

ST. PAUL'S AND ITS ARCHITECT.

Sir Christopher Wren was born in October 1632, and while still very young gave indications of the genius for which he was distinguished through life. When only fourteen he entered the University of Oxford and at the age of twenty-one took his degree of M.A. He turned his attention especially to the study of mathematics and physical science, and invented a number of mathematical instruments, and as early as 1654 was spoken of as "that miracle of a youth" and "that rare, early prodigy of universal science." In 1657 he went to London where he became Professor of Astronomy in Gresham college, and in 1661 left there to take a similar position in Oxford; but before leaving he, with a number of others, was the means of organizing what was afterwards the Royal Society.

Along with his other studies he had given a good deal of time to the subject of architecture and in a short time he was called from Oxford to be assistant to Sir John Denham, who had been appointed Surveyor-General of the king's buildings, but who had very little practical knowledge of the subject. In 1663 he was asked to go to Tangier, on the coast of Africa, opposite Gibraltar, to survey and direct the works at the harbor and fortifications there but would not go.

At this time St. Paul's Cathedral had come to be in a very dilapidated condition and efforts were being made to restore it. Wren, as the chief architect in the country, was engaged to draw up plans for the work, and to fit himself for this he went to Paris and spent some time studying the works of great European architects. When he returned the Royal Society was busily engaged in investigating the cause of the great plague of 1665, and he entered heartily into the work, and prepared plans for the rebuilding of the city with wide streets, and many other badly needed improvements. But before any further steps were taken in regard to the restoration of the church, the terrible fire of 1666 swept through the town and St. Paul's was but one in a city of ruins.

Instead of restoring an old church the work now before Sir Christopher Wren was the building of a new one; and instead of a city to be remodelled, a new one was to be raised from its ashes. His plans for the city in general were not followed; the individual property owners were indifferent to the general welfare of the city, and the old narrow thoroughfares were rebuilt, but besides St. Paul's, by which he will always be best known, he built fifty-three or more churches, fifty of which were to replace those destroyed by the fire. He also built a large number of public buildings, including hospitals, museums, colleges, the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, and the Custom House and Royal Exchange. The following graphic account of St. Paul's is from a contemporary:—

"Three cathedrals have occupied the present site of St. Paul's Church, in London. Ethelbert, King of Kent, founded the first in 610, and it was destroyed by fire in 1087. The second cathedral, or 'old St. Paul's,' was soon after built, and proved to be a great church, 690 feet long, 130 feet broad, with a tower and spire 520 feet high, which was higher than the great pyramid of Egypt. This old church was in the form of a Latin cross, and had seventy-six chapels, a bell-tower with four bells, a chapter-house, etc., and supported two hundred Roman priests. On special saints' days the choristers ascended the spire to a great height and chanted anthems. On the anniversary of the conversion of St. Paul, January 25, a fat bullock was offered at the high altar, upon which was heaped great stores of gold and silver plate and illuminated missals. The walls were sumptuously adorned with pictures, and the church contained many new monuments. The floor of this old church was laid out in walks, and soon these were used by the people for all sorts of traffic. The middle aisle, or 'Paul's Walk,' became a common thoroughfare for porters and

carriers, for ale, beer, bread, fish, flesh, fards of stuff, and mules, horses, and other beasts. Bishop Earle, in 1629, wrote:

"Paul's Walk is the Lord's Epitome, or you may call it the lesser Ile of Great Brittain. The noise is like that of Bees, in strange hummings or buzzes; mixt of walking, tongues, and feet; it is a kind of still roare, or loud whisper."

Of the destruction of this church in the great fire. Dryden says:

"The daring flames peep'd in, and saw from far
The awful beauties of the sacred quire;
But since it was profan'd by civil war
Heaven thought it fit to have it purg'd by fire."

"Books to the value of \$750,000, which had been placed in a crypt by the stationers of Paternoster Row, were destroyed in this fire. The great blocks of Caen stone, of which the church was built, exploded in flakes, and became calcined like the marble blocks in the Chicago fire. The ruins were levelled by gunpowder and battering-rams in 1666 and 1668, and it was eight years after the fire before they were removed.

