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ST. CECILIA COMMEMORATION IN ST. PAUL'S.

By the visit of the Worshipful Company of Musicians to St. Paul's on Monday afternoon another link has been forged between the Metropolitan Cathedral and the life of the City of London. There is no more interesting feature of the City than the existence of its ancient Guilds and Companies; and that they show a marked tendency to come back to St. Paul's, their ancient and proper home, led by the Worshipful Company of Musicians, is witness to the Church-life among their members, and evidence of the affection in which St. Paul's is held. Last year was the first of what we may now confidently look forward to as an annual service. The feature of this year's service was the unveiling of a stained-glass window in the north transept before Evensong. The window is distinctly an addition to the stained glass in the Cathedral. It is rich in colour, while at the same time it admits the maximum amount of light—a most essential feature. Those who have executed the work are, on the whole, to be congratulated on their production, and the thanks of all who love St. Paul's are due to Mr. C. T. D. Crews, who has given the window. Mr. Crews's little speech—in which he offered his gift and committed it to the care and charge of the Dean and Chapter—was of the happiest description, and testified eloquently to his devoted Churchmanship. The Archdeacon of London's history of the saint was most interesting, though, at the risk of being longer, he might have added the fact that more recent excavations have revealed the existence of the entire house which was undoubtedly the dwelling of St. Cecilia beneath the church.

At the unveiling ceremony were present the Dean (who said the first part of the short Office), the Archdeacon of London, the Sub-Dean (the Rev. N. M. Morgan-Brown), the Succentor (the Rev. S. J. Childs Clarke), and Minor Canon McOheane, together with a large number of the Musicians' Company, who remained for Evensong afterwards. The music was in every way worthy of St. Paul's. The setting of the Canticles used was that of Dr. G. J. Bennett (of the Company of Musicians), and the anthem, Dr. Wesley's "Ascribe unto the Lord." These Sir George Martin personally conducted. The address of Mr. Crews was as follows:—

"In the name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, to the honour and glory of God, and in the faith of the Communion of Saints, remembering more especially the singular grace and virtue bestowed upon the Virgin and Martyr, St. Cecilia, we offer this window in humble thanksgiving for the many mercies which have been vouchsafed to the Worshipful Company of Musicians in this City. And more especially we would praise God, that of His goodness He has put it into our hearts to unite ourselves once more in piety and worship with the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, the mother of this Diocese, and our own spiritual home. And we most humbly beseech Him to grant that we, who are bound together here in these sacred ties, may have our fellowship with the saints in glory hereafter, through His merits alone, in whose name we would dedicate this offering, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. I hereby ask the Dean and Chapter of this Cathedral to accept the custody of this gift, which I thus humbly desire to make to Almighty God and His holy Church—praying now and always that God Almighty will bless this house dedicated to His honour, and will vouchsafe to hear the prayers and accept the praises of all those who minister and all who worship here."

The Archdeacon of London, in accepting the window on behalf of the Dean and Chapter, related the facts known of the life and martyrdom of St. Cecilia, the latter being fixed by Bishop Lightfoot as probably taking place between 177 and 180. In conclusion he said:—

"The connection of St. Cecilia's name with music is easily understood. It was in 821 that Pope Paschal believed he discovered her body. For its future protection he built on to her church a monastery, to which he gave a handsome endowment, to provide that the religious should guard the bodies of the saint and her companions, and chant the praises of God round her tomb day and night. Such a continuous service of song could not but kindle a legend-loving imagination, and the story grew that often, while the Saviour's praises arose in vocal music, Cecilia's own instrumental accompaniment was heard. In England, at the latter part of the seventeenth century, her day (November 22nd) was found convenient for holding an annual festival that was set on foot for the encouragement of music. This celebration brought the lyric-poet also into requisition, and odes for St. Cecilia's Day were annually offered to the public. All the rest of these contributions, however, were thrown into the shade by the genius of Dryden and Pope. We rejoice that you, the Company of Musicians, have revived the musical memoirs of St. Cecilia by an annual service at St. Paul's. And we congratulate you that the pious liberality of your Worshipful Master enables you to dedicate this beautiful memorial alike of the saintly Roman lady, and of your association here. We trust that God will continue to bless the efforts of this Cathedral for the celebration of His praises as perfectly as they can be done by human voice and hand. And may your own cultivation of the delights of music, and your encouragement of its study by others receive the grace and favour of the Giver of every good and perfect gift."