

A

0

0

1

0

8

1

8

1

0

2



116

Said to be
scarce

1/10

THE
FLEET REGISTERS.

COMPRISING THE

History of Fleet Marriages,

AND SOME ACCOUNT OF

THE PARSONS AND MARRIAGE-HOUSE KEEPERS,

WITH EXTRACTS FROM THE REGISTERS:

TO WHICH ARE ADDED NOTICES OF THE

MAY FAIR, MINT, AND SAVOY CHAPELS,

AND

An Appendix

RELATING TO PAROCHIAL REGISTRATION.

“ Much may be, and much has been, said, both for and against this Innovation upon our ancient Laws and Constitution.”—*Blackstone on the Marriage Act.*

BY JOHN SOUTHERDEN BURN,

AUTHOR OF THE HISTORY OF PARISH REGISTERS.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY RIVINGTONS, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD;
HENRY BUTTERWORTH, 7, FLEET STREET; AND
EDWARD SUTER, 19, CHEAPSIDE.

MDCCXXXIII.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY SAMUEL BENTLEY,
Dorset-street, Fleet-street.

TO

JOHN WILKS, Esq. M. P.

CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

ON THE STATE OF PAROCHIAL REGISTRATION, .

TO WHOSE EXERTIONS THE COUNTRY IS INDEBTED FOR

THAT IMPORTANT INQUIRY,

THESE PAGES ARE DEDICATED

AS A MARK OF RESPECT

BY THE AUTHOR.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2007 with funding from
Microsoft Corporation

P R E F A C E.

IN collecting materials for a History of Parish Registers, the Author first had occasion to refer to the Registers of the Marriages solemnized at the Fleet; since that time he has made a very minute examination of them, and the following pages contain some of the most curious particulars concerning the Registers and the parties connected with them.

It is untrodden ground; indeed hitherto few persons were aware of the existence of such Records, and fewer still know their extent and importance.

Without discussing their validity as a Public Record, and without attempting to place them upon the same footing in respect to evidence as a Parish Register, it must be allowed to them that they have been occasionally admitted as Evidence in the Courts of *Nisi Prius*; and although within the last thirty years they have been generally (though not uniformly) rejected, yet they unquestionably contain the record of many thousands of marriages, of which no other evidence is to be found.

The Author has had some difficulty in compressing within a small Volume the information relative to the Fleet Registers, without entering fully upon the Law of Marriage, and giving an account of the Marriages at the different Episcopal and Dissenting Chapels which were in existence prior to 1754. He has voluminous transcripts from registers of marriages solemnized at such chapels supplied by informa-

tion obtained from an examination of the affidavits made upon application of the parties for licences to marry, (and which are preserved in the Registry of the Bishop of London,) and from notifications of marriages in the public journals of the period, from which he will be at all times happy to afford information. From the circumstance that out of the eighty or ninety chapels in and about London, only fourteen of the Registers remain (some of which are in private hands), these collections are of considerable value.

His thanks are especially due to John Shephard, Esq. the Deputy Registrar of the Consistory Court of the Bishop of London, for free and continued access to the Fleet Books; to the Rev. Daniel Lysons, F. R. and A. S., for many curious extracts from old newspapers; and to Charles George Young Esq. York Herald, Registrar of the College of Arms, for his kind assistance in preparing these pages for publication.

*25, Tokenhouse Yard, Lothbury,
3rd October, 1833.*

C O N T E N T S.

CHAPTER I.

Of Clandestine Marriages.—St. James's, Duke's Place, and Trinity, Minories.—The Fleet Prison.—Bishop's Visitation there.—Excommunication.—Marriage of the Hon. Henry Fox.—The Marriage Act.—Opposition to it.—Blackstone's Commentary upon it 1

CHAPTER II.

The Fleet Prison, Wardens, and Chaplains 21

CHAPTER III.

Clergymen who performed Marriages at the Fleet; and the names of some of the persons who kept Marriage-houses, and acted as Clerks 25

CHAPTER IV.

The Fleet Books.—Their transmission to the custody of the Bishop of London.—Extracts, &c. &c. 40

CHAPTER V.

The Fleet Registers as Evidence 81

CHAPTER VI.

Marriages at the King's Bench Prison, Mint, Savoy, and May Fair 92

Appendix

ON PAROCHIAL REGISTRATION 105

Page 21. Since the 2nd Chapter passed through the press, the name of another Warden of the Fleet has been discovered in the notice of the following petition to Parliament:—

In the 14 Hen. VI. the Duke of Gloucester presented a petition to the Parliament from “Alard Funk, Citizein and taillour of London,” stating, that one “William Venour” Wardeyn of the Prison of the Flete, had in his keeping a prisoner called Piers Mayn Henrickson, Ducheman, and had brought him before the Chancellor into the Court of Chancery at Westminster, in the term of “Seint Johan.” in the xijth year of His Majesty’s reign; but the said prisoner “for defeaute of kepinge, and thurgh negligence of his keper, voided and wente out of the Chauncerye into the Seyntuarie of Westmynstre,” &c. &c.—*Miscellaneous Petitions in Parliament in the Tower of London.*

Page 22. In the note it is stated that Robert Castell is said to have translated Vitruvius. The Author has since, however, been favoured with the following note, by the learned translator of the last English edition of the work of that celebrated architect.

Although the Bipont edition of Vitruvius, 8vo. (*Argentorati*) 1807, gives as published in 1730, the following among the English editions,—

“1730 The Architecture of M. Vitruvius Pollio translated into
“English, with the Commentaries of Inigo Jones and others,
“and the Latin text, by Robert Castell, London, fol. 2 vols.”
such Book was never published. The fact is, that Robert Castell in his *Villas of the Antients*, which he published in 1728, and which was dedicated to Richard Earl of Burlington, professes that he undertook that treatise as a *preparative* to a translation of Vitruvius into the English language: a work he had long entertained a desire of performing. This intention of Robert Castell was mentioned in the *Acta Erudit. Lipsiæ*, 1731; hence it is probable the mistake of the Bipont Editor. Castell, however, never fulfilled his intention, which was probably prevented by his premature death.

FLEET MARRIAGES.

CHAPTER I.

OF CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE — ST. JAMES DUKE'S PLACE AND TRINITY MINORIES — THE FLEET PRISON — BISHOP'S VISITATION THERE — EXCOMMUNICATION — MARRIAGE OF THE HONOURABLE HENRY FOX — THE MARRIAGE ACT — OPPOSITION TO IT — BLACKSTONE'S COMMENTARY UPON IT.

It was not until the Council of Trent (1429) that the intervention of a priest, or other ecclesiastical functionary, was deemed in Europe indispensable to a marriage. It was then ascertained that the existence of the marriage contract as a mere civil engagement, unhallowed by any spiritual sanction, tended much to the formation of clandestine connexions, and their concomitant evils. The celebrated Decree passed in that session interdicted any marriage otherwise than in the presence of a priest and at least two witnesses. But in England previous to 1754 the Common Law continued to regulate the Law of Marriage, the authority of the Council of Trent not having been acknowledged in this country; and whilst, in virtue of domestic institutions, a form was enjoined for the more solemn celebration of matrimony, and persons departing from these regulations were liable to ecclesiastical censure, still other and more private modes of contracting a marriage were tolerated and acknowledged by Law.

Hence a contract *per verba de presenti*, that is to say, between persons entering into a present engagement to become man and wife, or a promise *per verba de futuro*, which was an agreement to become husband and wife at some future time, if the promise were followed by consummation, constituted marriage without the intervention of a priest; for the contract *per verba de presenti* was held to be a marriage com-

plete in substance, but deficient in ceremony.† Although the promise *per verba de futuro* of itself was incomplete in both points, yet the cohabitation of the parties after exchanging the mutual promise, implied such a present consent at the time of the sexual intercourse, as to perfect the marriage in substance and give it equal validity with the contract *de presenti*, that is to say, the validity of an irregular marriage, which could not be annulled by the Ecclesiastical Court, though it might be censured for its informality, nor could the *vinculum* be affected by a subsequent regular marriage.*

Certain privileges have been allowed to those who solemnized their marriage according to the form prescribed by the Ecclesiastical Law, which were denied to those who refused to comply; yet the marriage, although celebrated in a different manner, was indissoluble, it being considered of Divine institution, to which only a full and free consent of the parties was necessary. Before the time of Pope Innocent the Third, (1198) there was no solemnization of marriage in the church, but the man came to the house where the woman resided, and led her home to his own house, which was all the ceremony then used: hence the expression "*uxorem ducere et capere in virum.*"

* Petersdorff's Lectures.

† The Author has many curious particulars relative to Espousals, which was the contract *per verba de futuro*. It must suffice, however, merely to give an entry of Espousals in the Parish Register of Boughton Monchelsea, Kent, the only one he has ever met with.

" Michaelis.

1630 Sponsalia inter Gulielm' Maddox et Elizabeth' Grimestone in debitâ iuris formâ transacta 10 die Januarii.

Michaelis

1633 Nuptiæ inter Gulielmu' Maddox et Elizabetha' Grimeston vltimo Octobris."

" By the Civil Law whatsoever was given *ex sponsalitia largitate*, betwixt them that are promised, have a condition (for the most part silent) that it may be had again if marriage ensue not. *Si sponsus dederit aliquid et aliquo casu impediatur nuptiæ, donatio penitus rescinditur nisi osculum intervenit*; but if he had a kiss for his money, he loseth one half of that which he gave. But with the woman it is otherwise; for, kissing or not kissing, whatsoever she gave she may ask and have it againe. This is but for gloves, rings, bracelets, and other small wares, and in relaving a woman hath greter favour in greater gifts than a man hath." Sponcrud. 9, fo. 13.

Banns were first directed to be published by Canon Hubert Walter, No. 22 (1200); and the Constitution of William la Zouch, No. 7 (1347) notices the performance of clandestine marriages, and that “some contriving unlawful marriages, and affecting the dark, lest their deeds should be reprov’d, procure every day, in a damnable manner, marriages to be celebrated without publication of banns duly and lawfully made, by means of chaplains that have no regard to the fear of God and the prohibition of the laws.”

These informal marriages appear to have been continued in London notwithstanding the punishment denounced (and sometimes inflicted) by the Ecclesiastical Law. Within a few years previously to 1686, many thousands of clandestine marriages were performed; many of them in certain Churches and Chapels exempted from the Visitation of the Ordinary, the ministers of which churches did usually marry without licence or banns: these were called “*lawless churches* ;” for by this means those laws which had been made to prevent clandestine marriages were rendered ineffectual.*

In the Bishop of London’s Registry (1 Compton 95) it appears that the Commissioners for Ecclesiastical Causes, on the 17th of Feb. 1686 suspended for three years (*ab officio et beneficio*) Adam Elliott, Rector of St. James Duke’s Place, for having married or suffered persons to be married at his church without banns or licence.

This suspension is mentioned by Newcourt in his Repertorium, where are noticed the grounds of the “pretended exemptions” of the church of St. James Duke’s Place and Trinity Minories. As to the former, the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of London, as lords of the manor and patrons of the church, had then lately (1708) pretended an exemption from the jurisdiction of the Bishop of London in matters ecclesiastical. And as to Trinity Minories, “the church is in the gift of the Crown, and the incumbent or Curate thereof (for it is neither rectory nor vicarage insti-

* Nelson’s Rights of the Clergy.

tive) holds the same by an instrument of donation, under the Great Seal of England; but of late these Curates have pretended exemption from being subject to the Bishop of London as Ordinary, *on purpose to defend their marrying without banns or licence.*"

The suspension of the Rector of St. James Duke's Place, was relaxed on the 28th of May 1687, upon his petition to the Commissioners; and in the marriage register of Duke's Place is the following entry—

"There were no marriages from the tenth of March till y^e 29 day of May" (1687.)

after which, it appears, the Rector resumed his practice, and married at the rate of sixteen couple per day.

The earliest Marriage Register in the parish chest commences 1st Nov. 1664, but some of the first leaves in the book are missing, it having been for some years without any cover to protect it! It continues to 1691, occupying upwards of 1000 pages. On some days there are between 30 and 40 marriages, and in this book alone are nearly 40,000 entries!!* The *next* book (also a large folio, but thinner than the first) commences in 1692 and ends July 28, 1700; and the marriages during this period continue very numerous. The *third* book commences with 25 March 1700, and ends March 1754, during which period the number of marriages decreases.

The first register of marriages at Trinity Minories is of parchment, commencing Jan. 1579, and ending 3 June 1644, and is by no means singular on account of the *number* of marriages. No. 2 begins 9 June 1644, and ends Feb. 1648; the marriages now begin to increase, and in the month of July 1645 are 30 entries. No. 3 is a rough square book, much out of condition, with a brown paper cover, commencing Feb. 1657, and ending 25 July 1659 (the book from 1648 to 1657 is missing). No. 4 is a long rough book, commencing 2 February 1660, and ending 9 April 1663, (from this date to 1676 is missing.) No. 5 is a large folio newly

* furnishes him a house, provides a fine suit of cloathes, goes to Duke's Place, and marries."—(*Tom Brown's Works*, vol. iv. 278.)

bound in vellum, commencing 26 March 1676 and ending 21 June 1683, and contains about 6000 entries. No. 6 is a very large folio volume, commencing 24 June 1683; it continues to January 27, 1686, when it refers to another book,* and begins again with November 1692, and ends 17 March 1754. In this book are about 9000 entries. The register which comes in between the first and second part of the last volume commences 26 January 1686,* and ends November 1692; it is roughly written, and contains about 5 or 6000 entries.

It is now to be considered from what causes arose the long-continued and notorious practice of marrying at prisons, and especially at the Fleet Prison.

Whether any marriages were performed at the Fleet Prison without banns or licence anterior to the year 1674, (the date of the earliest Fleet Register in the Bishop of London's Registry) is still uncertain; indeed the only mention met with of an earlier marriage there, is in a letter from Alderman Lowe to Lady Hickes in Sept. 1613, (Lansd. MSS. 93—17.)

“ Now I am to enform you that an ancyeⁿt^t acquayntance of y^rs and myne is yesterday maryed in the Fleette, one Mr. Gorge Lestor, and hath maryed M^{rs} Babbington Mr. Thomas Fanshame mother in lawe. Itt is sayed she is a woman of good wealthe so as nowe the man wylle able to lyve and mayntayn hymself in prison, for hether unto he hath byne in poor estate. I praye God he be nott encoryged by his marige to do as Becher doth, I mene to troble his frynds in Lawe, but I hope he wyll have a better conseyence and more honestye than the other men hathe.”

Upon referring to the dates of the Fleet Registers, it will be found that (with one exception) they commence about the period of the Order of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners,† and it may fairly be conjectured that when the practice of

* The suspension of the Rector of Duke's Place took place about the time of the commencement of this register, which may account for the discontinuance of the regular register, so that in case of a visit from the Commissioners, the register would perhaps have been shewn as a proof that no marriages had been performed, while in fact 5 or 6000 had been married and entered in another book.

† Order against Claudestinc Marriages. (1 Compton, 94.)

clandestine marriages at Duke's Place and Trinity Minories was checked by this order and the suspension of Mr. Elliott, it was taken up by certain real and pretended clergymen in and about the prisons—not, however, on account of any *real* privilege or exemption attaching to these prisons, for the marriages were not even confined to the Rules of the Fleet, but were performed sometimes at the villages adjacent,* but because these Fleet parsons were generally prisoners enjoying the Rules of the Fleet, and had neither liberty, money, nor credit to lose by any proceedings the Bishop might institute against them.

Some of the acts passed for preventing these marriages convey particulars of the system adopted to evade prior enactments. Thus the 7th and 8th Wm. III. cap. 35, recites the 6th and 7th Wm. cap. 7. sec. 52, and that it was passed for the better levying the duty of 5s. on licences and certificates, but was found ineffectual, because the penalty of 100*l.* was not extended to *every* offence of the same parson, and because the parsons employed poor and indigent ministers, without benefices or settled habitations, and because many ministers being in prison for debt and otherwise, married persons for lucre and gain.†

Did this account of the practices at the Fleet require any confirmation, it would derive it from the evidence of one of the Fleet parsons themselves, for some private memoranda made by Walter Wyatt, in one of his pocket books of 1736, are to the following effect, showing that if there was not “some spark of grace left,” there were at least now and then some compunctions of conscience.

“Give to every man his due, and learn y^e way of Truth.”

“This advice cannot be taken by those that are concerned in y^e Fleet marriages; not so much as y^e Priest can do y^e thing y^t

* One of Mrs. Wigmore's advertisements of the Fleet registers mentions them to contain the marriages “at all the different houses of the Fleet and other parts of town and country.”

† Peregrine Pickle becomes acquainted in the Fleet with a clergyman “who found means to enjoy a pretty considerable income by certain irregular practices in the way of his function.”—Vol. iv. p. 157.

is just and right there, unless he designs to starve. For by lying, bullying, and swearing, to extort money from the silly and unwary people, you advance your business and gets y^e pelf, which always wastes like snow in sun shiney day.”

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. The marrying in the Fleet is the beginning of eternal woe.”

“If a clark or plyer tells a lye, you must vouch it to be as true as y^e Gospel, and if disputed, you must affirm with an oath to y^e truth of a downright damnable falsehood.—Virtus laudatur & alget^r.”*

“May God forgive me what is past, and give me grace to forsake such a wicked place, where truth and virtue can’t take place unless you are resolved to starve.”

Many of the early Fleet weddings were *really* performed at the chapel of the Fleet ; † but as the practice extended, it was found more convenient to have other places within the Rules of the Fleet, (added to which the Warden was compelled by act of parliament not to suffer them,) and thereupon many of the Fleet parson and tavern-keepers in the neighbourhood fitted up a room in their respective lodgings or houses as a chapel. The parsons took the fees, allowing a portion to the plyers, &c. ‡ and the tavern-keepers, besides sharing in the fees, derived a profit from the sale of liquors which the wed-

* “On Saturday last a Fleet parson was convicted before Sir Ric. Brocas of forty-three oaths, (on the information of a plyer for weddings there,) for which a warrant was granted to levy 4*l.* 6*s.* on the goods of the said parson ; but, upon application to his Worship, he was pleased to remit 1*s.* per oath ; upon which the plyer swore he would swear no more against any man upon the like occasion, finding he could get nothing by it.”—*Grub Street Journal*, 20 July 1732.

† “One Mrs. Ann Leigh, an heiress of £200. per annum and £6000. ready cash, having been decoyed away from her friends in Buckinghamshire, and married at the Fleet chapel against her consent ; we hear the Lord Chief Justice Pratt hath issued out his warrant for apprehending the authors of this contrivance, who have used the young lady so barbarously, that she now lyes speechless.”—*Original Weekly Journal*, Sept. 26, 1719.

“Captain Pealy, a half-pay officer, was apprehended and committed to the Gate-House, for stealing one Mrs. Anne Leigh, as mentioned in our last.”

‡ Thus on one occasion, “The Turnkey had 1*s.*—Boyce 1*s.* Clk,—y^e Plyer 1*s.*, and I had 3*s.* 8*d.*” (*Ed. Ashwell.*)

ding party drank. In some instances the tavern-keepers kept a parson on their establishment at a weekly salary of twenty shillings; while others, upon a wedding-party arriving, sent for any clergyman they might please to employ,* and divided the fee with him. Most of the taverns near the Fleet kept their own registers, in which (as well as in their own books,) the parsons entered the weddings.

The author has an engraving of "A Fleet Wedding," (published about 1747,) "between a brisk young Sailor and his Landlady's Daughter at Rederiff;" it represents the old Fleet market and prison, with the sailor, landlady, and daughter, just stepping from a hackney-coach, while two Fleet parsons in canonicals are offering their services. The verses written below the print are as follow :

Scarce had the coach discharg'd its trusty fare,
 But gaping crowds surround th' amorous pair ;
 The busy Plyers make a mighty stir,
 And whisp'ring cry, D'ye want the Parson, Sir ?
 Pray step this way—just to the Pen in Hand,
 The Doctor's ready there at your command :
 This way, (another cries) Sir, I declare,
 The true and ancient Register is here :
 Th' alarmed Parsons quickly hear the din,
 And haste with soothing words t' invite 'em in :
 In this confusion jostled to and fro,
 Th' inamour'd couple know not where to go ;
 Till slow advancing from the coaches side,
 Th' experienc'd matron came, (an artful guide,)
 She led the way without regarding either,
 And the first Parson splic'd 'em both together.

The companion to this engraving is "The Sailor's Fleet Wedding Entertainment," which represents the party sitting at table, round a bowl of punch, with pipes, &c.:

* "Yesterday a cooper in St. John Street was seized and carried before Justice Robe, being charged with a r— upon a certain young woman. The man considering the danger he was in, compounded the affair, by sending for a clergyman from the Fleet, who married them at a tavern in Smithfield, to the great joy of all parties."—*Post Boy*, 18 June 1730.

amongst other pictures on the wall is a representation of the Skimmington.* Under the print are the following lines :

Jack rich in prizes, now the knot is ty'd,
 Sits pleas'd by her he thinks his maiden bride.
 But tho' a modest look by Molly's shewn,
 She only known.
 The b—— now from her daughter's charge reliev'd,
 With pleasure smiles to think how he's deceiv'd;
 Experienc'd in the trade, and void of shame,
 To her the Man in crape imparts his flame.
 The Lawyer grins, and Peg, with wanton glance,
 Seems much delighted with Tom's antic dance.
 Kit kisses Kate, vows she shall be his wife,
 While cat and dog resemble nuptial strife.
 The Skimmington observe. Mirth to provoke
 Sam points the horns, with many a b—— joke.
 For spouse's cloaths, the baily's crew are seen,
 And change, oh sad mishap! the jovial scene.

In 1702 the Bishop of London held a Visitation at the Fleet, as appears by a paper in the Bishop's Registry to the following effect :

4^{to} Junii 1702 Cor' Reverend:
 Dno E'po London in Carcere vulgo
 vocat' y^e Fleet in Civitate London,
 p'esente Ed' Alexander

Neg^m Visitac'onis in Carcere vulgo }
 vocat' y^e Fleet London }

Comp^t Mag^r Jeronimus Alley Cle'cus D^s E'pus
 monuit eum ad exhibend' D^{no} Cancellario ejus L'ras Ordinum intra
 24 diem Junii instan' & his Lords^p ordered him not to marry or per-
 form any divine Office in y^e Chappell in y^e Fleet or in any place
 within y^e Dioces untill he has exhibited y^e same.

Mr Alley soon afterwards fled from y^e s^d
 Prison & never exhibited his orders.

* A Skimmington is admirably described in Butler's Hudibras, (Lond. 1806.)
 Vol. I. p. 467.—Ralpho describes it as—

. a riding us'd of course,
 When the grey mare's the better horse;
 When o'er the breeches greedy women
 Fight, to extend their vast dominion.

Very little benefit was derived from this Visitation except the flight of Mr. Alley, who, however, left many behind in the Fleet to supply his place. An anonymous letter in the Bishop's Registry, written some time between 1702 and 1714, contains some curious particulars.

“ Sir

“ I think it my Duty to God and y^e Queen to acquaint you with y^e illegal practices of y^e Ministers and Clark in y^e Fleet Chappell for marrying Clandestinely as they do som weeks fifty or sixty couple. The Ministers that are there are as follows, M^r Rob^t Elborough he is an ancient man and is master of y^e Chapple and marries but very few now without Banns or Licence, but under a colour doth allow his Clark to do w^t he pleases, his name his Barth : Basset. There is there also one M^r James Colton a Clergyman, he lives in Leather Lane next door to y^e Coach and horses, he hath bin there these four years to marry, but no Prisoner, he marries in Coffee-houses, in his own house and in and about y^e Fleet gate and all y^e Rules over not excepting any part of city and Suburbs. This Clark Basset aforesaid registers wherever Colton marries in y^e Fleet Register and gives him Certificates. Colton had a living in Essex till y^e Bishop of London deprived him for this and other ill practices. There is also one M^r Nehemiah Rogers, he is a Prisoner but goes at larg to his P Living in Essex, and all places else, he is a very wicked man as lives for drinking whoring and swearing, he has struck and boxed y^e bridegroom in y^e Chapple and damned like any com'on souldier, he marries both within and without y^e Chapple like his brother Colton. There was one M^r Alley he was a Prisoner and y^e benefit of weddings but is gone to some other preferm^t. The abovesaid Basset rents y^e sellers of y^e Fleet and pays for y^t and two watchmen 100 and £20 p. ann but he him pays but £20 per ann. for y^e Clergy pay all y^e rest monthly, and if they do not they are threatened to be confined or outed. This Clark hath bin sworn in D^r Commons not to marry any without Banns or Licence unless it be such poor people as are recomended by y^e Justices in case of a big belly, but have married since many hundreds as I and many can testife who are confined Prisoners. The chief days to marry are Sundays Tuesdays and Saturdays, but evry day more or less. The Clark Basset keeps a Register book, altho he told y^e Bishop

of London he had none, he also antidates as he pleases as you may see when you look over y^e Registers, he hath another at his sons, he does what he pleases and maintains a great family by these ill practices. £200 p. ann. he hath at least. The Ministers and Clark bribe one M^r Shirley I think him to be Collector for y^e Queen's Taxes. I hope Sir you will excuse me for concealing my name hoping y^t you will inspect into these base practices.

For

D^r Newton Chancell^r
to my Lord of London
at D^rs Commons
These.

In 1712 another act was passed (10 Ann. cap. 19.) apparently for the purpose of punishing Parsons who being already prisoners, were in the habit of performing marriages, without fear of affecting their liberty any farther. After reciting the loss of duties by Clandestine Marriages, it enacts that such offenders should be removed to the County Gaol. Notwithstanding this additional penalty, and the conviction in 1716 of one John Mottram for solemnizing two clandestine marriages,* the law failed to prevent a continuance of the practice, and in 1718 a bill prepared by Mr. Brigstock and Sir John Phillips for preventing Clandestine Marriages

* In 1717 " John Mottram, Clerk, was tryed for solemnizing clandestine and unlawful marriages in the Fleet Prison, and of keeping fraudulent Registers, whereby it appear'd that he had dated several marriages several years before he enter'd into orders, and that he kept no less than nine several Registers at different houses, which contained many scandalous frauds. It also appeared, that a marriage was antedated because of pregnancy; and to impose on the ignorant there was written underneath, this serap of barbarous Latin, " *Hi non nupti fuerunt sed obtinerunt Testimonium propter timorem parentum,*" meaning that they were not married but obtained this private Register for fear of their parents. It rather appeared from evidence, that these sham marriages were solemnized in a room in the Fleet they call the Lord Mayor's Chappel, which was furnished with chairs, cushions, and proper conveniencies, and that a coal-heaver was generally set to ply at the door to recommend all couples that had a mind to be marry'd, to the Prisoner, who would do it cheaper than any body. It farther appear'd, that one of the Registers only contained above 2200 entries which had been made within the last year." —*Weekly Journal*, Feb. 13.

He was tried at Guildhall before Lord Chief Justice Parker, found guilty and fined £200.

was brought into the House of Commons and read a second time, but was negatived as to the engrossment. In a hand-bill printed for distribution about 1720, the reasons for the failure of the several acts in preventing these marriages are described to be

1. For that the penalty on the gaoler (which had ever since deterred the Warden of the Fleet from suffering any marriages there) was not extended to the owners of taverns, alehouses, &c.
2. That the penalty on the clerk was too small and was not extended to every person present at the marriage.
3. That the 10th Anne might be eluded by the offenders removing themselves back to the Fleet by habeas corpus.
4. That every indigent clergyman that forfeits £100, depending on the delay of a writ of error, carries on his offences with impunity for a year and a half, in which time his gain amounts to five times the sum of £100, and then he runs away.

No other parliamentary measure was effected, and the practice continued to increase at the Fleet,* which was resorted

* "From an inspection into the several registers for marriages kept at the several alehouses, brandy shops, &c. within the Rules of the Fleet Prison, we find no less than 32 couple joined together from Monday to Thursday last without licenses, contrary to an express act of Parliament against Clandestine Marriages, that lays a severe fine of £200 on the minister so offending, and £100 each on the persons so marry'd, in contradiction to the said statute. Several of the above-mentioned brandy men and victuallers keep clergymen in their houses at 20s. per week each, hit or miss, but it's reported that one there will stoop to no such low conditions, but makes at least £500 per annum of Divinity-jobs after that manner. 'Tis pleasant to see certain fellows plying by Fleet Bridge to take poor sailors &c. into the noose of matrimony, every day throughout the week, and their clocks at their offices for that purpose still standing at the canonical hour, though perhaps the time of day be six, or seven in the afternoon."—*Weekly Journal*, 1723, June 29.

"Margaret Prendergrass and Mary Henson, two Irishwomen, were convicted at the Old Bailey Sessions for aiding and assisting one Russell an Irishman in forcibly marrying and bedding with a young gentlewoman, the pretended marriage being performed by a Fleet parson."—*D. Post*, 4 May 1728.

"We hear a person hath been committed to the Fleet Prison for lately advertizing in the public papers, a reward of an £100 to any that should discover and prove the supposed marriage of two persons, by reason it might be an encouragement to subornation of perjury."—*Weekly Journal*, 1720, Aug.

to by persons of all ranks and conditions in life, from the nobleman to the chimney-sweeper, who desired to be married with secrecy and dispatch. Neither the penalties of the before-mentioned acts, nor even excommunication,* had any effect in preventing these marriages, which it was well known were valid and indissoluble, although irregular.

The newspapers of the day frequently adverted to the sad consequences of Fleet marriages, and for some years the following paragraph appeared occasionally in the various periodicals.

“Whereas several inconsiderate and unwary persons consent to be married at the Fleet, May Fair, and other places, by sham licences, without any banns or legal authority, by which the parties that think themselves properly married, are much diffculted in the proof of their marriages and of the legitimacy of their children—It is thought proper for the well being, peace and security of such as intend to marry to make it known, that, besides the inconveniences before mentioned, there is an act of Parliament made in the 7 and 8 years of king William cap. 35, by which it is enacted, That every parson, vicar . . . (here follows the penal clause.)

In a Number of the Grub Street Journal for 1735, is a very long letter on the practices at the Fleet, and which (as it very faithfully describes the treachery and low habits of the Fleet parsons) is added in a note.† A walk past

* By the Ecclesiastical Law, all persons present at a clandestine marriage were considered as thenceforth excommunicate. It was frequently necessary to prove these marriages at Doctors Commons, but the evidence of any witness present at the ceremony was rejected until he or she had been absolved and had taken the usual oath of absolution.

In the cause of Phillips v. Cross, Walter Wyatt (one of the most notorious of the Fleet parsons) was offered as a witness and was willing to take the usual oath of a witness, but not the oath of absolution, and the Judge therefore refused him. 1754, May 24, William Faucit, Esq. John Grierson, Clerk, and William Bromley having incurred sentence of excommunication by having been present at a clandestine marriage, were absolved. On the 28th, Susannah Faucit the wife was absolved. (The Bishop's Assign^s.)

† Sir—There is a very great evil in this town, and of dangerous consequence to our sex, that has never been suppressed, to the great prejudice and ruin of many hundreds of young people every year; which I beg some of your learned heads to consider of, and consult of proper ways and means to prevent for the future. I mean the ruinous marriages that are practised in the liberty of the Fleet and therabouts,

the Fleet Prison at that period, would appear to resemble a walk through Rag Fair at the present day.

by a sett of drunken swearing parsons, with their myrmidons, that wear black coats and pretend to be clerks and registers to the Fleet. These ministers of wickedness ply about Ludgate Hill pulling and forcing people to some pedling alehouse or a brandy-shop to be married, even on a Sunday stopping them as they go to church and almost tearing their cloaths off their backs. To confirm the truth of these facts, I will give you a case or two which lately happened.

