June, 1746, granted a lease of part of the former mansion, fronting Bishopsgate Street, No. 170, and at that time known as the "Fountain Tavern," to Sarah Leman for a period of seven years. Sarah was the widow of James Leman, who for some fourteen years previously had occupied the premises. In the lease the property is described as:—

"All that messuage or tenement . . . fronting on the High Street towards the east and lying between a messuage [No. 171] in the tenure of [John and William] Crank towards the south and another messuage [No. 169] now in the occupation of Ralph Thrail towards the north consisting of 2 large cellars one vault, one door out of Bishopsgate Street, a passage paved with black and white stone, 4 rooms and 3 separate yards with an alcove on the first [ground] floor; 4 rooms, 3 closets and 1 large passage on the second floor, 2 rooms and 2 closets on the third floor, 4 rooms on the fourth floor and one large garret on the fifth floor."

This lease clearly shows that Ralph Thrail was, at



THE "SIR PAUL PINDAR," FROM A DRAWING BY GEORGE SHEPHERD, 1810.

this time, occupying that part of the Mansion with the richly ornamented front. Between the years 1759 and 1768 it was tenanted by William Slade, and from 1769 to 1783, Robert King resided there.

In the latter year the house, domestic offices, stables, etc., are shown on a plan from the Gardner collection, as having a frontage of 55 feet and a depth of 360 feet, the house itself, with domestic offices, being 158 feet in depth. At this date the property was leased to several tenants, the "great house" to Mr. Henry Reeves, weaver, another portion to Mrs. Goddard, the front portion numbered 169, 170 and 171, being occupied by Messrs. George Ensor, Thomas Mason and Robert Dagley, respectively, while "The Lodge" and another tenement appear to have been unoccupied. The plan also shows stabling for eighty horses, coach houses, and a covered riding ground.

Four years later, in 1787, the "great house" fronting Half Moon Alley was separated from that facing Bishopsgate Street, and converted into four dwelling houses, but George Ensor continued as tenant of the Bishopsgate portion until 1791, and between that year and 1807 it was occupied by John Steward, wine and spirit merchant, followed by Miles Holmes for two years, 1808-9, and during William Kell's tenancy, between 1809-11, it was used in the degraded capacity of a tavern, known as the "Paul Pindar's Head," with a panel in the centre of the lower oriel carrying a half-length portrait of the worthy Knight for a sign, which was subsequently removed about the year 1828.

Although strangely altered, and to a great extent robbed of its ornamental detail by frequent coats of paint, as well as its modernised attic and ground floor, the tavern became a "show" house, frequently being visited by persons of antiquarian taste and by the curious sightseer.

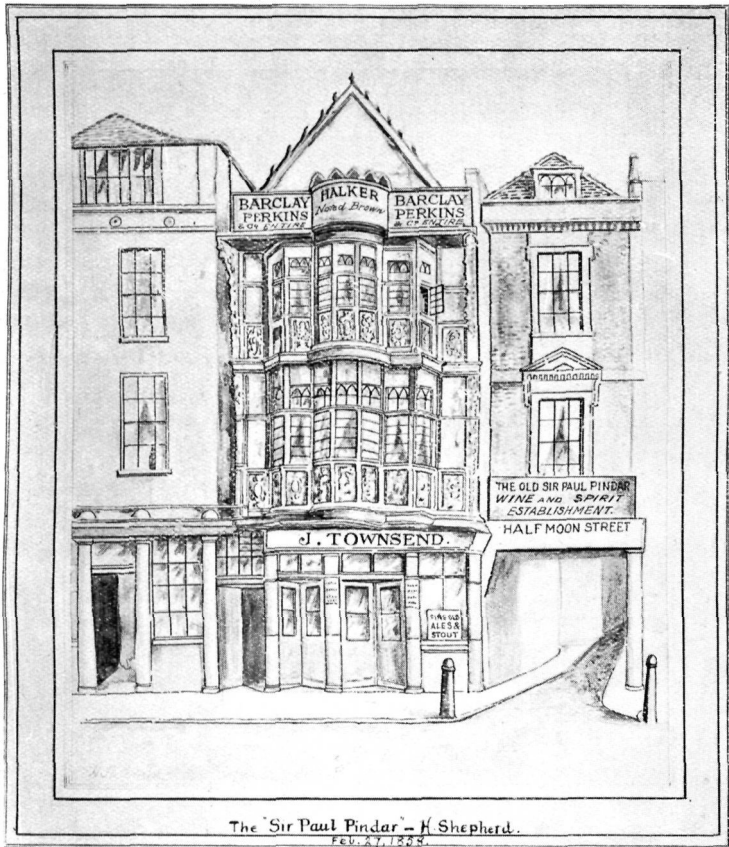
William Kell was followed by Thomas Turner in 1812, and in 1815 it came into the possession of John Wheeler

and West & Co., with an unexpired lease of nine years. Two years later, however, on the 25th November, 1817, the premises, including that portion of the "great house," which in 1787 had been converted into four tenements, were sold by public auction. William Clarke in the year 1818 then became the tenant of the tavern as the Mansion had now become, and he was succeeded by Thomas Hawkins in 1821.

