LUDGATE HILL: PAST AND PRESENT. A NARRATIVE CONCERNING THE PEOPLE, PLACES, LEGENDS, AND CHANGES OF THE GREAT LONDON HIGHWAY

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Ludgate Hill: Past and Present. A Narrative Concerning the People, Places, Legends, and Changes of the Great London Highway by William Purdie Treloar

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WILLIAM PURDIE TRELOAR

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Jour truly

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GREAT LONDON HIGHWAY.

Illustrated with Numerous Engravings.

W. P. Ireloan.

SECOND EDITION.

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To the

RIGHT HONOURABLE DAVID EVANS,

LORD MAYOR OF LONDON.

MY LORD MAYOR,-

The honour you confer upon me by permitting the Second Edition of this little book to be inscribed to you is gratifying in more than one respect; and I hope I may be excused for saying that the association of your name with the subject of the book itself is, in more than one respect, appropriate.

I am one of those who sincerely appreciate your well-known interest in works of public utility and improvement, and your assiduous and successful endeavours to fulfil the duties that awaited you at every step, which have led to your attainment of the distinguished position that you now occupy.

Instead of contriving to secure the high office of Lord Mayor of London, by relying only on wealth and influence to enter at once upon the preliminary dignities of Sheriff and Alderman, without the education and experience acquired by the humbler work of an ordinary member of the Common Council, you

honourably "won your spurs" on the "floor of the Court" by undertaking, at the solicitation of your neighbours, to represent your ward, and by heartily devoting your efforts to the work of adequately accomplishing the duties of the successive offices which in the course of time devolved upon you.

Permit me to say, my Lord Mayor, that the course which you have followed has gained for you the regard and esteem of all those who place the claims of public duty before the advantages of public office.

It seems to be appropriate that this expression of respect and goodwill should be offered in the dedication of a book to a Lord Mayor who is the Alderman of the Ward of Castle Baynard, with some scenes in the history of which the following pages have to deal.

Without saying more, except to repeat my thanks, and to express a sincere hope that your term of office may be distinguished by the happy accomplishment of the work you are so competent to initiate and direct,

> I am, my Lord Mayor, Your obedient servant,

> > W. P. TRELOAR.

PREFACE

TO THE SECOND EDITION.

I T is more than ten years since the first edition (of twenty thousand) of this book was issued.

While it was in the press I became a member of the Corporation of the City of London; my chief object in entering upon civic duties being to secure the opportunity for calling attention to the necessity for completing the widening and effectually carrying out the improvements of this important thoroughfare in which I have always taken so much interest.

The favour with which "Ludgate Hill Past and Present' was received, and the fact that the first issue has been long exhausted, might be sufficient reasons for my venturing to republish it, but I am right glad to be able to say that there is a perhaps better reason still.

The improvements and extension to which I refer are practically accomplished, and therefore this chronicle demands the addition of another chapter. A brief retrospect of the proceedings in the Court of Sewers, which marked the vicissitudes of the work now so satisfactorily completed, will, I hope, be interesting and acceptable.

These few prefatory words would be incomplete if I did not take the opportunity of referring with much gratification (not unmingled with deep regret for the loss the citizens and indeed all the inhabitants of London have so recently sustained), to the late Chamberlain of the City, Mr. Benjamin Scott, who in letters addressed to me immediately after the publication of the first edition, in 1881, was good enough to speak in terms of commendation of the book, and to express an opinion that it would be well if every quarter of our ancient city were similarly treated. He also furnished me with some items of information in regard to the Prison of Bridewell, the incarceration there of the so-called "Separatists," or Nonconformists, who were unpolitical Puritans in the time of Elizabeth; and to the maintenance of "Bridewell" at the present day as a place to which stubbornly rebellious and disorderly City apprentices may be committed for short terms of imprisonment.

These memoranda, which I had the honour to receive from so distinguished a scholar and antiquarian, are inserted in their proper places in this edition.

"You will be issuing a second edition some day," he wrote, in a courteous and encouraging letter dated January 26th, 1882; and now, though the recollection is that of "the touch of a vanished hand and the sound of a voice that is still," the words are verified.

W. P. TRELOAR.

LUDGATE HILL, LONDON, Jan. 1892.