

**COLCHESTER CHURCH
TRUSTS: GIFTS AND
GRANTS FROM DAVID
SEARS, OF BOSTON, U.S.A.**

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Colchester church trusts: Gifts and grants from David Sears, of Boston, U.S.A. by David Sears

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DAVID SEARS

**COLCHESTER CHURCH
TRUSTS: GIFTS AND
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COLCHESTER CHURCH TRUSTS.

Gifts and Grants

FROM

DAVID SEARS, OF BOSTON, U.S.A.,

TO

**THE REV. VICAR AND CHURCH-WARDENS OF
ST. PETER'S CHURCH, COLCHESTER,
AND THEIR SUCCESSORS.**

Under the Patronage and Sanction of the Lords Bishops of Rochester,

ACTING AS A BOARD OF CONTROL.

London, Paternoster Row :

UNION PRESS.

1868.

P R E F A C E.

THE novelty of a gift and trust from an American gentleman to an English house of worship,— a part of the Established Church,— and to operate through it as a charity to the people of England, is such an unusual occurrence, and exhibits so full a reliance on the faith and truthfulness of the Church of England, that the publishers have ventured to give to the public the details in a printed form.

It is refreshing to see the fidelity with which the descendants of old English families in the United States still hold in honor their ancestry of the fatherland. It shows a right spirit on their part, which should be sedulously cultivated on ours; so that while they claim the privilege of participation in the glories of England's celebrities,— her warriors, poets, orators, and literature,— we also may assert a similar claim to the heroes and distinguished men of their

noble country, sprung from our loins, and whose soil, in its settlement, was a part of our empire.

It would be a novel and gracious act in either party, if this brotherly feeling were to be recognized and established under some legal honorary form.

The documentary papers are on file with the Trustees ; a short history of the Sears's is recorded in the Church-books ; and the correspondence has been gathered from the parties, and may be relied on as correct.

CORRESPONDENCE, &c.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ST. PETER'S VICARAGE,
Colchester, England, Oct. 27, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have long felt a desire to write to you; but the illness and subsequent death of Mrs. Carr's venerable father have seemed to prevent me. You will have received through Mr. Somerby the formal thanks of the Vicar, Church-wardens, and Parishioners of St. Peter's for the splendid flagon and paten which you so generously gave us for our sacramental services; and I would beg leave now to return my own individual acknowledgments for this most beautiful gift.

I confess I had desired that the money might be appropriated to a school to be called after your name; but, by devoting it to sacramental plate, you have insured our remembrance of you in those most solemn seasons, when the communion of the saints is especially realized, and when the dead and the distant are brought nearest to us.

I hope that those who unite with us on these sacred occasions will, in their *oraisons*, bear you on their

breath. It is a happy circumstance, that, though separated by a wide ocean, we may still meet in spirit before the mercy-seat of the Hearer of Prayer.

Permit me to take this opportunity to express my gratification at the thought of your desiring to strengthen the tie which still binds you to your fatherland. Be assured, my dear sir, this feeling is reciprocal. In many things the child far outstrips the parent; and, judging of the feelings of others from my own, I may venture to say, that, far from envying, we glory in the honor and prosperity which mark the progress of our descendants, whose triumphs and success are, in a measure, our own.

It would afford me sincere pleasure, should you revisit England, to be permitted to offer you such hospitality as my humble vicarage can afford. In the meantime, be assured, my dear sir, that I shall ever think of you with grateful esteem and regard, and that I have the honor to be,

Your sincerely obliged and faithful servant,

SAMUEL CARR.*

The Honorable DAVID SEARS, &c.

COLCHESTER, April 12, 1862.

DEAR SIR,—As one of the trustees under your deed of gift to St. Peter's Church in this town, I have had the pleasure on previous occasions of corresponding both with yourself and Mr. Somerby. I now

* The Rev. Vicar died in 1864, and was succeeded by the Rev. Henry Caddell in 1866.

write at the request of our Vicar, the Rev. H. Caddell, on the subject of that endowment.

We have hitherto kept all the documents connected with the subject with our other parish memorials; but it seems desirable that some permanent record should be kept of the origin and history of the Fund, in a book in which the accounts of the Fund can also be entered.

Mr. Caddell has lent me the copy of "The Olden Time," which you presented to him; and I have gathered other details from "Morent's History of Essex," and "Burke's Visitation," the result of which is a short sketch with which I propose to commence the book. My object in now writing to you is simply to ask you to look through what I have written, and what I send by this post, and kindly to correct any inaccuracies, or to make any suggestions on the subject that you may think proper.

One slight discrepancy I have found between "The Olden Time" and "Burke;" viz., as to the year in which John Burchier Sayers (the elder) was born. Burke gives 1538,—two years before the death of his father at Amsterdam. But from pages 87 and 131 of "The Olden Time," it would appear that he was seven years old when his father died. Possibly you can explain this discrepancy, and let me know which statement is correct.

Should you or any of your family visit the old country during the International Exhibition, it would