

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SITE OF THE LAW SOCIETY'S HALL.

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THE history of the site upon which this Hall stands in Chancery Lane, London, is full of interest, and an attempt will be made to give some account of it. The history of parts will cover the last three, four or five hundred years.

The plan of 1825 shows the entire site as it was before any part had been purchased by the Society, whilst that of 1925 shows the entire Hall as of that date, and indeed as of to-day.

It will be convenient to divide the history of the entire site into four parts:—

- Part I will be Harfleet Inn.
- Part II „ Carew's House.
- Part III „ Jackanapes Alley.
- Part IV „ The Cage—part of,

and then to deal with the building.

The Hall was built in six parts:—

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| In 1831 the Central Hall or Reading Room was opened | } | B to E on both plans |
| In 1832 the west end of the block north of the Central Hall was opened | } | C to B on both plans |
| In 1849 the east end of the block north of the Central Hall was opened | | |
| In 1857 the Council Chamber facing Bell Yard and an Office (now the Luncheon Bar) facing Chancery Lane were opened | } | E to F on both plans |

In 1870 the north-west extension was opened	} A to C on both plans
In 1904 the north-east extension was completed	

The houses shown on the plan of 1825, north of a line drawn from A to A, were purchased in 1865 by the Strand Board of Works and pulled down, when the sites were included in the roadway which left the eastern end of Carey Street as it is to-day, bounded on the south by The Law Society's Hall.

PART I.—HARFLEET INN.

The site of this Inn is marked A to B on both plans, and forms the northern portion of the existing Hall, which portion includes the Luncheon Hall, the President's, the Secretary's, and the Assistant Secretary's rooms, the Strangers' Luncheon Room, the Grand Staircase with passage by the side, and the General Office.

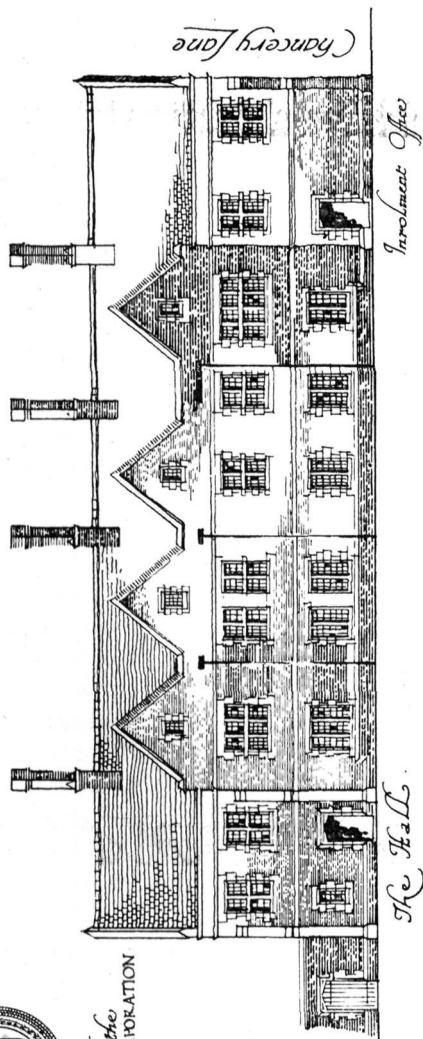
In 1400, or 22 years before the first entry was made in the Historical Black Books of Lincoln's Inn, there was a timbered residence with a curtilage later known as Harfleet Inn, located as above described. In that year (1400) Nicholas Wymbyssh was the owner of that timbered residence—he was a Master in Chancery (1423–1450) having a large practice, and lived in this house from and probably before 1400 to 1450. Opposite Wymbyssh's house, in Chancery Lane, was the Rolls, where his friend John Frank, a native of Trent, County Somerset, the Master of the Rolls (1423–1438) resided, and where much legal business was transacted. Another Master in Chancery (Sir Robert Mvskham) in 1378 held a lease from the Bishop of Ely of what was afterwards Serjeants' Inn; after his death Sir John Scarle, yet another Master, took a new lease in 1390 of the same property. In 1443 Wymbyssh became a member of the Merchant Taylors' Company, and in 1450, when he ceased to be a Master, he retired to Lincoln, being then a Canon of Lincoln Cathedral. In 1454 he obtained

leave to give lands worth 20 marks a year to the Prior and Convent of Nocton Parke, Lincoln, a Priory which had been founded by his ancestors 300 years previously, and of which he was then the patron. Pursuant to that leave he gave this "message in Chancery Lane," to the Prior, and died in 1461, when he was buried in his cathedral church, where a handsome canopied tomb was erected to his memory under the eastern arch of the south arcade of the Angel Choir, upon which tomb to-day is the mutilated headless effigy of this distinguished man. He served under four kings, viz.: Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V, and Henry VI, which last-named king acknowledged "the gratuitous services which Wymbyssh had again and again rendered from the time of his coronation, and also to the other kings, for the space of 54 years."

The Prior appears to have occupied Wymbyssh's house in Chancery Lane for a short time only, because before 1505 he had let the house to Andrew Harflete, after whom it was called "Harfleet Inn," and was then a brewhouse (a tavern); later it was leased or let to "the Six Clerks of the Chancery." The tradition is that Harfleet Inn was acquired for the Society of Six Clerks by John Kedermyster, one of their number. Another member of the family was Richard Kedermyster (D.N.B.), the Abbot of Winchcombe, who died in 1521. The original arms of that family were two Chevrons and two Bezants, but one additional Bezant was granted to "Kydermister of the Rolls." In later years when the Corporation of "The Six Clerks" had to choose a seal the Kiderminster arms were selected for the purpose—an impression of which seal taken from the Conveyance of the Office in 1781 to John Gorham, and now in the possession of the Law Society, is given opposite. A number of shields of various members of the family are to be seen to-day on the walls of the Kiderminster Chapel adjoining the Church of Langley Marish, near Slough, co. Bucks, where the family had a country seat. It would appear to be probable that John Kydermyster,



The Seal of the
SIX CLERKS CORPORATION



THE SIX CLERKS OFFICE

Built 1622 Pulled down 1781
From Morden's Lease Map of 1682. The original measures $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch

ELEVATION OF THE SIX CLERKS OFFICE IN 1781(C).

