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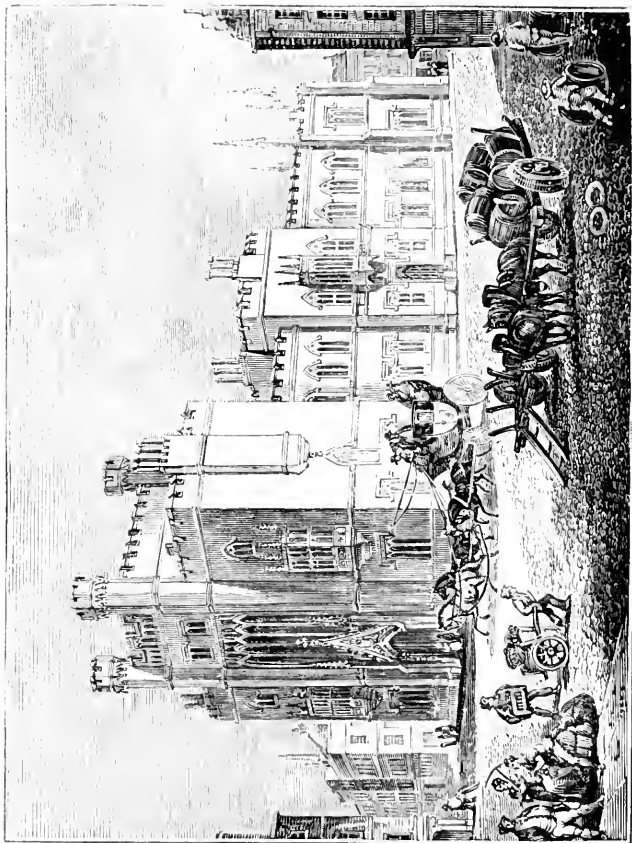


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CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL, MILK STREET, CHIEFSIDE.

Architect, Mr. J. B. Banning

MEMOIR
OF
JOHN CARPENTER,
Town Clerk of London
IN THE REIGNS OF
HENRY V. AND HENRY VI.

COMPILED
FROM ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS AND OTHER AUTHENTIC SOURCES,
BY
THOMAS BREWER,
OF THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE.



L O N D O N :
PRINTED BY ARTHUR TAYLOR, 39, COLEMAN STREET,
Printer to the Honourable City of London.

1836.



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TO
WARREN STORMES HALE, Esq. Chairman,
AND
THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL,

THIS MEMOIR,

COMPILED FOR THEIR INFORMATION, AND PRINTED
BY THEIR DESIRE,

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY THEIR OBLIGED AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

THOMAS BREWER.

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P R E F A C E.



THE establishment of the City of London School, and its endowment by the Corporation with the sum of Nine hundred pounds *per annum* out of the produce of the estates left by JOHN CARPENTER, in the reign of Henry the Sixth, for the limited purpose of educating, clothing, and maintaining four poor Boys, having given to the name of that individual an interest that did not formerly attach to it, the following brief Memoir of him has

been compiled, with a view of satisfying in some measure the desire which must naturally be felt to know something of the history of a man whose benevolence has afforded the means of effecting a purpose which promises such beneficial and important results.

The idea of preparing such an account first suggested itself about the time that the Act for establishing the school was pending in Parliament, in consequence of an application being made to the Compiler by Mr. Warren Stormes Hale, the then Chairman of the Committee who had the superintendance of the business, for some particulars connected with Carpenter's bequest and the date of his death. A considerable portion of his leisure time, for upwards of a year past, has accordingly been devoted by the Compiler to the task of searching

for and collecting, from a variety of sources, all the information in his power that was calculated to be of use in the accomplishment of this design. Although he has succeeded in obtaining a body of facts far exceeding his expectations, and which he trusts will be found to give a tolerable idea of the personal history of the individual to whom they relate, he cannot but feel, with some degree of regret, that a very great disparity exists between the labours he has found it necessary to employ, and the result of those labours as exhibited in the following pages.

Some estimate of the difficulties which he has met with may be formed, when it is stated that the person who was the subject of his enquiries lived upwards of four hundred years ago, and that the present was the first attempt that had ever been

made to collect any the least particulars of his history; and that, moreover, the materials were principally to be acquired from various ancient manuscripts which, besides being written in the Latin language, and in a style and character that require some experience and patient investigation to comprehend, were without any satisfactory means of reference to those particular parts which contained the information sought for. This latter circumstance rendered necessary a minute examination of several entire volumes, containing many hundreds of pages of miscellaneous matter, as well as of a mass of documents of a legal character, such as charters, deeds of conveyance, wills, &c., and imposed a labour which to a great extent was unattended with the slightest success.

The manuscripts referred to, from which

the principal facts have been gathered, are those venerable and authentic sources of civic history existing in the archives of the Corporation, and the Patent Rolls in the Tower of London. But, besides these, recourse has been had to a variety of other sources of information, comprehending all the works illustrative of the subject to which the Compiler had access, and of which those that he has had occasion to cite are enumerated in the subjoined list.

In closing this prefatory statement, the Compiler has great pleasure in acknowledging the honour conferred upon his humble effort, by the Chairman of the Committee for establishing the City of London School having caused a copy of the following "Memoir" to be enclosed with the other documents in the glass vase, deposited under the first stone of the new building,

which was laid on Wednesday, the 21st day of October last, by the Right Honourable Henry Lord Brougham and Vaux.

Guildhall, Nov. 1835.

LIST OF AUTHORITIES

CITED OR MADE USE OF IN THE FOLLOWING MEMOIR.

MSS. in the Archives of the Corporation of London.

Journals, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 8.

Liber Albus.

Liber Dunthorn.

Liber Horn.

Liber I.

Liber K.

Repertory, No. 20.

Hustings Rolls of Deeds and Wills, Nos. 150,
151, 152, 153, 186.

MSS. in the Tower of London.

Patent Rolls, 1, 3, 8, 9, 19 Hen. VI.

Cottonian MSS. in the British Museum.

Acts of Parliament, 13 and 14 Chas. II., c. 12;

10 Geo. IV., c. 43; 4 and 5 Will. IV., c. 35.

Brayley's Londiniana.

Charity Commissioners' Report, No. 10.

Cotton's Abridgment of the Records in the Tower.

Douce's Dance of Death.

Dugdale's History of St. Paul's.

Dugdale's Monasticon Anglicanum.

Edinburgh Review, vol. 34.

Encyclopædia Britannica.

Green's History of Worcester.

Herbert's History of the Livery Companies.
Heylin's History of the Reformation.
Holbein's Dance of Death, by Hollar.
Introduction to Statutes of the Realm.
Lysons's Environs of London.
Maitland's History of London.
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Nicolas's Synopsis of the Peerage.
Nicolas's Proceedings, &c. of the Privy Council.
Pennant's London.
Proceedings of the Common Council, 1826, 1827, 1833,
1834.
Rolls of Parliament.
Shakspeare's Works.
Stow's Survey of London.
Strype's Survey.
Tanner's Notitia Monastica.
Thomas's Account of the Bishops of Worcester.
Walpole's Anecdotes of Painting.
Warton's History of English Poetry.
Wood's History of the University of Oxford.

M E M O I R.

OF the parentage of John Carpenter nothing further is known than that his father's name was Richard, and his mother's Christina. His father was a citizen of London, whose trade was, it is believed, that of a Chandler¹. Though it is not possible to state precisely what family they possessed, it is evident that they had several children, both male and female, some of whom, who died before John, were buried, together with their parents, in the parish church of Saint Martin Outwich, in Threadneedle street².

The subject of the following account appears to have received a liberal education and to have possessed a considerable share of

¹ Liber I. fo. 97 b.

² Will of Katherine Carpenter, *vide post*, p. 42.

learning. Amongst other subjects, it is evident that he had an extensive acquaintance with the law; but though he had probably deeply studied that branch of knowledge, it is not clear whether he at any time followed it as a profession. The description which is very generally appended to his name, in the numerous deeds to which he was a party that are still extant in the rolls of the Court of Hustings, is that of "Clerk" (*Clericus*), a term which, besides being used to designate ecclesiastical persons, was formerly employed to signify in a general sense a learned man, or man of letters³, in which sense it was doubtless applied to Carpenter. He is also often described as a "Citizen of London," and very frequently as "John Carpenter junior." This latter appellation, considering that his father's name was Richard, it is not easy to account for; an opinion however will be hazarded upon the subject when it again comes under notice in a subsequent part of this account.

