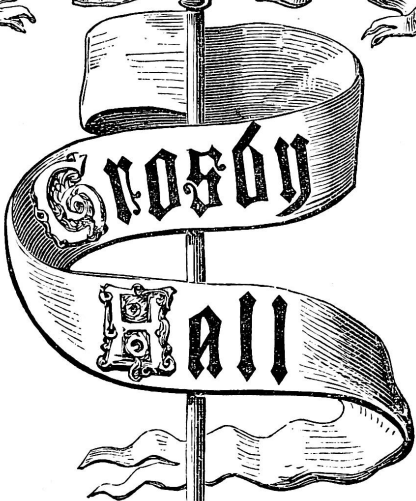
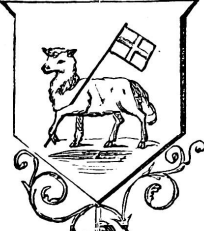
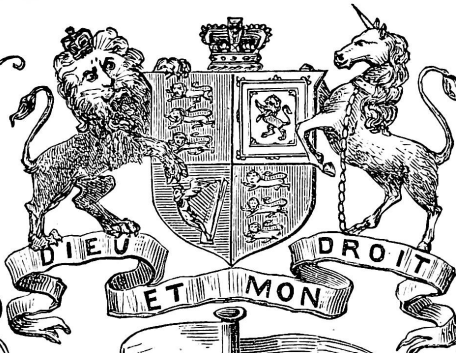
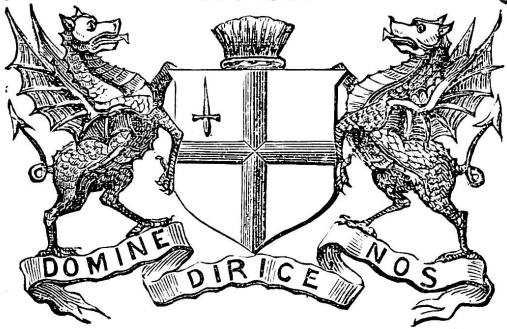
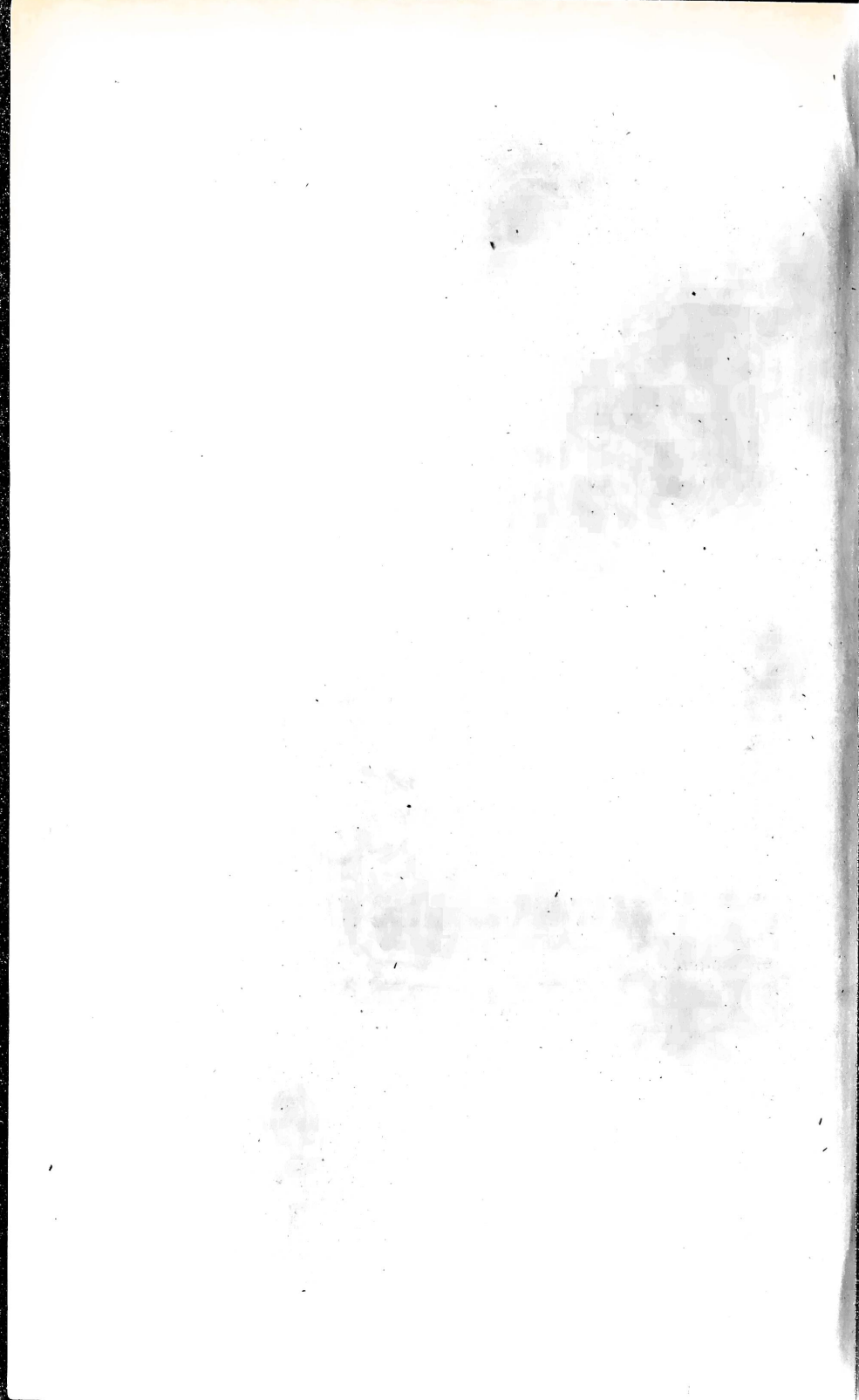