The Hall

Francery Lane

who is said to have acquired Harfleet Inn for the Six Clerks, was "Kydermister of the Rolls," and a relative of the Abbot and of Edmund Kiderminster, one of the Six Clerks in 1591, who is mentioned below.

The exact date when the Six Clerks first became, tenants of Harfleet Inn is uncertain, but it was before 1511 when those Clerks were all celibate priests, and it required a special Act of Parliament in 1522 to enable them to marry without forfeiting their offices. In or about 1527, or twelve years before the freehold was acquired by the Six Clerks, they first kept "Commons in Harfleet Inn, where each Clerk had a separate study and a separate chamber for which on coming in he paid his predecessor 20 marks, and within two years after his entry had to entertain his colleagues and others at a great and chargeable feast dinner and supper which did commonly cost £20 or marks."

On the dissolution of the lesser monasteries in 1539 King Henry VIII granted the Priory of Nocton to his brother-in-law, Charles Brandon Duke of Suffolk and Katherine, his second wife. At that date Harfleet Inn was described as "one messuage with a garden and a Curtilage thereunto belonging situate in the Street or Lane called Chauncerie Lane and which messuage of old tyme was named Harflv Inne, now being in the holding or occupation of the Six Clerks of the King's High Court of Chancery."

In the same year (1539) an Act of Parliament was passed incorporating the Six Clerks and vesting in the new Corporation this house in Chancery Lane then in their occupation and then formerly called Harflv Inn. Stow, writing in 1598, refers to the house as "now faire builded for the Six Clerkes of the Chancerie," which suggests that after the Clerks had acquired the freehold of their office they pulled down Nicholas Wymbyssh's old timbered house and erected another timbered house better suited to their requirements, where Edmund Kiderminster, the Senior of the Six Clerks, died in

1607, and where a stone (now in the Museum of the Record Office) was erected to his memory : he was buried in the Kiderminster Chapel attached to Langley Marish Church.

In 1575 the dinner above mentioned was thought to be a matter of great excess and ostentation, and was abolished when "each new comer was required to pay £6 15s. 4d. to be bestowed upon the new buying of napery and upon renewing and maintenance of the vessels and other necessaries of the Clerks." From this it is clear that they kept Common Hall in their Inn furnished with necessary linen, china and glass. It seems likely that in early days some of the Clerks probably living in the town with their families let their Chambers in the Inn to colleagues who had country houses, because in 1620 Paul D'Ewes (one of their number from 1607 to 1631), of Stow Hall, County Suffolk, with his wife, his son (Sir) Simonds, then a lad of 18, and his four daughters, at times all resided at the Six Clerks Office and there received their friends and visitors. They must all have dined in the Hall, where on occasions the Clerks entertained their under-clerks and other guests. No other details of that Hall have survived except the one fact that the Six Clerks hung on the walls their Shields of Arms.

On the 20th December, 1621, a great catastrophe happened, when the whole of the timbered Office was utterly destroyed by fire, and some of the houses on the north and south of the office were also burnt. William Tothill, one of the Six Clerks (1598 to 1626) occupied the study next adjoining that of Paul D'Ewes, and in consequence of Tothill's neglect in not repairing the hearth of his chimney the fire caught the woodwork in D'Ewes's study and spread over the whole building. Sir Simonds D'Ewes (D.N.B.), who at one time resided with his father in the Six Clerks Office, has left it on record that Tothill's negligence was the occasion of burning all the Six Clerks Office "and some houses that adjoined

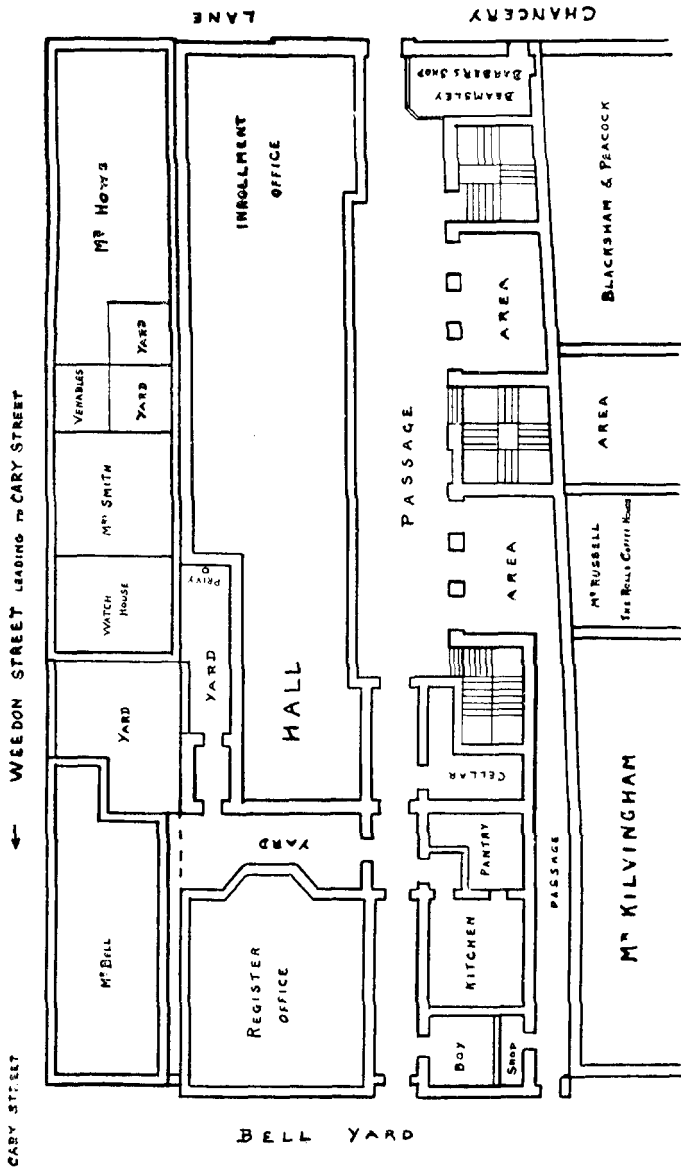
unto them on either side." This statement shows that there were at the time of the fire, houses on the south of the Office, so that, after 1528 and before 1621, the Six Clerks must have sold for building purposes or themselves built the timbered houses which stood on the south of the Office (C to B).

