

NOTES AND QUERIES.

HISTORICAL CONFERENCE.—The Anglo-American Historical Conference, which was held again at the Institute of Historical Research, Malet Street, London, W.C.1, from 13th to 18th July, was remarkable this year for the prominence given to the discussion of British Local History.

Prof. W. J. Harte of Exeter was the secretary of this section, and the Chairman was Prof. A. Hamilton Thompson, of Leeds. The subjects for discussion were "The Present Work and Prospects of Local Record Societies," which was mooted by Prof. R. B. Mowat, of Bristol, Messrs. A. M. Oliver and J. W. Walker; and "Local Records: their Collection and Preservation," which was surveyed by Dr. G. Herbert Fowler, Canon Goodman, Miss Joan Wake and Miss E. Jeffries Davis. The Editor of our TRANSACTIONS was a delegate from our Society, and from the Mill Hill Historical Association.

THE CROWSTONE.—Off Westcliffe-on-Sea there are two stones, which marked the jurisdiction of the City of London on the River Thames, the larger one with the names of certain more recent Lord Mayors, and a smaller one, which is apparently the original and therefore the more historical. All that remains of the inscriptions on the smaller stone appears to be part of the name of a Lord Mayor, a date which seems to be 1812, the words "God preserve the City of London," and the City Arms. By the action of the waves and weather the inscription must become unreadable very soon. Perhaps there are members of the Common Council who would be interested in preserving this historic relic. In the Southend Museum there are four

pictures of the Crowstone; one, drawn by S. Owen and published by W. B. Cooke in 1815; another from the *Illustrated London News* of 21st July, 1849, showing the Lord Mayor as Conservator of the River, paying his ceremonial visit, which used to take place once every seven years; the third is a water-colour drawing in 1909 by L. Burleigh Brake, and the fourth, a drawing in 1929 by Fred Roe.

GEORGE J. RALLINGS.

COLLINSON'S MILL HILL GARDEN.—In the May issue of the *Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin*, there is an account of the Collinson Garden at Mill Hill, where Henry Shaw, who founded the Missouri Garden, first acquired his interest in plants. He was at Mill Hill School from 1811 to 1817 and then travelled, eventually settling and making a fortune in St. Louis, U.S.A. He left to the city a magnificent park, botanic gardens and museums, and a million pounds sterling for upkeep. There is a city garden of 75 acres and a tract of 1500 acres outside the city limits. The article in the *Missouri Bulletin* calls attention to the fact that many old Middlesex gardens, including Kew, Kenwood and Whitton Park, besides those of Holland House and Mill Hill School, owe much of their beauty to the exchange of plants which went on with America in the early 18th century.

JOHN BARTRAM.—On 5th and 6th June of this year 1931, there was a celebration in Philadelphia, U.S.A., to commemorate the scientific achievements of John Bartram, on the two hundredth anniversary of his founding of the first Botanic Garden in the American Colonies. This garden owed a very great deal to the generous help of Peter Collinson, of Peckham, and afterwards of Ridgeway House, Mill Hill, who was also,

with Benjamin Franklin, the founder of the first Public Library in the New World. Our Honorary Editor was invited to be present at the celebrations in Philadelphia.

HENDON PAGEANT.—In order to help the children of Hendon to appreciate the historic interest of their district, a Pageant was prepared under the auspices of the Hendon Juvenile Organisations Committee and performed in the public park on Saturday, 4th July. Nearly 600 children took part and the story of Hendon was depicted in nine episodes.

These followed, in the main, the lines of the Pageant held at Mill Hill in 1927, and introduced the Monks of Westminster, Queen Elizabeth, who paid four authentic visits to Sir Edward Herbert, Lord of the Manor, and to her tutor Sir John Fortescue at Hendon Place, George Fox, David Garrick, Sir Stamford Raffles, and William Wilberforce.

