

An account of the Bridgwater Pageant, transcribed from the Bridgwater Mercury, 22 June 1927, with lists of the performers in each episode.

THE EPISODES FROM THE DAYS OF KING JOHN.

THE PROLOGUE

Librettist: Major E. Cely Trevilian;
Gangers: Miss Nicholls and Miss Balls.

“Just now we strove to show the start of life.
How through His ordered channels comes to men
The Will and Word of God; for true it is
That only through our love of town and land
And friends and kinsmen can we come at last
to Service; and through Service back to God.”

These words, spoken in her final speech by the Spirit of the Bridge, convey the underlying idea of the Prologue to the Pageant. In those far-off ages, long before Bridgwater or even Man were thought of, come the spirits of the river and spirits of the sea, entering into combat for supremacy, and as the ceaseless war is being waged there comes the Archangel Michael with his attendant powers and angels, who commands sea and river to sink into rest, telling them of the coming of Man, who should master them in days to come.

Then enter a family of lake dwellers, who, finding water and food, set up their home. The spirits of the river and the sea sing their Song of Obedience, and then dance a stately measure, The Man and the Woman become alarmed, and are about to throw their baby to the gods for sacrifice, when Michael comforts them and tells them that the child shall be great, shall tend the banks and shores and quell the waters that they fear.

Then the Spirit of the Bridge makes her last speech, in which she declares that

"Thus, or in some such fashion long ago
Came to this place our forebears,"

and then proceeds to pass in review the incidents of Bridgwater's history: of the granting of the Town's Charter by King John, the sailors of Elizabeth's days and

“Monmouth and the mighty Blake, and all the rest.
Each in his habit as he walked these streets,
Building Bridgwater as we know it now.

of the. days of the airmen from Zoyland, to distant Austral shore – in which things and Chedzoy messengers circling the world are all seen the Hand of God. A fanfare by the heralds concludes the episode.

Performers:

Michael the Archangel: Mr. C. Babbage

Powers and Angels: Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. G. Bond, Miss R. Buffett, Mrs. T. Sully, Mrs Fisher, Miss G. White, Miss Clench, Miss D. Denman, Miss Evis

Parrett: Miss V. Warne

Spirits of Streams : - Mrs V. Tout, Misses D. Bradford, M. Bond, P. Meaker, M Pollard, B. Pollard, M. Brown, A. Davis, R. Godden, G. Hill, M. House, M. Smith, M. Swanon

Spirits of the Moors : - V. Bacon, G. Collard, B. Croker, F. Godden, P. Fleetwood, H. Morris, L. Parkhouse, B. Sharham, H. Swanson, M. Westcott

Spirits of Springs : -B. Body, M. Body, K. French, P. Michell, B. Price, H. Pople. M. Rainey, N. Reed, D. Squibbs, A. Townsend

Spirits of Woods : - D. Foster, M. Fry, P. Menhenick, M. Mockridge, M. Runnells, V. White

Neptune : - Mr. G. White;

Spirits of the Sea : - J. Anderson, I. Balls, E. Bulpin, G. Biddick, R. Coles, B. Cross, H. Curtis, D. Davis, J. Davis, K. Dawe, S. Evett, K. Fleetwood, M. Fleetwood, B. Fitzgerald, M. Gibbins, S. Grimshaw, M. Hargreaves, J. Hooper, W. Horsey, V. Montacute, K. Pearce, K. Randle, G. Roe, P. Roe, M. Salter, D. Smith, A. Venton, M. Wevell, M. Wilkins, M. Young, R. P. Baker, A. D. Clayton, H. P. Harding. E. T. McMillan, K. R. Petherbridge, R. F. Shapter, F. J. White

Tritons : - B. F. Clark, F. Day, T. Moore, H. Ottery, H. A. Routley, K. Stacey

A Man : - Mr. R. Buffett

A Woman : - Miss Queenie Buffett

A Child : - Michael Milton

KING JOHN VISITS BRIDGWATER CASTLE, 1204

Librettist: T. Bruce Dilks

Gangers: Mrs Wallis, Mr F. Welland

As is fitting, the first episode is devoted to the personalities of King John and William Briwer, the founder of the borough. At least it is so nominally. In fact, King John's jester really dominates the scene. We are introduced to the middle of the new-born borough, and see all sorts of medieval folk strolling across the arena. There is, to begin with, the oldest inhabitant, who can remember King Stephen, and has no memory for anything but the battle of the Standard. There are priests and lame beggars, boys playing at soldiers, men – at – arms, a turf-woman with her donkey, and ladies from the Castle on horseback. Much activity in fact.

