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**Bristol Archaeological Notes, 1920-1923 including the latest
'Chatterton Find'**

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BRISTOL ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES, 1920—1923¹
Including the latest "Chatterton Find."

By JOHN E. PRITCHARD, F.S.A.

WHEN I submitted my last paper entitled "Bristol Archæological Notes"² I ventured to prophesy that subject to certain conditions Bristol would continue to give up her ancient secrets. I am under the impression that what I am about to say this evening confirms that statement, and may be of some interest.

It is a very great pleasure this evening to record my DISCOVERY IN LONDON a short while since, of a BOOK that formerly belonged to WILLIAM BARRETT, a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and a Bristol surgeon, who was author of the first History of Bristol, published in 1789. The book I found bears the autograph of Barrett on the first fly-leaf, and on the back—also in his own hand-writing—a note by him as to the cost of printing.

The volume itself is imperial quarto, with leather back, and paper sides, but when found it was in deplorable condition. It had originally 62 leaves, but there are only 50 now, and it appears to have been last used for pressing botanical specimens as it contained a number of dry plants, and the leaves remaining were badly stained as the result of this use. The missing leaves were probably torn out owing to damp or extreme stain, and it is a puzzle to realise why the book was ever saved in the condition in which it turned up.

The volume is, however, of extraordinary interest, for to me a momentary examination made it clear beyond doubt that it originally contained a complete set of

¹ Read at the Bristol Evening Meeting, 19th March, 1923.

² Transactions, xlii, 125-48.

“proof” impressions from the engraved copper plates forming the illustrations which Barrett contemplated using for his history. These proofs were printed on thick white hand-made paper, quite distinct from the bluish paper which was used for the illustrations in the copies of the published history.

Now, at the end of the preface, on page viii in the history, we may find a list of thirty plates included in the work, and of this original total there are fifteen left, as well as three unpublished ones; and owing to the damp use of the book I have been able to trace impressions of the missing views on the opposite pages, indicating the illustrations that have been torn out.

The botanical genius failed to injure several of the plates which are to us of the greatest value, and we thank the “unknown” for this omission. Three of these were illustrations intended for his history, but never used by Barrett. I will speak about these later, and in addition there is a “conjectural” plan of the City, of supreme importance, which most fortunately was wholly saved.

I will now ask your particular attention to Chapter III, on page 51, which is headed “*A plan and description of Bristol in its early and middle state.*”

Those who know their Barrett—which it must be borne in mind was the *first* History of Bristol—will I am sure be interested in being reminded that in his description of this “conjectural plan,” he enumerates all the gates, as follows:—

- No. 1. Baldwin’s or Leonard’s gate.
2. St. Nicholas gate.
3. Elle Gate or New gate.
4. Froom or Water gate.
5. Pithay gate.
6. Defence gate.
7. Tower gate.
8. St. John’s gate.

9. St. Giles's gate.

10. Sally-Port of the castle.

Thus, he goes on to say—"a gate and a church or a chapple, terminated each of the four streets," and then adds this significant fact on the eleventh line from the bottom—which he emphasises—that "FOUR CHURCHES SURROUNDED THE CROSS AT THE CENTER," though he entirely omits their names in this place.

Barrett made the same statement further on in his History, on page 457.

It was this statement of Barrett's that caused so much trouble to the later historian and led many able writers astray—as we shall see. No one in the realm of local history up to the present time, has yet been able to trace the source of Barrett's supposed knowledge as to the fourth church, which he marked on his conjectural plan. This refers to the question of a church formerly standing on the Dutch House site.

Amongst all the early plans of the City which it has been my pleasure to exhibit to you on previous occasions not one of them indicates a church at the corner of High Street and Wine Street.

Not William Smith, who surveyed the City in 1568, nor George Hoefnagle in 1581, nor John Speed in 1610, nor Jacobus Millerd, who most carefully surveyed the City in order to issue his plans between 1671 and 1673.

None of these great men gave the slightest indication of any ecclesiastical building at that corner.