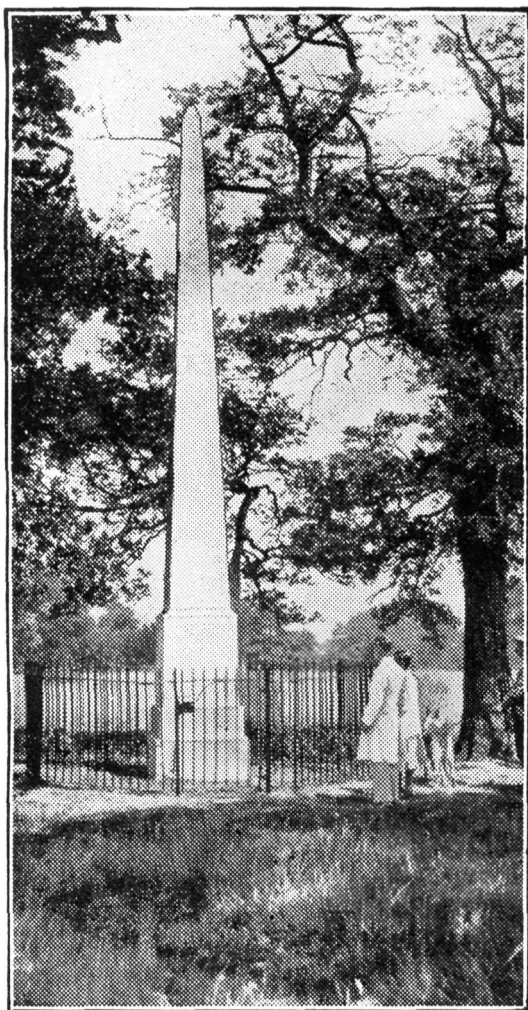
MIDDLESEX KNIGHTS OF THE SHIRE.—It is hoped to hold another meeting of those interested in the compilation of a complete survey of this important matter of county history, and it will probably take place at the House of Commons in September or October. Notice will be sent to all those who attended the previous meeting, and to any who care to send in their names and addresses to the Honorary Editor. Pressure of historical and other work has made it impossible for him to devote adequate time to work in this connection, and it would be extremely helpful if a member of our Society could find time to become Hon. Secretary for Middlesex, and so keep in touch with those who are helping to write the Parliamentary history of the County.

The Central Committee on House of Commons Records have found that biographies will have to be limited to about 400 words on the average, that is, about one page and a quarter of our TRANSACTIONS.

Colonel Wedgwood, the Chairman of the Committee, has sent us the following additional Middlesex names to add to the list published in our last TRANSACTIONS:—

- 1294 22 Edw. I. William de Brok; William de Staunton
(from *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1293-1301, p. 104,
Inst. Hist. Research Bulletin, Nov. 1925).
- 1439 18 Hen. VI. 12 Nov. John Assh; Walter Grene
(P.R.O.).
- 1463 3 Edw. IV. Thomas Lute or Luke; Henry Frowyk
(Madox. *Firma Burgi*, pp. 104-6, *Inst. Hist.
Res. Bull.*, Nov., 1930).
- 1485 1 Hen. VII. Thomas Lovel (probably).
- 1491 7 Hen. VII. John Rysley, Knt., Thomas Lovell,
Knt. (Harl. MS. 2252).
- 1497 12 Hen. VII. Thomas Lovell, Knt. (probably).
- 1509-10 .. 1 Hen. VIII. ? Sir Thomas More.
- 1511-12 .. 3 Hen. VIII. ? Sir Thomas More.
- 1514-15 .. 6 Hen. VIII. ? Sir Thomas More.
- 1523 14 Hen. VIII. ? Sir Thomas More.
- 1547 1 Edw. II. Thomas Wrothe, miles; Johannes
Newdygate, armiger. (Cecil Papers. C.P.
207.)
- 1571 13 Eliz. Francis Newdigate, Esq., John Newdigate,
Esq. (Browne Willis, p. 820, De Tabley Ms.)
- 1585 27, 28 Eliz. Robert Wrothe, Esq., Owen Hopton,
Esq. (Browne Willis, p. 102).
- 1653 Interregnum. Sir William Roberts; Augustine Wing-
field; Arthur Squibb. (Browne Willis.)
- 1654 Interregman. Sir William Roberts, Kt., Joseph
Berners, Esq., Sir James Harrington, Kt.,
& Bart., Edmund Harvey, Esq. (Pink MSS.
B. Willis.)
- 1679 31 Charles II. Sir Robert Atkins, vice Sir Robert
Peyton, expelled. (W. W. Bean, *Notices of
various Errors and Omissions found in Par-
liamentary Returns of Members.*)

DANIEL DEFOE.—A limited edition has recently been published of Daniel Defoe's *Tour thro' London*, being Letter V and parts of Letter VI of *A Tour thro' the whole Island of Great Britain*. It contains a description of the City of London, the City of Westminster and the



STANMORE OBELISK.

By kind permission of the Editor of the TIMES.