But the King's jester enters with his boon companions, the giant and the dwarf, and all becomes jollity and bustle. He is the life of the crowd, and keeps everybody laughing and amused by his antics. He commandeers the boys, and they go off to see the bore when it comes up the river. Then arrive the grandees of the town—the seneschals of the Gild and the reeves, the bailiff, and the vicar, with prominent burgesses and their wives. They have come to greet the King, whom in their hearts they fear and detest. While they wait they become the objects of the fool's gibes and

jesters. At length their patience is rewarded as the cavalcade from the Castle rides across the arena. Here we see the King, whose reputation for cruelty and wickedness is beyond that of any other sovereign of England. Here is the wise councillor and judge, who founded the borough. The ladies follow, and after them come falconers, attendants, and servants of all kinds. The King unwillingly pulls up his horse before the seneschals and receives their compliments and a present of wine, a ceremony which they are only too pleased to find ended. Then he rides off to North Petherton forest for whatever sport it may afford him.

Performers:

King John: Mr. J. M. Boltz

William Briwer, Baron: Captain J. L. Bles

Lady Briwer : Mrs. J. L. Bles

The Ladies Grace and Isabel Briwer: Miss E. T. Denman, Miss M. A. Edney

Grooms in Waiting: Miss F. L. Gye, Miss S. Brown

Seneschals: Messrs. H. Corder and W. Belcher

Reeves, Messrs: M. Page and Nurton

The King's Jester: Mr. Frank Welland

The Vicar: Rev. Preb. C. Bazell

Clerk: Mr. W. Crossman

Baker: Mr. A. Mansfield

Blacksmith: Mr. C. L. Burton

Swineherd: Mr F .Snow

Farm Labourer: Mr. W. Giles

Old Inhabitant: Mr. W. P. Smith

Armourer: Mr. C. Burton

Giant: Mr. W. Bell.

Dwarf: Master Sealey.

Turf Seller: Mrs. W. Deacon (Mayoress of Bridgwater).

Burgesses' Wives. Etc.: Mesdames Dossen, Webb, H. Brown, Way, Belcher, L. Palmer. F. Welland, Misses Waddon and Broom.

Country Women: Mesdames Wynne, Alexander, Bray, Boltz, Misses M. Carter, M. Clifford, M. Warne, and F. Robinson

Townswomen: Mesdames Westgate, Highman, Hill, Farrance and W. Collard, Misses Valentine, Rawlings, Bray, Holcombe, D. Moore, D. M. Gibbins, Thorne, and A. Farrance.

Children : -

Boys: H. Burge, A. Burton, J. Burge, G Chedzoy, W. Chedzoy, A. Ryder, S Glavin, L Webb, R. J. Bricknell, W. D. Clarke, D. Collard. and Arthur Ryder

Girls: Betty Cummins, A. Hiatt, B. Wynne, H. Hiatt, Eileen Cummins, Gwen Dyke, E. Hiatt, Ella Cummins, B. Godfrey, D Godfrey, I. Russell, Joyce Gedye, Celia Gedye, D. Mills, R. Mills, P. McInnes, J. McInnes, Peggy Webb

Men-at-Arms. Cross-Bow-Men, etc: Messrs. Waddon, C. Hooper, L Dossou., H. J. Sherman, W.

Frampton, R Burton, J. Farrance, J. Dickinson, Lin Welland, J. Ockford, W Sheppard, H. Mansfield, W. Prew, C. Mitchell, R. Willett

Servitors: J. Hawkins, W. Lawler, D. Wynne, A. Farrance, P. Smith, .. E. Bunston, A. V. Hook

THE RIOTS OF 1381

Librettist: Mr. T. Bruce Dilks

Ganger: Mr. K Welland

Nearly two centuries have passed, and we find ourselves in the old town in circumstances very different from those which characterised the first episode. There we were in the midst of gaiety, with only the cloud of King John's sombre personality to darken the scene. Here we are in the midst of terror and the menace of tragedy. People are hanging about, and do not know what is going to happen next. The shouts and cries of rioters are heard in the distance, and then a man runs up to the two Friars, who are discussing the ominous situation. He is a clerk, who, because he is the man who draws up the parchments the people hate and dread, is the object of their unreasoning malice. A friar changes his habit with him in order to conceal his identity, and directs him to a place of refuge.

Then a boy runs across shouting that the mob is coming to attack the Hospital of the Augustinians in Eastover. And soon the angry seething crowd appears, headed by Thomas Engelby and the vicar, Nicholas Frompton. The Master and Brethren of the Hospital leave their dwellings, and advance to meet them, for they fear as much for the safety of their beloved buildings as for their own persons. An angry dispute follows. The Master refuses to give up certain parchments which the rioters demand. The Friars intervene.

In the end, in order to save the situation, the Canons reluctantly yield, and two of the brothers go to the Hospital to fetch the documents. A fire has been kindled, and on the return of the brethren, the hated documents are consigned to the flames. Meanwhile, another element of the general unrest enters on the scene. A band of peasants, headed by a clerk of the John Ball type enters, chanting their doggerel rhymes, and carrying a dead rabbit on a pole, symbol of the wrongs they endure. Prison-breaking was one of the features of the rising of 1381, and our Bridgwater mob marches off, first to Sydenham and East Chilton, and then to Ilminster, where they break into the county gaol. On their return they are carrying impaled on spears the head of the late warden, and that of Walter Baron, of Chilton. These they fix on the Bridge as a dreadful warning to their enemies.

