

CHARITY COMMISSION REPORT 1838

[1839 [163] 32--Part V. Report of the commissioners appointed in pursuance of an act of Parliament made and passed in the 5th and 6th years of King William the 4th, c. 71, intituled, "an act for appointing commissioners to continue the inquiries concerning charities in England and Wales, until the first day of March one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven." (London, 1838)

PARISH OF HATHERNE.

UNKNOWN DONOR'S CHARITY.

The origin of this charity is unknown. The earliest deed relating to it in possession of the parish officers is an indenture, dated the 21st day of January 1653, and made between Anthony Crosen and two other persons of the first part, Thomas Walmsley and three other persons of the second part, and John Major and William Major of the third part, whereby, after reciting that by a deed-poll, dated the 15th day of June 1616, under the hands and seals of certain persons, certain lands and hereditaments in Hatherne, which had been given for the profit and good of the parishioners and inhabitants of Hatherne, were conveyed to the parties thereto of the first part, and several others, then deceased, for the purposes aforesaid,—it was witnessed that the said parties thereto of the first part did convey the same hereditaments by the description of one messuage, two crofts, and one yard land, to the use of themselves and the parties of the second part, and their heirs and assigns, upon the trusts declared in the aforesaid deed-poll.

In another appointment, however, of new trustees, dated the 1st of February 1713, the property belonging to the charity was described to consist of two messuages and several pieces of land in the open fields of Hatherne, containing 22 acres, and the right of common for three cows and 20 sheep; and it was thereby declared that the rents and profits thereof should be applied for the use of the church of Hatherne, as the major part of the trustees should think fit.

Subsequently the open fields in Hatherne were inclosed, when there was allotted to the trustees, in lieu of the former lands, two closes in a place called Soar Cliffhills, containing 16A. 3R., and one other close in a place called the Hook, containing one acre.

From 1713 until 1808 the rents and profits of the estates were solely applied for the repairs of the church; but in consequence of the opinion of counsel, to whom the matter was referred, being that the trusts of the deed of 1653 should be adhered to, it was declared, in an appointment of new trustees, executed in the latter year, that the rents and profits should be employed for the common profit and good of all the parishioners and inhabitants of the town of Hatherne.

None of the early deeds contain any declaration as to the mode of appointing new trustees; but the invariable custom has been for the survivors to appoint them. The last appointment was executed in January 1833, by which 12 new trustees were appointed, all of whom were still living at the time of the Inquiry in June 1836.

The property now belonging to the charity consists of five cottages, with gardens, and 20A. 1R. 19P., in the parish of Hatherne, and a small piece of land, which, on the inclosure of Charnwood Forest, was allotted to the trustees in lieu of all their rights upon it.

The cottages are in the occupation of five persons, as tenants from year to year, at several rents, amounting to 14*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*

The land in Hatherne is let in small pieces to several yearly tenants for 39*l.* 3*s.* a-year, and the allotment in Charnwood Forest is let for 1*l.* 5*s.* a-year.

The total annual income, amounting to 55*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*, is disposed of as follows:—

£5 is paid to the master of a school in the parish for instructing in writing 10 poor boys, who are selected by the trustees.

£6 is annually applied in apprenticing one or two poor boys of the parish.

£1 is allowed for the expense of a dinner to the tenants when the rents are paid.

And the remainder, amounting to about 40*l.*, after deducting the expense of repairing the cottages, is generally expended by the trustees in purchasing calico, which is distributed by them in the month of March, in quantities varying between 6 and 14 yards, amongst all the poor persons with families, belonging to, and residing in the parish, who are not in the receipt of parochial relief. Occasionally, however, a part of the residue has been expended in purchasing coals or flour or for other charitable purposes.

An account of the receipts and expenditure has been very regularly kept for a long series of years. This is done by one of the trustees, who is appointed by the others the receiver of the rents, and treasurer.

The accounts are examined and signed every year by the other trustees, who have an annual meeting in the month of March for that purpose, when the boys to be apprenticed are also selected.

At the last settlement of the accounts in March 1836 there was a balance of 56*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* in the hands of the treasurer; but previous to the Inquiry 40*l.* of that sum had been expended in the purchase of calico.

RALPH PRATT'S CHARITY.

Ralph Pratt, by Will, dated the 19th day of September 1607, gave unto the parson and churchwardens of Hatherne an annuity of 26*s.* 8*d.*, to be issuing out of a piece of land in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey, in the county of Surrey, adjoining upon Roperlane, parcel of the premises devised by him to his son, Jacob Pratt, and to be paid yearly on the feast of All Saints, and to be disposed of by the said parson and churchwardens for the only use and relief of the poor people of Hatherne for ever; and the testator declared that, if the said parson and churchwardens should not, yearly, without fraud or covin, distribute the same annuity for the purpose before limited, or should not, upon convenient warning, make a true relation in writing to his heirs or executors, from time to time, for ever, of the distribution thereof accordingly, that then the said annuity of 26*s.* 8*d.* should be no longer payable, and the bequest thereof should be void.

