Some account of parish clerks, more especially of the Ancient Fraternity (Bretherne and Sisterne) of S. Nicholas, now known as the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks

Christie James
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Author: Christie James

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PARISH CLERKS.

SOME ACCOUNT OF

PARISH CLERKS,
MORE ESPECIALLY OF THE

ANCIENT FRATERNITY
(BREtherne AND SISTERNE),

OF

S. NICHOLAS,

NOW KNOWN AS

THE WORSHIPFUL
COMPANY OF PARISH CLERKS.

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COMPILED FOR THE COMPANY BY

JAMES CHRISTIE,

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formerly Curate of S. Bartholomew, Cripplegate.

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From the Right H.
Charles H. Bell
TO

JAMES GEORGE WHITE, ESQ.,

DEPUTY FOR THE WARD OF WALBROOK,
PARISH CLERK AND ORGANIST OF ST. SWITHIN'S,
LONDON STONE,
MASTER,

AND TO

THE WARDENS

AND

COURT OF ASSISTANTS,

OF THE

PARISH CLERKS' COMPANY,

THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED BY THE COMPILER.
PREFACE.

This compilation was undertaken at the request of members of the Parish Clerks' Company. Its bulk is considerably greater than was at first intended, but as different items of information bearing on the subject came to hand, it was thought best to embody them in the volume so as to form a permanent record of what had been collected on this subject.

What is new deals chiefly with the Charters and Ordinances of this ancient Fraternity (see pp. 23—30); with the numbers and rank of those who were associated with or joined the Fraternity as shewn in the old Bede Roll belonging to the Company (see pp. 30—56); with the property held by them before Act 1. Ed. VI, seizing the property of Fraternities (see pp. 76—98 and pp. 113, 114, 120, and 121). Pages 76 to 98 shew also the difficulty which constantly cropped up when a Fraternity had no license to hold property.

The later history of the Company is principally derived from the Company's Minute Books which begin in 1610.

The Compiler returns his thanks to the Library Committee of the Corporation for permission to examine the records under their care, and to R. R. Sharpe, Esq., D.C.L., Records Clerk for his kindness in pointing out where information was to be found, and his ready help in deciphering some of the older
records, to the Court of the Parish Clerks' Company for their allowing ready access to the different records and gifts under their charge, and to Mr. Richard Perkins, Parish Clerk of S. Augustine and S. Faith, Sub.-Librarian of Sion College, for many helpful suggestions and for many references both as to Clerks in General and Parish Clerks in particular.

As the volume is intended for members of the Company, many particulars are inserted in the latter part which are of more interest to members than to the public generally. Yet the Compiler is not without hope that this account of the Clerks may be found to possess a certain interest for others as well, and may be found of use as repertory of facts concerning Clerks and their office such as has not hitherto been available in a collected form.
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