Performers:

William Cammel: Master of Saint John's Hospital, Mr. W. Biffen

Brother Robert: Mr A. L. Parker

Friar John Somer of the Bridgwater House, a celebrated Astronomer: Mr. T. J. Paddick

Friar William Aunger: also of the Bridgwater House, and later its Warden: Mr. H. Sealey

Thomas Duffel, a Clerk: Mr. C. Mitchell

Leaders of the Rioters:

Nicholas Frompton: Vicar of Bridgwater: Mr. Douglas W. Fackrell

Thomas Ingelby, a Yeoman: Mr. W. C. Collins
Adam Brugge: Mr. J. Denner
John Blake, a Scrivener: Mr. R. Willett
Piers Gleeman, Leader of the Peasantry: Mr. W. Hawkes
Mother of Walter Baron: Miss R. Waddon
Wife of Walter Baron: Mrs. F. Welland
Wife of Hugh Lavenham: Mrs. L. Palmer
Dame Lavenham's Companion: Miss M. A. Deacon
Serving Woman: Miss M. G. Soper
Canons of Saint Johns Hospital: Messrs. L. T. Dight, J. Hamblin, B. Poles, S. Heal, R. Ryan, H. Jones, F. Gillard, and A. Jarvis
Rioters: Messrs. Frank Welland, H. J. Gay, A. H. Brown, A. G. Mansfield, J. Denner, L. Welland, H. Pole, R. Porter, D. Sharnan, T. Sharman, C. Jones, J. Ford, J. Baker, R. F. Blackmore, H. Fowler, K. Montacute, R. K. Bunston, A. V. Hook, S. T. Letherby, H. Phillips, W. S. Prew, F. Snow, W. B. Crossman, W. Smith, R. Burton, C. Burton, M. E. Page, A. Rossiter, H. P. Lockyer, H. J. Jennings, R. Parsons, R. Buttle, S. Harding, F. Podger, J. Wynne, D. Sharam, J. Clarke, C. R. Allen, J. H. Farrance, A. Bell, and W. F. J. Frampton and Masters W. Blake, K. Sheppard, D. H. Collard, R. J. Bricknell, P. H. Headford, R. Thomas, G. Biffen, A. Letheby, A. Broom, T. Biffen, L. Gibbins, J. R. Ockford, W. D. Clarke, C. Pither, C. Norman, J. D. Dickinson, R. J. Darch, F. Parsons, G. M. Fursland, R. G. Ash, H. R. Mansfield, R. Palmer, R. Slocombe, W. Lawler, .A. Gill, and F. H. Tapscott
Women of Bridgwater: Mesdames W. Fackrell, H. Broom, sen., Barnard, Randall, Paddick, C. Wills, sen., Ryder, W. Collard, Kitch, Slocombe, J. King, Towler, B. Gill, O. Cook, K. Wills, and Williams; and Misses M. Hill, J. Rendell, V. Evett, M. Evett, W. Evett, H. Broom, B. Logan, G. Biffin, V. Matthews, K. Matthews, E. Baker, E. White, K. White, M. Gibbins, P. Ashton, M. Lewis, A. Deacon, F. Kitch, K. Randell, M. Samways, B. Burge, R. Bond, B. Napper, P. Sealy, I. Chidgey, G. Chidgey, G. Harding, I. Slocombe, F. Jennings, P. Priddice, M. Clarke, D. Marks, and E. Harding
Boys of Bridgwater: Masters H. J. Barnett, A. R. Bricknell, V. Johns, H. Johns, D. F. Vaughan, J. T. B. Bowering, C. W. Holloway, A. J. Mansfield, R. P. Sharam and H. J. Winslade

FUNERAL OF SIR HUGH LUTTRELL, 1428

Librettist: Mr. Henry Corder
 Ganger: Mr. Corder.

Sir Hugh Luttrell, of Dunster, who held various important offices under the Crown in England and France as great seneschal of Normandy, seems to have died at Shaftesbury on the 21st of March, 1428. while on a visit to his daughter Joan, who was a Benedictine nun in the Abbey there. An entry in the family accounts is "for spices bought for the burial of the said Hugh," so that his body may have been embalmed for the journey by road to Dunster, where he is buried. On the way the procession passed through Bridgwater, where the town accounts show money expended on "torchis" at the funeral of Sir Hugh. It is therefore probable that the people of Bridgwater came out to do him honour, and this episode is arranged to show the scene. We have

the Vicar, John Colswayn, and choir of St. Mary's Church, the warden or prior of St John's Hospital, who at that time was John Wembdon; also the warden (name unknown) of the Greyfriars. We suppose that Joan, the nun, also rode over from Shaftesbury in the company of her brother, Tom Luttrell, the heir to the estates, followed by retainers in livery.

