



PRESENTATION OF THE LANCASHIRE COTTON FAMILIE MEMORIAL WINDOW TO THE CORPORATION OF LONDON, AT GUILDHALL.—SEE PAGE 86.

THE LANCASHIRE COTTON-FAMINE MEMORIAL  
WINDOW IN GUILDHALL.

The new stained-glass window erected in Guildhall was presented to the Corporation of the city of London, on Wednesday week, in the name of the cotton-factory workpeople of Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire, as a testimony of their gratitude for the bounty which contributed half a million sterling to relieve their distress in the time of the American civil war. A deputation from those counties, headed by the Right Hon. Colonel J. Wilson Patten, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, waited upon the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council, to perform the act of presentation. Besides the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the deputation was composed of Lord Egerton of Tatton; Lord Edward Howard, M.P.; Mr. Bazley, M.P.; Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P.; Mr. Feilden, M.P.; Mr. Barnes, M.P.; Lieutenant-Colonel W. Gray, M.P.; Mr. Gilbert Greenall, M.P.; Mr. Eckersley, M.P.; Mr. Graves, M.P.; the Mayors of Manchester, Preston, Rochdale, Blackburn, Stockport, Burnley, and Glossop; Mr. Richard Lea, Mr. Kinder, Mr. R. Gladstone, Mr. J. Goodair, Mr. R. H. Hutchinson, Mr. J. W. McClure, Mr. Henderson (Inspector of Factories), Mr. Henry Hall, Mr. W. G. Farmer, Mr. John Atkins; Mr. Thomas Wall, jun.; Mr. Francis Hawke, Mr. W. Roberts, Mr. Frederick Grundy, Mr. John Whittaker ("the Lancashire Lad"); the Rev. William Henry Jones, Vicar of Mottram; the Rev. C. L. Monahan, Mr. T. Thorpe, Mr. W. Robinson (late Mayor of Burnley), and Mr. S. B. Bazley.

The stonework of the window is of fifteenth-century character, of which style it represents an extremely fine and bold type. It is divided vertically by two main mullions or piers into three sections, the central division being subdivided into five lights, the sides into two each. The middle portion of the window is divided by a transom into two piers; and above the springing line, in all three groups of lights, are the traceried openings characteristic of Thirteenth Pointed style. In the treatment of the new stained glass the middle division of the window in both tiers is devoted to representations of historical subjects connected with the history of the city of London. The upper division on the north side contains figures of Lancashire worthies. In the similar division on the south side are introduced worthies of the City. The subject of the lower tier of the central portion of the window is illustrative of the rebuilding of the City by Alfred the Great, that of the upper tier being devoted to the subject of the grant of the charter to the city of London by William I. In both cases the figures of the Kings occupy the central light, the figure of the Conqueror being shown in the act of presenting the charter, which has been reproduced in the glass from the original in possession of the Corporation. The two figures in the side division on the north side are full-length portraits of Sir Richard Whittington and Sir Thomas Gresham, those on the south being of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and Sir Thomas Stanley. In the tracery openings above these portraits are introduced, together with the Lancastrian rose and the City crest, the heralds' bearings proper to each figure, while in the tracery openings of the main portion of the window are represented the shields of the twelve City companies. At the base of the window runs the following inscription:—"The grateful memorial of the operatives of Lancashire and the cotton-manufacturing districts to the Mansion House Relief Committee, who, as almoners of a world's benevolence, distributed to them more than £500,000 during the cotton famine 1862-5—namely, William Cubitt, Lord Mayor; William James Richmond Cotton, Charles Barber, William Morley, John Armitage, Groom Howes, Francis Lycett, and Stauros Dilberoglu; with Lord Mayors William Anderson Rose, William Lawrence, Warren Stormes Hale; and Joseph Gibbs, secretary." Messrs. Clayton and Bell are the artists who have executed the work.

The Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, and Aldermen took their seats on a dais at the lower end of the hall, between the figures of Gog and Magog, while the Common Councilmen sat on benches arranged at the sides of the hall. The deputation was introduced and admitted to the dais, where Colonel Wilson Patten spoke, explaining that the Earl of Derby, whose labours as chairman of the central committee in Lancashire especially qualified him to represent the operatives, would have performed this duty, but the noble Earl's health prevented his attendance. Colonel Wilson Patten noticed his absence with regret, and then briefly narrated the history of the cotton famine and the means adopted to alleviate the distress arising out of it. The names of Alderman Cotton, whose proposal ended in the formation of the Mansion House Committee, the late Alderman Cubitt, Alderman Lawrence, Alderman Hale, and Alderman Rose, he mentioned as specially remembered in Lancashire. Lord Egerton of Tatton spoke on behalf of the operatives of Cheshire, Lord E. Howard for those of Derbyshire, and Mr. Bazley, M.P., speaking for the manufacturers, seized the opportunity to point out how much the country was to blame in relying for 85 per cent of its raw cotton upon a country where it was produced by slave labour, while not more than 7 per cent came from our own colonial cotton-growing possessions. In his concluding sentence the hon. member agreed with the previous speakers that the operatives had endured their privations with fortitude and resignation, and added from his own experience that it was a special consolation to them to know that henceforth the supplies of raw material would come from free and not slave lands—a remark that elicited general cheering. A resolution passed by some Oldham overlookers having been read by the Rev. Mr. Jones, the gift of the window was acknowledged by Alderman Cotton on behalf of the Mansion House Committee, and by the Lord Mayor on behalf of the Corporation. A testimonial was afterwards presented to Mr. Joseph Gibbs, the zealous and efficient honorary secretary of the Mansion House Fund.