Shortly afterwards, the whole of the domestic offices and tenements attached to that one time numerous household were sold, and although very little carved woodwork and panelling remained, in some of the tenements there were rooms in which still existed fragments of the wonderful plaster ceilings, and in instances where large rooms had been divided into two compartments, half of an original ceiling was met with.

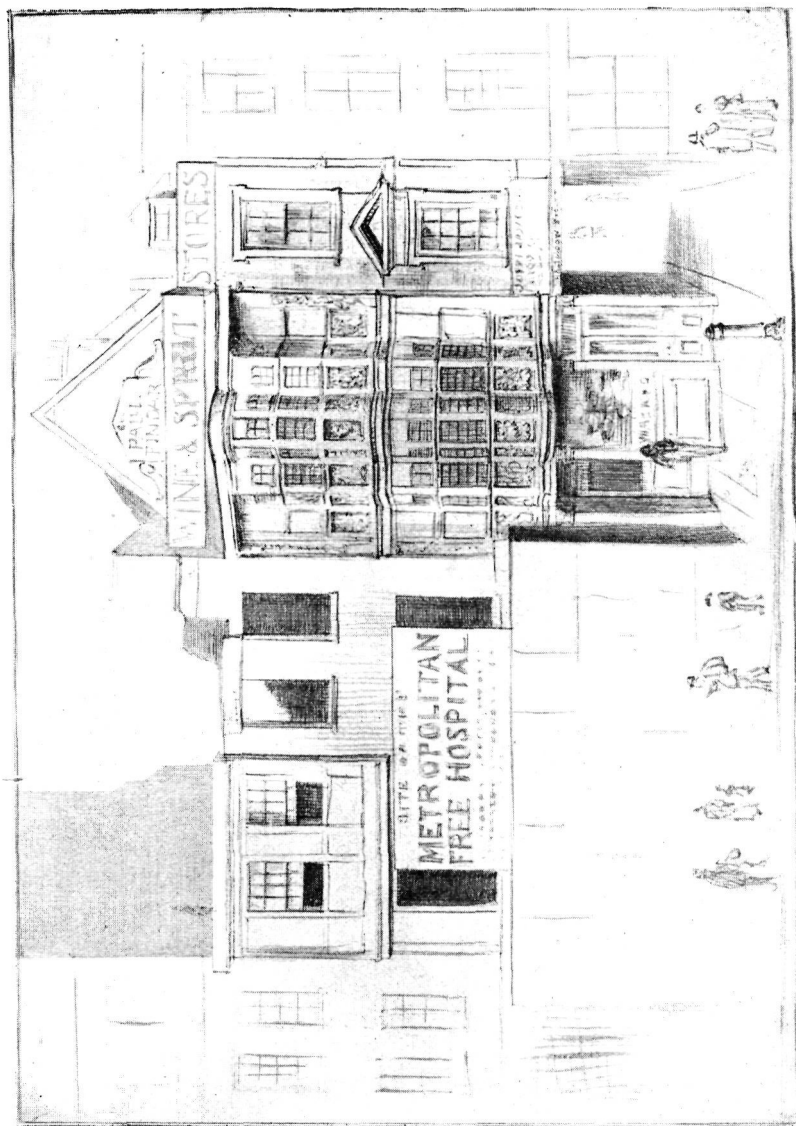
Between the years 1823 and 1828 the "Paul Pindar" was occupied by John Bradley, and in 1829 Charles and Agnes Poore became the tenants, and they held the licence until 1833. From that year until it was demolished in 1890, the "Paul Pindar" changed hands no less than 18 times, and in two instances only, did any one of the tenants hold the licence for a period exceeding five years—Henry Bromley, 1838-44, and Thomas Bolton for six years, 1884-89, he being the last person to hold a licence for the premises.

In the latter half of the nineteenth century, the whole of the property, formerly held by Sir Paul and his brother Ralph, was cleared to make way for the Great Eastern and North London termini, the site for some long time presenting an ugly mass of ruins. This railway invasion of Liverpool Street began in 1865, with the extension of the North London line from Dalston Junction, followed by the Great Eastern Railway Company, continuing the permanent way for some 2,000 feet from Shoreditch, in the years 1874-5, leaving only a fragment of the original structure fronting Bishopsgate Street, to the profitable use of supplying refreshment



The 'Sir Paul Pindar' - H. Shepherd.
FEB. 27, 1858.

THE "SIR PAUL PINDAR," FROM A DRAWING BY SHEPHERD, 1858.



THE "SIR PAUL PINDAR," FROM A DRAWING BY J. P. EMSLIE, 1881, SHOWING THE DEMOLITION OF THE ADJOINING HOUSES, NOS. 170 AND 171 BISHOPSGATE.

to the passer-by, with the rooms over the ancient gateway as a separate tenement. The tavern underwent considerable internal alterations and repairs in 1871, but even so, it was doomed, for in March, 1885, the Commissioners of Sewers reported the building to be a dangerous structure, and it was accordingly condemned. Additional space being required for the Great Eastern Railway, the tavern was purchased by that company, together with the adjoining property, extending for some 400 yards or more, at a cost of nearly three-quarters of a million sterling, to make room for a further extension of Liverpool Street Station, and for the laying down of lines for suburban traffic, and also for hotel accommodation and offices.