Further, we have strong negative evidence through that painstaking and able antiquary, William Wyrcester, who perambulated our streets during many years in the middle of the fifteenth century, and has left behind such valuable records of what he saw, which were afterwards published by Dallaway, under the style of *The Antiquities of Bristow in the middle centuries*, and later too, through Leland, appointed "King's Antiquary" by Henry VIIIth, who

was probably here soon after 1540—neither of whom left any reference to such a church.

Notwithstanding these facts the writer on Bristol—following Barrett—the Rev. John Evans, who published a *History of Bristol, Civil and Ecclesiastical*, in conjunction with John Corry, in 1816, said, in referring to the churches round the High Cross¹ “The name of the fourth is conjectured (from information the source of which we do not at present recollect) to have been St. Andrew’s.”

Then T. H. Sealy, Editor of the *Archæological Magazine of Bristol, Bath, South Wales and the S.W. Counties*, which came out in 1843, followed on the same line, without naming any authority—simply saying, “St. Andrew’s stood upon the spot now occupied by the Castle Bank.”

The next reference to a church of St. Andrew was in a paper entitled “The Desecrated and Destroyed Churches of Bristol” recorded before a meeting of the Royal Archæological Institute in this City in 1851, by John Bindon, architect; who, evidently without troubling to investigate the subject, said—“This church stood on the site of the Castle Bank, the old wooden Dutch-framed building now to be seen on the opposite corner to the Council House. No mention is made of this church by the early writers, and some of later times throw doubt on its existence. I am enabled to state that the extensive ecclesiastical remains clearly indicate that a church did exist on this site.”

But seven years later, in the year 1858, George Pryce, who was then City Librarian (author of a very useful *History of Bristol*, published in 1861) produced a valuable pamphlet entitled *Fact versus Fiction* in which—amongst other local mythical stories—he very fully sets out and demolishes in this case, the absurdity of the conjecture as

¹ See Vol. II, p. 324.

² See p. 55.

to the existence of a church on the site of the old house, thus laying bare Barrett's "unpardonable blunders."

I commend this scarce booklet to the careful perusal of those members who have not read it.

And even as late as 1887 we find that probably the ablest member of this Society, in lecturing to a City audience, when enumerating the churches in the ancient City was reported as saying "and perhaps St. Andrew's where the old wooden house stood, opposite to Christ Church."

I must now ask for consideration of the plan which formed the first illustration in the recently found volume of Barrett's proofs. (Plate I).

This is, I venture to consider, *a most important discovery* and constitutes the latest.

CHATTERTON FIND

for this plan clearly shows, and proves beyond doubt, that the idea of a fourth church, around the High Cross, was conceived by no other brain than that of the Boy—Chatterton—who had duped Barrett in so many ways in connection with his history.

If you will examine this carefully you will perceive that it is manifestly evident that Barrett submitted a "proof" plate of his conjectural plan to Chatterton, who with his own pen inserted the High Cross and the four churches.

Notice that he first gave a spire to the mythical St. Andrew's, and then struck it out.

Further, he also added the wall from St. Nicholas Gate to the upper end of the Shambles, and thence to New Gate, adding the south section of the gateway, which had been omitted in the proof plan, which was far from being correct.

All the Chatterton additions were apparently made in black ink; but whether certain markings in red chalk were additions or corrections, it is difficult to conjecture.

They were certainly by the hand of Barrett, as he appears to have made small corrections on other plates in the volume in the same color chalk.

But the additional and most interesting feature of this plate—which certainly confirms my contention—is the foot-note to the plan in Chatterton's own hand writing, reading as follows:—

There is between ye outer Wall of the Castle & Godfreys Lodge a Chaple
of the Lords of Gloster & being neither in the Precincts of the Castle
& distant from any Liberty of the City owing Homage to neither
standing near the long Wall of G's Lodge."

I doubt if anyone can understand what was meant, and it is therefore further evidence of Chatterton's romantic mind.

In Seyer's *Memoirs of Bristol*, published 1821-3, page 263, you will find his reference to this altered plan, when printed. On page 268 of volume I, he says:

"I say nothing of the plan given by Mr. Barrett, p. 51, because he does not inform us from whence it came; it seems to bear the mark of Chatterton's pen."

