Son Et Lumière 1972

Souvenir Programme

Kirton < Crediton

PHILLIPS & CO., PRINTERS, CREDITON.

Scanned by CamScanner

CONTENTS

Cover : Photograph of Church and East Town
2. Contents and Programme
3. Field Patterns and Lord's Meadow, Maps by C. Luxton
4. Credits
5. 'Kirton was a Market Town'
6. Early Kirton - The 739 Charter
7. Photograph : Kirton East Town
8. 13th and 14th Century
9. Photograph : The Charter A.D. 739
10. A new Church; A new School
11. Rebellion and Civil War
12. Photograph : Kirton West Town
13. The New Model Army
14. Photograph : Kirton Broad and Narrow Street
15. The Fires of the 18th century
16. Age of Reform and Improvements
17. Kirton of later times and Special Notice regarding Governors Room
18. General Sir Redvers Henry Buller
19. Acknowledgements and Organisation
20. 'Times' Cover reproduction 1900

Programme research, design and script by Ronald Cairns

PROGRAMME

Organ Introduction by Roy Meads
Welcome by the Vicar of Crediton
Geological Creation of the Land
St. Boniface
A medieval minstrel's song by Robert Gittings
Old Crediton Families
'Alle Psallite!' : a medieval song
The Reformation : Queen Elizabeth's School
The Civil War : Troop reviews by King Charles and Cromwell
'I will lift up mine eyes' : arranged by Walford Davies
Adagio for organ by Handel
Crediton markets : Fires in the 18th century
'Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake' by Farrant
Victorian Crediton
'Holy, holy' by Mendelssohn
Modern Crediton and the future
'I was glad' by Parry
Blessing by the Bishop of Crediton
The Bells

Scanned by CamScanner

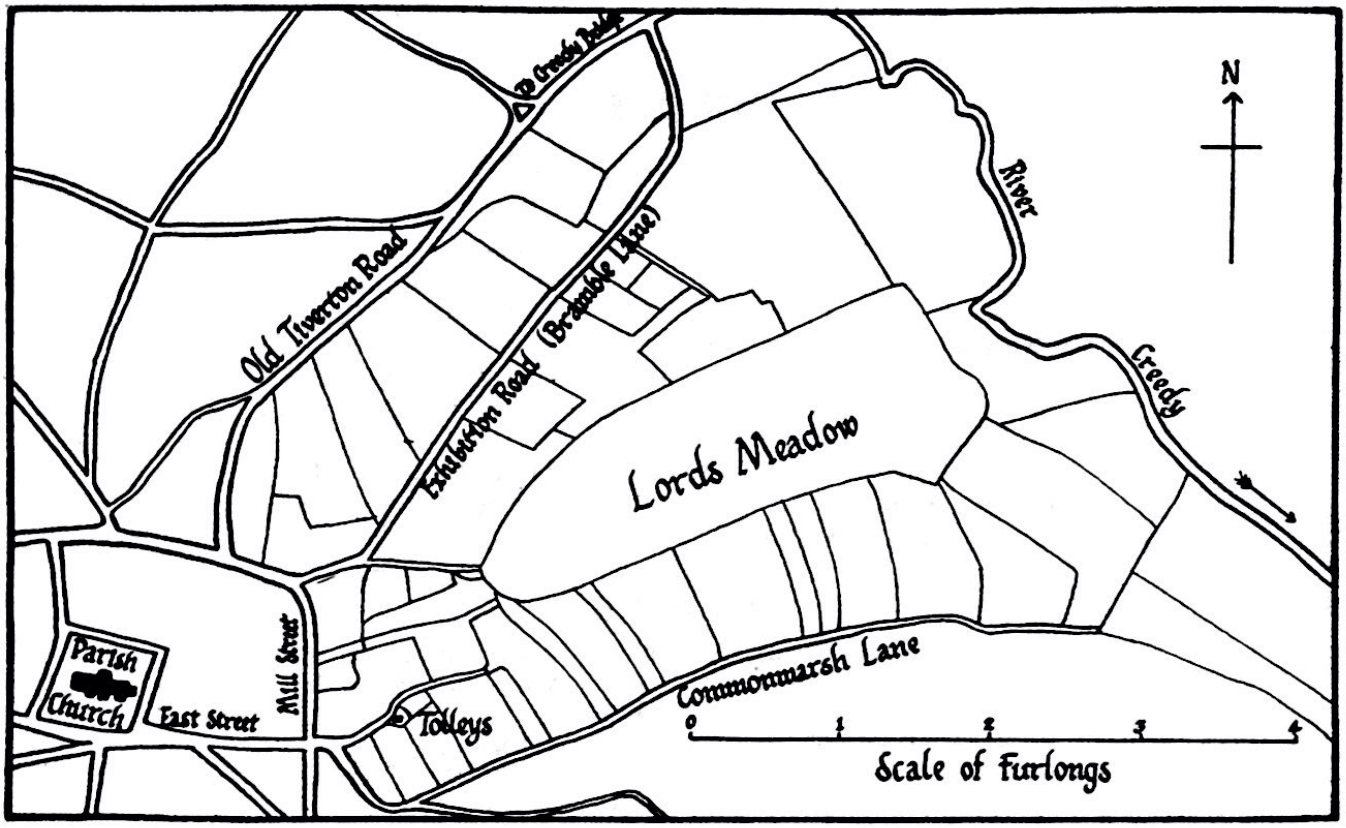


Fig. 1. CREDITON: East Town: Field Patterns surrounding Lords Meadow: 1904.

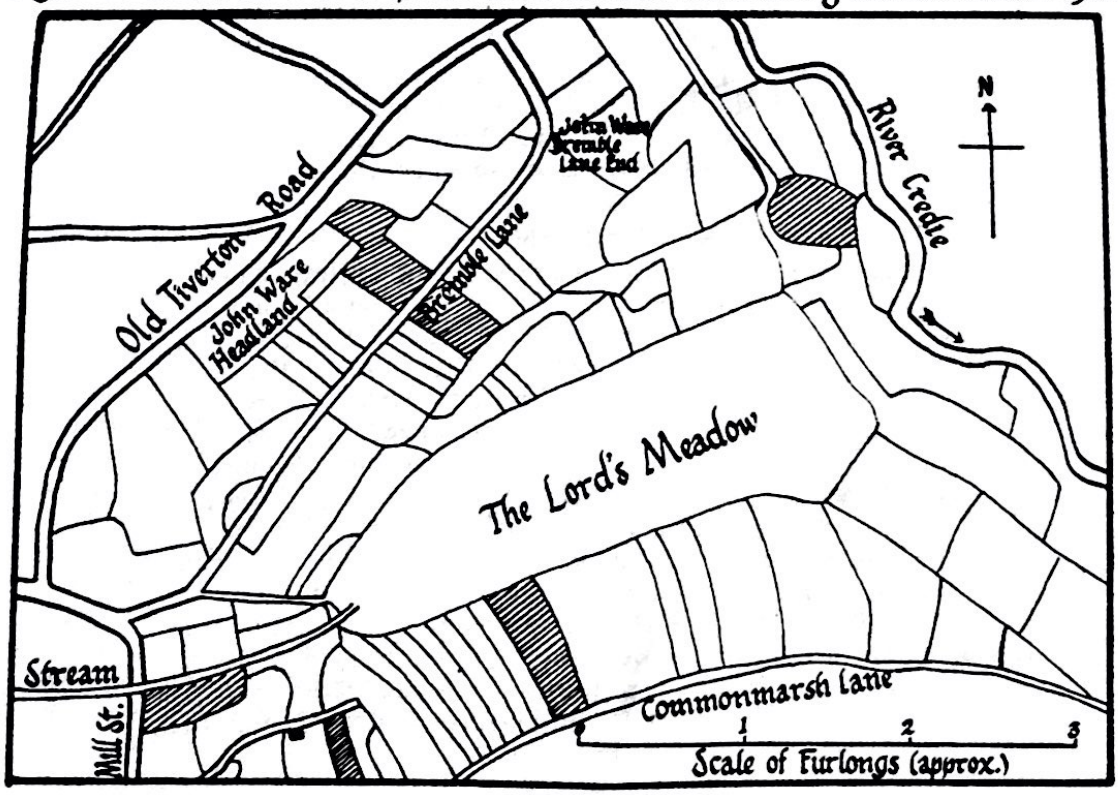


Fig. 2. CREDITON: East Town: Field Patterns surrounding Lords Meadow: After John Norden: 1598.

Scanned by CamScanner

CREDITS

Script and music by Robert Gittings and Raymond Skinner

Production by Kitty Ward

Recording: Derek Hubbard
Electrician: David Tonkin
Stage Manager: Andrew Harris
Lighting: Jonathan Ward
Costumes: Monica Dowrick
Co-ordinator: Jim Ward

Advisers: Ronald Cairns, Tony Delzenné, Brenda Gawn, Robert Gittings (Senr.), Ethne Hubbard, Kevin Robinson, John Saunders, Vivian Summers, Dave Westcott.

Crediton Parish Church Choir directed by Dorothy Sheppard.
Organist : Roy Meads
A Minstrel : Ronald Cairns
Bells by the Crediton Ringers.