What remained of the erstwhile Mansion of Sir Paul Pindar was demolished in 1890, and the carved oaken front, together with one of the decorated plaster ceilings, was presented by the Railway Company to the Victoria and Albert Museum, where it has been set up in the architectural court. Little did Sir Paul Pindar imagine at the time he built his veritable mansion, that he was erecting a dwelling house, which was to degenerate into a tavern, and finally to be erected, in part, as a museum exhibit for all time. That the Museum authorities readily accepted this unique relic of a great merchant's mansion, is sufficient evidence of the value placed upon it, as a beautiful work of art and as an example of the domestic architecture of the Stuart period.

SIR PAUL PINDAR.

A SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.

SIR PAUL PINDAR, the builder of the Mansion already described, whose name stands eminently conspicuous in our mercantile annals, was born in the year 1566 at Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. He was the second son of Thomas Pindar, who was descended from an

ancient family which had resided in the county for two or three centuries, and Sir Paul's name is still identified with his native parish, notably by a gift to the Church of its first bell, called Pindar's bell, and by his gift in 1634 of the Communion Plate bearing his arms, consisting of a pair of silver flagons, a chalice with cover, gilt, weighing 257 ounces.

His early education was of a commercial character, and although his father had intended that he should follow it up by a classical training at the University, Paul declared a preference for trade, and, recognising the boy's commercial temperament and tendencies, his father considered it wise to allow him to follow his own inclinations, with the result, that at the age of 17 years, he was apprenticed to a firm of Italian currant merchants in Lombard Street, London, named Henry and Jacob Pariviso, or Parvis. Paul quickly installed himself a favourite with his principals and became so useful that, after serving little more than a year, the brothers Parvis sent him at the early age of 18 to act as their agent in Venice, a city then in its prime, as one of the great commercial marts of Europe. After the term of his apprenticeship had expired, he began to trade on his own account, and at the same time acted as a commission agent for his former masters, as well as for other merchants, and continued on the Rialto for about fifteen years, applying his commercial aptitude to profitable use. In 1598-9 he returned to England, and began to build his noble Mansion, at the same time continuing to trade for a further period of some five years.

By this time he was recognised as a master in business affairs, and two years after the completion of his great house, we find him in Italy again, for in a letter from John Blount bearing date 27th March, 1602, he is referred to as acting in the capacity of banking agent in Italy for Secretary Robert Cecil, who was nervous about keeping so much of his wealth in England "lest

matters should not go well," and adding "that if this be true, Pindar should not have revealed it."

Pindar remained in Venice until July, 1605, and probably later. During the years 1603-5 he contested a case of a debt of 500 ducats due to him, but which he failed to recover, notwithstanding the efforts of the Lords of the Council and the representations of his friend Secretary Cecil. Successful in his enterprise and in the execution of his commissions, he gained great credit to himself, and by the extension of Oriental commerce, he procured considerable trade advantage to England, to which he returned an extremely rich man.

Although travelling in those early days was considered of great importance to those engaged in commercial pursuits, yet the Turkish dominions had been very little explored by Englishmen, therefore an increased trade with the Turkey or Levant Company of London, which had been instituted by a Charter of Queen Elizabeth in 1579, became an object of no little importance, for while the Oriental trade with this country, which began in the year 1550, had been almost negligible, the two Republics of Genoa and Venice had for a long period enjoyed the benefits arising from it. Pindar's early commercial training and experience in Italy, had made him so thoroughly acquainted with the channels through which merchandise was conveyed to these islands, that with a view to arranging a more direct trading with this country, he, as a merchant adventurer, decided to undertake a journey to Turkey, and we next hear of him acting in the capacity of Consul for the English merchants at Aleppo between the years 1608 and 1611. In the latter year he returned to England, bringing with him several Arabic and Persian MSS., which he presented to the Bodleian Library at Oxford. During his sojourn in the Levant, he was not only more than ordinarily successful in what he set out to accomplish, but he proved himself an accurate observer of the various characteristics, manners and

customs of the people, which well served him in after years. His business tact and principle, gained for him the reputation of being one of the most eminent merchants on the Exchange, both for experience, estate, probity and linguistic attainments, rendering his name worthy of association with that of Sir Thomas Gresham, his contemporary, and with those of Whittington and Sir John Crosby, each of whom so gracefully ornament the civic annals of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, respectively.

Antonio Foscarini, Venetian Ambassador in England, writing to the Doge and Senate on July 14th, 1611, stated, "last week Pindar, late Consul in Syria, was here. He has brought very minute information as to the trade with England," and on the 2nd September, Foscarini further stated that Pindar was "a person of growing importance and very dear to Lord Salisbury. . . . The election to the post of Ambassador at Constantinople will soon take place, and it is thought certain that the choice will fall on Pindar."¹

While engaged in Syria, Pindar had found it possible to be of some service to the Turkey Company, and within a few weeks of his return from Aleppo in 1611, that Company was prompted strongly to recommend him to James I, and to petition the King graciously to send Pindar to Constantinople as his Ambassador to the Turkish Sultan, Ahmed I, and in view of the sources of wealth supposed to exist in the East, apart from the advantage that would most likely accrue to this country, the King decided to appoint Pindar his Ambassador, not only because of his great reputation and skill in languages, negotiations and commercial affairs, but because it was common knowledge that he had already brought about a great improvement in the English woollen trade in the Levant. Pindar left for Turkey on the 13th November, 1611, with a small following, his secretary and the rest of his household following in

¹ Cal. State Paper, Venetian, 1611.