Since Midsummer last a young lady of birth and fortune was deluded and forced from her friends, and by the assistance of a wry-necked swearing parson married to an atheistical wretch, whose life is a continued practice of all manner of vice and debauchery. And since the ruin of my relation, another lady of my acquaintance had like to have been trepanned in the following manner. This lady had appointed to meet a gentlewoman at the Old Playhouse in Drury-lane : but extraordinary business prevented her coming. Being alone when the play was done, she bade a boy call a coach for the city. One dressed like a gentleman helps her into it, and jumps in after her. "Madam," says he, "this coach was called for me, and since the weather is so bad and there is no other, I beg leave to bear you company : I am going into the city and will set you down wherever you please." The lady begged to be excused ; but he bade the coachman drive on. Being come to Ludgate Hill, he told her his sister who waited his coming, but five doors up the court, would go with her in two minutes. He went, and returned with his pretended sister, who asked her to step in one minute, and she would wait upon her in the coach. Deluded with the assurance of having his sister's company, the poor lady foolishly followed her into the house, when instantly the sister vanished ; and a tawny fellow in a black coat and black wig appeared. "Madam, you are come in good time, the Doctor was just a-going !" "The Doctor !" says she, horribly frightened, fearing it was a madhouse : "What has the Doctor to do with me ?" "To marry you to that gentleman : the Doctor has waited for you these three hours, and will be payed by you or that gentleman before you go !" "That gentleman !" says she, recovering herself, is worthy a better fortune than mine," and begged hard to be gone. But Doctor Wryneck swore she should be married, or if she would not he would still have his fee, and register the marriage from that night. The lady finding she could not escape without money or a pledge, told them she liked the gentleman so well, she would certainly meet him to-morrow night, and gave them a ring as a pledge : which, says she, "was my mother's gift on her death-bed, injoining that, if ever I married it should be my wedding-ring." By which cunning contrivance she was delivered from the black Doctor and his tawny crew. Some time after this I went with this lady and her brother in a coach to Ludgate Hill in the day time, to see the manner of their picking up people to be married. As soon as our coach stopt near Fleet Bridge, up comes one of the myrmidons. "Madam," says he, "you want a parson !" "Who are you," says I ? "I am the clerk and register of the Fleet." "Show me the chapel." At which comes a second, desiring me to go along with him. Says he, "That fellow will carry you to a pedling alehouse." Says a third, "Go with me, he will carry you to a brandy shop." In the interim comes the Doctor,

The marriage at the Fleet of the Hon. Henry Fox* with Georgiana Caroline, eldest daughter of Charles second Duke of Richmond, was in 1744 a subject of general conversation; but it was not until 1753 that the law of marriage was taken up with effect, when Lord Hardwicke brought in a Bill, (26 Geo. II. c. 33.) enacting that any person solemnizing matrimony in any other than a church or public chapel, without banns or licence, should on conviction be adjudged *guilty of felony*, and be transported for fourteen years, and that all such marriages *should be void*.

Such an impediment to matrimony, which thitherto had been validly contracted without even the presence of a clergyman—such “*an innovation* (to use the words of Blackstone) *upon our ancient Laws and Constitution*,” could not be expected to pass into a law without a violent opposition.

“Madam,” says he, “I’ll do your jobb for you presently!” “Well, gentlemen,” says I, “since you can’t agree, and I can’t be married quietly, I’ll put it off ’till another time:” so drove away. Learned Sirs, I wrote this in regard to the honour and safety of my own sex: and if for our sakes, you will be so good as to publish it, correcting the errors of a woman’s pen, you will oblige our whole sex, and none more than, Sir,

Your constant reader and admirer.

January 15th, 1734-5.

VIRTUOUS.

From the *Grub Street Journal*.

“The clergymen who perform marriages within the Rules of the Fleet Prison, are under prosecution at the suit of the Crown, for not giving their certificates upon stamp paper, pursuant to the statute in that case made and provided.”—*Grub Street Journal*, 1 August 1730.

“We hear the frequent clandestine marriages at the Fleet have given such disgust, that henceforth special licences will be granted to Commoners, which were formerly allowed only to the nobility, to put a stop for the future to all scandalous practices of that kind.”—*Daily Post*, 15 April 1737.

“A gentleman near the middle of the Strand died last week possessed of a considerable fortune, which he bequeathed into the hands of trustees to his wife, but with this exception, that in case she married an Irishman the trustees were to pay her £10 10s. for a Fleet marriage, a dinner, a ring, &c., the remainder, which is about 8000*l.* to devolve to his nephew.”—*Daily Post*, 1742.

* He was second son of Sir Stephen Fox, born 1705. Having been appointed Surveyor of the Board of Works 1737; a Commissioner of the Treasury 1743; Secretary at War, 1746; Secretary of State, 1755; he was at length created a Peer in 1763 by the title of Baron Holland of Foxley, county Wilts.

She was born 28 March 1723, and created Baroness Holland in 1762.

Mr. Fox's popularity was arrived at such a height from his strenuous opposition to the Bill, that for several days his chariot was dragged along the streets by the populace.* Handbills (pro and con) were distributed, those in favour of the Bill urging that clandestine marriages had been the ruin of many families, that the religious establishment of marriage was entirely subverted, and the legal evidence thereof rendered precarious; while the others contended that the Bill would discourage marriage, that it was brought in for the protection of the fortunes of the noble and rich against alliances with persons in more humble circumstances, and adverted amongst other things to the Council of Trent, as having first annulled clandestine marriages,† and made the presence of a priest necessary to every marriage, and that it was after "*that excellent precedent*" that the Bill in question was drawn.

Notwithstanding the zealous opposition‡ to the Bill, it

* Wilkinson's Memoirs.

† This by the by was not so. "Dubitandum non est *clandestina matrimonia* libero contrahentium consensu facta rata et vera esse matrimonia. * * * Perinde jure damnandi sunt, sicut et eos Sancta Synodus anathemate damnat, qui ea *vera et rata* esse negant."—*Con. Trid. De Matrimonio*, Cap. I.

‡ In the correspondence of the Hon. Horace Walpole, M. P. for Castlerising, (afterwards Earl of Orford,) there are two letters in which the subject of this Bill is mentioned; and from which the following extracts are made. The first is a letter dated Strawberry Hill, May 22, 1753, addressed to George Montagu Esq.

"News, there is none to tell you. We have had two days in the House of Commons, that had something of the air of parliament; there has been a marriage-bill, invented by my Lord Bath, and cooked up by the Chancellor, which was warmly opposed by the Duke of Bedford in the Lords, and with us by Fox and Nugent: the latter made an admirable speech last week against it, and Charles Townshend another very good one yesterday, when we sat till near ten o'clock, but were beat, we in minority, by 165 to 84."—*See Correspondence*, Vol. I, 284.

The second is in a letter to the Hon. Henry Seymour Conway. Henry Seymour Conway, married 1747, Caroline Campbell, only daughter of John fourth Duke of Argyle, relict of Charles Bruce first Earl of Aylesbury.

"It is well you are married. How would my Lady Ailesbury have liked to be asked in a parish church, for three Sundays running? I really believe she would have worn her weeds for ever, rather than have passed through so impudent a ceremony! What do *you* think? But you will want to know the interpretation of this preamble. Why, there is a new Bill, which, under the notion of preventing clan-

eventually passed into a law, and was to take effect from the 25th of March 1754. Mr. Fox is represented to have held

destine marriages, has made such a general rummage and reform in the office of matrimony, that every Strephon and Chloe, every Dowager and her H***, will have as many impediments and formalities to undergo as a treaty of peace. Lord Bath invented this Bill, but had drawn it so ill, that the Chancellor¹ was forced to draw a new one; and then grew so fond of his own creature, that he has crammed it down the throats of both Houses, though they gave many a gulp, before they could swallow it. The Duke of Bedford attacked it first with great spirit and mastery, but had little support, though the Duke of Newcastle did not vote

The lawyers were all ordered to nurse it through our House; but except the poor Attorney-General,² (who is nurse indeed, to all intents and purposes, and did amply *gossip* over it,) not one of them said a word. Nugent shone extremely in opposition to the Bill, and though every now and then on the precipice of absurdity, kept clear of it with great humour and wit and argument, and was unanswered. Yet we were beat. Last Monday it came into the committee, Charles Townshend acted a very good speech, with great cleverness, and drew a picture of his own story, and his father's tyranny, with at least as much parts as modesty. Mr. Fox mumbled the Chancellor and his lawyers, and pinned the plan of the Bill upon a pamphlet he had found of Dr. Gally's, where the Doctor, recommending the French scheme of matrimony, says, "It was found that fathers were too apt to forgive."—"The Gospel, I thought," said Mr. Fox, "enjoined forgiveness, but pious Dr. Gally thinks 'fathers are too apt to forgive.'" Mr. Pelham, extremely in his opinion against the Bill, and in his inclination too, was forced to rivet it; and, without *speaking* one word for it, taught the House to *vote* for it, and it was carried against the chairman's leaving the chair, by 165 to 84. This is all the news I know, or at least was all when I came out of town; for I left the tinkering of the Bill, and came hither last Tuesday to my workmen."—(24 May 1753.)

May 29.

"I am come to town for a day or two, and find that the Marriage Bill has not only lasted till now in the Committee, but has produced, or at least disclosed extreme heats. Mr. Fox and Mr. Pelham have had very high words on every clause, and the former has renewed his attacks on the Chancellor under the name of Dr. Gally. . . . The Speaker, who had spoken well against the clause, was so misrepresented by the Attorney-General, that there was danger of a Skimmington between the great wig and the coif, the former having given a flat lie to the latter."

There is another letter to George Montagu, Esq. dated June 11, in which Horace Walpole says:

"The Commons abuse the Barons, and the Barons return'd it; in short, Mr. Fox attacked the Chancellor violently on the Marriage Bill, and when it was sent back to the Lords, the Chancellor made the most outrageous invective on Fox that ever was heard. But what offends still more, I don't mean offends Fox more, was the Chancellor describing the chief persons who had opposed his Bill in the Cou-

¹ Lord Hardwicke.

² Sir Dudley Ryder.

up the Bill with all the additions, alterations, and erasures it had sustained, and, to the infinite amusement of the House, to have pronounced a parody on Anthony's oration over the mangled body of Cæsar. It appears that the amendments and alterations that had been made in the Bill by the opposition, were designed to defeat its adoption, when returned to the Lords; their object, however, failed, as the Lords, in order to out-manœuvre the tactics of the opposition in the Lower House, consented to pass the Bill, even though it appeared before them, like Banquo's ghost, with twenty mortal murders on its head.¹

The interval between the passing of the Bill and the time at which it was to come into operation, was busily employed in

mons and giving reasons why he *excused* them. As the Speaker was in the number of the *excused*, the two maces are ready to come to blows. The town says, that Mr. Fox is to be dismissed, but I can scarce think it will go so far."

In the additional letters of Horace Walpole, recently published under the editorship of the late lamented Lord Dover, (Vol. III. p. 94, 8vo. Bentley, 1833.) the following remarks occur in a letter addressed to Horace, afterwards Sir Horace, Mann, dated Strawberry Hill, June 12, 1753 :

"A Bill to prevent clandestine marriages,² so drawn by the judges as to clog all matrimony in general, was inadvertently espoused by the Chancellor, and having been strongly attacked in the House of Commons by Nugent, the Speaker, Mr. Fox, and others, the last went very great lengths of severity on the whole body of the law, and on its chieftain in particular, which, however, at the last reading, he softened and explained off extremely. This did not appease; but on the return of the Bill to the House of Lords, where our amendments were to be read, the Chancellor in the most personal terms harangued against Fox, and concluded with saying, that 'he despised his scurrility as much as his adulation and recantation.'"

Horatio Walpole, son of Sir Edward Walpole, K. B. brother of Sir Robert Walpole, K. G. first Earl of Orford, and great uncle to Horace Walpole the writer of these letters, was married at St. James Duke's Place, 26 March 1691, to Anne daughter of Thomas Duke of Leeds, the relict of Robert Coke of Holkham, in the county of Norfolk, Esq.—For an account of the marriages solemnized at Duke's Place, see p. 4.

¹ Debrett, vol. iii. p. 180.

² The noble editor has appended to this passage a note stating that this Bill continued "in force till some years ago, and until the injustice of its provisions, and the grievances resulting from them, became too great to be borne." It may be inferred from this observation, that Lord Hardwicke's act has been repealed, which is not the case; that act remains in full force.

marrying both at the Fleet¹ and May Fair, (another noted place for marriages.) At the Fleet there appears by one register book alone to have been on the 25th of March (the day previous to the Act coming into operation) 217 marriages; which were the last of the *Fleet Weddings*.²

On the subject of this act, Blackstone says, "Much may be, and much has been said, both for and against this innovation upon our antient laws and constitution. On the one hand it prevents the clandestine marriages of minors, which are often a terrible inconvenience to those private families wherein they happen. On the other hand, restraints upon marriages, especially among the lower class, are evidently detrimental to the public, by hindering the increase of the people; and to religion and morality, by encouraging licentiousness and debauchery among the single of both sexes; and thereby destroying one end of society and government, which is *concubitu prohibere vago*. And of this last inconvenience the Roman laws were so sensible, that at the same

¹ This gave rise to the following satirical paragraph in the Daily Advertiser of 21 Oct. 1753:

"Whereas there will shortly be an end put to the marriages of the Fleet, this is to inform the public that Mr. — late ticket-porter on Snow Hill, has undertaken to marry and unmarry on very reasonable terms, so that all persons so inclined, for farther satisfaction are desired to apply to — at his office in Turn-again Lane, Snow Hill, where constant attendance is given from one in the afternoon till six.— *Note*, as 'tis presumed the applications will be made more by the married than the unmarried, those parties are required to bring their certificates."

² At the Savoy, however, clandestine marriages were continued till 1756, but eventually ceased upon the conviction and transportation of the minister, Mr. Wilkinson, and his curate, Mr. Grierson. I have a scarce etching of "The Rev. Mr. Grierson, who was transported for marrying at the Savoy, contrary to Act of Parliament, 1756."

Mr. Wilkinson was the father of Tate Wilkinson the comedian. (See his *Memoirs*, 4 vols. 8vo. 1790.)

A method of evading the enactments of the marriage act was soon discovered, for in 1760 there were "at Southampton vessels always ready to carry on the trade of smuggling weddings, which for the price of five guineas transport contraband goods into the land of matrimony," (*Guernsey*.)—*Gent. Mag.* 1760, p. 30. And we have still a species of Fleet parson left in the person of the *Rev. David Lang*, of Gretna Green, where clandestine weddings may still be solemnized, but not at so small a charge as the cheap weddings of the Fleet.

time that they forbad marriage without the consent of parents or guardians, they were less rigorous upon that very account with regard to other restraints; for, if a parent did not provide a husband for his daughter, by the time she arrived at the age of twenty-five, and she afterwards made a slip in her conduct, he was not allowed to disinherit her upon that account; *quia non sua culpa, sed parentum, id commisisse cognoscitur*.¹

There have been two attempts to repeal or alter the Marriage Act: one in 1765, when leave was given to Sir John Glynne to bring in a Bill for that purpose and for regulating Registers, &c.; the other in 1781, when a Bill was brought in to amend it in the following particulars, viz.

“ To repeal the clause requiring publication of banns.

“ To repeal the clause enacting that no licence shall be granted to marry in any other church, &c. than where one of the parties lived.

“ To repeal the clause enacting that all marriages solemnized without publication of banns or licence, should be void.

“ To make valid all marriages of English persons in Scotland.

“ To make void all marriages solemnized in any place not being a parish church or chapel, (except by special licence.)”—*Journals of the House of Commons*.

The following satirical propositions upon the subject of marriage, which appeared in the Grub Street Journal in the year 1733, were copied into the Scot's Magazine on the agitation of this question in 1753 :

“ Clauses proposed to be added to the late Act against Clandestine Marriages.

“ When two young thoughtless fools, having no visible way to maintain themselves, nor any thing to begin the world with, resolve to marry and be miserable; let it be deemed *petty larceny*.

“ If a younger brother marries an old woman purely for the sake of a maintenance; let it be called *self-preservation*.

“ When a rich old fellow marries a young wench in her full bloom, it shall be *death without benefit of clergy*.

“ When two old creatures that can hardly hear one another speak, and cannot propose the least comfort to themselves in the thing, yet marry together to be miserable, they shall be deemed *non compos*, and sent to a mad-house.

“ When a lady marries her servant, or a gentleman his cook-maid (especially if there are children by a former marriage), they both shall be *transported for fourteen years*.

“ When a man has had one bad wife and buried her, and yet will marry a second, it shall be deemed *felo de se*, and he shall be buried in the highway accordingly.

* * * * *

“ And when a man or woman marries to the disinheriting of their children, let them suffer as in cases of *High Treason*.”

¹ Commentaries, vol. i. p. 438.

CHAPTER II.

THE FLEET PRISON, WARDENS, AND CHAPLAINS.

IN 1189 Richard the First confirmed to Osbert (brother of the then Chancellor Longshanks,) and to his heirs, the custody of the palace of Westminster and of the Fleet gaol. It was subsequently used for the reception of the prisoners committed by the Court of the Star Chamber. By a patent of the 3rd Eliz. recited in letters patent of the 19 Car. II. it appears to have been called *Prisona de la Fleet* alias *The Queen's Gaol of the Fleet*. It was called the Fleet from the Fleet Ditch adjoining, which was so called from the fleet or swift running of the water.

After the 16 Car. II. the prison was used as a place of confinement for debtors and for persons guilty of contempts of the Courts of Chancery, Exchequer, and Common Pleas, and fell under the same regulations as other gaols of the kingdom. Charles the Second having by letters patent granted the office of Warden of the Fleet and of the Keeper of the Old Palace at Westminster, the shops in Westminster Hall, certain tenements adjoining to the Fleet, and other rents and profits belonging to the Warden, to Sir Jeremy Whichcot and his heirs for ever; he, in consideration of such grant, rebuilt the prison at his own expense.

The prison and the custody of the prisoners being thus a freehold, and falling by descent or purchase into the hands of persons incapable of executing the office of Warden, was the occasion of great abuses and frequent complaints to Parliament, till at length the patent was set aside, and Baldwyn Leighton, Esq. having been at great pains and expense in suing the patentees to a forfeiture, obtained a patent for life; and he dying soon afterwards, John Huggins, Esq. by giving £5000 to Lord Clarendon, obtained through his Lordship's interest a grant of the office for his own and his son's life.

Mr. Huggins¹ getting advanced in years, and his son not wishing to take the office upon him, he was for some years negotiating the disposal of it, and in August 1727 concluded a final treaty with Thomas Bainbridge and Dougal Cuthbert, Esquires, and for £5000 engaged with them to surrender his patent for his own and his son's life, and to procure a new patent for Bainbridge and Cuthbert, and which he accordingly obtained.²

In 1728 a Parliamentary Committee was appointed to enquire into the state of the Prisons of the Metropolis, who found many grave charges against Bainbridge, in consequence of which an act passed to remove him from his office, and render him incapable of ever holding a place of profit under the Government, or of practising as an Attorney.³

About the middle of the year 1729 Mr. James Gambier was appointed Warden upon the recommendation of Sir John Eyles, Sir Gilbert Heathcoate, and other merchants of the City. At the time of his appointment he was Solicitor to the Trustees for the forfeited estates of the South Sea Directors.

WARDENS OF THE FLEET.

— Eliz.	Richard Tyrrell, Warden.
1591	John Heath, Warden of the Fleet, buried at St. Giles's, Durham. ⁴
—	Sir John Terrell, Knt. who sold his patent.
— 1629	Sir Henry Lellowe, Knt. ⁵ jointly with John Eldred, Esq. by purchase.

¹ In May 1729 a true Bill was found against Mr. Huggins and his agent James Barnes, for the murder of Mr. Arne, a prisoner. ² Report of Committee.

³ In May 1729 he was tried for the murder of Mr. Robt. Castell, a prisoner in the Fleet, but acquitted for want of evidence. He died the 11th July 1741, at his Chambers, No. 9, Paper Buildings, Temple. (Mr. Castell was an architect, who died in the Fleet on the 18th Dec. 1728, and had just finished a translation of Vitruvius.) Some verses in No. 84 of the Grub Street Journal have the following lines on Bainbridge :

“ Find gaoler more and more uncivil,
And B——ge nothing to the Devil.”

⁴ Register of St. Bride's, Fleet Street.

⁵ By the Will of Sir Henry Lello, of Ashdon, co. Essex, dated the 7th January 1629, he directs that in case he should die in London he should be buried at St. Bride's, London, where his predecessors, Wardens of the Fleet, have been buried ; he

- 1654 Jan. 5, Henry Hopkins, Esq.¹
 1667 Jeremy Whichcot Esq. Barrister at Law, and Solicitor General to the Prince Elector Palatine. At the request of King Charles II. during his exile, he purchased the Wardenship, and by officiating sometimes himself, sheltered the King's agents, and prevented a treacherous design against his person, for which he was honoured with the title of Baronet, by patent, dated at Brussels, 2d April, 12 Charles II. 1660. He died 22d June 1677, and lies buried in Hendon church.²
- 1694 — Fox, Esq.
- 1699–1707 William Weedon Ford, Esq.
- 1708–1710 Anthony Grindall, Esq.³
 Baldwyn Leighton, Esq. (sometimes called Colonel L.)
- 1713–1729 John Huggins,⁴ Esq. High Bailiff of Westminster, appointed in June 1713, vice Col. Leighton, dec^d.⁵
- 1728 Nov. Thomas Bainbridge and Dougal Cuthbert, Esq^{rs}. (vice Huggins, who resigned.)
- 1729 May 1735 Ja^s. Gambier (appointed 1729, vice Bainbridge.)
- 1734 — Carbonnell.
- 1736 June 1740 John Garth, Esq. on the surrender of Cuthbert and Gambier. Mr. Daniel Hopkins his Deputy.
- 1740–1758 John Eyles, Esq.

recites that he and John Eldred purchased the Fleet and keeping of the palace of Westminster jointly to them and their heirs, since which the said John for the consideration of 8000*l*. had released his title to the said office, &c ; bequeaths to his nephew Henry Hopkins, all his manor or capital messuage called the Fleet, otherwise the King's Gaol of the Fleet, with the office of Warden of the Fleet, with all profits &c. and also the keeping of the palace of Westminster, called the Old and New Palace, with all profits &c. arising from shops and stalls in Westminster Hall, and without &c. with all right &c. in as ample manner as he and said Mr. Eldred purchased the same of Sir John Terrell, Knt.—Proved 18 January, 1629–30. Buried at St. Bride's, 16 Jan. 1630. ¹ Buried at St. Bride's, 5 Jan. 1654.

² Collins' Baronetage, (1741,) vol. iii. p. 12.

³ "Anthony Grindall, Warden, and Robert Saunders, Register of the Marriages, appear to have been guilty of forging books which, when produced to a committee of the Commons, proved to be so ; besides they were destitute of every particular which makes a Register valuable."—*Malcolm's Lond. vol. i. 375.*

⁴ Mr. Wm. Huggins, his son, was married in 1723, in Windsor Chapel, to Mrs. Tylson.

⁵ Oct. 1718 "Died Mr. John Stone, Deputy Warden of the Fleet, a person of great humanity to the Prisoners."

- 1758–1820 John Eyles, Esq.¹ (son of the preceding,) Warden.—
 Nicholas Nixon, many years Deputy and Clerk of
 the Papers.—Robert Hillier, Deputy Keeper of
 Westminster Hall, appointed 2d May, 1807.
- 1821–1822 Nicholas Nixon, Esq.
- 1822 Wm. Robert Henry Brown, Esq. the present Warden.
 Wm. Brown, Deputy and Clerk of the Papers.

CHAPLAINS OF THE FLEET PRISON.

Very little information has been obtained on this head, arising from the circumstance of the destruction of all papers and documents at the Fleet at the time of the riots in 1780.

The earliest Chaplain met with is Mr. Haincks in 1698, who is noticed in the Register of Lincoln's Inn Chapel. The next is Robert Elborough, who in the letter of 1702 before quoted is called the "Master of the Chapel," but the same letter mentions other ministers.

In 1714 Mr. John Taylor was Chaplain, and received a salary as such, but he does not appear to have solemnized matrimony at the Fleet.

In 1728 Dr. Franks, Dean of Bedford, was officiating Chaplain, and was allowed forty guineas a-year, and forty guineas a-year more, when there was a real Chaplain.

In the Report of the Committee in 1729, is a Table of Fees ordered by the Judges to be paid by the prisoners of the Fleet, from which the following is extracted :

"That there is due to the Minister who officiates and performs divine service within the said prison for the time being, from every prisoner within the walls of the said prison, or without the walls, or within the Rules, four-pence per week, to be paid to the Warden for the use of such Minister ; and that no such Minister or any other Clergyman, being a Prisoner within the walls or Rules of the Fleet, do presume to marry any person without License within the Prison or Rules of the Fleet ; and that the Warden and his Officers do use their utmost vigilance to prevent all such marriages."

¹ Patent dated 32 Geo. II.

In several of the novels written about the middle of the last century, the Fleet was chosen for the scenes described.

CHAPTER III.

CLERGYMEN WHO PERFORMED MARRIAGES AT THE FLEET.

JOHN GAYNAM, from about 1709 to 1740.¹

¹This man, famed for the number of his marriages, and unrivalled for notoriety of character, appears to have been styled "Doctor Gaynam." The following evidence given at the Old Bailey on the trial of Robert Hussey in 1733 for bigamy, will give some idea of his character and pretensions.

Dr. Gainham. The 9th of September 1733, I married a couple at the Rainbow Coffee House the corner of Fleet Ditch, and entered the marriage in my register, as fair a register as any church in England can produce. I shewed it last night to the foreman of the jury, and my Lord Mayor's Clerk, at the London Punch House.

Counsel.—Are you not ashamed to come and own a clandestine marriage in the face of a Court of Justice?

Dr. Gainham.—(bowing) *Video meliora, deteriora sequor.*

Q.—You are on your oath, I ask you whether you never enter marriages in that book when there's no marriage at all?

Gainham.—I never did in my life. I page my book so, that it cannot be altered.

From the trial of Edmund Dangerfield, for bigamy, in 1736.

Dr. Gainham.—I don't know the prisoner. I did marry a man and woman of these names. Here, this is a true register: "Edmd. Dangerfield of St. Mary Newington Butts, Batchelor, to Arabella Fast." When I marry at any house I always set it down, for I carry one of the books in my pocket, and when I go home I put it in my great book.

Court.—Do you never make any alteration?

Gainham.—Never, my Lord. These two were married at Mrs. Ball's, at the Hand and Pen, by the Fleet Prison, and my name is to her book.

Counsel.—'Tis strange you should not remember the prisoner.

Gainham.—Can I remember persons? I have married 2000 since that time.

The prisoner's defence.—"Arabella Fast said to me, 'There is a minister, (naming his name) who often lies with me, and if you'll say you are my husband we may get some money out of him.' I took a room for her, within a fortnight after; she told me the parson was come to London and now was the time to make him our prize; 'Come into our room (says she) about 10 o'clock at night'—I did, and found Arabella and he a-bed. 'Hey! (says I,) how came you a-bed with my spouse?' 'Sir, (says he,) I only lay with her to keep my back warm.'

In the morning the gentleman said, 'I must make you a present if you can produce a certificate.' I knew not what to say. 'Sir, (says Arabella) we were married at the Fleet,' and says she to me, 'For a crown I can get a certificate from the Fleet.' I gave her a crown, and in half an hour she brings me a certificate."—The Prisoner was acquitted.

It is believed that it was Gaynam who was named "The Bishop of Hell," a notice of which appellation was taken at the trial of Ruth Woodward, in 1737, for bigamy.

John Hall.—I saw her married at the Fleet to Robert Holmes; 'twas at the Hand and Pen, a barber's shop.

Counsel.—And is it not a wedding-shop too?

Hall.—Yes. I don't know the parson's name, but 'twas a man that once belonged to Creed Church—a very lusty, jolly man.

Counsel.—Because there's a complaint lodged in a proper court, against a Fleet parson, whom they call The Bishop of Hell.

In one of the pocket-books used by the Fleet Clergymen is the following.

Sept. 16, 1728, "Witness that they (Hutchis and Brown) saw Walter Chandler strike John Gaynam, Clergyman, with a stick, several blows."

EDWARD ASHWELL, 1734–1743.

In the Lansdown Manuscripts (841. 61) are the following particulars of him :

Reverend Sir,

June 21, 1725.

There was lately at Southam, in Warwickshire, one Edward Ashwell, who in my absence got possession of our school and preach'd in several churches in this neighbourhood. I take the liberty to inform you, since I hear he is at Kettering, that he is a most notorious rogue and impostor. I have now certificates on my hand of his having two wives alive at this present time, and he was very near marrying the third in this town, but the fear of a prosecution upon the discovery of the flaming and scandalous immoralities of his life forc'd him away from us in a short time. Afterwards, in a village not far from us, he attempted to ravish a woman, but was prevented by a soldier then in the house. I can assure you he is in no orders, though the audacious villain preaches when he can get a pulpit. I have a whole packet of letters by me, all tending to the same character, which I think exceeds for variety of all manner of enormous practices what can be charg'd upon the very scum of mankind. The accounts are from persons of integrity and known reputation.

I prevented his preaching one day at Brawnston, Mr. Somes's parish. It would be a very kind and Christian office to give some information among the clergy, that they may not be impos'd upon by him, particularly to Mr. Heyrick, for I married Mr. Allcock's sister of Loddington. I know you will pardon this trouble if the fellow be amongst you. I am,

Your affectionate brother,
W. HODGSON.

Ashwell had a great deal of business at the Fleet, and was one of the most notorious of the parsons. In one of his pocket-books is :

“ May 2^d. 1740. C. sine matrimonio Wm. Wallby of Suson in Waltham Abby Parish Husb. and Mary Vale Ditto Sp: Venit nuper ad Dominu' B——d.”

Ashwell died in January 1746, as appears by the following notice of his death in the General Advertizer, for the 15th of that month :

“ On Monday last died in the Rules of the Fleet, Doctor Ashwell, the most noted operator in marriages since the death of the never-to-be forgotten Dr. Gaynam.”

WALTER WYATT, 1713–1750.

On the cover of one of the Registers is :

“ Mr. Wyatt, Minister of the Fleet, is removed from the Two Sawyers, the corner of Fleet Lane (with all the Register Books) to the Hand and Pen near Holborn Bridge, where marriages are solemnized without imposition.”

He had a great deal of business in this way, and by his pocket-book for October 1748, it appears that he received for weddings in that month 57*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* His last marriage was :

“ 3d March 1749, Hart Sam. Cord : of St. Paul's Debtford, Bat. and Sarah Watson Sp.”

In one of his pocket-books is entered :

“ Sarah Wyatt — Mary Wyatt born 2 April 1717 — Baptized May 2, 1717.”

By the following advertisements of Mr. Keith (of May Fair notoriety) it appears that Wyatt set up a marriage-house in May Fair in opposition to Keith :

“The Fleet Parson (who very modestly calls himself Reverend) married at the Fleet in Mr. L-yl’s house, Mrs. Co-ks, at the Naked Boy, and for Mr. W-yt, the Fleet Parson. And to show that he is now only Mr. W-yt the Fleet Parson’s deputy, the said W-yt told one in May Fair that he intended to set up in opposition to Mr. Keith, and send goods to furnish the house, and maintains him and the men who ply some days at the Fleet, and at other times at May Fair. But not to speak of the men, if he himself was not a Fleet Parson, he could never stand in Piccadilly, and run after coaches and foot people in so shameful a manner, and tell them Mr. Keith’s house is shut up, and there is no chapel but theirs ; and to other people he says, their Fleet chapel is Mr. Keith’s chapel, and this he has said in the hearing of Mr. Keith’s clerk, and it is known to most of the people about May Fair, and likewise Mr. Keith appeals to the generality of people about the Fleet and May Fair, for proof of Mr. Reverend’s being only Mr. W-yt’s the Fleet parson’s deputy.”—*August 27, 1748.*

“The town being informed in this paper for some months past, of a Fleet Parson that had open’d a chapel in May Fair in order to supplant M. Keith, we think it not improper to acquaint the Public that we shall not trouble them on that score for the future, he having decamp’d on Thursday last, and returned to his own place, the Fleet.”—*Craftsman, 26 November, 1748.*

The following are Mr. Wyatt’s¹ receipts for weddings for a few weeks :

October y ^e 1st 1748,				£ s. d.		
At home	2	11	6	ab ²	nil	8 to 15 ... 17 6 6
	2	5	13	6	— 11 6	15 21 ... 10 0 6
	3	2	15	6	— 16 0	21 72 ... 6 17 0
	4		12	3	— 10 0	28 31 ... 5 9 6
	5	1	5	0	— nil	
	6		10	6	— 1 4 6	Total £57 12 9
	7	1	8	6	nil	

Total £17 19 3

¹ Some memoranda made by this individual in his pocket-book, have before been noticed at page 6.