³ Encyclopædia Britannica, 7th edition, vol. vi. p. 74.

No further information has been discovered, relating to John Carpenter, until his election, in the year 1417, to the office of Common Clerk, or Town Clerk, of the city. This officer, during his time, was also frequently called the "Secretary" of the city⁴, a term which, though not inappropriate at any other period, has not been met with in the records of the city as being applied to any Town Clerk but Carpenter. His election took place upon an arrangement between him and John Marchaunt, who then held the office, and to whom Carpenter was at the time a clerk. By this arrangement, to which the Common Council of the city were also parties, as having the patronage of the office, it was agreed that Marchaunt should, during his life, continue to enjoy a certain portion of the income of the office, together with other advantages, though Carpenter was to execute its duties. This singularity, which probably can scarcely be paralleled by the election of any other officer, will justify the insertion of

⁴ Liber K. fo. 165, 189 ; and Journal No. 3, fo. 64 b. 65.

the following translation of the entire entry as it stands in the records of the city⁵.

“ A Common Council held on the twentieth day of April, in the fifth year of the reign of King Henry the Fifth after the Conquest, in the presence of Henry Barton, Mayor, John Barton, Recorder, Richard Merlawe, Robert Chichele, William Crowmer, Thomas Fauconer, Nicholas Wotton, William Louth, William Norton, William Chichele, John Penne, William Sevenok, John Michel, Thomas Pyke, Thomas Aleyn, Alan Everard, William Cambrigge, John Reinwell, Ralph Barton, and John Perneys, Aldermen, and John Coventre, one of the Sheriffs, and an immense multitude of Commoners of the said city.

“ The same day it was granted by the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council, at the cordial and diligent instance of John Carpenter, that John Marchaunt, for the good and laudable service which hitherto and of long time, in the office of Common Clerk of the said city, he hath faithfully exercised and

⁵ Liber I. fo. 194 b.

occupied, shall have and hold, for the term of his life, to him and his assigns, one mansion which he inhabiteth, situate above the middle gate of entrance to the Guildhall of the said city, between the tenement of Thomas Wotton on the east part, and the cemetery of the church of Saint Lawrence on the west part, without anything rendering for the same. And also, at the instance and by the consent of the said John Carpenter, it was then and there granted by the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council, that the said John Marchaunt shall have and receive annually during his life, at the four principal terms in the year, and usual in the City of London, of the Commonalty of the aforesaid city, by the hands of the Chamberlain for the time being, ten pounds sterling, pertaining to the office and the ancient fee of the Common Clerk of the said city; and that John Carpenter, his clerk, who then and there into the same office was elected and admitted, shall have and receive annually, of the Commonalty aforesaid, the rewards and robes and the other fees, commodities, and profits and

emoluments whatsoever to the office aforesaid belonging and pertaining, together with the fee of ten pounds aforesaid which shall fall after the death of the said John Marchaunt, &c. And it was granted by the same John Carpenter, then and there, in full Council aforesaid, that he, during the life of the said John Marchaunt, would not demand, or procure to be demanded, any of the fee of ten pounds aforesaid to the said office pertaining.”

The death of Marchaunt happened about four years afterwards, namely in 1421, and as he constituted Carpenter one of the executors of his will, thereby showing that he reposed great trust and confidence in him, it will probably not be deemed irrelevant to state the manner in which he disposed of his property.

The will is dated the 18th of July, 1421, in the ninth year of the reign of Henry the Fifth, and was proved and enrolled in the Hustings of Pleas of Land, held on the Monday after the feast of Saint James the Apostle (25th July), in the year following⁶. The tes-

⁶ Rolls of Deeds and Wills, No. 150, m. 9.

tator describes himself as “Citizen, and many years Common Clerk, of the City of London,” and, after directing that he should be buried in the church of the convent of the Holy Trinity within Aldgate, he bequeaths to the rector and churchwardens of Saint Margaret Lothbury five marks *per annum*, to be received out of his lands and tenements, consisting of a messuage and eight shops, which were formerly of John le Botener, senior, in the parishes of Saint Olave in the Old Jewry, Saint Stephen, Coleman street, and Saint Margaret, Lothbury, on condition that the said rector, &c. should maintain a chaplain to pray for his soul, and the souls of the said John le Botener and Margery and Mabely his wives, and all the faithful deceased; in default of this condition being fulfilled the said payment to cease. He also bequeaths to the Prior and Convent of the said church of the Holy Trinity the aforesaid lands and tenements, charged with the payment of the said five marks *per annum*, and the reversion of two tenements adjoining the same, upon condition to sustain and keep in repair all the said lands

and tenements, and every week to assign three canons of the said convent to celebrate daily for his soul, and the souls of Letitia his wife, his father, mother, brothers, and sisters, and all their benefactors; paying to each of the said canons, for every day on which they should so celebrate, one penny; the said Prior and Convent also distributing, every Friday, one penny each to three poor persons within the parish of Saint Catherine Cree Church, to pray for the souls abovesaid. The said Prior and Convent were also directed to make and hold every year for ever his anniversary on Thursday and Friday in Easter week; namely, to say on the Thursday, in the afternoon, "*Placebo et Dirige, cum Obsequiis Mortuorum,*" and to celebrate on the Friday a mass of *Requiem* by note for the said souls, and to distribute on the same Friday anniversary, thirty pence to thirty poor persons in the wards of Portsoken and Aldgate; and further, to pay to Richard Osbarn⁷ and John Carpenter, his executors, forty pence

⁷ Osbarn held the office of Clerk of the Chamber.

each on the feast of the nativity of Saint John the Baptist in every year during their lives, and after their decease to make a like payment to the Common Clerk and the Common Orator (or Common Serjeant) for the time being of the city, to see that his will was duly performed. In default of compliance with any of these directions, by the said Prior and Convent, the bequest to them was to cease, and to go to the Mayor and Commonalty of the city, to the use of the keeper and chaplains of the chapel of Guildhall, who were to perform the services and receive the rewards above specified ; and, in case of their default, the said lands and tenements were to remain to the said Mayor and Commonalty for the sustentation of the Conduits and other burthens of the said city for ever.

Another instance of the reputation for trustworthiness which Carpenter enjoyed, is to be found in his appointment, in the same year, as an executor of the will of William Est, a citizen of London⁸, who directed part of his

⁸Rolls of Deeds and Wills, No. 150, m. 4, dors. and m. 7.

property to be sold by his executors, and the produce distributed to pious uses, namely, in releasing poor prisoners confined for debt; in marrying poor girls of good fame and honest conversation, not having any marriage portion of themselves; in mending the ways about the City of London, and in other works of charity, as might best seem to please God, and save the testator's soul, and the souls of his father and mother, and all the faithful deceased.

Within two or three years after his election as Town Clerk, Carpenter found time, notwithstanding his other important avocations, to compile a large volume on matters relating to the city, which displays much research, and knowledge of the subjects on which it treats, and has always been regarded as a book of great value and authority. It is still preserved in the archives of the Corporation, together with a transcript or duplicate copy of it, made by Robert Smith, Comp-

⁹ For making this copy, Smith was rewarded by the Court of Aldermen, on the 25th of October, 1592, with the sum of thirty pounds. Repertory, No. 20, fo. 370 b.

troller of the Chamber in the reign of Queen Elizabeth⁹. The volume was at first called "*Liber Albus*" (or the White Book), but that name is now generally applied to the transcript, and the original designated as "*Liber Niger*" (or the Black Book). This change in the name was most likely not adopted until after the copy of the book had been made; and it is not improbable that both the change and the copy owed their origin to the following lines, written by some person, evidently prior to the reign of Elizabeth, on the first leaf.