For the sake of completing the picture there is shown a family group from Dunster. The Dowager Lady Catherine (Beaumont) and two of her daughters have come over accompanied by their domestic chaplain, As the funeral procession passes through the town it is joined by various people—the churchwardens, John Tornour and John Cadesdon. The former and his daughter are seen, also Master John Ailward, Bailiff of the Commonalty, approaches with his wife and large family from their home at the old "Swan Inn," whilst the Luttrell ladies come out from the Castle gateway. The choir men are chanting the ancient "Plain song" music, of the "Dies Irae," while the bell of the Hospital is solemnly tolling.

Those taking part in the procession are:

Vicar of St. Mary's Church. John Colswayn: Rev. Seymour Berry

Cross bearer: Mr. J. H Palmer

Organist: Mr. F. Docksey

Verger: Mr. H. Burge

Bellringer: Master Burge

Members of choirs and scholars of schools

Master of St. John's Hospital. John Wembdon: Rev. Preb. C. Bazell

Augustinians: Messrs. L. T. Dight, R. Ryan, B. Poles, S Heal. H. Jones. F Gillard. C. Morris, J Hamblin

Warden .of the Grey Friars: Rev. E. de St. Croix:

Friar and six torch bearers

Following the "hearse," John Luttrell:. Miss E. Stuttaford

Sister Joan Luttrell: Miss Balls

Retainers: Rev. S Lano Coward, Mr J L. Bles, Mr. J. M Boltz, Miss D. Denman, Mr. R. Willett,

Luttrell group: Dowager Lady Luttrell: Miss D. Russell Gregg

Margaret Touchet, or Audley of Nether Stowey Castle. wife of John Luttrell, Esq: Mrs. J. L. Bles

Mrs. G. Bond and Mrs Cuznor

Chaplain: Mr. R. H. Corder

Church-warden, John Tornour: Mr. M. E. Page

Daughter: Miss M. Bond

John Cadesdon: Mr. Belcher

Bailiff of the Commonalty, John Ailward: Mr. H. Corder

Wife: Mrs. Llewellyn, sons, and daughters.

It is curious that the men of this scene whose names are recorded were all called "John."

The shield of arms on the pall is that of Sir Hugh Luttrell "or. a bend between six martlets,

within a bordure engrailed sable,” in the last respect differing from the usual Luttrell arms. John Luttrell and his wife wear heraldic cloaks of the Luttrell arms, the lady also an under dress of scarlet, and gold (gules fretty or) for Audley. The retainers are in black and gold with the Luttrell "martlet" as a badge.

ST. MATTHEW'S FAIR IN 1588

Librettist: Miss G. Nicholls
Ganger: Mr. J. Woodward.

Bridgwater in Fair time! We know it as it is in the post-war twentieth century. We are to have a glimpse of it as it was in the time of Good Queen Bess, when England had just freed herself from the menace of Spain, and could take her pleasures with a light heart.

First come the apprentices to set up their masters' stalls, at which the good wives of town and countryside will replenish their stocks of stuffs and spices. Children stray on to the fair ground, and their games are interrupted by the arrival of the strolling mountebanks and pedlars. A crowd of buyers and sellers has gathered before the Mayor arrives to declare the fair open.

This ceremony ended, a bustle of buying and selling begins, while in the foreground all the fun of the fair is soon going merrily forward. Sellers of gingerbread and manchets, toys and ballads, all have their following. Dancing bears and jugglers make sport, while the fiddler strikes up for a dance. Good ale and cider prove too strong for the heads of some of the revellers, and presently the officers of the fair conduct a couple of brawlers to the stocks.

One of the great events of the fair is the wrestling, in which local champions show their prowess under the patronage of the Mayor and neighbouring gentry. The Mayor in 1588 was Robert Blake, grandfather of the great seaman who was Bridgwater's most famous son. Mr. Popham, of Huntworth, was one of the members of Parliament for the borough that year, and he comes to grace the contest by his presence.

But the first match is interrupted almost before it is begun by the entrance of a cheering crowd, the escort of a party of seamen. Though the Spaniard was defeated in July, they are but now returned from a two months' chase of the fleeing remnants of the "Invincible Armada." During these months no certain news of their safety could be received. Their home-coming arouses strong emotion and a renewed sense of what defeat by Spain would have meant. Merrymaking gives place to a hymn of deliverance as the crowd follows the returned sailors and their friends to a service of thanksgiving at St. Mary's. and the fair field is left deserted.