² Abroad.

He died 13th March 1750. By his Will proved at Doctors' Commons, he appoints his brother William guardian to his children ; bequeaths to his son William his study of books and sermons ; to his daughter Mary, wife of Thomas Gordon, of Colebrook, five guineas, and his estate at Oxford ; and notices his two other children Jemima and Katherine.

PETER SYMSON, 1731-1754.

One of his hand-bills runs thus :

G. R.

At the true Chapel
at the old red Hand and Mitre, three doors from Fleet Lane
and next Door to the White Swan ;

Marriages are performed by authority by the Reverend Mr.
Symson educated at the University of Cambridge, and late
Chaplain to the Earl of Rothes.

N. B. Without Imposition.

On a trial in 1751, for Bigamy, Symson was thus examined :

Q.—Why did you marry them without licence ?

Symson—Because somebody would have done it, if I had not. I was ordained in Grosvenor Square Chapel by the Bishop of Winchester — the Bishop of Lincoln. Can't say I am a prisoner in the Fleet. Am 43 years old. Never had a benefice in my life. I have had little petty curacies about 20*l.* or 30*l.* per year. I don't do it for lucre or gain.

Court.—You might have exposed your person had you gone on the highway, but you'd do less prejudice to your country a great deal. You are a nuisance to the public ; and the gentlemen of the jury, it is to be hoped, will give but little credit to you."

It appears by an entry in one of the May Fair Registers, that he officiated at May Fair Chapel for Mr. Keith, in consequence of the committal of the latter to the Fleet on his excommunication. There is a whole Register of May Fair Marriages from 1750 to 1754, " Performed by the Reverend Mr. Peter Symson and Mr. Fran^s Denevau, for Keith, May Fair."

WILLIAM DARE, 1732–1746.

He at one time resided at No. 12, Bell Court, Bow Church Yard. He used to marry from 150 to 200 couple per month, and kept a curate to assist him. In one of the Registers is :

“ 1723, 14 April, Peter Kulett of St. Brides Fram Maker, Mary Ann Paviour Sp: forged by Mr. Dare in 1741, who married y^m att Smiths att y^e same time.”

To a marriage by Mr. Dare in 1742 are these witnesses, who were no doubt members of his family :

“ Elizabeth Dare—Anna Catherina Dee¹—Sussex Dare.”

JOHN FLOUD, 1709–1729.

He died suddenly 31 December 1729, “ at his lodgings in the liberty of the Fleet. He married also at the King’s Bench Prison and the Mint in 1725, having a back room” at the latter place. He appears to have been a man of bad character, and to have been several years a prisoner for debt. There is the following memorandum in Greek characters to a marriage in 1727 :

“ Paid five shillings, and one certificate, brought by Mrs. Blood, Doctor Floud’s mistress.”

DANIEL WIGMORE, 1723–1754.

By his hand-writing, he appears to have been an elderly man, and it will be seen in a subsequent chapter, that he was addicted to the bottle.

“ Yesterday Daniel Wigmore, one of the parsons noted for marrying people within the Rules of the Fleet, was convicted before the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, of selling spirituous liquors contrary to law.”—*Daily Post*, May 26, 1738.

JOHN MOTTRAM, 1709–1725.

In 1716 he was convicted in the Consistory Court of London for solemnizing clandestine marriages within the Liberty

¹ Qu. Dare.

of the Fleet Prison, and suspended from the execution of his ministerial functions for three years.¹

An account of his conviction in the Court of King's Bench in the same year, when he was fined 200*l.* has been given at p. 11. In one of his pocket-books he states the arms of the family of Mottram, of Mottram, in the deanery of Macclesfield, to be, S. a chev: Arg. charged with three roses between three cross crosslets Or.

He left the Fleet prior to August 1727.

ROBERT ELBORROW, 1698-1702.

He is called in 1702, an ancient man, and master of the chapel;—that in 1702 he married but few without banns or licence, “but under a colour doth allow his clerk, Bartholomew Bassett, to do what he pleases.”

Qu. if the following is his marriage at St. James's, Duke's Place, in 1680: “Rob^t Elborrow, B^r Avis Short, Sp^r.—Cornelius Lilly, F^r.”

ROBERT CUTHBERT, 1723-1730.

He appears to have married a great many, and to have been pretty well off in the world, as various memoranda are met with in his pocket-books for 1733, relating to his stud; thus, “My man came att ten pounds a-year; my old horse went out y^e 26th ;” my pad went out y^e 8 Sept.”—He died 4th August 1734, æt. 42.

JEROME ALLEY, 1681-1707.

He was a prisoner at the Fleet; he left the practice of marrying there “for some other preferment.”

JAMES STARKEY, 1718-1730.

In 1737 it was deposed upon a trial at the Old Bailey that he had run away into Scotland.

¹ Chronological Register, February 1717.

THOMAS CRAWFORD, 1723-1748.

The following Letter from the Grub Street Journal, June 10, 1736, mentions this individual.

“Gentlemen.—Having frequently heard of the many abominable practices of the Fleet, I had the curiosity on Sunday, May 23, to take a view of the place, as I accidentally was walking by.

“The first thing observable was one J——L—— by trade a carpenter, (whose brother, it is said, keeps the sign of the B—— and G——r,) cursing, swearing, and raving in the street in the time of divine service, with a mob of people about him, calling one of his fraternity, (J. E.) a Plyer for Weddings, an informing rogue, for informing against one of their Ministers for profane cursing and swearing, for which offence he paid three pounds odd money: the hearing of which pleased me very well, since I could find one in that notorious place, which had some spark of grace left; as was manifested by the dislike he shewed to the person that was guilty of the profanation of God’s sacred name.

“When the mob was dispersed, I walked about some small time, and saw a person exceeding well-dress’d in a flower’d morning gown, a band, hat and wig, who appeared so clean that I took him for some worthy divine, who might have accidentally come out of the country by coach, and as accidentally be making the same remarks as myself; but upon enquiry was surpriz’d at being assured that he was one T——C’—— a watchmaker, who goes in a Minister’s dress, personating a Clergyman, and taking upon him the name of Doctor, to the scandal of the sacred function. He may be seen at any time at the Bull and Garter, or the Great Hand and Pen and Star, with these words under written—‘*The old and true Register*’ near the Rainbow Coffee-House.—T. S.”

JAMES LANDO, 1737-1743.

I think he must be the person who, under the signature and address of “Paul Crape,” “from my abode not a mile from Fleet Ditch,” maintains a long controversy in the *Gazetteer of 1737*, on a commercial question; especially as Paul

¹ Qu. Thos. Crawford.

refers to his having been chaplain of a man-of-war. His opponent, "Jack Bowline," is very severe, thus :

"But your patron must be at his last shift, when reduc'd to the necessity of hiring one of the most abandon'd of all wretches, a Fleet Parson, to ridicule and confound some, and explain away other Articles of Treaties, &c."

"But, reverend Sir, let us leave Divinity, 'tis indeed beyond the reach of my lead-line. Yet along shore and in the shallows, my sea-boots on, I'll wet them with you or any Fisherman in England; and now for dabbling a little. True it is, the subject, as you say, is invidious and unpopular, but more so, I'll venture to say, near the banks of a certain Canal west of Fleet Ditch, than on any bank to the eastward of it in England; and though at present you can hope for no presentation from any West India merchant, yet I doubt not but in due time you will become fully intitled to the patronage of one merchant at least, very eminent in the *Virginia* Trade, who often has had it in his power to translate many a worthy Gentleman who, before you, has liv'd within less than a mile of Fleet Ditch; but possibly your greater merit may intitle you to higher preferment within less than a mile of Hyde Park Corner."¹—*Daily Post*, Oct. 31.

In his advertisements he styled himself "late Chaplain to His Majesty's ship *The Falkland*, and the public are informed that the said Mr. Lando teacheth Latin, French, &c. Three times a Week." He had a place he called St. John's Chapel, in Half Moon Court, the first house joining to Ludgate, on Ludgate Hill.

"Marriages with a Licence, Certificate and a Crown Stamp, at a Guinea, at the New Chapel, next door to the China Shop, near Fleet Bridge, London, by a regular bred Clergyman, and not by a Fleet Parson as is insinuated in the public papers; and that the Town may be freed mistakes, no Clergyman being a prisoner in the Rules of the Fleet dare marry; and to obviate all doubts, this Chapel is not in the verge of the Fleet, but kept by a Gentleman who was lately Chaplain on board one of his Majesty's men-of-

¹ Qy. Tyburn?

war, and likewise has gloriously distinguished himself in defence of his King and Country, and is above committing those little mean actions that some men impose on people, being determined to have every thing conducted with the utmost decency and regularity, such as shall be always supported in law and equity."—*Daily Advertiser*, 1749.

At the end of one of the Fleet Registers is the following, supposed to be written by some opponent in the marrying business :

"John Lando, a French Minister, in Church Street, Soho, opposite att a French pastry or nasty cook's. His Landlord's name is Jinkstone, a dirty chandler's shop : he is to be heard of in the first flower next the skye."

It appears by the Books at the Admiralty that he was appointed to the Falkland on the 29th May 1744, and served on board till the 17th Jan. 1746. He does not appear to have been in employ afterwards.

James Wagstaffe	.	.	1689 — 1729
John Tarrant	.	.	1742 — 1750
Richard Sindrey	.	.	1722 — 1740

The persons named in the foregoing pages appear to have been the most notorious of the Fleet Parsons, and married a great many.

— Bates.			
John Becket	.	.	1748
Samuel Buckler	.	.	1732 to 1751
Samuel Brayfield	.	.	1754
Benjamin Bynes	.	.	1698 — 1711
Michael Barrett ¹	.	.	1717 — 1738
James Colton ²	.	.	1681 — 1721
Joseph Callow	.	.	1752
— Clayton	.	.	1720
— Colteman	.	.	1688

¹ Barrett used to marry at the Mint and King's Bench, at very low fees.

² Colton lived in Leather Lane, next door to the Coach and Horses. He had a living in Essex till the Bishop of London deprived him for ill practices. In Sept. 1721 he lodged with Mr. Lee in Bare Alley, Fleet Ditch, at 3s. 6d. per week.

— Draper	. . . . .	1689 — 1716
Francis Denevau ¹	. . . . .	1747 — 1754
William Davis	. . . . .	1718
John Evans ²	. . . . .	1689 — 1729
Ed. Evans	. . . . .	1727
John Farren	. . . . .	1688
Henry Gower	. . . . .	1689 — 1718
Thomas Hodgkins ³	. . . . .	1674 — 1728
Anthony Hanson	. . . . .	1731 — 1732
John Jones	. . . . .	1718 — 1725
William Loveday	. . . . .	1750
— Morton	. . . . .	1720
Edward Marston	. . . . .	1713 — 1714
John Marshall	. . . . .	1750
D— Murry	. . . . .	1719
— Nodes	. . . . .	1753
— Oswald	. . . . .	1712
— Oglesby	. . . . .	between 1728 and 1740
Thomas Privavaul		
— Patterson	. . . . .	1732
Thomas Ryder	. . . . .	1722 to 1743
Edward Roberts	. . . . .	1698
E. Reynolds	. . . . .	1749
Nehemiah Rogers ⁴	. . . . .	1700 to 1703
Ralph Shadwell ⁵	. . . . .	1733 — 1734
James Shaw	. . . . .	1723

¹ He assisted Keith at May Fair : see the account of Symson, page 29.

² He used to marry at the Mint and King's Bench also.

³ Hodgkins appears to have been one of the earliest of the Fleet Clergy. In one of the Fleet Books, commencing 1674, the marriages are "solemnised by Dr. Thomas Hodgkins, Minister of the Fleet and Rules thereof."—Query, If not his widow, who kept a marriage-house in Fleet Lane.

⁴ Rogers was a prisoner in the Fleet, but went at large to his living in Essex, and all places else ; " he is a very wicked man as lives for drinking, whoring, and swearing." (See Letter at p. 10.) He was Rector of Ashingdon in Essex, 13 June 1687, and died in 1710. (See Morant's Essex.) On the cover of one of the Fleet pocket-books is "Nehemiah Rogers, of Ashendon, Essex ; Zachariah Rogers, Tain, near Colchester ; Lydia Rogers."

⁵ Shadwell. This man was blind, at least so it appears by the following memorandum after one of his marriages : " Marr: and Clerk four shillings. No Certificate. This Parson was blind." See also the use made of a blind parson, page 39.

Edmund Stacy	.	.	1719
Anthony Shellburn ¹	.	.	1722 — 1737
John Stainton	.	.	1730
Anthony Simpson	.	.	1726 — 1754
Walter Stanhope	.	.	1711
— Standly	.	.	1747 — 1750
Nathaniel Skinner	.	.	1716
J. Town	.	.	1754
John Tomkings	.	.	1740
John Tarrant	.	.	1688
Jacob Townshend	.	.	1754
Jo. Vice	.	.	1689 — 1713
J. Wise	.	.	1709
— Wilkinson ²	.	.	1740
Wm. Williams	.	.	—
Clem. Walker	.	.	1732 — 1735
Isa. Wodmore	.	.	1752

It is impossible to obtain particulars of all the Fleet Parsons who married at the Fleet, for by the following paragraph they appear to have been sometimes common beggars :

“ On Friday last (19th,) was brought before Sir Joseph Hankey, at Guildhall, a man in a Clergyman’s habit, for begging, which he made a common practice of: he was committed for further examination the next day, when it appeared he was a notorious idle fellow, and common cheat, having made use of that habit only to impose on the public; as also to perform the office of marrying several persons at the Fleet Prison; whereupon he was committed to Bridewell to hard labour.”

General Advertiser, Dec. 22, 1746.

¹ He died some years prior to 1740.

² Query, If the Minister of the Savoy, who was transported in 1756 for marrying contrary to the Marriage Act of 1753, and of whom an account is hereafter given.

THE NAMES OF SOME OF THE PERSONS WHO KEPT MARRIAGE
HOUSES, AND ACTED AS CLERKS.

Bartholomew Bassett, 1699.¹

Joshua Lilley, Hand and Pen, near Fleet Bridge.²

John Lilley, Bull and Garter.³

¹ Bassett rented, in 1702, the cellars of the Fleet Prison, at 100*l.* per annum. By his ill practices at the Fleet, he maintained a large family. (See letter, p. 10.) He was clerk of the Fleet Chapel.

On the trial of "Handsome" Fielding in 1706 for marrying the Duchess of Cleveland, a Fleet Register was produced to prove the person Fielding had first married, was a married woman, and had been married at the Fleet. Elizabeth Bassett deposed that her father-in-law was clerk of the Fleet Prison, and kept the Register of the Marriages there, but he having been sick, she had the Register in her keeping; and that about two or three months ago a woman came to the house of deponent and said there was a marriage of one Lilly Bradly and Mary Wandsworth, and offered deponent a piece of money if she would strike it out. The entry being read, Mr. Roscorloe deposed that he went with Mr. Longford by the Attorney General's order, and searched the books in the Fleet and found no such entry as that now produced, and deponent took particular notice of the blank where this certificate was then entered.—*Celebrated Trials*, vol. iii. 540.

² Lilley. This man pretended to hold his appointment as Register of Marriages, &c. at the Fleet, from the Lord Chancellor, and to have given 1000*l.* for it.

The following entry is made in one of the Registers by one of the parsons :

"June y^e 13th, 1744. Whereas one Joshua Lilley, being a noted man for having more marriages at his house than the generality of y^e people could have, he the said Joshua Lilley keeping several plyars, as they are call'd, to gett these weddings, I have put his marriages down in a separate book, but finding ill-convenience arise thereby, fro' this 13th instant do insert it wth y^e rest."

Ashwell has inserted in his pocket-book the following note of this man :

"N. B.—On Sunday, November y^e 6, 1740, at y^e hour of 9, in my house declared that if he had not come home out of y^e country, being fled for punishment, having cut of his hair (to prevent being known) y^t y^e indictment for marrying James Huney to Miss Herietta Arnold, he had been ruin'd but y^t he swore it off and y^e attorney promis'd to defend him, and it cost him only a treat of 10*s.*; had I staid, says the s^d Joshua Lilley, where I was, viz. —, the indictment would have stood good against me, but my taking y^e side of the prosecutor, y^e young ladies, I have got it safe off."—One of his hand-bills is as follows :

"J. Lilley at y^e Hand and Pen, next door to the china shop, Fleet Bridge, London, will be perform'd the solemnization of marriages by a gentleman regularly bred at one of our Universities, and lawfully ordain'd according the institutions of the Church of England, and is ready to wait on any person in town or country."

³ In 1717, John Lilley, Turnkey of the Fleet Prison, was found guilty and fined 5*l.* as being clerk to a clandestine marriage in the Fleet. "This John Lilley keeps an alehouse joyning to the Fleet Prison, and calls one room in it his chapel, which he

John Burnford, lived, in 1742, at the upper end of Half-Moon Court, at the Hand and Pen, and Noah's Ark, next Ludgate. He acted as clerk, and kept a register of his own. He died about July 1747.

William Bettell.

Thomas Bennett.

Thomas Cox, Hand and Pen, Ditch Side.

Thomas Hodgkins.

Sarah Barrett, Fleet Bridge, 1747, (many marriages appear to have been solemnized at her house.)

Bethra Reynolds, 1745.

Mrs. Levy.

Ann Hodgkins,¹ Fleet Lane, kept a register.

Matthias Wilson, Hand and Pen, near Fleet Ditch, kept a Register.

John Wheeler, (a great many marriages were performed "at Wheeler's.")

John Connor.

pretends to be tolerated by the Bishop of London, and gives out marriage certificates printed with the City arms, calling 'em (as was then proved) my Lord Mayor's certificates." (Printed handbill.)

¹ On the trial of John Miller for Bigamy, the following evidence was given :

Ann Hodgkins. " On the 11th March 1724-5, in the evening, the prisoner and this woman Mary Moore were married at my house in Fleet Lane, by James Starkey, a minister that lodged with me nine years. Mr. Ballantine gave her away, and his wife was present at the same time.

Ballantine. " I never gave away Mary Moore to the prisoner, nor ever so much as saw them together at Mrs. Hodgkins' house in my life ; but any body may have a certificate at her house for half-a-crown, and have their names entered in her book, for as long time past as they please.

Mrs. Ballantine. " I never saw the prisoner and Mary Moore married at Mrs. Hodgkins' house, though I lodged there, nor ever knew of their being married at all.

Ann Glover. " Mary Moore says she'll do my business for me. I went with her to prove her marriage at Mrs. Hodgkins', and Mrs. Hodgkins said, for half-a-guinea she'd enter her name in the Register, for a certificate would not do if the marriage was not registered : her name was not in the book, and I saw Starkey the parson interline her name in the book five years backwards. The parson is now run away into Scotland, and Mary Moore begg'd me not to appear at this trial.

Andrew Montgomery. " Mrs. Hodgkins offered me a marriage certificate for a young woman that happened to be with child, and was hunted by the parish officers, and she said, for half-a-guinea it might be entered backwards in the book, and would skreen her from the anger of her friends."—Prisoner acquitted, and allowed a copy of his indictment.

James Crookes.

Isaac Ewell, the King's Head, Turnkey of the Fleet Prison, and appears to have kept a Register.

John Smith.

M. Artridge.

Mr. Potter, Mr. Albone, 1743, Roger Griffin, Fountain Tavern.

Thomas Dawbykin.

Thomas Gibson.

Ed. Patty, (clerk in 1729.)

Mrs. Balls, Hand and Pen, 1736.

Mr. Crosier, Hoop and Bunch of Grapes, Holborn Bridge, 1740.

George Gillett, Swan, in Fleet Market, 1742.

Mr. Roberts, The Lamb, 1725.

William Wyatt, Walter Wyatt's brother, a house in Sea Cole Lane, 1746, the New Market House, Fleet Lane.
King's Arms, Fleet Market.

Mr. Boyce, King's Head, in the Rules, 1714 to 1729.

Horse Shoe and Magpie, Fleet Market, 1753.

Wheatsheaf, Fleet Market, 1734-1749.

Hand and Pen, and Noah's Ark, next Ludgate.

The Bishop Blaze and the Two Sawyers, Fleet Lane.

Mrs. Francis, Queen's Head.

Rainbow Coffee House, Corner of Fleet Ditch.

Mrs. Johnson, Golden Lion Tavern, Old Bailey.

Samuel Pickering

Thomas Owen, 1725.¹ } The Fighting Cocks, Fleet Lane.

Mr. Keen, 1739.

Oates,²

Daniel Stebbings, Shepherd and Goat, near Fleet Bridge, 1748.

Mr. Crompton, and on his death, Mr. Green, the Cock and Acorn.

Mr. Demat, The Cock.

¹ Upon the trial of Thomas Heild, in 1756, for Bigamy, this man deposed that he had kept a public house in the Fleet, since 23 March 1754, and that one Thomas Russel with Sarah Mills came there to have a marriage entered seven years back, which he refused. Mills denied this, and the Court committed Owen for perjury. (He had possession of many of the Fleet Registers, see p. 42.)

² On Tuesday, one Oates a pleyer for and clerk to Weddings at the Bull and Garter, by the Fleet Gate, was bound over to appear at the next Sessions, for hiring one John Funnell, a poor boy, (for half-a guinea,) that sells fruit on Fleet Bridge, to personate one John Todd, and to marry a woman in his name, which he accordingly did; and the better to accomplish this piece of villainy, the said Oates provided a blind parson for that purpose. (*Grub Street Journal*, Sept. 1732.)

CHAPTER IV.

THE FLEET BOOKS.—THEIR TRANSMISSION TO THE CUSTODY OF
THE BISHOP OF LONDON.—EXTRACTS, ETC. ETC.

THE Fleet Marriages having been performed at a great number of houses in the neighbourhood of the Fleet, and the proprietors of the houses being frequently the possessors of the registers of marriages performed there, it is impossible to trace all these books from their first use until their deposit in the registry of the Bishop of London.

There are, it is believed, several of the Fleet Registers still in private hands; two of them are in possession of Mr. Philip Charles Moore in Doctors' Commons; the one commencing 2nd Feb. 1716 and ending 31st Dec. 1722, containing about three or four thousand marriages;¹ the other (indorsed "John Lilley his book,") commencing 14th Oct. 1716 and ending 1719.—Another Register is in Rawlinson's Collection (marked B. 360.) in the Bodleian Library at Oxford; it commences 4th March 1725 and ends 16th March 1730: on the first leaf is written "A True and exact Register of Marriages at the Fleet, A.D. 1724-5."—"Which being produced on a trial relating to the marriage of Francis Goulding, in Aug. 1726, came to the hands of Richard Woolfe, Esq. Register of the Duchy, who gave it to Dr. Rawlinson, 2nd Feb. 1754."

After much trouble and enquiry, however, the following is the best account which can be collected.

By a printed bill pasted in one of the Fleet Registers, it appears that after 1754, the Clerk of the Rev. Mr. Lando

¹ The following Exhibit is written in this Book: "Phillips otherwise Delafield otherwise Devall, against Delafield otherwise Devall. This Book was in the possession of Ann Hodgkins at the time of her examination in the above cause, the 19th of June 1733.—Edw^d Rushworth No^{ty} Publ:."

(one of the Fleet parsons) had the Register Books of Dr. Wigmore, Evans, Lando, Callow, Wodmor, Nodes, Brayfield, and Townsend; and that he had taken an office in Half-Moon Court, Ludgate, where searches for marriages might be made.

In another book are pasted the following advertisements :

This is to acquaint the Public,

To prevent the trouble and expense of searching at different houses for Fleet Marriages,

That the Books of all the Marriages performed by D^r Wigmore, D^r Dare, and several other former clergymen, at all the different houses of the Fleet, and other parts of Town and Country, are to be seen at the Public Register-Office, the uppermost house but one in Half-Moon Court, joining to Ludgate.

And that the Public may not be deceived, no person has the originals but the Keeper of this Office, and no Certificates, but from the same, are good at law. To be searched any day of the week except Sunday.

Kept by the Widow of the said D^r Wigmore.

“ N.B. These Registers mention the exact house where every marriage was performed, both in the Liberties of the Fleet, &c.”

Marriages ¹

Decently solemnized (as they are at May Fair,)

At the old original private Chapel of the Rev^d Mr. Lando, late Chaplain to His Majesty's ship the Falkland. St. John's Chapel is in Half-Moon Court, the first house joining to Ludgate, on Ludgate Hill.

Where Marriages from the year 1700 may be found of the Rev^d D^r Allen, D^r Mortram, D^r Bucklan, D^r Ryder, D^r Syndery, D^r Cuthbert, D^r Flood, D^r Gainham, D^r Ashwell, with some of D^r Wyatt's, and all of D^r Evans and D^r Wigmore, to be searched without imposition.

The Fleet Registers became a saleable article as early as 1732; for, on the trial of Eliz. Reader in 1741, Wm. Scape

¹ This advertisement is headed with the King's Arms in the centre, with the device of a hand and pen on one side, and the ship Falkland on the other.

deposed, that about eight or nine years previously he bought a Register Book, in which was the marriage in question, but the person who owned it was dead; and on the trial of Thomas Hurnell, in 1741, the following evidence was given:

Mrs. Barrett.—I knew Anthony Shellburn, he has been dead some years. I live in Fleet Lane; but the book this marriage is in, belongs to Mr. Cox, at the Hand and Pen, at the Ditch Side. I have got with me the Registers of my husband's Marriages. Mr. Cox is dead, and *the book went to his widow; she has since sold it to other persons.*

When one of the Fleet Registers was taken to Shrewsbury, on a trial there in 1794, a Mrs. Olivi¹ gave the following evidence on the subject:

“My first husband was Thos. Owens. I had the Register Books of Fleet Marriages in my possession from my marriage in 1761, till I went to America eleven years ago. I then sold them to Mr. Panton. My husband Owen died about 1773. My husband made a will. I had the possession of the books myself, as my husband had other business. I heard my husband say he purchased these books. He had a *Marriage House* in Fleet Lane. I used the books to grant certificates upon parish affairs.”

By the Will of Thomas Owens, dated 18th Feb. 1775, and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, he bequeaths to his wife Susan Owens, “*All the Books of the Registry of the Fleet Marriages, now in my possession.*”

By the evidence on the before-mentioned trial in 1794, it appears that “The persons who kept the different Marriage

¹ Mrs. Olivi, or Olive, was originally a servant to a man named Lilly, who kept a Marriage House near the corner of Fleet Street. She used to ply for Lilly, and when he died, Owens succeeded to one of the Marriage Houses, and married this Mrs. Olivi. It is not improbable that Owens bought the books of Lilly's representatives. Lilly was one of the most fortunate of the marriage-house keepers, and had a very brisk trade.

The following advertisement shows Mr. Olive's residence:

“All the original Register Books containing the marriages solemnized at the Fleet, May Fair, and the Mint, for upwards of one hundred years past, may be searched by applying to George Olive, at the Wheat Sheaf, in Nicholl's Square, near Cripplegate. The great utility of these Collections prevents any encomiums.”

Houses were occasionally the Clerks ; if nobody was in the way, any person executed the office as a Clerk. The man that in general was their servant, he registered them.”¹

Five or six hundred of these books were purchased of Mrs. Olivi, about 1783, by Mr. Benjamin Panton. Mr. Panton, in his evidence in the cause of *Lloyd v. Passingham*, said they weighed more than a ton ; that he had been in the habit of attending Courts of Justice with them, and never knew them refused.²

About the year 18— Mr. Panton died, leaving a Will, whereby he bequeathed these books to his daughter, — Panton, who, in 1813, disposed of them to Mr. Wm. Cox.³

Amongst the books is one used to contain an account of all searches made : it is headed, “ This Book contains all the searches found and not found from the year 1784 to 1804 and 1819, that as been made by any of Mr. Panton’s family since inn their possession, and is now going on by Mr. Wm. Cox, 1813.”⁴

They were purchased of Mr. Cox by Government, in 1821 ; and in one of the printed parliamentary estimates for that year is the following item :

“ An account showing how the sum of £280,000 granted by Parliament to provide for extraordinary expenses of a civil nature was expended ;

¹ In one of the Registers is a memorandum, “ Here ends the Register kept by my wife.”

² Short-hand notes taken at the trial.

³ By some entries made in one of the Fleet books, (No. 219.) and probably made by Owens, it appears that in 1761 he received for Searches and Extracts in and from the Books in his possession, £61. 14s. In 1762, £90. 4s. 8d. For a Certificate of the Marriage of James Ford and Isabella Liscomb, £6. 6s. 0d.

Isaac Gouldin and Ann Willis	5	5	0
--	---	---	---

Tho ^s Bassett and Jane M ^d Doual	5	5	0
--	---	---	---

Jn ^o Baptiz Brozos and Mary Potter	10	2	6
---	----	---	---

And there is in the same book the following minute : “ Nov. 30, 1761, bought the Books of M^{rs} Drummon.”

A great many of the small memorandum books have the name of “ Tho^s Cope” on the covers.

⁴ It is believed the following office, mentioned in the Law Lists for several years, belonged to him,—“ Register containing Marriages of the Fleet, May Fair, and Mint, in Rutland-House, Charter-House Square.”

“George Maule, Esq. Solicitor for the affairs of the Treasury, to enable him to purchase for the use of the public a series of Books containing the Entries of Marriages in the Fleet Prison and the Rules thereof, from the year 1686 to the year 1754.

£260. 6s. 6d.”

The following letter was upon that occasion sent by Lord Sidmouth to the Bishop's Registrar, who received the books from Mr. Maule, and deposited them at the office of the Registrar of the Consistory Court of London, where they have ever since remained.¹

“Sir,

“It having been judged expedient to purchase a set of books containing the original Entries of Marriages solemnized in the Fleet Prison and Rules thereof, from the year 1686 to the year 1754, I have been honoured with His Majesty's commands to desire that you will receive the said books from Mr. Maule, the Solicitor to the Treasury, and give him a receipt for the same, and deposit them in the Registry of the Consistory Court of London.

“I have the honour to be, Sir,

“Your most obedient humble Servant,

“SIDMOUTH.”

“The Registrar of the Consistory Court of London, or his Deputy.”

¹ It is to be wished that they were better arranged and indexed. There are several very large indexes, which only require a little time and attention to ascertain to what Registers they refer. The pocket-books also might be bound together, and preserved from dust and dirt; and if Government would give another £100, these objects might be attained. It was a labour of many months to go through so many hundreds of dusty, dirty, and sometimes ragged books, to extract the materials for this volume.

“A very important discovery has a short time since been made of the original books of Registry of Marriages and Births which occurred in the Fleet Prison and its Rules from the year 1686 to 1754, together with those celebrated at the Mint and May Fair Chapel: of the authenticity of these records no doubt is entertained; and they have, by an order from Lord Sidmouth, been lately deposited with the Registrar of the Diocese of London, in Godliman-street. The long period of doubt and difficulty which obscured the union of the marriages and births of that era, before the date of the Marriage Act, will now be cleared, and the titles to estates during that period find a clear elucidation hitherto very much required.” (*Courier*, 8 June 1821.)

The following are extracts from the Fleet Registers which consist of about two or three hundred large Registers, and a thousand or more of the rough Books, or, as they are called, Pocket Books.