" Qui Liber Albus erat, nunc est contrarius albo,
 Factus et est unctis pollicibus niger;
 Dum tamen est extans, istum describite librum,
 Ne semel amisso postea nullus erit:
 Quod si nullus erit (nonnulla est nostraque culpa),
 Hei! pretii summi perdita gemma, Vale!¹⁰!"

¹⁰ These lines have been rendered into English verse at the request of the Compiler, by his friend Mr. Josiah Temple, of Guildhall, as follows:—

This book, which once was white, has black become,
 Mark'd through and through by many a greasy thumb;
 Copy its leaves while yet you have the power,
 Which may be lost if left beyond this hour:
 For if through fault of ours the book be lost,
 Farewell! a gem is gone of greatest cost!

The volume purports to be a collection of the laws, customs, privileges, and usages of the city, principally extracted from the rolls, charters, and documents of authority which were then in possession of the Corporation. The contents of the several treatises and collections regarding the city's rights, are, at the end of the compilation, digested by way of calendar, and an index is given to the pages of the volumes from which these contents are extracted. The motives which led to the compilation being made, and the end that it was designed to answer, are explained with much force and clearness in a short preface or introduction, a translation of which is here introduced as tending to throw some light upon the character and pursuits of its author, whose unostentatious disposition would not allow him to record to whom the merit of the compilation was due, in any other way than by modestly inscribing his name "Carpenter," on the inner side of the first leaf, in much the same way that persons are now in the habit of inscribing their name in books to denote to whom they belong:—

“ Because the fallibility of human memory, and the shortness of life, do not allow us to attain a proper knowledge of everything worthy of remembrance, even where we possess the written evidence of facts, especially if this appear without order or regularity,— yet is this still more the case with regard to those things whereof no written account exists; and when, as not unfrequently it happens, all the aged, the more skilful and discreet rulers of the Royal City of London are carried off by pestilence, almost we may say at once, the younger persons who succeed them in the government of the city are oftentimes, in various instances, surrounded with difficulties, from the very want of such a writing: and thus perplexity and controversy are many times caused amongst them in rendering their judgements. It has been therefore long deemed necessary, not by the governors of the city only, but by those also who are subject to their rule, that some volume, which, from its containing the regulations of the city, might be designated a Repertory, should be compiled from the re-

markable notices and memoranda scattered without order or distinction through the several books, rolls, and charters of the said city; and because such a design,—for what cause it is not known, without it be from the excessive labour it must demand,—has not been hitherto carried into effect, a volume of such a description is now compiled in the mayoralty of the illustrious Richard Whityngton, Mayor of the said city, that is to say, in the month of November, in the year of Our Lord's incarnation One thousand four hundred and nineteen, and in the seventh year

¹¹ Carpenter is not the only officer of the city who has left such a memorial of his industry and research. There are in the archives of the Corporation two other manuscript volumes of great value and antiquity, one of which, called "Liber Horn," was compiled by Andrew Horn, Chamberlain of London, in the year 1311, in the reign of Edward II., and purports to contain "all the statutes, ordinances, charters, liberties, and customs of the city, and orders of the Justices Itinerant at the Tower of London and at their iters, together with the charter of the Liberties of England, and the statutes made by Henry III. and Edward I." This is an exceedingly curious volume, and its value as a register of some of the early statutes (authentic copies of which are in many cases

of the reign of King Henry the Fifth after the Conquest; containing in itself not only those laudable observances which, albeit they are not written, have yet been accustomed and approved in the said city, that they may not hereafter be destroyed and lost in oblivion, as likewise such things, worthy of note and remembrance, as *are* written, but scattered about, and without order, in the manner before described; that, by their being known, as well the rulers of the city as the ruled, may know with greater security what henceforth should be done in rare and unusual cases¹¹.”

very scarce) is particularly noticed in the edition of the Statutes of the Realm, printed under the authority of the Commissioners for Public Records [Folio, 1810, vol. i. Introduction, pp. xxxviii. xxxix.]. Horn was also the compiler of the well-known treatise on the ancient common law of the realm, entitled “The Mirror of Justices,” [Edinburgh Review, vol. xxxiv. p. 187, note]. The other MS. volume above alluded to is styled “Liber Dunthorn,” and was written by William Dunthorn, Town Clerk, between the years 1461 and 1490. In its contents it is similar to “Liber Albus.” The City rewarded Dunthorn, for his labour in making it, with the sum of 115*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* [Journal, No. 8. fo. 91.]

It has been already stated that, in the year 1422, Carpenter was called upon to act as executor of the wills of two of his friends, and that their selection of him for that purpose may be regarded as a strong proof of the high opinion which was entertained of his integrity and discretion. Another such tribute of respect (though it imposed a far heavier burthen) was paid him by his appointment to the important and responsible duty of an executor of the will of the famous Richard Whityngton, who was several times Lord Mayor, and a great benefactor of the city. In the execution of the trusts of this will, Carpenter appears to have acted with great diligence and fidelity, qualities which evidently characterized him throughout the whole of his life. The other executors were John Coventre, alderman, John White, clerk, and William Grove. Coventre was an ancestor of the present Earl of Coventry¹², he was Sheriff of the city in 1417, and Lord Mayor

¹² Herbert's History of the Livery Companies, p. 249.

¹³ Liber K. fo. 71.

¹⁴ Stow's Survay of London, 1613, p. 259.

in 1425. He died on Easter Monday (13th April), 1429¹³, and was buried in the church of Saint Mary-le-bow, Cheapside, where a monument was erected to his memory¹⁴. White died in or about the month of January, 1424¹⁵.

Whityngton, by his will, which is dated the 5th of September, 1421, 9th of Henry V. and was proved and inrolled in the Court of Hustings, in London, on Monday next after the feast of Saints Perpetua and Felicitas, 1st of Henry VI. 1423¹⁶, left all his lands and tenements in London, which were very considerable, to his executors, with directions to dispose of the same in works of charity, &c. In fulfilment of this trust, Carpenter and his colleagues, after procuring the necessary licences from the King and the Archbishop of Canterbury, completed the foundation, which Whityngton had begun in his life-time, of a college in the church of Saint Michael Royal for five chaplains, one of whom was to

¹⁵ Rolls of Deeds and Wills, No. 152, m. 13; and No. 153, m. 9, compared.

¹⁶ Rolls of Deeds and Wills, No. 151, m. 9, dors.

be the master, and an alms-house adjoining to the church for thirteen poor men, of whom one was to be called tutor; on these establishments they settled an ample endowment, and after making ordinances and statutes for their regulation, they twice procured a confirmation from the King and the Parliament¹⁷.

Malcolm, quoting Strype, says¹⁸, “There are extant in the custody of the Mercers the original Ordinances of Richard Whittington’s charity, made by his executors Coventry, Carpenter, and Grove, fairly written; where, on the first page, is curiously illumined the said Whittington lying on his death bed, a very lean, consumed, meagre body, and his three executors and a priest, and divers others, standing by his bed side.” Malcolm adds, “The Ordinances begin thus, To alle, &c.: the letter **¶** is adorned with the arms of Whittington. The other figures mentioned by Strype are a physician holding an urinal,

¹⁷ These Charters and Ordinances, dated in the 3rd, 5th, and 10th of Henry VI., are printed in Dugdale’s *Monasticon Anglicanum*, vol. iii. part 2, pp. 177, 178, 189, and Addit. p. 99. See also *Rot. Parl.* vol. iv. p. 392.

and a groupe of thirteen figures, the front one of which is doubtless Robert Chesterton the first tutor of the alms-house (his hair is distinguished from the rest, being grey), and his twelve alms-men attending him. The head-piece of the Ordinances, which Strype says is curiously illumined, is really a drawing with a fine-pointed pen; the ink by time is changed to a brown, and the faces and hands are tinted with red, heightened with white, and the hair with brown; the emaciated figure of Whittington is tinted with a sallow pale brown. The names of Carpenter, Coventry, and Grove are written on the figures intended for them." Malcolm illustrates this description by an engraving taken from a drawing furnished him by Richard Gough, Esq. F. S. A.

On the 12th of May, 1423, Whityngton's executors obtained letters patent from the King¹⁹, authorizing them to pull down and

¹⁸ Malcolm's Londinium Redivivum, 4to. 1807, vol. iv. p. 515.