From the way Seyer wrote it is absolutely certain that he had never seen this proof, or we should have had rather more than a parson's sarcasm; but it is a remarkable coincidence that it has taken exactly a century for us to learn the truth.

I think you will agree that the result of the "find" establishes a new historical fact, and clearly proves that it was Chatterton who created the idea in Barrett's receptive mind that a church ever stood at the corner of High Street and Wine Street.

The scanty remains of groining beneath the so called Dutch House—which seemed to indicate to some folk

that a church must have existed there—have been fully dealt with in my Archæological Notes recorded in the *Transactions*, vol. xxxi, with illustrations.

That there are three plates in the Barrett proof volume unused by him in the History, has already been mentioned.

The first one has two churches on one sheet. That of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, at the foot of Broad Street, is well known to us all, but the picture is very hard and uninteresting. Notwithstanding this, I believe it is the earliest engraving known of the Church; had there been any other I am sure Taylor would have used it in *Bristol Past and Present*.

The conduit, in the picture, is, of course, the most interesting feature. Our member, Mr. H. C. M. Hirst, in his valuable history of the church, tells us about this, and suggests it was erected in the Elizabethan period. The view of this is very meagre, but the one in Prout's *Antiquities of Bristol* (plate 25) is delightful, and so is the view given to us by Bird in 1816.¹ The erection was taken down about 1828.

The lower view on the sheet, of the CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS was evidently prepared to show what the edifice was like before the gateway was removed in 1762, but why this illustration was not used it is difficult to understand, for it is given by Taylor in *Bristol Past and Present* nearly a century later. How he obtained it is a puzzle.

In the second sheet we get a poor view of the CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, once a priory, which was used by Barrett in his History at page 383. A very bad drawing of the Norman rose window is further discounted by being shown upon a scroll; and below it we have a view of "The Priors Refectory," which was demolished nearly a quarter of a century previously. It is difficult to realise what Barrett had in view in introducing this sketch.

¹ Corry and Evans, *History of Bristol*, II, 285.

We are not considering the history of St. James's Priory or Church now, it is a subject that would occupy a whole evening, and it is worth the effort; but in passing it may not be uninteresting to refer to a view of the conventual buildings taken from a painting, copied from a drawing in the British Museum, of the ruins of the Priory as they existed about 1630.

In describing a deed relating to the partition of this property, some years since, Latimer said¹:—

“ Before the priory fell into the hands of the spoiler—Henry Brayne, a London tailor and church plunderer—the present tower of St. James's church marked nearly the centre of the original edifice, the nave, or western half, which still remains, being the church of the parish, maintained by the parishioners, while the choir, or eastern limb, described by William Worcester in one note as forty steps, and in another as twenty-six steps in length, was reserved for the monks and the monastic retainers. There was also at the eastern end a Lady's Chapel, which Worcester describes as being sixty-three feet in length, but its precise site cannot be determined. Immediately after the suppression, the king's agents, according to their universal custom in such cases, despoiled the priory church and the Lady's Chapel, and stripped off the leaden roofs, leaving the elements to complete the work of destruction. The process was rapid, for Leland, who visited Bristol only three or four years after the Dissolution, states that the desecrated buildings “ hard buttying to the este end of the parochie churche ” were then in ruins—in which state they were long allowed to remain. Brayne, however dealt vigorously with the monastic buildings proper—the cloisters, chapter house, dormitory, refectory, buttery etc., situated on the north side of the church, which erections had also been stripped of their leaden roofs by the

¹ Proc. Clifton Antiquarian Club, IV, 110.

royal commissioners—and these he transformed into a “capital mansion house or manor place” for his own residence.

The description of this dwelling forms the most interesting feature of the partition deed. It will be seen that one share comprised the western half of the mansion including the “great hall,” which is likely to have been the ancient refectory, with the chambers over the same, extending to the west end of a “long gallery” that “joineth to the church there” (which seems to indicate the dormitory) and the rooms over this gallery.”

Even with this description it is difficult to define the exact site of the refectory.

