

**THE GUILDHALL OF THE CITY OF
LONDON. TOGETHER WITH A SHORT
ACCOUNT OF ITS HISTORIC
ASSOCIATIONS, AND THE MUNICIPAL
WORK CARRIED ON THEREIN**

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The Guildhall of the City of London. Together with a Short Account of Its Historic Associations,
and the Municipal Work Carried on Therein by John James Baddeley

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JOHN JAMES BADDELEY

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Photo. by the L. S. & P. Co., Ltd.

THE HOME OF THE CITY ARCHIVES.

A Corner of the Town Clerk's Muniment Room, containing Parchment Rolls and Volumes of the 13th, 14th, and 15th centuries, see page 147.

The Guildhall

.. of the ..



City of London.

Together with a short Account of
Its Historic Associations,
And the Municipal Work
Carried on therein.

Printed by order of
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By John James Baddeley,
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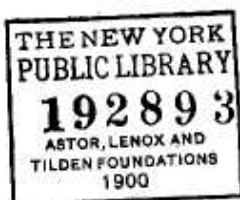
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PREFACE.

THE Corporation of the City of London has, during the past half century, published, chiefly under the superintendence of its Library Committee, a series of volumes compiled from its own archives, which extend back for more than six hundred years. These volumes deal with the City's history, its ceremonials and its ancient historical buildings; among these may be mentioned for our present purpose, Riley's 'Memorials of London Life,' 'The Ceremonial Book,' 'London's Roll of Fame,' Welch's 'Guildhall Library and its Work,' Price's 'Historical Account of the Guildhall,' and Dr. Sharpe's 'London and the Kingdom.' The present book has been almost entirely compiled from the above-named works. The formal description of the Guildhall has been taken, for the most part, from Price's 'Account,' and the historical facts rehearsed in the short summary of the City's history from Dr. Sharpe's volumes; entire passages have been taken from both, and the compiler desires to make all due acknowledgement of the great assistance these books have been to him in the production of this volume.

Although this work is chiefly intended as a Guide to the Guildhall, it is thought that the visitor would consider it incomplete, were not some information afforded respecting the more important events that have taken place within its walls, as well as the ceremonies and public functions, that are to be witnessed there in these days. A summary of its historic past has been therefore added, together with a short history of the Mayoralty, and the Courts of Aldermen and Common Council.

It is also thought that a short account of the work now being carried on by the Court of Common Council in the Government of the "one square mile" will be of interest, not only to the citizens, but, also to the stranger who comes within the City's boundaries.

J.J.B.

GUILDHALL, 1899.

THE . . .
GUILDHALL



OF
THE CITY
OF
LONDON.

W. J. Southey

"I pray you, let us satisfy our eyes
With the memorials and the things of fame
That do renown this City."

TWELFTH NIGHT, Act III; Scene 3.

The Historic Past.

THE student of the history of the City of London, its Mayors, Aldermen, Common Council and Citizens, will be easily able to conjure up visions of some of the many stirring National and Civic events, that have taken place within the historic walls of Guildhall, and which history, when known, may well cause a thrill of pride to swell in the breast of the most ordinary matter-of-fact citizen of the present day.

Truly and eloquently did Sir Walter Besant (London's modern historian) describe the City (with its centre at Guildhall) as the protectress of freedom, when, in a recent public address, he said: "This principle—the necessity of freedom—was handed down from father to son; it became the religion of the citizens; they proclaimed it and fought for it; they won it, and lost it; they recovered part of it, and lost it again. At last they won it altogether, and, in winning it, they gained a great deal more than they had contemplated or hoped for. They won for their descendants, they won for every town where the English tongue is spoken, the rights of free men in free cities, the rights of the individual, the rights of property." And shall it not also be said that the spirit of freemen which animated our illustrious predecessors still animates many of the citizens of the present day.

Well has Mr. Loftie written in his book on London ("Historic Towns" series) that "It would be interesting to go over all the recorded instances in which the City of London interfered directly in the affairs of the Kingdom, such a survey would be a History of England as seen from the windows of the Guildhall"; and Mr. Price in his historical account of the Guildhall writes, "The true history of the Guildhall is to be based on the numerous traditions and interesting associations by which it is connected with the most important Corporation in the world. The stirring episodes, religious, political, and social, with which this Hall has been associated for many centuries, clothe it with a far deeper interest than could any mere technical description of its walls, its masonry, the painted glass and sculpture, with which it is adorned."

Let us then, take our stand in this Guildhall, so enthusiastically spoken of, and allow our thoughts and imagination to revert to the time of the Conquest. We see the citizens strong enough to make terms with the Norman invader, and receive at his hands a Charter by which their liberties and power of self-government are guaranteed. In the contest between Stephen and the Empress Matilda (1135-1153) we see the citizens holding, as it were, the balance. Richard, Cœur-de-Lion, is assisted by the City, and we can picture his martial figure striding at times through the Hall. The citizens, in 1215, are lending their help to the Barons in wresting from the reluctant John the great Charter of England's liberties, and in return, the grateful Barons make provision for the preservation of the liberties of the City. Fitz-Walter, the leader of the Barons, and the Mayor of the City are both among those specially appointed to see the terms of the Charter strictly carried out.

We cannot linger over the almost continuous fight between the citizens and the Plantagenet kings in defence of the City's liberties and charters, but the citizens are loyal, for on receiving