

There is much in London to praise ; perhaps a great deal more of which we must feel ashamed. It is not often that the Sibyl gives us a completely second chance, but the Luftwaffe's bombs have done something which we could never have anticipated. We must retain the many outward signs of past Londoners' "love of order, proportion and seemliness"; and by good planning, purity and propriety in our architectural design, by segregation of industry and dwelling houses, by the controlling of traffic of all kinds—road, rail and air—by a wide increase of open spaces, and by restoring to the people articulate regions of which they can be personally proud, give to the future generations of Londoners the greatest, most efficient and most beautiful metropolis in the world.

(r) CONCLUSION.

The volume produced by Messrs. Macmillan for the London County Council is a remarkable piece of work. Text, maps and illustrations combine to give an authoritative book on this all-important problem of the re-planning and re-building of London. There may be details or even principles on which controversy will be aroused, but no one should venture to offer any criticism until he has read with the utmost care this outstanding volume. It reflects the greatest possible credit on all those who have put their utmost efforts into the publication of an epoch-making contribution towards the solution of a highly complicated network of problems.

THE BOMBED BUILDINGS OF LONDON

A SPIRITED American account of the Battle of Britain and the bombing of London was entitled *They'll Never Quit*, by Harvey Klemmer, who was over here in 1940-41; and in it he pays a very fine tribute to the average man and woman who faced up to the challenge of those thrilling months. He writes: "No saga of old can eclipse in majesty or importance the saga which is being unfolded in Britain to-day. The people of Britain are heroes to everyone except themselves." And he goes on to discuss this total war, about which the Germans have been talking for years. Göring's mouthpiece, *The National Zeitung*, declared in July, 1940, that the awakening of England would be even more frightful than "the fates which England has already

brought upon other peoples in this war." It reminded us of the annihilation of Warsaw in two days, and the destruction of Rotterdam in twenty minutes, and warned us that "defending London street by street would hardly hold up the German advance." Joyce, the Irish ex-fascist, announced a few months later that, when the Luftwaffe had finished its work, there would not be "one house left standing in Britain." These threats were rubbed in by the German bullying film "Baptism of Fire," designed to scare neutrals; and Harvey Klemmer rightly remarks that "Any protestation that the Germans may make will be thrust in the wastepaper basket by anyone who has seen this film." Well, the Luftwaffe did its worst between August, 1940, and May, 1941, and our daily and illustrated papers were full of the story and of pictures of the damage.

No doubt, for years to come, various writers will attempt to give the complete story of the "Blitz" as it affected the whole country or some particular corner of it; but speed is of the essence of an attempt to get down on paper a description of the damage done and of the artistic treasures lost, and no one has been so successful as J. M. Richards and John Summerson in their fully illustrated volume *The Bombed Buildings of Britain*, which they style "A Record of Architectural Casualties, 1940-41" (The Architectural Press, 15s.). They quite justly claim that their pictorial records together "with our memories of that peculiar air-raid smell of wet charred wood, of the blundering gait with which we picked our way over puddled streets criss-crossed with hoses on dark winter mornings, and of the familiar houses we saw splintered with impressive thoroughness into a spillikins heap of dusty timbers, may together form a background of smells, sight and sounds sufficient to evoke for us the whole strange aftermath of bombing." Some of us can look back to the same grim story, viewed from a different angle, when we recall a small sand-bagged circle on one of the northern heights of London, and two or three observers, inadequately protected against weather and bombs, plotting hostile aircraft overhead or reporting ever spreading fires in different quarters of the sorely tried metropolis. But through it all the most striking features of the whole business were the skill and courage of our airmen, the resourcefulness of gunners and firemen, the coolness of all branches of civil defence, and the stolid patient endurance of the victims.

This splendid volume discusses bombed buildings all over the

country, and attempts to give at least two pictures of each, one before and one after the "blitz." It gives about 150 pictures to illustrate provincial damage, and nearly 200 for London; not enough to register every lost building, perhaps, but sufficient to show the extent of the damage done. It is as well that this fairly full survey was made when it was, for in the months that have elapsed since the bombing much clearance has been carried out in London, especially near St. Paul's Cathedral and London Wall. Here is a starting point from which to survey the condition of bombed London, the extent of the damage done, the opportunities it gives for replanning and the need for preserving what it left and perhaps of restoring what is only damaged. By studying its pages one is instinctively carried back to the days of the previous Great Fire of London, when Pepys and Evelyn, Petty and Wren recorded the damage they had witnessed and made plans for a better London amid the ruins of the old.

THE CITY CHURCHES.

When Sir Christopher Wren looked round after 1700 on the City of London to whose restoration he had made such an outstanding contribution he can hardly have imagined that such a need for rebuilding the metropolis and its churches would ever occur again. And yet the raids on London in the winter and spring of the years 1940 and 1941 have given to Londoners to-day a somewhat similar task to that which Wren and their ancestors faced in 1666.

