



The Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress,

(Dr. & Mrs Barclay J. Baron.)

The Sheriff and Mrs J. B. Butler,

and

The Citizens of Bristol

send you their

Heartly Good Wishes.



CLIFTON SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

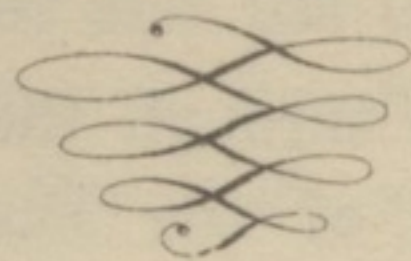
Christmas  
1916.

New Year  
1917.





# Our City.



**T**HERE was a small hogsback between the two rivers—the Avon and the Frome—scarcely more than two stones-throw in width, as may be seen from the middle of Union Street and the top of Bridge Street, or from St. John's Arch to Bristol Bridge, and in length from Castle Street to Clare Street, scarcely a quarter of a mile in all, and then losing itself in the marshes. This hogsback became the site of the ancient and famous City of Bristol, a city which has played a foremost part in the building of this great Empire.

The site was chosen as it was easy of defence. Its origin comes down from the misty days when legend and history were so often blended. Ricart, our early chronicler, tells of two Britons, Bryn and Beli—sons of an Earl of Cornwall—who led an army of Britons and giants who sacked and burnt Rome B.C. 391.

Here are Ricart's words: "Aftir they had this doon, the saide two brethern retorned home in to this lande of Grete Bretain with their Bretonnes, and dwellid here







to gider in grete joye. And then Brynne first founded and billed this worshipfull towne of Bristul, that now is Bristowe, and set it upon a litell hill, that is to say bitwene Seint Nicholas Yate, Seint Johnes Yate, Seint Leonardes Yate and the Newe Yate."

Such is the old tradition told by Ricart in 1497. This famous old Brynne or Brennus, with his rugged features, may be seen to this day, side by side with his brother, above St. John's Gate in Broad Street, though where the builders of the Church picked up the scarred and grim old statues tradition fails to tell.

Shafts of light break through the mists of legend and story with the coming of the Roman. He had built beautiful temples around the beloved "waters of the Sun," and soon one of his famous roads, straight and direct over Lansdown, passing just under Kelston roundtop, reached to the military camp on Clifton Down, which had the twin camp of Stokeleigh across the river. That Bristol was a Roman town seems clear from the fact that so many Roman coins have been scooped up by the dredger from the old bed of the River Avon; and there are other proofs.

Bristol citizens, from the earliest times, claimed privileges and rights enjoyed by Roman municipalities. For instance, a Roman citizen claimed exemption from "portorium," a toll levied on imported and exported goods, a right which the sturdy Burgesses of Bristol claimed, oft and again, in after times when they refused to pay "toll, custom or passage," from having enjoyed the privilege from time immemorial.

Another Roman right was the power to mint money, and so we find Bristol silver pennies in the reign of the Saxon King Ethelred the Unready. They may have been made long prior to this reign. Yet, again, Roman law denied strangers to live within the gates. Bristol only allowed residence for forty days.



After the Romans withdrew, Bristol steadily grew. It was a busy hive of industry and commercial activity. Its people cheapened hides with the Easterlings, and imported foreign wines, and Kemble, the Saxon historian, names it the chief provincial town in the third century. So the City grew. In the little port hidden behind the great gorge were nurtured a hardy race of adventurers, famous seamen, great merchants—a virile race of men, and long before Norman William won the battle of Hastings, there was busy traffic up and down the River Avon.

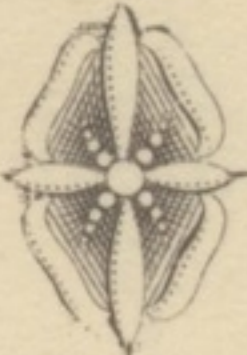
The trade increased and the City flourished. William of Malmesbury, writing in the first half of the twelfth century, recites in his Chronicle, when writing of the Vale of Gloucester, this striking passage about Bristol: "In this same valley is a very celebrated town by name Bristowe, in which is a port, a resort of ships coming from Ireland, Norway and other countries beyond sea, lest a region so unfortunate in native riches should be destitute of foreign wealth."