¹⁹ Rotuli Patentium in Turri Londinensi, 1^o Henrici Sexti, m. 31.

rebuild the prison of Newgate. The grounds on which this measure was rendered necessary are stated to have been, that the prison was “ feble” (or decayed), “ over litel, and so contagious of cyre that it caused the deth of many men²⁰.” Besides executing this public and expensive work, and several others that might be mentioned, such as building or repairing conduit-heads, &c. they contributed largely to the building of the hospital of Saint Bartholomew in West Smithfield, and the present Guildhall; and, adjoining to the chapel attached to the last-mentioned building, they, in conjunction with the executors of William Bury, erected “ a fayre and large liberarye” for preserving the books and other documents of the Corporation in²¹. They likewise obtained a charter from the King, dated the 14th of February, 3d of Henry VI.

²⁰ Rotuli Parliamentorum, vol. iv. p. 370.

²¹ Stow, speaking of this library (Survay, p. 276), says, “ The books were in the reign of Edward the 6. sent for by Edward Duke of Somerset, Lorde Protector, with promise to be restored shortly. Men laded from thence three carres with them, but they were never returned.”

1425²², confirming a grant of Richard II. whereby the Mercers of London (of which mystery Whityngton was a member) were created a brotherhood, with a chaplain and four keepers for the relief of such of their mystery as should come to decay from misfortunes of the sea and other casualties; and granting that the keepers and commonalty of the said mystery should have a common seal and be able in law to plead and be impleaded.

In 1430, Carpenter obtained a licence from the King, dated 12th of January, to found a chantry for one chaplain, in the chapel of the Virgin Mary over the charnel on the north side of the church of Saint Paul, with an endowment of eight marks a year²³; which he accordingly founded by an ordinance dated on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14th September) following²⁴.

It was probably about the same time that he “caused” (as Stow relates²⁵) “with great

²² Rot. Pat. 3 Hen. VI. p. 2, m. 18.

²³ Rot. Pat. 8 Hen. VI. m. 21.

²⁴ Dugdale's History of St. Paul's (1638), p. 274, App.

²⁵ Stow's Survey, p. 110.

expenses, to bee curiously painted upon boord about the north cloyster of Paules, a monument of Death leading all estates, with the speeches of Death, and answere of everie state." Concerning which painting a more particular account is given by the same author, in another place, as follows²⁶: "There was also one great cloyster on the north side of this church [St. Paul's], invironing a plot of ground, of old time called Pardon church-yard, whereof Thomas More, deane of Paul's, was either the first builder or a most especial benefactor, and was buried there. About this cloyster was artificially and richly painted the

²⁶ Stow's Survey, p. 329.

²⁷ This designation has been generally understood to have been derived from the name of Machabre, or Macabre, who is said to have been a German poet and physician, and to have been the original author of the verses that have usually accompanied the painting of the Dance of Death (*vide* Pennant's London, vol. ii. p. 135; Brayley's Londiniana, vol. iii. p. 171); but the late Francis Douce, Esq. F. S. A. in a very learned work entitled "The Dance of Death, exhibited in elegant engravings on wood; with a Dissertation on the several representations of that subject, but more particularly of those ascribed to Macabre and Hans Holbein" (1833, 8vo.), takes great pains to prove this to be an error, and maintains that

Dance of Machabray²⁷, or Dance of Death, commonly called the Dance of Paul's; the like whereof was painted about St. Innocent's cloyster at Paris, in France. The meters or poesie of this dance were translated out of French into English by John Lidgate, monke of Bury; the picture of Death leading all estates; at the dispenche of Jenken²⁸ Carpenter, in the reign of Henry the Sixt." He adds that "in this cloyster were buryed many persons, some of worship and others of honour; the monuments of whom, in number and curious workmanship, passed all other that were in that church." After giving some further par-

"there never was a German or any poet whatever bearing such a name as Macaber." His opinion is that "Macaber" is a corruption of "Macaire" (the French mode of spelling Macarius) the name of a saint who was one of the principal figures in a painting by Andrew Orgagna, in the Campo Santo at Pisa, representing the story of a French metrical work of the thirteenth century, entitled "*Les trois Morts et les trois Vifs*." He also states that "the earliest authority that has been traced for the name of '*Danse Macabre*,' belongs to the painting at the church of the Innocents at Paris," A. D. 1424; and that that painting has prefixed to it the story of "*Les trois Morts et les trois Vifs*," chap. iii. p. 28-34.

²⁸ Jenken or Janken, diminutive of John.

ticulars respecting a library and chapel which occupied part of the same site, he concludes by stating that “in the year 1549, on the 10th of April, the said chappell, by commaundement of the Duke of Sommerset, was begun to bee pulled downe, with the whole cloystrie, the Daunce of Death, the tombes and monuments, so that nothing thereof was left but the bare plot of ground, which is since converted into a garden for the pettie canons²⁹.”

Stow says that the bones of the dead which had been “couched up in a charnell under the chapel were convaied from thence into Finsbery field (by report of him who paid for the carriage), amounting to more than a thousand cart loads, and there laid on a moorish ground, in short space after raised by soylage of the citie to beare three milles.” “This indecorous disinterment and removal of the dead (says Mr. Brayley³⁰), was the occasion of exciting much odium against the

²⁹ This spoliation was made by the Protector Somerset in order to obtain materials for building his palace in the Strand.—Heylin’s History of the Reformation, p. 73.

³⁰ Londiniana, vol. iii. p. 138.

Protector Somerset ; and his great enemy, the Earl of Warwick, made it one of the means of accelerating his ruin."

Although Stow only mentions one place besides Saint Paul's where a painted representation of the Dance of Death was exhibited, it appears from Mr. Douce's Dissertation³¹ that "the subject was very often represented, not only on the walls, but in the windows of many churches, in the cloisters of monasteries, and even on bridges, especially in Germany and Switzerland ; it was also sometimes painted on church screens, and occasionally sculptured on them, as well as upon the fronts of domestic dwellings³²." Previously to its becoming a subject of pictorial art, we learn from Warton's History of English Poetry³³ that it used to be represented in a kind of spiritual masquerade by ecclesiastics, habited in person and character ; and as thus acted it is supposed that it may have

³¹ Chap. ii. p. 17.

³² A mutilated carving of it in wood still exists in the cemetery of Saint Maclou at Rouen.

³³ Vol. ii. pp. 43 and 364, 8vo. edition.

been alluded to in the *Visions of Pierce Plowman*, written perhaps as early as 1350. The most celebrated of the paintings of the Death dance (and which was in existence until about the year 1806) was that at Basil in Switzerland, in the churchyard formerly belonging to the convent of Dominicans. The name of the artist who executed this painting is unknown ; it was for a long period attributed to Hans Holbein, but Walpole, in his *Anecdotes of Painting*, has clearly shown this to be an error, it having been executed some years before Holbein was born ; it, however, probably suggested to that artist, who was a native of the place, the painting on that subject which he did execute, though it seems doubtful whether that which has been repeatedly engraved and published as his was really his production. The immediate cause of this representation at Basil is stated, by Walpole³⁴, to have arisen from the plague which raged there, and carried off people of

³⁴ *Anecdotes of Painting*, vol. i. p. 123.

³⁵ Mr. Douce states that nearly all the convents of the Dominicans had a Dance of Death ; and remarks that, as

all degrees, during the sitting of the General Council at Basil, which began to meet in 1431. On the cessation of that calamity, the painting was executed on the walls of a cloister, and is said to have been intended both as a memorial and a warning³⁵. And, on the supposition that the date of the painting at Saint Paul's was subsequent to the year 1438, in which year the pestilence extended its ravages into this country, with the addition of of a famine, it is not improbable that, in having this appalling dance pourtrayed in the new cloisters at Saint Paul's, Carpenter was actuated by the same motives that are ascribed to the inhabitants of Basil, and that it was intended both as a memorial and a moral lesson³⁶. This far-famed piece consisted of a long train of all orders of mankind, from the Pope to the very lowest of the spe-

these friars were *Preachers* by profession, the subject must have been exceedingly useful in supplying texts and matter for their sermons.—Dissertation, p. 36.