The third engraving styled “THE INFIRMARY” was really the south front of the new building, which was in course of erection at the time Barrett’s History was issued. The first stone was laid in June 1784 and the central block was not ready until 1792. It was well that this most unattractive picture was never published; the view in Dr. Munro Smith’s work¹ gives a very different impression of the building.

This extremely interesting volume of Barrett’s plates also contains—carefully inserted by the owner—one of BENJAMIN DONN’S DOUBLE FOOLSCAP SCIENTIFIC CIRCULARS describing an Instrument for showing the Time of High Water, dated 1770, of which I have never seen another; and also Mr. CHAMPION’S PLAN OF THE BRISTOL CHANNEL, together with his scheme for a new cut, dated 1767.

I think I may claim that the whole constitutes a most valuable find, which rarely falls to one’s lot.

We must now turn to MARY-LE-PORT STREET, in the heart of the city, which still retains some interesting specimens of domestic architecture; and though during

¹ *History of the Bristol Infirmary*, 1912, pp. 140-145.

the past quarter of a century the most imposing frontages have been demolished we can still admire the fifteenth century and later barge boards of the gables of the old Swan Inn, and the two seventeenth century half timber houses, Nos. 38 and 40, built against the north wall of the church, with the original cement armorial bearings of the Brewers' Company upon the frontages.

We know too, that a carved stone chimney-piece, bearing similar arms, exists at No. 19, in the same street, the property belonging to the Vestry of St. Peter's.

How often have we in the past found that the wealthy merchants of Bristol, of the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries satisfied to live above their shops and their cellars, where their valuable stocks were kept, invariably fitted their principal rooms in accordance with their wealth, notwithstanding the restricted accommodation and position of the building itself.

A further instance has recently occurred, and two buildings which had plain and unattractive exteriors, known as Nos. 44 and 45 in this narrow street, demolished for business extension, proved to be exceptionally interesting. The dilapidated shops had a total frontage of 38 feet and stood about 65 feet distant from High Street on the south side, and had been void for some time.

Between April and August 1920, in preparation for the new building for Messrs. Stevens Bros., Ltd., Provision Merchants (who most courteously allowed me to inspect the premises at will) to be erected thereon, the site was cleared in the usual way by a well-known "house-wrecker" with instructions to pull down as rapidly as possible. Unfortunately no clause claiming "coins and articles of Antiquity" to be the property of the owners was in operation.

What was actually left of the original structure known as No. 44, with a frontage of 20 feet, was difficult to conjecture as the rapidity of demolition did not permit any

opportunity of forming a correct plan of the existing building.

The ground floor had evidently been considerably altered, and the original staircase was not in existence, although a short piece was left on the upper floor; but in the principal room on the first floor there remained some fragments of the plaster ceiling, just enough to indicate the character of the complete design. Our late member, Mr. S. J. Loxton, an architectural artist of great ability, was ever ready to help this Society, and his clever pencil made a few hasty sketches just before the demolition.

The semi-figure of an angel within a scroll was used at one of the four corners of the principal ceiling, and pomegranates and fleur de lys mouldings were freely introduced into the design of another ceiling on the same level.

This brings us to the *magnum opus*—the finely carved STONE CHIMNEY-PIECE of the principal room—of which we are very fortunate in having a photograph, taken soon after it was discovered, for its existence had not been previously known.

Now comes the crucial part of the story, for the “wrecker” who naturally wished to get the most he could for his lucky discovery, communicated with the City Authorities, in order to “bring off a deal” as he said. An appointment was made to view the chimney-piece. The result of the interview was however soon known as no sale to the City was affected.

Rather than give an opinion as to the decision I will narrate the sequel—

A Bristol dealer in antiquities was willing to give the sum asked—having secured the “refusal” if the City did not buy—and the stonework, with that of two less important fire-places, was immediately removed to his warehouse where I had the pleasure and satisfaction of a further examination.

In the meantime a world famous London firm was communicated with, and an expert buyer of antiques was here without a day's delay, when after a cursory examination a second sale was agreed upon, a cheque was written, and within a few days the Bristol relics were packed and transported, and consequently lost to the City for ever.