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THE ANCIENT CITY PALACE  
AND  
GREAT BANQUETING HALL  
ITS  
HISTORY & RESTORATION

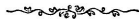






## CROSBY HALL,

ITS EARLY HISTORY AND PRESENT RESTORATION.



**C**ROSBY HALL is one of the most interesting buildings in the Metropolis, and may be said to be the only authentic example of Gothic domestic architecture belonging to that period when the merchant princes began to take rank with the nobles of the Court. The Great Hall at Westminster is perhaps the finest existing specimen of the public buildings of ancient London, (omitting of course ecclesiastical edifices), and CROSBY HALL is the most striking and splendid of those palatial residences, only a few of which were erected in the City.

It is remarkable, considering how closely this grand old building has been identified with the history of the country, that it should have been permitted to undergo such strange vicissitudes in its own fortunes, and it is yet more wonderful that notwithstanding those vicissitudes it should have been spared from the alterations and adaptations which too often deface and destroy some of the most beautiful structures of a past age. The truth seems to be that CROSBY HALL was so nobly planned and built as to restrain by the force of its own beauty the unhallowed hands which might otherwise have desecrated it; while its history and associations were in themselves so interesting that they secured its public recognition, and forbade the destruction of a building that had been able to defy the touch of Time himself, and seemed only to have mellowed into a more solemn beauty as the years went by.

Not that the entire edifice, which was originally called Crosby Place or Crosby House, remains standing. The less important portion exists no longer, and the building which has for so long been known as CROSBY HALL is in fact the Grand Banqueting Room, the Council Chamber, the State Reception Room, and

some other apartments belonging to the Palace, Court-yard, and Garden, which once occupied the site of what is now Crosby Square.

This splendid mansion of Crosby Place was built in 1466 by Sir John Crosby, on the ground leased from Dame Alice Ashfield, Prioress of the Convent of Saint Helene. For this ground, which had a frontage of 110 feet in the "King's Road of Bishopsgate Streete," he paid £11:6:8 a-year, no small sum in those days, and immediately set about the erection of the hall and dwelling house, which was afterwards described as being "ye highest and "fairest in ye Citie."

Sir John Crosby, Member of Parliament for London, Alderman, Warden of the Grocer's Company, and Mayor of the Staple of Calais, was the eminent grocer and woolstapler, who with eleven others received the honour of knighthood in the field for their gallantry in resisting the attack made by the Bastard Falconbridge on the City. Sir John Crosby died in 1475, four years after the completion of the building to which he gave his name, and was buried in the Church of Saint Helen, where his tomb may still be seen, bearing upon it the recumbent figures of himself and his wife. The knight is fully armed, but wears over his armour his Alderman's mantle, and round his neck a collar of suns and roses, the badge of the House of York.

In the following year, 1476, Crosby House became a palace in name as well as in reputation, in consequence of the widow of Sir John Crosby parting with it to Richard, Duke of Gloucester; afterwards Richard the Third. Then Crosby Place, like the less important Baynard's Castle, became the scene of those intrigues by which the wily Richard obtained the Crown, and must have been peculiarly convenient to him as a residence, both from its contiguity to the Tower, where first King Henry VI., and afterwards the Princes were confined, and from its occupying a prominent place in the City, where he had influential and doubtless sincere supporters, and where he was anxious to obtain the suffrages of the people. The choice of Crosby House as a Palace may indeed be included among those devices by which Richard achieved success; for in its magnificent apartments he was able to hold a sort of regal state, and having, as Sir Thomas More says, "lodged "hymself in Crosby's Place, where, by little and little, all folks "drew unto, so that the Protector had the Court, and the King was "in a manner left desolate;" he began at once to aspire to the Crown, which in 1483 was offered to him in the *Council Chamber* of CROSBY HALL by the Mayor, Sir Thomas Billesden, and a deputation of citizens.