In the Middle Ages there was a constant tendency to break up the large ancient parishes of the City into much smaller ones. From St. Mary Aldermary were taken eleven other parishes, each with its own church. But there was also a contrary policy sometimes adopted, by which several parishes were joined together. When the Great Fire of 1666 destroyed, either totally or in part, eighty-six parish churches as well as the mediaeval cathedral of St. Paul's, it was clearly impossible to find money enough to rebuild them all. More than fifty were rebuilt or restored, and Wren designed his new churches in accordance with his own ideal that "*Building certainly ought to have the attribute of Eternal.*"

And now a second disaster has befallen our City, and many of the Wren churches, which had escaped the destructive hands of successive generations of those who should have preserved them, have gone. Four churches have been very seriously damaged out of the nine mediaeval churches which had lasted to our day; and, of the 34 of Wren's churches which had survived, exactly half have suffered a similar fate, and St. Mary Abchurch has been hit but not much harmed. It is obvious that efforts will be made to restore most if not all of these treasured shrines of the City, but there may also be an effort to sell the valuable sites and thus allow more and more sacred associations to disappear. We need to see that full appreciation of the character and value of these historic buildings is preserved, because of their religious and spiritual values, their historical and architectural importance, and their civil and imperial character.

Here are a few comments on the 29 City churches which have suffered damage; and they will serve to show what a wealth of historic interest would be lost if a single one of them should be irretrievably destroyed.

PRE-WREN CHURCHES.

Only nine churches built before the Great Fire survived to 1940-1, and these were St. Andrew Undershaft, where we still commemorate John Stow each year, St. Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield, St. Ethelburga and St. Helen's in Bishopsgate and St. Katherine Cree, which still survive intact; and All Hallows, Barking, Austin Friars, St. Giles', Cripplegate and St. Olave, Hart Street, which have suffered disastrous damage.

ALL HALLOWS, BARKING, or by-the-Tower, has been much in the public eye since the last war because of its association with "Toc" H., the Society which was founded by Padre "Tubby" Clayton, and the late Bishop Talbot in conjunction with a host of ex-service men, who valued the lessons which the upper room at Poperinghe had taught. The mediaeval church had been renovated and partly rebuilt in 1634, while in 1649 an explosion of gunpowder in a nearby shop damaged the tower, which was rebuilt ten years later.

At the end of 1940 two attacks, one with high explosives and one with incendiaries, did tremendous damage to the east end, destroying the well-carved altar piece, the screens and the oak pews. Hardly anything in the interior is left, and the damaged piers have, perhaps unnecessarily, been pulled down.

Some years ago pieces of Roman and Saxon masonry were found and photographed during some excavations under the floor of the nave. As a result of the recent "blitz" a Saxon doorway has been discovered at the west end of the church, with the arch constructed of Roman bricks; and the arch has been bricked up for preservation. Mr. Edward Yates compares this arch with somewhat similar arches at Brixworth and Swanscombe; and the Rev. P. B. Clayton concludes that the Saxon remains at All Hallows may be pre-Danish and possibly the work of St. Erconwald, founder of Barking Abbey in A.D. 670. Portions of a Saxon cross have also been brought to light.

All Hallows, Barking, was often used for the permanent or temporary burial of victims of the scaffold on Tower Hill. Amongst those so buried were John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester; Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey; Lord Thomas Grey; Archbishop Laud; Sir John Hotham.

It is a great disaster that so many fine monumental brasses have been destroyed in All Hallows, among them those of William Thynne, first editor of Chaucer; George Snyth, auditor to Archbishop Laud; Kettlewell, the non-Juror; William Armer, Governor of the Pages of Honour under four Tudor Sovereigns. An interesting vicar of All Hallows was George Hickes, of Lincoln College, Oxford, who resigned the deanery of Worcester in 1690 and four years later was recommended to James II by the non-jurying Archbishop Bancroft as one of the bishops through whose creation the non-jurors aimed at perpetuating the episcopal succession in their own body. Lord Mayor Brass Crosby was a churchwarden here, and joined with John Wilkes and Richard Oliver in forcing from the House of Commons the right to report their debates.

It will interest our allies in U.S.A. to be reminded that William Penn, one of the founders of Pennsylvania, was baptised at All Hallows, Barking,

on 23rd October, 1644. This certainly demands tercentenary celebrations during this year.

AUSTIN FRIARS. This house of the Augustinian Friars was founded in 1243 by Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, and was dissolved almost exactly three centuries later by Henry VIII and given to William Paulet, first Marquis of Winchester. The church was not granted by the King, but was given by Edward VI to be the preaching place of the Dutch nation in London. The young King records the fact in his diary: "29 June, 1550. It was appointed that the Germans [*sic*] should have the Austin Friars for their Church to have their service in, for avoiding of all sorts of Anabaptists and such like." For over three hundred years this Church was used by the Dutch who thus possessed a fine mediaeval building with some very good decorated windows. Strype, in 1720, tells us that there was a good library at the west-end above the screen with this inscription: "Ecclesiae Londino-Belgicae Bibliotheca, extracta sumptibus Mariae Dubois, 1659." In the library there were "divers valuable MSS., and letters of Calvin, Peter Martyr and others, foreign reformers." In 1870 there was a serious fire, which did a great deal of damage, and the London papers complained very bitterly that a valuable mediaeval historic monument had been destroyed. However, the Church was very carefully restored and lasted for another seventy years. It witnessed a very interesting wedding a few years before the first world war, when R. C. Hawkin, Secretary of the '80 Club, was married to the sister of General Botha, and the register was signed by H. H. Asquith, D. Lloyd George, the Lord Chancellor and Dr. Clifford.