"Beneath the old cathedral a vast cemetery of Britons, Romans, and Saxons were discovered, and still lower down, marine

of dome 60 feet; height of dome from ground line, 215 feet; height of lantern gallery, 274 feet 9 inches. The church covers an area of 84,025 superficial feet. A semicircular recess, contains the altar; at the west end a noble flight of steps ascends to a double portico of coupled columns, in the pediment of which, 64 feet long and 17 feet high, is the 'Conversion of St. Paul,' sculptured in high relief. The dome of this Cathedral is considered by architects to stand supreme on earth for beauty and appearance of elegant lightness.

"There are many curious and interesting things about this cathedral. The ascent to the Whispering Gallery is by 260 steps; to the highest, or Golden Gallery, 560 steps; and to the Ball, 616 steps. The library, over the southern aisle, contains 7,000 volumes, and the floor consists of 2,300 pieces of oak. The lock was made in 1708, and has two dials each 51 feet in circumference. The minute-hands are 9 feet 8 inches long, and weigh 75 pounds each. The pendulum is 16 feet long, and the bob weighs 180 pounds. The clock is an eight-day clock, and strikes the hours on the great bell, which weighs five tons. In the still-

John Howard and Dr. Johnson; of Hallam and Sir Joshua Reynolds; monuments to Lord Nelson and Lord Cornwallis; Sir Ralph Abercrombie and Lord Howe. Sir Christopher Wren's remains, with those of his family, are in the crypt in the south aisle. "Says C. R. Leslie: "If Westminster Abbey has its "Poet's Corner," so has St. Paul's its "Painters' Corner." Sir Joshua Reynolds statue, by Flaxman, is here, and Reynolds himself lies buried here, and Barry, and Opie, and Lawrence are around him; and above all, the ashes of the great Van Dyck are in the earth under the cathedral."

"The remains of J. M. W. Turner were laid next to those of Reynolds, on December 30, 1851, and Sir Edwin Landseer has lately been interred in St. Paul's. There also are the presidents of the Royal Academy, Benjamin West, Fuseli, and many others. The remains of the great Nelson are in the middle crypt, beneath a black marble sarcophagus; and under the entrance to the choir are those of Wellington in a large porphyry tomb.

"The State processions to St. Paul's have been very imposing. Queen Anne, the Prince Regent, George III., and Queen Caroline, each gave thanksgiving in this church. The last procession of this kind was when Queen Victoria returned thanks for the recovery of the Prince of Wales. From almost every part of London the dome of St. Paul's can be seen, and when full in view, it presents a combination unsurpassed for external elegance."

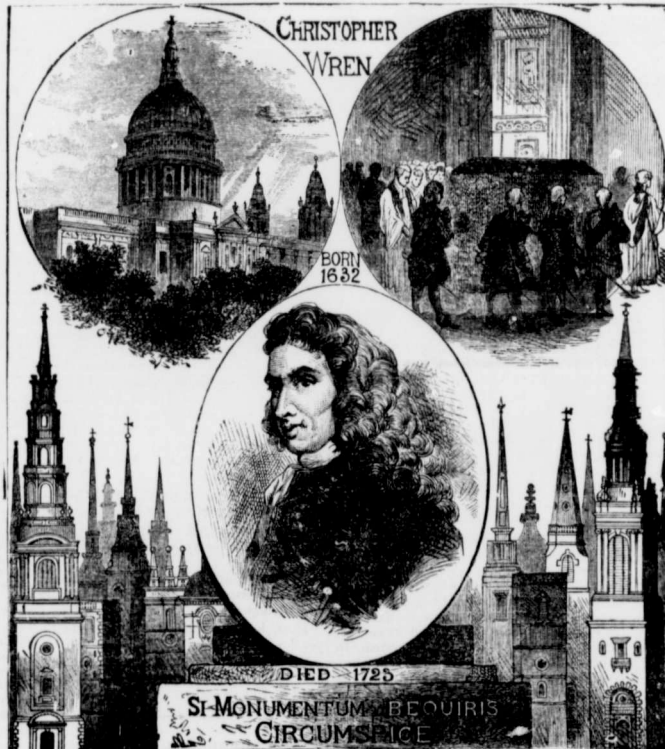
Sir Christopher Wren was twice married and left a daughter and two sons. In 1650 he was elected President of the Royal Society. Towards the end of his life he was treated with much injustice. His works were unjustly criticised and on the accession of George I., through some political influence, he was removed from the office of Surveyor-General which he had held for forty-nine years. He died in his chair on the 25th of February 1723, at the age of ninety years.