We are most of us familiar with the story of Richard's treachery during his residence at this City Palace, and not a few of us have learnt by heart that most familiar of all the plays of Shakspeare in which the story is told. CROSBY HALL occupies a conspicuous position in the drama of Richard the Third, and it is evident that the Poet had ample opportunities for studying the building itself;—

probably the play was written in the immediate vicinity of the building, or possibly even next door, for we know from the Parish Assessments that he was a resident in Saint Helen's in 1598, and from the amount of the sum levied must have occupied a house of some importance.

It is in the Third Act of Richard the Third that the allusions to Crosby Place occur, and in that most enthralling portion of the play where the Duke is plotting with awful dissimulation to win at once a queen and a crown, to both of which he had been a traitor. It was the last achievement of his triumphant falsehood to induce Anne to await at Crosby Place his return from the funeral of the King his father-in-law. The wonderful chain of lies winds up with the words:—

“ And if thy poor devoted servant may  
 “ But beg one favour at thy gracious hands,  
 “ Thou dost confirm his happiness for ever.”

*Anne* (who is already yielding to his serpent's tongue), says

“ What is it ?”

and he replies

“ That it may please you leave these sad designs  
 “ To him that hath most cause to be a mourner,  
 “ And presently repair to Crosby Place.”

In the following scene the action is still laid in reference to Crosby Place, where the murderers who have been commissioned to destroy Clarence in the Tower are to meet Richard after they have accomplished their evil work.

“ *Gloucester*—Are you now going to despatch this thing ?

“ *First Murderer*—We are, my lord ; and come to have the warrant,  
 That we may be admitted where he is.

“ *Gloucester*—Well thought upon : I have it here about me.

[*Gives Warrant*].

When you have done repair to Crosby Place.”

Again, in the Third Act, where, after the meeting of Gloucester with the Prince of Wales, the Cardinal, and the nobles in a street in London, and when Buckingham and Richard send Catesby to tamper with the wretched Hastings, Gloucester says:—

“ Shall we hear from you, Catesby, ere we sleep ?”

“ *Catesby*—You shall, my lord.”

“ *Gloucester*—At Crosby Place there you shall find us both.”

During the time of Shakspeare's residence in the parish, CROSBY HALL was in the occupation of Sir John Spencer, a London merchant, known by, what to some people would be the enviable name, of “ the rich ” Spencer. In 1594 he bought the palace for £2560, and afterwards held his Mayoralty there in splendid style, the celebrated Duke of Sully, then French Ambassador to the English Court, being one of the guests, who were lodged and entertained

in right royal fashion. Sir John Spencer's daughter was married to the first Earl of Northampton, and the wealth of the great London merchant served to increase the revenues of the succeeding marquises.

Between the time when the Duke of Gloucester became King Richard the Third and the year in which Shakspeare wrote his noble drama, CROSBY HALL had been in possession of several masters. The palace seems at once to have been recovered by the then Lord Mayor of London as the appropriate residence of the chief magistrate of the Metropolis, and in 1501 Sir Bartholomew Reade took possession of it, and during his mayoralty entertained and lodged the ambassadors who came from Maximilian of Germany. The famous Banqueting Hall was in full occupation at this time; and in reference to the distinguished guests received there, Stowe himself thinks one feast worthy of record for its great magnificence. Fifteen years afterwards (in 1516) we find Sir John Rest installed at CROSBY HALL, after one of the most remarkable "Lord Mayor's Shows" on record, in which there appeared, according to the veracious chronicler, four giants, one unicorn, one dromedary, one camel, one ass, one dragon, six hobby-horses, and sixteen naked boys.

What was the symbolical significance of these remarkable objects we are not informed, but it may be remembered that the display had very little moral effect on the London 'prentices, for it was in that very year that the disturbances began which ended in the tragedy of what has ever since been known as "The evil May day," when the 'prentices and journeymen determined to assault the foreign artisans and merchants.

