THE HISTORY OF LONDON

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649604272

The History of London by Walter Besant

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WALTER BESANT

THE HISTORY OF LONDON

Trieste

THE

HISTORY OF LONDON

BY

WALTER BESANT

AUTHOR OF 'LONDON' 'CHILDREN OF GIBEON' ETC.

LONDON
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
1893

All rights reserved

CONTENTS.

LESSON		PAGE
1.	The Foundation of London (I)	7
2.	The Foundation of London (II)	10
3.	Roman London (I)	13
4.	" " (II)	16
5.	After the Romans (I)	19
6.	" " " (II)	23
7.	" " " (III)	26
8.	The First Saxon Settlement	29
9.	The Second Saxon Settlement	32
10.	The Anglo-Saxon Citizen	34
11.	The Wall of London	38
12.	Norman London	42
13.	Fitzstephen's Account of the City (I)	45
14.	Fitzstephen's Account of the City (II)	50
15.	London Bridge (I)	54
16.	" " (II)	57
17.	The Tower of London (I)	60
18.	" " " (II)	63
19.	The Pilgrims	67
20.	St. Bartholomew's Hospital	70
21.	The Terror of Leprosy	74
22.	The Terror of Famine	78
23.	St. Paul's Cathedral (I)	82
24.	" " " (II)	86
25.	Paul's Churchyard	91
26.	The Religious Houses	95
27.	Monks, Friars, and Nuns	100
28.	The London Churches	103
29.	The Streets	106
30.	Whittington (I)	110
31.	" (II)	115
32.	" (III)	118
33.	Gifts and Bequests	121
34.	The Palaces and Great Houses	124
35.	Amusements	127
36.	Westminster Abbey	131
37.	The Court at Westminster	134
38.	Justice and Punishments	137
39.	The Political Power of London	140
40.	Elizabethan London (I)	144
41.	" " (II)	147
42.	" " (III)	151
43.	Trade (I)	155
44.	" (II)	158
45.	" (III)	164
46.	Plays and Pageants (I)	168
47.	" " " (II)	170
48.	" " " (III)	173
49.	" " " (IV)	177
50.	The Terror of the Plague (I)	180
51.	The Terror of the Plague (II)	183
52.	The Terror of Fire (I)	187
53.	" " " (II)	192
54.	Rogues and Vagabonds	197
55.	Under George the Second (I)	201
56.	Under George the Second (II)	206
57.	Under George the Second (III)	210
58.	Under George the Second (IV)	214
59.	Under George the Second (V)	218
60.	The Government of the City (I)	222
61.	The Government of the City (II)	226
62.	The Government of the City (III)	228
63.	London	230
	Notes	235

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

PAGE

1. The New Houses of Parliament: designed by Barry, opened 1852 . . . . *Frontispiece*
2. Early British Pottery 9
3. Roman London 15
4. Remains of a Viking Ship, from a Cairn at Gokstad 22
5. Martyrdom of St. Edmund by the Danes 31
6. Saxon Horsemen 33
7. Saxon Church at Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts 36
8. City Gates 39
9. Remains of the Wall 40
10. Part of the Roman Wall at Leicester 41
11. Tower in the Earlier Style, Church at Earl's Barton 44
12. A Norman Ship 46
13. Building a Church in the later Style 47
14. Lay Costumes in the Twelfth Century 50
15. Costume of Shepherds in the Twelfth Century 51
16. Ecclesiastical Costume in the Twelfth Century 52
17. Royal Arms of England from Richard I. to Edward III. . . . 54
18. Old London Bridge 57
19. The Tower of London . . . 61, 64
20. A Bed in the Reign of Henry III.. 67
21. Interior of the Hall at Penshurst, Kent 71
22. The Upper Chamber or Solar at Sutton Courtenay Manor-house . 73
23. The Lepers Begging 77
24. London before the Spire of St. Paul's was burned; showing the Bridge, Tower, Shipping, &c. 83
25. Old St. Paul's, from the East . 85
26. Old St. Paul's on Fire 87
27. West Front of St. Paul's Cathedral Church. (Built by Sir Christopher Wren) 89
28. Paul's Cross 92
29. Bermondsey Abbey 96
30. Ruins of Gateway of Bermondsey Abbey 97
31. Christ's Hospital 99
32. Chepe in the Fifteenth Century . 108
33. Large Ship and Boat of the Fifteenth Century 111
34. A Sea-Fight 113
35. Durham, Salisbury, and Worcester Houses 125
36. Bear-baiting 128

PAGE

37. Shooting at the Butts with the Long-bow 129
38. Tomb of Edward III. in Westminster Abbey 132
39. The Embarkation of Henry VIII. from Dover, 1520 141
40. Coaches in the Reign of Elizabeth 148
41. The City from Southwark . . 150
42. South-east Part of London in the Fifteenth Century, showing the Tower and Wall 153
43. King Edward VI. 159
44. Sir Thomas Gresham 161
45. First Royal Exchange 162
46. Shipping in the Thames, *circa* 1660 168
47. Sir Francis Drake, in his Forty-third Year 167
48. The Globe Theatre 170
49. Civil Costume about 1620 . . 181
50. Costume of a Lawyer . . . 181