SPEAKERS

Anthony Bray: Vicar of Crediton; Wilfred Westall: Bishop of Crediton
Bert White, Vivian Summers, Alan Stoyle, Mary Tuckett, Bill Parr, Robert Orchard, Alan Payne, Joan Skinner, Walter Hosegood, Robin Langhorne, Margaret Parr, Margaret Cleave, Jo Mitchell, Alfred Tapp, Margaret Woolacott, Lottie Loosemore, Ethné Hubbard, Jim Ward, Frank Groves, Michael Marshall.

ACTORS

Elizabeth Pritchard, Olive Lion, Hilary Lion, Katharine Gittings, Audrey Wicker, Jane Wicker, Marjorie Padwick, Molly Green, Penny Glare, Catherine Padwick, Elizabeth Sheppard, Ian Pritchard, Harry Pritchard, David Paine, Alan Paine, Tony Paine, Ronald Cairns, Gordon Padwick, Derek Lion, Robin Langhorne.

MUSICIANS

Jean Foden, Katharine Gittings, Judith Pritchard, Christine Cherry, Jane Wicker, Joanna Webber, Susanna Gibb, Paula Swain, Sarah and Ailsa Marshall, Elizabeth Sheppard, Jane Trenaman, Susan Morton, Nina Joyner, Kathryn Padwick, Anne Cathro, Alison Foden, Jenny Wilson, Anthony Rich, Neil Rich, Stephen Cherry, Christopher Samuel, Tim Noakes, Martyn Reed, David Parr, Michael Parr, Jonathan Wicker, Robert Evans, John Webber, Ian Pritchard, Patrick Stanley, Mary Discombe, Kay Symms, Alison Brettingham, Marjorie Padwick, Elizabeth Pritchard, Muriel Foden, Frances Pennington, Marjorie Brown, Susan Tucker, Kitty Ward, Naomi Huntley, Audrey Wicker, Grace Swain, Joyce Southcott, Arthur Rich, George Sheppard, Raymond Wicker, Ronald Cairns, Wilfred Davies, Derek Hubbard, Jim Ward, Ray Steadman, Walter Hosegood, Phil Trenaman, Jonathan Ward, Robert Gittings, Henry Brinkworth, Raymond Foden, Jonathan Tuckett, Tim Chittell, Adrian Nuthall.

Scanned by CamScanner

'Kirton was a Market town when Exeter was a fuzzy down.'

This attractive local ditty shows a healthy competitive spirit, but is at variance with evidence of archaeology and written sources so far. Exeter has an unbroken descent from Celtic Caerwisc and Roman Isca and so is probably 700 years older than Kirton. Yet Crediton alias Kirton (as officially known up to 1793) has a fully documented and ancient history of over 1200 years - with charters and records from 739 A.D. 'unrivalled in Devon' according to one authority.

No substantial remains earlier than Saxon have been found on the site of Crediton. 'the tun on the Creedy'. Most place names in Devon even on Dartmoor are Saxon, but Saxons happily used Celtic or British river names when making tuns or farms in river valleys. One argument has been made that the river was originally called the Yeo and that Cridie (as spelled in first charter of 739 A.D.) took its name from a holy place or cross dedicated to St. Creedan.

Whatever the origin of the name, it seems likely that some time between 690, when Exeter was in Saxon hands and had an English abbot in the monastery there, and 722 by which time Saxons had advanced to the river Hayle in Cornwall, the rest of the ancient British kingdom of Dumnonia or Devon was settled by Saxon thegns (lords) and ceorls (peasants). They probably came up the Exe and Creedy to this valley in the hills.

According to tradition and field boundaries it seems that the first Saxon tun or farm estate was in the area of Tolleys cottage (The Retreat) off Mill Street (as on Mr. Luxton's map p.3), near the ancient river crossing of Creedy Bridge, with water supply, yet safe from floods. (Romans interested in towns and roads whereas Saxons wanted rivers and lush valleys for villages or tuns). The long strips of the 2 or 3 'open' fields lay to the North and South of present Exhibition Road with Lord's Meadow in centre mentioned even in 1630 Westcote's View of Devonshire as: 'a rich plot of land.'

According to a very early tradition (recorded in Bishop Grandisson's Literary Calendar, fourteenth century) Cridie-tun was the site of Wynfrith or St. Boniface's birth-place. This monk missionary - the 'Apostle of Germany' a very human and charming Gospel preacher, was by tradition born near Tolleys, around 675 A.D. of a christian British mother and perhaps pagan Saxon father. As result of Wynfrith's reputation and his family's dedication to Holy Cross it seems likely that Cridie was eventually chosen as site for a bishopric in preference to walled Exeter. Thy boy Wynfrith (as depicted in our statue) went to Exeter monastery, then on to Nursling near Winchester as pupil, then teacher at the monastic school (a great verse and scripture scholar). Aged about 40 he went as missionary to Frisia, back again in 717, to refuse election as abbot of Nursling, then back to missionary work in 718, never again to return to England. Consecrated Bishop in 722 with a roving commission north of the Alps, Boniface travelled ceaselessly, founding monasteries amidst physical danger and hardship – felling the sacred oak of Geismar - visiting Rome to obtain Papal help - establishing bishoprics and holding synods (after his creation as Archbishop). After establishing his successor at Mainz and setting his affairs in order, for the last three years of his life, with a few helpers, Boniface set out on another mission along the Zuider Zee coast, there to be cut down by a surprise attack of armed heathens on June 5th 754, at Dokkum, whilst preparing confirmation. His body was, according to his wishes, carried to rest at his favourite monastery at Fulda. This fearless champion of justice and morality has left us 39 surviving letters.

Scanned by CamScanner

Seven documents known as the Crawford Charters, now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, (purchased from a Mr. W. Crawford in 1891 and apparently at one time in the keeping of the Latin School) give us our next evidence relating to Cridie. The Charter of 739 (probably an 11th century transcript) says 'wherefore I King Aethelheard have been careful to bestow upon our Bishop Forthere, for ever, some land to build a monastery – that is 20 hides in the place which is called Cridie.'

So Cridie East Town, as the Saxon part later became distinguished – by 739 had its monastery and chapel (probably simple wooden buildings – most Saxon ones were until 10th century).

909 A.D. The diocese of Sherborne which included Devon, was divided into three at the death of old Bishop Asser (the biographer of Alfred the Great) and a new bishop's seat was established at Cridiantun (as it was now called) with jurisdiction over all Devon. The first bishop, Eadulf obtained more land at Sandford in 930, and founded a large collegiate church at Cridiantun. Bishop Alfwold's bequest 1012, brought more land at Sandford to 'the minster at Cridiantun for his soul shot, with stock and men as it stands except penal slaves.' Before the end of the 10th century Cridiantun had a great, well-furnished Church with 18 prebends and 18 vicars. Nine bishops held Cridiantun before 'the greatest blow to the prosperity of Crediton and the glories of its church', the removal of the bishop's seat to Exeter 1050. These were difficult days of Viking Raids – on one occasion in the 1040's Danes are reputed to have come down the old main road over Whitestone and Fordton and burned the Saxon Cathedral of St. Mary. This was as good an excuse as any to move the see to Exeter (a site well chosen by the Romans for defence and trade). Pope Leo IX, following a request made by English Bishops at the Council of Rheims 1049 wrote 'In the case of our brother Leofric we command and entreat you that of your love for the Lord and for us, you will assist him to remove his throne from the college of Crediton to the City of Exeter.'

Leofric, last Saxon Bishop of Cridiantun and chaplain to Edward Confessor, was installed in the Saxon Church at Exeter in the presence of King, Queen and Court. (Norman Cathedral, of which twin towers only remain – built 1107-1200) 'And because of the distress of the people and the devastation of their goods – for the pirates have been able to plunder the churches of Cornwall and Crediton – it seemed clear that there is a safer defence against enemies in the town of Exeter, therefore I will that the see should be there.'

When William I had the Domesday Survey made in 1086, of the Lands of the church of St. Peter in Exeter 'The Bishop has a manor called Chritetona which in the time of King Edward paid Geld for 15 hides. These, 185 ploughs can till. Thereof the bishop has 6 hides and 13 ploughs in demesne and his knights and villeins have between them 9 hides and 172 ploughs. There the bishop has 264 villeins, 73 bordars, 40 serfs, 30 swineheads paying 150 swine yearly, 4 rounceys, 64 beasts, 57 swine, 400 sheep all but 12, 115 goats, 1 mill paying 30 pence a year, wood 5 leagues in length and half a league in breadth, 80 acres of meadow and 200 acres of pasture. It is worth 75 pounds a year – when the bishop first received it, it was paying 21 pounds.'

The Lordship lands included Creedy Barton (existed as home farm of Bishop until beginning of 19th century – area of White Hart), Lord's Meadow – 80 acres, 200 acres of pasture (later the Great Park – whole ridge S. and W. of East Town) one mill and extensive woodland, whilst 172 ploughlands or virgates (average 30 acres each) were cultivated by knights and villeins.

Scanned by CamScanner

Scanned by CamScanner

For a time after losing its bishop the Church here was in a bad way. Better conditions resulted from Bishop Warelwast's grants (1107-1137); in fact it is likely that the new Norman Collegiate Church, built of stone, was founded at this time, near the site of the earlier Saxon wooden church. 'The place where the old Cathedral Church of Crideton stoode is now occupied with building of houses by the new churche yard side' - according to Leland's Itinerary 1545 (as quoted in 1822 View of Devonshire, by Lysons).