The four senior Clerks, viz., William Tothill (1598), George Evelyn (1606), Valentine Sanders (1607), and Paul D'Ewes (1608) (there was not convenience of lodgings then in the Office for William Pennyman (1610) and Robert Henley (1618), the two Puisne Clerks, who had to hire lodgings abroad) suffered losses in their personal and private estates as well as in the public concern of the Office. Five of the Clerks did not lose much—two of them being in town and three of them having little there except Tothill, whose money was preserved in an iron chest, but Paul D'Ewes lost some £6,000 in goods and money—four times as much as all the others put together. Paul D'Ewes resided in the Office with his family during the greater part of the year, so that he had there a great store of plate and household goods, £3,000 in gold, and the deeds of his estates. When the fire broke out no one could get into the study to rescue the contents in consequence of the thickness of the doors and the strength of the locks.

Prior to the fire the Six Clerks were for the most part guilty of two especial sins, says Sir Simonds D'Ewes, "one, first was their extreme tenacity and love of the world, daily plotting how to keep short the gains of their under clerks, and to advance their own: which fault, even after the fire, I heard not that any of them amended. The other was their atheistical profanation of God's own holy day (except one Mr. Henley, come in but a few years before, that had some religion) in their studies, most part of the Sunday in the afternoon, to take their fees and do their office business, many of their under clerks following their profane examples. And that this latter sin, which concerned not much their profit, might

justly occasion this punishment, they all for the most part confessed; and therefore for the future, after their new office was built, they ever caused the doors thereof to be kept shut all the Lord's Day, neither attending themselves, nor suffering any of their under clerks to sit and write there as they had formerly used." Paul D'Ewes died in the Office on the 14th March, 1631; he paid £5,000 for his appointment and between the years 1607 and 1631 received about £32,500 in fees, etc., but there were many new years' gifts and other charges incident to the Office besides some large bribes towards his latter time extorted from him and his fellows.

The Six Clerks immediately after the fire set to work and rebuilt their Office on the area A to C on both plans, an account of which was given in 1701 by Nathaniel Bladen when writing a history of the Six Clerks. He says "The Clerks at their own proper cost and charges (to the value of about £3,000 or £4,000) in a year's time substantially and very commodiously new built the Six Clerks House and Office from the ground, all of brick (which before was of combustible timber, with several rooms and separate lodgings and conveniences for each of the Six Clerks and several rooms therein vaulted over with brick for the safe keeping of the King's and the Subjects' records in the Inrolment Office and preserving them from the like danger for the future for the general good and benefit of future ages as well as the cohabitation of themselves and their successors the future Clerks. The House stands to this day crowded and environed with taverns and dwelling-houses—public and private—so that it is still exposed to suffer by the like calamity of fire arising in the neighbourhood, no small reproach to the supineness of the Government in so publick and general a concern tho the Six Clerks have done their best endeavours in building the same so substantially as they have done all of brick and as little combustible materials in the work as possibly could be and vaulting the repositories of the records which concerned His Majesty and



Copy of a Plan in the Public Record Office Six Clerks papers

also those which relate only to the Subjects shewed their publick spiritedness and deserved to have been rewarded and secured at the Public charge by taking down the surrounding buildings that eclipse the light and endanger the safetie of the Office and the Records."

An elevation of this new Office is to be found in Morden and Leas's map of 1682, from which it appears that the Office faced south and had four gables. There were two entrances, the one from Chancery Lane and the other from Bell Yard; a passage with the Office on the north and buildings on the south connected the two entrances; there was a yard or garden on the west. The entrance out of Chancery Lane was under an arch, and after passing through, there was a door on the right which led to the Inrolment Office. At the west end of the building there was the principal entrance which led to the Hall. On the first floor was one long room containing from end to end four rows of seats where the Sixty Clerks, viz., ten to each of the Six Clerks, with their under-clerks transacted the business of the Office. On the second floor each of the Six Clerks had his separate study and a residential chamber as well; the Record rooms were also on the second floor. In the basement were vaulted cellars where some of the Records were kept, whilst others were stored in the Record rooms over the Office.

Some time before 1773, probably in 1708, on the passing of the Middlesex Registry Act, a small neat brick building facing Bell Yard was built in the yard or garden at the west end of the Office and let to the Registrar, where the Registry was located until 1781, when the property was sold.

In 1720 it was recorded by Cavendish Weedon that "the Clerks write by candle light in the daytime annoyed with the smoke and smell of candle grease and are so many and so near crowded up together in little boxes." In 1731 the Six Clerks made a Report to the House of Commons in which it was stated that "While the causes

are in agitation" the Records remain in their respective studies in the Office or in the seats of their sworn clerks but when determined they were carried up into the Record rooms over the Office. They also reported that from the weight of the Records several of the pillars of the Office were beginning to give way and some of the floors of the Record rooms sinking very much and the north wall was beginning to part from the roof. The result was that in the end the Government provided accommodation for the Six Clerks and others in the building which still stands on the east side of Stone Buildings in Lincoln's Inn. The portion allotted to the Six Clerks was first occupied by them in the Long Vacation of 1778: they were abolished in 1842 mainly through the instrumentality of Edwin Wilkins Field, Solicitor, at a cost which has been estimated at £1,000,000.

The old Office was converted into barracks during the Gordon Riots (1780) for the Northumberland Militia, who were doing duty in Lincoln's Inn.

In 1781 the property was sold by Order of the Court of Chancery for £1,155 to John Gorham, who commenced life as a bricklayer, then became a builder and finally a surveyor. Gorham pulled down all the old buildings, and erected upon the eastern portion three brick dwelling-houses all facing Chancery Lane, and numbered 100, 101, and 102 in that Lane; on the western portion he erected two other brick dwelling-houses, numbered 23 and 24 in Bell Yard (see Plan of 1825).

23 Bell Yard was probably built for the Middlesex Registry, as it stood on the site of the old Registry, and was in the occupation of the Registrar from 1782 to 1866 when he moved to Serle Street.

