

Repairing a Meeting-house in 1720.

IN the later days of Benjamin Stinton, the lease of the meeting-house in Goats Yard Passage, Fair Street, Horselydown, was nearing its close, and arrangements were made to erect a new building in Unicorn Yard. When John Gill was invited to the pastorate, the church divided. One section thereafter worshipped in Unicorn Yard, and the other section under John Gill, after temporarily worshipping in Crosby's schoolroom, obtained a new lease of the old meeting-house in Goats Yard. They found it sadly in need of repair, and at their church meeting on the 12th January 1719/20,

Bro. Jones, Bro. Cobb, Bro. Smith, Bro. Deale, Bro. Turner, and Bro. Crosby were appointed in trust for the Church to take a lease of the Meeting house for the term of 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ years and to repair the same with all needful and necessary reparations and likewise to insure 300£ thereupon from Damages that may be sustained by Fire.

Crosby's account of the cost, as entered by him in the minute book, is of much interest. A raising dinner, a branch (chandelier), a pulpit candlestick, a tin of sconces and hooks, eightpence for sawing pries (privets), and a lawyer's bill of three guineas, decidedly remind us of other days and other ways.

Here is a copy of it.

An Account of Mony's paid for the Reparation of the Meeting House &c. Anno 1720—

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|---|----|----|----|
| To our Brethren who separated from us to prevent their demolishing of the pews standing which they threatned at their leaving the place | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| To Mr. Randal Carpenter in full of his Articles of agreement | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| To Ditto in full for his overwork | 10 | 2 | 0 |
| Spent on the Workmen for a Raising dinner | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Paid breakfast mony for them | | 4 | 10 |
| To Mr. Goldsmith Paviour for Paving Work | 7 | 7 | 0 |
| To Mr. Burput Clock Makr. for a Dial | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| To Mr. Staples for a Branch | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| To Mr. Wade Brazier for Cleaning it | | 2 | 6 |
| To Ditto for a new branch & inlarging ye old one | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid for the pulpit Candlestick | | 16 | 0 |
| Paid for 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ dozs of Tinn Sconces & Hooks | | 19 | 7 |

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|---|-----|----|----|
| To Mr. Landen Carpr. for work done | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| To Ditto for more work done | 1 | 9 | 0 |
| To Mr. Waller in full for painting work both outside and inside | 16 | 10 | 0 |
| To Mr. Croney for Smiths Work | | 6 | 4 |
| Paid a Sawyer for sawying some pries | | | 8 |
| Paid for a Grate and setting up in ye Vestry | | 7 | 10 |
| Paid for Dying the Curtains & new making them | | 4 | 6 |
| Paid for some small nails | | | 1 |
| Paid to ye Scavengers for carrying away Rubbish | | 1 | 0 |
| Paid for Leases of ye meeting house | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| | | | |
| | 127 | 15 | 4 |
| A Tax bill | | 8 | 1½ |
| | | | |
| | 128 | 3 | 5½ |
| | | | |

The contributions amounted to £117 9s. 11d., and were derived from subscriptions, payments for pews, and a public collection of £16 3s. 1d. Among the subscribers were Elizabeth Stinton, Robert Cobb, and the four deacons, Thomas Crosby, John Jones, John Smith and Thomas Stone.

At the church meeting on 2nd May, 1721,

Bro. Crosby in whom the Church reposed the Trust of the management of their publick Charges desired that some persons might be appointed to Audit his accounts to Christmas last and the Church appointed Bro. Jones, Bro. Smith, Bro. Stone, Bro. Cobb, Bro. Thompson, Bro. Deale, Bro. Turner, Bro. Allen and such others of the Brethren who were inclined thereto to appoint a time and place for the doing of the same.

Doubtless in the congenial and convivial surroundings of audits and committee meetings of those days, the eight named auditors, with the help of the other brethren who were inclined thereto, found it possible to carry through this little audit.

SEYMOUR J. PRICE.