

LONDON
PAST AND PRESENT

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ITS HISTORY, ASSOCIATIONS, AND
TRADITIONS

BY
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BASED UPON
THE HANDBOOK OF LONDON

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domineer together; if we be taken we'll be hanged together at Tyburn: that's the warmer gallows of the two.—Greene's *Tu Quoque*.

There are inferior gallowses which bear
(According to the season) twice a year:
And there's a kind of waterish Tree at Wapping,
Whereas sea-thieves, or Pirates are catch'd napping.¹

Taylor (the Water Poet), *Description of Tyburn, Works*, vol. iii. p. 134.

In *Fortune by Land and Sea*, a tragi-comedy by Thomas Heywood and William Rowley (4to, 1655), a scene "near Execution Dock" describes the fate of two pirates, called Purser and Clinton:—

Purser. How many captains, that have aw'd the seas,
Shall fall on this unfortunate piece of land
Some that commanded islands; some to whom
The Indian mines paid tribute, the Turk vail'd!

But now our sun is setting; night comes on;
The wat'ry wilderness in which we reign'd,
Proves in our ruins peaceful. Merchants trade
Fearless abroad as in the river's mouth,
And free as in a harbour. Then, fair Thames,
Queen of fresh water, famous through the world,
And not the least through us, whose double tides
Must overflow our bodies; and being dead
May thy clear waves our scandals wash away,
But keep our valours living.

On March 23, 1701, was hung in chains Captain William Kidd, the celebrated pirate, commemorated in a once popular ballad:—

My name is Captain Kidd,
When I sail'd when I sail'd, etc.²

He had been sent to the Indian Seas to extirpate pirates, but instead of executing his commission he joined the pirates. To "take a turn with Captain Kidd" occurs in D'Urfey's prologue to *The Bath or the Western Lass*, 4to, 1701.

March 14, 1735.—Williams the pirate was hang'd at Execution Dock; and afterwards in chains at Bugsby's Hole, near Blackwall.—*Gentleman's Magazine* for 1735.

The most complete account we have of an execution at Execution Dock is the following:—

February 4, 1796.—This morning, a little after ten o'clock, Colley, Cole, and Blanche, the three sailors convicted of the murder of Captain Little, were brought out of Newgate, and conveyed in solemn procession to Execution Dock, there to receive the punishment awarded by law. On the cart on which they rode was an elevated stage; on this were seated Colley, the principal instigator in the murder, in the middle, and his two wretched instruments, the Spaniard Blanche, and the Mulatto Cole, on each side of him; and behind, on another seat, two executioners. Colley seemed in a state resembling that of a man stupidly intoxicated, and scarcely awake, and the two others discovered little sensibility on the occasion, nor to the last moment of their existence did they, as we hear, make any confession. They were

¹ In his *Three Weeks Observations and Travels*, Taylor, speaking of the Hamburg executioner, says that in comparison "our Wap-

ping wind-pipe stretcher is but a ragamuffin, not worth the hanging."

² Scott's *Misc. Prose Works*, vol. xx. p. 241.

turned off about a quarter before twelve, in the midst of an immense crowd of spectators, notwithstanding the heaviness of the rain at the time. On the way to the place of execution they were preceded by the Marshal of the Admiralty in his carriage, the Deputy Marshal bearing the silver oar, and the two City Marshals on horseback, a number of Marshals men, Sheriffs officers, etc. The whole cavalcade was conducted with great solemnity: in the afternoon the three bodies were brought back to Surgeons Hall, there to be dissected pursuant to the sentence of the Court of Admiralty. Had it been a case of piracy, they would have been hanged in chains.—*Gentleman's Magazine* for 1796.

Hannah Lightfoot, the supposed Quaker mistress, or "left-handed wife" of George III., was the daughter of a respectable tradesman (a shoemaker) by Execution Dock.¹

Exeter 'Change, in the STRAND, stood where Burleigh Street now stands, and extended into the main road, so that the foot thoroughfare of one side of the Strand ran directly through it; this was only open however in the daytime, the gates being closed at night. From an incidental notice in Barry's Lecture of December 1792 we learn that the Strand at this point was *nine paces* between the edges of the footways. In the stone architrave above the window at the east end of the building was the inscription *Exeter 'Change, 1676*.² Delaune, in 1681 (p. 160), speaks of it as lately built.