Here is another illustration of Bristol's growth and importance as a port: when Edward the Third, in 1346, asked his ports for ships and men to aid him in his French wars, London replied with 24 ships and 662 men, Bristol with 22 ships and 600 men, while Liverpool could only offer one barque and 6 men.

Bristol's trade reached a high level in the next century. I quote from *Town Life in the Fifteenth Century* "There were none who surpassed the merchants of Bristol—men who had made their town the chief depot for the wine trade of Southern France, a staple for leather, lead, tin, and the great mart for fish of the Channel, and for the salt trade of Brittany; whose cloth and leather were carried to Denmark to be exchanged for stock-fish, and to France and Spain for wine; who, as early as 1420, made their way by compass to Iceland, and whose vessels were the first to enter the Levant."







Bristol is wonderfully rich in Charters. The Plantaganet Kings seem to have taken a keen delight in visiting the City and granting boons to the citizens.

Some of the chief are these: Henry the Second began it, perhaps because of happy days in boyhood when he lived here. He confirmed the "immemorial rights." John defined the Freeman's privileges, and also, in 1216, allowed the burgesses to choose a Mayor. London was granted the right but a year before. From 1256 we could elect a Coroner. Our Recorder dates from 1344. Edward the Third, in 1373, made us a County, with jurisdiction over the Severn as far as the Steep Holme and Flat Holme. We have had a Sheriff from 1373, a Town Clerk from 1409, and Lord High Steward from 1540; and then, when Henry the Eighth visited Thorne, he said, "This is now but the Towne of Bristowe, I will make it a City."

The latter half of the Fifteenth and the Sixteenth Centuries is the golden era in the story of the City. Bristol then grew great men, keen traders, daring seamen, and big-hearted, pious merchants. They sent their ships to all the ports of the known world, founded schools, and reared churches of eminent beauty.

It was in the Fifteenth Century that Canynge, the rich merchant, finished that wondrous poem in stone, St. Mary Redcliffe.

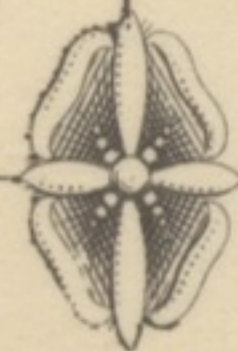
At that time Bristolians were restless discoverers. John Jay, in 1480, went away in search for the New Brazils and far Cathay. In May, 1497, John Cabot and his three sons, with eighteen Bristol seamen, in the little ship "Matthew," sailed away westward, and discovered Newfoundland. John Guy, a Bristolian, was the first Governor. Robert Thorne, in 1527, sent two ships to find the Northwest Passage; one was wrecked, the other, daunted by ice, returned. Fearless Martin Pring reached Virginia in 1603, and William Penn sailed from here to found Pennsylvania.



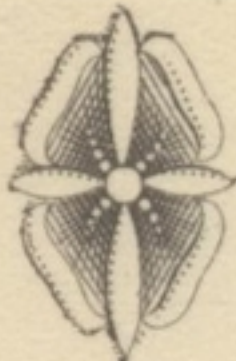
The Merchant Venturers' Society, founded in 1552, fostered home industries ; and later, with kindred societies, greatly aided our wondrous Queen Elizabeth in clipping the wings of the wily German, who for centuries had enjoyed privileges at the expense of our own manufacturers and traders.

While these broad-minded, generous old merchants were gathering wealth, they often remembered the children, and so we find Thorne founding the Grammar School in 1532. The inscription round the quaint old portrait at the Council House, says : " I am called a thorn ; the glory be given to God who giveth the good things which the Thorne dispenses to the poor." Carr, in 1586, left money to found the Queen Elizabeth School for boys ; Whitson, in 1627, founded the School for our sweet Red Maids ; and then, as the keystone of the fair arch of generous loving benefactors, came, a century later, our glorious Edward Colston, who, in his gifts, excelled them all.