24 Bell Yard in 1802 was occupied by ———— Monroe, a Law Stationer, in 1854 by ———— Heaven, and in 1861 by L. A. Lewis, an Auctioneer.

Both 23 and 24 Bell Yard were purchased by the Society in 1864 from Thomas Mitchell Fryer and Mary Fryer.

100 Chancery Lane was occupied from 1834 to 1846 by Robert Maugham, the first Secretary of the Law Society, who in 1846 moved into the Hall. The Equity and Law Life Insurance Company were the owners and occupiers in 1866, and Messrs. Reeves & Turner, Law Publishers, were there until 1903-4. This house was purchased by the Society in 1866 from the Strand Board of Works.

101 Chancery Lane was originally occupied by John Gorham, in 1848 by L. H. Braham, Solicitor, and in 1872 was known as Miss Barker's Coffee House. In the basements of Nos. 101 and 102 were extensive cellars, arched with brick, which no doubt had been built by the Six Clerks to accommodate the Records as mentioned above. In 1856, when drains were being laid to Nos. 101 and 102, many skulls, arm, and leg bones were found at a depth of from ten to twelve feet, and it has been suggested that in former centuries the land had been used as a burial ground appertaining to the *Domus conver-sorum*. This house was purchased by the Society in 1873 from Edward Cox.

102 Chancery Lane. In 1802 Richard Smith Appleyard, one of the Cursitors of the Court of Chancery, and his brother Robert Langley Appleyard, of Lincoln's Inn, purchased this house from Rebecca Bliss, the devisee of John Gorham. It will not be forgotten that Elizabeth Appleyard married Sir John Robsart, who had a daughter Amy, who married Dudley Earl of Leicester. The common ancestor of R. S. Appleyard and Amy Robsart was Sir William Appleyard, the first Mayor of Norwich in 1403. A lease for 21 years from Christmas, 1801, was granted to John Wellbank, Surgeon, and in 1848 Richard Wellbank, Surgeon, was in occupation, whilst Edward Cox, a Law Stationer, was tenant for many years down to 1903-4. This house was purchased by the Society in 1867 from Richard Hall Appleyard.

22 Bell Yard and 103 and 105 Chancery Lane, with 104 lying between them (C to B on Plan of 1825), were the

four houses standing between the Six Clerks Office and Carew's House. These houses were not included in the sale to Gorham in 1781; indeed, as already stated, the Six Clerks had parted with this portion of the Harfleet Inn Estate before the fire of 1621. But the houses which stood there in 1621 were built of timber and some at least were burnt at the same time as the Office, and probably rebuilt shortly afterwards, because soon after the fire and rebuilding of their Office, the Six Clerks lodged a complaint couched in quaint language against Mr. Albrey, a Cursitor, who was rebuilding the house next adjoining: "who intended to enlarge himself upon some part of his ground not theretofore built upon whereby he will damn up or much obscure your petitioners' lights and so make that part of their Office become unuseful."

22 Bell Yard was the largest of these four houses; it was built of brick and had a small garden on the east, with the open Fickettsfield on the west. It is probable that 22 and 21 Bell Yard (as to which latter see Part II, *post*), were built at the same time, just after 1621, and possibly by Thomas Porter, who was the owner of both, in 1666. His parents, John and Mary Porter, occupied each of these two houses in succession. In 1666 Thomas Porter mortgaged both houses, and in 1669 sold them to his uncle Sir John Bramston, K.B. (D.N.B.), son of Sir John Bramston, the Lord Chief Justice in 1635, father of Mary Porter, with whom her father and brother often wintered in Bell Yard. Lady Ivie was a cousin of Mrs. Porter. and no doubt visited her in Bell Yard. A famous ejectment action reported in the State Trials was brought against Lady Ivie to recover seven acres, being a great part of Shadwell. Chief Justice Jeffreys, with three puisne judges, heard the case, the report of which was edited by Sir John C. Fox in 1929.

Sir William Lisle, a Master in Chancery, who died in 1665, resided in No. 22; he was a brother of John Lisle,

one of the Commissioners of the Great Seal from 1649 to 1659, whose second wife Alice (D.N.B.) was beheaded in the Market Place of Winchester on 2nd September, 1685, after the most infamous trial on record of those presided over by Chief Justice Jeffreys; next day that judge opened his Bloody Assize at Dorchester. The grand-daughter of Alice Lisle became the wife of William Russell (D.N.B.) the first Duke of Bedford.

22 Bell Yard, together with No. 21 adjoining, was sold in 1669 for £1,250 by Sir John Bramston to (Sir) Anthony Keck (D.N.B.), who was then in occupation of No. 22. Anthony Keck on the 28th March, 1630, was baptised in the Parish Church of Mickleton in the County of Gloucester; he was appointed one of the three Commissioners of the Great Seal in 1689, and died in Bell Yard in 1695. Sir Anthony Keck devised his estates at Tew, County Oxford, to his only son Francis, whose daughter Mary married Sir John Dutton, of Sherborne, County Gloucester, nephew of William Dutton, a ward of Oliver Cromwell. Sir Anthony's nephew Samuel was a Master in Chancery from 1688 to 1711. Some time before 1746, 22 Bell Yard was in the occupation of Sir Lawrence Carter, a Baron of the Court of Exchequer in 1758, and in 1827 of Eugenius Roche, a distinguished journalist and part proprietor of the *Courier* newspaper, his wife being the owner. This house, No. 22, was purchased by the Society in 1830 from John Scott, the administrator of the estate of Eugenius Roche, deceased.

103, 104 and 105 Chancery Lane were all purchased in 1784 by John Gorham, who had previously purchased the old Six Clerks Office, which stood on the north of these three houses.

103 Chancery Lane in 1650 was the property of Sir William Acton.

104 Chancery Lane in 1784 was known as "The Old Rolls Coffee House," and was approached through a passage between Nos. 103 and 105 Chancery Lane.

105 Chancery Lane in 1784 and in 1838 was known as the Five Bells Public House.

These three houses were purchased by the Society in 1838 from Martin Ware and Anne his wife.

PART II.—CAREW'S HOUSE.