³⁶ In the latter character, reference is made by Sir Thomas More, in treating of the Remembrance of Death, to "the Daunce of Death pictured in Poules;"—Works, p. 77, edit. 1557, folio.

cies, each figure having for a partner the spectral personification of Death, who was represented leading the sepulchral dance, and shaking the last sands from his waning hour-glass. The colloquial stanzas between Death and his victims, which existed both in German and Latin, were translated into French; and it was from the latter language that Lidgate made his English versification for the picture about Saint Paul's³⁷; a copy of which verses are to be found in Dugdale's History of that church (1818, p. 419), as well as in his *Monasticon Anglicanum*, tom. iii. p. 367.

The Rolls of the Parliament held in the 9th of Henry VI., 1430³⁸, contain a petition from Carpenter complaining of the non-payment of a sum of four marks *per annum*, which had been devised by Sir John Pulteney, Knight, formerly Mayor of London, for the relief of the prisoners in Newgate, and pray-

³⁷ Brayley's *Londiniana*, vol. iii. pp. 173-4; "The Dance of Death, from the original designs of Hans Holbein, engraved by W. Hollar; with descriptions in English and French," 1818, pp. 14, 15; and Douce's *Dissertation on the Dance of Death*, 1833, *passim*. M.

ing a remedy by the grant of a power to distrain for the same upon the lands charged with the payment thereof. The petition was complied with, and letters patent were accordingly issued, dated the 12th of January, in the 9th of Henry VI., 1431, authorizing the mayor and chamberlain of the city for the time being to distrain for the amount whenever it should be in arrear³⁹.

On the 23d of February, in the year last mentioned, the City granted to Carpenter and his wife, Katherine, a lease of some premises in the parish of Saint Peter, Cornhill, in the ward of Lime Street, for a term of eighty years, at the annual service of a red rose for the first thirty years, and a yearly rent of twenty shillings for the remainder of the term⁴⁰.

On the 14th of December, 1436, the City, in order to show their sense of the value of

Langlois of Rouen is said to be engaged upon a work on the same subject.

³⁸ Rot. Parl. vol. iv. p. 370.

³⁹ Rot. Pat. 9 Hen. VI. part 1, m. 14, and Lib. K. fo. 86.

⁴⁰ Liber K. fo. 86 b.

the services he had rendered them, and that he might thereafter enjoy the greater quiet and tranquillity, granted him a patent of exemption, under their common seal, from all summonses, watches, assizes, juries, recognizances, inquisitions, and assemblies whatsoever, within the city, and from being compellable against his will to take any other burthen or office than that which he then sustained⁴¹. This privilege, which must have been a very important one in those days, was possessed by but very few persons, and was never conferred on any one but under some special circumstances, such as the rendering of important public services, and not unfrequently in return for the payment of a considerable sum of money.

In this year he was elected one of the representatives of the city in Parliament⁴²; an honour which was again conferred upon him

⁴¹ Liber K. fo. 165.

⁴² Journal No. 3, fo. 1 and 129b.

⁴³ Journal No. 3, fo. 25b. This last election is not mentioned in the List of Representatives in Maitland's History of London, vol. ii. p. 1197.

in 1439⁴³. Shortly previous to this second election he appears to have resigned his office of Town Clerk, as there is an entry in the City's records of the appointment of Richard Barnet, or Bernat, as his successor, on the 4th of October, 1438⁴⁴.

In 1439 he obtained letters patent from the King, dated 3d of December, 18th of Henry VI. exempting him for the whole of his life from all military and civil duties whatsoever, among which are included being returned to Parliament, and receiving the honour of Knighthood. This patent, the original of which is still extant amongst the Cottonian Manuscripts in the British Museum⁴⁵, is to the following effect:

“ R. H⁴⁶.

“ The King to all his bailiffs and faithful people greeting. Know ye that of our special grace, at the humble request and for the ease of our dearly beloved John Carpenter the younger, late Secretary of our City of

⁴⁴ Journal No. 3, fo. 164.

⁴⁵ Bibl. Cotton., Vespasian, C. xiv. fo. 277.

⁴⁶ These initials are in the King's autograph.

London, who in services to us and our progenitors there and elsewhere, from the times of his youth, not without great pains and unwearied loyalty, as well commendably as faithfully hath laboured earnestly, we have given and granted, for us and our heirs, as much as in us is, to the same John, that he for the whole of his life shall have these liberties, that is to say, That he shall not be placed nor impanelled in any great assize arrayed or to be arrayed within our realm of England, nor in any other assizes, juries, inquisitions, attaints, or reviews whatsoever, although they may affect us or our heirs ; nor be sworn or placed upon the trial of any arraignment, assize, or panel, before whatsoever justices of us or our heirs to be taken. And that he shall not be appointed nor assigned a leader, tryer, or arrayer of men at arms, hobellers, or archers ; nor customer, searcher, comptroller, taxer, or collector of any customs, taxes, talliages, aids, or subsidies whatsoever, to us or our heirs howsoever granted or to be granted. And that henceforth he shall not be nor be elected knight for any county, nor citizen for

any city, to come to the parliaments of us or our heirs. And that he shall not be made mayor, sheriff, escheator, coroner, constable, bailiff, justice of the peace or of sewers, nor other commissioner, officer, or minister whatsoever of us or our heirs. And that he shall not by any means be constrained or compelled by us or our heirs, nor by the justices or ministers of us or our heirs whatsoever, to take upon him the degree of knighthood, or any of the burthens, offices, or employments aforesaid, or hereafter to undergo, perform, or occupy any other office, but therefrom shall be wholly free and entirely exempted by these presents. And further of our abundant grace we have given and granted to the same John, for us and our heirs, that although he may be hereafter chosen, ordained, or assigned to any of the burthens, offices, or employments aforesaid, or to undergo, perform, or occupy any other office, contrary to the force, form, or effect of this our present grant, and shall refuse to undertake, perform, or occupy such offices or burthens, yet by occasion of such contempt he

shall not in any wise incur any fine, forfeiture, loss, or damage, in body or goods, but that our own present charter of exemption by the aforesaid John, or any other whomsoever in his name, before whatsoever justices and ministers of us and our heirs in whatsoever place of record through our whole realm aforesaid, shown, upon such showing shall surely take effect and be allowed to the same John without any other writ or process for that purpose further to be prosecuted, or proclamation to be made. And therefore we command that the same John be not contrary to our present grant in any manner disturbed or burthened. In testimony whereof, &c.

Witness, &c.

W. P. LE BARDOLF,
Chamberlain⁴⁷."

On the 10th of June, 1440, the mayor and aldermen voted Carpenter twenty marks for certain labours which he had performed for the city, but what they were is not specified⁴⁸.

⁴⁷ This Document, which is in Latin, has been recently published in the "Proceedings and Ordinances of the Privy Council," edited by Sir Harris Nicolas, 8vo. 1835, vol. v. p. 111.

In the following year he was engaged as counsel for the city in the Star-chamber, in a suit instituted by the Dean of the collegiate church of Saint Martin-le-grand, complaining of the Sheriffs of the city having violated the privilege of sanctuary belonging to that church, by the forcible seizure of an offender who had fled thither after being rescued from the custody of one of their officers. Stow says⁴⁹, on the authority of a book written by one of the officers of the place about the year 1442, that "the complaint and suit was learnedly answered by the citizens, by their counsel Markham, Serjeant at Law, and John Carpenter, late Common Clerk of the City, who offered to prove that the said place of Saint Martin had no such immunity or liberty as was pretended;" and that "Carpenter offered to lose his livelihood if that church had more immunity than the least church in London." The matter terminated, however, in judgement being given in favour of the Dean and against the City. The arguments

⁴⁸ Journal No. 3, fo. 44. ⁴⁹ Survey, p. 309.

which were employed on the occasion are set out at some length in Kempe's "Historical Notices of the Collegiate Church of Saint Martin-le-grand," (publ. 1825).