The Dutch authorities are understood to have sufficient funds derived from adjacent land to restore the Church without help, but a very beautiful mediaeval church has been completely destroyed. "The vandalism which has led to the destruction of so much of historic value in sacred edifices will not be forgotten by this generation or by those of the future—now denied these treasures."

ST. GILES', CRIPPLEGATE, was twice hit, and badly damaged by explosives and incendiaries. It was restored several times in its long history, notably in the 14th century and after a disastrous fire in 1545. "Since that time," wrote a later historian, "it has fortunately escaped any serious disaster." But this alas is no longer true, though it has not suffered the complete destruction that has come upon other historic buildings. The walls and pillars and clerestory seem to be repairable, and some of the monuments are intact, but the roof was completely destroyed, and the organ, built by Renatus Harris in 1705, will not be used again. Lancelot Andrewes was appointed Vicar in Armada Year, in the tercentenary of which a memorial was erected to Sir Martin Frobisher. John Foxe, "original author of the History of the Christian Martyrs," was buried here in 1587; John Speed, topographer and historian, and a contemporary of John Stow, had his monument in the Church. John Milton, the scrivener, was buried in the Chancel in 1646, and in 1674 his son and namesake, the poet, was buried in the same grave. Several members of the Egerton family are buried in St. Giles', and it was to the head of the clan, the Earl of Bridgwater, that Milton presented "Comus" at Ludlow Castle in 1634. It is interesting to note that in 1620 Oliver Cromwell, then only a few months over age, was married in St. Giles' to Elizabeth, daughter of Sir James Burchier. How many of these memorials and records still

remain it is not easy to say, but few churches were so full of historic associations as St. Giles'. A recent picture of St. Giles' shows a stained-glass window still intact, and side by side with it the bust of John Milton with the surrounding monument completely in order.

ST. OLAVE, HART STREET, is dedicated to the Norwegian Saint-King, also commemorated in Southwark. It was a handsome church in the Perpendicular style, repaired in the reign of Charles I, and again in 1870, and introduced into the building were carvings from All Hallows, Staining, and a Grinling Gibbons oak pulpit from St. Bene't, Gracechurch. There are or were many interesting monuments, to the Baynings, to Sir Andrew Riccard, Chairman of the East India Company under Charles II, and above all to Samuel Pepys, and to his Huguenot wife. The white marble memorial, and exquisite bust, which commemorate Elizabeth Pepys, were placed in the Church by the Diarist in 1669. His brother Tom is buried hardby, and when Samuel died in 1703 the funeral service was conducted by Dr. George Hickes, the non-juror. It was not until 1884 that any monument to Pepys himself was erected, and it was unveiled by James Russell Lowell, American Ambassador in London. Elizabeth Pepys's bust had been taken to a place of safety before the Church was bombed.

WREN CHURCHES.

Of Wren's churches there are still seventeen intact, but an equal number sadly mutilated:—St. Alban, Wood Street; St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe; St. Andrew, Holborn; St. Anne and St. Agnes, Aldersgate; St. Augustine, Watling Street; St. Bride, Fleet Street; Christ Church, Newgate Street; St. Dunstan-in-the-East; St. Laurence Jewry; St. Mary, Aldermanbury; St. Mary-le-Bow; St. Mildred, Bread Street; St. Nicholas, Cole Abbey; St. Stephen, Coleman Street; St. Stephen, Walbrook; St. Swithin-by-London Wall; St. Vedast, Foster Lane.

ST. ALBAN, WOOD STREET, has had many vicissitudes in its long life since the original Church was a private chapel for Offa, King of the Mercians. It was in the gift of the Abbot of St. Albans, the Abbot of Westminster, the Master of St. James's, Leper Hospital, and since 1477 in the gift of Eton College. Pulled down in 1632, it was rebuilt two years later by Inigo Jones, only to perish in the Great Fire. Wren rebuilt it by 1685 in the Tudor style of Gothic as Inigo Jones had done, but it was very tiresomely altered and modernised in 1856. Its tower still stands, but the Church itself has been completely gutted.

ST. ANDREW-BY-THE-WARDROBE, in St. Andrew's Hill (formerly Puddle Dock Hill) and Queen Victoria Street, was rebuilt after the Fire by Wren in 1692. It was of a simple straightforward design, with a square four-storeyed tower, and stood well above the present level of the road. The Church has been burnt out, but tower and walls remain.