“ November 5th 1742 was married Benjamin Richards of the parish of St. Martin in the Fields B^t & Judith Lance D^o Sp— at the Bull and Garter and gave g & for an antidate to March y^e 11th in the same year, which Lilley comply'd wth & put 'em in his Book accordingly, *there being a vacancy in the Book sutable to the time.*”

“ On Tuesday Aprill the 20th 1742 came a man & woman to the Bull & Garter the man pretended he would marry y^e woman by w^{ch} pretence he gott money to pay for marrying & to buy a ring, but left the woman by herself and never returned, upon which J. Lilley takes the woman from the Bull & Garter to his own house and gave her a Certifycate as if she had been married to the man. The Maid a Welch Girl call'd —— brought me a Guinea to change and told me the story.”

“ Jn^o Ellis & Jane Davis, she being dead left a house in y^e Market Place in Ailsbury 2 Flower pots at y^e Door. Wanted by y^e Soror & Wax Work a Sham C of y^r Nupt Oct^r 9th 1739.”

“ June 10 1729 John Nelson of y^e Pa of St. George Hanover Batchelor and Gardener & Mary Barns of y^e same Sp: married
Jn^o Floud Min^r

Cer: dated 5 November 1727 to please their parents.”

“ Wanted 18 years back.”

“ 15th offered me 10^s 6^d to fill up a blank in Mr. Flood's Name & Books.”

“ John Thomas Briquett of the Pa of St Giles's Attorney at Law and Sara Jarman of the Pa of St Anns Westm^r W & Sp mar: by me in Newgate some years since

in Major Barnardy's Room.

Jn^o Floud Cler.”

“ Aug^t 31st 1738 James Clement Gent of St Edmund y^e King London B^r & Eliz Taylor of St Pauls Covent Garden Sp^r at Farrells Bagnio in Long Acre—£5. 5. 0.”

“ 1728, Joseph South, of the parish of Deptford in Kent, and Eliz. Durham of the same place Ba. and Sp. married at a Cook-shop, next the Yorkshire Gray, at the house of John Warminger.”

“ These wicked people came this day; Peter Oliver of St. Olaves Carpenter and Elisabeth Overton B. and W would have a certificate dated in 1729, or would not be married if it was to be dated to this time—went to Lilley’s and was married.”

“ This 31st of May came a man and a wooman to be married at M^{rs} Levi’s. Gave M^r Ashwell 2^s 6^d: he would have 5^s 0^d all; but they abusied him, and all persons there went to — Bates or M^r Dare’s, and gave 6^s 6^d and was married, which was nine shillings, when they might been done cheaper.”

“ N. B. A coachman came and was half married, and wou’d give but 3^s 6^d and went off.”

“ 1741, Walter Turner, of St. Ann’s Soho, B^t, and Sarah Sysam, appear’d to be a vile design’d skeme, as I afterwards discovered.”

“ September y^e 11th, 1745.

Edw^d ¹
and Elizabth

were married and would not let me know their names, y^e man said he was a weaver and liv’d in Bandylegwalk, in the Borough.

P^r E. Ashwell.”

¹ Besides the Registers, there are in the Bishop’s Registry a very great number of small pocket books used by the Fleet parsons, and which, it appears, they were in the habit of carrying about with them to the different public houses where Marriages were to be done, and making the entries therein, and afterwards transcribing them into the larger Register. In case, however, the parties did not pay for registering, or if they wished the marriage to be secret, their surnames were not transcribed into the large Register, so that these pocket books are valuable as containing particulars not to be met with in the larger Register.

After the entries of Marriages, the remarks of the clergyman are often to be met with; as a specimen of them, are the following—

“ Jn^o Todd of St. John’s Wapping at King Edw^ds Staires waterman, a friendly adviser and director to y^e Fleet for Marriages.”

“ N. B. they had liv^d together 4 years as man and wife: they were so vile as to ask for a Certifycate to be antidated.”

“ N. B. they wanted an antidate from 45 to 41.”

“ N. B. Both y^e man and woman were exceedingly vile in their behaviour.”

“ N. B. the woman was big wth child, and they wanted a Certifycate antidated; and because it was not compl’y’d with, they were abusive wth a Witness.”

“ N. B. the person belonging to y^e house aloud me only 2^s out of 8^s.”

“ 4.0—2.6—p^d 3.0 Waterman.”

(About 4s. or 5s. appears to have been the clergyman’s fee, and 1s. or 2s. the

“ 13 Sept. Edw^d Emmet Gent. of Barkin in Essex B and Hannah Bowle D^o Sp. Castle Tavern Paternoster Row, M^r Burnford's Weding. W. 2 guineas, M. 1 guinea, was to be secret for a month.”

“ Sept^r the 6th, John Fletcher of the Parish of St. Mary's, Oxon. Ba. and Gent., and Mary Gardner, of the Pa. of Fulham, Hammersmith, Spinster, att the Goat, Phillips's, the 6th.

John Flood.

“ This was a Gentleman, Gaynam refused to marry. By reason of his being student att Oxford, and knowing his father.”

“ May y^e 6th 1740 James Wheeler Drum^r of y^e 1st Regim^t & Catherine Smith W & W—At y^e new Bawdy-house joyning Grinley's.”

“ June the 21, 1741. Thomas Millis Butcher of Kingston-upon-Theams B^t & Mary Jarvis of S^t Clement Dean Sp. M^{rs} Crooks.—N. B. Madam Roberts the player who lives in Duke Street Westminster came wth them & a Barrouight who keeps her came with them.”

“ Jan^r 4, 1743-4. Thomas Brown of the first troop of Horse Guards Wid^r & Mary Hope of St. Pancras—at the Shepherd & Goat.—N. B. This s^d Thomas Brown that took the Standard at Dedingen.”

“ June, 26. 1744 Nathaniel Gilbert Gent of St Andrews Holborn and Mary Lupton—at Oddy's.—N. B. There was 5 or 6 in company, one amongst seem'd to me by his dress and behavi^r to be an Irishman. He pretended to be some Grand Officer in the army. He y^e said Irish Gent told me before I saw y^e woman y^t was to be married y^t it was a poor Girl a going to be married to a Common Soldier, but when I come to marry them I found myself impos'd upon, and having a mistrust of some Irish roguery, I took

clerk's. Out of these, an allowance was made to the persons who brought the parties to be married.)

“ Had a noise for foure hours about the money.”

“ N. B. Stole a silver spoon.”

“ 1740 Geo Grant & Ann Gordon B & Sp. Stole my cloathes brush.”

“ 1740 R^d Shears & Hannah Allen B & S. The person whoe was with them I believe knew it to be a made marriage.”

“ Davis and Wyatt brought the others, and were very abusive to M^r Ashwell. I absent, and went and left a pott of 4 penny to pay.”

“ Her eyes very black, and he beat about y^e face very much.”

upon me to ask what y^e Gentleman's name was, his age &c. and likewise the Lady's name & age—Answer was made me—What was that to me G. . . dam me if I did (not) immediately marry them he would use me ill ; in short, apprehending it to be a conspiracy I found myself obliged to marry them in Terrorem—N. B. some material part was omitted.”

“ 1742 May 24 A Soldier brought a Barber to the Cock who I think said his name was James, Barber by Trade, was in part married to Elizabeth, they said they were married enough.”

“ 1717 Feb 4 } Cha Bowles of Southwark Merchant & Doro-
at his own House } thy Hunt of Lower Areley in Worstershire.
Southwark } W and Sp.”

“ I have put a secret Wedding in my private Book of Memorandum on this day” (Nov. 5. 1742.)¹

“ The Woman ran across Ludgate Hill in her Shift.”²

“ Entered in Lilleys Book by an unknown hand—Dec^r 1 1716 Dan Paul St James's Captⁿ in y^e Horse Guards. Elizabeth Murray B Sp.”

“ March y^e 4th 1740 William³ and Sarah
he dress'd in a gold waistcoat like an Officer, she a Beautifull young Lady with 2 fine diamond Rings and a Black high Crown Hat & very well dressed—at Boyce's.”

“ N. B. There was 4 or 5 young Irish Fellows, seem'd to me after y^e Marriage was over to have deluded y^e young woman—gave d Clk y & :⁴ N. B. behaved roguishly, Broke the Coachman's Glass.”

“ N. B. married at a Barbers Shop next Wilsons viz. one Kerils for half a Guinea, after which it was extorted out of my pocket and for fear of my life delivered.”

¹ A separate Book was kept for the purpose of inserting Marriages which were desired to be kept secret. Upon perusal of a private Book of this sort from 1748 to 1753, it appears that nearly all the contracting parties were of a superior station in Life, the additions being “ Gent. and Sp.”

² It was a vulgar error that a man was not liable to the Bride's debts if he took her in no other apparel than her shift. The Daily Journal of 8 Nov. 1725, mentions a similar exhibition at Ulcomb, in Kent.

³ In a great many instances the parties refused to tell their surnames.

⁴ Letters were used to denote the Sums received for fees, in the same way as they are now used by Tradesmen for their private marks.

“ 20 May 1737. Ju^o Smith Gent of St James West^r Batch^r & Eliz Huthall of St Giles’s Sp^r at Wilson’s. By y^e opinion after matrimony my Clark judg’d they were both women, if y^e person by name John Smith be a man, he’s a little short fair thin man not above 5 foot.”

“ After marriage I almost co^d prove y^m both women, the one was dress’d as a man thin pale face & wrinkled chin.”

“ Thomas Monk Sawyer & Marg^t Lawson pawn’d to Mr. Lilley a handkerchief & silver Buttons for 2^s.”

“ N. B. y^e woman was a Neighbour’s Daughter, the Sister raised a Mob & s^d my maid was my W——”

No. 5. A very large folio intituled “ The Register of the Fleet wherein is contain’d the severall marriages celebrated and perform’d In The New Chapple St Brides beginning January 1751” ends July 1753.⁽¹⁾

“ Charles a Countryman & Lusey would not tell their names vil Beaheaver. J. F. ” 24 Dec. 1751.

No. 24. A very large square folio, commencing Sept. 14 1709 ending 13 Oct. 1715 (about 1200 entries.)

“ Xmas 1714. John Caterwood in White Lyon Cort Cornhill married to Mad^m Wattgraves att Mr Lilleys—and her former husband is Liveing. Married by Mr John Mottram. Shee lodging att Charles Street in Westminster.”

No. 27. A thin folio of 40 pages, for the year 1744. The initials of the Clergyman’s Name and the fees paid are added to the entries; the amounts of fees paid for the marriages registered on three pages are thus :

. 5 .	7. 6	10. 6
2. 6	3. 6	2. 6
1. 1	2. 6	10. 6
5	7. 6	7. 6
2. 6.	5.	5.
	10. 6	7. 6

“ Jan: 13. 1744. John - - - } W D 2. 6”
 & Mary - - - }

⁽¹⁾ The Numbers here placed against the Books from which the Author’s extracts are made, are those in his own manuscript, not those of the Registers themselves.

No. 30. "The Registry of the Weddings at the King's Arms Fleet Market by Sundry Parsons."

"1740 Octo 24. Gwin Lloyd of Hendor Merionothshire Esq. & Elizth Taylor of St James's Westm^r B & S. Pr W. Wyatt."⁽¹⁾

No. 40. The Marriages in this Book performed by Mr. Floud about 1725, have the Names of the Witnesses subscribed.

No. 41. 1721-1727, "Register Book of Marriages by Sundry Parsons. The Chapple Register."

"October 6, 1722. Thomas Hinkly, Mitcham, Husbandman. Sarah Baker, Morton B. S. (Mott) no cer: under £02. 2. 6 for cheating of me Matt. Wilson."

(At the end of the Book.) "At the sign of the Hand and Pen on the ditch side London, where the Ancient Register Books of Fleet Marriages are kept, persons may be married at their own conveniency by a Minister of y^e Church of England."

No. 47. About 5000 entries 1725-1736.

"N. B. that a Woman by the name of Martha Mathews came here when Mr Lilley was out and said she was married to one Rich^d. Edwards. I enter'd it down by mistake in a Certificat but no such marridge was ever in this Book Jobson."

"1728-9 March 3. Henry and Ann, no other names.

Ja. Wagst."

"Novemb^r 1728, 4th. Edward Euerret of St James Westmins^r & Hannah Grady of y^e same, Batch^r & Spins^r not married."

"January 1728-9, 13th. Tho^s Conden of St Margaretts Westminster Shoemaker and Mary Jones Sp^t of do.

"N. B. behav^d very indecent and rude to all."

"1729 June 15. Francis and Sarah thay went a way in hast But married P^t Jos^s. Lilley P^r John Floud, Min^r"

1734 December 15. John Mountford of St. Ann's Sohoc Taylor B, Mary Cooper Ditto Sp. suspected 2 Women, no Certif:."

⁽¹⁾ This was the entry in question in the case of Lloyd and Passingham.

“ 1735 June 5th. Dennis and Ann .”
 Done at the Mitre at Brentford } Pr J. Gaynam.”
 would give no surnames }

No 44. 1721–1733, about 1200 entries, with an Index.

“ 1728 March 1. Christopher Martin of Hanover Sq: St. Georges and Ruth Agar of Marribone married. J. Floud, Min^r Register'd on the 4 of August 1728 and the marriage done the 4 of August on Sunday.”⁽¹⁾

25 June 1729. W^m Knight of the Pa of Hampstead Gardner and Batchelor & Joanna Woodward of the parish of Wilsdon Spinster, married. Pr Jn^o Floud.”

W^m Knight none to search but him }
 or Joanna Woodward, Bride — no }
 month set on the Cer. only the }
 24th day W^m Knight. }

No. 46. 1731–1737.

“ 1733–4, January 14. Cornelius Tho^s of St Mary Rotherhithe Br & Gent & Hester Green Sp^r. Left a ring.—0. 10. 6. Rob^t Cuthbert.”

No. 51. 1727–1754, but has entries as early as 1700, with an Index.

This is one of the most curious of the Books, as nearly every entry has some observation annexed to it, written in Greek characters, which illustrate the shameful practices of the Fleet Clergymen.

“ March 1729, 2^d. John Gordon Esq^r. of the liberty of Westm^r & Barbara Raynes of Greenwich in Kent B & Sp. Pr Jn^o Floud.

They were married at East Lane in Greenwich paid two guineas, Clark five shillings & two parchment Certificates half a guinea more. Doctor & self made an equal division (Εχυαλ Διυι-ειου) of the whole. I had five guineas since for proving the marriage.”

“ Robert King a Fisherman & Elizabeth Price, both of St. Giles in the fields. B & Sp Pr Jn^o Evans.

P^d one shilling only, the Bridegroom a boy about eighteen years of age & the Bride about sixty five. They were brought in a coach

⁽¹⁾ On the 4th August is an entry of the marriage on that day, and in the margin “ the Certificate dated ye 1^o of March 1728,” so that there was an entry to agree with the certificate and another to agree with the fact.

& attended by four *θημινῶν* *ἑπισημῶν* out of Drury Lane as guests.”(1)

“ November 1735, 6th. John Fletcher a Butcher of St Clements Danes & Hannah Neelor of St Andrews Holbourn B & Sp.

J. Gaynam.

This couple had cohabited many years but upon a small legacy being left they then thought proper to marry. I gave them an old Certificate & antedated it to the 24th of Aug^t 1734 sign'd Backler for which I was to have had five shillings but marr seven & six pence. They were brought by Mrs Warner.”

“ May 1730, 28th. William Tew Gent & Katherine Skeere both of St Buttolphs Bishopsgate B & Sp Pr Robt. Cuthbert married at the Globe Tavern Hatton Garden, myself had five shillings as Clark & gave a Certificate on stamp paper (Handsomely entertained.)”

“ June 1727, 11th. William Whittingham Watchmaker & Rachael Babington both of St Ollaves Silver St, B & Sp

Pr Jn^o Floud

paid marr five shillings & two shillings Certiff: the said Rachel the prettiest woman I ever saw.”

“ November 1727, 30th. Richard Stokes, Shipwright & Frances Thompson both of St Giles's in the Fields. B & Sp

Pr Jn^o Floud

(1) The immorality of some of these clandestine marriages is thus noticed by M^r Abbé le Blanc, in his Observations on the Laws relating to Marriage previously to the Marriage Act. “ They all have a tendency to favour even the most indecent marriages ; they do not require by far enough of public solemnity. As the wedding ceremony may here be transacted in any place whatever, I have heard that a clergyman who was in prison, to get a more tolerable subsistence, hung an advertisement at his window with these words ‘ *Weddings performed cheap here.*’ They authorize all the acts of the common prostitute—their most common way is to intoxicate the man whom they have a design upon, and then such a creature who wants to be the *wife* of a man who would perhaps be ashamed to own her for a *mistress*, prevails upon him by her dangerous caresses, to own before witnesses that he takes her for his wife. It often happens so, when he imagines he is only in jest or sport. But all jesting in this affair becomes serious in England. The ‘yes’ is always taken in the strictest sense of the letter; the woman perhaps has a chaplain ready, this minister of the Gospel lends himself to the mystery of iniquity, and that which in France would be only a farce, which the civil magistrate would be prepared to chastise, becomes in England a serious act authorized by the Laws ; whence it frequently happens that a man who went to bed very easy and very drunk, finds himself at waking, married to a creature whom he most heartily despises and abhors.

marriage seven shillings & six pence & four shillings bed & certiff: Bob Balls wife brought them and had them bedded.”⁽¹⁾

“ Aug^t 12, 1729. Abraham Wells a Butcher of the Parish of Tottenham in Mid’ex & Susannah Hewitt of Enfield W^r & W^o

Pr John Floud

p^d five shillings per total. N. B. The 28th of Aprill 1736 M^rs Wells came and Earnestly entreated me to erase the marriage out of the book, for that her husband had beat & abused her in a barbarous manner, and she had much rather be esteemed his W—— that she might have a proper recourse of Law against him. I made her believe I did so for which I had half a guinea and she at the same time delivered me up her Certificate, no person present (according to her desire.”)

“ 1734 May 13th. Samuel Stewart, a Chocolate Maker, & Mary Nugent, both of St. M. Ludgate. B. & Sp.

Pr Ralph Shadwell.

Mr. Comings gave me half a guinea to find a Bridegroom, and defray all expences. Parson two and sixpence—Husband D^o— and five and sixpence myself.”

“ July 1728, 22^d. Josiah Welsh, a Cordwainer, and Elizabeth Cutchey, of St. Giles’s, Cambridge. W. & Sp. Pr Jn^o Floud.

Brought by Mr. Ralf and Mr. Hargrove of the Guards, who paid me two guineas to provide a Husband for Madam, and defray all the subsequent charges of the wedding,—viz. Docter 7^s. 6^d. Bridegroom 6^s. the rest to myself. For a further account of Mr. Welsh vid. May 8, 1727, December the 11th and 23^d, 1727.”

“ December 1727, 11th. Walter Janes, Cordwainer of St. Martins Ludgate, and Mary Spreadbourough, of St. Giles in the Fields. W & Sp^r. Pr Jn^o Floud.

The other day a gentleman of Lincoln who had been unfortunate in this respect, shot himself through the head the next day, as soon as he understood the foolish step he had taken.” (Letters of a Frenchman, No 10.)

⁽¹⁾ “ Now I have promised him mountains, if in one of his mad fits he will bring you to him, in her stead, and get you married together and put to bed together, and after consummation, Girl, there’s no revoking.” (Love for Love.)

In 1737, Richard Leaver was indicted for Bigamy, when the following evidence was given.

Alice Allington. “ On January 18, 1733-4, I was married to the prisoner, at the Hand and Pen, in Fleet Lane, by the famous Doctor Gainham.

Prisoner. “ I don’t know that woman for my wife. I know nothing about the

Marriage five shillings—one D^o Clerkship, and one D^o Certif. The man had five shillings for marrying her, of which I had one and sixpence. N.B. The above said person marrys in common.”⁽¹⁾

1727 December 23. Richard Armstrong, Cordwainer, and Mary Roberts, of Shoreditch. Wr & Sp. Pr Jn^o Floud.

paid one pound five shillings, viz. parson five shillings, and the man five shillings, (vid: December 11th ut supra,) and fifteen shillings myself.”

“ July 1729, 11th. John Rogers, Gent. and Elizabeth Hussey, (alias) Rebecka Mitchell, both of St. Margaret’s, Westm^r. Wr & W^o. Pr Jn^o Floud.

wedding. I was fuddled over night, and next morning I found myself a-bed with a strange woman,—‘ And who are you? how came you here?’ says I,—‘ O my dear, says she, we were marry’d last night at the Fleet.’ (*Sessions Papers*.)

⁽¹⁾ Thus it clearly appears that Welsh, alias Janes, alias Armstrong, alias — married four women in fourteen months; each time changing his name. The object of the brides in paying for a husband to be found for them, was to enable them to plead coverture to any action for debt, or to give them the means of shewing a certificate in case of their being *enceinte*. After an entry on the 19th Dec^r 1728, we find the Bridegroom thus paid “ *for his trouble*.”—(See p. 53.)

“ George Mackarly, a Soldier, & Bridget Marcan, of St. Giles in the fields, W & W^o Pr Jn^o Floud.

p^d eight shillings per total, viz. two & sixpence to the Bridegroom *for his trouble*, the rest between Doctor and self.”

Dr. Gally, in his “ Considerations on Clandestine Marriage,” (1750,) observes, “ It is well known to be a common practice at the Fleet, and that there are men provided there, who have each of them within the compass of a year married several women for this wicked purpose.”

Nov^r 21, 1729, was tried a cause in the Court of King’s Bench, between James Hopman plaintiff, and Jane Hunter defendant, when Defendant proved she was married to one Matterson, a soldier in the Foot Guards, at the time she contracted the debt; but it being proved on the other side that Matterson had a wife then living, and that Defendant gave him half a guinea to marry her, to screen her from paying her debts, the Jury found for the Plaintiff.—*Daily Journal*, 1729.

In one of the pocket-books are the following entries “ This to be incrted 21 of Feb^y 1739-40, Will Jones, Vintner, of Covent Garden, B. & Jennett Hunter, D^o. Sp. (at Wheeler’s.) They came first to Burnford’s, and would give but 5s. she dress’d very fine, and looked like a common woman, wanted a man to personate.”

“ Oct^r 14 1732. John Blewington, of Rippon, in Yorkshire, Bricklayer, B. & Sarah Barington, of Colchester, Wid^w. N.B. This Barington s^d she had £40 pr annum, had been confined for debt, and married Blewington to skreen her.”

“ 24 July 1737. Simon Parrott, Plasterer, of Swallow St., St. James’s, & Ann Pritchett, Wid^r & Wid^w. When he had married her s^d he would never bed her, he would marry any body.”

p^d half a guinea per total. Mrs. Hussey, though a Quaker, (none of the most scrupulous,) she could not comply with the ceremonies of our church, yet would take the man to bed to her upon the bare dependence of credit of a Fleet certificate; she being only personated by Beck Mitchell."

"Robert Draper, Gardiner, and Ann Osborn, both of Battersea, married at Kit Linerells. I gave a certificate, for which I had only a quartern of brandy."

"22 July 1728. Nicholas Richardson, invalid soldier in Chelsea Hospital, and Judith Taylor, of Chelsea. W & W. P^r Jn^o Floud. Married at Chidleys. I gave a Certificate, and was paid with a promise."

"10 Dec. 1728. W^m Salkeld, a Marriner, and Mary Jones, both of St. Andrews, Holborn. B & Sp. P^r Jn^o Floud. Marr: ten shillings, two and sixpence Clark; one D^o Register, two and sixpence Certificate. They were married at twelve at night, and lay all night in bed in my house, for which had one shilling and sixpence more."

"22 March 1728. Tho^s Stringer, a Brewer's Servant, and Ann Criswell, both of St. Sepulchre's. B & Sp. P^r Jn^o Floud. Paid three shillings and sixpence, Certificate one and sixpence; it being pretty late, they lay here, and paid me one shilling for bed, (a kind girl.)"

"Edmund Daviss, a Hatter, of St. George's, Bloomsbury, and Mary Sprigg Martin, of St. Giles's in the Fields. B & Sp. P^r Jn^o Floud. These couple were bedded about six minutes, and paid only five shillings per total, being friends of Mary Hall. Vid. Apr. 9, 1727."

"Patrick Fitzgerald, a Carter, of St. George's, Hanover Square, and Grace Bennit, of St. Giles's in the Fields. B & Sp. P^r Jn^o Floud. Marr: five shillings, certif. one do.; brought by Mr. Clark, overseer of St. Giles's."

(After another Parish Wedding.)

"Paid three shillings, a Parish Wedding, and the people being pretty remarkable, I believe there was a mob of three hundred people after them."⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ On Saturday last, the Churchwardens for a certain parish in the City, in order to remove a load from their own shoulders, gave 40s. and paid the expense of a Fleet marriage, to a miserable blind youth, known by the name of Ambrose Tally, who plays on the violin in Moorfields, in order to make a settlement on the wife

“ 29 Aug^t 1729. John Wills, Distiller, of St. Dunstons in the East, and Mary Mackarty, of St. Andrew’s, Holborn. W & W°. Marr: five shillings, and two do. Certif. Two most notorious Thieves. Pr Jn° Floud.”

“ 12 Dec. 1729. John Slater, Gent. of St. Andrew’s, Holborn, and Frances Thompson, of St. Dunstan’s in the West. B & Sp. Pr Jn° Floud. This Marriage upon Honour. Vid. the 30th of Nov. 1727.”

“ 16 Dec. 1729. George Stewart, Gent. and Mary Hill, both of St. Dunstons in the West. B & W°. Pr Jn° Floud. Marr: viz. per an *old Licence* (1) one guinea and a half, the wedding half a guinea, and Certif. five shillings, performed at the Sun Tavern, in Holbourn.”

“ 23 Aug. 1732. John Cope, Gent. and Susannah Clark, both of Clapham, in Surry. W^r & Sp. Pr Sam^l Backler. P^d ten and sixpence per total, being married before by proxy.”

“ 25 Aug^t 1735. Matthew Medcalf, a Weaver, and Ann Hubbard, both of Whitechapel. B & W. D. Wigmore. Total three and sixpence; but honest Wigmore kept all the money; so farewell him.”

“ 20 Nov^r 1735. John Greentree, a Husbandman, and Elizabeth Seager, both of Wimbledon, in Surry. B & W°. Pr Walter Wyatt. Total nineteen shillings, my Lord and self took them from Brown, who was going into the next door with them.”

“ 27 April 1736. Cotton Bartlett, Apothycary, and Elizabeth Sharp, both of St. Bride’s. B & W. Pr W. Wyatt. Total six shillings. Brought by a Counsellor.”

“ 1 July 1728. Joseph Otway, Gent. and Deborah Smith. B & Sp. Married by the Doctor abroad, but upon his letter to me for that purpose, registered here, and was paid one shilling.”

“ 12 July 1729. Thomas Whiting, a Coppersmith, and Dorothy Todd, both of St. Bottolph’s, Aldgate. B & Sp. Pr Jn° Floud.

and future family in Shoreditch parish. To secure their point they sent a parish officer to see the ceremony performed. One cannot but admire the ungenerous proceeding of this City parish, as well as their unjustifiable abetting and encouraging an irregularity so much and so justly complained of, as these Fleet matches. Invited and uninvited, were a great number of poor wretches, in order to spend the bride’s parish fortune.—*Daily Post*, 4 July 1741.

(1) Perhaps a Licence from the Commons which had already been used.

Marr: ten shillings and sixpence, and two and sixpence Clark. No certif. I had them married at Mrs. Johnson's, at the Golden Lion Tavern, in the Old Bailey, January 30th, 1731.⁽¹⁾ Mrs. Whiting had a Certificate and paid me two and sixpence for it."

"30 Dec. 1729. Joseph Payne, a Picture Frame Maker, and Mary Hall, both of St. Dunstan's in the West. B & Sp. P^r Jn^o Floud. Marr: eight shillings, one Clark and two certificate; brought by Friend Pickett. I had not my share of the Wedding, Doctor Floud being call'd home, taken ill, and dying the next morning.

The following is the form in which the entries in this book are made.

28 th	1735
μαργ: 1ηρη @ Σικ	October
φηνχη @ ονη σιλλιυ	Bay, Thomas, a Mealman, of Springfield, & Rebecka Brown, of Much Baddah, in Essex P ^r Jn ^o Floud.
χηρλιφι ~ α υηγυ φρηπλυ βριδη	

No. 50. A narrow folio, commencing 1730 to 1773, intituled "Robt. Cuthbert's Marriages."

"1731 May 8. Tho^s Rolte and Ann Calvert, Ba & Spinster, Gent. of St. Giles's Camp's. She of St. Andrews, Holborn; nobody to see it. W^m Toone Father. An old Gentleman gave £1. 1s. and a Gent. from my Lord Baltimore £2. 2s. he had cert: 20 day."

"1731 August 11. W^m Charlton and Mary Laneve, Ba & Spinster, weaver, of Blackfriars, at my Ladyes,⁽²⁾ Fleet Lane."

(At the end of the book is) "Rob^t Cuthbert, Minister of the Fleet, mortuus anno Dom: 1734. Quarto die Augustii etatis sui 42."

(1) Although performed in 1731, entered as 12 July 1729.

(2) The Rev. Robt. Cuthbert was doubtless so occupied in the solemn duty of marrying others, that he had no time to go through the ceremony for himself. "My Ladye" might be supposed to mean *Landlady*, but after another entry of marriage is a memorandum less equivocal, it runs thus,

"paid five shillings, and one certificate, brought by Mrs. Blood, Doctor Floud's *Mistress*."

No. 60. A narrow folio, 1738 to 1740.

“Nov^r 6, 1739. Richard Oliver, Gent. of St. Katherines, B^r and Eliz. Holloway, of St. Gregory’s Sp^r. Mar: upon Tick.”

“March y^e 30th 1740. John James, B^r and Elizth; would not tell their names, but paid £1. 10s.”

No. 68. A large narrow folio, 1739 to 1743.

“October y^e 13, 1741. Denis Christopher, Bookbinder, Chesham, Bucks, Wid^r, to Martha Townsend, of Ailsbury, D^o Sp^r. att y^e Cock. N.B. Married for nothing to oblige Mr. Golder Attorney-at-Law.”

“Nov^{er} y^e 21, 1742. Akerman Rich^d, Turner, of Christ Ch^r, Bat^r, to Lidia Collet.—Mrs. Crooks. N.B. They behaved very vilely, and attempted to run away with Mrs. Crooks Gold Ring.”

“28th. — Smith Robert, Hosier, of St. Martin’s in y^e fields, Wid^r, to Sarah Skett: appear’d a rogue.”

No. 69. A long narrow folio, 1742 to 1743, intituled “Register Book of Marriages, by Mr. Dare.”

“2^d October 1742. James, son of Ephraim and Mary Miller, of White Fryers, in the parish of St. Bride’s, half baptized at Bos, by W. Dare, priest of the Church of England.”

“7 November 1742. Thomas Boadish, of St. Andrew Holborn, Gent. Widower, and Carew Tate, of St. Pauls Covent Garden, Spinster.

Present { Elizabeth Dare,
Anna Catherina Dec,
Sussex Dare.

“November 23^d 1742. George Wright, &c. &c. &c.”

“October 2^d 1743. John Figg, of St. Johns the Evang^s, Gent. a Widower, and Rebecca Woodward, of Ditto, Spinster, at y^e same time gave her y^e Sacrament.”⁽¹⁾

(1) This is the only instance met with where these Clergymen have added to their infamy by administering the Sacrament after marriage. They were, however, anxious to impose on the ignorant by as much attention to ‘rites and ceremonies’ as was consistent with their own interests, thus :

On a trial for Bigamy, in 1731, Samuel Pickering deposed “the prisoner was married at my house in the Fleet, to Mr. Humphreys, by Mr. Mortram a clergyman. I gave her away, and saw the ring put upon her hand, and broke the biscuit over her head.”

No. 73. A long narrow folio, 1742 to 1744.