This Exchange contains two walks below stairs, and as many above, with shops on each side for sempsters, milliners, hosiers, etc., the builders judging it would come in great request; but it received a check in its infancy, I suppose by those of the New Exchange, so that instead of growing in better esteem, it became worse and worse; insomuch that the shops in the first walk next the street can hardly meet with tenants, those backwards lying useless, and those above converted to other uses.—*R. B., in Strype*, B. iv. p. 119.

Later there were book-stalls among the standings of miscellaneous dealers. Robert Bloomfield in a letter to "Catherine Bloomfield, Metford, Norfolk," dated January 31, 1802, says, "Last night in passing through Exeter 'Change, I stopt at a book-stall and observed the *Farmer's Boy* laying there for sale, and the new book too, marked with very large writing, Bloomfield's *Rural Tales*: a young man took it up, and I observed he read the whole of the preface through, and perhaps little thought that the author stood at his elbow."

The rooms above were hired for offices by the managers of the Land Bank, and subsequently let for general purposes. The body of the poet Gay lay in state in the upper room of Exeter 'Change; and when Dodsley drew up his *London*, in 1761, "the large room above was used for auctions." In January 1772 the remains of Lord Baltimore, who had died abroad, lay in state in the great room of Exeter 'Change, and on the 22nd were removed for interment in the family vault at Epsom. His lordship was very unpopular, and directly the body was removed, the mob broke in and plundered the room. In the Gardner Collection is an old card inscribed "Polito's menagerie, Exeter Change,"

¹ *Notes and Queries*, 1st. S., vol. viii. p. 87.

² J. H. Burn in *Gentleman's Magazine*, November 1853, p. 487.

and in the early part of the present century the proprietor was a well-known man named Clark. The last tenant of the upper rooms was Mr. Cross, whose menagerie occupied "the entire range of the floor above Exeter 'Change," and here, in March 1826, Chunee, the famous elephant, was shot. An interesting account of the death of this elephant is given in Hone's *Every-Day Book* (vol. ii. p. 322). Thomas Hood, in his young days a frequent visitor to the menagerie, wrote a poetic "Address to Mr. Cross on the Death of the Elephant," and in it he records this animal's playfulness and sagacity, and adds, "And well he loved me till his life was done." Lord Byron, too, records a visit to Exeter 'Change "to see the tigers sup." "Such a conversazione! There was a hippopotamus like Lord Liverpool in the face; and the ursine sloth had the very voice and manner of my valet" (Fletcher).¹ [See Surgeons, College of.] Exeter 'Change was taken down in the Strand improvements of 1829.²

Exeter Hall, in the STRAND, opened March 29, 1831, a large proprietary building on the north side of the Strand, designed by Mr. J. P. Gandy-Deering, at a cost of £30,000. The great hall (131 feet by 76 feet, and 54 feet high) will seat 3000 persons. It was let for the annual "May Meetings" of the several religious societies; and for the oratorios of the Sacred Harmonic Society, in which the unrivalled music of Handel was performed, with a fine band and a chorus of 700 voices accompanying it under the direction of Sir Michael Costa. With the season of 1879-1880 these performances terminated in Exeter Hall. In 1880 the lease of Exeter Hall was purchased for the Young Men's Christian Association for £25,000; five friends having contributed £5000 each for the purpose. The building was remodelled and in part rebuilt under the direction of Mr. A. R. Pite, architect, at a cost of £25,000, and opened by a public meeting on May 29, 1881, the "Jubilee Day" of the original opening. As rebuilt, Exeter Hall comprises the Great Hall, made lighter and brighter than the old hall, and with the galleries much larger; the Lower Hall (58 feet by 31 feet), is capable of seating over 800 persons. The ground floor, devoted to the business of the association, library, reading-room, and restaurant, and in the basement, lecture hall, several class-rooms, and large gymnasium.

Exeter House, STRAND. On the south side of the Strand on the site of Essex Street stood for many years the town house of the Bishop of Exeter. It was built by Walter Stapylton, Bishop of Exeter, who was Lord Treasurer of England in the reign of Edward II.

Bishop Lacy added a great hall to the house in the reign of Henry VI.

[See Essex House.]

¹ Byron's *Works*, ed. 1832, vol. ii. p. 256.