*SIR PAUL PINDAR, Ambassador, from
James 1.st to the Grand Signior
From an Original Picture in the Possession
of James Forbes Esq.^r of Stanmore Hill
Painted at Constantinople in 1614.*

December. He took up his residence at the Embassy at Pera, a suburb of Constantinople, in December, whence a letter exists dated 28th March, 1612, signed "Pawle Pyndar." After a little more than two years' service there, he caused his portrait to be painted in miniature by an English artist, whom he had probably met at Constantinople, or had invited to the East for the purpose, the picture bearing the inscription, "Sir Paul Pindar, Anno 1614, Constantinopolj." His brother Ralph, also in the previous year, had his portrait painted, upon which is erroneously inscribed, "Pindar Æt. 31, Constantinopolj. Anno 1613." Ralph at that date was really 51 years of age.

The merchant diplomat continued to represent England at the Court of Turkey for nine years, and by his extraordinary talents and sound sense, he opened the markets of the Turkish dominions to English trade at a time when English manufacturers had been undermined by the French and Dutch. His residence at Constantinople was not continuous, for, according to the Calendar of the State Papers, 1611-18, he was recalled on the 23rd November, 1616, but a few months later he was again sent to that country, and on October 25th, 1618, when the Turkish Ambassador came to England to announce the accession of Osman II, he requested the appointment of another ambassador in place of Sir Paul, which request, as it appears, did not meet with the approval of the King, and Pindar was not recalled. He did, however, return early in the year 1620, for during the western progress of King James, the honour of Knighthood was conferred upon him on the 18th July.¹ By January in the following year he was back again in Constantinople, as may be gathered from a communication sent to him by King James in 1621: "We recommend the case of Greene, late Consul of Smyrna, referred to you by the Council, to your favourable report." His final return took place

¹ Nichols, Vol. IV, p. 61.

about the end of the year 1622, and he then brought with him some astonishingly beautiful jewels, amongst them being a "great diamond," which in 1624 was valued at £35,000, closely approaching in splendour the celebrated Pitt (or Regent) diamond brought to this country by Governor Pitt.

This superb jewel was exhibited to King James, and it created such a sensation in Court circles that the King, greatly coveting the precious stone and eager to place it in the regal coronet, desired to purchase it upon credit. This overture, not quite agreeing with the ideas of the shrewd and thrifty merchant, he respectfully declined to entertain; but as a compromise he offered to lend it to his sovereign to wear on State occasions, or when he wanted to make a great display at the reception of foreign ambassadors. Although he had not been disposed to part with the "great diamond," the Duke of Buckingham, who accompanied Prince Charles abroad on February 19, 1623, had prevailed upon Sir Paul to entrust with him several of the jewels already referred to. These he took away with him to Holland, promising Sir Paul "to talk with him about paying for them"¹ at some future time; but whether the gems were ever recovered, history is silent.

Amongst the eminent services rendered to this country by Sir Paul, was that connected with the manufacture of alum, which, in 1608, had first been introduced into England by one of his Italian friends. It was imported from those parts of Italy under the Pope's temporal jurisdiction, by which his holiness made a substantial revenue, for it was sold in England at £60 per ton, and sometimes more, under the name of Roman alum or roach alum.

King James, much tempted by this as a means of increasing his revenue, caused works for its manufacture to be set up at the charge of the Crown at Sandsend, in the manor of Mulgrave, near Whitby, then in

¹ Cal. State Papers, 1619-23, p. 503.

possession of the Crown, and it would appear that he granted a lease to Sir Arthur Ingram to farm the manufacture of the alum. When Charles I became King, a proposal was put forward by Sir John Bourchier to Secretary Conway in January, 1624, "that the soap and alum works should be kept in the King's own hands," and leased to Sir Paul Pindar at an annual rental of £6,000, Bourchier calculating a profit of £20,000 to his Majesty from the allowance of £2 per ton on soap, and in return the King was "to have Sir Paul Pindar's great diamond worth £35,000," a vast sum in those times, and it was further suggested that "the works would require a capital of £80,000, which might be found without the King's assistance, and that Sir Arthur Ingram be compensated."¹

Later in the year, Sir Paul and William Turner were granted a lease to farm the works, thus giving employment to several hundreds of workers, and in July the following year, by letters patent, Turner was to be paid £2,185, due to him on an agreement, out of the profits of the works, and in February, 1627, a warrant was signed by the King for a new lease of the works at an increased rent of £11,000 per annum, a quarter's rent being allowed them on account of their losses by the plague of 1625, and by the capture by the Dunkirkers of two of their merchant ships, with a clause "for an abatement of the rent in case of war, etc."