ST. ANDREW, HOLBORN, was formerly halfway up Holborn Hill, but the construction of Holborn Viaduct had exactly the opposite effect on it that the driving of Queen Victoria Street did upon St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe. It was built by Wren, but not as a result of the Fire, and he was able to use the mediaeval tower, which he refaced with portland stone. Amongst the possessors of its advowson have been the Earl of Southampton, friend of Essex and of Shakespeare, and the Duke of Buccleugh. Among its rectors

were Edward Stillingfleet and the notorious Dr. Sacheverell. Associated with the Church have been John Webster, the dramatist, Thomas Chatterton, "the marvellous boy," Colonel John Hutchinson, Richard Savage Addington, once prime minister, and a later premier, Benjamin Disraeli, who was baptised here in 1817 at the age of twelve. Charles Lamb was best man in St. Andrew's to William Hazlitt, and was very afraid that he would laugh. Here again, the Church has been gutted, but the tower seems to be sound.

ST. ANNE AND ST. AGNES, ALDERSGATE, was severely burned and restored in 1548, and completely destroyed in 1661. Since the Great Fire the church has also done duty for the parish of St. John Zachary. It is a square building, built in the shape of a Greek cross, and was singularly destitute of memorials. It has been badly damaged but should be capable of restoration.

ST. AUGUSTINE, WATLING STREET, dedicated to St. Augustine of Canterbury, who converted the English after A.D. 597, had been restored at great expense in 1631, only to perish in the Great Fire. It was joined to the parish of St. Faith, which had its Church before the fire in the crypt at the east end of the Cathedral. In the crypt the booksellers and stationers from Paternoster Row and neighbouring streets had stored many of their books, and, then as now, the trade suffered grievous loss. Pepys notes in his diary: "There is above £150,000 of books burned; all the great booksellers almost undone; not only these, but their warehouses under their Hall and under Christchurch and elsewhere being all burned." Among the rectors of St. Augustine and St. Faith was the Rev. R. H. Barham, author of *The Ingoldsby Legends*.

ST. BRIDE, FLEET STREET, after restoration under Charles I, was destroyed in the Great Fire. Its steeple, as designed by Wren in 1701, was damaged by lightning, and was slightly reduced in height; but it is still slightly higher than the tower of St. Mary-le-Bow. The Church was one of the best of Wren's designing and its interior "with its panelled walls, its pews, and its galleries overhead, has a peaceful, old-world aspect, which is delightfully soothing when one passes from the turmoil of Fleet Street into the quietude of the sacred building. It is pervaded by an unquestionable charm—but a charm which is rather to be felt than to be described." Among those connected with the Church are Colonel Richard Lovelace and Sir John Denham, poets, Samuel Richardson, novelist, and John Nichols, antiquary, whose skill as a researcher has been handed down to his great-grandson.

In the churchyard John Milton lived for some months in a house whose site is probably covered by the offices of *Punch*. The Church has been completely gutted, but the bare walls and the tower survive.

CHRIST CHURCH, NEWGATE STREET, was built on part of the site of the first Franciscan Church and monastery in London. In the original Church were buried Isabella, wife of Edward II, "the she-wolf of France," and her paramour, Roger Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore and Earl of March. After the Dissolution, on the suggestion of Bishop Ridley, and the Lord Mayor, the site of the Grey Friars habitation was taken for a hospital for four hundred poor fatherless children, Christ's Hospital, the Blue-Coat School. The Greyfriars' Church was destroyed in the Fire and was rebuilt to half its original size by Wren. Among those interred in the Church may be noted, Richard Baxter, the famous Nonconformist Divine, his wife and her mother; and James Boyer, the famous Headmaster of Christ's Hospital in the time of Coleridge

and Lamb. In spite of the moving of the School to Horsham there are still old associations maintained. The Church has been gutted, but, as usual, the tower remains, though badly burnt. One authority states that "it can hardly be reckoned one of Wren's finest productions though possessed of considerable beauty"; another calls it "the most mature and irreproachable of all Wren's steeples."

ST. DUNSTAN-IN-THE-EAST had early associations with Sir John Oldcastle, the heroic leader of the Lollards, and was one of those churches almost rebuilt in 1633, but destroyed in the Great Fire. A great figure in the earlier story of St. Dunstan's was John Morton, a distinguished statesman in early Tudor times, the inventor of his famous "Fork." Wren used a good deal of the old material in reconstruction, but the Church had to be pulled down in 1810 and rebuilt. The steeple of St. Dunstan's is one of Wren's masterpieces, and the four arched ribs support a graceful spire. In spite of its somewhat fragile appearance, it was constructed on scientific lines. When, in 1703, a dreadful hurricane damaged many of the spires and steeples in London, and Wren was told the news, he was convinced that the steeple of St. Dunstan-in-the-East had escaped. It did then, and it has done again now, though the floors of the tower have been consumed, and the bells have fallen.

ST. LAURENCE JEWRY, in Gresham Street, is the Lord Mayor's Church, and in pre-Great Fire days it was associated with Sir Geoffrey Bullen, great-great-grandfather of Queen Elizabeth, the Greshams and the Rich family. After the Fire it was rebuilt by Wren and had been enriched from time to time with some of Grinling Gibbons' finest carving, interesting memorials, fine stained glass windows and a painting by Sir James Thornhill. Two parsons connected with the Church, and allied by marriage with the family of Oliver Cromwell, were Dr. John Wilkins, the real founder of the Royal Society, and Dr. Tillotson, Archbishop under William of Orange. The Church has suffered very severe damage, though the walls are still sound. A certain amount of repair has already been effected so as to make the Church partly available for civic purposes.