Borough of Southwark and Parts of Middlesex. Several maps have been drawn to delineate the London of Defoe's time, and about 60 drawings have been reproduced to illustrate the text. These cover the area described and are of various dates, being reproductions of W. Hollar, Sutton Nicholls, J. Kip, John Bowles, G. Vertue, Josef van Aken, I. Knyff, and others. The text has been annotated by Sir Mayson M. Beeton, K.B.E., B.A., and E. Beresford Chancellor, M.A., F.S.A., and the book is published by B. F. Batsford, of 94, High Holborn, at 8 or 11 guineas.

Defoe, the bicentenary of whose death has just been celebrated, was a genuine Londoner, and most of his novels are full of topographical detail of an unusually vivid kind.

STANMORE OBELISK.—In August, 1930, the Stanmore Parish Council began to interest itself in a neglected obelisk standing between the Orthopædic Hospital and the Grove, where Mrs. Brightwen, the naturalist, used to live. It was erected about 1760 by Mr. Sharpe, who lived on Brockley Hill, to commemorate a British victory against Julius Caesar. Cassivellaunus, chief of the Catuvellauni, is traditionally said to have checked the advance of the Romans against Verulamium, and tradition places his victory on Brockley Hill. There were inscribed slabs placed on the sides of this obelisk near the base, but several had disappeared and others were loose. The obelisk is 30 feet high, of red brick faced with stone, and it stands halfway between London and St. Albans. Thanks to the keenness of the Stanmore Village Preservation Society, the Parish Council and the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital Authorities, the obelisk has been restored to its proper state, with the original Latin inscriptions replaced in their former positions.



THE NORMAN FONT IN HENDON PARISH CHURCH REPLACED ON ITS
FOUR SUPPORTS.

By kind permission of the Vicar of Hendon.

HENDON PARISH CHURCH.—Discoveries made during August, 1930, have greatly added to our knowledge of the history of the church, and Mr. Francis C. Eeles, Hon. Secretary of the Central Council for the Care of Churches has written a very interesting pamphlet outlining the story as revised by what has been revealed.

Remains of an early thirteenth century chancel have been discovered, with detached shafts in the corners, with carved capitals, and important remains of contemporary wall decorations. The east window is undoubtedly that for which money was left by will for the purpose by John Ware, Canon of the Royal Free Chapel of St. Stephen within the Palace of Westminster, 1409. One clause of his Will is translated as follows:—

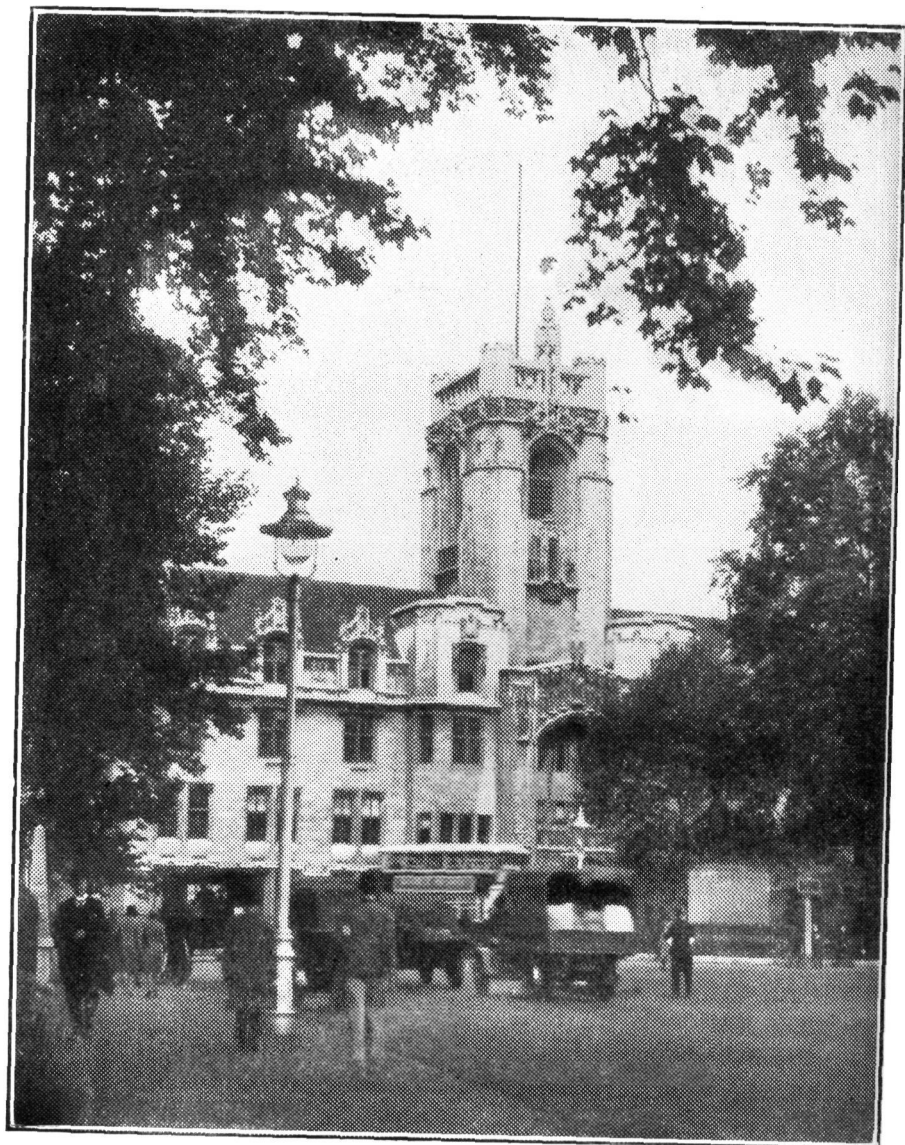
“Also I leave to my church of Hendon 100s. for a window of three lights to be made in the Chancel at the east end, [and] my new processional book before-mentioned, so that the parishioners there may pray for my soul.”