The great chimney-piece was soon afterwards shipped to New York and is now doubtless set in gorgeous surroundings giving infinite pleasure to its new owner.

As I was informed where the stone-work had gone, and being known to the London firm who were the purchasers, I communicated my wishes and asked if when the fitment had been repaired and scientifically cleaned, I might see a photograph.

With the usual kindness and courtesy associated with that firm¹ I was promised that after the chimney-piece reached New York and had been erected it should be photographed and a copy sent to me.

The print eventually reached me with many apologies for the delay and all the trouble I had been put to on this account.

The illustration of this carved stone chimney-piece, photographed after repair and careful cleaning, shows us what we have unwittingly lost. (Plate II).

It was apparently carved from Ham Hill stone, and reached from floor to ceiling in this old Mary-le-Port Street house, a height of about eight feet, and a width of about 6 feet 4 inches.

The chimney-piece stood in the principal room of the house and was erected probably soon after the middle of the sixteenth century, at a time when great wealth was being accumulated in the City.

We are, of course, instantly attracted by the Shield of Arms, just as we were in looking at the earlier picture, and

¹ Messrs. Charles of Brook Street, W.2.

these are naturally of the greatest interest for they are those of the

CORDWAINERS COMPANY

of London,¹ being—" Azure a Chevron Or between three Goats heads erased 2 and 1 argent attired of the second." The crest—Goats head erased argent attired or.

This chimney-piece is a particularly fine example of the Tudor period. The shield with crest above, is garnished by delicate carving, with caryatid pilasters and massive brackets at sides. It has well moulded jambs to the fire-place with two shelves over, and a double lintel with carved panels of scroll work and monsters, the centre and end trusses bearing Tudor roses set in strap-work design.

Having described the discovery as far as facts lend their aid, the first questions you will ask are what house or building was this, and who lived there?

That is precisely what we wish to learn and it is hoped that some members may be able to elucidate the mystery.

We know full well that the fitments of houses in the Middle ages are frequently the only key to a date or a period, and the chimney-piece is often the most reliable guide.

But here—apart from the Guild Arms—we have no initials, no date, and no personal shield. I suggest, therefore, that instead of looking upon this as the home of a rich burgher we may venture to consider the building to be the

CORDWAINERS HALL

for you will notice that the Arms of the Company are set in the centre of the chimney-piece, which is not usual in the case of a private citizen, who would give the greatest prominence to his own armorial bearings.

Of course further investigation may prove otherwise, but this is my present opinion. A cordwainer, according to the New English Oxford Dictionary is a worker in

¹ The same Arms were in use at Exeter where there was a powerful Guild.

cordwain or Cordovan leather; the name of the trade guild, or company of Shoemakers. It is one of the oldest of the London Companies, the Ordinances dating from 1272, and the first Charter of Incorporation being the seventeenth year of Henry VI (1439).

Our *Little Red Book* chronicles some of the very interesting Ordinances of the Craft of Cordwainers of the town of Bristol, between the year 1408 and 1477, covering the earliest period of its existence, but beyond this we do not appear to have any records.

An interesting reference is given by Latimer¹ to the Guilds of Weavers and Cordwainers going yearly—in the sixteenth century—in pompous array to the Chapel of St. Anne-in-the-Wood, at Brislington, to place candles before the altar, but we seem to have no further information about this most important trade guild.²

There is ample evidence that a SCHOOL OF IRONWORK existed here about the beginning of the eighteenth century for we have examples of very fine screen work at Temple, St. Mary Redcliffe and St. Nicholas, all by the same artist, one William Edney, who carried out most of the best work left in this City.

Of SWORD RESTS Bristol has few of particular interest. It may therefore be well to place on record the fact that the one belonging to ST. MARY-LE-PORT CHURCH which apparently was taken down at the last restoration over forty years ago, and had been lying about within the precincts of the Church in two parts all that time, was taken in hand by two members of this Society several

¹ *Sixteenth Century Bristol*, 1908, p. 5.