ST. MARY ABCHURCH was rebuilt by Wren in 1686 for less than £5,000, and it is surmounted by a huge cupola decorated with paintings by Sir James Thornhill, part of which has been damaged by the recent bombing. The alter-piece is enclosed by four Corinthian columns, surmounted by a pediment, with festoons of carved fruit and flowers, justly regarded as among the finest of Grinling Gibbons' works.

ST. MARY ALDERMANBURY, which suffered when the street in which it stands was so severely bombed, is famous for its important links with Shakespeare. In the old Church, destroyed in 1666, were buried John Heminge and Henry Coudell, fellow-actor of Shakespeare and the editors of the first folio edition of his plays. Other well-known names associated with the Church are those of the three Calamy's, Edmund the elder, Churchman and Non-conformist, who died from the shock of the Great Fire; Benjamin, his son, a keen High Churchman, like his father minister of the parish; and Edmund, the younger, historian of the ejected ministers of 1662. The infamous Judge Jeffreys, after a first burial in the Tower in 1689, was interred under the Communion table in 1693. Externally, the Church was finer than its unattractive interior, and it possessed a fine tower with a square open turret and vane above. The shell of the Church remains, and the main part of the tower; but the turret, with its tapering roof and vane, has been destroyed.

ST. MARY-LE-BOW. Bow church is perhaps the best-known of all the City churches, and its bells have a far older history than the world-famous "Big Ben." They are said to have been heard by Whittington on Highgate Hill, and all cockneys must have been born within sound of their chimes. Stow tells us of many accidents and disasters connected with the Church, which also suffered complete destruction in the Fire. At its rebuilding, Wren paid very great care on the steeple, which is the second highest in the City and cost half the total sum spent on the Church. It had a projecting clock and a balcony reminiscent of Edward III, who built a stone gallery for himself and Queen Philippa "to behold the joustings and other shows at their pleasure." Bow Church serves the nearby parishes of St. Pancras, Soper Lane; All Hallows, Honey Lane; All Hallows, Bread Street; and St. John the Evangelist. All Hallows in Bread Street was associated with Laurence Saunders, one of the Marian Martyrs, and John Milton, who was christened in the Church. There is, or was, a bust of Milton, and a memorial tablet with Dryden's well-known panegyric.

ST. MILDRED, BREAD STREET, was for many years in the presentation of the Crispe family, the most distinguished of whom, Sir Nicholas Crispe, financed Charles I, raised a regiment to help him, went into exile with his son, and was made a Baronet at the Restoration. He erected a fine east window, commemorating the Armada, Queen Elizabeth, Gunpowder Plot, the Plague of 1625, and his own family. The Fire consumed St. Mildred's, and St. Margaret Moses, which was not rebuilt. Wren's design gave a church with a domed cupola, deep arches and very sound proportions. It had been very little restored in Victorian times, and retained a spacious altar-piece and a fine pulpit surmounted by a magnificently carved sounding-board. All the woodwork was attributed, with some good reason, to Grinling Gibbons. This was "one of the most eloquent and charming of all the City Churches." Its destruction has been almost complete.

ST. NICHOLAS, COLE ABBEY, is between Knight-riding Street and the new Queen Victoria Street, and serves the parishes of St. Nicholas Olave, St. Mary Somerset, St. Mary Mounthaw, St. Benet, Paul's Wharf, and St. Peter's, Paul's Wharf. Repaired in the reign of Charles I, it was completely destroyed in the Great Fire, and has been entirely burnt out during the recent bombing. Some walls are left and the lower part of the tower is fairly intact, but the octagonal spire, with square pedestal, moulded finial and gilded ball and vane "with the tiny balcony slipped on its apex, like a ring" has been completely destroyed.

ST. STEPHEN, COLEMAN STREET, was made parochial in 1456 after nearly 300 years of previous life; and was not, as John Stow tells us, a former synagogue of the Jews. In the Great Fire the tomb of Anthony Munday, dramatist and antiquary, who was associated with Humphrey Dyson, and died in 1633, was destroyed. The Church was rebuilt by Wren, and had a small adjacent churchyard, a well-designed tower with a gilt vane in the shape of a cock, a finely carved communion table and pulpit, but few interesting external features. As usual, the Church has been gutted, but the tower remains.

ST. STEPHEN, WALBROOK, is almost as well known to Londoners as Bow Church, partly because it was an experiment by Wren in designing and building a dome, before his successful effort in St. Paul's Cathedral, and partly from its commanding position, alongside the Mansion House and at

the head of the winding street that marks the course of the now buried stream. John Summerson voices the views of all Londoners when he pleads that, whatever else is left, this Church, "the pride of English architecture, and one of the few City churches in which the genius of Wren shines in full splendour, . . . can be, and must be, perfectly restored." He sums up its beauty in memorable words:—"The Baroque idea has floated into the still waters of Restoration England. There is as little emotion here as in Locke's *Essay*, and no drama, except the fortuitous drama of changing light and shade. The columns, arches and spandrels and dome follow each other with the logic of an Euclidean theorem." Canova, when in London, was greatly impressed with its beauty, and wished to revisit England to see once again St. Paul's, Somerset House, and St. Stephen's, Walbrook.