“ 1744 Aug^t y^e 20. John Newsam, Labourer, of St. James’s West. and Ann Laycock, D^o. Wid^r & Wid^w. They run away with the Scertifycate, and left a point of wine to pay for; they are a vile sort of people, and I will remember them of their vile usage for a achample for the same.”

No. 76. A narrow folio, 1742 to 1749.

“ October 6, 1745. Mr. Francis Snead of Cheapside
his friend, Went to Roehampton, the persons Robert and } I. I.
Mary. }

“ Octo^r 21, 1745. Siff
Hannah, proceed no further then the } M. D.
ring. Wyatt.” }

No. 81.

“ March 19, 1744. Church a Woman, Mrs. Dillion, Nurse in y^e Herald’s Office.”

No. 101. A short folio, ending about 1719, and intituled

“ The Register kept by Thomas Hodgkins, wherein is contained y^e several marriages celebrated and pe’formed within y^e Rules of y^e Fleett and Chappell thereof by y^e Rever^d John Vise, John Draper, James Colton, Henry Gower, and y^e other Clergymen officiating there. Be-
ginning November y^e 4th 1700.”

“ February 1717, 10th. John Green, Batch. House Carpenter of St. Dunstans Stepney, and Elizabeth Felton, Spinster, of St. Mary White Chappell.

not married because not agreeing with y^e Doctor.”

No. 106. A short folio. On the first page, “ Christnings by D^r Draper;” on the second page, “ Marridges in y^e year of our Lord 1714.”

And on the trial of Robert Wilson, in 1737, for Bigamy, a witness deposed, “ I know the prisoner was married to Steel, I was present when that affair was transacted. They were married at a brandy shop at the Fleet; the ceremony was performed by a man in a *night gown*; whether he was a parson or not, I can’t tell.” (*Sessions Papers.*)

“ John Harrison, of St. Giles in the Fields, a Taylor, and Mary Cuningham, Ditto. B. W. June y^e 4, 1723. These not marr: only names inserted.”

“ Memorandum. The 21st day of August 1725, being Saturday at night was assaulted by Samuel Pickering, at his own house the signe of the Fighting Cocks, in Fleet Lane, and he throatled me and most murdered me, as

Witness my Hand, John Evans, Minister.” (1)

No. 110. A short folio, intituled, “ Marriages at the Fleet By Henry Glover, Clerk, November y^e 1st An^o Do^m 1716.”

“ 1728 April 3. Michael Rebout & Ann Surgeirs, Both of St. Clement's Deans. P. Jn^o Floud Min^r.

N.B. The Certificate bares date 12 Sep^{tr} }
1720, to satisfie Parents and friends.” }

No. 118. A short narrow folio.

“ January 20, 1729-30. John Pigott, of St. Martins Orgars, London, Captain of a West Indian Merchant, Bachl^r & Constantia Maria Burgoyne, of the P^{sh} of St. Martin's in y^e fields, in y^e County of Middx, Spinster, married at Justice Webster's, in Castle Street, over y^e Mews, in St. Martin's afores^d.”

No. 119. A short thick folio, Sept. 1734 to Sept. 1736.

“ May y^e 14, 1736. John Blackhall, of St. Martin's in y^e Fields, Clogmaker, & Hannah Cockerell, B & Widow at y^e King's Head Henry Charlton, Clark.—N Cert: under £2.

Wigmore being sent for, but was drunk, so I was a stop-gap.”

“ July 18, 1736. William Potts, of Allhallows, Barkin, Wine Cooper & Mary Small, D^o B & Sp^r at Wilson's

(1) The many opposition Marriage-houses, the plying for custom, and scrambling for fees, gave rise to repeated quarrels. The following is from the *Grub Street Journal*, Dec. 12, 1734.

“ On Wednesday two Fleet Parsons preferred against each other Bills of indictment for assaults made by brother upon brother, But they both appearing aggressors and scholars alike famous, The Jury returned both their bills ‘ Ignoramus.’ ”

a sham I believe as to his name, because he told me another name first, and y^e woman contradicted him."

No. 136. A short folio of Walter Wyatt's.

"Lyonel — B^t & Jane, a Lady, B & Sp^r at — Webb's, Esq. at Cornhill, in White Lyon Court.—Oct. 19, 1735."

No. 148. A short folio.

"1 Oct. 1747. John Ferren, Gent. Ser. of St. Andrew's, Holborn, B^r & Deborah Nolan, D^o Sp^r. The supposed John Ferren was discovered after y^e Ceremonie were 'over, to be in person a woman."

"27 Dec^r 1747. Francis Harwood, Feltmaker, of St. Botolph without Bishopgate, B^r & Mary Brockholes, Widow.

After marr: I perceived it to be a *Hir'd Job*.⁽¹⁾ He a thin-jaw'd mean-looking fellow, Irish or Scotch, she grvida⁽²⁾ and very gent."

"May 30th 1748. A genteel cuple married with a 5^s stamp, enter'd in a parchment cover pocket-book with *Pri* on y^e Backs^d."⁽³⁾

"Edward Warner, Gent. of Crundal, Hants, & Mary Mitchell, W^o—3 Jan. 1749. £10. 10. 0."

No. 156. A short folio, "W. Wyatt's Register Book of the Fleet Marriages commencing June 25, 1751 to Mids^r 1752." The entries are numbered, (1137 in all,) and there is an index.

470	Nov ^r 11
l. 4½.	1751.
	Pri ⁽³⁾

No. 158. On the cover of this Register are two entries "never to be seen."

(1) See page 54 for other instances of hired Husbands.

(2) "Yesterday morning an odd affair happened in the Liberties of the Fleet, where a young man and woman, (country people, and very well dressed,) came to be marry'd; but before the minister had half performed the ceremony, the woman was delivered of a daughter. (This poor girl, though literally born in wedlock, seems to be somewhat more than half a bastard.)"—*Grub Street Journal*, 1735.

(3) These blank entries in the Registers make the small pocket-books valuable, as without them the parties could not be known.—(See note at p. 46.)

No. 161. A short folio, June 1745 to June 1747.

" July 24, 1745. James Gent. & Mary at Georgia,
near Hampstead. By M^r Wilkinson.

5. 5. 0

5. 0 for a horse."

" April 23, 1746. Joseph and Mary vide July 3^d Ult."⁽¹⁾

" Aug^t 22, 1746. Samuel & Eliz: He a tall man
about 40 years of age, she a fresh colour'd Pock fretten woman,
very well built."

No. 164. A small quarto, from 1700 to 1730, and at the
other end from 1715 to 1742.

" 1723, 14 April. Peter Hulett of St. Bride's, Fram Maker,
Mary Ann Paviour, Sp^r. forged by Mr. Dare in 1741, who married
y^m att Smith's att y^e same time."

No. 167. A small quarto.

" Nov^r 28, 1723. John James Jaxon & Mary Newell, both of
St. James's, West^r B^r & Sp^r.

" Memorandum. Mr. Fairplay he called himselfe, would not say
' I will,' nor did she bec he did not—both afterwards comply'd,
& so were married, tho y^e man designed nothing but a little
w g & leaving y^e woman in y^e lurch."

No. 170. A small quarto, 1731 to 1732.

" May 15, 1732. John & Ann, Brought by one Willson, a
Limb of y^e Law, & married at Mr. Willson's by y^e Ditch Syde, &
never entered in any Booke, Refusing to pay Clarkship and y^e
Entry Fees any Otherways than by y^e name of Jn^o & Ann."

No. 209. A long narrow book, from 1738 to 1744.

" Living near to one Joshua Lilley, and a person troublsome, I
agreed to marry none at home, upon condition I married all y^t
came to his house." (Ashwell.)

" 28 Ap^l 1740. Henry Mercer, of Lusam, late of Abinger, in
Kent, Gent. Bat^r, & Jane Sparrow, Ditto, Wid^r, at Crumpton's.

(¹) Upon looking back to the 3d of July, the following entry appears interlined,
and which is, of course, a false entry.

" July 31, 1745. Joseph Garratt, Hatter, of St. James, W^r, & Mary Jackson,
Sp^r."

N.B. This last marriage was to be kept as a secret, the Lady having a joynture during the time she continued Wid^r."

No. 210. Ditto, from 1734 to 1738.

"Novb y^e 24, 1733, att y^e Baptizd hed Tavern to go to Mr. Gibbs for to marry him in y^e countrey.—Wife worth £18,000."

No. 212. Ditto, from 1744 to 1745.

"22 Aug^t 1744. Rob^t Parker, Labourer, of Yoel, in Surry, & Hannah Horton, of D^o B^t & Sp, at the Shepherd & Goat.

N.B. The officers of the Parish took y^e fellow up by Warrant to force him to marry her—vile behav'd."

"Sept^r 5, 1744. Andrew Mills, Gent. of the Temple, & Charlotte Gaillardry, of St. Mildred, Poultry, at Mr. Boyce's, King's Head. N.B. One gentleman came first in a merry manner to make a bargain wth the Minister for the marriage, and immediately came the parties themselves disguising their dress by contrivances particularly buttning up the coat, because the rich wastecoa should not be seen, &c."

"25 September 1744. Thomas Games, Carpenter, of St. Martin's in the Fields, & Lucy Hern, D^o B^t & Sp.

N.B. I examined them strickly, seeing a dirty fellow wth long beard, and was afraid it was done as a skreen fr^o Debt."

"December 4, 1744. Charlton Leighton, of the parish of Overburry, in Shropshire, Gent. (belonging to y^e Hon^{ble} Collonel Cotterel's Reg^t) B^t, & Anna Maria Mytton, of Conouer, in y^e same County, Gentlewoman, Spinster.

N.B. Two Gentlemen directed me to meet them at y^e Vine Tavern, Upper Turn Stile, Holborn. After waiting 2 hours a footman came & call'd me to another house below, after very stict examination, I proceeded to marry them as appears."

"May 2, 1745. John Harrowson, of the Duke Man of War, & Susannah Lawson, Sp. at Burnford's.

this s^d Harrowson swore most bitterly, & was pleas'd to say that he was fully determined to kill y^e Minister &c. y^t married him. N.B. He came from Gravesend, & was sober."

"26 Feb. 1745. Rob^t Tayler & Marg^t came into my own appartment, behav'd very rudely, swore sadly, oblig'd me to marry them for what they pleas'd for fear of my life, late at night, by the names above-mention'd."

“ June y^e 12th 1745. Challen Miller, Gent. of y^e parish of Horsham, in Sussex, Batch^r, & Elizabth Parham, of the same, Spinster.—N.B. A clergyman whose name was the Rev^d Mr. Cheynell came to the Fountain Tavern, on Ludgate Hill, & wanted a Minister to converse with, as then was pleas’d to say.—When I came to him it was to goe with him to the Royal Oak, near Vauxhall, to marry a couple, viz. Miller, which he said he would have done it himself but was apprehensive he might offend some Friends, he himself living in y^e neighbourhood, but he would stand Father, and accordingly Did Do so.”

EXTRACTS FROM SOME OF THE POCKET-BOOKS.

“ Nov^r 1741, 5th. John King, of St. Paul’s, Covent Garden, Carpenter, B. Diana Nicholson, Do. Sp.—Done at his house, Maiden Lane, she sick in bed.”

1737. Temple West, Gent. & Frances Balchen, “ not to be registered in y^e yearly Book.”

“ April 14, 1737. W^m Evrett & Sarah Brunell, ‘ at my Shoemakers.’ ”

“ Aug. 14, 1718. Offer’d 5 guineas to enter Walter Borthwick, of Waltham Stone, Gent: Ann Sharpless, D^o. B. Sp.—Feb. 4, 1714.”

“ Hary Porter, Higler at Leadenhall Market, married by a rong name to draw him.”

“ April 18, 1745. R^d Humphris, of St. James’s, Grosvenor Sq. B. & Elizth Greenwood, of St. James’s, Clerkenwell, Wd^r.
in a cellar under the Fountain.” J. G.

“ Ganderwaine, of Woolwich, a man of note, and brings weddings to y^e Fleet, Sailors, &c.”

NAMES OF SOME OF THE PERSONS MARRIED AT THE FLEET.

B. Bachelor.—S. Spinster.—W. Widower, Widow.—Ditto, same parish as the Husband.

1724 May 6. Right Hon. Edward Lord Abergavenny, and Cath. Tatton, B and S.

1740 April 17. Jn^o Acton, Furnivalls Inn, Gent. and Ann Barker, St. Andrew’s Holborn, S.

- 1747 Feb. 2. Thomas Adams, Gent. Aldingham, Herts, and Sarah Howard, W and W.
- 1714 Feb. 6. Matthew Addams, Gent. and Eliz. Warberton, St. Giles's, B and S.
- 1750 Oct. 14 Lewis Augustus Alexander, of Tooting, B. and Gent. and Ann Dines of same, S.
- 1732 July 15. Matthew Appleford, Gent. Duke of Bolton's Horse, and Jane Lee, Aylesbury, B and S.
- 1746 June 22. James Archibald, Gent. Waltham Abbey, and Mary King, B and S.
- 1740 Nov. 1. Peter Ashenhurst, Gent. 1st Reg^t Foot, and Elizabeth Isham, of Aldgate, B and W.
- 1747 March 18. Wm Bartley, Gent. and Susannah Church, B and S.
- 1742 July 5. Chambers Bate, Gent. Foston, Derbyshire, and Ann Frye, of Anmey, Gloucestershire, S.
- 1742 May 23. Francis Bailly, Gent. St. James's, and Elizabeth Farrer, ditto, B and S.
- 1748 Jan. 9. John Bailly, Gent. St. George's Hanover Square, and Ann Standrod, B and S.
- 1754 March 25. Charles Bailey, Gent. St. Martin's Westminster, and Ann Rives, B and S.
- 1743 Sept. 22. Thomas Bamfield, Esq. Chelsea, and Elizabeth Coplestone, Old Windsor, B and S.
- 1736 April 28. Joseph Bampton, Gent. of Cheney, Bucks, and Mary Combs, W and W.
- 1731 Jan. 20. Daniel Barker, Lewston, Bedfordshire, Gent. and Ann Barker, Ditto, B and S.
- 1748 Oct. 3. Thomas Bartlett, Gent. Reading, and Mary Peel, B and W.
- 1741 April 21. R^d Thomas Barrington, of Herefordshire, and Esther Rigway, Stafport, Cheshire, B and W.
- 1749 Feb. 3. Æneas Baynes, Gent. of St. James's, and Isabella Elwes, B and S.
- 1736 Nov. 19. Isaac Beaufills, of St. Antholins, Gent. and Rache De-la-Cart, B and S.
- 1741 April 6. David Becellor, Surgeon, St. Andrew's Holborn, and Sarah Parker, Ditto, S.
- 1735 June 29. Isaac Beeke, Gent. of St. George's Hanover Square, and Christian Walker, B and S.

- 1735 Oct. 12. Ephraim Bell, Gent. Inner Temple, and Frances Harrison, B and S.
- 1743 Aug. 16. Thomas Bellamy, Gent. Kingstone, Surrey, and Ann Lomax, of St. Albans, B and S.
- 1742 Oct. 19. Capell Berrow, Clerk, Aldersgate, and Eliz. Smith, B and S.
- 1737 May 25. Jn^o Evans Bewley, Gent. St. Clement Danes, and Eliz. Miller, St. Giles Fields, B and W.
- 1745 Jan. 9. Thomas Biggs, Gent. Horse Guards, and Elizabeth Roden, B and W.
- 1745 Aug. 10. Robert Bird, Gent. of St. George's Bloomsbury, and Eliz. Roberts, of Ditto, B and S.
- 1749 June 15. Joseph Bissell, Gent. St. Peters Oxon: and Sarah Cowper, Worcestershire, B and S.
- 1742 June 15. Phillip Blinch, Gent. Bidiford, Devon, and Elizabeth Gery, Northampton, B and S.
- 1744 Dec. 26. Sir John Bloy, of St. Gregorys, Feltmaker, B. and Ann Moore, of St. Olaves, Surrey.
- 1742 Nov. 7. Thomas Boadish, St. Andrew's Holborn, Gent. and Carew Tate, St. Paul Covent Garden, W and S.
- 1746 July 26. Joseph Bonquett, Gent. Aldgate, and Elizabeth Elves, B and S.
- 1754 March 16. Montagu Borman, St. Michael Cornhill, Gent. and Eliz. Short, Hampstead, B and S.
- 1742 Oct. 4. William Bowers, Gent. Sherborne, Oxon. and Sarah Holt, B and S.
- 1746 Feb. 9. Jessup Boughton, Gent. of Huntingdon, and Eliz. Wix, of St. James's, B and S.
- 1729 Jan. 20. "The Honourable John Bourke Esq." of Great Ormond St. and Catherine Hamilton, W.
- 1751 June 13. George Bowles, Gent. of St. James's, and Mary Vandryck, of Kensington, B and S.
- 1741 April 5. Robt. Brabant, of Blandford, Dorset, Gent. and Eliz. Lawrence, of Buckland, in Do. B and S.
- 1741 Dec. 2. Thomas Bradley, Gent. Horse Grenadiers, and Mary Bedford, Hemel Hempstead, B and S.
- 1736 June 22. Silas Bradshaw, Gent. and Mary Fere, both of St. Margaret's Westminster, W and S.

- 1737 Feb. 2. Wm. Bray, Gent. St. Ann's Blackfriars, and Hannah Ward, St. James's Westminster.
- 1728 Feb. 18. Philip Brien, St. Giles Fields, Gent. and Barbara Salvell, ditto, W and W.
- 1739 Aug. 31. Jno. Brook, of Norwich, Gent. and Catherine Watson, of Ashby, Leicestershire, B and S.
- 1724 July 6. (') Jn° Brooke, Gent. St. Peter's, Norwich, and Catherine Watson, of Ashley, Leicester, B and S.
- 1740 Oct. 31. Peter Brooke, Gent. Cobham, Surrey, and Mary Godson, B and S.
- 1751 July 17. Edward Broom, Middle Temple, Gent. and Mary Maria Joyce, ditto, S.
- 1752 April 2. Christ. Browne, Esq. B. and Lydia Knight, S.
- 1736 April 10. Walter Bruce, Gent. Chatham, and Ann Short, Ditto, B and S.
- 1744 Jn° Burch, Gent. St. George's Southwark, and Ann Rowland, of ditto, B and S.
- 1744 Feb. 22. William Burnee, Gent. St. Martin's, and Susannah Stanley, B and S.
- 1735 Sept. 2. Richard Burgoyne, of Cornwall, Gent. and Ursula Eades, W and S.
- 1713 Aug. 23. Wm. Burgon, Gent. and Ann Johnson, of Covent Garden, B and S.
- 1742 Dec. 6. Richard Butler, Surgeon, Eastry, Kent, and Ann Wood, Woodnesborough, B and W.
- 1740 Oct. 20. Daniel Byrne, Gent. St. James's, and Mary Woolley, W and S.
- 1716 Nov. 12. Richard Doidge Callington, Esq. and Mary Manaton, of South Hill, B and S.
- 1747 June 22. Andrew Cameron, Gent. of Furness, and Sarah Mc Duggan, B and W.
- 1748 Aug. 2. Charles Campbell, Gent. of Suttonbenjar, Wiltshire, and Sarah Toms, B. and S.
- 1750 Feb. 18. John Carey, Gent. St. Martin's Fields, and Katherine Douglas, W and S.

(') Qu. If this marriage was not performed in 1739, and registered under that date, as well as under 1724? See note at page 51 on the practice of antedating.

- 1754 March 21. Wm. Carrington, Gent. Teverton, Salop, and Frances Holt, B and W.
- 1735 Nov. 13. William Chancellor, Gent. St. Margaret's Westminster, and Eliz. Kennedy, W and S.
- 1738 Aug. 24. Jn^o Chester, St. Paul's Covent Garden, and Eliz. Chester, ditto, B and S.
- 1720 Dec. 6. George Chapman, Gent. St. Margaret's Westminster, and Ann Park, ditto, B and W.
- 1744 Feb. 25. John Chetwood, Gent. Wellington, Somersetsh. and Susannah Kettleby, W and W.
- 1733 Jan. 16. Jn^o Church, Chemist, Lambeth, and Mary Faithfull, St. Clement Danes, W and S.
- 1738 Oct. 8. James Clayton, Gent. Chichester, and Ann Parker, Ditto, B and S.
- 1744 March 4. Jn^o Clayton, Esq. Hust, Berkshire, and Sarah Browning, St. Lawrence Waltham, B and S.
- 1747 Dec. 27. Robert Coker, Gent. of Cripplegate, and Ann Fowler, B and S.
- 1739 Sept. 10. Jn^o Coleman, Gent. Holborn, and Mary Terry, Chigwell, B and S.
- 1740 May 19. Edw. Compton, St. Luke's Middlesex, Gent. and Mary Young, ditto, W and S.
- 1718 May 13. Col. Thomas Condon, 1st Regt. Guards, and Elizabeth Mellish, of St. James's, B and S.
- 1737 Jan. 19. Jno. Coningham, of St. James's Gent. and Mary Crafts, ditto, B and S.
- 1749 Feb. 25. Peirce Cook, Gent. St. James's, and Elizabeth Rachel Newman, B and S.
- 1743 July 30. Jn^o Conyer, Gent. St. James's West: and Sarah Wood, St. Andrew's Holborn, B and S.
- 1732 Aug. 23. Jn^o Cope, Gent. and Susannah Clarke, both of Clapham, W and S.
- 1750 June 10. Jn^o Copley, Gent. St. Dunstan's East, and Hannah Simkins, B and S.
- 1734 Jan. 14. Thomas Cornelious, St. Mary Rotherhithe, Gent. and Hester Green, B and S.
- 1751 April 23. Archelaus Courtany, Gent. of Chelsea, and Grace Annett, W.
- 173- Jan 28. Hercules Courteney, Esq. St. James's Westminster, and Margaret Drysdale, ditto, S.

- 1738 Jan. 4. Samuel Cox, of St. George's Hanover Square, Gent. and Rosamond Friend, B and S.
- 1746 Aug. 11. James Crumpton, Gent. of the Light Horse, and Mary Caruthus, of Iver, B and S.
- 1738 Jan. 9. John Cullen, St. Peter's Canterbury, Gent. and Ann Morgan, St. Andrew's, ditto, B and S.
- 1736 April 14. Tempest Culliford, Gent. of Chelsea, and Elizabeth Day, B and S.
- 1737 June 11. Wm. Cundell, Gent. St. Bride's, and Sarah Bathe, St. Martin in the Fields, W and S.
- 1748 Feb. 11. Alexander Currie, Gent. St. James, and Elizabeth Edwards, W and S.
- 1743 Sept. 27. George Daniel, Gent. Westminster, and Sarah Jones, B and S.
- 1738 Aug. 21. Nicolas Urbain Guillou Darmenonville, St. Ann's Westminster, Gent. and Marsanne Conche, of ditto, B and S.
- 1732 Jan. 22. Sherrington Davenport, Esq. Davenport House, Salop, and Gratiana Rodd, Hereford, S.
- 1749 Sept. 9. Thomas Davidson, Gent. of Ealing, and Sarah Fisher, St. George's Bloomsbury, B and S.
- 1743 Oct. 26. Ab^m Davis, Gent. Falmouth, and Grace Lewis, B and S.
- 1752 April 17. John Dawes, Esq. Tunbridge Wells, and Lydia Clark, S.
- 1743 July 23. Jn^o Baptist Delacormetiere, Gent. Walthamstow, and Jane Neftell, B and W.
- 1736 Aug. 23. D^r Franciscus Alius Delamar, St. Anne's Westminster, and Mary June, ditto, B and S.
- 1744 Oct. 29. Elias Phillip Delaporte, Gent. St. Andrew's, and Catherine Deveil, B and S.
- 1742 Nov. 4. Jn^o Christ^f. Vequetin Delutz, St. James's, Gent. and Rose Cath. Roquin, Ditto, B and S.
- 1718 July 30. "Thomas Deverock's" Esq. and the Lady Eliz. Johnes, B and S.
- 1751 Sept. 18. George Devenport, Esq. and Salle Knight, S.
- 1736 June 25. Andrew Dillon, Gent. St. Martin's Fields, and Ann Corbs, St. Giles Fields, B and W.
- 1747 Nov. 21. Thomas Disen, Gent. Marylebone, and Mary Holmes, B and S.

- 1717 Sept. 16. John Duer, Esq. St. James's Westminster, and Elizabeth Eyre, St. Clement's, B and S.
- 1742 Aug. 26. Carey Elwes, Gent. Isleworth, and Esther Ewer, Richmond, B and S. (£7. 17s. 6d.)
- 1754 March 19. Wm English, Gent. St. Margaret's West: and Ann Saunders, St. George's Hanover Sq. B and S.
- 1735 Oct. 13. Jn^o Evans, Gent. St. George's Hanover Square, and Mary Thompson, Ditto, W and S.
- 1736 May 11. Robt. Fabian, Gent. West^r. and Sarah Edwards.
- 1747 March 15. R^d Fanshires, Gent. St. Giles, and Ann Poynton, B and S.
- 1743 Sept. 11. James Farquharson, Marybone, Gent. and Susannah Watts, St. James's, B and W.
- 1743 March 13. Thomas Fazakerley, Gent. and Eliz. Marshall, S.
- 1743 Sept. 24. Edward Finch, Gent. Watford, and Sarah Clark, ditto, B and S.
- 1722 Sept. 21. Jn^o Fitzpatrick, Gent. and Eliz. Lovett, B and S.
- 1718 Aug. 10. Maurice Fitz-Gerald, Gent. St. James's, and Mary Whitfield, St. Martin's, B and S.
- 1749 April 17. Garret Fitzgerald, Gent. of St. Andrew's, and Mary Stilingfleet, B and W.
- 1744 May 3. The Hon. H. Fox, B. and Lady Caroline Lenox, S.
- 1736 Sept. 3. Nicholas Ambrose French, Covent Garden, Gent. and Mary Tonman, ditto, B and W.
- 1743 Nov. 3. Alex. Gardener, M.A., Corpus Christi College, Ox. and Sarah Norman, St. George's Hanover Sq. W and S.
- 1718 March 30. John Gilbert, Esq. of Abergavenny, and Susanna Gower, ditto, W and S.
- 1743 Oct. 15. Archibald Gillon, Gent. St. James's, and Ruth Jackson, Ditto, B and S.
- 1745 Oct. 1. Thomas Godfrey, Gent. Great Parndon, Essex, and Sarah Benton, Epping, B and S.
- 1741 April 1. Samuel Gordon, Surgeon, St. James's, and Eliz. Bradford, Ditto, S.
- 1729 March 2. John Gordon, Esq. Westminster, and Barbara Raynes, Greenwich, B and S.
- 1734 March 7. Edmund Grantham, Gent. Harrow-on-the-Hill, and Rebecca Annesley, Ditto, B and S.

- 1722 July 24. Bevill Granville, Gent. St. James's, and Mary Rose, Weedon, Buckinghamshire.
- 1742 Jan. 14. William Gray, Gent. St. James's, and Mary Watson, B and S.
- 1740 The Honourable John Graydon, and Kasandra Tahourdin.
- 1724 Nov. 27. Marmaduke Gresham, Knight and Bart. of Limpfield, and _____
- 1717 Sept. 10. Walter Griffith, Bachelor of Laws, and Euphany St. John of St. James's, B and S.
- 1746 March 12. Alexander Grimaldi, Painter, and Esther Barton, W and S. (¹)
- 1751 July 1. Samuel Grove, Gent. of Norwich, and Mary Carpenter, of Attelborough, B and S.
- 1717 Sept. 5. Marmaduke Gwinn, Glamorganshire, Gent. and Elizabeth Jones, Breconsire, B and S.
- 1734 Feb. 17. Richard Gyles, Gent. St. Martin's Fields, and Ann Howitt, St. Margaret's West. B and S.
- 1744 Feb. 29. Ab^m Hagneaus, Gent. of Leyden, Holland, and Anna Christ^a. Frederica Van Renesse, B & S.
- 1742 Jan. 2. Nehemiah Hammond, Gent. Wilsdon, and Phillis Hyde, W and W.
- 1742 Aug. 9. John Hampton, Gent. and Mary Tipping.
- 1746 Feb. 9. John Harmston, Gent. St. Clement Danes, and Mary Lisle, ditto, B and S.
- 1742 Jan. 6. James Hart, of Winglesham, Surry, and Ann Pusey, B and S.
- 1751 Sept. 18. Jacob Hartman, Bart: and Elizabeth Hollis, S.
- 1727 Jan. 2. William Hastings, Gent. St. Margaret's West: and Elizabeth Stevenson, ditto, B and S.
- 1742 March 30. William Hayward, Gent. Marylebone, and Penelope Hughes, B and S.
- 1747 Oct. 10. John Hedges, Gent. from Wilts, and Dorothy Butler, B and S.

(¹) This marriage was for many years sought for in vain ; the author's examination of these Registers accidentally discovered it. Mr. Grimaldi was the grandfather of Stacey Grimaldi, Esq. F.S.A. author of the "Origines Genealogicæ." He was an artist, and died in 1800, aged 86. See Pedigree in the College of Arms. Register 12 D. 14.

- 1745 Nov. 22. Aaron Henshaw, St. Margaret Westminster, and Eliz. Arnold, B and S.
- 1724 May 5. Jn^o Hele, Esq. Middle Temple, and Phillippa Jordan, Charlwood, B and S.
- 1744 March 10. James Hering, Gent. St. Margaret's Westminster, and Mary Wilson, ditto, S.
- 1748 Sept. 27. Robert Hills, Gent. Shoreham, Kent, and Hannah Sunnix, B and S.
- 1746 Jan. 5. Wm. Hollistar, Gent. St. George's Bloomsbury, and Love Golledge, B and S.
- 1741 Jan. 5. Wheeler Holt, Gent. of Cambrose, Pembrokesk. and Frances Ward, St. James's, B and S.
- 1738 June 3. Francis Hopkins, of Stevenson, Berks. Gent. and Sarah Leakey, of Woolwich, B and W.
- 1754 March 25. Philip Horne, Gent. St. Margaret's Westminster, and Ann Turner, B and S.
- 1732 Dec. 28. Collin Hossack, M.D. St. James's West. and Abigail Abbett, of St. Clement Danes, B and S.
- 1751 May 3. John Howard, Gent. St. James's Westminster, and Eliz. Frevil, ditto, Widow.
- 1749 April 28. Benjamin Howes, Gent. of Chalbury, Oxon, and Eliz. Gardiner, B and W.
- 1741 Nov. 27. John Howlett, Gent. St. James's, and Hannah Walton, B and S.
- 1737 Feb. 9. Wm. Hume, St. Andrew's Holborn, Gent. and Sarah Davis, ditto, W and W.
- 1753 Dec. 24. John Humphrys, Gent. of St. Clement Danes, and Eliz. Monson, B and S.
- 1742 Nov. 9. Sumner Hutton, Gent. Deptford, and Ann Mead, B and S.
- 1736 April 14. James Inns, Gent. Andover, and Eliz. Kemm, B and S.
- 1729 Sept. 17. John Ivey, Gent. Mitcheldever, Hants. and Mary Hitterley, St. Giles Cripplegate, B and W.
- 1719 June 6. "Joseph Jackson, Clergyman, &c." Esther Curtis, B and W.
- 1734 May 12. Jas. Lewis James, St. Kanthavy Crairs, Cardigan, and Susannah Lloyd, Istrad, Ditto, B and S.
- 1744 Dec. 15. Noah James, Esq. St. George's Hanover Square, and Elizabeth Bearcroft, ditto, W and S.