² The Clerk to the Cordwainers Company of London [C. H. W. Mander, Esq., M.A., LL.M.] says that practically the whole of the papers of the guild were destroyed in the fire of 1666, so regrets he is unable to give any assistance in our investigations. He says, however, that like many other cities in England and on the continent, the Leather Merchants and Boot and Shoe workers formed a Company in Bristol, and having regard to the trade carried on in that City it would no doubt have been a rather important Guild.

years ago, who had it repaired and re-decorated¹ by Messrs. Singer and Sons of Frome. (Plate III).

There was considerable contention as to its proper position, and the matter was deferred for a more convenient season. Finally the present Rector, the Rev. A. J. Day, M.A., and his Warden, gave consent to our request, and this interesting late seventeenth century sword rest, ornamented by eight double scrolls, surmounted by a crown, was re-fixed on the 3rd November, 1920, by Messrs. Gardiner, Sons and Co., on the north side of the nave facing west, where the Lord Mayor's Sword—the insignia of authority—will be seen on any future state visit to this Church.

It may not be uninteresting to record some of the other ironwork in Bristol, the principal examples being undoubtedly the work of the "Edney School."

ST. MARY REDCLIFFE.

Iron gates and screens: in the churchwardens' accounts for 1710 are entered two payments to William Edney, Smith, one for iron gates to chancel of £60, and another of £50 for two pairs of gates at side of chancel and two pairs of hatches into middle chancel.

TEMPLE.

The superb screens in this church were erected in April, 1726, but the accounts do not supply any other information. They have been moved at various times. The sword rest, 8 feet in height, is not considered equal to the other work. Eighteenth century.

CHRIST CHURCH.

Sword rest, bearing Royal Arms and letters C.R.; surmounted by crown—6 feet 6 inches high.

ST. JOHN.

An elegant sword rest, 4 feet 6 inches high. Eighteenth century.

¹ The cost was defrayed by Mr. A. W. Page.

ST. NICHOLAS.

The date of erection of the gates in this church is not known. As their position was altered in 1743, according to a note in the vestry book, it is almost certain they were constructed before that year.

The sword rest 10 feet in height which bears the monogram of Queen Anne is probably as fine as any other specimen in England.

ST. THOMAS.

In the churchwardens' old book of accounts is this entry, "1722, July 13. Three gates to be set up at the three entrances of the chancel."

These must have disappeared when the old church was destroyed in 1789. They were probably the work of the "Edney School."

ST. MARY-LE-PORT.

The old sword rest, 7 feet high, is described in the previous note.

There are other examples of sword rests in Bristol but all probably of later date.

The last PICTURESQUE HOUSE at the top end of SMALL STREET, with double gable roofs and overhanging frontage—known as Nos. 25 and 26—has disappeared. It was demolished during the Autumn of last year, the site being incorporated in the new building now being erected for the London Joint City and Midland Bank, at the corner of Corn Street and Small Street.

The only interest in this property was in its exterior being one of the few remaining central landmarks of the City. It had been repaired so many times externally that probably no part of the original structure remained. Further, it had always been tenanted, though its history recorded many changes of occupiers during its long life, owing to its position in the heart of the City and in such an important street. It had undoubtedly been occupied for business purposes for more than a century.

Although many papers have been written about the history of this street, a good deal has come to light in recent years, and it would be well if some member would make an effort to collaté all available facts and correct the legendary stories about Charles I and Cromwell, and Colston, and Creswick, and many noble ladies, who were entertained here.

In the meantime may I commend for your perusal Latimer's paper on "Colston's House" in the Proceedings of the Clifton Antiquarian Club, vol. II, of extraordinary interest; and William George's contribution on Small Street, to be found in the *Bristol Times and Mirror*, of January 5th, 1885, under the "nom de plume" of Cabot.¹ This latter contribution was a caustic reply to the late Mr. William Pethick's reference to Small Street in the Town Council, when he defined this street as "only a back lane to Broad Street."

"For hundreds of years there was not within the walls of Bristol a more fashionable Street," and to-day it still claims relics of the earliest Norman domestic architecture that we possess—only scanty remains of a burgess's house—happily under the protection of the Law Society—also remains of the fifteenth century house incorporated in the same—which was developed from the former, as many of you know. Unfortunately all other of the great houses are demolished, but some of the important chimney-pieces have been saved.