ST. SWITHIN BY LONDON WALL. In the previous Church on this site Dryden was married to Lady Elizabeth Howard. The new church was of simple design, and had been very much modernised. The most interesting memorial inside the Church was to the memory of Michael Godfrey, nephew to Sir Edmundbury Godfrey, whose mysterious death caused so much excitement during the days of Titus Oates's alleged "Popish Plot." Outside the Church is London stone, moved in 1798 across Cannon Street through the efforts of Thomas Marden, a London printer. Jack Cade struck this stone when he seized the City in the course of his rebellion, and John Stow describes its appearance about A.D. 1600. The famous antiquary, William Camden, considers it to be the central Roman milestone from which all distances along the main roads were measured.

ST. VEDAST, FOSTER LANE, has an unusual dedication commemorating, as it does, a bishop of Arras in the sixth century. It was repaired, rather than rebuilt, after the Great Fire; and its ancient steeple was allowed to stand until 1694. It was then taken down and this "brilliant and magnificent baroque tower" was then constructed. The two towers of Christchurch and St. Vedast make a very harmonious grouping, and both churches should be restored and the towers repaired. The oak altar piece is said to be by Gibbons, and a very interesting association with the old Church was the christening there in 1594 of Robert Herrick, some of whose poems give so delightful a picture of rustic life near London.

LONDON'S GUILDHALL.

THE GUILDHALL was built between 1411 and 1435, damaged in the Fire and restored by Wren. A new front was built in 1789 by George Dance, the City Architect; and about 1870 the whole structure was recast by Sir Horace Jones, who also designed Marshall & Snelgrove's in Oxford Street. It is interesting to note that for the second time the mediaeval fragments have survived their ordeal by fire, but the roof (probably Wren's, altered in 1870) has been completely destroyed.

In the Guildhall there is still, in reasonably good condition, the memorial to William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, the inspirer of the great victories of 1759 in the Seven Years' War, when, as Horace Walpole wrote, it was necessary to ask each day what victories had been won for fear of missing one. The monument was designed by Bacon the elder, and the inscription was written by Edmund Burke.

COMPANIES' HALLS.

The CITY COMPANIES have suffered like the rest of London's citizens, and nine of the finest or most historical have suffered very serious if not complete damage.

BAKERS' HALL, in Harp Lane, Great Tower Street, was destroyed in the Great Fire, and a second time in 1714. It was again repaired about 1825 by James Elmes, biographer of Sir Christopher Wren, and is now almost a complete wreck. The original mediaeval house was the property of the famous Chichele family.

BARBER-SURGEONS' HALL, in Monkwell Street, was designed by Inigo Jones, but very considerably altered at different stages in its history. Among the choicest possessions is a picture by Holbein of Henry VIII giving a charter to the Company. Pepys paid two visits to the Hall and noted the condition of the picture before and after the Great Fire. He proposed to buy it for £200, but he writes "it is so spoiled that I have no mind to it." The end of the Hall rested on a tower of London Wall. Very little now remains of the building but a few carved stones.

BREWERS' HALL, in Addle Lane, Wood Street, was destroyed in the Fire of 1666 and was rebuilt by Captain Caine in 1670-1673. It was to be found in a small tucked-away courtyard and has been very badly damaged. A staircase rebuilt by Cubitts in 1860 was not entirely destroyed.

FISHMONGERS' HALL is perhaps the best known of all the homes of the City Fathers because of its very prominent position at the north-west corner of London Bridge. The original Hall was destroyed in the Great Fire and it was again rebuilt in 1831. Several interesting associations must be mentioned with regard to its architects. Henry Roberts, a pupil of Robert Smirke, designed the building, and the working-drawings were made by Gilbert Scott. Heavy damage has been done, but this attractive Ionic building should be satisfactorily restored.

GIRDLETS' HALL, in Basinghall Street, was destroyed in the Great Fire, and was rebuilt in 1680-82 by Workman and Lowe. It has been repaired and extended in successive centuries, but has now suffered serious damage in the loss of the screen and gallery in the Hall.

HABERDASHERS' HALL, Staining Lane, was built first in 1478, rebuilt after the Fire of 1666, possibly by Sir Christopher Wren, but more probably by Edward Jarman. It suffered again from fire in 1838, but several rooms were preserved. The damage this time has been far more complete.

MERCHANT TAYLORS' HALL, in Threadneedle Street, was the largest of all the Companies' Halls and was rebuilt after the Fire by Edward Jarman. It had mediaeval, Caroline and Georgian features, restored in Victorian times, and consisted of Court Room, Parlour, Hall, Staircase and Gallery. Very serious damage had been done to all of them, but the Hall is capable of repair. Some of the Gothic windows and the roof were modern restorations, but the Screen was erected in 1672 and has been completely destroyed.