In the same year in which the last-mentioned event occurred, namely 1441, it appears a grant was made by the King, of the manor of Thebaudes (or Theobalds), in the village of Cheshunt in the county of Hertford, with its appurtenances, to John Carpenter, Master of Saint Anthony's Hospital in London, John Somerset, Chancellor of the King's Exchequer, and John Carpenter, junior, Citizen of London; to hold the same of the crown by the annual render of one bow of the value of two shillings, or two shillings in money, and one barbed arrow of the value of three-pence, or three-pence in money⁵⁰. And shortly afterwards the same persons received from the king a grant of divers privileges and exemptions in the said manor⁵¹. The person here styled "John Carpenter, junior," there

⁵⁰ Lysons's *Environs of London*, vol. iv. p. 29; *Calendarium Rotulorum Patentium*, p. 283, 19 Hen. VI.

⁵¹ *Rot. Pat.* 19 Hen. VI. part 2, m. 27.

is no doubt, was the subject of the present memoir ; the other person of the same name was a man of some note, who had been Provost of Oriel College in Oxford, and in 1437 was Chancellor of that university ; in 1444 he was appointed Bishop of Worcester, and filled that see until his death in 1476. He was a great benefactor to the cathedral church and diocese of Worcester, as well as to the University of Oxford, in which he had been brought up. He was buried at his native village of Westbury upon Trin, near Bristol, where a plain altar monument was erected to his memory, with a skeleton lying on the top of it⁵².

The hospital of Saint Anthony, for whose benefit the above grants were made, was an establishment in Threadneedle street, founded in the reign of Henry the Third, by the brethren of Saint Anthony of Vienne in France ; it consisted of a master, two priests, a schoolmaster, and twelve poor brethren,

⁵² Thomas's Account of the Bishops of Worcester, 1736, p. 196 ; Green's History of Worcester, 1796, vol. i. p. 196 ; A. Wood's Hist. of the University of Oxford, by Gutch, 1786, pp. 96, 124-6, 674, and App. p. 47.

besides their proctors and other officers and servants⁵³, and it would appear that our John Carpenter was at this time connected with it as one of the members or officers. This connection may have been the cause of the word "junior" being added to his name, in order to distinguish him from the other John Carpenter, who might have been his senior in years; and yet, though there would be a degree of propriety in this addition whenever the two persons were named together, it seems to have been scarcely necessary, on this account merely, in those cases where they were not associated with each other; especially as other descriptive words, such as "Citizen of London," "Common Clerk of the City of London," and "Executor of the will of Richard Whityngton," were frequently used to denote the party intended. Taking these circumstances into consideration, it seems likely that there was some other reason for the employment of the word in question than the connection above referred

⁵³ Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*, by Nasmith, 1787: Middlesex, viii. London, 28.

to; and it is not impossible that the reason may have been that the parties were nearly related to each other, perhaps even brothers. In support of this conjecture, reference may be made to a deed, recently met with by the Compiler, dated the 10th of August, 1424, in which, two persons of the name of Richard Turk, who are distinguished from each other as "senior," and "junior," being parties, it is expressly stated that they were brothers⁵⁴.

Subsequent to this date (1441), nothing can be traced respecting Carpenter until after his death, neither can it be ascertained with certainty when that event took place. There are, however, several entries in the City's records which afford material assistance in arriving at a near acquaintance with the time when it occurred. By one of these entries, dated the 19th of August, 1447⁵⁵, it appears that his executors were to be spoken to about a sum of one thousand pounds, which had come to his hands during his life, having been given by the late Lord Cardinal for the use

⁵⁴ Rolls of Deeds and Wills, No. 153, m. 5.

⁵⁵ Journal, No. 4, p. 205.

of London Bridge. The person here referred to was Henry Beaufort, third son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and consequently great uncle to King Henry the Sixth; he was made Bishop of Lincoln in 1398, and translated to the see of Winchester in 1405⁵⁶; he was subsequently raised to the degree of a Cardinal, and also several times held the office of Lord Chancellor. He died on the 11th of April, 1447. From the prominent part which he sustained in public affairs, he forms one of the principal characters in Shakspeare's play of King Henry the Sixth, and one of the scenes contains an interesting description of his death bed⁵⁷.

If, as seems probable, Carpenter survived Beaufort, his own death must have occurred between April and December in the same year; and as the will of his wife, which will shortly be noticed, directs an anniversary to be observed for his soul on the 12th of May in every year, we may almost conclude that that was the day on which his decease hap-

⁵⁶ Nicolas's Synopsis of the Peerage, vol. ii. pp. 860, 887.

⁵⁷ Second part of Henry the Sixth, Act iii. scene 3.

pened. Great pains have been taken to discover his will, but hitherto without effect ; it appears however, by another entry on the above-mentioned subject in the City's records⁵⁸, that his executors were his wife Katherine, David Fyvian, clerk, and William Chadworth. He was buried under a tomb in the church of Saint Peter, Cornhill, of which parish it may be inferred, from the grant made to him and his wife, by the City, as before-mentioned, he was an inhabitant.

In 1448 the City purchased of his wife some property belonging to her near Leadenhall, for the purpose of enlarging the common garner there for the store of corn, for the supply of the city⁵⁹ ; and in 1453 she sold them some other ground there, which was occupied by a chapel that had been erected by Simon Eyre, late mayor of the city⁶⁰.

Carpenter's widow died in or about the year 1458. Her will is dated the 30th of March, 1457, and was proved and enrolled in

⁵⁸ Journal, No. 5, fo. 31.

⁵⁹ Journal, No. 4, fo. 231, 242.

⁶⁰ Journal, No. 5, fo. 114.

the Court of Hustings on the Monday next after the feast of Saint Petronilla the Virgin, 36th of Henry VI., 1458⁶¹. She left by this will, to the church of Saint Peter, Cornhill, the sum of thirty-three shillings *per annum*, for the observance of an anniversary for the souls of her husband and herself, and all the faithful deceased, on the 12th day of May in every year, and for payment of the sum of three pence each to thirteen poor people of either sex who should attend on the occasion, namely, seven of the parish of Saint Peter, and six of the parish of Saint Martin Outwich ; she also left thirteen shillings and four-pence *per annum* to the church of Saint Martin Outwich, for the observance of an anniversary in that church, on the feast of Saints Cosmas and Damian (27th of September), in every year, for the soul of her husband and her own soul, and the souls of Richard, the father, Christina, the mother, and all the brothers, sisters, and relations of her husband buried in the said church, and of all the faith-

⁶¹ Rolls of Deeds and Wills, No. 186, m. 9.

ful deceased; with directions to pay three-pence each to thirteen poor persons of either sex who should be present on the occasion, namely, seven of that parish, and six of the parish of Saint Peter, Cornhill. She further left to the college of Saint Michael Royal the sum of seventeen shillings *per annum* for an anniversary on the 13th of June in every year, for the soul of her husband and her own soul, and the souls of John White and William Grove, late co-executors with her husband of the testament of Richard Whityngton, and for the souls of all the faithful deceased; with directions to pay twelve pence to the tutor, and sixpence each to the twelve other poor persons in the almshouses of the said Richard Whityngton, situate next to the aforesaid college, for their attendance on the occasion. She also left to the said church of Saint Peter, Cornhill, the further sum of twenty marks *per annum* for a daily mass for the souls of her husband and herself, and of their parents, friends, and benefactors, and all the faithful deceased; with directions to distribute four pounds *per annum* amongst the

poor and virtuous parishioners of the said parishes of Saint Peter, and Saint Martin Outwich, namely, amongst the poor of each parish forty shillings, to wit, on the vigils of Easter, the nativity of Saint John the Baptist, Saint Michael the Archangel, and the nativity of our Lord, in equal portions.

Another circumstance connected with the history of Carpenter still remains to be mentioned, and it is one which has not only contributed more than any other to preserve his name from oblivion, but, from the important results to which it has led, and the advantages that are likely to accrue from it to the present and future generations, will cause his memory to be cherished with increased and lasting interest. Allusion is made to the charity which is understood to have been founded by Carpenter, and has always borne his name. The account given of it by Stow is⁶², that “he gave tenements to the citie for the finding and bringing up of foure poore men’s children with meate, drinke, apparell,

⁶² Survay, p. 110.

learning at the schooles in the universities, &c. untill they be preferred, and then others in their places for ever." How far this account, which is the earliest that has been discovered, is correct, it is impossible, for want of the will or deed which created the trust, to determine ; its general accuracy, however, appears highly probable, from the following particulars given of it in the year 1823, by the Commissioners for inquiring into Charities, in their Report on the charities under the management of the Corporation of London⁶³ :

“JOHN CARPENTER’S DONATION.