The two Elton chimney-pieces have been re-erected in the Bristol Water Works Offices, the two from the County Court Offices, which had to come down, are now in the offices of the General Post Office, almost in situ; and the very fine Elizabethan carved stone chimney-piece, with panels representing the "five senses" still stands in No. 15 in this street, known as the Assize Courts Hotel.

¹ 100 copies printed for private circulation.

The Bank extension necessitated the demolition of the quaint narrow passage just below the over-hanging structure we have referred to, as well as the houses surrounding it. That large dwelling-house standing on the north side of what has been styled "Small Street Court," has been known to many City men in the way of business in passing in and out, but probably few are aware that this was the house selected by the Council on the 10th July, 1649 to provide convenient lodging for Cromwell, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, against his coming here on his way to that benighted country. This town house of Alderman Jackson,¹ where the Lord General was entertained at the "City's charge" has been referred to as situated in Small Street, within a retired and gloomy Court, and in its rooms are traces of antiquity, in highly decorated chimney-pieces, bearing heraldic distinctions of the Jackson family. It is therefore clear that this is the house which was finally demolished only last week. It faced south and can be identified on Millerd's great plan of 1673.²

During the demolition, Mr. W. F. Read, Clerk of Works, who had been watching the destruction of the building foot by foot, with extraordinary interest, has found ample proof that this was originally a timber structure, probably of the fifteenth century, when a great *hall* occupied the space of the two rooms referred to, of which traces of the original chimney remained.

Amongst many other alterations to the house during the second quarter of the seventeenth century and by imposing a floor, two rooms were formed, the upper apartment having a finely moulded ceiling and a carved stone chimney-piece of the Jacobean period. The plaster oval

¹ Alderman Miles Jackson, Mayor, 1649; Sheriff, 1631; M.P., 1654; Master Merchants Venturers, 1650.

² Photographs taken in January, and on March 28, were shown at the meeting.

of the ceiling is an exceptionally good example; in the centre is a design of strap work with fruit and flowers, and corner ornaments of interesting character, in particular one of a grotesque half figure.

The room on the ground floor, also, has a stone chimney-piece, though the lower part has been much injured in times past; the fine caryatid jambs which remain support an elaborately carved over-mantel divided into two panels. The left space with a Jacobean border is filled by an oval shield of scroll and leaf design with cherub head over, carrying the arms of the Jackson family, and a similar shield on the right bears the City arms.

This room had originally a moulded plaster ceiling, similar to its upper apartment, and with panelled walls of which little remains. The house has been so much pulled about in years past that all further details are lost.

Facing this house on the south side of this narrow Court was formerly the "Ship Tavern" one of the last old houses of great evening resort for men connected with business in the City.¹ It was here in 1759 that the first "Grateful" dinner was held at 2 o'clock p.m. when twenty-two sat down.² A small stone water trough, used by this tavern many years ago, was visible up to a few days since.

Many hoped that some interesting relics might turn up during the demolition and excavation but nothing of importance was found—just a small dark green glazed pipkin with scored decoration—2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, by 2 inches high—probably fifteenth century, which was damaged, and three seventeenth century tobacco pipes.

Over ten years since I read an unfinished paper at short notice, to fill a gap in our evening programme, on the

¹ *Bristol Times*, June 22, 1850.

² *Latimer's Annals*, xviiith cent., p. 280.

TOBACCO PIPES of BRISTOL and their MAKERS, which I hope to give in its entirety with some additions, on a future occasion; but I regret having to place on record to-night the closing of the industry of CLAY PIPE MAKING, which had been carried on here by one family for over two centuries. The last kiln of pipes was burnt on Friday, 9th December, 1921, by Messrs. T. George and Co., at their Factory, No. 35, Great George Street, in the parish of St. Jude's, in this City.

This decision was much regretted by the family of three generations, who worked at the factory up to the last, but the indisputable fact is that the advent of the wood pipe, and the cigarette, to be found in the mouth of nearly every sanitary dustman, has almost superseded the healthy old-fashioned clay; besides which, the bulk of the foreign trade has almost gone.