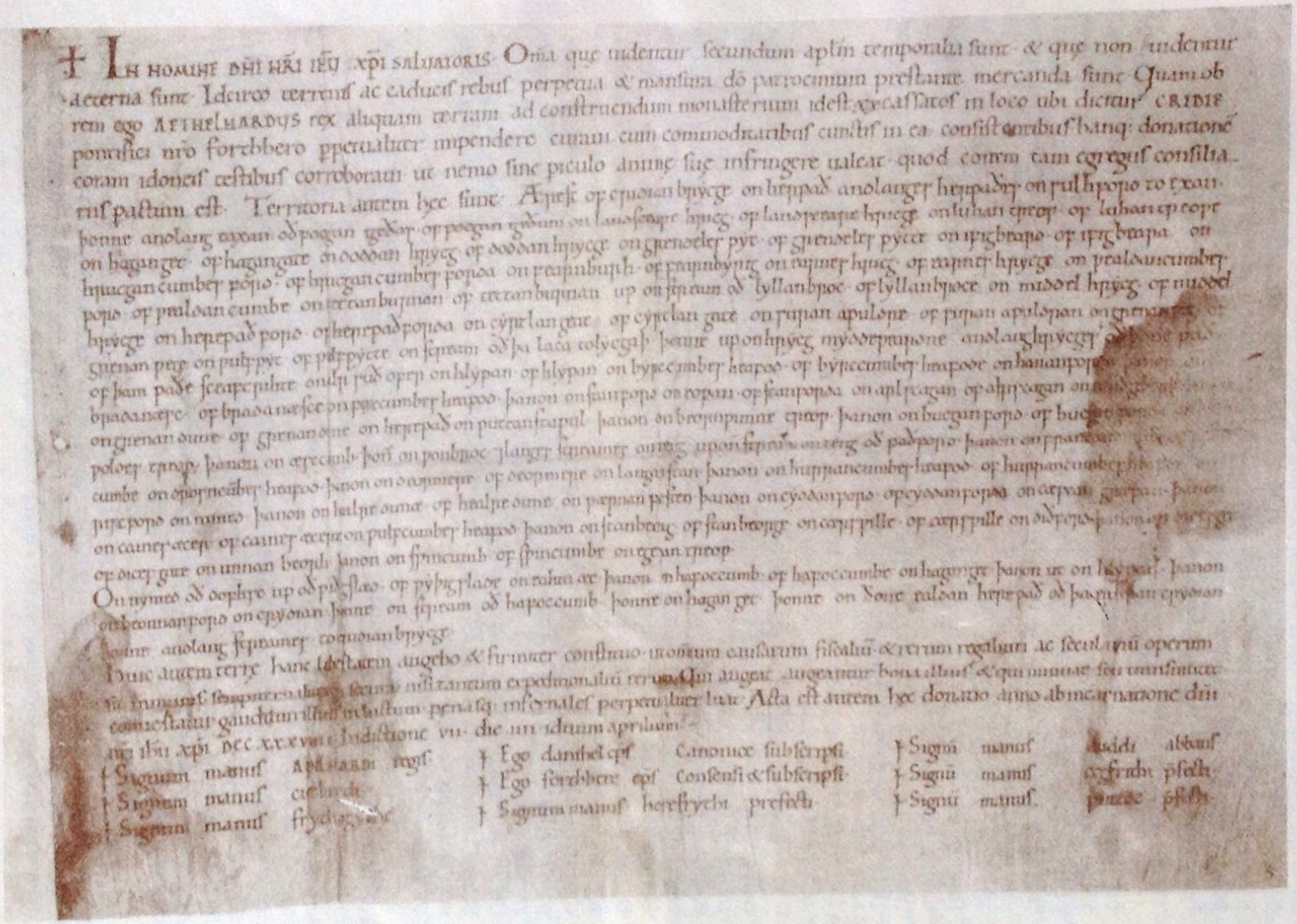
Further improvements came later in the twelvth and thirteenth centuries, with new buildings for the collegiate church (east of present church – Governors Room and Lady Chapel). The number of canons reduced under Bishop Warelwast, increased again to 18 under Bishop Bronescombe 1261. Then, under Bishop Grandisson, 4 vicars choral and 4 singing boys were added in 1334, with new regulations for the Chapter, under its highest dignitary the Precentor.

* * *

Crideton (or Cridinton) West Town or the Borough as it was known, came into being on the slope outside and to the west of the Bishop's Park, possibly about the year 1200 (no definite evidence of date granted). According to Norden's Terrier 1598 the Borough extended from St. Laurence's Green to North Street (or Litterburn Lane as it was called, the Litter-burn or stream running in valley north of present High Street down to a pool, west of Church, and on to Lord's Meadow). West Town had its cross which remained in its rightful place near the entrance to North Street, until at least the Crimean War 1854 (socket of it, now in middle of the Green!) Earliest mention of 'the new ville' was made in 1231 when a weekly market on Thursdays and an annual Fair of 3 days at St. Laurence tide (Autumn) was granted to Bishop Brewer (1224-44) by King Henry III (Calendar of Patent Rolls). The assize Roll of 1238, is the first mention of Crediton as a borough. In 1242 this bishop speaks of 'our new borough' or town in a grant of land 'known as Jocelin's hill' (later George Hill, for on its summit stood St. George's Chapel mentioned 1598 – ruins probably used for a beacon in time of Armada and later French Wars, and flattened in 1908 when the field there was used for the Devon County Show!). St. Laurence's Chapel, built about this time, was also mentioned in the deed. Nearby was a leper hospital and burial ground – still remembered in the name St. Laurence's Green. Western Road was only a back lane called 'Ye Old Waye' until 1825 the main way out of the town being by Threshers to Barnstaple Cross. Martin's Lane too up to the 1860's was only a storm water channel and Alexandra Road was 'Turnagain Lane' – a dead end road not crossing Chapel Downs to reach Western Road until the 1800's.

Crediton, as it was first now called had a Spring Cattle Fair granted in 1306 by Edward I, who in 1307 summoned 2 burgesses to attend a Parliament at Carlisle. (There is no record of their attendance, and apparently Crediton burgesses were never summoned again!). Then in 1309 Bishop Stapledon granted a Market on Tuesdays and 2 Fairs of 9 days each. Crediton from then until the eighteenth century developed as a centre and market for woollen serge or 'chain' making. 'As fine as Kirton spinning' became a bye word (according to Westcote's View of Devonshire 1630). In the courtyards behind the Masters' houses of the main 'Broad and Narrow Street' lay the sheds for serge spinning and weaving. There was a fulling (or cleansing) mill here in 1301 (probably at Fordton - worked by a water wheel). In the Assize Roll of 1334, the Borough was taxed at

Scanned by CamScanner



The Charter A.D. 739. Now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford University.

Scanned by CamScanner

£4.1.1d, more prosperous then than Tiverton. In the middle of Broad Street (the wide part of High Street), there grew up a number of public buildings (probably mostly of wood) for selling wool, corn, fish and meat (shambles) stocks, pillary and whipping post – all still there indeed, until removed in the 1836 'improvements'. Kyrtone (its fourteenth century name) had its own alnager or wool-tax official for the King.

Apparently the Black Death Plague 1348-51, and decline in demand for food, bit Kyrtone badly – the respectable market town became it seems 'a decayed overgrown village in 1400's' according to one modern authority. Kyrtone was excused three quarters of its tax in 1445, no doubt to the delight of the still prosperous serge makers, who at this time had just rebuilt, in the new Perpendicular Style, complete with central tower and renowned clerestorey 'one of the most magnificent parish churches in Devon.' In 1399 the Bishop of Exeter directed that the prebends of Kyrtone should contribute towards the cost of completing the Choir of their church, the Norman and later buildings, having become ruinous. Following the rebuilding of the Choir about 1400, the Nave (said to be nearly levelled with the ground in 1413) was rebuilt between 1413 and 1418 with work continuing during the term of Bishop Lacy (1455).

* * *

Great changes took place in the 1540's. Everyone knows that Henry VIII was not only after a new wife Anne Boleyn, when he broke with Rome, but also needed money. In 1547 Kirton College of 18 canons, 18 vicars, 4 singing boys and 4 lay clerks was dissolved (the revenues then worth £322) and the Parishioners paid £200 for the privilege of preserving their Parish Church. (Kirton was its name now onwards) Shortly before this, Bishop Veysey in 1542 made over Kirton Park, mills, marsh and 100 acres to Sir Thomas Denys. Kirton's Latin or Grammar School, the successor to the Medieval monastic school, was refounded by Edward VI 'instigated by the affection which he bore toward the children within the County of Devon, that they might thereafter be endued with more polished learning than was formerly usual, thereby erected and founded for ever, a free grammar school in the said parish to be called 'the King's New Grammar School of Crediton.' This charter was confirmed under Elizabeth I hence 'Queen Elizabeth's School' meeting in the Lady Chapel from then onwards until the 1859 opening of its new buildings on 'the green'.