The cry of "down with the Lombards" was heard on the night of the 30th of April, when the young men were at buckler play in Chepe, and the mischief began by an attack on a calender of worsted, a native of Picardy, who lived near Leadenhall. Very soon a general attack was made in several quarters upon the foreign dealers and workmen, who fled for their lives, leaving their goods to be destroyed. The gaol of Newgate was broken open, and some of the assailants who had been imprisoned there were released; the work of destruction went on all night, and when the May-day morning broke there was still a crowd in the streets, especially near the church of St. Andrew Undershaft, which occupied an open space in Leadenhall Street, where Lime Street now stands. Here the "Great Shaft of Cornhill," the mighty maypole, which had given the very church its name, was being set up, its top reaching above the steeple; but there were no May-day revels that morning, for the shout of the crowd of rioters was echoed by an answering shout, and an armed force from the Tower bore down upon the 'prentices and carried them off to that stronghold to be tried for their lives. Fifteen unhappy creatures were executed, and the rest went to Westminster Hall, half naked and tied together with ropes, each with a halter about his neck. There they besought the mercy of the King, and were

pardoned. But the first of May, 1517, has ever since been known as the evil May-day, and the Great Shaft was reared nevermore, but hung on hooks under the pent houses of Shaft Alley for thirty-two years, until the Reformation, when it was denounced as an idol by some zealous preacher, whose hearers, as Stow says, "after they had well dined to make themselves strong," sawed it in pieces and divided the logs amongst them.

Long before that, however, CROSBY HALL had passed into new hands. No less distinguished a person than Sir Thomas More, Under Treasurer, and afterwards Lord High Chancellor of England, became its occupant. Here he received the visits of Henry VIII., and here he doubtless wrote some of those works which have contributed so much to his fame. Erasmus, who was his intimate friend and frequent guest, thus speaks of the domestic life of the author of "Utopia":—"With him you might imagine yourself in the academy of Plato; but I should do injustice to his house by comparing it to the academy of Plato, where numbers and geometrical figures, and sometimes moral virtues, were the subjects of discussion; it would be more just to call it a school and an exercise of the Christian religion. All its inhabitants, male and female, applied their leisure to liberal studies and profitable reading, although piety was their first care. No wrangling, no idle word, was heard in it; every one did his duty with alacrity, and not without a temperate cheerfulness." Surely these were the palmy days of CROSBY HALL.

On being made Speaker of the House of Commons in 1523, Sir Thomas More sold CROSBY HALL to his "dear friend" Antonio Bonvici, a merchant of Lucca, to whom the Chancellor sent that well-known letter from the Tower, written with a piece of charcoal the night before his execution. After the dissolution of the convent of Saint Helene, Bonvici purchased the property of the King for £207:18:4, and so CROSBY HALL became a freehold, though not much to his immediate advantage, for in 1549 he forfeited the property "by illegally departing the kingdom," in consequence of the persecution, and Henry VIII., with his usual indifference to the rights of others, granted it to Lord Daryce of Chule. This nobleman, however, was induced, for "divers good causes," to restore it to its proper owner on the accession of Queen Mary in 1553. It remained without any remarkable change until 1560, when we find it occupied by German Cioll, who had married a cousin of Sir Thomas Gresham. A weekly bequest of this lady, Mistress Cycillia Cioll, is still distributed in Saint Helen's Church.

Again, in 1566, CROSBY HALL changed hands, and became the residence of Alderman Bond, the inscription on whose tomb in Saint Helen's Church describes him as "a Merchant Adventurer, and most famous in his age for his great adventures by both sea and land."

It was at CROSBY HALL that D'Assenleville, the Spanish Ambassador, was entertained by this civic Sindbad, and after the Alder-

man's death, when his sons occupied the palace in 1586, the Danish Ambassador, Ramelius, was made an honoured guest there, and treated with all the sumptuous hospitality that belonged to the Elizabethan age. It was during the time of "the rich Spencer," however, that CROSBY HALL was probably most distinguished, for the splendour of that mayoralty is traditional; and we might, in imagination, repeople the old hall with the brilliant guests that came and went; their very names a roll-call of the history of England during the period of England's growing fame and honour. Raleigh, Spencer, Sidney, Grenville, perhaps Drake and Hawkins, and the rest of those great men, all of whom were in sympathy with "merchant adventurers," in days when Richard Hakluyt was at Oxford, and Edward Osborne, clothworker and ancestor of the Dukes of Leeds, had but six years before served his mayoralty, with Spencer for sheriff, and the mercantile navy of Great Britain had founded the empire of the sea. It was six years after the defeat of the Spanish Armada that Sir John Spencer lived at CROSBY HALL. Need one say more in order to conjure up a scene that may well make the heart heave and the eye brighten? And yet four years afterwards a man lived close by whose name is more potent than that of any in that brilliant assembly; a man who stands first, not only in the muster-roll of that period of English history, but who stands in the very foremost rank among the thinkers of all time,—WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE. The great dramatist had at that time become a joint proprietor in the theatre at Bankside, and doubtless found it convenient to live in this quiet courtly nook of the city.