Performers:

The Mayor (Mr. R. Blake): Mr. O. Symons

Town Clerk: Mr. C. F. Day

Mr. Popham, M.P., of Huntworth and his wife: Mr. F. Parr and Mrs. F. Parr

Aldermen: Mr. G. A. Barnett and Mr. A. Biddiscombe

Town Crier: Mr. E. Wadmore

Clerk of the Fair: Mr. A. Wevell

Assistant Clerk: Mr. Parfitt

Officers of Court of Pie Powder: Mr. H. Bradbeer and Mr. Pettipher

Revellers: Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Pond

A Fop: Mr. Chant

Wrestlers: Mr. Hooper, Mr. Vinnecombe, Mr. T. Bradbeer and Mr. O. Spender

Fiddler: Mr. W. I. Barnett

Ballad Seller: Mr. W. H. Clark

Hobby Horseman: Mr. W. O. Worman

Bear Ward: Mr. I. J. Maggs

Assistant: Frank Welsh

The Bear: Ronald Tucker

Pear Seller: Miss Main

Ginger-bread Seller: Miss Hendford

Apple Seller: Miss Vale, Mrs. Loxton and Miss Ashton

Bar Attendants: Mrs. W. Fry and Mrs. Cullingford

Gentry: Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Davies. Misses Roberts. Sawtell, Withycombe, Davey, Brawley, D. Brawley, Mrs. A. Biddiscombe, Joyce Sedgwick.

Country Folk: Mr. Padfield, Mrs. Hegarty, Mr. Smart, Misses Lidbury, Lukes, Wills, D Williams, Palmer, Prew, Harris, Hewett. Sear. Squibbs

Sailors: Messrs. A. Ballinger, H. Marks, H. Tredwin, C. Bond, S. King, R. Howe, C. Worman, J. Jarvis;

Town Folk: Mr. H. Morris, Miss Artus, Mr. and Mrs. Blight, Misses Beale, Huffett, Creedy. Gavler, Dart, Geen, Bax, Croker, May, Martin. Nurton, Smith, R. Baker, M. Nurton, Mr. A. Stowell, Willie Jarvis, Trevor Fry, Norman Fry, Mesdames Woodward, Gibbons, Poad, Dunsferd, Bailey, Joy, Jarvis, Kitch, C. Jennings, Fleetwood, Misses M. Nurton, Bryer, K. Croker, Wyatt, Miller, Boyce, L. Thomas, E. Addicott, Spearing, Yvonne Dunsford, Margaret Poad

Dancers: Misses Allibone, Benton, Bradford, Coles, Cozens, Cummings, Mrs. Ingram, Misses Jennings, Jones, Mitchell, Mrs. Palmer, Misses Sellick, Stoney, Waddon, Heal, Small, Carp, Brown, Durston. Price, Snelgrove, A. Smith, Worman, Stuckey, Brean, Shears, Marsh, See, Martin, Bembridge

Apprentices: Mervyn Hall, Walter Turner, Ray Holcombe, Frank Warren, Donald Peek, Cecil Shapter, Leonard Birt, W. Parsons, J Chidgey, H. Doughty, W. Jennings, R. Seymour, L Dart

Children in Singing-Games, etc. :

Girls: E. Priddle, A. Rossiter, N. Wevell, M. Sprake, K. Capon, B. Stone, M O'Brien, V. Palfrey, I. Palfrey, F. Burge, D. Collard, O. Hurford, K. Clarke, P. Richards, V. West, K. West, E. Montacute, K. Taylor, J. Priddice, .J. Biddiscombe, J. Walters, P. Beecher, M. Bamsey, P. Williams, P. Johns, M. Bown, E. Pry, D. Popham, T. Webber, D. Hobbs, A. Organ

Boys: S. Price. B. Redstone. F. Claydon, D. Heal, M. Beaker, E. Woodward, S. Clatworthy, L. Sprake, D. Sprake, C. Priddle, G. Fear, L. Chidgey, L. Ashford, E. Gibbons, G. Hodgson. L. Baker, N. Williams, F. Moucher, W. Collard, W. Evans, D. Matthews, K. Horsey,

M. Rawles, S. Lumber, B. Guias, T. Tucker, G. Turner, R. Durston, L. Selway, R. Napper, A. Hill

ADMIRAL BLAKE SCENES

Librettist: Mr. Maurice Page

Ganger: Mr. Cecil Babbage.

Two scenes depict Bridgwater's great man in his double character of "soldier and sailor too," and give a remarkably clear picture of the Admiral as he walked the streets of the old town. His mannerisms and foibles are acted, as well as the great qualities which place him so high among the heroes of England. At last we realise Blake, the man!

In the first scene Blake returns to Bridgwater after his long defence of Taunton against the Royalists. He is received with joy until he asks the Mayor for help from Bridgwater for those who had suffered so much for the cause in its neighbouring town. This is received without enthusiasm, and one of the local "Clubmen" threatens him with resistance (the Clubmen hated both parties). A reflection on Blake's personal appearance crates a stormy scene, which ends with the Mayor's offer to collect a handsome donation for Taunton.

The second scene shows Blake the Admiral worn with incessant fighting and exposure to the sea, returning to Bridgwater before setting forth on his last voyage. A skilfully drawn picture is given of Puritan Bridgwater, its pride in its great son, its maritime interests, its religious life, unctuous, quarrelsome but sincere, and its humour. Blake's farewell forms a moving and pathetic finish. The episode sums up the man - bluff and commanding, contemptuous of all mean things, genial and capable, a great public, servant, with an intense love for his native town.

