

**CROSBY PLACE, DESCRIBED IN A  
LECTURE ON ITS ANTIQUITIES AND  
REMINISCENCES. DELIVERED IN THE  
GREAT HALL, ON THE EVENING OF  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 1842**

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Crosby place, described in a lecture on its antiquities and reminiscences. Delivered in the great hall, on the evening of Friday, August 5, 1842 by Charles Mackenzie

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**CHARLES MACKENZIE**

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# CROSBY PLACE,

DESCRIBED IN

A LECTURE

ON ITS

*Antiquities and Reminiscences.*

DELIVERED IN THE GREAT HALL, ON THE EVENING OF  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 1842.

BY THE

REV. CHARLES MACKENZIE, A.M.

VICAR OF ST. HELEN'S, BISHOPSGATE; AND  
HEAD MASTER OF QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL,  
ST. OLAVE'S, SOUTHWARK.

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1842.



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Old Bailey.

TO MISS HACKETT.

MY DEAR MADAM;

I have great pleasure in dedicating to you this LECTURE on the ANTIQUITIES and REMINISCENCES of CROSBY PLACE; because I know the interest which you have taken in that building, and because I wish that all who read its records may gratefully associate your name with its restoration.

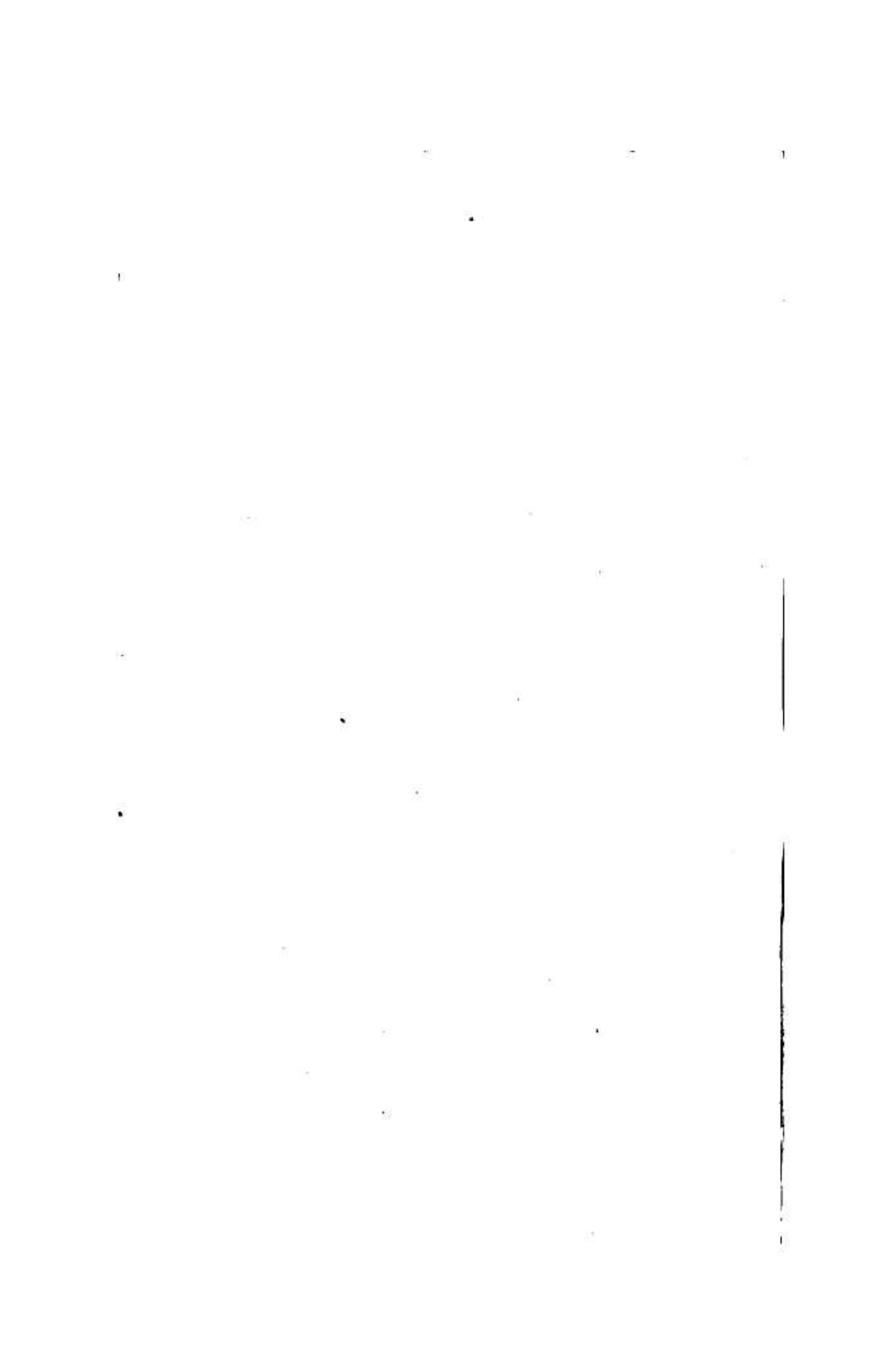
I am, my dear Madam,

Your most faithful

And obedient Servant,

CHARLES MACKENZIE.

*St. Olave's, Southwark,  
7th Nov., 1842.*





## CROSBY PLACE,

&c. &c.

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THE sight of every ancient building suggests many interesting thoughts to the reflective mind. According to the various uses to which the edifice has been applied, to the condition in which it is found at the moment of inspection, and to the disposition of mind in the beholders, those thoughts will greatly vary. The venerable arches and solemn aisles\* of ecclesiastical

\* The feeling of one entering a Gothic cathedral is thus expressed by Congreve:—

“No, all is hushed and still as death. 'Tis dreadful;  
How reverend is the face of this tall pile,  
Whose ancient pillars rear their marble heads  
To bear aloft its arched and ponderous roof,  
By its own weight made steadfast and immovable,  
Looking tranquillity.”

*Mourning Bride, Act I.*

architecture, with their "dim religious light," and their tall straight lines pointing to Heaven, call the man aside from the cares and excitements of the world, to dwell upon the piety and zeal of his progenitors, and invite him to commune with his God, and to follow in the steps of Saints and Martyrs.