“Great pains are stated to have been taken by searching the archives of the corporation, and other places, for the will of John Carpenter, hitherto without effect ; but it is understood that John Carpenter charged certain payments for charitable purposes upon lands and tenements, in Thames street, Bridge street, St. Giles’s in the fields, West Cheap, and Houndsditch. The earliest book

⁶³ Tenth Report (dated 28th June, 1823), p. 180.

of accounts of the corporation in the possession of the Chamberlain contains an account of payments under this will, for the year 1633, of which the following is an extract :

“ Paid to this accomptant for oversee ^e foure poore children being found at schoole and learning, by the bequest of the said Mr. John Carpenter, due for this year, 6s. 8d. and to the Comptroller of the Chamber, for like consideration, 6s. 8d.	13	4	
“ Paid to the Rent-gatherer for gathering the rents, and potation money, of the said Mr. John Carpenter.	1	3	4
“ Paid to the friends of the said foure children for barbor, schoole, hose, shoes, and other necessaries for the said foure children, due for this year.”	4	0	0
“ Paid for the comons of the said foure children, due for 52 weeks ended at Michaelmas, 1633, after the rate of 3s. 6d. the week	9	2	0
“ Paid to the friends of the said foure children for 6 yards of London russett, for the coats of the said foure children, against Christide, 1632, 36s. And for 6 yards of new cullor for the coats of the said foure children against Whitsuntide, 1633, 36s. and for 24 yards of cotton, with buttons, and making the said coats, 26s.”	4	18	0

“ In the same book,” the Report goes on to state, “ there is an account headed as follows :

‘A rental of the lands and tenements some time Mr. John Carpenter’s, some time Town Clerk of the City of London,’ which account enumerates premises in the several places above-mentioned; and it appears that the Corporation have property in those several places, answering, or pretty nearly so, to the description of the property as contained in that book.

“The same payments continue to be made under the will of John Carpenter, except the sum of 6*s.* 8*d.* formerly payable to the Comptroller of the Chamber, which is now merged in the general compensation he receives for his duties, being a total of 19*l.* 10*s.* This 19*l.* 10*s.* is payable in the following manner: To the Chamberlain, as receiver of the rents, and for attending to the application of the charity, 1*l.* 10*s.*; the remainder, being 18*l.* is paid by the Chamberlain in four sums quarterly, to four persons, freemen of London, selected by him as proper objects, to enable each one to pay for the education of a son, from the age of seven to fourteen.

“The Chamberlain requires the parents from

time to time to bring the copy-books of their children and other specimens of their progress, to satisfy him of the proper application of the testator's bounty, and this has been the practice for many years back. Very little remains out of the respective shares of the persons benefited, after the object of education is satisfied, to be applied in clothing. The parents or friends of the children are required, quarterly, to give to the Chamberlain receipts for the payment of their children's education, which receipts are entered in the City's acquittance book."

The attention of the Corporation being directed, in consequence of the Commissioners' Report, to the state of the several charities under their management, and the possibility of increasing their efficiency, the Common Council, on the 18th of January, 1827, after several reports from the Committee for letting the City's Lands, to whom the consideration of the subject had been referred, agreed that the management and appropriation of Carpenter's charity should be altered and ex-

tended in the following manner, namely, that four boys from the age of eight to sixteen years, sons of freemen of London, to be nominated from time to time by the Lord Mayor, should be sent to the grammar school at Tonbridge, in Kent, under the management of the Skinners' Company and the superintendance of Dr. Knox, there to receive the benefit of a classical and commercial education, and religious instruction in the principles of the Established Church of England, and to be boarded and clothed, at the City's expense; and that the parents or friends of each boy, on his attaining the age of sixteen, upon certificate of his merit and good conduct during the period of his being at the school, should be entitled to the sum of one hundred pounds, to be applied toward his advancement in life; and that the general superintendance of the charity, and the providing of clothing for the boys, should be under the direction of the Committee of City Lands, assisted by the Chamberlain of London for the time being.

By this arrangement, the annual expenditure in respect of the charity was increased

from 19*l.* 10*s.* to about 420*l.*⁶⁴ But this change in the administration of the charity, although a great improvement, yet having from the first been objected to on the ground of the expenditure of such a sum upon so inconsiderable a number of beneficiaries, and of the religious restriction, has been recently superseded by another alteration which merits still higher commendation, and deserves to be particularly detailed.

Until about the year 1829, there existed in the city, under the authority of an Act of Parliament passed in the reign of Charles the Second⁶⁵, an establishment called the "London Workhouse," which was for the relief and employment of the poor, the punishment of vagrants and disorderly persons, and the maintenance, education, and apprenticing of poor children. This establishment was supported by assessments upon the inhabitants of the several parishes in the city, the pro-

⁶⁴ *Vide* Proceedings of Common Council, 21st June, 1826, p. 69 ; 20th July, 1826, p. 82 ; 14th December, 1826, p. 126 ; 18th January, 1827, p. 13 ; 5th December, 1833, p. 160.

duce of the labour performed by the inmates, and some property which it had become possessed of by several bequests; but the institution having gradually decayed and ceased to be of any real utility, the inhabitants of the city became anxious to be relieved from the expense of its continuance. The Corporation therefore, in the year 1829, applied to Parliament and obtained an Act⁶⁶ for discontinuing the workhouse, and appropriating the produce of the property with which it had been endowed, amounting to about three hundred pounds *per annum*, for the support of a school for the maintenance and education of poor and destitute children, and for apprenticing such children to honest and industrious trades; and in furtherance of that object, the Corporation also agreed to contribute out of their own funds the sum of two thousand pounds.

Under the authority of this act, an attempt has been made to found a school of the description therein mentioned, and for that pur-

⁶⁵ 13 and 14 Charles II. cap 12.

⁶⁶ 10 George IV. cap. 53, private.

pose to raise funds in aid of the above endowment by voluntary contributions; but though the Corporation agreed, as already mentioned, to contribute the sum of two thousand pounds, and upwards of a thousand pounds more were received from other sources, principally in sums of twenty pounds each, which is the qualification for a governor, the attempt has, from a variety of causes, been hitherto unsuccessful.

The governors, having been unable to procure suitable premises in the city whereon to erect a school, presented a memorial to the Common Council on the 1st of August, 1833, requesting their assistance in obtaining that object by a grant of a part of the City's estates. The Committee for letting the City's Lands, to whom the memorial was referred by the court, finding, upon examination, that there were many difficulties in the way of the establishment of the institution in the manner then contemplated, presented a report on the subject, recommending that, as Honey-lane Market yielded but little profit to the Corporation and afforded no conve-

nience to the public, the market should be discontinued, and the site thereof appropriated as requested, provided an Act of Parliament could be obtained to authorize the same, and such alterations were made in the general arrangements of the school as to secure to the citizens of London the education of children on the most liberal and improved principles, and upon a more extensive scale than that contemplated by the existing Act of Parliament. The same committee subsequently presented another report (in consequence of a reference which had been made to them on the 30th of May, 1833, respecting the propriety of consolidating Carpenter's charity with the intended school), in which they stated that, although it appeared that the trust required to be performed under the will of Carpenter extended only to the providing of education, clothing, and commons for four boys, yet, as the estates bequeathed for the purpose had considerably increased in value and then produced upwards of 900*l. per annum*, they were of opinion that, provided the alterations in the

constitution of the school were effected which were recommended in their former report, the sum of 900*l.* should, after its opening, be annually contributed by the Corporation towards its support; and that, instead of four boys being sent to Tonbridge school, a like number should be selected, according to merit, as vacancies might arise, to be clothed, boarded, and educated at the expense of the new establishment, up to the age of sixteen years, and upon quitting, become entitled to the sum of 100*l.* each, upon receiving a certificate of merit and good conduct while at the school. The Court of Common Council having agreed to these several recommendations, and to a further report recommending an application to Parliament to carry the arrangement into effect⁶⁷, a bill was introduced into the House of Lords for the purpose. This bill met with considerable opposition in the upper house, which led to the omission of those parts of it relating to the funds original-

⁶⁷ *Vide* Proceedings of Common Council, 7th November, 1833, p. 153; 5th December, 1833, p. 160; 19th February, 1834, p. 25.

ly belonging to the London Workhouse, thus leaving the institution in the same imperfect state that it was then in, but at the same time authorizing the carrying into effect all the other arrangements proposed, by the establishment of a school altogether separate and distinct from it. Having afterwards passed both houses, the bill received the royal assent on the 13th day of August, 1834.