² There is an admirable representation of old

Exeter 'Change drawn and engraved by George Cooke.

Exeter House, in the STRAND, stood on the north side of the Strand, on the site of Burleigh Street and Exeter Street, and was so called after Thomas Cecil, Earl of Exeter, son of the great Lord Burleigh (d. 1622). In Burleigh's time the house was known as *Cecil House* and *Burleigh House*, and afterwards oscillated between *Cecil House* and *Exeter House*. [See Cecil House.] Lady Hatton was its occupant in 1617, in December of which year Sir Horace Vere writes to Carleton, "Lady Hatton feasted the King and Queen at Exeter House. Sir Edward Coke (the great lawyer, her husband) could not be admitted a guest, though the King desired it." In 1623, when the Infanta was expected to arrive in London as the bride of Prince Charles, with a brilliant train, King James borrowed Exeter House for the reception of a part of the suite. On this occasion the Earl (Cecil's grandson) wrote that he consented, though reluctantly, to give it up for two or three months, but that "he could not find it in his heart to bid those in it begone, especially Lord Denney," so he left it to the Lord Treasurer to "do as he pleased therein."¹

June 17, 1623.—The Spanish Ambassador Extraordinary was brought from Gravesend to Greenwich, to an audience, in eight barges, and thence conveyed with many coaches to Exeter House, which is richly furnished for him.—*Cal. State Pap.*, 1619-1623, p. 611.

Here you must observe that Queen Mary [Henrietta Maria] going to her own Chapel every Sunday, the English ladies must have some rendezvous where to meet to show their beauties, and braveries; and the fittest place was thought to be Exeter House, where the Duchess of Richmond then lay. And observing state, both in going to the closet, and coming thence after sermon, she had a cup of wine, and some small banquet to entertain the ladies, which gave them much content, and there was a great resort.—Bishop Godwin's *Court of King James*, vol. i. p. 392.

September 24, 1651.—The funeral of General Popham was accompanied from Exeter House, by the Speaker and Members of Parliament, the Lord General and Council of State, with great solemnity, to Westminster.—*Whitelocke*.

Evelyn went to London with his wife, he tells us, in 1657, to celebrate Christmas Day in Exeter Chapel, in the Strand, the chapel attached to Exeter House. When the sermon was ended, and the sacrament about to be administered, the chapel was surrounded with soldiers, and all the communicants and assembly surprised and kept prisoners; "but yet," he says, "suffering us to finish the office of communion, as perhaps not having instructions what to do in case they found us in that action." Evelyn was confined in a room in Exeter House, and in the afternoon Colonel Whaley, Goff, and others came from Whitehall and severally examined them. "When I came before them," says Evelyn, "they took my name and abode, examined me, why, contrary to an ordinance made, that none should any longer observe the *superstitious time of the Nativity*, I durst offend. Finding no colour to detain me," he adds, "they dismissed me with much pity of my ignorance." In Exeter House lived Anthony Ashley Cooper, the first Earl of Shaftesbury; and here, February 26, 1670-1671, his grandson, the author of *The Characteristics*, was born.

¹ *Cal. State Pap.*, 1619-1623, p. 561.

Dandulo, a converted Mahometan, was baptized at this chapel by Mr. Gunning, November 8, 1657, and an account of the proceeding, by Thomas Warmstry, D.D., was published in 1658 under the title of *The Baptized Turk*.

From 1667 till 1676, when the first Earl of Shaftesbury removed into the City, and the house was pulled down, Exeter House was the home of John Locke, who resided with Lord Ashley at this time as "family physician, tutor, and private friend," and for a while as secretary. Many of Locke's extant letters are dated from Exeter House, and it was whilst here that he was occupied with the *Essay on the Human Understanding*.¹ The Court of Arches, the Admiralty Court, and the Will Office of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury were held in Exeter House after the Great Fire, till new offices were built.² In 1855 the Marquis of Exeter (a lineal descendant of the great Lord Burleigh) sold by public auction the freehold property on the site of Exeter House, producing nearly £3000 a year, for £51,800. [See Cecil House.] "In the Strand, near Exeter House," lived the beautiful Countess of Carlisle, of Charles I., Van Dyck, Suckling, and Carew. The house belonged to Mr. Thomas Cary, of the Monmouth family, and was leased by the countess at a rent of £150 a year,—at least £600 of our present money.³

Exeter Street, STRAND, built circa 1677, and so called after Exeter House, the town house of Cecil, Earl of Exeter, son of the great Lord Burghley.