This house was built of timber, probably by John Taylor, Doctor of Papal Law, a Master of the Chancery, who became Master of the Rolls in 1527, and died in 1534. Dr. Taylor in 1511 obtained a 60 years' lease from the Knight Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, Clerkenwell, of "a tenement once consisting of 3 Cottages with gardens adjacent with Fiketts Field on the West Fykettesfeld Lane on the South and the tenement of the Prior and Convent of Nocton Park in the tenure of the Six Clerks of the King's Chancery on the North." Dr. Taylor, on being appointed Master of the Rolls, would have gone into residence at the Rolls House which then stood in Chancery Lane opposite Carew's house, and where to-day the Public Record Office stands, and appears to have surrendered the above-mentioned lease. In 1528 Sir William Weston, the last Prior of St. John's, engaged with Cardinal Wolsey to grant in fee farm to the Dean and Canons of the Cardinal's College, Oxford, "a grete messuage with a gardeyn set and being in Chauncellor Lane in the suburbs of London, which house was late in the tenure of Dr. Taylor now Master of the Rolls and now in the tenure of the said Dean and Canons, which messuage and gardeyn joyneth to the messuage in the holding of the Six Clerks towards the North the lane called Ballards Lane towards the South with the King's highway in Chauncellor Lane on the East and Thikke-hethfelds on the West at a rent of £26 13s. 4d. for all the premises." This property had not been transferred to the College before Wolsey's fall, and in 1530 it was included in the Schedule of the Cardinal's possessions. In 1531 this, with other property, was surrendered to the King by the Dean of Wolsey's College and the Prior of

St. John's Clerkenwell, and was confirmed by Act of Parliament. In 1544 the house was in the occupation of Sir Thomas Speke, and in 1545 the Crown, in consideration of £1,551 13s. 8d., granted in fee to John Pope, brother of Sir Thomas Pope, founder of Trinity College, Oxford, various properties including this mansion in Chancery Lane, then in the tenure of Sir Thomas Speke.

Between 1580 and 1605, probably in 1582, Matthew Carew (D.N.B.) purchased this mansion; he was the third son of Sir Wymond Carew, K.B., the head of an ancient family of Antony, County Cornwall, where the family still resides. Matthew was educated at Westminster School, and Trinity College, Cambridge (Scholar and Fellow) where for seven years he studied jurisprudence and to perfect his knowledge thereof visited the academies of Louvain, Paris, Dole, Padua, Bologna and Sienna. After 12 years, he took his LL.D. degree, probably at Louvain, and was appointed interpreter to Henry Earl of Arundel on his visit to Italy. On returning home he practised as an advocate in the Court of Arches; in 1583 he was appointed a Master in Chancery. In 1589 he was admitted *honoris causa* a Member of Gray's Inn; in 1595 he was sitting with his colleague, Master Lambard, the learned author of *Archeion*, and in 1599 in the Court of Requests; in 1603 he was knighted. His official reports, preserved in the Public Record Office are extremely curious and amusing. In 1605 Sir Matthew Carew divided his mansion into two dwelling-houses, one of which he converted into chambers for students of Lincoln's Inn. He died in 1618 and was buried in his parish church—St. Dunstan in the West.

Another house was built, probably about 1621, on the western portion of the garden belonging to Carew's House—that new house faced Ficketts Field on the west and was subsequently known as No. 21 Bell Yard. Carew was succeeded as Master by Sir Robert Rich, who in 1646 was succeeded by William Hakewell, who in

1652 was succeeded by Sir Thomas Estcourt. Both Rich and Estcourt lived in Carew's House. In 1661, pursuant to an Act of Parliament, a Public Office for the Masters in Chancery had to be established near the Rolls. At that time Sir Thomas Estcourt, who retired in 1660, was living in Carew's House and elected to have that office set up in the yard or garden of his house which had a convenient entrance from Jackanapes Alley, then formerly known as Ballards Lane and previously as Fykettesfeld Lane. The site of that Public Office is now the north-west corner of the present Reading Hall (see plan of 1925).

About 1685 Carew's House was converted into a tavern known as "The Rolls Tavern," and by 1746 as "The Crown and Rolls Tavern." In 1766 it was patronised by Edward Thurlow, afterwards Lord Thurlow, and in 1772-3 by the Society of Gentlemen Practisers. In 1760 the property was described as "The principal messuage with a paved yard before the same on the East and a yard or backside with buildings on the West, another messuage adjoining to the first messuage. Also two shops then standing before the first named messuage and the building then late the Public Office of the Masters of the Court of Chancery all which premises were let at £200 per annum." "Another messuage" on the west is here mentioned for the first time.

In 1746, after visiting this house, George Vertue (D.N.B.), the celebrated engraver, wrote in his notebook: "In Chancery Lane over against the Rolls Office—next to the Six Clerks Office—is an old timber house . . . I have lately visited and viewed it—in a great room above stairs is carved [over the chimney piece] the arms and supporters of Carew [3 Lyons passant with many quarterings] who had embellished and repaired it—with fretwork ceilings, etc. now is and has been for many years a tavern of note." The Rev. William Stukely, M.D., has recorded that on the 31st October, 1750, he attended as a witness in the dining room of the Rolls Tavern, Chancery

Lane, "an old country house of the Lord Careys: his arms over the chimney and supporters: 3 Lyons passant, with many quarterings."

In 1775 Michael Moseley, who then owned the old timbered "Crown and Rolls Tavern," pulled it down and built on the site a new tavern, with a small house behind on the west, and a coffee house on the south, which was known as "The New Crown and Rolls Coffee House." In 1784-5 the tavern was closed and the building converted into a private dwelling-house for (Sir) John Silvester, F.R.S., Recorder of the City of London, who left in 1814.

108 Chancery Lane, formerly known as "The Crown and Rolls Tavern," and the messuage in Pope's Head Alley behind and adjoining the aforesaid messuage on the west, were in 1815 leased to Messrs. Collins & Wells (Hair Merchants) for 21 years at £200 per annum.

109 Chancery Lane was the coffee tavern on the south of the Old Crown and Rolls Tavern. From 1788 to 1814 it was in the occupation of Sir John Silvester or his tenants, and before 1828 of Messrs. Clarke, Richards & Medcalf, Solicitors.

108 and 109 Chancery Lane and the house on the west were purchased by the Society in 1828 from Thomas Jarvis.