It is intituled "An Act to establish a school on the site of Honey-lane Market in the City of London⁶⁸." It recites that the Corporation were desirous of establishing a school in the city for the instruction of boys in the higher branches of literature; that the yearly sum of 19*l.* 10*s.* had for many years been paid out of the rents and profits of lands and tenements belonging to them, which were usually called the estates of John Carpenter, formerly Town Clerk, towards the education and clothing of four boys, sons of freemen of the city, which payment was believed to be made in pursuance of the will of the said John Carpenter, but that such will could not

⁶⁸ 4 and 5 Will. IV. cap. 35, private.

be found; and that the Corporation were willing, instead of paying the said annual sum, to charge the property called the Carpenter estates, together with other property belonging to them, with the payment of the perpetual annual sum of 900*l.* towards the support of such school, and also that the market called Honey-lane Market, which belonged to them, should be abolished, and the site thereof appropriated for the purposes of such school. The enactments which follow, for the purpose of carrying these objects into effect, declare (amongst other things) that the market shall be discontinued from the 25th day of December, 1834, and the site appropriated for a school, which shall be for ever maintained by the Corporation “for the religious and virtuous education of boys, and for instructing them in the higher branches of literature, and all other useful learning⁶⁹.” That the Common Council shall make regulations for the management of the school (in which regulations provision shall

⁶⁹ For an outline of the courses of instruction intended to be adopted in the school, *vide* Appendix, p. 61.

be made that the authorized version of the Holy Bible be used and taught, and that morning and evening prayers be read in the school), and shall also elect masters, the first and second masters being chosen from such persons only as shall be examined and certified to be fit for the duties by the professors of Divinity, Classical literature, and Mathematics, at King's College, London, and of the Greek language, literature, and antiquities, Mathematics, and Natural Philosophy and Astronomy, at the University of London. That the estates derived from Carpenter shall be charged with the payment of 900*l.* *per annum* towards the support of the school, and the yearly sums payable in pursuance of his will be deemed to be included in such sum of 900*l.* The Act also authorizes the Common Council to appoint a committee to carry the several powers thereby created, or so many thereof as they shall think proper to delegate, into execution ; and in pursuance of this authority, the Corporation have appointed a committee consisting of the Lord Mayor, twelve Aldermen, and one Commoner

from each ward in the city (making in all forty-three members), to whom they have delegated all the powers of the Act, except the election and removal of the two principal masters⁷⁰.

The basis has thus been formed for an institution where the sons of those who are concerned in the various trading, commercial, and professional pursuits that constitute the wealth and importance of London, may receive a sound and liberal education, suited to the present advanced state of society, and calculated to qualify them for any of the various situations in life that they may be called to fill; an establishment which, while it will reflect honour upon the Corporation for their liberality, will shed an additional lustre upon the memory of the individual whose charitable bequest has enabled them to accomplish so laudable an object.

But there is one member of the Corporation in particular, from whom it would be injustice to withhold the meed of praise in

⁷⁰ *Vide* Proceedings of Common Council, 9th September, 1834, p. 125; 9th October, 1834, p. 151.

connection with this event, seeing that it was principally through his public-spirited and indefatigable exertions that the arrangement which promises such important benefits to the citizens of London has been effected. The gentleman here alluded to is Mr. Warren Stormes Hale, who has for several years been a highly respected, active, and useful member of the Corporation, as a representative in Common Council of the ward of Coleman street. During the years 1833 and 1834, in which this subject was under the notice of the Committee of City Lands, he had the honour of presiding over the committee as chairman, and in that character he evinced a zeal for the accomplishment of the object only equalled by that which (holding the same situation in the committee appointed to superintend the affairs of the institution) he still continues to display in its behalf.

APPENDIX.

CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL.

GENERAL COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

To read well, with due modulation and appropriate emphasis.

English Grammar and Composition.

Latin language. French language.

Writing, Arithmetic, and Book-keeping.

Elements of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.

Geography and Natural History.

Ancient and Modern History.

Elements of Choral Singing.

Lectures on Chemistry, and other branches of Experimental Philosophy.

The authorized version of the Holy Bible to be used and taught in the School; and, on every morning and evening, prayers to be read therein.

SPECIAL COURSES.

In addition to the preceding general course, applicable to the whole school, Pupils, whose Parents or Guardians wish it, will be instructed in the Greek and Hebrew languages, and, at a moderate extra charge, in the German, Spanish, and Italian languages, and Drawing.

Pupils who distinguish themselves in the elementary course, and desire to avail themselves of instruction in the higher branches of Literature and Science, will be formed

into superior classes, and receive instruction, without any extra charge, in the study of

The Poetry and Antiquities of Greece and Rome.

The higher branches of Mathematical science, and the application of it to the study of Physics.

Logic and Ethics.

All the Senior Pupils to be practised in Recitation.

The Masters to have discretion in the application of these courses of instruction, according to the progress of the Pupils.



ARTHUR TAYLOR,

PRINTER TO THE HONOURABLE CITY OF LONDON.

M.DCCC.XXXVI.







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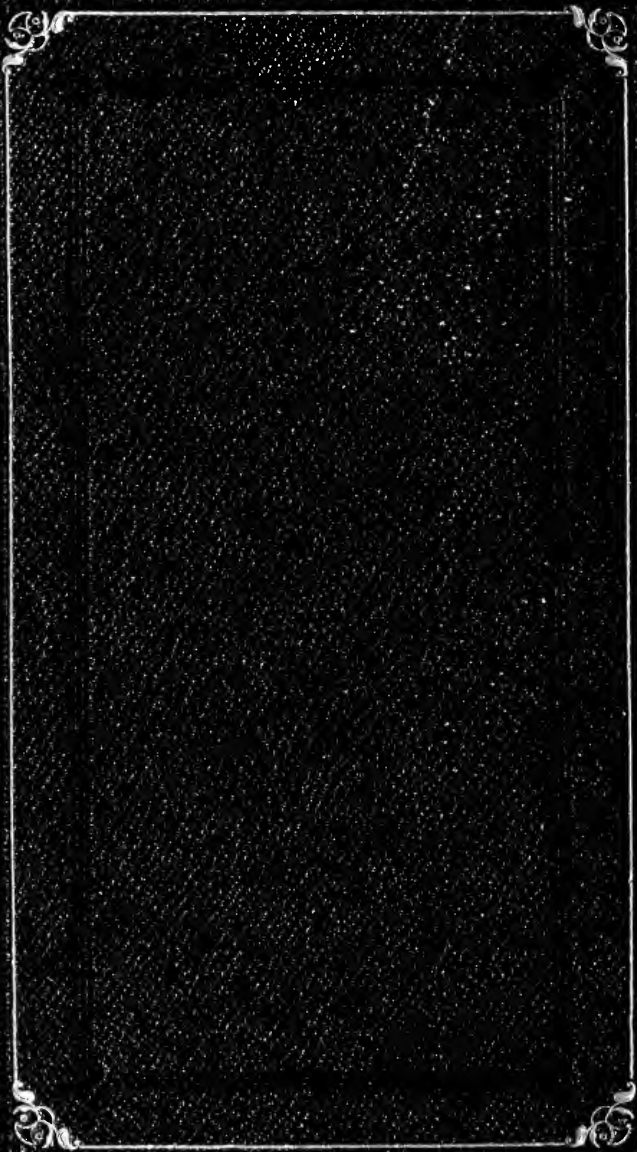
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