An even worse change of fortunes came in 1540 when despite protests the Wool Market was transferred to Exeter. (Another take-over?).

Another excitement for Kirton came with the Prayer Book Rebellion of 1549, started by rebels from Sampford Courtenay and joined by some from Kirton, who thought the new English translations of the Prayers sounded like 'a Christmas game'. According to a letter of 1549 in Protector Somerset's own handwriting (uncle of Edward VI).

'We are advertised that certain of our subjects hath of late in that our county of Devon repined and rebelled against the most godly proceedings of Parliament a t Westminster concerning the book set forth by our authority in full parliament of the rite and ceremonies to be used in our church of England'.

Scanned by CamScanner

Another contemporary account gives us this picture. 'June 1549 .... a great company of the commons were assembled at Crediton which is a town distant about 7 miles from Exeter ... they entrenched and rampired the high way at the Town's end leading towards Exeter and had hanged up great plough chains upon them and fortified the same with men and munitions.' There followed the rather high handed action of Sir Peter and Sir Gawain Carew (for which they were later censured) of 'burning the barns' (situated in the general area of White Hart).

A church inventory of 1559 shows us that when Elizabeth I was Queen, Kirton still had a fine collection of vestments and altar fronts as well as church silver and service books, but many images and pictures had been deliberately broken (we know that Kirton at the time of Civil War favoured Puritanism, so it's likely that many people thoroughly enjoyed breaking up 'the papistical gear'). The Parish then was said to number 1600 people. The church had a new clock in 1550 with a bell to strike the hours in 1571 - this was the sad year when 540 people died of the Plague - including 4 of the curate's own children - another bout of it came in 1591 and 1625. The Borough and Manor had been restored to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter under Catholic Mary in 1556 - the year in which, according to the Calendar of Patent Rolls, the quit rents payable to the Lord of the Manor were:- East Town: 112 hens; West Town: 60 hens! Sir Francis Drake was at Kirton in 1594 when, by order of Elizabeth, he made an inventory of the lands of the manor. This led almost inevitably to the conveyance in 1595 by Bishop Babington of the Manor and Park to Sir Robert Killigrew, later Vice Chancellor to James I's Queen, Anne of Denmark, for an annual payment of £146.8.3¼d. It was he who employed the surveyor John Norden famous in Kirton annals for his invaluable detailed survey (Norden's Terrier 1598).

* * *

In 1630 Westcote, in his 'View of Devonshire', wrote of Kirton, 'An ancient borough, seated in the heart of the shire partaking of the best both for air and soil' but Richard Symons a Cavalier diarist in 1644 wrote, 'a big lousy town, houses mostly of clay without any timber in the walls except in the roof, doors and windows.'

At this time 1648, Kirton set up its first 'House of Correction' for idle vagabonds.

At the outset of the Civil War, Kirton was uncertain whose orders to obey for the enlistment of troops. Sir John Northcote of Dean Street raised train bands for Parliament. Kirton saw too much of the various armies en route for Cornwall. In 1642 Royalist Sir Ralph Hopton of Somerset was here - 1643 saw more Royalists pursued westwards by enemy forces - then after the Parliamentary defeat at Stratton, back again came Hopton with his royalist Cornishmen.

In the summer of 1644 the Earl of Essex passed through on his way to Cornwall. (He was a rather faint hearted Parliamentary commander who was later relieved of command under the Self Denying Ordinance). Royalists then took Kirton. Charles I's Queen, Henrietta-Maria came here in disguise, after the birth and baptism of her daughter, Henrietta at Exeter Cathedral. She was on her way to take ship at Falmouth for France and stayed the night at John Tucker's house. Again in the July of 1644 Prince Maurice, nephew of Charles I and brother of the more famous dashing cavalry leader Rupert,

Scanned by CamScanner

Scanned by CamScanner

came to Kirton and Charles I himself reviewed his troops on Lord's Meadow knighting two local men on the field (Maurice disappeared at sea rather mysteriously in 1652). After the Parliamentary defeat at Lostwithiel, Charles and his troops were once again at Kirton in September 1644 - several soldiers were buried in Kirton churchyard. 500 Royalist soldiers were also billeted at Kirton (and apparently caused a great deal of damage) whilst Prince Charles held Exeter for his father. Then in 1645 matters went badly for the Royalists, even in the west. The New Model Army was at Kirton in October 1645, under its commander General Fairfax, a rather taciturn Yorkshireman and his right hand man, the 'win the war' genius Lieutenant General Cromwell.

Fairfax wrote to his father: Crediton
25th October, 1645

'This is the third day we have lain in this town and we are necessitated hither both by ill weather and wayes which causeth our carriage to be a great clog unto us for the wet hath made the ways so foule, that we cannot march further west except we do mount our ammunitions on horseback, but we are laboreous as we can desiring to forward the publique before our owne selves, and the reducing of the kingdom to peace which we much desire, so the work be done anyway wherein God may be glorified and the kingdom settled .... We thought to have blocked up Exeter ere this day, but the rains hath put us to a stand. But Lieut. General Cromwell is come up hither and his forces about Charde and Crookerne. I hope we shall be able to march westward and be able to straighten this city also. Nothing is yet concluded on since Cromwell came unto us which was late last night.'

There was another Review in Lord's Meadow October 1645, this time by Fairfax and Cromwell of the New Model Army - after which all went to the Church to hear an edifying sermon, then dinner at Northcote's.

The Royalists were back at Kirton for a short time but a surprise attack defeated them and Fairfax was here again early in 1646.

Fairfax wrote in February 1646.

'I found the west country indeed very craggy and the people and the entertainment for the most part crabbed. But I thank God for what is to be had. We have the best in our quarters, being content with the enemy's leavings, who hath left very little for man or beast in these parts. I wished for some London beer but all I got was a little soure syder.'

The Royalists in Exeter surrendered in April 1646.

* * *

The diarist of the Duke of Tuscany passing by in 1669 might describe Kirton as 'but a village engaged in the manufacture of woollens' but in the 1700's, 150 looms were busy around here. Crediton als Kirton, as it was officially known at this time, had 12,300 acres of cultivable land, and according to one authority 541 miles of hedges! In its heyday as a serge making town, it had at least 30 inns and made between 1400 and 1500 serges weekly - 70 bullocks a week were sold by its butchers.

Then came perhaps the worst disaster of all - the reason for the dearth of old and historic houses, in spite of what Dr. Johnson is reputed to have said, when asked to contribute to the fire disaster subscription list in 1769 - 'More money has been poured into Kirton than Kirton was ever worth'.

Scanned by CamScanner

Scanned by CamScanner

These disasters were the terrible fires of 1743, 1766, 1769, 1772 and 1775. Within a space of 30 years over 750 houses were burned out - some two or three times, costing thousands of pounds damages and untold misery for hundreds homeless. Most houses at Kirton were still built mainly of cob and thatch - in fact brick houses were so rare that as late as 1714 three brick houses in Kirton were called 'the brick houses'.

The worst of these fires was that of Sunday August 14th 1743. The Minister at the New Meeting House, Bowden Hill, Mr. Tawgood wrote this contemporary account:- 'About the middle of this street on the south side the fire broke forth on Sunday August 14th, about eleven of the forenoon. The Town had no supply of water but from pumps. A drought of several weeks had lessened that supply and prepared the houses to receive and propagate the flames. The wind setting strong, at first from the North East and increasing with the fire, the desolation was carried from house to house with amazing rapidity - a little past noon the wind veered towards the south by which the fire was soon communicated to the North side of the street - so that all the westward fell in a few hours a prey to the raging element and was turned to ashes. Eastward against the wind it advanced at a slower pace but neither the engines nor the blowing up nor by any other means could stop its dreadful progress but it continued uncontrolled till about eight in the evening when it pleased God at length to stop its furious course .....

At the western end of the town is a large open field called the Green, and above an hundred yards in length and in breadth about forty five, surrounded thick with houses, thither the inhabitants brought and lodged their goods not doubting that there they would be safe from the spreading flames. But even there also they were quickly seized, neither persons nor goods could stand before the sweeping deluge. By this terrible calamity about 450 families are turned out of their dwellings .... the loss set at 40 thousand pounds ..... for half a mile on one side of the street not a single house is standing and but a very small spot on the other.'

The 'Universal Spectator' told its readers – 'there is not a house standing in all the town from the sign of the Lamb to the uttermost end of the Green which is half a mile, together with all the back lets, lanes, byways, linhays gardens and apple trees – the apples roasting as they hung!'

The Public Appeal printed at the time added 'in about 10 hours upwards of 460 dwellings burnt to ashes together with market houses, wool chambers and other public buildings – 14 bodies perished in the flames – by the disaster more than 2,000 persons were reduced to the most melancholy circumstances.'

When John Wesley rode into Kirton in April 1744 a few months after the Great Fire – coming from Okehampton via the Green, his diary records –

'Before night we reached Crediton or Kirton or what remains of it; for the houses on both sides for several hundred yards were all in ashes. Lighting on a serious woman I asked her 'are the people of this place now warned to seek God' she answered – 'Although some of them perished in the flames, the rest are just as they were before, cursing, swearing, drinking, playing and making merry without God in their thoughts.' In spite of which remarks, Parish Church attendance 1850/1 averaged 1200 for morning, 1,000 for afternoon and 800 for evening services, according to the National Census taken by government order.