The only clay pipes I have come across during the past year are the three seventeenth century bowls from Small Street, already referred to.

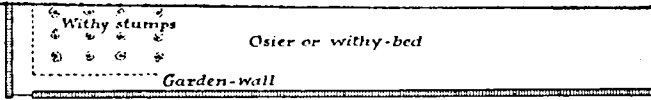
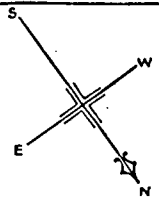
Lastly, I have lately been informed by the Keeper of Coins that the British Museum has recently acquired a BRISTOL SILVER PENNY OF ÆTHELRED THE UNREADY (978-1016). This coin bears the inscription on the obverse ÆDELRÆD, and on the reverse ÆLFƿERD ON BRIC, which indicates that it was struck by ÆLFWERD, a moneyer, at Bristol. (Plate IV).

I understand that only two of these Saxon pennies are known, the other being in the Stockholm Museum, and as I believe the specimen now in London came from Sweden, it is surmised these two pennies reached that country amongst the coinage paid as part of the great tax of Dane-gelt.

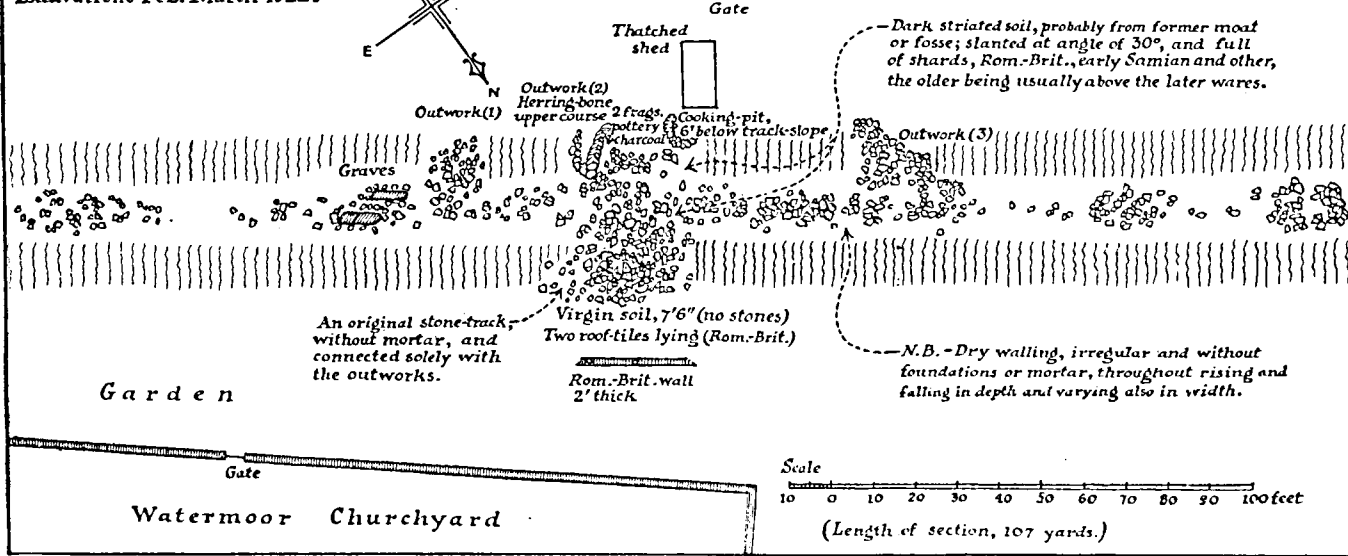
This penny records *the first historic fact connected with Bristol* and is therefore of extraordinary interest to us.

I am fortunately able to give an illustration of this almost unique piece, which has not been done before, through the courtesy of the Keeper of Coins at the British Museum (G. F. Hill, Esq., F.B.A.) who has kindly sent me a cast for this purpose.

*Union-Workhouse Garden,
CIRENCESTER:
Excavations Feb.-March 1922.*



100



Facing page 101.