- 1715 Nov. 20. William Johnston, Lord Marquess of Annandale, and Charlotta Vanlore Vanden Bempden, W and S.
- 1717 Sep. 4. Charles Jones, Hatfield, Esq. Anna Maria Gower, St. James's, B and S.
- 1737 Sept. 18. John Jones, Gent. and Eliz. Fothergill, both of Barking, Essex, B and S.
- 1728 Oct. 1. Walter Jordan, Gent. St. James's West: and Ann Pitchford, of St. Martin's Fields, B and S.
- 1735 Nov. 5. John Kelley, Esq. Inner Temple, and Mary Boucher, W and W.
- 1746 Abel Johnson Ketelbey, Esq. St. Dunstan's Westminster, and Margretta Farquharson, of St. Martin's, B and S.
- 1709 Oct. 19. Wm Kinaston, Inner Temple, Barrister, and Dorothy Taylour, St. Andrew's, Holborn, B and S.
- 1747 March 17. William King, Gent. Bishopgate, and Catherine Meads, B and S.
- 1727 June 24. Wm. Kingsley, Esq. Maidstone, and Jane Littleton, of North Uckington, Essex, B and S.
- 1735 Nov. 8. John Kyrwood, Esq. of Hanover Square, and Constant Walpole, B and W.
- 1750 Dec. 27. John Ladyman, Gent. of St. James's, and Margaret Atkinson, B and S.
- 1745 Aug. 12. Thomas Langley, Esq. Upton, Bucks, and Mary Wright, W and S.
- 1748 July 17. Samuel Featherstone Leigh, Gent. of Packwood, Warwickshire, and Jane Vivian, of St. Luke's, B and W.
- 1736 Aug. 14. Thomas Leigh, Gent. St. Clement Danes, and Ann Kennedy, B and S.
- 1744 Dec. 4. Charlton Leighton, Gent. Overbury, Salop, (Colonell's Regiment,) and Anna Maria Mytton, Conover, B and S.
- 1737 Sept. 18. William Lemmon, of St. James's West. Gent. and Anna Maria Garetta Brett, ditto, B and S.
- 1731 Dec. 28. Paul Lethellier, Haberdasher, Aldgate, and Sarah Wright, Ditto, S.
- 1746 Jan. 5. Thomas Lever, Gent. of Bolton, Lancashire, and Margaret Lathon, W and W.

- 1738 July 9. Thos. Littleton, of St. Margaret's West. Gent. and Francisca Maria Aangier, of ditto, B. and S.
- 1740 Oct. 24. "Gwin Lloyd, of Hendor, Merinothshire, Esq. and Eliz^a Taylor, of St. James's, West^m B and S."
- 1740 Nov. 16. George Long, Gent. Westham, Essex, and Mary Staymaker, of ditto, B and W.
- 1744 Jan. 12. Nicholas Low, Gent. St. Mary-le-Strand, and Grace Cramar, Hanover Square, B. and S.
- 1754 Feb. 2. Samuel Luke, Gent. Lincoln's Inn, and Mary Jones, ditto, B and S.
- 1736 Aug. 27. Stephen Lushington, Gent. Sittingborn, Kent, and Mary Marsh, B and S.
- 1751 Nov. 11. Benj. Lynn, Gent. Richmond, Yorksh. and Marg. Felguerolles of Ashly, Suffolk, B and W.
- 1744 Jan. 10. Wm Berkeley Lyon, Gent. St. George's Hanover Sq. and Cath. Bridges, ditto, B and S
- 1742 Aug. 7. William Macbean, of Marylebone, Gent. and Margaret Robinson, B and S.
- 1742 July 31. Daniel Macbean, of the Guards, Gent. and Mary Lyon, B and W.
- 1736 July 19. Jn^o Manninge, of Oundle, Gent. and Sarah Franks B and S.
- 1740 Hon. Captain Francis Martin, and Mary Bruce.
- 1743 Feb. 5. Jn^o Martin, Apothecary, Maidstone, and Margaret Daylins, Ditto, B and W.
- 1742 Aug. 11. Edmund Martin, Gent. of Covent Garden, and Elizabeth Fitzgerald, B and S.
- 1743 March 3. Robert Martin, Oxford, Gent. and Ann Bertey, of St. James Westminster, B and S.
- 1742 Aug. 22. Gaston Martineau, Gent. St. George's Middlesex, and Mary Iles, B and W.
- 1749 Aug. 20. Samuel May, Gent. Shoreham, Kent, and Sarah Russell, B and S.
- 1742 Aug. 16. Joseph Mazelier, Gent. St. James's, and Anna Duportail, B and S.
- 1722 June 12. William Meredith, Clergyman, and Maria Pickup, of St. James's, W. and S.
- 1737 March 27. Wm. Merrick, Gent. St. Martin's, and Catherine Capper, Ditto, S.

- 1732 Oct. 12. Jn^o Mills, Attorney, and Margaret Lawley, both of St. Dunstan's West, B and W.
- 1735 April 3. Robert Montagu, of Grosvenor Square, and "Miss Parriett Dunch," B and S.
- 1742 Sept. 11. Slaney Moreton, Gent. of Birmingham, and Elizabeth Branwood, B and S.
- 1737 Oct. 4. John Buridge Morton, St. Catherine's, Gent. and Sarah Johnson, ditto, B and S.
- 1738 June 13. Anthony Morgan, Gent. St. Clements, and Lettice Evans, Ditto, B and S.
- 1742 Nov. 4. George Morison Esq., Inner Temple, and Christian Stewart, S.
- 1709 Aug. 20. Charles Murrey, a captain in Col. Hamilton's Regiment, and Ann Maria Norah Calvert, St. Dunstan's West, B and W.
- 1729 Feb. 2. Jn^o Murrey, Gent. St. George's Hanover Square, and Eliz. Burges, of Elverton, Hants, S.
- 1749 Dec. 7. Wm. Myers, Gent. of Stapleford Abbott, and Ann Goodin, B and W.
- 1746 Aug. 30. David Nash, Gent. Horse Guards, and Sarah Willett, St. James, B and S.
- 1718 May 5. Ægidius Nosemans, Esq. of Bishopgate, and Maria Van Duijve, B and S.
- 1737 Sept. 14. Neal O'Neal, of St. Giles's Fields, Gent. and Mary Marshal, B and W.
- 1737 Dec. 13. Charles Parsons, Gent. of South Harting, Sussex, and Mary Edes, B and S.
- 1716 Dec. 1. Daniel Paul, St. James's, Captain Horse Guards, and Eliz. Murray, B and S.
- 1739 Feb. 17. William Peache, Gent. Shipton, Gloucestershire, and Mary Baldwin, ditto, B and S.
- 1720 March 3. William Peirs, Esq. M. P. for Wells, and Mary Ives, St. Martin's Fields, W and S.
- 1741 Dec. 26. Peter Pelle, Gent. St. George's Hanover Square, and Jemima Zimmerman, B and S.
- 1737 Jan. 19. Thomas Pett, Gent. Wye, Kent, and Mary Finmore, of North Hincksey, Berkshire, B and S.
- 1739 Jan. 26. Craven Peyton, Nutfield, Surry, Gent. and Eliz. Farncombe, ditto, S.

- 1718 Sept. 25. William Phipps, St. Andrew's Holborn, Esq. and Lady Catherine Annisley, of Stoke Pogis, Buckinghamshire, B and S.
- 1730 Jan. 20. John Pigott, St. Martin Orgars, and Constantia Maria Burgoyne, St. Martin's Fields, S.
- 1746 Jan. 5. John Porter, Gent. Hackney, and Mary Tubb, Ditto, B and S.
- 1748 July 14. Richard Potinger, of Chertsey, Esq. and Ann Weaver of Odiam.
- 1734 Aug. 21. Francis Poultney, Gent. St. Paul's Covent Gar. and Jane Griffiths, St. Martin's Fields, B & S.
- 1750 Nov. 5. Russ Caleb Powell, Gent. of St. Andrew's Holborn, and Sarah Mortimer, B and S.
- 1738 Sept. 30. Thomas Prendergast, Baronet, and Ann Williams, St. Andrew's Holborn, B and S.
- 1724 Oct. 26. George Purdon, Esq. St. Clement Danes, and Mary Purdon, Sp. of St. Giles-in-the-Fields.
- 1748 April 20. Rowland Sherman Quarrington, Gent. Emsted, Gloucest. and Julian Parker, St. James's, B and S.
- 1731 Oct. 14. Jn^o Rands, St. Margaret's Westminster, Gent. and Mary Green, Ditto, B and S.
- 1752 March 31. Thomas Ravenscroft, Gent. Devenham, Cheshire, and Margaret Broady, of Rosthrew, W and S.
- 1748 Sept. 11. Edward Read, Clerk, of Alfrick, Worcestershire, and Mary Parsons, W and W.
- 1751 June 7. Thomas Redshaw, Gent. Knaresborough, Yorkshire, and Martha Gould, St. Margaret's Westminster, W and S.
- 1743 April 18. George Roberts, Gent. Nottinghamshire, and Mary Worth, B and W.
- 1717 Sept. 11. Christopher Rodd, Esq. Sutton, Herts. and Catherine Powell, of Cripplegate, B and W.
- 1731 May 8. Thomas Rolte, Gent. St. Giles Fields, and Ann Calvert, St. Andrew's Holborn, B and S.
- 1744 Aug. 6. John Rose, Esq. Kingston, Surry, and Sarah Curtis, of Maltsey, B and S.
- 1736 Nov. 27. Wm. Russel, Gent. of St. Martin's, and Eliz. Dormore, W and W.

- 1747 June 6. Samuel Ryder, Gent. St. Margaret Westminster, and Ann Edwards, B and S.
- 1737 Sept. 18. William Sacheverell, Esq. and Ann Robinson, both of St. John's Westminster, B and S.
- 1725 May 25. Thomas Salt of Stafford Town, Burgess, and Elizabeth Parry, B and S.
- 1742 Sept. 5. Willam Sandys, Gent. St. Andrew's Holborn, and Ann Long, W and S.
- 1723 June 28. James Scott, Gent. St. Margaret's West. and Eliz. Waldegrave, of St. Julian's Norwich.
- 1720 March 12. Wm Shaw, Esq. Cheshunt, and Eliz. Blandy, of Inglewood, parish of Kinsbury, Berks. B and S.
- 1745 Nov. 20. Richard Shillitoe, Gent. St. Andrew's Holborn, and Frances Benson, of St. James's, B and S.
- 1736 Aug. 19. Henry Sidney, of St. Margaret's, West. Gent. and Ann Bellingham, ditto, B and W.
- 1736 Oct. 2. Richard Silvester, Greenhithe, Swanscombe, Kent, Gent. and Anna Maria Pawlett, St. Martin's in the Fields, B and W.
- 1744 Jan. 17. Ralph Simpson, Gent. St. James's, and Sarah Roberts, B and W.
- 1753 Sept. 22. Redmond Simpson, Gent. of St. Ann's Westminster, and Eliz. Dubourg, Ditto, B and S.
- 1746 July 26. Robert Sloane, Gent. of the "Horse of Legonier's Regiment," and Hannah Mason, B and S.
- 1727 Nov. 13. William Sloper, Esq. St. James's, and Katherine Hunter, Downing Street, B and S.
- 1731 Jan. 11. Robert Smith, Gent. Egham, Surrey, and Elizabeth Clemson, Ditto, B and S.
- 1740 Oct. 31. William Smith, Gent. of Mary-le-Bow, and Jane Smith, of Knowle, Warwickshire, B and S.
- 1744 March 7. Leonard Smelt, Gent. Kirby, Yorkshire, and Jane Campbell, B and S.
- 1738 July 25. Abell Stibbs, of Inner Temple, Gent. and Sarah Waller, St. George Queen Square, W and S.
- 1718 Nov. 28. James St. John, of St. James's, Esq. and Anna Magdalena Rockwell, ditto, W and S.
- 1718 Dec. 21. Andrew St. John, Worcester, Esq. and Elizabeth Maxsdon, ditto, W and W.

- 1717 July 13. William St. John, Wiltshire, Gent. and Mary Atkinson, of Gloucester, B and S.
- 1717 Nov. 15. Christopher St. John, Esq. Gloucestershire, and Anne Stephens of St. James's, B and S.
- 1729 Feb. 14. Ab^m St. Clear, Gent. St. Gregory's, and Sarah Sunderland, ditto, W and S.
- 1742 May 19. James Stonehouse, Gent. Coventry, and Ann Neale, B and S.
- 1739 Dec. 2. George Stoole, Gent. of the Life Guards, and Mary Gill, of St. James's, S.
- 1738 Nov. 30. Benjamin Storey, Gent. Horse Guards, and Frances Verycuk, of Marylebone, B and W.
- 1740 Jan. 12. R^d Styles, Esq. Hampstead, and Mary Tury, ditto, B and W.
- 1747 March 30. Jn^o Sutton, Gent. St. James's, and Jane Clarke, B and S.
- 1724 June 11. Thomas Talmash, St. Martin's, Gent. and Catherine Neurn of same.
- 1736 Aug. 6. Thomas Tayler, of St. James's Gent. and Mary Furrier, ditto, B and S.
- 1731 Sept. 23. Jn^o Taylor, St. Andrew's Undershaft, and Mary Green, Ditto, B and S.
- 1730 May 28. William Tew, Gent. St. Botolph's Bishopsgate, and Katherine Skeere, ditto, B and S.
- 1718 June 9. Dr. Benjamin Thornhill, and Eliz. Collyer of St. Pulchre's.
- 1716 April 5. George Toriano, of Westminster, Gent. and Dorothy Tatnall, B and S.
- 1746 Sept. 1. Henry Tounge, Gent. of the Horse, and Dorothy Oaks, B and S.
- 1751 July 24. George Townsend, Rochester, Gent. and B and Sarah Bright, ditto, S.
- 1743 Jan. 12. Thomas Treffry, Gent. of Fowey, Cornwall, and Anna Marshall, W and W.
- 1733 Jan. 23. Charles Trewit, Gent. and Christian Moody, both of St. Giles in the Fields, B and W.
- 1733 Dec. 30. John Twisleton, of St. James's, and Ann Gardner, B and S.
- 1751 Aug. 6. Lyonel Vane, Gent. St. George's Hanover Square, and Jane Ashbury, W and S.

- 1737 Nov. 28. Jn^o Jacob Vanzucker, Gent. and Margaret Leve Grotriaus, B and W.
- 1744 April 11. Anto^s Pizolato de Venetys, Gent. of New York, and Susannah Micklesfield, St. Botolph's Aldgate, B and S.
- 1739 Dec. 16. Jn^o Vernon, Gent. St. Clement Danes, and Mary Hodgson, St. Dunstan's West. B and S.
- 1718 May 8. John Vernon, Esq. St. James's, and Anne Lysson, of Hodsdon, B and S.
- 1736 July 26. John Violet, Gent. of Enfield, and Jane Wright, ditto, B and S.
- 1738 June 30. William Vivian, Camberwell, Gent. and Jane Ward, ditto, B and W.
- 1748 Oct. 25. John Wall, Gent. Epping, and Mary West, W and W.
- 1753 June 13. Thomas Walmsley, Gent. St. Helen's Bishopgate, and Rachel Lane, of St. John Baptist, Dowgate Hill, W and W.
- 1749 Jan. 3. Edward Warner, Gent. of Crundal, Hants, and Mary Mitchell, B and W. (£10. 10s. 0d.)
- 1718 Nov. 18. Jonathan Watson, St. James's, Esq. and Susanna Holland, St. Martin's Fields, W. and S.
- 1737 June 6. Temple West, of St. Martin's Fields, and Frances Balchen, St. Luke's, S.
- 1744 Jan. 26. Thomas Wharton, Gent. St. Andrew's, and Christian Harvey, W and S.
- 1741 Jan. 20. Jno^o Wheeler, Surgeon, Bridport, and Leonora Bingham, Sergeant's Inn, Fleet St. B and S.
- 1743 Nov. 14. Jn^o Whitby, Counsellor, and Ann Northey, St. Ann's Soho.
- 1735 March 31. Anthony Whiteing, Farmer, Adington, Kent, and Eliz. Luck, Banstead, Kent, B and S.
- 1748 Dec. 22. Richard Whittingham, Gent. of St. George's Grosvenor Square, and Mary Bludrick, W and W.
- 1741 Dec. 30. Sherley Wild, Gent. of St. Matthew's, and Elizabeth Sheley, B and S.
- 1746 June 10. Ed. Willett, of Whittingham, Sussex, Gent. and Mary Camfield, of Speldhurst, Kent, B and S.

- 1751 Aug. 5. Jonathan Wilde, Islington, Gent. and Sarah Young, ditto, B and S.
- 1717 July 13. Marmaduke Williams, London, Esq. and Penelope Mansfield, of Putney, B and S.
- 1730 June 30. William Williams, Esq. and Mary Sedgwick, St. Dunstan's West, B and S.
- 1739 April 17. Jn^o Woolfe, St. Bride's, Gent. and Mary Campbell, St. Martin's Fields, B and W.
- 1736 Dec. 25. John Woolastone, Gent. Greenwich, and Eliz. Jones, B and S.
- 1751 Sept. 28. Edward Wollstoncraft, of St. Botolph's, Esq. and W. and Mary Bird, ditto, S.
- 1735 Dec. 23. Robert Wright, Esq. Doctors' Commons, and Alice Roberts, B and W.
- 1737 June 11. Thomas Wright, Doctors' Commons, Gent. and Alice Wright, Ditto, B and W.
- 1751 Sept. 15. Wm. Wyatt, of Pool, Esq. and Anne Maria Day, S.
- 1746 Oct. 27. Wm. Wynne, of St. George's Hanover Sq. Gent. and Isabelle Walpoode of same, B and S.
- 1739 July 8. Florence Young, St. Giles's, and Charity Jackson, B and S.

CHAPTER V.

THE FLEET REGISTERS AS EVIDENCE.

DURING the period in which marriages were solemnized in the Fleet, there occurred frequent Indictments for Bigamy, the temptations of expedition, and the arts employed to entrap the unwary, being great inducements to this crime.

In nearly the whole of these indictments, the proof of marriage was not only by production of the Fleet books, but by collateral evidence. If in the absence of a register credible evidence was adduced of a marriage at the Fleet, such evidence was accepted, and the circumstance of its being a Fleet marriage was no objection. The objections, as will presently be seen, were to the disreputable witnesses who were continually offered to prove the marriage, and from the notorious practice which existed of making false entries in the Registers. At a later period, however, exception was taken to the Registers themselves, as not being (even if correctly and honestly kept) any more than private memoranda by a person without authority. This seems to be a warrantable exception, since these Registers were kept at a time when a mere acknowledgment and declaration, before witnesses, were sufficient to constitute a marriage, without the intervention of a religious ceremony; and these books were clearly not to be taken on the *same* footing as a parish register, containing an entry of marriage made *in facie Ecclesie*, and recorded by an authorized clergyman, as an act of religious ceremony and not of civil contract.

In one or two instances the books were altogether refused, even as collateral evidence. In the case of Mary Lutwich, indicted in 1740 for bigamy, the following deposition is reported to have taken place.

“*Mr. Crosier.*—I keep the Hoop and Bunch of Grapes, Holborn Bridge; we have had many a score of marriages at our house in a

year. (Produces the book.) Here is the Book, the Minister put it down." (The Court would not allow the book to be read, it being a Fleet Register.)

In 1732 a cause was decided in Doctors' Commons, where the Court decreed a party to have died a bachelor, although the parson who married the party swore to the fact, and the book containing the entry was produced. ⁽¹⁾

It is recorded that on the trial at York, in 1780, of the cause of Twistleton v. Cockshutt, Mr. Justice Willes received a Fleet Register as evidence.

The cause of Lawrence v. Dixon was tried on the 7th July 1792. Amongst other evidence, the plaintiffs produced (by a witness, who said he had purchased them,) the Fleet Books, where the marriage of Daniel Hall and Elizabeth Lawrence was entered to have been celebrated on the 7th May 1737. Lord Kenyon said he received this evidence with great doubt: there was a tradition in Westminster Hall, that when the books were produced before Lord Hardwicke, he would not receive them in evidence, but cut them to pieces in Court. After so great an authority had declared against them, his Lordship said he could not receive them without some hesitation, *but that he was inclined to*

(¹) This cause was between Mrs. Mary Storer, wife of Mr. Jude Storer, and sister of Mr. James Luff, a brewer at Westminster, deceased, and Mrs. Hannah Green, calling herself Luff, pretending to be the wife of the deceased, and that they were married in the Fleet. Their marriage appeared upon the Register, pretended to be kept in that place; the clergyman by whom it was pretended they had been married, swore that he had actually married them, and a woman swore that she was present at the marriage; but the Register books appearing to be very irregularly kept, and the witnesses disagreeing in some circumstances of their evidence, the Court did not think proper to give any credit to the proofs of the marriage, and therefore pronounced the deceased to have died a bachelor, and decreed Letters of Administration to the deceased's sister, he having died intestate. Which decree, it is to be hoped, will put a stop to that scandalous custom of people's going to the Fleet to be married. It is indeed seldom practised by persons of any character, unless it be when one of the parties has a settled purpose of betraying the other into a villainous snare, and therefore such marriages ought never to be supported by law but upon the most clear and convincing proofs."—*Political State of Great Britain for 1732.*

think that in a PEDIGREE CASE they were admissible, though by no means such evidence as ought to be favourably received.—Peake's N. P. Cases, 185.

In 1794 the cause of Roe on dem. of Passingham v. Lloyd and others, was tried at Shrewsbury, before Mr. Justice Heath. On which occasion Benjamin Panton, the proprietor of the Fleet books, proved his having been in the habit of attending Courts of Justice with these books, and that he never knew them refused. Mr. Justice Heath *received* the Fleet Registers in evidence of the marriage of Gwyn Lloyd and Elizabeth Taylor, but he was in some measure led to do so by the circumstance of the Pancras Register containing the baptism of Elizabeth Taylor's daughter as "the daughter of Gwyn and Elizabeth Lloyd," and also containing the burial of the mother by the name of Elizabeth Lloyd; it has been since proved that those two entries were forged. Upon the two subsequent trials of this question in 1826 and 1827, this forgery of the Pancras Register was clearly proved, (1) and the Fleet Register thereby lost its chief support, but had it been otherwise, the Fleet Register would not have been received.

A very few days after the admission of the Fleet books by Mr. Justice Heath at Shrewsbury, in 1794, the cause of Doe ex dem. Orrell v. Madox was tried at Maidstone, before Lord Chief Justice Kenyon. In this case a Register of Fleet marriages was *admitted* in evidence, but under the following protest. Lord Kenyon said he had admitted it, because other Judges had done so, but he desired that his having done so, should not be understood as thereby sanctioning their admission, nor should his authority be cited for the purpose in future, as he was of opinion that they were liable to many objections, that their authority was very doubtful, and therefore as a species of evidence of a suspicious and

(1) It is said that a man named Hendry forged this book. He was pursued in 1806, but escaped to America. Revett the officer found he had embarked from Bristol a fortnight before his arrival. Hendry's wife told the plaintiff's attorney that the book was burnt.

exceptionable nature, he thought they ought not to be allowed. (1)

In December in the same year the cause of Reed v. Passer and others was tried in the Court of King's Bench, when Lord Kenyon said, "that in a case on the Home Circuit last summer, he had admitted such Registers as evidence; that though he had not then made up his mind concerning their admissibility, he *then* thought them a species of evidence of a very doubtful and dangerous nature; and had, in summing up, observed to that effect to the Jury. That in a late case at the last Shrewsbury assizes, they had been admitted by Mr. Justice Heath; but notwithstanding his respect for that learned Judge's opinion, he thought himself bound to dissent, and to give it as his settled opinion that they were a species of evidence which ought never to be admitted. In a case before Lord Hardwicke, where a book such as the present was offered in evidence, he tore the book, and said such evidence should never be admitted in a Court of Justice. That Lord Chief Justice De Grey had been of the same opinion. With respect to the entries in the books themselves, (continued Lord Kenyon,) they could be taken in no other point of view than as private memoranda, which were not evidence; that these entries were of less authority even than the private memoranda of third persons, inasmuch as they were made not only by third persons, but by persons who knew while they were doing them that they were illegal, and for which they were liable to punishment by the canons of the church." His Lordship therefore *totally rejected* them, as a species of evidence completely inadmissible.—(*Peake's Nisi Prius Cases*, 231.) The Times of Dec. 3rd, 1794, contains the following additional observations of his Lordship on this Case. "It has been observed this evidence has been received in the House of Lords;(2) I bow with great respect to the evidence received by that House when they sit as a court of *dernier*

(1) Tuesday, 12 Aug. 1794. (Esp. Nisi Prius Cases.)

(2) In the printed Case of the Barony of Say and Sele, in 1781, it is stated that John Twisleton, the claimant's father, was married to Ann Gardner, the claimant's mother, in 1733, at the Fleet prison, where marriages were at that time frequently celebrated. In this case a certificate of the marriage, in the hand-writing and sign-

resort. But now and then, upon other occasions, that great and august assembly may receive rather suspicious evidence. I wish the Fleet Registers were all ordered to be committed to the flames.⁽¹⁾ Questions of this sort are of the last importance. By the 26th Geo. II. the evidence of the fact of marriage is more easily obtained than it was before, when people wandered up and down the country marrying wherever they pleased. From that circumstance the evidence of marriage often became very obscure, and if evidence arising from cohabitation and reputation had not been received, hard would have been the condition of many respectable people. By the Marriage Act, it is not essential to the legality of a marriage that it should be registered, though the act makes it

ed by the then officiating Minister of the Fleet, was offered in evidence; but it does not appear whether it was admitted or not. The marriage was however allowed to be good.—(*Cruise on Dignities*, 273.) From an examination of the Minutes of the Committee of Privileges, it appears that the certificate of this marriage by Walter Wyatt, minister of the Fleet, was tendered; but there is not any statement to show that it was *admitted*; and it is clear that the Committee went into the examination of witnesses to prove the declaration of the parties, their cohabitation and reception in society as man and wife, the education of the children of the marriage, and their reputed legitimacy. It would therefore seem that the marriage was established by evidence of reputation, public declaration, the avowal of the parties themselves, and the strong recognition and declaration of the marriage by Mr. Twisleton in his will. The Author, moreover, has been favoured with the sight of a printed copy of the case of Col. Twisleton, on his claim in 1781, amongst some collections of the late Sir Isaac Heard, Garter, who was professionally engaged in the case, and present at the hearing before the Committee, on the back of which case he has made short notes of the evidence produced, where amongst others the following occurs:

“Wyatt Min^r of Fleet, certificate of marriage cannot be admitted in any Court of Justice.”

This strongly tends to show that the certificate was rejected, the proof of marriage resting upon the other circumstances. The register itself, though stated in the case to be ready for production, does not appear to have been offered.

In the case of *Twisleton v. Cockshutt*, p. 82, where this register was said to have been received by Mr. Justice Willes, it appears by the recitals in Col. Twisleton's case respecting that trial at York, that evidence by many other witnesses, as to repute and acknowledgment, was also given and received.

⁽¹⁾ It would have been a very unjustifiable and lamentable act to have destroyed the evidence (such as it is) of one or two hundred thousand marriages, together with a great number of baptisms, which are dispersed throughout the Fleet Registers; and the lawyer and antiquary cannot but commend the government which at length purchased and deposited them in safe custody.

penal in any clergyman to neglect it, and I hope it is very seldom omitted, as it adds to the solemnity of that important contract; cohabitation and reputation, however, are still evidence of marriage."

The cause of Cooke and another v. Lloyd was tried at the Salop Summer assizes in 1803, before Mr. Justice Le Blanc. The Fleet books were offered to prove the marriage of John Phillips and Mary Guess, on the 28th May 1747, and on Justice Le Blanc saying they were no evidence whatever, the defendant called a witness, who said that there being a question in the year 1761 as to this marriage, he examined these books, then in the possession of a man who said he was clerk to Mr. Dare, and that the entry then stood in the books, in the same state as it was now. *Justice Le Blanc*,—"This evidence carries the case no further; the witness had no knowledge of the fact but such as he derived from the books, which were no more evidence *then* than they are *now*. The entry is nothing more than a private memorandum, made by somebody who had no authority to make it, and who might put down anything he pleased whether true or false."—*Peake's Evidence, Appendix 80*.

In the cause of Lloyd and Passingham, in 1809, (16 Ves. 59.) Lord Chancellor Eldon said, "I give no opinion that the Fleet Register is evidence, as a Register. But I am not prepared to say it may not be received as evidence of a fact, and I can suppose a case in which such evidence might be received. Upon a question of pedigree, would not that entry be admitted, not as a Register, but as a declaration, under the hand of a party; or upon an indictment for bigamy, the first marriage alleged to have been in the Fleet, and evidence produced that uniformly an entry of marriage was made, would not the production or non-existence of such entry be evidence to the other fact?"

In 1826 the cause of Lloyd and Passingham was tried at Shrewsbury, before Mr. Justice Burrough and a special Jury. *Mr. Taunton*, in opening this case to the Jury, said, "There are curious anecdotes in all professions, and it is a curious circumstance that upon the occasion of the verdict in 1794, many weeks had not elapsed before a directly contrary

decision from that which Mr. Justice Heath had made in this cause at Shrewsbury, took place. I believe it was almost in the same week, the one cause was tried upon the Monday, and the other, I am told, was tried upon the Thursday in the same week, and the same Counsel were present; but it so happened that my Lord Kenyon, on the Home circuit, on the very Thursday afterwards, in a cause in which the then Mr. Erskine and the then Mr. Garrow were Counsel again on opposite sides before his Lordship, and on which occasion the same evidence of one of these supposed Fleet Registers was offered, my Lord Kenyon instantly rejected it." *The Attorney General*, (after noticing the admission of the books by Mr. Justice Heath,) observed "that they were received by another high and enlightened individual, rarely equalled in point of legal knowledge, never at any period surpassed. I mean by the celebrated Lord Hardwicke,⁽¹⁾ Lord Chief Justice, and afterwards Chancellor of this country. They were about the same period over and over again received upon the different circuits in this country." *Mr. Justice Burrough* told the Jury, that although it appeared the Fleet books were received in evidence on the former trial, he was of opinion, that they must not consider those books as evidence for their consideration *now*, for that in his judgment they were not admissible in evidence.

The cause of *Lloyd v. Evans* was tried at Shrewsbury in 1827, before Mr. Baron Vaughan. *Mr. Serjeant Russell*,—"I believe at this moment there is no decision of the Court in Banc upon the subject; but there are *Nisi Prins* decisions, in which learned Judges have refused to receive them, though I am still at a loss to understand the ground why they are to be refused altogether. I can understand why they should be refused to be received as a Register, with all the authenticity of a Parish Register. I am and ought to be entitled to give it in evidence as corroborative writing, to

⁽¹⁾ This is very improbable, for it was Lord Hardwicke who brought in the Marriage Act, and it was for some time called by his name; and it was Lord Hardwicke who even tore to pieces a Fleet Register, which was offered in evidence.

support the fact I am about to establish by other evidence.” *Mr. Baron Vaughan*,—“It is now clearly established, I take it, that these Registers are not evidence to authenticate any such marriage; it is known they have been the vehicles of fraud and abuse; they were never made with the same degree of care that the other documents were, but they were made by persons who assumed authority to second these transactions, and being made a very ill use of, and getting into very bad odour, the Judges of the land seem to have come unanimously of late to the conclusion that they are not even *receivable* in evidence, to say nothing of the question whether they should be submitted to a Jury for their consideration to determine upon their validity or not. It was said the Marriage Act⁽¹⁾ was introduced by Lord Hardwicke

(1) Since the Letters of Horace Walpole at pages 16, 17, and 18 have been at press, the author perceives that in his “Memoires of the last Ten years of the Reign of George II,” (4to. Murray 1822, p. 293,) he has given a connected account of the introduction and passing of the Marriage Act; but as some of the remarks it contains are comprised in his Letters already quoted, such portions only as afford further information or explanation are here extracted from the Memoirs.