Performers:

Robert Blake: Mr. M. B. Cuzner

An Ancient Man; Mr. Woodburn

A Man: Mr. L. H. Morgan

A Woman: Mrs. M. B. Cuzner

Leader of Clubmen: Mr. W. Thorne

Captain Bethell: Squadron-Leader Shepherd, R.A.F.

A Boy: Mr. H. R. Mansfield

A Boy: Mr. Eric Sheppard

Mayor of Bridgwater: Mr. S. B. Clements

Town Clerk: Mr. G. J. White

Corporal of Horse: Flying Officer C. J. Stone

First Townsman: Mr. J. Woodward

An Independent: Mr. F. Welland

A Sailor: Mr. H. G. Haggett

Ladies: Mesdames Bloodworth, Sawtell, Eames, Stone, Fisher, Ingram, G. White,

Misses Bloodworth, Millwright, Dyer, Rees, Porter, Baker, Boltz, Frampton, Nation, Tottle, Balls, Ware, G. Ball, G. Bale, E. White, B. Royals. E. Parker, Trevilian, Clench, Meaker, Wride, Mitchell, Furslund, Storey, and Baker (2)

Men: Rev. S. Lano Coward, Messrs. G. Merrett, F. T. Eames, H. Routley, C. Facey, A. Parker, Cooksley (2), R. Brown, Windmill (Ilminster), Babb, Lambert, Frampton, Slade, Redmond

Girls: Misses Helen Pain, H. Mansfield, F. Smart, M. Smith, N. Bastable, B. Green, E. Heal

Boys: F., Shephard, Collard, Allen, Johns, Headford, G. Fursland, Tapscott, Dickenson, Ockford, Clarke, D. Milton, R. Wilkins, J. Pricknell, Mansfield, Sharam

Members of the Royal Air Force at Westonzoyland also took part in this episode.

MONMOUTH AND SEDGEMOOR

Librettist: Mr. Maurice Page;

Ganger: Mr. C. Trenchard.

The Sedgemoor episode, is divided into two scenes, linked by an interlude. The first shows the delirium of the Monmouth rebellion, the second the collapse. The town is all agog for the Duke's entry. The Mayor announces his approach. All are eagerly awaiting the Duke, and he is received with rapture when he enters, but warning is given him by his Puritan officers. He touches a sick man for the King's evil, and then goes off with his recruits amid fervent enthusiasm.

The interlude shows the turning point. Monmouth, tempted by Grey, deserts his poor fellows who are fighting for him, and flies for safety. He adds to his infamy by leaving his body-servant to perish.

The second scene shows the Mayor and townspeople in terror. Sounds of the battle are heard. The wounded enter and create consternation, despite the Mayor's steadfast hopefulness. Wade's entrance with the remnant of his command, battered and beaten, bring home the terrible reality of the rout. He bids his men a manly farewell, after denouncing Monmouth's cowardice. They form for a last stand as the Royal horsemen, furiously shouting, rush in. Surrounded and desperate, the rebels are beaten by a fierce charge of Dumbarton's foot—a most thrilling scene.

Lord Feversham then rides in with Churchill and other officers. He gives Kirke his orders, and the “Lambs” begin their ghastly work. In the nick of time Bishop Meux rides in and denounces the butchery. Overawed by his courageous protest, Feversham calls off Kirke, and all ride away in pursuit of the Duke. The rise and fall of “King Monmouth” are set in tragic contrast.