PARISH CLERKS' HALL, Wood Street, was the Hall of an interesting Company, first licensed in 1233. It has twice moved, first from Broad Street then from Broad Lane, and although one of the smallest Halls and Companies the tasks allotted to it were most interesting. The Company was responsible for the compiling and publishing of the famous *Bills of Mortality*, from which

we derive most of our surmises about the population of Stuart London. The Hall has been completely destroyed.

STATIONERS' HALL, in its own court off Ludgate Hill, was destroyed in the Fire, when the Company lost property to the value of £200,000. It is an interesting but tragic coincidence that it is the printing and publishing firms that have suffered most heavily in the recent "blitz," many millions of books having been destroyed in Paternoster Row. The Company got into serious trouble with Archbishop Laud in 1632 when they printed a new edition of the *Authorised Version*, owing to the omission of the word "not" from the seventh commandment. The Star Chamber intervened and gave a severe reproof and levied a heavy fine. In spite of serious damage to the Court-room, store house and hall, it seems probable that reconstruction will follow.

WESTMINSTER

From the very outset of the war special efforts were made to protect as far as possible the Abbey and its adjacent buildings and their contents. 60,000 sandbags were used to protect the Royal Tombs, and any others of particular historic or artistic interest. All mediaeval stained glass was removed to a place of safety, emergency water tanks have been sunk in Dean's Yard to hold 120,000 gallons of water; fire-watching and fire-fighting parties have been organised, and pipes have been laid to bring water to the Abbey from the Thames. Two very serious aerial attacks did extremely serious damage to the Abbey. On 29th December, 1940, a high explosive bomb fell in Palace Yard, bending the sword of Richard Cœur de Lion's statue, while the blast damaged tracery and glass in the Abbey, two pendants in the roof vaulting of Henry VII's Chapel and the exterior of some of the walls. The second attack was on 10th May, 1941, when the Deanery, probably the most complete mediaeval house in London, was destroyed; five houses in Little Cloister was almost entirely demolished; the Abbey itself was badly damaged and the Great Hall of Westminster School was burnt out and left roofless. All the honour boards, which was so interesting a feature of the place, have gone. In an illustrated paper published soon after the second fire there was a picture of the Dean, the Right Reverend P. F. D. de Labilliere, D.D., in cassock, greatcoat and "tin-hat" examining the debris near the main cloisters, which were themselves unharmed. As so often, incendiaries caused a lot of damage in roofs too high to be easily accessible. One of them set fire to the roof of the crossing, constructed in 1803 by Wyatt out of wood and plaster, and brought down many beams in flames, destroying the black and white paving beneath. If any damage had to be suffered, perhaps this was the best spot for it to happen. Meantime a temporary roof of steel and concrete has been erected to preserve the interior and, after the war is over, the interior vaulting will be restored. Pictures taken at the time showed a gaping roof over the Lantern by the low square tower at the centre of the Abbey, and masses of debris in front of the High Altar strewn just where the Coronation Chair was placed for the royal ceremony on so many historic occasions.

The Palace of Westminster suffered very serious damage. It was possible to see the glare of the fire on 10th May, 1941, from many of the adjacent pieces of high ground in and near London where fire-watchers and members of the Royal Observer Corps were on duty. A photograph taken in the

moonlight while the raid was still on showed the roof of Westminster Hall burning. This was the roof whose interior had been so badly attacked some years before by the death-watch beetle. The clock-tower was hit, but the chimes were not stopped, a sign of good augury for those millions all over the world who like to listen to the voice of "Big Ben." As a newspaper remarked at the time: "it still turns a bomb-scarred fire-blackened face to the world that loves its voice."

The Debating Chamber of the House of Commons was almost completely gutted, and many historic memories have been disturbed. It was not the Chamber in which Chatham and Burke and Sheridan and Charles James Fox, and Pitt the younger and Canning made their speeches; but the building which took its place after the disastrous fire of more than a century ago. Its walls had echoed the voices of Russell and Palmerston, Gladstone and Disraeli, Balfour and Asquith, Lloyd George and Churchill. The Members' Division Lobby was made a heap of ruins, but the Prime Minister's room and the private rooms of other Cabinet Ministers escaped damage. One wall of the Debating Chamber of the Commons remains, and the tracery of the surviving windows was badly scarred. When the Houses of Parliament or the New Palace of Westminster, as it was styled, was rebuilt, an expert offered for a small sum to "vet" the building stone to be used in its reconstruction. He asked a few hundred pounds for his skill, but the authorities decided to save the money, and employed "a magnesian limestone from Anston in Yorkshire, selected with great care from the building stones of England by a Commissioner appointed for that purpose." It would probably have saved the nation many thousands of pounds had the expert's advice been taken.

In an account of the Parliament Houses published in 1850 the sanguine author writes: "There is very little wood about the building; all the main beams and joists are of iron, and the Houses of Parliament, it is said, can never be burnt down again." Well, much of the stone has perished, and part of the "largest Gothic edifice in the world, covering an area of nearly eight acres" has been destroyed by fire.

But it will rise again, and many more speeches will be made within its walls to guide the destinies of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and to help to the establishment of what Tennyson called

"The Parliament of Man, the Federation of the World."