“The session of parliament was languishing towards a conclusion, when a Bill sent down from the Lords to the Commons, and which had passed almost without notice through the former House, having been carried by an hundred Lords against the Duke of Bedford and eleven others, raised, or gave occasion to raise, extraordinary heats. This was the famous *Marriage Bill*. The Bill had been originally moved by my Lord Bath, who attending a Scotch cause was struck with the hardship of a matrimonial case, in which a man after a marriage of thirty years was claimed by another woman on a præcontract. The judges were ordered to frame a bill which should remedy so cruel a retrospect. They did, but drew it so ill, and it was three times printed so inaccurately, that the Chancellor was obliged to give it ample correction. Whether from mere partiality to an ordinance thus become his own, or whether in shaping a law new views of power opened to a mind, fond of power, fond of dictating; so it was that the Chancellor gave all his attention to a statute into which he had breathed the very spirit of aristocracy and insolent nobility.

“It was amazing in a country where liberty gives choice, where trade and money confer equality, and where facility of marriage had always been supposed to produce populousness,—it was amazing to see a law promulged, that cramped inclination, that discountenanced matrimony, and that seemed to annex as sacred privileges to birth, as could be devised in the proudest, poorest little Italian Principality; and as if the artificer had been a Teutonic Margrave, not a little lawyer, who had raised himself by his industry, from the very lees of the people; and who had matched his own blood with the great house of *Kent*! The abuse of præcontracts had occasioned the demand of a remedy—the physician immediately prescribes.

and the aristocracy of the time, to prevent young men upon a short acquaintance getting suddenly married; and I recollect one of Mr. Fox's great efforts on the Marriage Act was

medicines for every ailment to which the ceremony of marriage was or could be supposed liable! Publication of Banns was already an established ordinance, but totally in disuse except amongst the inferior people, who did not blush to obey the law. Persons of quality who proclaimed every other step of their conjugation by the most public parade, were ashamed to have the intention of it notified, and were constantly married by special licence. Unsuitable matches in a country where the passions are not impetuous, and where it is neither easy nor customary to tyrannize the inclinations of children, were by no means frequent: the most disproportioned alliances, those contracted by age, by dowagers, were without the scope of this Bill. Yet the new Act set out with a falsehood, declaiming against clandestine marriages as if they had been a frequent evil. The greatest abuse were the temporary weddings clapped up in the Fleet, and by one Keith, who had constructed a very bishoprick for revenue in May Fair, by performing that charitable function for a trifling sum, which the *poor* successors of the Apostles are seldom humble enough to perform out of duty. The new Bill enjoined indispensable publication of Banns, yet took away their validity, if parents, nay, if even guardians, signified their dissent where the parties should be under age—a very novel power; but guardians are a limb of Chancery! The Archbishop's licence was indeed reserved to him. A more arbitrary spirit was still behind; persons solemnizing marriages without these previous steps were sentenced to transportation, and the marriage was to be effectually null, so close did congenial law clip the wings of the prostrate priesthood. And as if such rigour did not sufficiently describe its fountain and its destination, it was expressly specified, that where a mother or a guardian should be *non compos*, resort might be had to the Chancellor himself for licence. Contracts and præcontracts, other flowers of ecclesiastical prerogative, were to be totally invalid, and their obligations abolished: and the gentle institution was wound up with the penalty of death for all forgeries in breach of this statute of modern Draco. Quakers, Jews, and the royal family had the only toleration.

“The next day the Committee finished without a division. Sir Richard Loyd, a lawyer who had spoken against the Bill, voted for it afterwards without assigning any reasons for his change of opinion. Captain Saunders, who had said that he would go and vote against the Bill, for the sake of the sailors, having once given forty of his crew leave to go on shore for an hour and all returned married, was compelled by Lord Anson, the Chancellor's son-in-law and his patron, to vote for it. Henley and the Solicitor-General declaring of the same words, the one, that they could not be made clearer, the other that they were as clear as the sun at noon day, though each gave a totally different interpretation of them, were well ridiculed by Fox; as a serious speech of Lord Egremont was with much humour, and not a little indecency by Nugent.

“June 4th. The Marriage Bill was read for the last time. Charles Townshend again opposed it with as much argument as before with wit. Mr. Fox with still more wit ridiculed it for an hour and half. Notwithstanding the Chancellor's obstinacy in maintaining it, and the care he had bestowed upon it, it was still so in-

in the part he took upon the debate, opposing the restrictions which by that Bill were imposed ; he said,

——— *tædæ quoque jure coissent ;*

Sed vetuère patres, quod non potuère vetare :

Ex æquo captis ardebant mentibus ambo :

lines likely to be quoted upon that occasion ; it was a matter of great controversy, but the Bill passed."

correct and so rigorous that its very bodyguards had been forced to make or to submit to many amendments : these were inserted in Mr. Fox's copy in red ink : the Solicitor General who sat near him as he was speaking, said ' How bloody it looks.' Fox took this up with spirit, and said, ' *Yes, but you cannot say I did it : look what a rent the learned Casca made, (this alluded to the Attorney ;) through this the well-beloved Brutus stabbed ;*' (Mr. Pelham.) However, he finished with earnest declarations of not having designed to abuse the Chancellor, and affirming that it was scandalous to pass the Bill ; but it was passed by 125 votes to 56.

" 6th. The bill being returned to the Lords, the amendments were read. The Duke of Bedford, who began to attack the whole bill, was obstructed by the Chancellor, who would have confined him to the mere amendments : but the Duke appealing to the House whether he might not argue against the face of the whole bill as it now stood, the Chancellor seemed to acquiesce : but the Duke not finding any disposition to support him, soon dropped the cause, objecting chiefly to the last clause on not extending the Act to foreign countries. The Chancellor replied, that he was sorry the clause was there, but the bill was too good to be lost, and might have much good engrafted on it hereafter.*

" At last rose the Chancellor ; not, as he has been represented(†) in the figure of *public Wisdom* speaking, but with all the acrimony of wounded pride, of detected ambition, and insolent authority. He read his speech ; not that he had written it to guard himself from indecency, or that he had feared to forget his thread of argument in the heat of personality ; he did not deign an argument, he did not attempt to defend a Bill so criticized. He seemed only to have methodized his malice, and noted down the passages where he was to resent, where to threaten. He introduced himself with just allowing conscience and candour to the Duke of Bedford ; but what he had to complain of had passed without those walls, and in another place. That, as to the young man, (Charles Townshend,) youth and parts require beauty and riches, flesh and blood inspire such thoughts, and therefore he excused him ; but men of riper years and graver, had opposed ; that the first, (the Speaker,) was a good, well-meaning man, but had been abused by words ; that another, (Fox,) dark, gloomy, and insidious genius, who was an engine of personality and faction, had been making connexions, and trying to form a party, but his designs had been seen through and defeated. That in this country you

(*) Yet no amendment was ever made in it, and all its clauses and faults supported by the utmost rigour of the power of Chancery.

(†) An expression of Lord Lyttelton on Lord Hardwicke.

From the current of opinions here expressed by Lord Chief Justice De Grey, by Lord Chief Justice Kenyon, Mr. Justice Le Blanc, Mr. Justice Burrough, and Mr. Baron Vaughan, it seems now to be clearly established that the books usually denominated the Fleet Registers are not receivable in evidence *as registers*, and that when tendered they will be rejected. The Cases wherein these Registers were admitted by Mr. Justice Willes in 1780, and by Mr. Justice Heath in 1794, cannot, in the face of subsequent and uniformly adverse decisions, be urged in their support. Their rejection seems founded upon sound principles of law and reason, since it is manifest that the Legislature had no control over the Fleet parsons, who made the entries when and as they pleased: sometimes inserting marriages which were solemnized under false dates, and sometimes recording entries of marriages which they never solemnized at all.

Still, however, the Fleet Registers do not appear deprived of *every* degree of authority, since Lord Kenyon was inclined to think that in a *Pedigree Case* ⁽¹⁾ they were admissible; and Lord Eldon was of opinion that in a *Pedigree Case*, or in an indictment for bigamy, they might be received, not as *Registers*, but as *Declarations*. If to this be added their utility, to the genealogist, in a point of view not strictly *legal*, they will yet remain a record, (extending over a period of nearly a century,) of considerable use and importance.

must govern by force or law; it was easy to know that person's principles, which were to govern by arbitrary force. That the King speaks through the Seals, and is represented by the Chancellor and the Judges in the Courts, where the Majesty of the King resides; that such attacks on the Chancellor and the law was flying in the face of the King; that this behaviour was not liked; that it had been taken up with dignity, and that the incendiary had been properly reprov'd; that this was not the way to popularity or favour, and that he could take upon him to say, that person knows so by this time; a beam of light had broken in upon him; but, (concluded he,) 'I despise his scurrility, as much as his adulation and retraction.' This *Philippic* over, the Bill passed."

(1) This inclination of opinion in favour of a *Pedigree Case* appears rather at variance with the prior decisions. The use to be made of these Registers is for proof of the fact of Marriage, a proof which might be requisite either in the case of a party claiming property of the father as his legitimate son or in the case of a party claiming it, in a remote degree through a long pedigree, and it is difficult to conceive how these Registers could be used, except for the proof of marriage.

CHAPTER VI.

MARRIAGES AT THE KING'S BENCH PRISON—MINT—SAVOY,
AND MAY FAIR.

THE same causes which induced people to marry clandestinely at the Fleet prison, no doubt operated with those who married at the KING'S BENCH prison, although from the latter prison being situated in the suburbs of London, but comparatively few marriages were performed there. In the neighbourhood of the King's Bench was a part of the Borough called "THE MINT," a place of refuge for thieves and malefactors of the worst description; which, with White Friars,⁽¹⁾ (Sir Walter Scott's Alsatia,) the Savoy, and other places about London, claimed certain privileges, and held out the advantages of a Sanctuary to all debtors, thieves, and malefactors.⁽²⁾ At this place marriages were performed, and

(1) By the 8 and 9th William III. Cap. 26, the pretended privileges of White Friars, the Savoy, Salisbury Court, Ram Alley, Mitre Court, Fuller's Rents, Baldwin's Gardens, Montague Close, the Minories, Mint, Clink, or Deadman's Place, were taken away.

(2) "On Tuesday seven-night last, one Isaac Briand, an Irishman, was fined £2000 by the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen, for marrying Elizabeth Watson Aston, an orphan, of about 13 years of age, without the leave of the Court, and was committed to the Gaol of Newgate, there to remain until he shall have paid the said fine. It appeared the said orphan was decoyed from Westminster, where she lodged, to a house near the Fighting Cocks, in the Mint, in Southwark, and there married to the said Briand by one Parson Smith; and the Court of Aldermen have thereupon ordered Warrants to be obtained for apprehending the said parson and others concerned, in order to their being prosecuted for the same. The Certificate of this marriage given by Parson Smith being very singular, an exact copy of it follows for the entertainment of the public, viz.

Feb. 26, 1715.

These are, therefore, whom it may concern, that Isaac Briand and Watson Anne Astone were joined together in the Holy State of Matrimony, (*Nemine Contradicente,*) the day and year above written, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of Great Britain. Witness my hand. Jos. SMITH, Cler."

amongst the Fleet Registers are three Registers of King's Bench and Mint marriages.

The first is a small quarto, (containing also some Fleet marriages,) and at page 48 these marriages commence, headed "Mint Marriages, Anno 1718." It ends at page 242, with the 11th Jan. 1726.

The second Register is a short folio commencing 20 May 1725, and ending 9 Oct. 1726. It contains the entries of marriages by John Floyd, "at the King's Bench and Liberties." They are worded at some length, and signed by the clergyman and one, two, or three witnesses; thus,

"Oct. 14th, 1725, John Radcliff, of the Parish of Thames Ditton, and Jane Puflet, of the Parish of Yowill, both of, and in the, County of Surrey, were married at the King's Bench, London.

Witnesses

JOHN DARBY,
JAMES ROOTSEY.

JNO FLOYD, Cler.

Over against the Goat and
Crown, five doors within
Mint Gate, near St. George's
Church."

"March 24th, 1725, Thomas Panks, of the Parish of Hodsdon, and Mary Munk of the Parish of Tiring, in Sussex, married. This was a Certificate granted without a marriage."

"On the 2 day of August 1726, on the oath of Catherine Cane Senor, I gave a Certificate of her daughter's, Alce Cane, marriage. One of Thomas Bennett's Certificate. Certificate dated on the 22 day of June 1723.

"Sign'd J. E. MINS."

There are about 360 marriages in this book, and at the end are some old Law entries of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The *third* King's Bench Register is a short thick folio, containing marriages at the Fleet also. At page 3 it is intituled "Marriages in Southwark," commencing with 20th Nov. 1736. At page 6 begin "Fleet Marriages."

There is another Register which is considered to be a King's Bench or Mint Register, as the parties married are chiefly from Kent and Surrey. It is intituled,

“ A Register of Christenings and Marriages, commencing March 13, 1732-3, by the Rev. Mich. Barrett.”

It ends Aug. 14th, 1751, and has about 500 marriages.

The following are a few of the marriages at the Mint.

- 1725 Sept. 27. Wm. Bayley, Hawkhurst, and Ann Compion, Croydon.
- 1724 March 12. Christ^r Burningham, of Rely, and Mary Anderson, of Salisbury.
- 1724 May 4. Ab^m Clegg, Rochester, and Mary Taylor, Ditto.
- 1718 Oct. 6. Edward Cook, Coodham, and Ann Phillips, S. Ditto.
- 1726 Jan. 11. Jn^o Douglas, Sutton, Surrey, and Fra^s Moore.
- 1722 July 14. Martin Joseph Manvell Kelly and Joannah Bing.
- 1719 Jan. 7. Joseph Lancaster, Sundridge, and Eliz. Stinham, Ditto.
- 1718 Nov. 9. Robt. Long, Gent. St. Bride's, and Anna Maria Rugly, Ditto.
- 1720 Aug. 17. John Mandavill and Mary Martin.
- 1724 March 22. R^d Pierce, Tunbridge, and Sarah Cooper, Ditto.
- 1720 Jan. 17. Wm. Reynolds and Hannah Burleigh.
- 1720 April 13. Thos. Samirell and Mary Twisden.
- 1723 March 27. Tho^s Wolfe and Isabella Lamb.

THE SAVOY.

Although the Savoy was one of those places with pretended privileges, there does not appear to have been any clandestine marriages there until after the passing of the Marriage Act; the number of marriages for a few years before and after that period being as follows :

1752	.	.	15
—3	.	.	19
—4	.	.	342
—5	.	.	1190
—6	.	.	63
—7	.	.	13
—8	.	.	17

On the passing of the Marriage Act, the Rev. John Wil-

(¹) On the trial of Mr. Wilkinson, his Clerk deposed that of these 900 came out of the country *enceinte*.

kinson ⁽¹⁾ began to exercise his supposed rights as Minister of the Savoy, considering himself authorised to grant licences as a privilege annexed to the Savoy, as being extra parochial, and because Dr. Killegrew and other of his predecessors had granted them. The Savoy, therefore, soon became known as a place for easy matrimony, and his marriages brought him “ a profusion of cash, and instead of thinking of a rainy day, all was rat tat tat at the street door, and a variety of company. Easter-day was crowded from 8 till 12. So many pairs were for the indissoluble knot being tied, that he might have made a fortune had he been blessed with patience and prudence, and been contented with publishing the banns of marriage only. Many persons came out of curiosity to hear such a long list of Spinsters announced.”⁽²⁾

Mr. Wilkinson had hints from Government of the consequence of these practices, and at length proceedings were taken against him, and he was accustomed to make his escape over the leads at the Savoy, through the kitchen of the prison, (which was then there,) to a private door into the chapel, to evade those who were set to watch him.

One Sunday morning an alarm was given, that the officers were in the church, a general panic ensued in his family; he sent word that he was taken suddenly ill, and could not read prayers, and made his way down the garden to a gate that opened on the Thames, reached Somerset Stairs, where he took a boat and got into Kent. Having arrived there, he engaged Mr. Grierson to perform the marriages as his curate; but the licences he granted himself, thinking that Mr. Grierson could not suffer for what he, in his authority as Minister of the Savoy, was to be responsible for.

⁽¹⁾ The Register describes him as “ His Majesty’s Chaplain of the Savoy, Chaplain to his late Royal Highness Frederick Prince of Wales, Rector of Eastwell, Kent, and Curate of Wye;” in 1732 he is described as Rector of Coyley, in the County of Glamorgan, and Stipendiary Curate of Wye. He was educated at St. Bees, in Cornwall, and finished his studies at Oxford. He came to the Savoy in 1725, and was married there on the 26th April, 1731, to Grace, daughter of Alderman Tate, of Carlisle.

⁽²⁾ Wilkinson’s Memoirs.

Very shortly after this, Mr. Vernou, of Drury Lane Theatre, was married by Mr. Grierson, to Miss Portier. Garrick insisted on seeing the certificate, which Mr. Vernon obtained from Mr. Grierson, and gave to Garrick, who handed it over to Mr. Carrington, the King's Messenger. Mr. Grierson was thereupon taken up and tried for having married the parties; was convicted, and transported for fourteen years.⁽¹⁾ In his defence he said he was not aware of the illegality of the marrying at the Savoy, as he had married his own son there.

After the committal of Mr. Grierson, Mr. Wilkinson engaged the Rev. Mr. Brooks as his curate, and continued to derive great profits from his marriages. Considering himself certain of an acquittal, he determined to surrender himself and take his trial, which he accordingly did on the 11th July 1756: he was tried on the 16th; convicted, and sentenced to fourteen years' transportation. The vessel which was to take him to America sailed early in March 1757; but by stress of weather was driven to Plymouth, where Mr. Wilkinson died from an attack of the gout. His widow died in 1763. He left an only child, Tate Wilkinson, the Comedian.

MAY FAIR.

May Fair stands next to the Fleet in notoriety, and perhaps pre-eminently, so far as regards the number of fashionable clandestine marriages.

(1) "It is said he had married 1400 couple in the same manner and place, whose marriages by this verdict are null and void, and the issue of them illegitimate."—(*Gent's Mag.*) He had a large family, which accompanied him on his transportation; but it is believed he died on his passage. In the announcement of his conviction he is called "a nonjuring Clergyman," and in the Daily Advertiser of Dec. 24, 1755, is an advertisement of his, dated from Newgate, where he defends his conduct and principles, and concludes with an appeal to the public for their beneficence towards the support of his wife, children, and grand-child. He had been tried in 1748, "for marrying Jonathan Brooks to Miss Mary Redding, Spinster, in an empty house, against her will."

One or two Acts have been passed for legalizing marriages solemnized in churches and chapels where banns had not been "theretofore usually published."—See Burn's History of Parish Registers, 1829, 8vo. p. 33. Suter, Cheap-side.

The chapel was built about 1730, in consequence of the increase of new Squares and Streets in that neighbourhood, and the person chosen to officiate there was the Renowned and Rev. Alexander Keith, who began to marry *ad libitum*, and to advertize in the papers the advantages of a wedding at May Fair, where Lord Orford describes him to have constructed a very bishopric of revenue. These practices gave offence to Dr. Trebeck, then Rector of St. George's, Hanover Square, who commenced a suit at Doctors' Commons against Mr. Keith, to which he appeared personally, and defended himself at considerable length ;⁽¹⁾ not, however, with success, for on the 27th Oct. 1742, he was decreed excommunicated,⁽²⁾ and on the 24th of January following a signficavit was decreed for his apprehension.

In April 1743 he was committed to the Fleet ;⁽³⁾ but the weddings nevertheless continued ⁽⁴⁾ at May Fair,⁽⁵⁾ where he fitted up a house as a chapel, as will appear by the following advertisement.

“ To prevent mistakes, the little new chapel in May Fair, near Hyde Park corner, is in the corner house opposite to the City side

(1) In his allegations he stated that he had been ordained priest by the Bishop of Norwich, by Letters Dimissary from the Bishop of London, about the 13th of June 1731. That he was appointed one of the preachers by an Instrument under the hands and seals of the major part of the proprietors of the chapel. That at the time of his nomination he was Reader at the Rolls' Chapel.

(2) Keith hereupon retaliated, and had the impudence to excommunicate at his chapel Bishop Gibson, Dr. Andrews, Judge of the Court, and Dr. Trebeck.

(3) The Daily Post says, “ to *Newgate*, for contempt of the Holy and Mother Church.”

(4) Horace Walpole in a letter to Mr. afterwards Sir Horace Mann, dated Arlington Street, Feb. 27, 1752, says, “ The event which has made most noise since my last is the extensive wedding of the youngest of the two Gunnings,” and then describes an assembly at Lord Chesterfield's, where the Duke of Hamilton made love to Miss Gunning, and then proceeds, “ However, two nights afterwards being left alone with her whilst her mother and sister were at Bedford House, he found himself so impatient that he sent for a parson. The Doctor refused to perform the ceremony without licence and ring. The Duke swore he would send for the Archbishop ; at last they were married with a ring of the bed-curtain, at half an hour past twelve at night, at May Fair chapel.”—Vol. iii. p. 51.

(5) “ We hear that a Bill will be presented to Parliament for the suppression of the chapels in May Fair.”—*General Advertiser*, Jan. 1750.

of the great chapel, and within ten yards of it, and the Minister and Clerk live in the same corner house, where the little chapel is, and the License on a Crown Stamp, Minister and Clerk's fees, together with the Certificate, amount to one guinea as heretofore, at any hour till four in the afternoon. And that it may be the better known, there is a porch at the door like a country church porch."—*Daily Post*, July 20, 1744.

Various reports were circulated after his imprisonment; one was, that he had a Little Chapel in the Fleet, where in one year he married thousands, while the Rector of St. Anns, a large and populous parish, married but fifty within the same period;⁽¹⁾ and in the case of *Morris v. Miller*, (Easter Term 1767,) it was stated that Keith who had married the parties was transported, and the clerk dead. No marriages of Keith's have been met with in the Fleet, nor has it been found that he was ever transported, but he died in the Fleet Prison on the 13th December 1758.⁽²⁾

He appears to have employed as his curates at his Little Chapel in May Fair, the Rev. Peter Symson, and Francis Denevau, who were also Fleet Clergymen, and of whom

¹ Gentleman's Magazine.

² Four of his sons were buried at Norwood in Middlesex. His wife died in 1749, while he was in the Fleet, upon which he had her corpse embalmed and kept it unburied many months, which seems to have been done to excite public curiosity and inquiry, for one of his advertisements in the Daily Advertiser of 23d January 1750, is as follows :

" We are informed that Mrs. Keith's corpse was removed from her Husband's House in May Fair the middle of October last to an Apothecary's in South Audley St. where she lies in a room hung with mourning, and is to continue there till Mr. Keith can attend the Funeral. The way to Mr. Keith's Chapel is through Piccadilly by the end of St. James's Street and down Clarges Street, and turn on the left hand. The marriages (together with a licence on a five shilling stamp and certificate) are carried on for a guinea as usual, any time till four in the afternoon, by another regular clergyman at Mr. Keith's little Chapel in May Fair near Hyde Park Corner, opposite the great Chapel and within ten yards of it; there is a porch at the door like a country church porch."

In 1748, another of his sons dying, he had the corpse carried on a bier by two men from the Fleet to Covent Garden church yard. In their progress they made several halts and crowds of people assembled to read the inscription which referred to the father's persecution.—*Craftsman*, August 6th 1748.

particulars have been already given, also the Rev. John Grierson, and Mr. Walker⁽¹⁾.

Keith appears to have been in prison fifteen years. In 1753 he published a pamphlet intituled "Observations on the Act for preventing Clandestine Marriages," pp. 32; to which is prefixed an engraving of him as "The Rev. Mr. Keith, D.D." A few of his remarks, as connected with the subject of these pages, are as follows. "Happy is the wooing that is not long a-doing; is an old proverb and a very true one, but we shall have no occasion for it after the 25th day of March next, when we are commanded to read it backwards and from that period (fatal indeed to Old England!) we must date the declension of the numbers of the inhabitants of England." "As I have married many thousands, and consequently have on those occasions seen the humour of the lower class of people, I have often asked the married pair how long they had been acquainted; they would reply, some more, some less, but the generality did not exceed the acquaintance of a week, some only of a day, half a day, &c." "Another inconveniency which will arise from this Act will be, that the expence of being married will be so great, that few of the lower class of people can afford; for I have often heard a Flete-parson say, that many have come to be married when they have had but half-a-crown in their pockets, and sixpence to buy a pot of beer, and for which they have pawned some of their cloaths." "I remember once on a time, I was at a public house at Radcliff, which then was full of sailors and their girls, there there was fiddling, piping, jigging, and eating; at length, one of the tars starts up, and says 'D—m ye, Jack, I'll be married just now; I will have my partner, and'" the joke took, and in

¹ In 1746, Thomas Brown being indicted for Bigamy, the first marriage was proved to have taken place at May Fair, and the second at the Anchor and Crown Flect Ditch, and the following evidence was given.

Drummond. "Mr. Keith has a person to officiate for him, one Mr. Walker marries, and I carry the licences to Mr. Keith and he registers them."

John Prichard.—"I acted as clerk, I am a carver by trade and keep a public house."

less than two hours ten couple set out for the Flete. I staid their return. They returned in coaches ; five women in each coach ; the tars, some running before, others riding on the coach-box, and others behind. The cavalcade being over, the couples went up into an upper room, where they concluded the evening with great jollity. The next time I went that way, I called on my landlord and asked him concerning this marriage-adventure, he at first stared at me, but recollecting, he said those things were so frequent, that he hardly took any notice of them ; for added he, it is a common thing when a fleet comes in, to have two or three hundred marriages in a week's time, among the sailors." He humorously concludes " If the present Act in the form it now stands should (which I am sure is impossible) be of service to my country, I shall then have the satisfaction of having been the occasion of it, because the compilers thereof have done it with a pure design of suppressing my *Chapel*, which makes me the most celebrated man in this kingdom, though not the greatest."

The passing of the Marriage Act put a stop to the marriages at May Fair ; but the day before the Act came into operation, (Lady Day 1754,)¹ sixty-one couple were married there.²

¹ In a letter to George Montagu, Esq. dated July 17, 1753, Horace Walpole says:—

" Lady Anne Paulett's daughter is eloped with a country clergyman. The Duchess of Argyle harangues against the Marriage Bill not taking place immediately, and is persuaded that all the girls will go off before next Lady-day."

² In a letter to George Montagu, Esq. from Horace Walpole, is the following notice of Keith.

Strawberry Hill, 11th June, 1753.

" I shall only tell you a *bon mot* of Keith's the marriage-broker, and conclude :

" G—d—n the Bishops! " said he, (I beg Miss Montagu's pardon) so they will hinder my marrying. Well, let 'em, but I'll be revenged : I'll buy two or three acres of ground, and by G—d I'll under-bury them all."—Vol. i. p. 292.

And in No. 38 of the *Connoisseur* (October 1754) are some satirical remarks on the effect of the Marriage Act on Mr. Keith's Chapel ; the writer says, " I received a scheme from my good friend Mr. Keith, whose Chapel, the late Marriage Act has rendered useless on its original principles. The reverend gentleman seeing that all husbands and wives are henceforward to be put up on sale, proposes shortly to

THE MAY FAIR REGISTERS.

These Registers are divided, some being at the Church of St. George's Hanover Square, and the others at the Registry of the Bishop of London, but several of the latter appear to be duplicates, and contain the same entries as the Registers at St. George's.

Those at St. George's are three in number, marked respectively A. B. and C. In two of these is an affidavit sworn in 1780, by James Frith senior, stating, that being employed to look over the effects of Mr. Keith, he had found these three books and brought them from the Fleet; and that up

open his chapel on a more new and fashionable plan. As the ingenious Messrs. Henson and Bever have lately opened in different quarters of the town repositories for all horses to be sold by auction, Mr. Keith intends setting up a Repository for all young males and females to be disposed of in marriage. From these studs (as the Doctor himself expresses it) a lady of beauty may be coupled to a man of fortune, and an old gentleman who has a colt's tooth remaining, may mate himself with a tight young filly. The Doctor makes no doubt but his chapel will turn out even more to his advantage on this new plan, than on its first institution, provided he can secure his scheme to himself and reap the benefits of it without interlopers from the *Fleet*. To prevent his design being pirated he intends petitioning the Parliament, that as he has been so great a sufferer by the Marriage Act, the sole right of opening a Repository of this sort may be vested in him, and that his place of residence in May Fair may still continue the grand mart for marriages."

"Catalogue of Males and Females to be disposed of in Marriage to the best bidder, at Mr. Keith's Repository, in May Fair.

A young lady of £100,000 fortune—to be bid for by none under the degree of peers, or a commoner of at least treble the income.

A homely thing who can read, write, cast accounts, and make an excellent pudding.—This lot to be bid for by none but country parsons.

A very pretty young woman, but a good deal in debt—would be glad to marry a member of parliament, or a Jew.

A blood of the first-rate, very wild, and has run loose all his life, but is now broke, and will prove very tractable.

Five Templars—all Irish.—No one to bid for these lots of less than £10,000 fortune.

Wanted four dozen of young fellows, and one dozen of young women, willing to marry to advantage—to go to Nova Scotia."

to 1743 or 4 the marriages were performed in May Fair chapel, but afterwards in a house near the chapel.

Book A commences 21 February 1735 and ends 27 July 1744. It is intituled "An Account or Register of Marriages at St. George's Chapel Hyde Park Corner in the Liberty of Westminster." The entries are numbered and amount to 1020, and are nearly all signed by Mr. Keith. At the other end of the book are baptisms from 26 March 1740 to 7 April 1753.

Book B commences 28 July 1744 and ends 30 Sept. 1749, the numbering begins with 1021 and continues to 3529, when the entries cease to be numbered. There are about 5000 entries in this book.

Book C commences 30 Sept. 1749 and ends 25 March 1754, from Oct. 1753 to 25 March 1754 are 1136 entries. On the 2d January 1751 is the following entry,

"W^m Thomas and Sarah Snow of St. Maries Overy Southwark"
"Memoⁿ she being surprised by meeting two gentlemen of her acquaintance as she was going into the chapel, gave her mother's name (Snow) instead of her father's surname, Yates."

The books at the Bishop's Registry are seven in number. No. 1. A short folio commencing 19 March 1729 and ending 31 May 1731, intituled "Dr. Keith's Regestar Book of Marriages, No. 3, May Fair." It contains about 1300 entries, and has an index.

No. 2. A thin short folio, commencing 29 Sept. 1747 ending 28 Sept. 1749, intituled, "The Register Book of Marriages performed by John Grierson, Minister, at May Fair Chapel," and indorsed "No. 2. Register of Marriages, 1747, 1748, 1749, May Fair." It contains 2403 entries, and at the other end are Baptisms from 1747 to 1752, several of which are of the Peterborough family.

No. 3. A short thick folio, commencing 29 Sept. 1749 ending 31 Oct. 1753, indorsed "No. 3. Register for Marriages May Fair." It contains 6258 entries.

No. 4. A short folio of Fleet marriages, at one end of which are "Marriages performed by Mr. Symson at May

Fair in 1748." It commences 12 April 1748 and contains 86 entries, after which is added "No. 86, all married by Mr. Symson at May Fair."

No. 5. A folio, intituled "The Register Book of Marriages begun April 9, 1748, at the New Chapel May Fair." The marriages are all by Mr. Symson, but many of them appear to be Fleet marriages. It has an index.

No. 6. A small quarto, commencing 9 Dec. 1750 ending 25 March 1754, intituled, "The Register Book of Marriages performed by the Reverend Mr. Peter Symson, Mr. Fran^s Denevau, for Keith May Fair."

No. 7. A thin folio, ending 25 March 1754, indorsed "No. 1. Dr. Keith's Book. The Register for Marriages, 1 November 1753, 1754, May Fair." It has an index.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE MARRIAGES AT MAY FAIR.