Whether King Charles was more liberal than his father, or whether it is another instance of his deferred payments, it is certain that he secured Sir Paul's "great diamond," for it is shown by the Calendar of State Papers that an order, bearing date July 20th, 1625, was made to pay Sir Paul Pindar £18,000, not in cash, but "out of the profits of the alum works . . . for a jewel bought of him." As a matter of fact, the jewel was acquired for the sum of £20,000, and for some years Charles was its possessor, until at last it found its way

¹ Cal. State Papers, 1623-25.

into Holland to be pawned for £5,000, sharing the fate of the Crown Jewels which his Queen took with her to Holland in 1642, and transmuted into funds for the purpose of purchasing arms and ammunition, to enable the King to carry on the war with his subjects, and that was the end of the famous jewel, so far as the English Crown was concerned, although from the notes of Secretary Nicholas, relative to the King's jewels pawned in Holland, it is shown that while Pindar's diamond was pledged for £5,000, it may be redeemed for £5,300.¹

Although Sir Paul derived great profit from the alum and soap monopoly, it was a condition of the grant from the King that he should supply all parts of England with the alum at £20 per ton, which was only one-third of the price that had been paid for the imported article from Italy. He was further pledged to export the overplus, which he did in great quantities into Holland, France, Hamburg and other parts, to the advantage and benefit of the King and country, for it was shown that considerable sums accrued by the importation of ready money and staple goods, in return for the alum so exported. In 1637 it was stated that 1800 tons of alum were produced per annum.

Sir Paul's title to the farm appears to have expired in 1638-9, and apparently the lease was granted to Sir John Gibson, who agreed to assign it to Sir Paul, who held it as late as the year 1648, for in that year he is found claiming his rights to the farm. On the petition of Edmond, Earl of Mulgrave, however, he was ordered to deliver up his letters patent, and in March he petitioned "that he may not be compelled to surrender the lease for the making and vending of alum," which had been assigned to him for "great consideration until he has been heard in justification of his title." On the 4th May, an order to surrender was again issued, and five days later he petitioned their Lordships to suspend

¹ Cal. State Paper, Domeste, 1655.

the execution of the order "ousting him, and placing Earl Mulgrave in possession." In June, in consequence of the Earl's agents threatening the workmen and carriers, and forcibly preventing the removal of the alum from the farm, Sir Paul petitioned that "he may be left in quiet possession of the mines and works in Mulgrave until by just and legal proceedings he be evicted."¹

In 1623 King James had offered Sir Paul the important post of Lieutenant of the Tower, in recognition of his services, which honour was wisely, if modestly, declined, since its acceptance implied the parting with the diamond to the King "on credit"; but he was appointed a Commissioner for the arrest of all French ships and goods in England, and at a later date he was, most unfortunately, persuaded by Sir William Cockayne and Sir Arthur Ingram to allow himself to become one of the farmers of general customs, subsidies and imposts. This office, his strong attachment to his sovereign, induced him to accept, and in that capacity he showed himself more willing to render service in relieving the necessities to which the improvident monarch was frequently subject, than he had been in the matter of the King's proposed purchase of the diamond, and by virtue of his new office he was soon, and frequently, called upon to advance large sums of money to the King on the security of the fiscal revenue. The lease of Customs granted by James appears to have been for a term of four years, and two years after his accession, Charles I ordered that the lease be renewed in October, 1627. Four years later, in December, 1631, Charles agreed to demise to Sir Paul and others, his general customs and subsidies for one year at the rent of £150,000, at the rate fixed by Act of Parliament in 1623 of 8 per cent., the King making it a condition that "if more money be advanced to him than the rent will

¹ Hist. Com. Report, 7th, pp. 18a and 30b.

bear, they may keep possession until they be reimbursed." Pindar continued to hold the office until the year 1641.

Ever in need of money, and not particular as to the means by which it was obtained, King Charles, in the year 1638, procured, on Sir Paul's guarantee, another diamond worth £8,000; but what in the wreck of his fortune became of it is not stated, and although a warrant was issued to the Lord Treasurer "to give an order for a tally to be stricken upon by Sir John Gibson for £8,000 disbursed for a diamond for his Majesty's service,"¹ it is not certain that Pindar's guarantee was ever satisfied. Money had, during several reigns, served as a bond of union between the court and the city, and history states that the citizens were ever ready to supply the pressing need of the Crown, either for the purpose of carrying on expensive wars, or even to minister to the personal extravagance of the monarch himself, when an extension of their privileges was considered advantageous; or where personal honours were looked for. The King never hesitated to borrow from Sir Paul Pindar, and probably no individual lent such large sums to his sovereign as he did to Charles I, who was his debtor to a vast amount, and involved Sir Paul in his own ruin; but it was not with a view to personal gain or further honours that Pindar rendered such financial assistance to the King.

Previous to quitting London on the eve of trouble, Charles the First almost stripped the jewel office of its richest gems, and it is said that the great pearl in the Royal Crown was pledged to the Dutch for a considerable sum to purchase arms. Moreover, it is asserted that prior to 1634, the King had pawned one jewel to the Queen of Bohemia for £30,000. That it was pawned may be true, but it is highly improbable that it went to the Queen of Bohemia, for she herself was in distress after the death of her husband Frederick, in 1632, if one

¹ Cal. State Papers, Domestic, 1638-39.

may judge by a letter afterwards written by Charles II to a member of the Sidney family soliciting assistance for his aunt.

In an account of the moneys received for the pawning of the King's Jewels and those of his favourite Buckingham, together with the sale of pictures, plate, etc., it is shown that Charles benefited to the extent of £118,080 10s. 2d. Many valuable jewels, notably the great collar of ballast rubies, which had belonged to Henry VIII, had some years earlier been disposed of by Buckingham and Earl Holland for the benefit of the King.