21 Bell Yard was first occupied by John Porter, Barrister-at-Law, father of Thomas Porter, already mentioned in connection with 22 Bell Yard. In 1662, 21 Bell Yard was leased to Thomas Waldron, Doctor of Physick, for 21 years at £40 per annum. In 1680 it was occupied by Sir Timothy Baldwin (D.N.B.) (1620-96), D.C.L., Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, Principal of Hart Hall (now Hertford College), Master in Chancery (1670-82), and Clerk to the House of Lords (1679-80). In 1788 the surviving trustee of the will of Anthony Keck, of Theobalds, Serjeant-at-Law, sold the house to Joseph Fisher for £404 5s., which from 1811 to 1828 was occupied by Alexander Maxwell, the King's publisher

and bookseller, whose business is now merged in that of Sweet & Maxwell, Ltd., of Chancery Lane. The Bell Yard entrance to the Hall now occupies the site of this house, which was purchased by the Society in 1828 pursuant to a Private Act of Parliament.

PART III.—JACKANAPES ALLEY.

The site of this alley runs through the southern pillar of the portico in Chancery Lane, through the room on the south of the main entrance across, the vestibule up the passage leading to the Council Chamber, then along the northern wall, and so through the northern window of that Chamber into Bell Yard. The boundary of the City of London runs along the centre of the site of the alley until it reaches the Council Chamber, where it runs south on the eastern wall of that Chamber.

The alley has been known by various names: In 1511 it was called Fykettes Feld Lane; in 1531 Ballards Lane; after 1531 Feld Lane; in 1536 Feldegate; and before 1662 Field Lane, commonly called Jackanapes Alley. In 1579 there were gates at either end of the lane which ran from Chancery Lane into Ficketts Field, Bell Yard not then having been developed.

About 1605 complaint was made that a tenement which had been built over the alley much darkened the way to the houses, especially in winter nights. In 1662 an Act of Parliament was passed for the enlarging of several strait and inconvenient streets and passages in Westminster, including "the passage or street of Field Lane commonly called Jackanapes Alley," and it was described as "soe narrow that it was incommodious to coaches carts and passengers and prejudicial to commerce and trading." Still, in 1700 (*c*), this alley was "notoriously known to be a dangerous as well as a most incommodious passage for all persons coaches and carts passing through the same there being no other cart or coach way into Lincoln's Inn Fields save on the West." Notwithstanding the Act of 1662 the alley was never

widened because the Act contained no provision for the purchase of the land required for the purpose.

In 1700 another Act made provision for the laying out of the eastern portion of Carey Street "in lieu and instead of Jackanapes Alley—the persons interested in the alley having agreed to the same." The Act also provided that 89 feet of the alley should be vested in Cavendish Weedon and others to be sold and the proceeds applied in making the extension of Carey Street. In 1720 the "Rummer Tavern" stood at the end of Jackanapes Alley next Chancery Lane, frequented by the Society for the Reformation of Manners, against which Society the landlady recovered £300 damages for libel. About that time 89 feet of the alley must have been sold, and there was erected a shed at the east end of the alley and a messuage at the west end of the 89 feet, all of which in 1774 was purchased by Michael Moseley, the owner of the "Crown and Rolls Tavern" on the north of the alley. In the next year Michael Moseley rebuilt the tavern, and at the same time built the "New Crown and Rolls Coffee House" on the site of the alley and on a part of the site of the old tavern. This property was purchased by the Society in 1828, together with 108 and 109 Chancery Lane, as mentioned above. That part of the alley which was beyond the 89 feet then came to be called "Pope's Head Court."

PART IV.—THE CAGE.

Immediately south of Jackanapes Alley in 1514 there was a tenement in the occupation of Thomas Fylde, with "The Cage" (E to F on the Plan of 1825) on the south, having a garden adjacent, together with six cottages and their gardens on either side of "The Cage," with a tenement on the south called "St. Andrew's Cross," in the tenure of Richard Pynson, who in 1508 was the King's printer; he was the first publisher of the year books, and by his will gave to Elizabeth Tomson a dwelling chamber amongst his tenements at the "Andrew

Cross" (on the south of "The Cage") in Chancellor's Lane.

Pope's Head Alley passed out of Pope's Head Court (formerly the western end of Jackanapes Alley) on the south, both of which no doubt were named after John Pope, the one-time owner of Carew's House, on the north of the alley; at the southern end of Pope's Head Alley was the "Pope's Head Tavern," where Samuel Pepys in 1663 settled his famous action against Tom Price.

In 1685 Nos. 20 and 19 Bell Yard and 110 and 111 Chancery Lane all belonged to Elizabeth Stuckey, of Ashbury, County Devon, widow. All those houses passed by wills and settlements in the family until in 1848 there were no less than 22 persons owning different undivided shares in the whole estate.