There was a reredos of the same period, and this was covered, probably in the latter part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth with texts painted in blackletter from the offertory sentences in the Prayer Book.

Under the Victorian tiled floor have been discovered several grave slabs of great interest, chief of which is a superb black marble memorial to Sir Jeremy Whichcote. The family lived at Hendon House in the 17th century and this enormous monument is one of the finest of its kind.

Traces of the foundations of the original Norman chancel have been disclosed beneath the floor, and the magnificent Norman font has been raised on two original and two new pillars, thus having a far more dignified appearance.

LOCAL RECORDS.—Through the good offices of Pretor Chandler, F.S.A., Master of the Supreme Court, the



MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL.

Camera Study by E. O. Hoppé.

By kind permission of the Editor of the OBSERVER

Masters of the Rolls has appointed the newly erected Hendon Public Library to be a repository for the reception of local records. A number of local deeds have already been deposited there, and others have been purchased; and it is hoped that the existence of fire-proof accommodation will induce other owners of manorial documents to present them to the Hendon Library, or to deposit them so that they may be available for the use of students and researchers.

LONDON'S LANES.—Mr. Alan Stapleton has given us a previous volume on a kindred subject, *London's Alleys, Byways and Courts*, and in this present volume, published by John Lane, he collects a great deal of information about some of the 900 lanes of London, many of which are still to be found. There are 40 very delightful pencil drawings to illustrate the text, which are the work of the author.

We must not look for a great deal of original research in a work of this kind, but it is interesting to have information from very many sources grouped together in appropriate order, and Mr. Stapleton has used his material with great skill. Some of the most important streets of London, as he reminds us, are still called Lanes, and examples of this fact are to be found in Drury Lane, St. Martin's Lane, Seething Lane (home of Pepys), Shoe Lane (a haunt of the Press), Petticoat Lane and many more.

Some of his most charming sketches are those of Harp Lane, Battle Bridge Lane, Swan Lane, New Gravel Lane, Wapping and Back Lane, Barking. The book is very well indexed and well printed and bound, in the style which we associate with the firm that has given us seven books on London by Mr. Walter Bell, and two on Bridewell by Mr. O'Donoghue.

OLD LONDON BRIDGE.—This finely printed volume (costing one guinea and a half), written and in part illustrated by Major Gordon Home, and published by John Lane, is the first book on London Bridge for more than a century. It is fitting that the centenary of the New Bridge should be marked by a new volume on the old one, which is a worthy companion to the book by Richard Thomson, which saw the light in 1827. Major Gordon Home has gone to great pains to get his facts correct and seems to have delved into all the available records which are in print. The Bridge House Records have not yet been calendared, and Major Home does not seem to have used the Repertories and Journals of the Court of Aldermen and Common Council. But it is not clear that the book would have been improved by the use of these MS. sources, though it would certainly have been made longer. Here we have a most interesting story of old London Bridge, which was in many ways the most remarkable bridge in the world. For 600 years and more it was in existence, and its history is the story of London, if not of England. It sustained sieges, was partially destroyed by fire more than once, and carried the decapitated heads of many heroes and some doubtful characters during its six centuries of life. All foreign visitors were amazed at its strength and grace, the many houses on both sides of the bridge, the gateways, the chapel of St. Thomas, Nonsuch House, and the huge sterlings that caused the water to rush through the twenty arches with the speed of a mill-race. It was, for long, one of the wonders of the mediæval world. Until well into the eighteenth century, it was the only bridge over the Thames in or near London, and any suggestion of building a rival bridge aroused the united opposition of the City Fathers. Major Home pays a well-deserved tribute to Peter of Colechurch, who designed the original bridge, and deplores the fact that there is little or nothing to show that the City of London ever spares a thought to his memory. Major Home