In 1603 Shakspeare probably assisted at the entertainment of the Ambassadors from Holland and Zealand, who lodged at CROSBY HALL at that time, but in 1609 he had gone to live at Stratford, while his friend, Ben Jonson, was in London, perhaps waiting on the Dowager Countess of Pembroke, who then occupied the City Palace. Most of us remember Jonson's celebrated epitaph on this distinguished woman:—

" Underneath this sable hearse  
Lies the subject of all verse,  
Sidney's sister, Pembroke's mother:  
Death! ere thou canst find another,  
Good and fair, and wise as she,  
Time shall throw a dart at thee."

Jonson, who survived Shakspeare, was perhaps a guest at CROSBY HALL when, in 1630, it came into possession of Spencer, Earl of Northampton, who inherited it by the marriage of his father with the only daughter of the Sir John Spencer already referred to. This nobleman was killed fighting by the side of Charles I. at the battle of Hopton Heath, in 1642. He had then leased CROSBY HALL to Sir John Langham, Sheriff of London, and the king's cause having been defeated the Great Hall was used as a prison in which royalists were detained for trial. An order of the House of Commons, dated 7th December, 1642, directs the



removal of ten prisoners from Crosby Place to Gresham College, and thence, on the 19th, to Lambeth House. The vicissitudes of this grand old building may be said to have commenced from that period, though strange to say it escaped the great calamity of the fire of London; the house alone being injured, and the hall itself remaining unscathed.

For the next twelve years there is nothing very remarkable to record. The "Merry Monarch" spent his subjects' money merrily in the midst of his "merry Court," and the City lost its old influence. All England lost its influence, and public honour and virtue seemed about to wither under that "Merry Monarch" of misrule. It must be said in Charles's favour, however, that he was no persecutor, and there was a leaven in the nation which did suffice to leaven the whole lump, a leaven associated with the word patriotism, but which will be also found in the lives and works of those eminent teachers, preachers, and politicians, known as the Puritan Divines.

It is in connection with these that we discover CROSBY HALL in 1672 with a floor put into the Great Hall, so that the upper part of it, from the level of the minstrel's gallery, might be used for a Nonconformist meeting, under licence of the indulgence act. For ninety-seven years it was devoted to this purpose, and during that time twelve different ministers succeeded each other, some of them men of high distinction indeed, the first being Thomas Watson, previously Rector of Saint Stephen's, Walbrook, and the author of the tract "Heaven taken by Storm," which is said to have been the means of the conversion of the celebrated Colonel Gardiner. A numerous and wealthy congregation assembled at CROSBY HALL, and Thomas Watson was succeeded by the more celebrated Stephen Charnock.

The ministers who officiated there after Charnock were Samuel Slater, M.A., John Reynolds, Daniel Alexander, Benjamin Grosvenor, D.D., Samuel Wright, D.D., John Barker, Clerk Oldsworth, Edmund Calamy, Jun., John Hodge, D.D., and Richard Jones. Two years after the adaptation of the building to this purpose, that is to say, in 1674, the dwelling house, which adjoined the hall, and occupied the present site of Crosby Square, was burnt down, but the hall remained still uninjured.

For some time afterwards the grand old building remained unassociated with any especial public event, although the *Mercury* of May 23rd, 1678, advertises a public sale at CROSBY HALL, where "ye late general post office was kept," the articles for sale including "tapestry hangings, a good chariot, and a black girl about fifteen years of age." In 1692 the property was purchased by the family in whose possession it still remains, and the lower part of the hall was let as a wholesale warehouse; and in 1700 it seemed about to take rank again as an important public building, for the Council Chamber and Throne Room were occupied by those "Merchant Adventurers" trading to the East Indies, who afterwards formed the East India Company, and obtained their privileges by Royal Charter.

This was probably only during the building of the India House, however, for we hear little of CROSBY HALL until sixty-nine years afterwards, when it was disused as a meeting house, the last sermon being preached on the 1st of October, 1769, by the Rev. Richard Jones, the congregation removing to Maze Pond.