In 1639 Sir Paul lent to the Exchequer £50,000, and in a news letter of April of that year it is stated that his recent loans have mounted up to £100,000, "for this Sir Paul never fails the King when he has most need." This money appears to have been lent to the Exchequer at interest at the rate of 8 per cent. and on the security of the alum mines and other branches of the revenue. On May 20th, 1639, Sir John Gibson was authorised "to pay £20,000 to Sir Paul Pindar out of the farm of alum works, which moneys the said Sir Paul paid into the Exchequer in March last."¹

In the same year Sir Paul ordered William Toomes and Richard Lane, his cashiers, to make a computation of his fortune which consisted of ready money, alum and good debts upon tallies, and obligations from noblemen and others at court, which then amounted to the sum of nearly a quarter of a million, exclusive of bad debts, a great part of his wealth being employed in the manufacture of alum. In addition, the King owed him and the rest of the old Commissioners or farmers of the Customs, £253,242, appearing on tallies in the Exchequer, lent between the years 1640-44, of which sum a large proportion was supposed to be expended in connection with the trouble which shortly ensued.

There is a record of a warrant to the Exchequer, dated 27th October, 1640, "to pay Sir Paul Pindar or

¹ Cal. State Papers, Domestic, 1639.

his assigns £4,000, in satisfaction of his losses and charges, about several sums heretofore lent to his Majesty."¹ In the face of the enormous sums advanced to Charles, it is inconceivable that this warrant fully discharged his indebtedness.

The cloud which now began to gather round the city shortly darkened Sir Paul's household, for he had incautiously prevailed on his brother Commissioners, as ardent supporters of the King, to throw in their lot with their royal master and to suffer him to overdraw them, safeguarding themselves financially by applying to their own use the revenue from the Customs as it accrued.

This laxity on the part of the Commissioners, even though they (Sir John Wolstenholme, Sir Abraham Dawes, Sir John Jacobs, Sir John Harrison, Sir Nicholas Crisp, Sir Job Harby and Sir John Nulls) were innocent of any desire wrongfully to benefit, caused considerable trouble, for the Parliamentarians, realising that they could not conduct a rebellion without money, seized the Crown revenue, and, suspecting irregularities, they set up a court of inquiry, to the discredit of the Commissioners.

Among those implicated in the alleged speculation were the farmers of the Customs. The principal one charged, however, was Sir Paul himself, probably for two reasons, namely, his steady and unswerving loyalty to the King, and his reputed wealth. This avarice and revenge on the part of the Parliamentarians as well as the political distractions, not only disturbed his peace of mind, but greatly contributed to the entanglement of his personal affairs. Indeed, so great were the reverses in his fortune that for some time it was felt that he would become a prisoner for debt.

In 1642 Parliament was faced with the difficulty of finding money to carry on the projected war, and a tax was accordingly levied. Sir Paul had paid £1,000,

¹ Cal. State Papers, Domestic, 1640.

part of £4,000 required of him, but it is questionable if he was now in the financial position to meet the call made upon him for the balance. In the following year a fresh demand was made upon him based on an assessment of £3,500. This tax Sir Paul, with many wealthy citizens, at first refused to pay, preferring imprisonment to the payment of an illegal tax, and in September, 1643, he made an affidavit that "£100 was the full one-twentieth of all his goods, chattels, leases and personal estate, and that £30 was one-fifth of his real estate"¹; but he was, nevertheless, ordered by Parliament to pay £1,366 17s. od. Ostensibly he was unable to pay the amount in one sum, so he deposited £600 in two sums during that month, and in December we find him paying a further £500, leaving £266 17s. od. unpaid, yet in face of his pretended or real financial straits, his staunch adhesion to King Charles, as it had ever been to James I—unselfish and unbounded—was so steadfast that we find him in the years 1643-4 secretly making liberal advances in cash to Charles I, which he sent to that unfortunate monarch at Oxford by Madam Jane Whorewood, to effect the escape of Queen Henrietta Maria and her children out of the kingdom, which sums the King acknowledged as "a most acceptable service."

If, however, proof of his financial distress be needed, it may be stated that in 1644 he and his brother Commissioners of Customs were charged with the payment of £5,000 to Dorothy Seymour, who was then with the King's army, of which sum £700 was the proportion Sir Paul was required to pay within fourteen days; but he was to be "protected from arrest while moving about to procure the money." He subsequently paid £714 5s. 9d.

In addition to the large sums he had advanced to the King, he was heavily involved with Sir William Courten, on account of ships belonging to them being confiscated

¹ Cal. Com. for the advance of money, 1642-56.

by the Dutch East India Company, and the failure to obtain from that company the compensation claimed, amounting to £150,000. His position became so desperate that shortly after the King had been beheaded, Sir Paul and the other Commissioners offered to advance to the Committee of Inquiry and Sequestration, and ultimately to Parliament, £100,000, provided the debt of £300,000, owing by the late King, was secured to them. Needless to state, the proposal was rejected.

Although sorely troubled financially, yet within one year after the beheading of the King we find Sir Paul tendering his services to Charles II, who suggested that Sir Paul should act as Treasurer of any moneys collected in London to aid his cause.