We are rich in gifted men : painters and poets, sculptors, statesmen and historians. Sir Thomas Lawrence and William Müller, painters, and Bailey, the sculptor, of the world renowned " Eve at the Fountain," were born here. At the corner of Broad and Corn Streets was the shop of Cottle, the publisher of the early poems, and the friend of Coleridge, Southey (born in Wine Street), and Wordsworth. The two former married sisters in St. Mary Redcliffe, the church so closely connected with the marvellous boy genius Chatterton, " the sleepless soul that perished in his pride," of whom Dr. Johnson said, " It is wonderful how the whelp has written such things." Of historians, we have had Hakluyt, the learned Churchman, Macaulay and Hume. The historian of Rome was clerk to Michael Miller, at 16, Queen Square. He dared to correct his master's English, The angry merchant said, " I have made £20,000 by my English ; I won't have it mended." So his clerkship ended. Daniel Defoe lodged at the " Star," in Cock and Bottle Lane, and it is still there. Here he met Alexander Selkirk, and from their talks came *Robinson Crusoe*.







Looking through the gates of the Corn Exchange we can almost hear the echo, from the hustings, of the lofty, burning eloquence of Edmund Burke, our greatest M.P., and on the bronze pillars in front—the three century old Bristol nails—merchants counted the money to pay for their purchases, hence came the world-renowned saying, "Paying down on the nail."

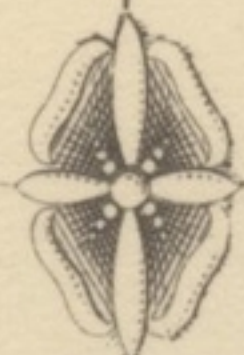
It has been a joy to pen these brief notes for our wounded heroes. The words are but few, but the mines are rich, so when peace once more reigns I hope to-day's welcome guests will come, oft and again, to enjoy the story, romance and beauty of this, our beloved City.

*J. H. Reed*  
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*Council House,  
Bristol.*

*Boxing Day, 1916*







## The Answer.

“Tell me, Soldier, tell me, Seaman,  
Why you look so blithe and gay,  
When your wives are weeping round you,  
When your sweethearts bid you stay ?

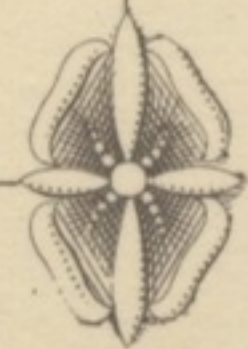
When you fight through mud and snow,  
When you keep the sea's high way,  
When there's death where'er you go,  
—Tell me why you look so gay ?”

Answered Soldier, answered Seaman,  
As they flung their lives away,  
“When the nation's heart is calling,  
Who could doubt ? or who could stay ?”

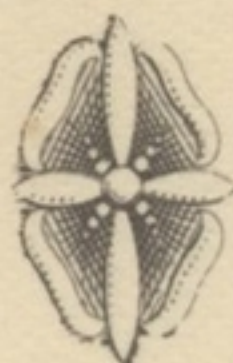
*Red. E. Weatherly*

*Bristol.*

*Boxing Day, 1916*







# Boxing Day Entertainment,

DECEMBER 26th, 1916.

TO

## Sick and Wounded Soldiers

of His Britannic Majesty's Empire,

Now in Bristol Hospitals,

BY

THE LORD MAYOR AND CITIZENS OF BRISTOL.

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### PROGRAMME.

First Part, 2.30 to 3.30,

BY

THE BRISTOL ROYAL ORPHEUS GLEE SOCIETY.

Conductor: Mr. GEORGE RISELEY.

INTERVAL FOR TEA, 3.30 to 4.0.

### PROGRAMME.

Second Part, 4.30 to 5.30,

BY

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE INQUIRY BUREAU.

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THE BAND

OF

THE 1ST BATT. GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

will play during the Arrival of the Guests,  
and in the Tea Interval.