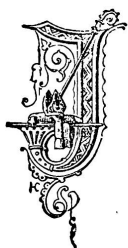
There was indeed great fear that this magnificent hall would be utterly wrecked, for it was let to private individuals whose adaptations were likely to do it serious damage. It was greatly owing to the public spirit of Miss Hackett, a lady who lived beside it, that this almost unique example of domestic Gothic architecture was ultimately preserved. In 1831 this lady made strenuous efforts for its conservation, assisted by a few of the residents, some of whom still remain in the neighbourhood; and in 1836 it was reinstated and partially restored by public subscription, after which it was re-opened by the Lord Mayor, W. T. Copeland, Esq., M.P., a banquet in the old English style being held on the occasion. In 1842 the entire premises were occupied by a Literary and Scientific Institute, under the presidency of the Rev. C. Mackenzie, the hall being let from time to time for Lectures and Concerts; but in 1860 this society came to an end, and the place was then taken by Messrs. H. R. Williams & Co., the well-known Wine Merchants. In Mr. Williams's hands CROSBY HALL underwent no damaging alteration, and although it was used for purposes of business due regard was had to its historical reputation and its intrinsic beauty. It is only just to add that its late occupiers fully appreciated and carefully preserved it from injury; but we may be forgiven for saying that there were no conditions under which it was possible really to restore it to its original beauty, except those which included its restoration to its original *purpose*. We trust that both these objects have been attained, and that as the City Banqueting Hall of the present the public will recognise and admire the CROSBY HALL of the past.





## CROSBY HALL.

THE RESTORATION OF THE GREAT BANQUETING ROOM, THE THRONE ROOM, AND THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.



It is believed that the restoration of this magnificent building to its original purpose of a GREAT BANQUETING HALL will secure it from decay or demolition, and preserve to the City one of the most attractive objects which have been spared by the necessities of modern innovation. At the same time by securing Crosby Hall as a Public Dining Establishment, the Proprietor is satisfied that he will be able to meet one of the most pressing and constant requirements of City life, by enabling *employés* engaged daily in mercantile pursuits to obtain their principal meal in comfort and even with elegance, at a price consistent with the strictest economy.

It has hitherto been almost impossible to provide even for a large number of customers a dinner which should combine excellence of quality, prompt and comfortable service, convenient and elegant appointments, and at the same time should not cost more than the majority of those who wished to avail themselves of it could afford. The difficulty has arisen first from the fact that the City Dinner hour is mostly the middle of the day, and in connection with this, that it is almost impossible to obtain spacious premises on a "ground floor" that are suitable for a Dining Hall.

The proprietor of CROSBY HALL has overcome these disadvantages by securing this splendid and spacious building, and he is confident that long and constant experience will enable him to inaugurate a new system of City Dinners which may it is to be hoped supersede the delay and discomfort to which those who frequent many of the public dining rooms are so often subjected. The reinstatement and restoration have been completed by Messrs. WALLACE, GORDON & Co., under the superintendence of Messrs. F. & H. FRANCIS, the eminent Architects. The decorations and stained glass are the work of Mr. ALEXANDER GIBBS, of Bedford Square.

### THE LOBBY

is reached by the entrance in Bishopsgate Street, the WINE OFFICE occupying the niche on the left of the doorway. This entrance

has been entirely refitted in a manner worthy of the building to which it leads, from designs by the Architects, while the decorations of the ceiling are considered very fine examples of that particular branch of art.

### THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

This fine and lofty apartment is entirely devoted to the GREAT LUNCHEON AND REFRESHMENT BAR which nearly surrounds it, and the ample accommodation afforded by this arrangement enables the proprietor to consult the convenience of the large number of his customers who dine at home, but require light refreshment in the middle of the day. The Council Chamber is one of the handsomest Halls in the City of London; the historical wall paintings are themselves worth a visit, and from the large space at disposal the surrounding counters, even when they are fully occupied by gentlemen at luncheon, leave complete access to

### THE GREAT BANQUETING HALL,

A large and lofty building which is in reality "CROSBY HALL." This room is unequalled in London for beauty, its noble height and superb Gothic roof being in perfect accordance with its large proportions and those beautiful architectural decorations which have been preserved and restored.

As a matter of policy the proprietor might have been induced to fit this truly grand Hall with a series of "boxes," but to use a common expression he "could not find it in his heart to do it." He believes, however, that he has best consulted the comfort and the tastes of his customers by furnishing it with dining tables and chairs of a fashion in accordance with the general design of the building; and he sincerely hopes that even in the table appointments the same character has been preserved as far as is consistent with complete convenience.

### THE THRONE ROOM,

though of less noble proportions, is in some respects more beautiful than the BANQUETING HALL, and is decorated in the same style of architecture. Its ancient ornamentation has been carefully preserved, and as few adaptations as possible have been introduced. It is devoted to the convenience of those who desire to enjoy select dinners;—select, that is to say, *not* by the superiority of the viands, for these are of *one uniform quality* throughout the Establishment;—but apart from the greater business of the large Hall, and with a slight superiority in the appointments of the table and the general luxury of the service.

Both here and in the great BANQUETING HALL there is a large GRILL for supplying HOT CHOPS and STEAKS; but the capacious fire-places have been so adapted as to keep out all smell of cooking from the rooms.