He had always shown himself a complacent lender of his wealth, both to royalty and the nobility, so that it is not surprising that he is now sadly needing ready money, notwithstanding that the many "desperate debts" owing him amounted to an enormous sum.

The declining years of this excellent man's life were thus embittered, not only by his financial losses, but by the misfortune which befell his late royal master whom he revered. The faithlessness of many of his debtors, too, and the insolvency and unavoidable reverses of others, all helped to produce a condition of affairs, which not only tortured his mind and seriously impaired his health, but contributed towards his speedy death.

The large-hearted Sir Paul Pindar died on the 22nd August, 1650, insolvent, as may be gathered from the Calendar of the Proceedings of the Committee for Compounding, for the 8th November, 1650, when a complaint was admitted "that the heirs and executors of Sir Paul Pindar owe Robert Davis above £3,200, which is in danger to be lost, as Sir Paul is dead, deeply indebted."

He was buried with some pomp on Tuesday, the 3rd September, in a "gigantic leaden coffin,"¹ placed in a

¹ Cal. State Papers, 1650.

spacious vault adjoining the present crypt of the Parish Church of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, with which many of his most pious feelings were associated. The procession from the Mansion to the Church at 7 o'clock in the evening was headed by 100 poor men in gowns, and consisted of 184 mourners, Matthew, his nephew, being the chief, supported by William Toomes, his executor, with Mr. Richard Lane, his cashier, carrying the standard, thirty-four relatives, two of them carrying pennons bearing his arms, Norry King of Arms and other officers of the College of Arms, four divines, nine maid servants and thirteen men servants in their cloaks. So great, indeed, was the concourse of persons at the Church that several windows were broken by the crowd in its eagerness to see the remains deposited, and the last payment associated with his name is expressive of the estimation in which he was held:—

“Paid to Mr. Ellis, Glazier, for mending the windowes of the church that were broken at Sir Paule Pyndar’s buriall as by bill, 16/2.”

His coffin, according to Malcolm, in his *Londinium Redivivum*, “may at this time (1803) be seen by the curious with a hole in it, through which the *very* curious may possibly touch a part of his decayed body.”

The monument was adorned with carved festoons, cornice, pediment, and his arms with mantlings: azure a chevron between 3 lions’ heads erased argent, each crowned with a ducal coronet or, and a lion’s head crowned, for the crest.

The same arms were also painted in the glass of the windows by the altar. The mural tablet erected to his memory proclaiming his virtues, formerly fixed on the north wall of the chancel in the Church, is of the same age as the present Church of St. Botolph, and, if it is not actually the original memorial tablet, it bears an inscription which may have been engraved on an earlier stone. The tablet is now relegated to the south wall of the staircase leading to the north gallery.

The epitaph is as follows:—

“Sir Paul Pindar, Kt,
His Majesties Ambassador to the Turkish Emperor
Anno $\widetilde{\text{dm}}$ 1611, and 9 years resident
Faithful in negociations forrain and domestick
Eminent for Piety Charity Loyalty and Prudence
An inhabitant 26 years, and bountifull benefactor
To this Parish
He dyed the 22nd of August 1650.
Aged 84 years.”

As a benefactor to the Church, his name is also recorded on a slab in a splayed sill of one of the windows in the south aisle of the Church.

Notwithstanding the many princely endowments he made during his lifetime, the provisions contained in Sir Paul Pindar's will were no less generous, for after providing for certain legacies out of one-third of his estate—two-thirds being in the service of the King—he willed one-seventh of the residue to the parish of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, one-seventh to his native town of Wellingborough, and one-seventh each to Christ's, St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, Bridewell and Bethlehem Hospitals. Inasmuch as his will was made at the time his fortune was estimated at considerably over a quarter of a million, each of the above would have benefited to the extent of about £12,000.

Unfortunately, however, at his death, his affairs were in such a perplexed state, that after William Toomes, his executor, had obtained probate of his last Will and Testament, dated the 24th June, 1646, and had prepared an inventory, he found that he was unable to collect what was due to the estate, from the Exchequer, as well as much that was upon tallies, and assignments upon various properties, besides the large amounts due to him by many of the noblemen and court who were declared insolvent. Shocked at the hopeless state in which Toomes found his late employer's affairs, added to the multiplicity of his own engagements and responsibilities, and frustration of the expectations he had, in

being able satisfactorily to settle affairs, he was so incapable of bearing the disappointment that he relieved himself of the trust by committing suicide in 1655, without being able to pay the debts or the legacies provided for.

Sir William Powell then took out letters of administration, which were subsequently transferred to George Carew, in the hope of straightening out what appeared to be a hopelessly involved estate, but without success.