The embattled towers remind him of by-gone days, when civil wars agitated our land, and when a feudal spirit divided its population into lords and vassals; and, it may be, that they suggest a grateful recollection that he lives in times when every man's house is his castle, and when there are aristocracies of worth and talent, as well as of birth and fortune. The specimen, moreover, of ancient domestic architecture prompts reflections upon the ingenuity, taste, and hospitality of our forefathers, while it renews the idea of some historical facts or celebrated personages, and its mellowed tints and venerable appearance invest it with a holier interest. There is a feeling of awfulness connected with the contemplation of that which time has honoured. The gray hairs command the respect of every well-regulated mind, and the calm sunset of a life well spent is more touching and more soothing than the joyous burst of infant day, or the bright warmth of health in its meridian. In buildings, as in life, the signs of decay excite our sympathies, and, by the eloquence of

their appeal to our assistance, they enlist our best affections.

If desirous of testing the truth of these associations, and of giving them some reality and shape, we may turn our thoughts to the Antiquities and Reminiscences of Crosby Place, on which subject I am now invited to address you.

So many are the topics connected with this building; so stirring are the historical recollections, and so varied the uses to which it has been applied: so interesting in its decay, so welcome in its renovated beauty, that antiquaries and historians, poets and painters, the practised architect and the inexperienced observer gaze on it with increasing admiration, and listen, anxious as they gaze, as if they expected "the stone to cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber to answer it."\*

Truly, if the top beam † of this great hall could speak, it could tell strange stories connected with its varied occupants. If these walls had ears, they heard

\* Habakkuk, ii. 11.

† The "top beam of the great hall," we are told by Mr. Pennant, was an ancient toast to express the master of the house. The term *Proceres*, or *Chiefs*, is said to be derived (with some violation to quantity) from *Procerus*, tall or high, and to be a metaphor from the chief beam: and, still more to our purpose, we quote Suetonius, who says that Calphurnia dreamed on the night before Cæsar died, that the "beam of the house" had fallen.