*The Smoking Room*  
 Is a spacious lofty room with a highly decorated  
 Roof <sup>having</sup> a series of richly stained glass windows  
 the walls are decorated highly furnished with

Historical paintings, coats of arms, & frescoes, and  
may be safely said to be without equal in  
England

### THE SMOKING ROOM

is a ~~comfortable~~ <sup>Spacious</sup> and lofty apartment, a little above and at the back of the THRONE ROOM. Here every comfort may be found. The tables are supplied with Chess, Draughts, and the leading Periodicals; the attendant speaks French and German, as well as English; and Tea, Coffee, or any other beverage will be supplied at the same prices as at the Luncheon Bar. The Cigars are of one uniform quality and of guaranteed excellence.

### THE LAVATORY AND RETIRING ROOMS

for Gentlemen are near the SMOKING ROOM, and will be found replete with every accommodation, including clean towels, and all the usual accessories.

### THE LADIES' BOUDOIR AND RETIRING ROOMS

are in a separate part of the building, and accessible only to Ladies, by a distinct staircase leading from the lobby in Bishopsgate Street. The proprietor of CROSBY HALL believes that Ladies dining in the City will appreciate the comfort of a select table in the THRONE ROOM or the BANQUETING HALL, especially as waitresses and not waiters are employed. The BOUDOIR and LAVATORIES are admirably contrived, and are furnished with every convenience for the toilette, under the charge of a *special* female attendant.

### THE KITCHENS AND STORE ROOMS

occupy the upper part of the building, so that the odour of the preparation of food will not enter the public part of the Establishment. The whole of the culinary apparatus has been fitted by Messrs. BENHAM & SONS, whose names are a guarantee of efficiency in this department. With respect to the kitchens the proprietor desires to say a word to his customers on the subject of a very prevalent fallacy. It is frequently surmised that the soups, stews, ragouts, &c., in large dining establishments are helped out with, if not composed of, the scraps and remainders from the dining tables. The proprietor believes that this opinion is altogether unfounded as far as it relates to any of the more respectable dining rooms. It is true as regards the cheaper Parisian and Viennese Restaurants, and the use of such ingredients may be possible in the inferior French *cuisine*; but it would be quite impossible in the broths, stews, and soups most in request in England.

The mere mention of this subject involves the announcement that all the remainders of food at CROSBY HALL will be carefully and cleanly set aside, and since they afford a good and nutritious material for certain kinds of soup, hash, or stew, arrangements have been made for their proper distribution to the poor, either for "relief kitchens," or to help to feed hungry children.

The proprietor of CROSBY HALL invites his customers to inspect the kitchens of the Establishment, that they may see for themselves in what manner the food is prepared. At any reasonable

time he will be glad to accompany them all over the Building, and as CROSBY HALL is the state part of one of the most interesting of our old English Palaces, he will at any time be happy to receive visitors, quite irrespective of their being also customers.

#### PROVISIONS.

It has often been asked why the cheap, varied, and well-served dinners of the great French Restaurants cannot be imitated in London, and the question is one well worth considering, especially as so many of us had an opportunity of making experiments during our visit to the Paris Exhibition.

The proprietor of CROSBY HALL has given the subject his most careful attention, and with considerable knowledge of the great French and German Establishments, as well as a long experience of English tastes and habits, has come to the conclusion that while much may be done in adopting the methods of "service," the variety of choice, and the regard to economy observed in the best foreign Restaurants, a complete revolution would have to take place in English tastes before they could accommodate themselves to an ordinary Parisian dinner, day after day.

During a week's visit to a foreign Capital where everything, including the climate, is new and strange, and where that very newness constitutes the great holiday charm, we may thoroughly enjoy a series of experimental meals, but it would be quite another thing to adopt the same way of living at home. Indeed it is quite certain that the few distinctly French and German Restaurants which have been established in London, either depend upon their native customers, or soon adopt a "Carte" including several of our well-known English dishes.

At CROSBY HALL, therefore, there will be a Bill of Fare containing *entrées* and viands of a *recherché* character, but in which the simplicity of an English dinner will be most obvious. The employment of first-rate cooks, and the completeness of all the culinary arrangements, will however ensure the best method of preparing every article of food, so that the superior quality of our national *matériel* will have the advantage that properly belongs to it.

#### BEVERAGES.

The system, too often adopted, of urging every customer to partake of wine or ale with his dinner, is so repulsive, that the proprietor of CROSBY HALL wishes it to be thoroughly understood that nobody will be *expected* to order anything "for the good of the "house." Both the LUNCHEON BAR and the dining tables are supplied with pure filtered water, and as all the Wines, Spirits, and Malt Liquors are of the best description, they will recommend themselves. Tea and coffee are always ready at the REFRESHMENT COUNTER, as well as the usual aerated waters.