20 Bell Yard in 1848 was occupied by David Scanlan, a watchmaker.

19 Bell Yard in 1848 was occupied by Samuel Pearce, a plumber and painter.

110 Chancery Lane in 1848 was occupied by Cornish Brothers, booksellers.

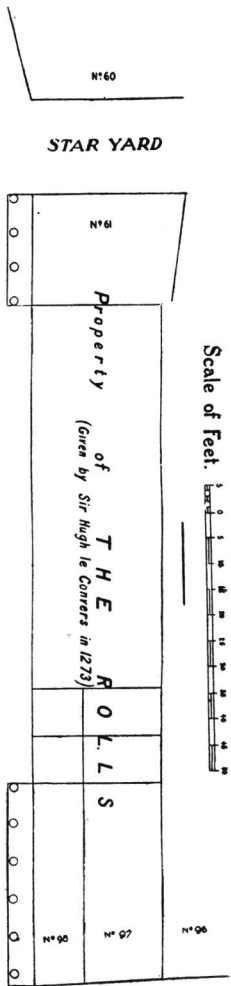
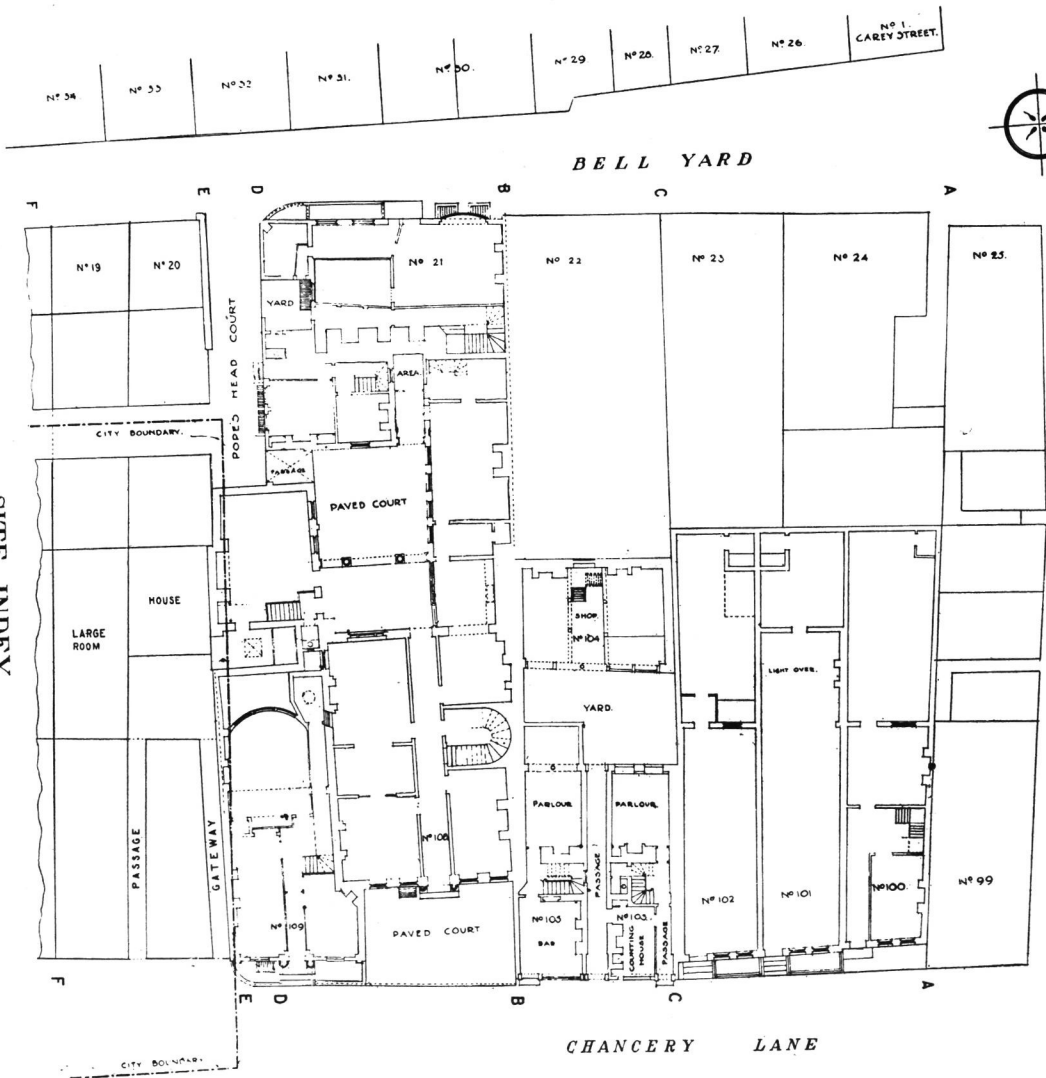
111 Chancery Lane in 1848 was occupied by Richard and James Hammond, furniture dealers.

These four houses were purchased by the Society in 1848 from 28 persons then beneficially entitled thereto.

THE BUILDING.

In 1828, when the Society secured the houses standing on the area marked B to E on the plans where formerly Carew's House stood, Mr. Lewis Vulliamy was asked to prepare a design for the intended Hall; the design was to include wings on either side to be built when the adjoining properties could be purchased. The entire area was to be that south of a line drawn from C to C on the plans.

If the north and south walls of the Central (Reading) Hall of to-day were both extended to Bell Yard and



Scale of Feet:

CAREY STREET

BELL YARD

CHANCERY LANE

THE ROLLS

SITE INDEX.

A to B.....*Harfleet Inn*.....1450(e)
 B to D.....*Sir M. Carew*.....After 1580
 E to F.....*The Cage - part of*.....1408

A to C.....*Six Clerks Office*.....1622-1778
 D to E.....*Jacknapes Alley*.....Closed 1700

THE SITE OF THE LAW SOCIETY'S HALL IN 1825.

Chancery Lane we should have the original Hall complete with a staircase at the southern end of the Chancery Lane vestibule leading to the Library on the first floor, overlooking the Grecian portico in Chancery Lane. There was also a convenient room on either side of the Chancery Lane entrance. Another staircase on the Bell Yard side was for the use of the Secretary, who had his residence on that side. In the basement were, and still are, a number of strong rooms for the convenience of members. This central block was opened on the 28th June, 1831, by the Society holding their annual meeting for the first time in their own Hall.

In 1832 a large Club coffee room was built on the site of No. 22 Bell Yard (C to B on the west)—on the first floor were rooms for dinner parties, and over those were quarters for the resident officers, whilst in the basement were kitchens and other domestic offices for the use of the Club, which was opened on the 19th October, 1832.

In 1849 a further part of the original design was developed by building a strangers' dining room for the Club on the sites of 103 and 105 Chancery Lane (C to B on the east) and a green room and store room also for the Club were built on the site of No. 104 Chancery Lane. On the first floor the Library was extended 49 feet to the north. In the basement additional fireproof rooms making 117 in all were provided for the use of the members.