Exeter Street cometh out of Katherine Street, and runneth up as far as the back wall of Bedford yard or garden.—*Strype*, B. vi. p. 75.

The west end had no outlet when first erected. Where the street ends was therefore the back wall of old Bedford House. Dr. Johnson's first London lodging was at the house of one Norris, a staymaker in this street. "I dined," said he, "very well for eightpence, with very good company, at the Pineapple, in New Street, just by. Several of them had travelled. They expected to meet every day; but did not know one another's names. It used to cost the rest a shilling, for they drank wine; but I had a cut of meat for sixpence, and bread for a penny, and gave the waiter a penny, so that I was quite well served, nay, better than the rest, for they gave the waiter nothing."

Murphy relates that at a dinner at Foote's at which he was present, reference having been made to an important debate towards the end of Sir Robert Walpole's administration, Dr. Francis, the translator of Demosthenes, observed that "Mr. Pitt's speech on that occasion (as reported in the *Gentleman's Magazine*) was the best speech he ever read." "That speech," said Johnson, "I wrote in a garret in Exeter Street." Here also he finished his poem of "London," and it is possible

¹ Lord King, *Life and Letters of John Locke*; p. 33, etc.; Fox-Bourne, *Life of Locke*, vol. i. p. 199.

Wood's Life.

² *Stratford Papers*, vol. i. pp. 177, 218; Rate-books of St. Clement's Dunes.

³ *Harl. MS.*, 3788, fol. 100; and *Anth.* &

that his wretched lodging gave rise to his allusion to the "dungeons of the Strand," as his previous residence at Greenwich is known to have suggested the lines commencing "On Thames' banks in silent thought we stood."

Exmouth Street, CLERKENWELL, from 106 Farringdon Road to Middleton Street. Here in 1822 died Richard Earlom, the famous mezzotinto engraver. Spa Fields Chapel was on the south side of this street. The site is now occupied by the Church of the Redeemer, opened in 1888.

Eyre Arms, FINCHLEY ROAD, a well-known tavern, to which is attached a large concert room. It takes its name from the family of Eyre, whose property adjoins that of Lord Portman and of the Duke of Portland.

The grounds belonging to this house were occasionally used for balloon ascents, one of the latest being that of Mr. Hampton on June 7, 1839.

Eyre Street Hill, COLD BATH FIELDS, from Leather Lane, Holborn, to Bath Street, Cold Bath Square. Here, October 29, 1804, in his forty-second year, and in a sponging-house, after having been "eight days delirious and convulsed, and in a state of utter mental and bodily debility," died George Morland, the celebrated painter.¹ The southern end of Eyre Street Hill was swept away when the new Clerkenwell Road was formed.

Fair Street, HORSELYDOWN, the bottom of Tooley Street. Thomas Guy, the founder of Guy's Hospital, was born in this street, in the north-east corner house of Pritchard's Alley, two doors east of St. John's Churchyard. The street marks the site of the once famous Horselydown Fair.

Faith's (St.) under St. Paul's, WARD OF FARRINGDON WITHOUT, a crypt consisting of four aisles immediately beneath the choir of old St. Paul's, and commonly called "St. Faith under Paul's." Dugdale calls it "that famous vault." It dates from about 1255, when the cathedral was lengthened by that extent eastwards, the old parish church of St. Faith, which stood above ground, being removed to make way for the extension. Attached to the original St. Faith's was a Jesus Chapel, which had a bell tower containing four great bells on the east side of the churchyard. This remained till the reign of Henry VIII., when "Sir Miles Partridge, Knight, having won them from the King at one cast of the dice, pulled them down."²

At the Reformation the parish church was removed from the crypt below to a chapel in St. Paul's, called "Jesus Chapel," "a place," says Stow, "more sufficient for largeness and lightness." When the Great Fire of London was at its height, the stationers about St. Paul's carried their goods to St. Faith's as a kind of fire-proof place for

¹ *Dawe's Life of Morland*, 1807, p. 127.

² *Dugdale*, p. 130.