* * *

Scanned by CamScanner

Travel anyway was slowly improving. Exeter was the terminus for London stage coaches but up to the end of the eighteenth century 2 carriages per week passed through Kirton on their way to Bideford. In 1753 'The Exeter Turnpike Acts planned road improvements from the bottom of the causeway near Northgate in St. David's to the town of Crediton and from thence to Bow – power being given to the Trustees to charge tolls and pay workmen, 7 pence a day to widen the roads to 30 feet' – yet in 1754 the road from Creedy Bridge to town was only widened to 18 feet to give help to the workless paupers! In 1764 it was 'ordered that a rental of ten shillings be paid for the toll house at Forches Gate per month.' About 1800, plans were made for a Canal linking Exeter Quay with Four Mills Crediton, but though the work started in Exwick Meadow, it was abandoned after terrible floods in 1809 when Cowley Bridge was swept away –

In 1801, the year of the first National Census, there were said to be 1045 houses and a population of 4,929 in the Parish –

Cholera epidemics in Exeter in the 1830's led to an unsuccessful attempt to ensure clean water for Crediton, when the Crediton Water Works Company started its efforts to tap the Litterburn under 'the Green' with conduits to a reservoir nearby. It failed to get enough financial support, – not surprisingly when in 1830, a piece of ground in Newcombe's Meadow was advertised 'for sale a most valuable and excellent piece of meadow having 2 valuable soil pits in it which receive considerable volume of manure from the town!'

But this was the Age of Reform and Improvement. In 1836 there came the Crediton Improvement Act for 'better lighting, watching and cleansing the town.' (Population 2475 males, 3040 females including children). £7,000 was at first spent on improvements which included: building 'Union Road' the first direct road linking East Town with West Town, widening Westwood Hill, widening Martin's Lane, improving streets entering and leaving the town from Threshers to Barnstaple Cross and the Green to Chapel Downs, widening Narrow Street, and moving the Cattle Pound at its entrance to Kiddicote. The Market stalls in the middle of Broad Street were pulled down and a New Square Covered Market was provided by the Lord of the Manor at his own expense (including Market Street). The town pavements were even laid out with cobblestones! Following the New Poor Law of 1834, The Crediton Board of Guardians of the Poor had, a sumptuous dinner at the Ship Hotel in 1836 to mark the progress so far achieved in building the New Workhouse – the estimate of an Exeter firm for £5098 was accepted and the building opened in Western Road 1838. (At this time the poor were given palliases stuffed with oat dust and a pauper woman's outfit was: 2 shifts, 2 petticoats, 2 gowns, 2 aprons and caps!)

At Harvest Thanksgiving November 1st 1843, there was rejoicing at the advent of Gaslighting in the streets (the Gasworks at first in Union Road was later moved near Lord's Meadow).

Surplus land from the building of Union Road became available and the churchyard was extended more or less to its present limits about 1845. Some of the Medieval buildings from the Church College days were pulled down about this time (The New Vicarage had been built in 1811). May 1851 saw great excitement when the long awaited first train, arrived on the new Railway from Exeter to Crediton. Twenty years before this, at a meeting in Exeter, Sir H. Davie and Mr. Quick 'resolved that it would be a good thing if a railway was constructed between Crediton and Exeter.' It was not until 1835

Scanned by CamScanner

that work started on a broad gauge line. There followed stormy shareholders' meetings and the 'battle of the gauges'. Then the line was relaid, in narrow gauge to link up with the Barnstaple to Crediton line. At last 'the opening took place in May 1851, and was duly celebrated by a public dinner and holiday in Crediton – all the shops being closed, the streets and houses decorated with flags and flowers and enlivened with music and the usual amusements appertaining to a country fair.'

The County Guide 1844 noted 'the cloth manufacture in Crediton is not worth considering'. In spite of renewed demand for serge during the Crimean War 1854 Crediton weavers could not for long favourably compete with the steam driven machines of the Midlands and North. In January 1882 the Crediton Chronicle announced 'The death of Mr. Samuel Boddy at the age of 89 removes the last link of the once prosperous wool trade of Crediton'. However it was only in 1924, that the closing of the Weavers Charities came with a payment to a Mrs. Squires of Dean Street, the last operative weaver of Crediton.

But from 1850 onwards Crediton turned her energies to Boot and Shoe manufacture. Leather Tanning was an old occupation here (Tanpits in Parliament Street were dated 1790). According to a local Directory of 1857 there were some 32 boot and shoe makers in the town. (One is shown on Photograph of High Street next to the Town Hall – Gimbletts – established 1868). John Elston's Union Road premises (Jackson's?) turned out 3,000 pairs of heavy boots per week for South African miners and was only closed in 1914.

Other changes of those days – 1859 Opening of the New Grammar School Buildings on the Green. About the same time one church governor Elias Tremlett Ward was feted at a public dinner and presented with a solid silver candelabra for his part in sorting out a complicated lawsuit concerning Hayward's Charity. As a result of this £20,000 was now available for Crediton. £3,000 of this was used for building Hayward's School – the successor to the 'English School (mentioned in Church Accounts as being on Bowden Hill 1584) which was merged in 1814 with the Blue Coat School (founded 1711) and renamed the United Charity School with new buildings at Penton.

In 1865 Searle Street was being promoted by James Searle and the Crediton Villa Building Society and Bramble Lane was widened and renamed 'Exhibition Road' for the Devon County Show of 1881.

SPECIAL NOTICE – THE GOVERNORS' ROOM

This historic room will be open each evening of SON ET LUMIERE from 7.0 and during the interval. The GOVERNORS have been self-electing since the time of King Henry VIII – two of the present twelve will be on duty each evening.

The room will contain a display of documents on old Crediton, and Devon history organised by the Urban District Council and the Crediton Librarian, a case of award-winning Dartington glass and an exhibition of Stoneshill Pottery, and other items connected with the Church.

Admission is 30p, the Governors have given permission to take photographs, and a glass of St. Boniface wine will be provided in the Robing Room on the way out. **W. Lee, Warden of the Governors.**

Scanned by CamScanner

General Sir Redvers Henry Buller

This famous son of Kirton was born at Downes in 1839, His father was M.P. for Exeter and remembered for his part in the 1836 Crediton Improvements. Charlotte Street a new street on Buller land, was in fact named after his mother. At Eton Redvers was known as 'an outdoor type, solid and sturdy, with a will of his own'. In 1858 he began his distinguished military career as ensign in the King's Own Rifles, serving in India and China. 1862 found him in Canada with the legendary Red River Expedition where his commander said he was 'a skilful boatman in the most terrifying rapids – and had great physical strength and endurance.'

After various staff appointments 1874-8, during which time he succeeded to Downes on the death of his elder brother, he served in Ashanti with Sir Garnet Wolseley 'always in the front' of the advance; then in the Sixth Kaffir War 1878 where his 'dogged perseverance' showed itself. In 1879 his personal valour in rescuing 2 officers and men on the Inhlobana mountains, Natal,gained him the Victoria Cross. He was sent home on health grounds, 1882, and married Lady Audrey, daughter of 4th Marquis Townshend. Back on service in Egypt 1882-4 he was in command of the First Infantry Brigade and on the staff of the Expedition sent to relieve Khartoum. Despatches of this time mentioned 'Buller's coolness in action, knowledge of soldiers and experience in the field'.

In 1886 he was sent on policing duties to Ireland, with such success that he was made Under Secretary for Ireland. Then he spent some years at the War Office, reorganising the supply and transport sections of the army with 'a rare regard for the public purse'.

General Buller (as created 1896) was sent back to South Africa in command of a large army in 1899. The Boers had, however taken the initiative and invaded Natal. Buller tried to do the impossible by attempting to relieve Ladysmith and Kimberley simultaneously. At the first frontal assault December 1899 1100 Britons and 10 guns were lost at Ladysmith.The General was wounded by shrapnel whilst attempting to save the guns.

Against his wishes, he was ordered by the government to relieve Ladysmith. Two more costly attempts were made until finally on 28th February, 1900, after 3 months and loss of 5000 men,Ladysmith fell. General Buller seems to have too clearly expressed his own views of the affair in despatches, and was later criticised for his 'lack of purpose'. However, although overall command had now passed to Lord Roberts, the General stayed on to the end of regular military resistance from the Boers. On his way home in October 1900 at Pretoria, he was publicly thanked for his great services to his country. On return to England, he was given the freedom of Southampton, Exeter and Plymouth and was the guest of Queen Victoria, at Windsor in November 1900.

When re-appointed to the staff at Aldershot in 1901, there was some disagreement, which resulted in Buller in his usual straightforward way, making rather indiscreet remarks at a luncheon at Queen's Hall Westminster. The Government regarded this as a breach of regulations and he was relieved of his command. In 1905 the equestrian statue, by Captain A.Jones, was erected at Exeter with the inscription: 'He saved Natal'. The General spent his last years at Crediton looking after his country estates and as Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company, 1907. He died at home in Crediton, 2nd June 1908, and was given full military honours at his funeral. There are two memorials to his memory – the one over the Chancel Arch at Crediton Parish Church, the other a bronze effigy in the North Transept of Winchester Cathedral.

