

15 Montpelier Row  
Aurich.

Thursday

Dear Sir

Here you have the communication of Mr Brownlow. I thank you very much for sending it to me by Mr. I knew that long time ago, as Mr Brownlow sent me his book.

I am obliged to you for your good advice about the visit intended for me. I will

remember it.

I shall reserve the  
news of it you wish to  
keep but I am so busy  
with the end of the book  
that I shall not be able  
to look at them before  
Sunday.

Yours very faithfully  
V. Scholier

4  
Foundling Hosp.

16<sup>th</sup> Apr<sup>l</sup> 1857.

Dear Sir, I send you  
what relates to "Handel"  
in my "Chronicles" of  
this Hospital.

I wish I could  
present to you the  
entire book, but it  
is scarce & nearly out  
of print —

Yours  
J. B. Walker

W. Lonsdale

April 15, 1857

Dear Sir,

I got this answer (from the Secretary) this afternoon please return it when done with. Dr. Gousslett, I think, intends to make application to you respecting Handel: Please not to let him borrow anything of mine as I have given him no authority to do so. This is "entre nous" of course. I dislike ~~parties~~ parties who never return things, lent

P.S. You had better not lend your books R. R. Lonsdale

*Handel.*

Handel, as if influenced by a kindred feeling with Hogarth (for genius is ever noble and generous), very soon engaged in the work of charity at this popular institution. On the 4th May, 1749, he attended the committee at the Hospital, and offered a performance of vocal and instrumental music, the money arising therefrom to be applied towards the finishing of the Chapel.

This performance is thus alluded to in the "Gentleman's Magazine" of that month:—

"The Prince and Princess of Wales, with a great number of persons of quality and distinction, were at the Chapel of the Foundling Hospital, to hear several pieces of vocal and instrumental music composed by George Frederick Handel, Esq., for the benefit of the foundation. 1st. The music of the late Fire Works, and the anthem on the Peace: 2nd. Select pieces from the oratorio of Solomon, relating to the dedication of the temple: and 3rd. Several pieces composed for the occasion, the words taken from scripture, and applicable to the charity and its benefactors. There was no collection, but the tickets were at half-a-guinea, and the audience above a thousand."

For this act of benevolence on the part of Handel, he was immediately enrolled as one of the Governors and Guardians of the Hospital.

During every year after this, until his infirmity obliged him to relinquish his profession, he superintended personally the performance of his matchless

Oratorio of the Messiah, in the Chapel, which netted to the Treasury of the Charity no less a sum than £7000.

The Governors of the Hospital seeing the profitableness of this performance, and being (as it appeared) misinformed of Handel's intention regarding the copyright, prepared a petition to Parliament to secure it for themselves. The latter part of this petition is as follows:—

“That in order to raise a further sum for the benefit of the said charity, George Frederick Handel, Esq., hath been charitably pleased to give to this corporation a composition of musick, called ‘The Oratorio of the Messiah,’ composed by him the said George Frederick Handel, reserving to himself the liberty only of performing the same for his own benefit during his life: and whereas the said benefaction cannot be secured to the sole use of your petitioners except by the authority of Parliament, your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray, that leave may be given to bring in a bill for the purposes aforesaid.”

Upon one of the Governors waiting upon the musician with this form of petition, he soon discovered that the committee of the Hospital had built upon a wrong foundation; for Handel, bursting into a rage, exclaimed—“Te Deivel! for vat sal de Foundling put mein oratorio in de Parlement? Te Deivel! mein music sal not go to de Parlement!”

Here the matter dropped, never to be revived. At the completion of the Chapel, Handel presented

the Governors with an organ, and other liberal contributions fell in on the same occasion.

The Communion plate was presented by a Governor, who desired to be “unknown;” and the king's upholsterer gave the velvets for the pulpit, &c.

The Governors of the Hospital felt, naturally enough, a deep affection and veneration for Handel; and therefore, when, in April, 1753, a foolish paragraph appeared in the daily papers, stating, that he was preparing a funeral anthem, to be performed in the Chapel of the Hospital after his death, the Committee desired their Secretary to acquaint him, “That the said paragraph has given this Committee great concern, they being highly sensible that all well-wishers to this charity must be desirous for the continuance of his life, who has been and is so great and generous a benefactor thereto.”

With the full concurrence of Handel, the Governors appointed his amanuensis and assistant, Mr. John Christopher Smith, the first organist of the Chapel.

At the death of Handel, it was found he had made the following bequest:—“I give a fair copy of the score, and all the parts of my oratorio called ‘The Messiah,’ to the Foundling Hospital.” The Governors resolved, in grateful memory of their friend and benefactor, to have a dirge and funeral anthem performed in the Chapel, on the 26th May, 1759, on the occasion of his demise, which performance took place under the direction of the organist of the Chapel, Mr. John Christopher Smith.

*Benjamin West, R. A.*

Mention has been already made, that, on the finishing of the Chapel, Chevalier Casali presented the Governors with an altar-piece, the subject being "The Offering of the Wise Men." This picture occupied its appropriate place till 1801, when two of the Vice-Presidents, John Wilmot, Esq., and Thomas Everett, Esq., M. P., together with Sir Thomas Bernard, Bart., (the Treasurer) and John Puget, Esq., agreed to purchase and present to the Hospital a picture by West, namely—*Christ presenting a little Child*.<sup>\*</sup> This picture had been in the hands of a party, by whose mismanagement it had suffered some injury, and therefore West, in his determination to make it fully acceptable to the Governors, almost entirely repainted it. "The care" (he says) "with which I have passed that picture, I flatter myself has now placed it in the first class of pictures from my pencil; at least, I have the satisfaction to find that to be the sentiment of the judges of painting who have seen it."

For this act of generosity, the Governors resolved to elect West one of their corporate body.

He appears to have been highly flattered by this compliment, and in acknowledging it, states that his professional duties will not permit him to become an

<sup>\*</sup> "And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

"And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

"And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name, receiveth me."