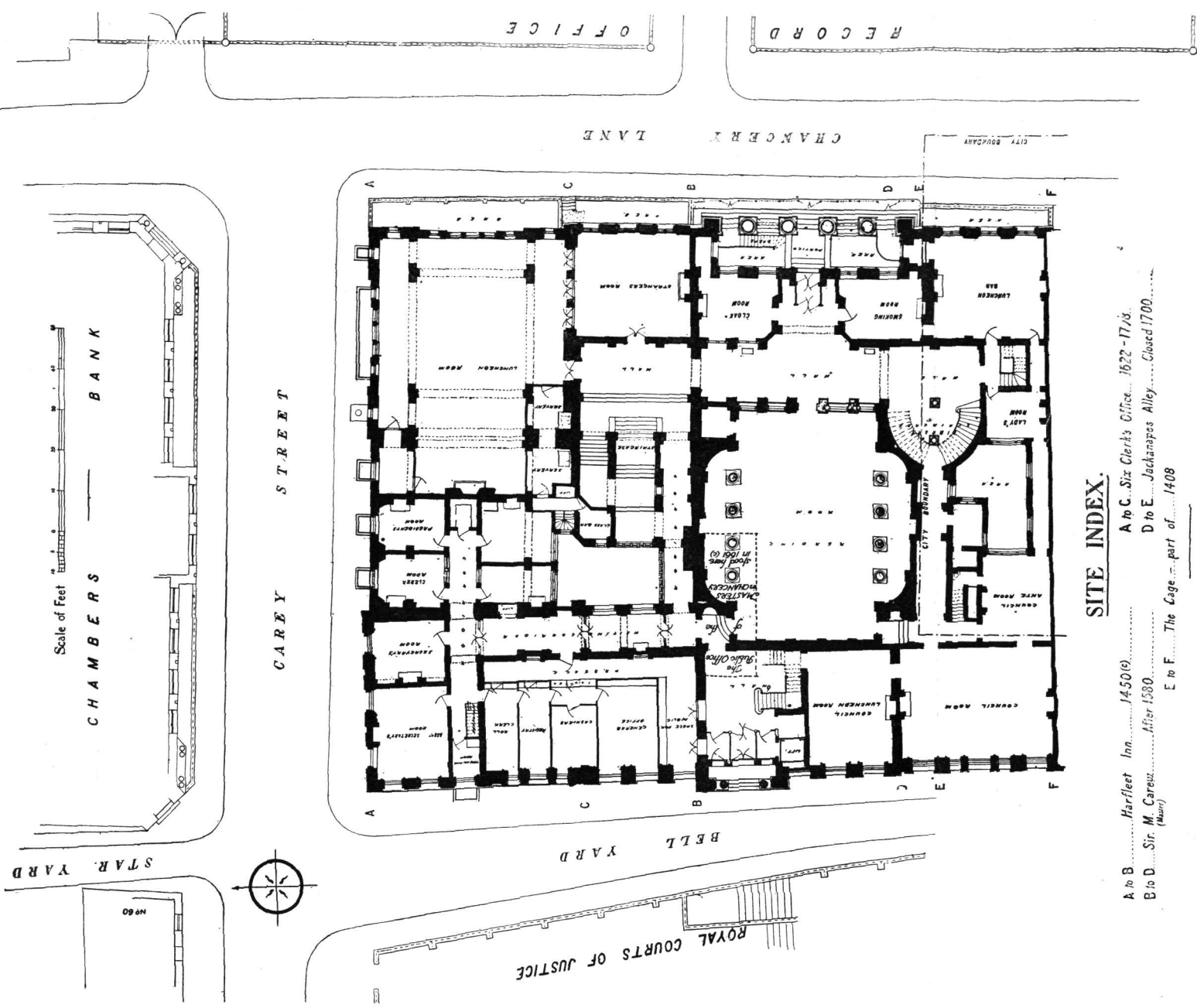
In 1857 the Council Chamber fronting Bell Yard, with an ante-chamber for the Secretary, also a good sized room for the General Office fronting Chancery Lane, were built on the sites of 19 and 20 Bell Yard and 110 and 111 Chancery Lane (E to F); the Library was again enlarged, this time on the south, and remains to-day as then; other accommodation overlooking Bell Yard was provided. This completed Mr. Vulliamy's design.

In 1864 plans were prepared by Mr. P. C. Hardwick for further developments. The strangers' dining room was left, but all the rest of the Club premises on the

ground floor were re-arranged and new buildings were erected on the sites of 23 and 24 Bell Yard (A to C on the west). The long coffee room, which formerly ran east and west, in the new arrangement ran north and south, with a drawing room on the north, afterwards used as a smoking room, when the adjoining room on the east, originally a butler's pantry, was converted into the Club drawing room. On the first floor a large and lofty Examination Hall, approached from an entrance in Carey Street, was built. On the second floor were provided private apartments for the Secretary, including a drawing and dining-room overlooking Carey Street; and on the third floor eight other rooms.

In 1901 the Law Club was dissolved, when their premises became available for the general purposes of the Society, and shortly afterwards extensive alterations were made. On the site of 100, 101, and 102 Chancery Lane (A to C on the east) the present Luncheon Hall was built, with the Members' Common Room on the floor above. The room on the west of the Luncheon Hall was set apart for the President, with a clerks' room again on the west. The old Club drawing room still further west was converted into the Secretary's room and the old Club smoking room in the north-west corner of the building facing Bell Yard and Carey Street was allotted to the Assistant Secretary. The large Club dining room facing Bell Yard and situate on the south of the Assistant Secretary's room was converted into the General Office. All these buildings except the southern portion of the General Office stand on the site of the Six Clerks Office which was pulled down in 1781.

On the first floor above the Luncheon Hall a Members' Common Room was provided, having Chancery Lane on the east and Carey Street on the north. The old Examination Hall was divided by inserting a floor—the lower floor was, and still is, for the use of the Law School, whilst the upper floor, now called the West Library, is now the Examination Hall.



SITE INDEX.

- A to B..... Harfleet Inn..... 1450(6).....
- A to C..... Six Clerks Office..... 1622-1718.....
- B to D..... Sir. M. Carew..... After 1580.....
- D to E..... Jackanapes Alley..... Closed 1700.....
- E to F..... The Cage..... part of..... 1408.....

THE LAW SOCIETY'S HALL IN 1925.

The old green room of the Club was pulled down and the Grand Staircase erected on the site, which at the top gives access both to the Library and to the Common Room. These new buildings were designed by Mr. Percy Adams and opened on the 23rd day of March, 1904, by His late Majesty King Edward VII, when he was accompanied by Her late Majesty Queen Alexandra and H.R.H. the Princess Victoria.

The author is indebted to Messrs. Lander, Bedells & Crompton, the Society's Architects, for the above Plans and Elevation.