has been able to make some important corrections as to the size of the bridge and the date of the building of Nonsuch House, and he has also settled the identity of "Mrs. A.K.," who was drowned in the reign of Charles I.

This is a book of nearly 400 pages, and it is furnished with an admirable index, 61 illustrations in photogravure, a dozen maps and plans, and nearly 30 illustrations in the text. Almost every well-known illustration of London Bridge is included, and many less known and unknown examples. One might mention the drawings by Wyngaerde and Agas, Visscher, de Jongh and Hollar, Scott and Hogarth, Faringdon and Turner, Canaletto and Cooke. A very valuable plate shows seven phases in the life of the bridge from 1209-1831, drawn to scale by the author, and embodying details from drawings of the various periods. The author discusses at considerable length the inhabitants of the bridge, and Mr. Ambrose Heal has added an appendix on Tradesmen's Tokens.

The danger of shooting the bridge was always present, and the less venturesome used to land above the bridge and pick up their boat further down the stream. In spite of these very usual precautions, many lives were lost, but there seem to be very few details of the lives of any of the victims.

Major Home has discovered a portrait of Mrs. Anne Kirke, the lady-in-waiting to Queen Henrietta Maria, who was drowned through the overturning of the Queen's barge. In addition to dangers underneath the bridge, there were dangers above it, and the lives of foot passengers were frequently imperilled by the wheeled traffic or by the rush of "beastes made wild and furious through the indiscreete and violent usage of their drivers."

There are many stories of interest in this attractive book. We read again the story of the "defasyne and mendynge of dyvers pyctures of Thomas Beckett in Our Lady Chapell," as the chapel on the bridge

was called after the condemnation of Becket in the reign of Henry VIII for treason committed against Henry II.

Sir Thomas Wyatt and Sir Thomas More, Peter Morice and his waterworks, Fairfax and his Parliamentary Army, several notable fires and many stories of frost on the river and consequent fairs—all these are to be read about in this volume.

Among interesting finds there is a seventeenth-century sculpture of London Bridge, which figured in the decoration of a house in Dordrecht, such being the fame of London Bridge abroad.

Major Home has graphically described the efforts which were made to improve the bridge during the last 60 years of its lifetime. The houses were removed between 1757 and 1760, a great arch was constructed near the middle of the bridge, and this threatened trouble, because the bed of the river was lowered at that point by three feet. Smeaton, the architect of the Eddystone Lighthouse, solved this problem by using the stone of the discarded city gates to raise the bed of the river under the great arch. Several severe frosts in the latter half of the eighteenth century weakened the bridge, and the removal of the houses, the widening of the bridge, and the many repairs which it had undergone made it no longer the mediæval bridge of Peter of Colechurch. Gifford, the editor of the *Quarterly Review*, proposed its demolition, but there were many defenders, who pointed out that the old structure was an essential part of the river, and that it would be dangerous to tamper with it. After many suggestions and designs had been made, it was decided to build a new bridge by the casting vote of the chairman of the Committee appointed by the Court of Common Council to discuss the problem. Plans had been submitted by several eminent architects, including Dance, Mylne and Telford, but ultimately the design of John Rennie was accepted, the new bridge was constructed, and was finished in 1831.

The old bridge was slowly demolished, and in the process the grave of Peter of Colechurch was discovered and destroyed. Major Home reminds us that in 1921 one of the original Gothic arches of the original bridge was brought to light, but, in spite of the efforts of the author and of Sir Malcolm Macalpine and others to save it, this last relic of Old London Bridge was destroyed. A fascinating story thus ends on a note of sadness.

SOUTH MYMMS, the Story of a Parish, by F. Brittain, M.A.; with an introduction by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch (W. Heffer & Sons Limited, Cambridge, price 10s. 6d.), is an excellent record of perhaps the only remaining country parish now left in Middlesex.