The land charged with the above annual payment, formerly known by the name of White's Grounds, situate in St. George's-fields, in the parish of Bermondsey, is now entirely covered with houses.

It appears that the whole of the property was sold in 1804 in 15 lots; and that at the time of the sale it was agreed between the vendor and purchasers that the lots 8 and 9 should be solely subject to the payment of the rent-charge, and that the purchaser of them should enter into a covenant to indemnify the purchasers of the other lots from any liability in respect of that sum.

Lot 8 comprised the houses Nos. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, situate on the east side of White's Grounds; and lot 9 comprised a house, situate on the east side of Gun-alley and on the west side of White's Grounds. The whole of those houses are now in the possession of Mr. George Duerr, by whom the rent-charge is regularly paid.

As the remainder of the property, however, on which the annuity was charged by the testator is still liable for the payment of it, notwithstanding the deed of indemnity, it is thought right to subjoin the following description of it:—

Lot 1 comprised the Rose and Crown public-house, with a detached building and skittle-ground, situate in Dog-row, Artillery-street.

Lot 2 comprised a dwelling-house and workshops, and another house with a skittle-ground, both situate in Dog-row aforesaid, and sold to Richard Fry.

Lot 3 comprised the houses, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, situate on the east side of White's Grounds.

Lots 4 and 10 comprised two houses on the east side of White's Grounds, sold to John Miles.

Lot 5 comprised a house on the south side of Gun Alley and the east side of White's Grounds, sold to George Chaumert.

Lot 6 comprised a house on the east side of White's Grounds, sold to Joseph Hooker.

Lot 7 comprised a house on the east side of White's Grounds, sold to Francis Duerr.

Lots 11 and 14 comprised two houses in Crucifix Lane, sold to William Clarke.

Lots 12 and 13 comprised five houses in Crucifix Lane, sold to Francis Deacon, and

Lot 15 comprised a house on the West side of White's Grounds, sold to Stephen Smith.

The rent-charge is received by the rector of Hatherne, and is distributed by him at his discretion, either in money or clothes, amongst the poorest inhabitants of the parish. No written account, however, is kept of the receipts or disbursements.

THE REV. THOMAS ALLSOP'S CHARITY.

On the table of benefactions placed in the church, it is recorded that the Rev. *Thomas Allsop* gave by Will an annuity of 1*l.* 4*s.* to the poor of this parish, which he charged upon an estate in the parish of Royston, and directed the same to be distributed as follows:—six penny loaves every Lord's-day, eight penny loaves on the 29th day of May, eight penny loaves on the 5th day of November, and eight penny loaves on Christmas-day.

The estate so charged by the testator consists of a farm, situate near Uttoxeter, which, until lately, was in the possession of Mr. Adams, but, since his death, has become divided between his two heirs-at-law. This division of the property has caused a difficulty in collecting the above sum, each of the proprietors endeavouring to throw the onus of the payment on the other; and, at the time of the Inquiry (June 1836), it had not been received for four years. We have since, however, under the 20th section of the 5th and 6th William IV., cap. 71, furnished the minister and churchwardens with a power of attorney to receive the rent-charge; and it is apprehended there will be no difficulty in collecting it in future.

It will be observed that the value of the bread directed to be annually distributed exceeds the amount of the sum given for the purchase of it. When the rent-charge was paid, however, six penny loaves (an additional sum of 2*s.* being provided for that purpose out of the poor-rates) were distributed every Sunday, by the churchwardens, amongst the poorest persons of the parish who had attended divine service.

RICHARD ALLSOP'S AND BENSKINS'S CHARITIES.

It is also stated on the above-mentioned table of benefactions, that *Richard Allsop*, by Will, gave the sum of 10*l.*, and directed the interest thereof to be expended in 12 penny loaves of bolted bread, to be given to the poor families of this parish, on Christmas-eve, at the discretion of the minister for the time being, especially to those poor who frequent the divine ordinances the most; and that — *Benskins*, by his Will, left the sum of 15*l.* to the poor of this parish, the interest of which was to be distributed at the discretion of the minister.

Both these sums were invested, in 1830, in the saving's bank at Loughborough, and 16*s.* 6*d.* is annually allowed for interest on them. That sum is expended on the purchase of 16 twelvepenny loaves and one sixpenny loaf, which are distributed by the minister and churchwardens, on Christmas-eve, amongst poor widows and widowers of the parish, those persons being preferred who are the most regular in their attendance at church. A list is made and kept of the persons receiving the bread.

BARTHOLOMEW HICKLING'S GIFT.

Upon reference to the Report of this charity, in the parish of Loughborough, in p. 393, it will be found that Hatherne is one of the several places to which the testator directed a Bible to be annually sent. It appears that this has not been always attended to, although latterly a Bible has been more frequently sent than formerly. It has been usually received by the guardian of the poor, and given to some relation or connexion of his own.