- 1753 June 29. Lord George Bentinck and Mary Davies, Hanwell.
- 1730 March 15. John Campfield, Esq. St. George's Hanover Sq. and Harriet Doyne, ditto.
- 1748 March 23. Honble. George Carpenter and Frances Clifton.
- 1747 Oct. 24. Capt. Charles Cockburn, St. James's, and Margaret Holford, Hanwell.
- 1729 Sept. 8. Simon Darby, Gent. St. Martin's Fields, and Mary Pindergrass, ditto, B and S.
- 1752 Feb. 14. James Duke of Hamilton and Eliz. Gunning.
- 1753 April 17. Stanhope Herries and Millicent Constable, St. George's, Southwark.
- 1729 April 15. Charles Jeffryson, Gent. Covent Garden, and Sarah Thomson, ditto, B and S.
- 1749 Sept. 14. William Earl of Kensington and Rachel Hill, Hempstead.
- 1747 Oct. 6. Alexander Lennox and Barbara Ramsey, St. Ann's Westminster.
- 1754 Feb. 26. Rev. Edmund Lodge and Mary Garrard, Carshalton.
- 1749 Aug. 31. William Montague and Gertrude Turner, St. James's.
- 1753 Aug. 31. George Montague Martin and Eliz. Berkeley St. George's Hanover Square.

- 1751 July 21. Edward Wortley Montague and Eliz. Ashe, St. Martin's fields.
- 1730 March 15. Hyde Parker, Gent. and Elizabeth Beaver, B and S.
- 1752 May 7. Harry Powlett and Mary Nunn, Eltham.
- 1753 July 26. Edmund Powlett, Gent. and Sarah Jones, Chelsea.
- 1752 June 30. Bysshe Shelley & Mary Cath. Michell, Horsham.
- 1751 May 25. Honourable Sewallis Shirley and Margaret Countess of Orford.
- 1753 March 7. Wm. Shirley, Esq. and Madalane Julie le Blanc, St. Margaret's.
- 1753 March 15. James Stewart Stewart and Catherine Holloway, of St. Matthew's, Friday Street.
- 1749 March 7. Cecil Trafford and Elizabeth Short, St. Martin's Fields.
- 1752 June 15. Henry Trelawney, Esq. and Mary Dormer, St. Margaret's.
- 1729 Nov. 14. William Yeats, Gent. 3rd Guards, and Catherine Jordan, Westr. W and W.

Appendix.

ON PAROCHIAL REGISTRATION.

DRAFT OF A BILL

FOR

AMENDING THE ACT OF 52 GEO. III. CAP. 146.



PAROCHIAL REGISTRATION.

THE defective state of the existing laws in regard to Parochial Registration has long been admitted, and generally a subject of complaint. Considering the importance of Registers in reference to the transfer and descent of property, as well as the inheritance of dignities, and advertng to the fact, that the subject of registration has been at various periods, during the last three centuries, submitted to the consideration of the Legislature, it is singular that so many imperfections in the system should still exist, and that even the legislative enactments of the act of the 52nd of Geo. III. should be suffered in so many instances to be totally disregarded.

In England it is constantly urged as a complaint against our system of registration, that it is entirely an ecclesiastical ceremony; the fact of the ceremony of baptism being only recognized by law, to the exclusion of evidence as to *birth*.

In the late Session of Parliament, in consequence of the petitions of certain classes of Dissenters, a Committee was moved for by Mr. Wilks, the member for Boston, to consider of the state of Parochial Registration, and was appointed accordingly. This Committee, after an investigation of the subject, made its Report to the House, which is ordered to be printed; and wherein a *Civil Registration* of births, marriages, and deaths, is recommended, without interfering with the present system of Parochial Registration. As it is not improbable that a bill may be introduced in the next session, in pursuance of the recommendation of the Committee of the House of Commons, when the whole subject will be brought under consideration and discussed, the author of this volume, having in a former publication entered at large into the History of Parish Registers, thinks the present publication affords him an opportunity of advertng to a paper printed and circulated in

1831 by him, in conjunction with two or three gentlemen, who had given the subject some attention, entitled "Defects in the Act of 52nd Geo. III. and Proposed Amendments."

The suggestions contained in this paper having been generally approved by persons to whom it was submitted, and who, from their practical experience, were most competent to judge, a Bill was drawn in conformity thereto, for amending the Act in question, and intended to have been introduced into the House of Commons, which was in the next year dissolved. The important questions which occupied the new Parliament, engaged amongst other urgent affairs in the reformation of the Constitution of Parliament, prevented the further prosecution of the measure.

The renewal, however, of the discussion upon the subject of Parochial Registration having now taken place, the Bill drawn under the circumstances stated, is appended to this volume, with a view of submitting the proposed enactments to the consideration of the public, and thereby afford opportunity for the comment and observations of those persons who may feel interested in a subject involving such important consequences to all classes.

Few persons can entertain a doubt as to the expediency of providing, and speedily too, a remedy for the existing defects in the law; and the author, deeply impressed with the importance of the subject, and convinced of that expediency from professional experience, will derive considerable gratification, if it shall be found that the suggestions he has ventured to embody in the draft of a Bill shall be found worthy of attention.

(*DRAFT*)

A B I L L

For repealing an Act passed in the 52nd year of King George the Third, intituled “An Act for the better regulating and preserving Parish and other Registers of Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials in England;” and for the future regulation, improvement, and preservation of such Registers.

WHEREAS the powers and provisions of an Act passed in the 52nd year of King George the Third, intituled “An Act for the better regulating and preserving Parish and other Registers of Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials in England,” have been found insufficient for the purpose for which the said Act was passed, and it is expedient to repeal the same, and to make better provision for the regulation of such Registers: Be it therefore enacted, by the King’s Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled; and by the authority of the same, that the said Act be hereby repealed.

II. And be it enacted, That from and after the day
of 183 Registers of public and private Baptisms,
Marriages and Burials, solemnized according to the rites of the
United Church of England and Ireland, within all parishes or
chapelries in England, whether subject to the ordinary or peculiar
or other jurisdiction, shall be made and kept by the Rector, Vicar,
Curate or officiating Minister of every parish (or of any chapelry
where the ceremonies of Baptism, Marriage or Burial have been
usually, and may, according to law be performed) for the time
being, in books of good and durable paper, to be provided as occa-
sion may require at the expence of the respective parishes or
chapelries, whereon shall be printed upon each side of every leaf
the heads of information herein required to be entered in the
Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials respectively; and
every such entry shall be numbered progressively from the begin-

ning to the end of each book, the first entry to be distinguished by No. 1. and every such entry shall be divided from the entry next following by a printed line, according to the forms contained in the schedules A, B, C, hereto annexed; and every page of every such book shall be numbered with progressive numbers, the first page being marked with the No. 1. in the middle of the upper part of such page, and every subsequent page being marked in like manner with progressive numbers, from No. 1 to the end of the book; and such Rector, Vicar, Curate, or officiating minister shall also make and keep an alphabetical Index of all such Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials respectively; and when an entry is made in the Register-book, shall enter a reference thereto in such Index, and such Indexes shall refer to the Surname of the respective persons mentioned in such Register-books, with the number of the page of such Register-book wherein such persons are named, according to the form in schedule (D) hereto annexed.

III. And for better ensuring the regularity and uniformity of such Register-books, and the sizes, spaces, forms, and other particulars thereof, be it further enacted that a printed copy of this Act, together with a book so prepared as aforesaid, and adapted to the form of the Registers of Baptisms prescribed in the schedule (A) to this Act annexed; and also one other book so prepared as aforesaid, and adapted to the form prescribed for the Registry of Marriages in the schedule (B) to this Act annexed; and also one other book so prepared as aforesaid, and adapted to the form prescribed for the Registers of Burials in the schedule (C) to this Act annexed; and also one other book so prepared as aforesaid, and adapted to the form prescribed for the index in the schedule (D) to this Act annexed, *shall* as soon as conveniently may be after the passing of this Act, be provided and transmitted by his Majesty's Printer to the officiating Ministers of the several parishes and chapelries in England respectively, who are hereby required to use and apply the same in and to the purposes of this Act: and such books respectively shall be proportioned to the population of the several parishes and chapelries, according to the last returns of such population made under the authority of Parliament; and other books of like form and quality shall for the like purposes be furnished from time to time by the Churchwardens or Chapelwardens of every parish or chapelry whenever they shall be required by the Rector, Vicar, Curate, or officiating minister, to provide the same.

IV. And be it further enacted, that such registers shall be kept

in such separate books aforesaid, and that every such Rector, Vicar, Curate, or officiating Minister, shall, immediately after the solemnization of every baptism (whether private or public,) or burial respectively, record and enter in a fair and legible handwriting, in the proper Register-book, to be provided and kept as aforesaid, the several particulars described in the schedules herein before-mentioned, and sign the same; and that no such Rector, Vicar, Curate, or officiating Minister, or other person or persons whomsoever, shall ask, demand, receive, or take any fee or fees, for the recording or entering of such baptism as aforesaid.

V. And be it further enacted, that whenever the ceremony of baptism or burial shall be performed in any other place than the parish church or churchyard of any parish (or the chapel or chapelyard of any chapelry, providing its own distinct registers,) and such ceremony shall be performed by any Minister not being the Rector, Vicar, Minister, or Curate, of such parish or chapelry, the Minister who shall perform such ceremony of baptism or burial, shall on the same, or on the next day, transmit to the Rector, Vicar, or other Minister, of such parish or chapelry, or his Curate, a certificate of such baptism or burial, in the form contained in the schedule (E) to this Act annexed, and the Rector, Vicar, Minister, or Curate, of such parish or chapelry, shall thereupon enter such baptism or burial, according to such certificate, in the book kept pursuant to this Act for such purpose, and shall add to such entry the following words, "According to the certificate of the Rev. transmitted to me on the day of ." And all such certificates shall be carefully preserved and kept with the Register-books of the parish or chapelry.

VI. And for the obtaining of returns and registers of baptisms and burials in extra-parochial places in England, where there is no church or chapel; be it further enacted, That in all cases of the baptism of any child, or the burial of any person in any extra-parochial or other place, or any hospital, barrack, house of industry, or other establishment in England, according to the rites of the established Church, where there is no church or chapel, the officiating minister, shall, within fifteen days after such baptism or burial, deliver to the Rector, Vicar, or Curate of such parish immediately adjoining to the place in which such baptism or burial shall take place, as the ordinary shall direct, a memorandum of such baptism or burial signed by the parent of the child baptized, or by some person witnessing the baptism, or a memo-

randum of such burial signed by the Undertaker and two of the persons attending the same, according as the nature of the case may respectively require ; and every such memorandum shall contain all such particulars as are herein-before required for Baptisms and Burials respectively; and every such memorandum delivered to the Rector, Vicar, or Curate of any such adjoining parish or chapelry shall be entered by him in the register of his parish and form a part thereof.

VII. And be it enacted, that the Rector, Vicar, Curate or officiating minister of every parish, shall after the solemnization of every marriage make two entries thereof, in a fair and legible handwriting, viz. one in the Register-book, and the other upon paper to be provided at the expense of the parish or chapelry, in the form herein-before directed for the entry of the marriages, both of which entries shall be signed by the parties married, and also by the witnesses thereto, and the Minister solemnizing the same : and also shall immediately after the solemnization of every baptism and burial, and the entry thereof in the Register-book as herein-before directed, make a copy thereof upon paper in the form herein-before directed for the entry of baptisms and burials respectively, and shall sign the same with his name, or, in case the ceremony shall have been performed by another minister, the name of the minister who shall have performed the same.

VIII. And be it enacted, that the celebration of every marriage shall be in the presence of two witnesses at the least, (besides any clerk, sexton, or other officer of the church,) which witnesses shall sign their names and residences to the entry of such marriage in the register and duplicate thereof.

IX. And be it enacted, that the Registers of every parish shall be open to the inspection of all persons desirous of searching the same, or procuring extracts therefrom, or for any of the purposes of this Act, at all seasonable times and on payment of legal and reasonable fees.

X. And be it further enacted, that the several books wherein such entries shall respectively be made, and all Register-books heretofore in use shall be deemed to belong to every such parish or chapelry respectively, and shall be kept by and remain in the power and custody of the Rector, Vicar, Curate, or other officiating minister, of each respective parish or chapelry as aforesaid, and shall be by him safely and securely kept free from damp, as well

as from erasure, obliteration, or destruction, in a dry, well-painted iron chest, to be provided and repaired as occasion may require, at the expense of the parish or chapelry; which said chest, containing the said books, shall be constantly kept locked in some dry, safe, and secure place, within the usual place of residence of such Rector, Vicar, Curate, or other officiating Minister, (if resident within the parish or chapelry,) or in some dry, safe, and secure place, within the parish church or chapel. And the said books shall not, nor shall any of them be taken, or removed from or out of the said chest at any time, or for any cause whatever, except for the purpose of making such entries therein as aforesaid, or for the inspection of persons desirous to make search therein, or to obtain copies from or out of the same, or to be produced as evidence in some Court of Law or Equity, or before his Majesty's Attorney or Solicitor General, in cases referred to them by the Crown, and requiring the examination of such registers, or to be inspected as to the state and condition thereof, or for some of the purposes of this Act. And that immediately after making such respective entries, or producing the said books respectively, for the purposes aforesaid, the said books shall forthwith again be returned to and safely and securely deposited in the said chest.

XI. And be it further enacted, that at the expiration of two months after the 31st day of December 183 , and at the expiration of two months after every subsequent year, the Churchwardens or Chapelwardens of every parish or chapelry, shall cause the duplicate copy of the said marriage-register, together with copies of all the entries in the Register-books of every such parish or chapelry respectively, of the several Baptisms, and Burials, which shall have been solemnized, or shall have taken place in every such parish or chapelry, within the year preceding; and also a copy of the said Index or Indices to the same; which said copies of entries and Index or Indices shall be made on strong, good, and durable paper, in a fair, stout, and legible handwriting, at the costs and charges of such parish or chapelry, in the same form as prescribed in the schedules annexed, and the contents of such duplicate of the marriage-register, and such copies of the registers of Baptisms and Burials and of the said Indices, shall be verified and signed in the form following by the Rector, Vicar, Curate, or officiating Minister, of the parish or chapelry to which such Register-books shall respectively belong.

of one penny for every entry which shall be contained therein. All which said fees, and all and every penalty recovered under the provision of this Act, shall be applied by the Bishop, or person or persons to be appointed by him, in carrying the provisions of this Act into effect.

XIV. And be it further enacted, that when and so often as the copies and duplicates of the said Register-books and Indices of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, as aforesaid, shall be transmitted to the office of the said Registrars respectively, as aforesaid, pursuant to the directions herein-before contained for that purpose; the said Registrars respectively shall cause all the said copies and duplicates to be safely and securely deposited, kept and preserved from damage and destruction by fire, damp, or otherwise, in the Bishop's registry, and to be carefully and methodically arranged for the purpose of being resorted to as occasion may require.

XV. And be it enacted, that the Secretary of State for the Home Department for the time being, shall appoint, by writing under his hand, some fit and proper person for the purpose of superintending and enforcing the due execution of the *provisions* of this Act, to be called the Inspector-General of Parish Registers.

XVI. And be it enacted, that the Bishop of each diocese, or the person so to be appointed Inspector-General, as aforesaid, shall have power to summon the Rector, Vicar, Curate, officiating Minister, or Churchwardens, or Chapelwardens of every parish or chapel, within the diocese of such Bishop, or any other person, by whom any thing is by this Act required to be done, to appear before such Bishop, or the person or persons so to be appointed as aforesaid, and to bring with him or them the parish register, and index, and transcript, of such register and index, or either of them, or to do any other act or thing which may be thought expedient or necessary for carrying the provisions of this Act into effect. And in case of disobedience of the order of such Bishop, or the person or persons to be appointed as aforesaid, then such Bishop, or person or persons as aforesaid, shall have power to proceed against such party or parties offending, by monition from the Ecclesiastical Court of such Bishop as is usual with respect to persons guilty of disobedience; or by monition in the said court, for the purpose of recovering any penalty or penalties imposed by this Act.

XVII. And whereas in many dioceses the places in which the copies of the Registers of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, are

kept, are insufficient for their being preserved with due care ; for which a remedy should be applied in those dioceses where it shall be found necessary, be it further enacted, that in order to a due examination thereof, the Bishop, or person or persons to be appointed by him as aforesaid, shall before the day of cause a careful survey to be made of the several places in which copies of the Parochial Registers are kept, and shall make a report to

of the state of the same, on or before the day of then next following, setting forth in each case whether the buildings are in all respects fit and proper for the preservation of the transcripts of registers, as well with respect to space as security from fire, protection from damp, and facility of public access ; and if not, at what probable expense they can be made so. And where the instruments and papers before-mentioned are kept in dwelling-houses or other places, which cannot be made fit and secure for the due preservation thereof, then, and in such case, the persons before-named shall inquire and report, in like manner, at what expense proper buildings may be provided, and in what places, so as to have one place within each diocese for the due preservation of all such registers. And such buildings, where necessary, shall forthwith be repaired or built by the Bishop of the diocese for the time being, or the person or persons to be appointed by him as aforesaid, and the fees hereinbefore directed to be paid by the Churchwardens and Chapelwardens on the transmission of such copies as aforesaid, shall be applied by such Bishop, or the person or persons to be appointed as aforesaid, in or towards defraying the expense thereof, in such manner and proportion as the said Bishop, or the person or persons aforesaid, may think expedient.

XVIII. And whereas in many dioceses the copies of Registers have for many years been omitted to be sent to the Registrar, pursuant to the several canons and statutes for that purpose, and it is desirable that there should be in each diocese in England a complete copy of the Registers of the several Parishes and places within its jurisdiction : be it enacted, that the Churchwardens or Chapelwardens of every parish and chapelry in England, shall, within years from the passing of this Act (upon receiving from the Registrar of the diocese within which such parish or chapelry shall be situate, a notice or notices of the several parts of the Registers required to complete a perfect transcript of the whole thereof,) send to the said Registrar, within one, two, three or

four years, from the date of such notice, as the said Registrar shall think proper to direct, having regard to the time requisite to make the said copies, a copy verified and attested as aforesaid, of all such parts of the said Registers as shall be specified in such notice or notices; and in default thereof, such Churchwarden or Chapelwarden shall be liable to the same pains and penalties as are herein-before provided for the non-transmission of the annual copies aforesaid, which copy shall be preserved with the annual copies hereinbefore directed to be sent in, and shall be arranged and indexed in the same manner as such annual copies are hereinbefore directed to be preserved, arranged, and indexed.

XIX. And be it further enacted, That if any person shall knowingly and wilfully insert or cause to be inserted, in any Register-book of Baptisms, Marriages, or Burials, as aforesaid, or in any such copy of any such register so directed to be transmitted to the Registrars as aforesaid, any false entry of any matter or thing relating to any baptism, marriage or burial, or shall falsely make, alter, forge or counterfeit, or cause or procure, or wilfully permit to be falsely made, entered, forged or counterfeited, any part of any such register or copy, or shall wilfully destroy, deface, or injure, or cause or procure, or permit to be destroyed, defaced, or injured, any such Register-book or copy, or any part thereof, or shall knowingly and wilfully sign or certify any copy of any such register hereby required to be transmitted, which shall be false in any part thereof, knowing the same to be false, every person so offending, and being thereof lawfully convicted, shall be deemed and adjudged to be guilty of felony, and shall be transported for the term of fourteen years: Provided always, and be it enacted, That no Rector, Vicar, Curate, or officiating Minister of any parish or chapel, who shall discover any error to have been committed in the form or substance of the entry in the Register-book of any such baptism, burial, or marriage, respectively by him solemnized, shall be liable to any of the penalties herein-mentioned, if he shall within one calendar month after the discovery of such error, in the presence of the parent or parents of the child whose baptism may have been entered in such register, or of the parties married, or in the presence of two persons who shall have attended at any burial, or in case of the death or absence of the respective parties aforesaid, then in the presence of the Churchwardens or Chapelwardens (who shall respectively attest the same,) alter and

correct the entry which shall have been found erroneous, according to the truth of the case by entry in the margin of the book wherein such erroneous entry shall have been made, without any alteration or obliteration of the original entry, and shall sign such entry in the margin, and add to such signature the day of the month and year when such correction shall be made: Provided also, that in the fair copy of the registers respectively, which shall be transmitted to the Registrars of the diocese the said Rector, Vicar, Curate, or officiating Minister, shall certify the alterations so to be made by him as aforesaid.

XX. Provided also, and be it enacted, that no duplicate or copy of any register of baptism, marriage or burial, made under the directions and for the purposes of this Act, or for any other purpose, nor any certificate or extract of baptism, marriage or burial, shall be chargeable with any stamp duty thereon, any Act now in force to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

XXI. And be it enacted, that when and so often as any inscription shall be put on any monument, tombstone, gravestone, or tablet, now or hereafter to be affixed in any church, or churchyard, or burial-ground, a copy thereof shall be entered in a fair and legible hand, and signed by the Rector, Vicar, Curate, or officiating Minister, in a suitable and durable book to be called "*The Register of Inscriptions*," to be provided at the expense of the Churchwarden or Chapelwarden of the parish or chapelry, and to be kept with the Registers of the Parish; and if at any subsequent periods any additional notices be made to such inscriptions, such additional matter shall be registered in the said book, and refer to the page containing the inscription to which such additions refer, and if such monument, tombstone, gravestone, or tablet, shall be affixed in the church, a fee of five shillings shall be paid by the person inscribing the same to the minister making such entry; but if such inscription shall be in the churchyard or open burial-ground, then a fee of two shillings and sixpence only.

XXII. And be it further enacted, that all and every the provisions in this Act shall extend, as far as circumstances will permit, to cathedral and collegiate churches, and chapels of colleges or hospitals, and the burying-grounds belonging thereto, and to the ministers who shall officiate in such cathedral, or collegiate churches, and chapels of colleges or hospitals, and burial-grounds respectively, and shall baptize, marry, or bury any person or per-

sons, although such cathedral, or collegiate churches, or chapels of colleges, or hospitals, or the burying-grounds belonging thereto, may not be parochial, or the ministers officiating therein may not be, as such, parochial ministers, and there shall be no Churchwardens or Churchwarden thereof, and in all such cases the books hereinbefore directed to be provided, shall be provided at the expense of the body having right to appoint the officiating minister in every such cathedral, or collegiate church, or chapel of a college or hospital, and copies thereof shall be transmitted to the Registrar of the Diocese within which such cathedral, or collegiate church, or chapel of a college, or hospital shall be situate, by and at the expense of the body so having right to appoint as aforesaid, in like manner as herein is directed with respect to copies of Parochial Registers, and shall be attested by two of the officers of such church, college, or hospital, as the copies of Parochial Registers are herein directed to be attested.

THE SCHEDULES TO WHICH THIS ACT REFERS.

SCHEDULE A.

I.

Marriages solemnized in the parish of A, in the county of B, in the year one thousand eight hundred and .

John Baker of the } Parish Gentleman, [Son of
this } Charles Baker and Caroline his wife for-
merly Caroline Hayes, Spinster,]

And

Jane Scott of the } Parish Spinster, [daugh-
this } ter of William Scott and Ann his wife, for-
merly Ann Walker, Spinster.] Were

married in this church } by Banns } with consent of { parents }
 chapel } Licence } { guardians }

this day of in the year, 183 .

By me, J. J. Rector.

Vicar.

Curate.

This marriage was solemnized by us,

Jno. Baker.

Jane Scott.

In the presence of

A. B. C. D. E. F.

SCHEDULE B.

I.

Baptisms solemnized in the parish of St. A. in the county of B. in the year one thousand eight hundred and						
When Born.	When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Father's Name and Mother's Maiden Name and residence.	Parish where Parents Married.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony performed.
6 Jan. 1832.	14 Jan. 1832.	John son of	John Baker and Jane Scott.	St. A.	Gentleman.	J. J.

SCHEDULE C.

I.

Burials in the parish of H. in the County of K. in the year one thousand eight hundred and							
Name.	Abode and Description.	If Husband or Widow, Wife, or Widow, state where married. If single, where baptized.	Age.	Name of Husband or Wife, or Father and Mother's residence.	When buried.	When died.	By whom the Ceremony performed.
John Baker.	St. Albans.	Husband. Married at St. Albans.	35	Wife's name Jane Scott.	5 March 1833.	1 March 1833	J. J.
Wm. Adams.	St. Albans.	Single. Baptized at Barnet.	15	Son of James Adams. of St. Albans.	6 April 1833.	29 March 1833.	J. J.

SCHEDULE D.

Adams, William	.	.	.	34
Anson, George	.	.	.	73
Acland, Mary	.	.	.	85

B.

Baker, John	.	.	.	32
Brown, Ann	.	.	.	84

SCHEDULE E.

I do hereby certify, that I did on the _____ day of _____ baptize according to the rites of the United Church of England and Ireland _____ son (or daughter) of _____ and _____ his wife by the name of _____, To the Rector (or as the case may be) of _____

I do hereby certify, that on the _____ day of _____ A. B. of _____ . [Son or daughter of _____ or as the case may be] aged _____ was buried in [stating the place of burial,] and that the ceremony of burial was performed according to the rites of the United Church of England and Ireland, by me, To the Rector [or as the case may be,] of _____

SCHEDULE F.

To the Registrar of the Diocese of _____

at

JOHN SMITH, }
WILLIAM COX, } Churchwardens of _____ (or as the case may be.)



INDEX.

A

Acts of Parliament, 6. 11. 15.
 Alley, Jerome, 9. 31.
 Ashwell, Edward, 26.

B

Bagnio, marriage at a, 45.
 Banns, first directed, 3.
 Bassett, Bartholomew, 10. 37.
 B—y House, marriage at, 47.
 Biseuit, broken, a ceremony, 58.

C

Castell, Robert, 1. 22.
 Ceremony—see *Biscuit Broken*.
 Certificate, antedated, 45, 46. 51, 52.
 Christian names, only registered,
 46. 48. 50. 58. 62.
 Churches, lawless described, 3.
 Colton, James, 10. 34.
 Contracts, per verba de presenti, 1.
 Cooke, v. Lloyd, 86.
 Crawford, Thomas, 32.
 Cuthbert, Robert, 31.

D

Dare, William, 30.

E

Elborrow, Robert, 10. 31.
 Espousals, entry of, in Register, 2.
 ——— customs relating to, *ib.*

Excommunication for clandestine marriage, 13.

F

Fielding, Handsome, and Duchess of Cleveland, 37.

Fleet, origin of marriages at, 5.
 ——— Paison, convicted of forty-two oaths, 7.

————— selling liquors, 59.
 ——— marrying in a night-gown,
ib.

————— drunk, 60.
 ——— a beggar, 36.
 ——— Parsons, list of, 25.

Fleet, an heiress married at, against her will, 7.

————— wedding, engraving of, 8.

————— Bishop's Visitation at, 9.

————— Practices in the Reign of Queen Ann, 10.

————— in 1723, 12.

————— in 1735, 13.

————— Marriage, legacy for, 15.

————— Prison, 21.

————— Wardens of, 22.

————— Chaplains, 24.

————— Marriages noticed by M. l'Abbé le Blanc, 52.

————— Registers, account of, 40.

————— purchased by Government, 43.

————— extracts from, 45.

————— as evidence, 81.

————— names of persons married there, 64. 80.

Floud, John, 30.

Fox, Hon. Henry, his marriage at the Fleet, 15.

————— his opposition to Marriage Act, 16, 17, 18, 88. 100.

G

Gaynam, Dr., 25.

Grierson, Rev. John, transported, 96.

Guernsey, the land of matrimony, 19.

H

Hamilton, Duke of, married at May Fair, 97, 103.

Husband, hired, 53, 54, 61. 63.

I

Jurisdiction, see *Privileged Places*.

K

King's Bench Prison, Registers, 93.

————— marriages at, 92.

Keith Alex., the famous, 97, 98.

————— his excommunication, 97.

————— his retaliation, *ib.*

————— imprisonment, *ib.*

INDEX.

Keith, Alex. his pamphlet on the Marriage Act, 99.
 ————— family, 98.
 ————— death, 98.
 ————— his catalogue of sale, 101.

L

Lando, James, 32. 41.
 Lawrance v. Dixon, 82.
 Legitimate, a child half so, 61.
 Lilly, Joshua, 37.
 ————— John, *ib.*
 Lloyd v. Passingham, 83. 86.
 ————— v. Evans, 87.

M

Marriage Clandestine,
 ————— Act, Horace Walpole's account of the introduction and passing, 16, 17, 18. 88. 100.
 ————— Blackstone's Commentary on, 19.
 ————— attempts to repeal, 20.
 Marriage of two women, 49, 50. 61.
 ————— ceremonies at the Fleet, 58, 59.
 ————— in bed, 64.
 ————— houses, keepers of, 37.
 ————— in terrorem, 48, 63.
 ————— as far as the ring, 59.
 ————— in part, 48, 46.
 ————— antedated, 45, 51.
 ————— at a cook-shop, 45.
 ————— bagnio, 45.
 ————— b—y house, 47.
 ————— shoemakers, 64.
 ————— at Newgate, 45.
 ————— of woman in a shift, 48.
 May Fair marriages, 96.
 ————— Duke of Hamilton married there with a curtain ring, 97.
 ————— some of the persons married there, 103.
 ————— Registers, 101.
 Mint, marriages at, 92.
 ————— Registers, 93.
 ————— names of some persons married there, 94.
 Mottram, John, his conviction, 11. 30.

O

Olive, Mrs. 42.
 Orrell v. Madox, 83.
 Owen, Thomas, 39. 42.

P

Panton, Benjamin, 43.
 Parochial Registration, Appendix.
 Parson, blind, 35. 39.
 Parsons, Fleet, List of, 25.
 Pasingham v. Lloyd, 83.
 Personate, Men and Women hired to, 39. 49, 50.
 Pocket Books of the Fleet Parsons, 46. 61.
 Privileged Places, 92.

Q

Quaker married at the Fleet, 55.

R

Reed v. Passer, 84.
 Rogers, Nehemiah, 10. 35.

S

Sacrament after a Fleet Wedding, 58.
 St. James's, Duke's Place, pretended exemption, 3.
 ————— Rector suspended, 3.
 ————— Register of, 4.
 Savoy, Marriages at, 19. 94.
 ————— Minister and Curate transported, 96.
 ————— practices at, 95.
 Say and Sele, Case of, 84.
 Shadwell, Ralph, a blind Parson, 35.
 Sham Certificates, 45.
 Shellburn, Anthony, 35. 42.
 Shift, Marriage in a, 48.
 Skimmington described, 9.
 Starkey, James, 31.
 Symson, Peter, 29.

T

Trinity Minories, pretended exemption, 3.
 ————— Register, 4.
 Twisleton, v. Cockshutt, 82. 85.

W

Weddings, Parish, 55. 63.
 ————— Private, 47, 48. 61. 63, 64.
 Wigmore, Daniel, 30.
 Wilkinson, Rev. John, of the Savoy, 9.
 Wyatt, Walter, 27.
 ————— his curious memoranda, 5.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

REGISTRUM ECCLESIAE PAROCHIALIS.

The History of Parish Registers in England; also of the Registers of Scotland, Ireland, the East and West Indies, &c. with Observations on Bishop's Transcripts, 8vo. 10s. 6d. (Suter, 19, Cheapside.)

“ The contents are not only highly curious, but in many instances amusing. We may commend the book, not only as containing much that is useful in itself, but because it suggests the necessity of a better system of registering, &c.”—*The Times*.

“ The volume abounds with curious matter connected with the subject of Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials generally, and we can recommend it to the perusal of our readers as an interesting and complete History of Parish Registers.”—*Gents. Mag.*

LIVRE DES ANGLOIS À GÈNEVE,

With a few Biographical Notes, 8vo. 2s. 6d. (A verbatim copy of the Register of Arrivals, Births, Marriages, and Burials, kept by the Exiles in 1555, containing notices of Whittingham, Bodleigh, John Knox, Goodman, Lever, Scory, Lawrence, Humphrey, Coverdale, &c.&c.) (Suter, 19, Cheapside.)

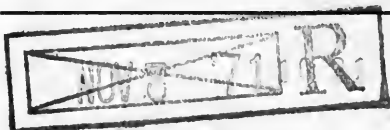




CS
436
L7
F5

THE LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Santa Barbara

THIS BOOK IS DUE ON THE LAST DATE
STAMPED BELOW.



UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY



A 001 081 810 2