Ordinary Civil Costume; *temp.* Charles I.:

51. A Countryman 185
52. A Countrywoman 185
53. A Citizen 187
54. A Citizen's Wife 187
55. A Gentleman 189
56. A Gentlewoman 189
57. Lud-gate on Fire 190
58. Paul Pindar's House 191
59. London, as Rebuilt after the Fire . 193
60. Coach of the latter half of the Seventeenth Century . . . 195
61. Waggon of the second half of the Seventeenth Century . . . 195
62. Ordinary Dress of Gentlemen in 1675 197
63. Dress of Ladies of Quality . . 199
64. Ordinary Attire of Women of the Lower Classes 199
65. Group showing Costumes and Sedan Chair, about 1720 . . 202
66. Temple Bar, London 203
67. Fleet Street and Temple Bar . 205
68. A Coach of the Middle of the Seventeenth Century . . . 207
69. View of School connected with Bunyan's Meeting House . . 209
70. Grenadier in the time of the Peninsular War 211
71. Uniform of Sailors, about 1790 . 213
72. Costumes of Gentlefolk, about 1784 215
73. Vessels unloading at the Customs House, at the beginning of the Eighteenth Century . . . 217
74. The Old Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey, 1803 . . 221

LONDON

1. THE FOUNDATION OF LONDON.

PART I.

'In the year 1108 B.C., Brutus, a descendant of Æneas, who was the son of Venus, came to England with his companions, after the taking of Troy, and founded the City of Troynovant, which is now called London. After a thousand years, during which the City grew and flourished exceedingly, one Lud became its king. He built walls and towers, and, among other things, the famous gate whose name still survives in the street called Ludgate. King Lud was succeeded by his brother Cassivelaunus, in whose time happened the invasion of the Romans under Julius Cæsar. Troynovant, or London, then became a Roman city. It was newly fortified by Helena, mother of Constantine the Great.'

This is the legend invented or copied by Geoffrey of Monmouth, and continued to be copied, and perhaps believed, almost to the present day. Having paid this tribute to old tradition, let us relate the true early history of the City, as it can be recovered from such documents as remain, from discoveries made in excavation, from fragments of architecture, and from the lie

of the ground. The testimony derived from the lie of the ground is more important than any other, for several reasons. First, an historical document may be false, or inexact; for instance, the invention of a Brutus, son of Æneas, is false and absurd on the face of it. Or a document may be wrongly interpreted. Thus, a fragment of architecture may through ignorance be ascribed to the Roman, when it belongs to the Norman, period—one needs to be a profound student of architecture before an opinion of value can be pronounced upon the age of any monument: or it may be taken to mean something quite apart from the truth, as if a bastion of the old Roman fort, such as has been discovered on Cornhill, should be taken for part of the Roman wall. But the lie of the ground cannot deceive, and, in competent hands, cannot well be misunderstood. If we know the course of streams, the height and position of hills, the run of valleys, the site of marshes, the former extent of forests, the safety of harbours, the existence of fords, we have in our hands a guide-book to history. We can then understand why towns were built in certain positions, why trade sprang up, why invading armies landed at certain places, what course was taken by armies, and why battles have been fought on certain spots. For these things are not the result of chance, they are necessitated by the geographical position of the place, and by the lie of the ground. Why, for instance, is Dover one of the oldest towns in the country? Because it is the nearest landing ground for the continent, and because its hill forms a natural fortress for protecting that landing ground. Why was there a Roman station at Portsmouth? On account of the great and landlocked harbour. Why is Durham an ancient city? Because the steep hill made it almost impregnable. Why is Chester so called? Because it

was from very ancient times a fort, or stationary camp (L. *castra*), against the wild Welsh.

Let us consider this question as regards London. Look at the map called 'Roman London' (p. 15). You will there see flowing into the river Thames two little streams, one called Walbrook, and the other called the Fleet River. You will see a steep slope, or cliff, indicated along the river side. Anciently, before any buildings stood along the bank, this cliff, about 30 feet high, rose over an immense marsh which covered all the ground on the south, the east, and the west. The cliff receded from the river on the east and on the west at this point: on either side of the Walbrook it rose out of the marsh at the very edge of the river at high tide. There was thus a double hill, one on the east with the Walbrook on one side of it, the Thames on a second side, and a marsh on a third side, and the Fleet River on the west. It was thus bounded on east, south, and west, by streams. On the north was a wild moor (hence the name Moorfields) and beyond the moor stretched away northwards a vast forest, afterwards called the Middlesex forest. This forest

EARLY BRITISH POTTERY.