RUNNING OVER.

You are a teacher in the Sunday-school, and you study the lesson faithfully, but somehow your scholars display a most disheartening lack of interest. They sit stolidly, listlessly, through the lesson. How stupid it seems! You heartily wish they would rouse into activity of some sort, don't you? Better anything than this dead-alive dullness! But did it ever occur to you that the fault might be in yourself? Of course, you learn the facts of the lesson, and can explain the letter of the law; but are you full of the spirit of the verses? Is your thought how you can best apply the inspired words to the dispositions and wants of your scholars? In short, how through the lesson you can draw them to the Master? It must be, if you ever hope to attain the best success. You must be brimful and running over with service.—S. S. Teacher.

DELICATE PUDDING.—Half a cup of raw rice, boiled in one and a half cups of water. When it is nearly done, add two cups of milk, and cook until the rice is soft. Add the yolks of four eggs, beaten with half a cup of sugar, a little salt and half a teaspoonful of extract of vanilla. Take from the fire and stir in the beaten whites of two eggs. Make a meringue of the remaining whites, beaten, with half a cup of sugar. Spread over the top and set in the oven to brown.

BROILED POTATOES.—Cut cold boiled potatoes in slices a third of an inch thick. Dip them in melted butter and fine bread crumbs. Place in the double broiler and broil over a fire that is not too hot. Garnish with parsley and serve on a hot dish. Or, season with salt and pepper, toast till a delicate brown, arrange on a hot dish, and season with butter.



shells, showing that the sea once flowed over the site of the present cathedral. The first stone was laid by Wren, June 21, 1675, and in 1710 the son of the architect laid the last stone—the highest slab on the top of the lantern. Thus the cathedral was finished in thirty-five years under one architect, one master-mason, Thomas Strong, and while one bishop, Dr. Henry Compton, occupied the see. For his services Wren obtained \$1,000 a year.

"St. Paul's stands in the most elevated part of London, in the form of a Latin cross, and has a general resemblance to St. Peter's at Rome. The church is built of rusticated Portland stone, and the dimensions are as follows:

"Length from east to west, 500 feet; from north to south, 250 feet; width, 125 feet; width of front facing Ludgate Hill, 180 feet; height of the two campanile towers, 220 feet; height to the top of the cross from the ground, 365 feet, which is 150 feet less than St. Peter's; height of nave, choir and transepts 100 feet; the height of western front, 138 feet; interior diameter of dome, 100 feet; height

ness of midnight the striking of this clock has been heard on the terrace of Windsor Castle, a distance of about twenty miles. The organ, built in 1694, stands in the first arch from the altar, on the north side of the choir. An enormous organ also stands in the south transept. The inner dome has eight great paintings by Sir James Thornhill, representing events in the life of St. Paul. These were restored in 1853 by Parris, who was occupied three years on the work. The pictures are best seen from the Whispering Gallery. The ball on the top of the lantern is 5 feet two inches in diameter, and will hold 8 persons. The cross is solid and weighs 5,360 pounds. The view of London from the upper, or Golden Gallery, is very minute, people in the streets appearing like mice, and the bridges across the Thames like lines.

"There are some fifty monuments in St. Paul's, most of them voted by Parliament in honor of naval and military officers, authors, artists, and philanthropists. This church has been made a Pantheon for British heroes. Among the monuments and tombs which it contains are colossal statues of