*By kind permission of Major Ingram, Commanding Depot,  
Horfield, Bristol.*

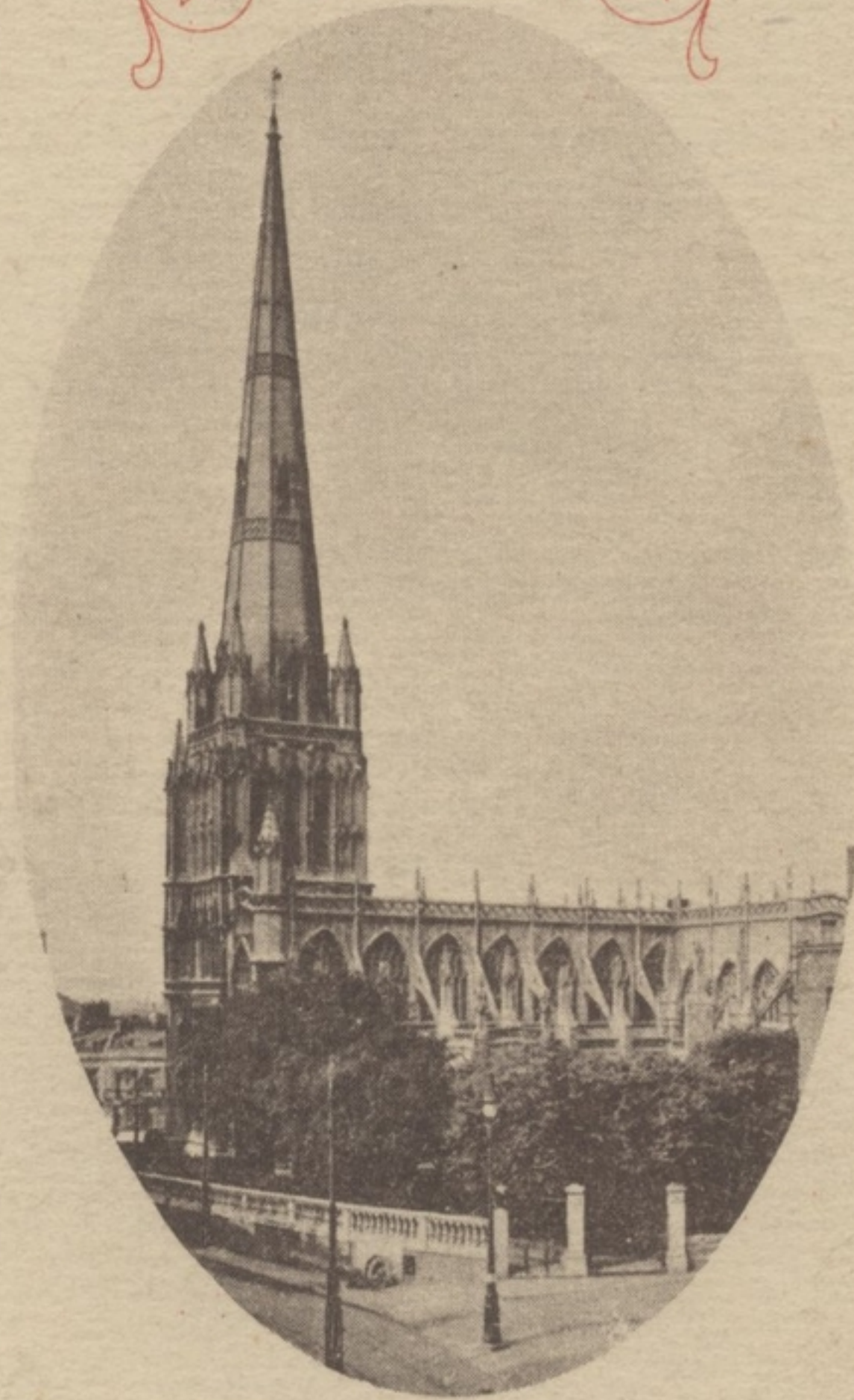
The Transport of the Guests, and the arrangement of the Musical Programme have, at the request of the Lord Mayor, the Sheriff and the Committee, been carried out by the Inquiry Bureau, a voluntary organisation officially acting for the 2nd Southern General Hospital and Beaufort War Hospital and their Auxiliary and Subsidiary Hospitals.

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The Lord Mayor's Committee has arranged for the distribution in hospital of a gift to all those patients who, by nature of their wounds or sickness, are unable to be present at this gathering.







ST. MARY REDCLIFFE.



ARC No. 1445 (3)

E.S. & A. ROBINSON, LTD., BRISTOL.