The Ale and Beer are supplied precisely as they are furnished by the best brewers, and will be so drawn as to ensure their being in fine condition, clear and sparkling.

With regard to Wines it is necessary to say a few words, not in the way of advertisement, for "good Wine needs no Bush;" but in order to call attention to the fact that the proprietor is determined to give the public the full benefit of the remission of the duty by selling Light Wine of excellent character and perfect purity at a price to bring it within the means of all his customers. He has made arrangements by which a Bordeaux of excellent vintage, pure, sound, and of admirable quality, can be supplied at *fifteen pence a bottle, or eightpence the half bottle*; a large glass of the same Wine may be had for *twopence*, and *threepence* is the charge for a glass of sound, pure, and wholesome Sherry. The CROSBY HALL WINES are specialities to which reference may be made without undue praise, since the prices at which they are offered preclude any very remunerative profit. The proprietor relies on their excellent quality for obtaining a large demand, and he is confident that they will be fully appreciated.

First-class vintage Wines will be found in the Wine List, many of them of rare selection and great maturity; while the Spirits and Liqueurs are of the most celebrated brands.

It is necessary to mention that the system of giving *Standard measure* has been adopted at CROSBY HALL. Every ale and beer glass in the Establishment holds an imperial half-pint. Draught wines will also be served by Imperial Measure. Bottled wines will be brought up in the original bottles by the Cellarer, who will not decant them unless he be requested to do so.

#### ATTENDANCE.

The system adopted at CROSBY HALL being designed to overcome one of the most serious difficulties of daily occurrence to those who are engaged in the City, it became necessary to ensure, not only a good and economical dinner, but such prompt and careful attendance as should at once save valuable time and secure general comfort.

Careful consideration of this subject resulted in the conviction that in such a large and at the same time such a compact establishment an unusual opportunity would arise for the employment of women in one of the very few avocations which remain open to them in this country.

It is obvious that in no occupation can they be more properly employed than in that kind of domestic attendance which includes waiting at table, and it was therefore determined to employ *Waitresses* instead of Waiters at CROSBY HALL.

This is not mentioned as a first experiment, for there are already establishments where the plan has been partially adopted, and has been found eminently successful. The proprietor of CROSBY HALL has had considerable opportunities of obtaining the opinions of gentlemen dining in the City, and they bear almost unanimous testimony to the civility, quietude, and obliging attention, as well as to the promptitude of Waitresses wherever they have been employed.

It only remains to say that all the attendants at CROSBY HALL have furnished ample evidence of character and competency; and

as they will be engaged fully in their daily business no doubt is entertained that they will be treated with that respect and consideration which gentlemen accord to the female attendants whose duty it may be to wait on them at the houses at which they may be invited guests.

As every one employed at CROSBY HALL receives liberal wages, fees for attendance are not permitted. A definite charge is made of a penny for each person in the BANQUETING HALL, and of twopence in the THRONE ROOM, and will be received with the amount of the bill as the customer leaves the Establishment.

It is requested that any negligence on the part of the attendants be at once mentioned to the proprietor, who will guard against its recurrence.

#### WHOLESALE WINE DEPARTMENT.

As the Wines supplied at CROSBY HALL,—and particularly the light Wines, to which allusion has already been made,—are highly appreciated by a numerous class of customers, arrangements have been made for supplying them, either by the *single bottle* or in any larger quantity, for home consumption. To suit the requirements of a large section of the public a single bottle is charged only at the same rate as at per dozen. Orders given at the WINE OFFICE in the lobby at the entrance in Bishopsgate Street will receive immediate and careful attention.

#### PURVEYING DEPARTMENT.

As the provision for an establishment on the scale of CROSBY HALL is necessarily very considerable, it is intended to give customers the advantage to be derived from large purchases in the various Metropolitan Markets, by supplying them, whenever they please, with meat, poultry, game, and other articles of consumption for their households at such a merely nominal addition to the wholesale cost as will cover the expense of packing, &c. Any gentlemen wishing to secure this advantage have only to give a week's notice of what will be required for the following week, and they will be punctually and carefully supplied. It is surely unnecessary to remark that such an arrangement will enable purchasers to effect a considerable saving during the year; and though the proprietor of CROSBY HALL has no desire to interfere with the legitimate profits of other tradespeople, the present disparity between the wholesale and retail prices of all descriptions of provisions is ample reason for his giving his customers those advantages to which they are justly entitled.

In conclusion,

“When you have done, repair to Crosby Place.”—*Shakspeare.*