THE INNS OF COURT have shared the fate of the City Churches, and all four have suffered irreparable damage. After one of the worst bombings it was a pathetic sight to see Oliver Goldsmith's reclining statue still surveying the disaster with complete nonchalance. In the severe damage inflicted on the TEMPLE CHURCH "restorations" in the 19th century as well as original memorials to Crusaders have alike perished. "The fire of 1941 over-reached the damage already effected by architects, annihilated the 17th and 18th century monuments, and reduced most of the Templars to dust."

Crown Office Row, Middle Temple Lane, and Pump Court have been badly damaged.

MIDDLE TEMPLE HALL, in which *Twelfth Night* was first produced, has lost part of the east wall and roof and portions of the magnificent screen.

GRAY'S INN has suffered very severe damage to Hall, Library and Chapel. In the Hall, dating from Queen Mary's reign, Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*

was produced in 1590; and the whole of the woodwork of panels and screen has been destroyed. A considerable portion of the chambers in one of the squares have been destroyed, and practically all the books in the Library have been consumed. Gray's Inn escaped the first bombing but suffered very heavily in the second.

The complete list of damaged churches in Greater London runs into hundreds, and many other buildings of recognised beauty and historic interest have to be recorded as devastated or completely destroyed. One of the greatest mistakes made by the Luftwaffe was the needless damage to BUCKINGHAM PALACE, which made the King and Queen fellow-sufferers with the humblest of their subjects. To the courageous outburst, "We can take it, your Majesties," our Sovereigns might well have replied "So can we." KENSINGTON PALACE, LAMBETH PALACE, BRIDGWATER HOUSE and HOLLAND HOUSE have suffered, and, to come to a different category, so have the TOWER of LONDON, TRINITY HOUSE and other buildings on TOWER HILL, and parts of ST. KATHERINE DOCKS.

Several buildings in the neighbourhood of Regent's Park have been damaged—PARK CRESCENT, PARK VILLAGE and ALBANY STREET; two well-known squares—FINSBURY SQUARE and MECKLENBURG SQUARE, with Guildford Street close by; and a regular hotch-potch of oddments—THE ADELPHI, BURLINGTON AVENUE, CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE, FEATHERSTONE BUILDINGS, PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, QUEEN'S HALL, the RING, THE TIMES OFFICES in Printing House Square, and UNIVERSITY COLLEGE in Gower Street.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL has been damaged but comparatively little considering its proximity to the destroyed areas of Watling Street and Paternoster Row. That gem of architecture, CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, with all its memories of Sir Thomas More, is wrecked, and CHELSEA HOSPITAL, the subject of Captain Dean's article in these *Transactions*, was badly bombed.

In addition to the fascinating churches of the City of London (the Lord Mayor's Square Mile) which have suffered in the blitz, there are many others of almost equal interest in the immediate suburbs whose loss we mourn. Here are some of the most important of them:—St. Albans, Holborn; St. Alphege, Greenwich; St. Anne's, Soho; St. Barnabas, King Square, Finsbury; St. Clement Dane's; St. Clement's, City Road; St. George-in-the-East; St. James's, Piccadilly; St. James's, West Hackney; St. John's, Horsleydown; St. John the Evangelist,

Smith Square; St. John's, Waterloo Road; St. John's, Red Lion Square; St. John the Divine, Kennington; St. Mary's, Haggerston; St. Mary's, Islington; St. Martin-in-the-Fields; St. Mark's, Kennington; St. Nicholas, Deptford; All Souls', Langham Place; The Church of the Ascension, Bayswater; Holy Trinity, Minories; St. George's (R.C.) Cathedral in Southwark; Our Lady of Victories (R.C.), Kennington; The Metropolitan Tabernacle and the City Temple. The last two were famous for the ministries of the famous Baptist minister, Charles Haddon Spurgeon and the rather later Congregational minister, Joseph Parker.

In this long list there are two splendid examples of Nicholas Hawksmoor, architect of St. Mary Woonoth, near the Mansion House, and these are St. Alphege, Greenwich, and St. George's-in-the-East. All Soul's, Langham Place, is one of a very large number of churches erected in the first half of the 19th century by the Commissioners for Building New Churches, and was actually designed by John Nash, who was responsible for the laying out of Regent's Park and Regent Street.

Some years ago a note on some of the buildings erected by Dr. Nicholas Barbon in the later 17th century was published in these *Transactions*. It is interesting to note how many of his buildings which had survived until 1939 have now disappeared or have been badly damaged. ESSEX STREET ARCH at the end of Essex Street, Strand, was damaged but has since been repaired; some of his houses in Bedford Row, in Red Lion Square and in the Middle Temple have also suffered severely.

It is a tragic story, very inadequately recorded here; but any effort to set down some of the historic associations which we have lost in the grim days and weeks of 1940 and 1941 is perhaps worth while. One may hope that the bulk of the havoc which London may expect has already occurred, but no one can be dogmatic as to the future; and a final effort to damage our metropolis, in revenge for our destruction of so much of German war effort, may well be anticipated.

LONDON SAGA

ARTHUR BRYANT'S *English Saga* is a brilliant survey of the last century of English life from 1840 to 1940; and, as is natural, it emphasises the importance of the metropolis as it grows and