Performers

Duke of Monmouth: Mr Stanley Palmer

Lord Gray of Wark: Mr Cecil Babbage

Williams, the Duke's servant: W. D. Coate

Ferguson (Chaplain to Duke's Army): Mr. E. G. Sanderson

Colonel Wade: Mr. S. H. Ingram and Mr. J. A. Banwell

Colonel Holmes: Mr. C. E. Haynes

Colonel Matthews: Mr. Sidney Evans
The Earl of Feversham: Mr. W. E. Duckworth
Lord Churchill: Capt. Hern
Colonel Percy Kirke: Mr. H. K. Storey
Sir Wm. Compton: Rev. Seymour Berry
Dr. Meux (Bishop of Winchester): Mr. R. Marquis
An Officer of Dunbartons: Mr. C. Trenchard
Mayor of Bridgwater (Mr. Popham): Mr. H. M. B. Ker
Town Clerk: Mr. A. G. Westcott
Councillors: Messrs. A. J. Whitby and A. W. Board
Town Watchman: Mr. G. J. White
The Rev. Mr. Elliot (Puritan Minister): Mr. Aubrey Down
William Oldmixon: Mr. C. W. Hickman
John Oldmixon, his son (the future historian): Master G. Byers
Jan Stewer: Mr. C. T. Green
Keziah Budgell: Mrs. G. J. White
A wounded man: Mr. Ray Buffett
"The Gaffer,": Mr. L. H. Morgan
Horsemen of Duke's Bodyguard: Rev. S. Lano Coward and Mr. E. G. Merrett
Officers of Feversham's Staff: Miss N. Denman and Miss Stuttaford
Sergeant of Dragoons, Mr. L. Trevett
Major Leslie, of Kirke's Regiment: Mr. O. Cooksley
Ensign of Kirke's Regiment: Mr. S. P. Stephens
Rebels of Duke's Regiment: Messrs. W. Cooksley, H. G. Moulton, F. Betty, W. Culverwell, Prescott, and R. E. Gardner
Pikemen and Musketeers of Kirke's Regiment: Messrs. Heard, Larcombe, Woodward, Drew, Bar. Styler, Hegarty, Maggs, White, Durey, Clarke, Baker, Sendell, Newton, Northcott, Short, Ashill, and Davis
Drummers: Messrs. Atwell, Taunton, and Hamlin
Pike-men and Musketeers of Dunbarton's Regiment: Messrs. H. Baker, C. Williams, C. Jennings, S. J. Jennings, J. Burgess, A. Lock, W. Samways, B. Heal, W. Heal, S. King, J. King, and Stone
Women of Bridgwater: Mesdames W. E. Duckworth, R. Buffett, S. H. Ingram, V. Tout, C. T. Green, S. Evans, and F. J. Eames, Misses G. M. Clench, P. Meaker, D. Evis, B. Storey, R. Baker, P. Baker, P. Rides, N. Fursland, Roman, and Smith
Men of Bridgwater: Mrs. O. A. Trenchard, Messrs. O. Woods, Bennett, H. G. Haggett, W. Heal, Ray Buffett, J. Ambrose, and M. B. Cuzner
Boys: Masters Callen, Giles, R. Baker, A. Claylon, K. Macmillan, R. Shapter, F. White, and P. C. Trenchard
"Fair Maids" of Bridgwater: Misses E. Rosier, M. Brown, B. Luckes, M. King, F. Vicary, H. Warner, B. Davis, M. Pow, M. Herniman, M. Millard, L. Marsh, and Tapscott

Dragoons Messrs. E. R. Jones, M. Norris, J. Berry, E. Sparkes, and T. Moate

HUSTINGS' SCENE

Librettist: Rev. C. E. Seamer

Gangers: Mr. E. J. Lovell and Mr. W. H. Taylor.

It is probably news to most people that in the year 1783 the famous Charles James Fox was a candidate at the September election at Bridgwater, which then returned two members to Parliament. It is true he was returned bottom of the poll, but that was probably largely due to the fact that he was not present in person at the election, He had been representing Westminster for some time, and already made a considerable name for himself in the House of Commons, though still a young man. It was while he was in the West of England for the benefit of his health, which had not been improved by early dissipation, that some of the leading Whig families in Bridgwater invited him to stand for election, no doubt with the object of ousting the Pouletts, who had represented the borough for some time. He allowed himself to be nominated, being glad to have two strings to his bow.

The news of the dissolution of Parliament, however, took him rather by surprise, and he hastened to Westminster at once to throw his energies into a whirlwind campaign there, neglecting his possible constituency at Bridgwater. This forms the historical background selected for the Hustings episode. The year 1780 was one of great excitement in England. The war with the American Colonies continued very unsatisfactorily. There was increasing national expenditure and taxation and much mismanagement of the national resources. The influence of the Crown, in Dunning's phrase, "has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished." The Gordon Riots had opened the floodgates of religious controversy throughout the country. The opposition were pressing for economic and electoral reform.

There was much bribery and corruption at elections, and Bridgwater was probably not immune. The episode depicts a state of affairs which happily belongs to the past. Members of the modern Conservative and Liberal parties, who are taking part in the episode, are co-operating with the greatest good humour— which is no small tribute to the improved tone of our modern political life.

Performers

The Mayor: Mr. P. G. Haggett

The Recorder: Mr. R. F. Clark

The Town Crier: Mr. Spicer

Tory Candidates, the Hon. Ann Poulett: Mr. W. Webber, *John Acland, esq.:* Mr. E. Lewis