The parish extends from North Mymms to Barnet and from Potter's Bar to Ridge, and, though the author claims no more for it than the qualities of an ordinary English parish, with but few persons of national importance, he has succeeded in giving us a vivid picture of social life through the centuries, played generally on a miniature stage. The fox and hare are still to be met, wild flowers abound and the author puts in a plea for the preservation of this delightful parish, as yet unspoilt. The Rev. F. C. Cass, one of our Society's members, wrote a monograph on South Mymms in 1877 which the Society published, and Mr. Brittain has used the material therein contained. But he has added greatly to our knowledge of the parish by research and local knowledge, by sympathy and by a dry humour.

Among early families in South Mymms are the Mandevilles and Leukenores, the former famous in London history and the latter coming from the village of their name in Oxfordshire. Some day the Leukenore family should have its history written. Their Mymms manor house has disappeared, but Wyllyotts, where they lived from 1479 to 1562, is still standing, and has been beautifully restored by Mr. Hugh Seabrook, and recently figured in our *Transactions*.

The Frowykes and Durhams were other early families in Mymms. The former have entirely disappeared, but Dyrham Park enshrines the name of the latter. Henry Frowyke the fifth was the second founder of the church which originally dated from Norman times, and several of the family are buried in the church. The family were prominent in Mymms for over 300 years.

There are many items of real interest collected in this attractive book, such as a note on the three Elizabethan alms-dishes, the Civil War in Mymms, highwaymen who robbed the great Duke of Marlborough of five hundred guineas, vagrants, epidemics of small-pox, the poor-house, the stocks, Mymms Wash and old coaching days.

There is naturally a graphic account of Admiral John Byng, of Knightsland and Wrotham Park, who failed to relieve Minorca and was shot on his own quarter-deck, *pour encourager les autres*. The Byngs have lived in the parish for nearly two centuries and have produced several distinguished soldiers and statesmen, who have always taken a keen interest also in local affairs.

The book concludes with a full account of the restoration of the parish church by G. E. Street and his successors, and the introduction of ceremonial changes into its services by successive vicars.

Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch claims in his introduction that enthusiasm with knowledge and roots are half the battle in writing a parish history. Mr. Brittain brings all these and much more to his task. The book is beautifully printed and illustrated.

THE ROMANCE OF SOHO, by E. Beresford Chancellor, M.A., F.S.A. ("Country Life," Ltd., 12s. 6d.) This attractively produced volume claims to be the first complete account of that semi-foreign district of London, famous to-day for its cooking and its bohemianism. Soho is bounded by Oxford Street, Regent Street, Coventry Street and Charing Cross Road and has had

its share of romantic characters from the Duke of Monmouth to King Theodore of Corsica, from Mrs. Cornelys of Carlisle House to De Quincey and Hazlitt. To the romantic side of Soho Mr. Chancellor does justice, writing in pleasing vein about its many eccentric characters and the very light-hearted attitude to life which so many of them adopted. But it is a great pity that he has not been at pains to use the work of so keen a Huguenot researcher as Mr. W. H. Manchée, who has published in the *Huguenot Society's Proceedings* much valuable matter about Huguenot Soho. It would have prevented him from saying with regard to the Greek Church that "in 1681 the ground on which the building stood on the east of Greek Street was required by the French Huguenots as a place of worship, and the Greeks, much against their will, were obliged to vacate the premises." What actually happened was that Joseph Georginos, Archimandrite of Samos, collected money to build a Greek Church, but placed it on land claimed by St. Martin's Vestry. Dr. Nicholas Barbon professed to own the land and had given it to the Archimandrite. As the Greek population had declined, the Church was no longer required for their use, and the Archimandrite offered to sell it to St. Martin's Vestry. After some dispute the Vestry, finding their offer of £200 rejected, took possession of the church and secured royal sanction to their ownership. The Vestry then leased the church to the French Congregation of the Savoy from March 1682 at a yearly rent of £12, but no services were held until May, 1684.

There is surely no justification for saying as Mr. Chancellor does on page 26, that Dr. Nicholas Barbon was a brother of Praise-God-Barebones. All authorities regard the doctor as being the son of the politician. It was Elizabeth, daughter of James I, who married the Elector Palatine and came to live in Craven House, and not Anne. The index is not at all complete and, in a few chapters, there are dozens of names mentioned

in the text, but omitted in the index. It is a pity that these defects have not been removed, as they detract from the value of what is otherwise, a very interesting volume, full of stories of the eighteenth century, when Soho was in its prime.