Amongst many claims for payment of debts and frequent petitions for payment of legacies out of the estate of the Merchant Ambassador, there is one dated 22nd January, 1656, from Elizabeth Percy for £200 left to her by Sir Paul; "but Wm. Toomes the executor has made himself away." After the Restoration, Charles II was petitioned by Peter, son of Elizabeth Spoght, niece of Sir Paul Pindar, "for a grant of one of the small ships still in his Majesty's disposal, to enable him to relieve his aged blind mother, who had £2,000 left by Sir Paul Pindar; but the whole estate became forfeit to the late Usurper, Oliver, because the executor, Wm. Tombs, hung himself."¹

As a parishioner of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, history, though meagre, is by no means without interest. He was a consistent Royalist, whilst some of the most influential in the parish, and, indeed, in the city generally, were inclined to the Parliamentary side, many of them openly declaring against the King. Because of his many commercial interests and official duties, Sir Paul's name rarely appears in the records of the parish. In the years 1626 and 1627, however, he was discharged from serving the office of Constable upon payment of the fine, and although he was elected a vestryman a few years after he returned from the Turkish Embassy, he only attended on an average once a year between 1630 and 1640; but if he did not thoroughly identify himself with parochial affairs and

¹ Cal. State Papers, 1667-68.

debates, he erected for himself a far more permanent memorial in the parish by his public benefactions and by his liberality to the poor, one that every man might wish to erect.

In one of his "*Familiar letters*" addressed to Sir Paul, James Howell, the Royal Historiographer, describes him as "one eminently distinguished for pious works of charity, already done, and daily doing; and that in such a manner, that the left hand knows not what the right doth."

Such bounteous piety and liberality, so well described by Howell, was manifested in many ways, not the least conspicuous was his contribution in the year 1631, of £10,000 towards the embellishment of St. Paul's Cathedral, the repairs of the Choir, adorning it with marble pillars and statues of Saxon royal founders and benefactors, besides beautifying the inner part with representations of angels, and the wainscoting with carved cherubims and other images. He furthermore gave £4,000 for the repair of the South Cross, and £2,000 for the repair of the porches and entrance, and to the rebuilding of the south aisle.

In 1637 he gave £50 to St. Bartholomew's Hospital; £100 in 1638 and £100 in 1639.

In 1638-9 he presented to Peterborough Cathedral, Communion Plate consisting of two massive flagons, a paten and chalice, and to the parish church of Wellingborough, the town of his birth, he gave the treble or "Pindar" bell, inscribed "The gift of Sir Paul Pindar, Knight anno 1640." Six years previously he had presented the Church with Communion Plate weighing 257 ozs.

The records of his munificence in the parish of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, alone would be sufficient to hand down his name to posterity with respect and gratitude, and the following extracts will serve to show the hospitality he was in the habit of bestowing upon his fellow parishioners, apart from his gifts to the Church.

- 1633—Communion Plate to the value of £113 . 13 . 4:—
 2 Potts gilt and wrought, engraven weighing 216½ ounces.
 2 Platts weighing 66 ounces 12 dwts.
 1 Pott weighing 58 ounces.

The plate given to the Church had either been sold or melted. In any event it disappeared as mysteriously as did the fine picture of Charles I, which until a few years ago adorned the staircase leading to the North gallery.

- 1633—For the purchase of lands for the benefit of the poor and distressed people in the parish £300 . 0 . 0

- 1634—For the poor £25 . 0 . 0

He annually bestowed upon his fellow parishioners a Venison feast, and in this year he gave to the parish for one of the public dinners—probably at the Dolphin Inn—a venison pie the flour, butter, pepper, eggs, making and baking of which cost 19/7. To the cook who brought in the Pasty, 2/6. Mutton, 15/-; six chickens, 5/-; eight rabbits, 12/6; bread and beer, 14/6; fruit and cheese, 2/4; dressing and fowling, 12/- £4 . 3 . 5

The "Pasty" must have been tremendous, to require materials to such an amount, and certainly worthy of the parish feast. Doubtless the parishioners did full justice to the benevolent Knight's home-bred venison. These gifts of venison were always accompanied by a donation of money.

- 1636—To the poor £20, £10 and £5 £35 . 0 . 0

- 1637—Apart from the venison in this year, he gave for the use of the poor £6 and £25 at Christmas £31 . 0 . 0

Strange as it may appear, after so generously providing the feasts, the Church authorities compelled him to pay for a licence for "Eating flesh in Lent these three years past"

£2 . 0 . 0

- 1638—To the Deputy Alderman of the Ward towards the maintenance of the organ at St. Botolph's Church £200 . 0 . 0

When, in 1643, Church Government was overturned, the organ was deemed by the authorities to be one of superstition and was ordered to be destroyed. To save it from the proposed destruction, Sir Paul petitioned for it, a request that could not have been very well refused to so popular a benefactor, and it was "ordered by the general consent of the vestry, and declared that they are very willing that the organ now standing in the Church shal be, by the appointment of Sir Paul Pindar taken downe and removed where hee the said S^r Paul Pindar shall please to dispose of them."

1640—For the Midsummer dinner	£5 . 0 . 0
1643—A present of venison £6 and for the poor	£100	£106 . 0 . 0
Licence to eat flesh	£2 . 0 . 0
1646—To the poor	£20 . 0 . 0

There are many other instances of the generosity and benefactions of this lovable man, who, in his day was one of the wealthiest of city merchants and friend of the Stuart monarchs, yet of all his great acquisitions, little or nothing remains but his epitaph, engraved in modest style upon marble in the Church of St. Botolph, Bishops-gate. Epitaphs do not always record truly; and certainly that of Sir Paul Pindar does not flatter, but we may turn to a contemporary, James Howell, who in one of his "Familiar Letters" wrote:—

"Of all men of his time, Sir Paul Pindar is one of the greatest examples of piety and constant integrity . . . that his works of charity would serve as a triumphant chariot to convey him one day to heaven."