Scanned by CamScanner

ORGANISATION

WARDROBE MANAGER – Monica Dowrick

COSTUME COMPETITION – Susan Tucker

REFRESHMENTS
Kitty Ward, Young Wives, Mothers' Union, Womens' Institute, Toc H,
assisted by Eileen Page and her Staff

TICKETS – Designed by Raymond Skinner, Drawn by Desmond Adams
Box Offices : Minns of Exeter, Barnes and Profile of Crediton
Queen Elizabeth's School, (Robert and Mary Gittings)

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION – Douglas Penny and John Pope

STEWARDING – Bert White and Sidesmen

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT – Bookings by Robert Gittings

PUBLICITY – Arthur Homeshaw, Joan and Raymond Skinner,
Stanley Tibbitts, Ken Turner, Sidney Waring,
Crediton Chamber of Commerce,
Crediton Urban District Council.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND SLIDES – Derek Folland

CHURCH BELLES – Appearing by permission of Sue Pearce

SISTERS OF WELCOME – Franciscan Servants of Jesus and Mary, Posbury

APPEALS COMMITTEE – Friends .... Governors .... P.C.C.
Winifred Davey (Secretary)
Harold Hodges (Treasurer)
Raymond Skinner (Chairman)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the following for their kind permission to use material in this production in aid of the Church Restoration Fund.

Photographs of Old Kirton – Queen Elizabeth School Librarian (kindly donated by A.Quicke Esq. of Newton St. Cyres.)
Maps by C.Luxton Esq. from Devonshire Association Transactions
Bodleian Library for Microfilm of Crediton Charter
Time Publishing Co. for 1900 edition. Costumes by 'Bristol Old Vic'.
Major T. W. Venn for quotes from 'Crediton and Hereabouts' Typescripts
C. Luxton Esq., for quotes from 'Kyrton Aforetime' Typescripts
Books also consulted :
Lysons, 1822 Devonshire – 19th century edition, Westcote View of Devonshire 1630
Vancouver, Survey of Agriculture of Devon – Victoria County History
Hoskins & Finberg, Devonshire Studies 1952 – Dictionary of National Biography
R. Troup, Western Rebellion - 1913 – Transactions of Devonshire Association.

Scanned by CamScanner

THE WAR.

THE RELIEF OF LADYSMITH.

ROYALTY AND THE NEWS.

The Queen received before breakfast at Windsor Castle yesterday morning the telegram announcing the relief of Ladysmith by General Buller. The Duke and Duchess of York were staying with her Majesty when the news came. Princess Henry of Battenberg and the Duke of Fife also resided with the Castle on a short visit to London. The Royal Highnesses were joined at the usual Western Station by Prince Christian, who, having his eldest son, Prince Christian Victor, at the front, was naturally highly delighted with the news, which she said she hoped was true. The Princess at once sent a note to the Queen and a telegram to Prince Christian at Cumberland Lodge. From the Castle the welcome intelligence spread rapidly among the residents and the personnel, and was hailed with a most enthusiastic reception. The bells of St. George's Chapel were rung, and flags were displayed upon the Guildhall and other buildings in Windsor and Eton. The band of the Grenadier Guards on the Castle-hill played "God Save the Queen," to the great spectators, among whom were a number of Eton boys, who received cold grey hairs cheers for her Majesty.

A. A. Bartlett, Bookseller, at Portsmouth-street, has kindly announced the news that Mafeking had sent to the Queen on behalf of the inhabitants of Portsmouth, heartfelt congratulations, and sent to her Majesty a specially designed card. The Queen replied as follows:—"The Queen thanks inhabitants of Portsmouth for loyal congratulations on the happy news received. Queen of Wales's patron saint." The National Anthem was sung, and three cheers were given for her Majesty and Generals Buller and White.

The Prince of Wales, immediately on hearing the news, telegraphed to Sir Redvers Buller the following simple words:—"To Sir Redvers Buller.—Heartiest congratulations.—ALBERT EDWARD."

MESSAGES FROM LADY AUDREY BULLER AND LADY WHITE.

Lady Audrey Buller, wife of General Buller, he writes the following message for publication:—

Government House, Aldershot.

I have read with perfect thankfulness the news of the relief of Ladysmith, and the fearlessness at the moment which I have received from all sides gives me the deepest gratitude to my husband.—AUDREY.

Lady White, wife of Sir George White, has issued the following message:—

At the early hour in my anxiety with me, and to day I am in sympathy with all those who have had anxiety to bear patiently my special, as I surmise, thanks to the relief of Ladysmith, with me during the trying period of Ladysmith's long siege. I am glad that today I am delighted—supremely delighted—at the joyful news of the relief of the beleaguered garrison and the larger intelligence that it means a full and safe relief. As a wife I can say no more. What happy wife could say more?

THE JOY OF LONDON.

(FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Of the great and individual scenes of yesterday, of the Lord Mayor's eloquent little speech to the multitudes assembled at the Mansion-house, of the proceedings at the Board of England, at the Stock Exchange, at the Baltic, and so on, I have besides when the great news of yesterday was made public. The Times will no doubt have many particulars to relate. But to those who are far away from London, and perhaps to some of those who live in it, an attempt to convey in words a general impression made by a tour in London extending over a large part of yesterday may not be without interest. The relief and the reaction following upon the good news that the garrison of Ladysmith had at last and in truth been set free were entirely different in quality from anything that has been known before. The nation has, of course, passed through many a worse crisis but the strain upon its nerves has never been so severe for the reaction from this news, good as it is, could not come at any moment, by means of one—anticipation of which our hearts have never entirely ceased—the sweet fruit of any patriotic mind. Hence came it that the exhibition of joy was of a kind quite foreign to the generally accepted version of the English character, which indeed may be suffering some little change as a result of the telegraph and the telephone.

The result was a series of very remarkable and pleasant scenes in the considerable area of London which I was able to travel through during the course of the day. It began in the neighborhood of Chelsea Barracks, where the surrounding population of so much of old Chelsea as is left is mostly interested in the Guards. There every kind of spontaneous effort to display joy by flags and even by festooons of pennons had been made as soon as the terrible Pall Mall gives tired of shouting applause. Sloane-street was a joyful spectacle, with Jacks and Royal Standards flying from the principal houses of business, and the prettiest sight of all was to see the children, walking with their nurses and drives in their pony carriages, carrying little flags in their hands in great numbers. When those children who are old enough to keep the memory of yesterday then grow up they will, I think, find it a fresh and vivid in their recollections as the first time they could in fact remember, which was to me a very different character, the death of the Prince Consort. So, in her own turn of phrase from Mr. Pepys, to Kate Stoke-dike where the other evidences of lodged in a great demonstration earlier in the day. To the number of some 200 they had left their shops to take care of the beeches, had marched in a rough column to the Cross, and, on being met by a cheering crowd, had formed up and shouted themselves hoarse. All along Piccadilly the scene was full of sunshine and gaiety. Of organised demonstration there could, of course, be none, but the clubs and hotels and large houses of business which had flags had hoisted them, and the driver of every vet of vehicle had a roset of ribbon on his whip, and all the Road Cars seemed to have new Jacks and passengers were waving them all over the place. Thence, down St. James's-street to Pall-mall, where Marlborough House had been lit up with a flag of triumph was displayed, and, some 200 of the Guards, and the very private flag is not out of the War Office was in a manner from cheer to cheer.

In Cockspur-street and Charing-cross-road there was some display of flags, and in the Strand there were many. Down the Embankment, again, flags streamed briskly before the architecture from the mammoth hotels, from Somerset-house, and from the School Board for London. There, at Printing-house-square, although everybody knew it off by heart, crowds of people collected round the announcement of the good news from Ladysmith. But it was in the heart of the City that the excitement, that reached fever heat and, in the day, exhausted that temperature for many hours. Tradesmen, wise in their generation, had laid in great stores of flags, small and great, and, especially in Cheapside, the vendors of them did a roaring trade. A worker in Cheapside, with her bodice near the beginning of the street was surrounded by a mob which positively fought for them, and the scarce ones got, to the true heart of the City the thicker grew the stream of humanity, and the greater the number of staid men of business and well-dressed women, some of them in mourning, who carried the flag. A huge trade, too, was done in badges by vendors who cried "Twopy the dear old flag," "Show your colours," in rendering of Lord Roberts, of Colonel Baden-Powell, of General Buller, of Sir Charles White, of Lord Kitchener, and many other heroes. Prices soon on the afternoon, Baden-Powell, and Colonel Baden-Powell was at a premium early. As complete a collection as could be made, however, failed to include one of Lord Dundonald.

