The Story Of Bethlehem Hospital From Its Foundation In 1247

Geoffrey O'Donoghue Edward
"'Why, not to put too fine a point upon it, this is Bedlam, sir,' says Mr. Snagsby."

CHARLES DICKENS, " Bleak House," ch. xlvii.
BETHLEHEM HOSPITAL, THE SECOND, IN MOORFIELDS.

The most beautiful view of the second hospital is that engraved by Joseph Nutting in 1680, and sold by James Walker, at the Star in Pye Corner near West Smithfield, a second edition appearing in 1710. Both editions are 37 inches in length by 27 in breadth, and I have only found examples of them in the Print Room of the British Museum. It is also the most interesting view, with its background of the spires and towers of the city churches. I have photographed the second edition, which shows on the right "New St. Paul's."
THE STORY OF BETHLEHEM HOSPITAL
FROM ITS FOUNDATION IN 1247

BY

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WITH 140 ILLUSTRATIONS

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THIS BOOK
I DEDICATE TO THE SERVICE
OF
BETHELHEM HOSPITAL
PREFACE

MY preface shall serve not as an introduction to this book but rather as a farewell to those friends who helped in the making of it. Herbert Tingle, for example, read through every chapter as it was written. To the touchstone of his literary taste and judicial mind I submitted every line of manuscript or proof. In so far as I have succeeded in making my narrative lucid or accurate, it is largely owing to him and another collaborator, Aubrey Unthank. I must also enter in my book of benefactors the names of Charles Naish, Charge-Attendant A. J. Cantle, Miss F. Bartrum, and James Arrow, who made drawings for my work or hunted up references. The house of Cassell is responsible for the making of most of my blocks, and I cannot pass out of the straits of Belle Sauvage Yard without saying goodbye to Mr. Martin of the “Pictorial Agency.” Most of the mediæval documents were transcribed for me by Miss Martin, Miss Salisbury, and the late Rev. G. L. Hennessy. My old friend Hennessy was a scholar who gave more to the Church of England in his edition of “Newcourt” than he received from it.

The whole of the archives of the hospital from the reign of Henry VIII to the year 1852 were placed at my disposal by the treasurer on behalf of the governors. I was not asked to write to order, and no conditions were imposed on me. I am very grateful for such a mark of their confidence, and I hope that my governors will consider what I have written to be worthy of their kindness, and of some value to the historic charity with which they are officially associated.
For the last four years, less three months—from the stocks to the launch—I have been building the good ship, *The Star of Bethlehem*. They have been years of planning and shaping, of hammering and riveting, week in and week out. But I have not been without my holidays and compensations. I found my recreation in the reading-room of the British Museum, chasing some elusive reference from covert to covert. And I had my festal days of oil and wine among the muniments of Bridewell Hospital, where I was always sure from my friend Mr. J. L. Worsfold and his sympathetic staff of the warmest of fires and welcomes.

*July, 1914.*

GEOFFREY O'DONOOGHUE.