As I approached the Mansion-house vehicular traffic there was none; it had been given up as broken long before. Above the shorts of the hawkers and the roars of cheaps which broke out now here and now there, one could be heard in the distance a sound like that of the sea. Then the 4th came out and illuminated a pulpit here of that which rose above a sea of faces occupying the whole space in front of the Mansion-house and made them look quite fine. Approaching nearer, I saw dark objects thin and thick above the crowd. They were hats, now and old, and some bedecked out of recognition which had been new this morning. Flags fluttered everywhere in thousand hands. "God save the Queen," and "Rule Britannia" and groans for Mr. Kruger—this a medley of which went to the heart all the more swiftly in that it was not in the least malodious. From the Mansion-house streamed the Royal Standard and the white flag with the red cross of the C.I.V. Everybody was shouting, soldiers were being carried shoulder-high by cheering admirers, women were laughing and crying alternately, the Mansion-house and Duke was adorned with many little flags, and Copenhagen carried the Union Jack on his crest, and in the midst of it all were the sturdy City Police, smiling, good-humouredly weary, as long standing and thickly coated with impalpable dust and their sturdy uniform seemed to be of thick. Special entertainment at the Guildhall there was none. The hour had long passed when the medical students had marched through, and other news or less organised demonstrations had been made. But the people, the large majority of whom consisted of well-dressed persons, seemed to be in no mood for dispersing themselves hours, and had done so long ago with the help of the dust, and kept on cheering as if there were not a cab in the whole City. They seached to and fro in front of the Exchange, under the New Zealand Book, where was inscribed the legend:—

> Thou art shine on her joyously,
> To Heaven with her voice,
> Oh! glorious City of the Golden
> The banner of her price.

It was in the main, and, I believe, entirely, a good-humoured crowd, it heard something, its moral conjectures, of ugly rumors as to pro-Boers I saw but one man hurt, and that was the result of an accident. He fell down, and the crowd walked over him, but he was not hurt, and it was on such occasions. So it seemed as if things would go on for ever and, acted with patriotic determination, I went home. Coming up the Strand the spire of St. Clement Danes' Church, with a flag projecting on either side, outlined against the red disc of the setting sun, and the Strand grown for now gay with great flags at the offices of the Graphic and the Globe, and a group of happy children in Bedford-street-square, with a great flag, on whom cheering crowds gazed, and with the first of the joy bells ringing in my ears. The whole was a great sight and one never to be forgotten.

LEYES.

The foregoing words were written with no intention of returning to the scene of jubilation, and before dinner. But human nature was too strong, and, as at the Diamond Jubilee, so after Ladysmith, I travelled with a party of persons who are in the ordinary way very quiet and orderly folks through the West-end and into the heart of the City on the top of an omnibus. Excitement began at Knightsbridge, where processions of skin-bedized young men—there are still many such left in England—were shouting and singing and waving flags. Up Piccadilly things were fairly quiet, save that the Bashmen were blazing at the Naval and Military Club. But Piccadilly-circus was one vast crowd, and shouts, and many less songs. Up and down Regent-street the crowds were shouting and yelling, and in Pall-mall the Bashmen were blazing at the Reform, the Carlton, and the Junior Carlton. At Charing-cross and in the Strand the fun grew hot and furious. Of illuminations, not one particular crown on the left-hand side, there were lots, but the people were simply in wild spirits, and they held high carnival. They marched with flags and streamers and particoloured bladders like those of the pantomime, they linked one another with peacock feathers, they wore paper helmets, they dressed up their very ponies in grotesque attire, and they shouted and sang without ceasing. All up Ludgate-hill and Cheapside the story was the same, only there was more of it, and when the crowds reached the Mansion-house by a circuitous route it appeared that a kind of paroxysm of joy, if the phrase be permissible, had broken loose. It may have been foolish; I am not prepared to say that it was not, but it was certainly infectious and exhilarating, and there was also certainly no harm in it. One saw the hospitals of London, in a new light, that it was all; perfectly sober, but wildly excited in the presence of a triumph which it had perhaps exaggerated. In the Mansion-house the telephones have much to answer for, and nerves that have been highly strung will vibrate when they are touched by strong emotion.

The news was received by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion-house shortly after 10 o'clock, when a considerable crowd had already assembled in Walbrook in the expectation that some announcement of unusual interest would be made forthcoming. From the open window of the Venetian Parlour the Lord Mayor, waving his hand to command silence, announced that "Ladysmith is relieved," and an immense cheer greeted the intelligence. An enormous crowd at once congregated outside the Mansion-house, and it was with great difficulty that an official, protected by the police, bing the notice-board containing a copy of Sir Redvers Buller's message, could get over yet a little. The cheering was renewed when the terms of the communication were read, and the mob became so dense that vehicular traffic was entirely stopped and was, in fact, never resumed throughout the entire day. In response to continuous demands for a speech, the Lord Mayor again came forward and, addressing the crowd, said:—"Fellow-citizens:—This news of the relief of Ladysmith may hearts leap with joy. We are not satisfied that at last our sacrifices of blood and treasure is not in vain." The crowd sang "God Save the Queen," "Rule Britannia," and "Soldiers of the Queen." Some of the lines, and nothing could induce them to disperse. Meanwhile, the Union Jack was hoisted on the roof of the Mansion-house, and the banks and surrounding property hoisted the national flag. The Lord Mayor telegraphed to Sir Redvers Buller at Ladysmith:—"Heartiest congratulations from the citizens of London." and to Sir George White, "Heartiest congratulations from the citizens of London on your brilliant defence." To Lady Audrey Buller the Chief Magistrate telegraphed:—"Sincere congratulations, on your gallant husband's achievement. I have cabled him direct to Ladysmith the felicitations of the citizens of London." The Lord Mayor also communicated with the Dean of St. Paul's, suggesting that the bells of the Cathedral should be rung, which was done at the close of the afternoon service. At 1 o'clock—the luncheon hour in the City—the mob outside the Mansion-house was reinforced by a long procession from the Stock Exchange, every man carrying a flag and cheering lustily. An hour later there was a densely packed throng extending from the Royal Exchange to the Post-office, and demanding a speech from the Lord Mayor. His Lordship, who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and Miss Newnes, had a number of guests, including Sir Rothschild, the Earl of Stamford, Alderman Sir Joseph Renals, Mr. Alderman Crosby, Colonel Bezell, C.B., Colonel Dawson, and others, appeared on the front of the balcony amid deafening applause. His words were drowned in the noise, but he was understood to say that, in the opinion of the Corporation, had never been unduly depressed at any part of the campaign, he thought they might be pardoned if that day they allowed their natural elation at the glorious news they had received of the relief of Ladysmith after one of the most prolonged sieges in modern warfare. He asked them to evince their enthusiasm in the usual English way by giving "Three Cheers for the Queen." The cheers, led by the Lord Mayor, were given most heartily. The successful generals were then cheered in succession—Buller, White, French, and, finally, Lord Roberts, at whose name there was great enthusiasm. At the close of this remarkable demonstration, unparalleled in the memory of the oldest citizens, the civic party retired from the balcony. But the crowd remained till midnight, singing national and patriotic airs, and in their enthusiasm placing on their shoulders any soldier, sailor, or Volunteer in uniform who happened to be near. At 1 o'clock the Guards passed through the crowd in the evening for their customary duty at the Bank of England, they received a hearty reception.

There was an extraordinary scene upon the Royal Exchange in the afternoon, when the ordinary business of the place was suspended and brokers was augmented by a large contingent which had assembled from Mincing-lane. A procession with flags and banners was formed and marched round the statue of her Majesty, singing "The Soldiers of the Queen," after which Mr. John Mullett, mounting the pedestal, proposed the sing of the National Anthem, and then proposed "Long live the Queen, Sir R. Buller, Sir G. White, Lord Dundonald, and "Tommy Atkins." All this was done with the greatest enthusiasm, and the singing, of "Rule Britannia" brought the proceedings to a close.

The news was received at the Stock Exchange with the most intense enthusiasm and ringing cheers, interrupted with cries of "Bravo Buller!" "Bravo, White!" At the Stock Exchange was comparatively empty, but the news was soon transmitted, messengers and their clerks rushing in to obtain confirmation of the rumour that they had brought to them on their way to the City. A scene of great excitement followed, and, as proof about all sorts of stocks being called, the "Transvaal-street the newsboys were selling their papers at greatly enhanced prices. At 11 o'clock a sudden bank fell upon the assembled brokers, and a member ascended the rostrum and formally proposed a great cheer. Cheers upon cheer followed, and all the members uncovered and sang "God Save the Queen," which was taken up by the crowds in the adjacent streets.

At the Baltic, the Metal Exchange, Mincing-lane Sale Rooms, and the Shipping Exchange there was scene of great enthusiasm and joy. Business was practically suspended, and, amid great cheering, patriotic songs were sung and good-humoured crowd, it heard something, its moral conjectures, of ugly rumors as to pro-Boers I saw but one man hurt, and that was the result of an accident. He fell down, and the crowd walked over him, but he was not hurt, and it was on such occasions. So it seemed as if things would go on for ever and, acted with patriotic determination, I went home. Coming up the Strand the spire of St. Clement Danes' Church, with a flag projecting on either side, outlined against the red disc of the setting sun, and the Strand grown for now gay with great flags at the offices of the Graphic and the Globe, and a group of happy children in Bedford-street-square, with a great flag, on whom cheering crowds gazed, and with the first of the joy bells ringing in my ears. The whole was a great sight and one never to be forgotten.

LEYES.

The foregoing words were written with no intention of returning to the scene of jubilation, and before dinner. But human nature was too strong, and, as at the Diamond Jubilee, so after Ladysmith, I travelled with a party of persons who are in the ordinary way very quiet and orderly folks through the West-end and into the heart of the City on the top of an omnibus. Excitement began at Knightsbridge, where processions of skin-bedized young men—there are still many such left in England—were shouting and singing and waving flags. Up Piccadilly things were fairly quiet, save that the Bashmen were blazing at the Naval and Military Club. But Piccadilly-circus was one vast crowd, and shouts, and many less songs. Up and down Regent-street the crowds were shouting and yelling, and in Pall-mall the Bashmen were blazing at the Reform, the Carlton, and the Junior Carlton. At Charing-cross and in the Strand the fun grew hot and furious. Of illuminations, not one particular crown on the left-hand side, there were lots, but the people were simply in wild spirits, and they held high carnival. They marched with flags and streamers and particoloured bladders like those of the pantomime, they linked one another with peacock feathers, they wore paper helmets, they dressed up their very ponies in grotesque attire, and they shouted and sang without ceasing. All up Ludgate-hill and Cheapside the story was the same, only there was more of it, and when the crowds reached the Mansion-house by a circuitous route it appeared that a kind of paroxysm of joy, if the phrase be permissible, had broken loose. It may have been foolish; I am not prepared to say that it was not, but it was certainly infectious and exhilarating, and there was also certainly no harm in it. One saw the hospitals of London, in a new light, that it was all; perfectly sober, but wildly excited in the presence of a triumph which it had perhaps exaggerated. In the Mansion-house the telephones have much to answer for, and nerves that have been highly strung will vibrate when they are touched by strong emotion.

The news was received by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion-house shortly after 10 o'clock, when a considerable crowd had already assembled in Walbrook in the expectation that some announcement of unusual interest would be made forthcoming. From the open window of the Venetian Parlour the Lord Mayor, waving his hand to command silence, announced that "Ladysmith is relieved," and an immense cheer greeted the intelligence. An enormous crowd at once congregated outside the Mansion-house, and it was with great difficulty that an official, protected by the police, bing the notice-board containing a copy of Sir Redvers Buller's message, could get over yet a little. The cheering was renewed when the terms of the communication were read, and the mob became so dense that vehicular traffic was entirely stopped and was, in fact, never resumed throughout the entire day. In response to continuous demands for a speech, the Lord Mayor again came forward and, addressing the crowd, said:—"Fellow-citizens:—This news of the relief of Ladysmith may hearts leap with joy. We are not satisfied that at last our sacrifices of blood and treasure is not in vain." The crowd sang "God Save the Queen," "Rule Britannia," and "Soldiers of the Queen." Some of the lines, and nothing could induce them to disperse. Meanwhile, the Union Jack was hoisted on the roof of the Mansion-house, and the banks and surrounding property hoisted the national flag. The Lord Mayor telegraphed to Sir Redvers Buller at Ladysmith:—"Heartiest congratulations from the citizens of London." and to Sir George White, "Heartiest congratulations from the citizens of London on your brilliant defence." To Lady Audrey Buller the Chief Magistrate telegraphed:—"Sincere congratulations, on your gallant husband's achievement. I have cabled him direct to Ladysmith the felicitations of the citizens of London." The Lord Mayor also communicated with the Dean of St. Paul's, suggesting that the bells of the Cathedral should be rung, which was done at the close of the afternoon service. At 1 o'clock—the luncheon hour in the City—the mob outside the Mansion-house was reinforced by a long procession from the Stock Exchange, every man carrying a flag and cheering lustily. An hour later there was a densely packed throng extending from the Royal Exchange to the Post-office, and demanding a speech from the Lord Mayor. His Lordship, who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and Miss Newnes, had a number of guests, including Sir Rothschild, the Earl of Stamford, Alderman Sir Joseph Renals, Mr. Alderman Crosby, Colonel Bezell, C.B., Colonel Dawson, and others, appeared on the front of the balcony amid deafening applause. His words were drowned in the noise, but he was understood to say that, in the opinion of the Corporation, had never been unduly depressed at any part of the campaign, he thought they might be pardoned if that day they allowed their natural elation at the glorious news they had received of the relief of Ladysmith after one of the most prolonged sieges in modern warfare. He asked them to evince their enthusiasm in the usual English way by giving "Three Cheers for the Queen." The cheers, led by the Lord Mayor, were given most heartily. The successful generals were then cheered in succession—Buller, White, French, and, finally, Lord Roberts, at whose name there was great enthusiasm. At the close of this remarkable demonstration, unparalleled in the memory of the oldest citizens, the civic party retired from the balcony. But the crowd remained till midnight, singing national and patriotic airs, and in their enthusiasm placing on their shoulders any soldier, sailor, or Volunteer in uniform who happened to be near. At 1 o'clock the Guards passed through the crowd in the manner usual in the respect of a deputation that had brought intelligence, delivered by a mounted officer, takes place at night.

CANTERBURY.—There was great rejoicing in Canterbury and Canterbury last night. The streets of the town presented a bright appearance, and the streets were crowded with people, the national airs were sung, and the Mayor, Sir Henry Cornish, and Lady Cornish, and other prominent citizens were present in the national quarters. Prisoners in cells for the relief of Ladysmith were celebrated in a quiet way, and the inmates were allowed to sing "God Save the Queen" and "Rule Britannia" and children were sent to bed at 9 o'clock. The Cathedral bells rang a peal and an impromptu service was held near by a clergyman and the National Anthem.

CHATHAM.—There was great rejoicing in Chatham. The Princess's Theatre of Varieties, crowded to meet their representatives to the Government, and three cheers were given for the Queen, Sir Redvers Buller, Sir Garnet Wolseley, and a large crowd cheered for Buller, Dundonald, Kitchener, and Baden-Powell, especially the Royal Engineers.

DEVONSHIRE.—Especially because General Buller hailed from Devonshire, the relief of Ladysmith was not home, throughout the county. The news was announced with the wheels in Plymouth, and the Mayor, Sir Frank Lockyer, at once telegraphed his congratulations to General Buller. The Devonport and other municipal authorities at Plymouth, Devonport, and Stonehouse, gave permission to the board to entertain the member of the Devonshire regiment, and the Mayor of Devonport, who was Sir Redvers Buller's uncle, at a banquet, which was given in his honor. The intelligence was received with great rejoicing at Tiverton, the birthplace of Sir Redvers Buller, and in the villages, the event was celebrated in some special manner.

DEVON.—The news caused great rejoicing, both in the public and private houses, and in the streets, at the Royal Hotel, Plymouth, Devonport, Stonehouse, and all the public buildings. The employés from the Dockyard, all the shops in the harbour, and by some of the most of the streets of the town. The ships also used the news, and the Mayor, Sir Frank Lockyer, at once telegraphed his congratulations to General Buller. The Mayor and a complimentary banquet to Sir Redvers Buller. Tiverton Mayor—Torbright proceedings were held in the Parliament Street, and the Mayor, Sir Frank, and the Shamkin town council said loyal and congratulatory telegrams to the Queen, Lady Audrey Buller and Lady White.

LEICESTER.—The presence of the Leicestershire Regiment in Ladysmith caused the anxiety at Leicester, and the news of the relief was received with unalloyed joy.

LIVERPOOL.—The Lord Mayor of Liverpool received the following reply from Windsor Castle to a message to the Queen:—"The Queen thanks the Lord Mayor of Liverpool for their loyal assurance that they rejoice with her in the relief of Ladysmith."—(Signed) "Lord Lansdowne." The Lord Mayor also sent congratulatory telegrams to Lady Audrey Buller, Sir George and Lady White, Later in the Exchange, news room, Mr. Sandbach, the chairman, reminded those present that General Buller was not a stranger to Liverpool, having been there some years ago with the Duke of Cambridge, national anthem was sung, and the proceedings concluded by the presence of the grounds elicited frantic cheers. Liverpool and Lancashire, he added, had supplied more for wife's in the gallantry of the Lancashire Brigade, and especially the South Lancashire Regiment, which had been so long in Ladysmith. Liverpool was fervently sung, and cheers were given for General Buller and White, Lord Roberts, and Lord Kitchener, the singing cheer for the Chairman, Mr. Sandbach and the fellow-citizens. Mr. Sandbach said the Mr. Chamberlain:—"Many thousands of business men in Liverpool and Lancashire will have joined their congratulations on the success which has rewarded your relentless efforts." To Lady Audrey Buller:—"I am sure I do not exaggerate when I say that the relief of Ladysmith proved on the Liverpool Exchange and the Liverpool Stock Exchange, and the Liverpool Cotton Exchange, and in the Liverpool Law Courts, and everywhere else I do not exaggerate when I say that the relief of Ladysmith proved on the Liverpool Exchange and the Liverpool Stock Exchange, and the Liverpool Cotton Exchange, and in the Liverpool Law Courts, and everywhere else I do not exaggerate when I say that they congratulations on General White's heroic and successful defence, and on the relief of Ladysmith." A portrait of General Buller was exhibited with a laurel crown. On the Provisions Exchange also there was great rejoicing, and the Lord Mayor, Sir Frank Lockyer, at once telegraphed to Sir Redvers Buller, and to Lady Audrey Buller, and to Sir George White, and to the Lord Mayor of London, and the Lord Mayor of London, and the Lord Mayor of London, and