Whig Candidate, Benjamin Allen. Esq.: Mr. F. O. Symons

Tory Supporters: Messrs. A. E. Robins and T. H. Lane

Whig Supporter: Mr. A. Geen

Constables: Messrs. H. Gilbert,, H. Bowyer, A. Hill, J Varder. and A. Stacey

Publican: Mr. H. N. Gedye

Barmaids: Mrs. L. Delve and Mrs. G. Norris

Parson: Mr. Fred Sheppard

Crowd: Messrs. M. Bowerman, F. J. Hawkins, S. Pratt, J. Jennings, H. Gay, G. Bowley, A. Mantell, W. Durant, E. Longly, B. Hill, J. Harriott., J. Letherby, B. F. Parsons, W. Trunks, F. Herbert, O. Matthews, A. Williams, A. Miller, A. Spender, C. Jenkins, C. Coole, R. Gilbert, H. Richards, E. Hodges, E. Miller, F. J. Hodge, C. Delve, F. Pollard, L. J. Marden. Vicary, Evis, H. Allen W. Frampton, P. Wills, A. Raworth, A. Innalls, H. J. Attwell, F. J. Strong, E. Harris, W. Perrin, H. Lockyer, C. Lynham, L. Banwell, W. Franklyn, W. Sharkey, J. Grey, W. Bale, A. Glass, A. Biddiscombe, C. Norris, W. Wheeler, J. Spencer, W. S. Growtage, M. Page, W. Biddiscombe, L. J. Dosson, R. Dosson, H. G. Haggett, W. H. Palmer, A. G. Mansfield, and D. W. Fackerell.

PROCESSION OF PERFORMERS AND TRADES

Librettist of Epilogue: Major Cely Trevilian

Gangers of array of crafts: Mr. A. B. Marchant, Mr. Cecil Bowerman, and M. J. M. Boltz

The Epilogue provides, perhaps, the finest spectacle of the Pageant, especially the concluding scene, when the whole of the performers appear in the arena. Following the opening speech by "The Spirit of the Bridge", there comes the procession of lorries, representing the industrial life of the borough at various times in its history.

From the entrance to the left of the stand appears the procession of lorries representing the past, the first of which is a representation of a medieval ship, known a carrick. This is the kind of ship that sailed the Western Sea to Ireland and Bordeaux with cargoes at wood, wine, serge, corn, etc. The borough records are crowded with the references to the trade that the quay side witnessed. This exhibit was constructed and arranged by Messrs, H. F. Tottle and Son, according to the exhaustive researches of Mr. H. Morton Nance of Carbis Bay. He kindly gave permission for use of his model, now in the South Kensington Museum, in order to make the Pageant model as accurate as possible. Next comes a representation of Bridgwater as a village at the head of a wooden bridge that then spanned the Parrett. It is the little settlement of Saxons of which we read in the Doomsday Book, the Ville of Brugie in the hundred of North Petherton ; and, as is fitting, it has been produced by the scholars of the North Petherton Central School. At that time the people of the Ville had to pay suit at the Hundred Court that was held at North Petherton four times in the year. It will be seen that this village of Brugie (or Bridg) was a very primitive affair, spinning its own wool, weaving its rough home-spun, making its baskets, and forging its own iron, as was required, for it must be remembered that there were no shops at that time, and the trading was chiefly done exchanging one thing for another. The village lived upon itself, and was self-sufficient.

The next exhibit demonstrates the ancient art of pottery, of which coarse ware has been made from the famous Bridgwater clays for a good number of years. This exhibit has been kindly arranged by the Somerset Trading Co., Ltd.

The next demonstration shows the making of bath bricks for scouring purposes, for which Bridgwater is world renowned. This industry is peculiar to this little part of England, and is given

to the town by nature depositing a sediment which is carried by the waters that flow the river. It will be remembered that the present Mayor of the town has spoken fully on this subject through the microphone. Messrs H. J. and C. Major, Ltd., have kindly arranged this exhibit.

The last exhibit shows a weaver at work upon his loom, a home-made affair, for the age of machinery was far distant. This man represents the dominant industry of Bridgwater in the middle Ages; that is at the time of the Riots. For many centuries Bridgwater serges were famous in the West, and the extent of its prosperity is shown not only in the wills of the period where we constantly find references to bales of woad, the stuff used to give the blue dye to the fabric, but the splendid church at North Petherton. and the famed Fullers' Panel in the Spaxton Church tell of the wealth and widespread extent of the industry At either side of the loom is a tub, either of dye or of the lye used in the fulling.

On the right hand side the first representation of modern industry shows a man making roofing tiles, for which Bridgwater is so famous. This exhibit has been kindly arranged by Messrs. Colthurst, Symons, and Co., brick and tile manufacturers.

This is followed by the presentation of an industry which merits special attention, that is the manufacture of shirts and collars, represented on a lorry by a display produced by the Bridgwater Manufacturing Company,

The next exhibit represents the brewing industry, which has always been a local one, and the present day representative of the old-world brew house is showing an appropriate exhibit. This has been produced by Messrs. Starkey, Knight, and Ford, Ltd.

The next industry represented is the basket and wicker chair industry. The marshy lands that lie behind the town have been a natural home for the willow, and so the production of withies has been an important rural industry. At Bridgwater this has given rise to a considerable trade in the basket trade, and it ranks high in this particular industry. The exhibit is shown by the Somerset Wicker Works, of Friarn-street.

Next is an industry which is at present being developed on a scale which is new to the town, i.e., the manufacture of joinery. The exhibit has been arranged by Messrs. H. F. Tottle and Sons, Joinery Works.

Lastly we come to another new industry, that of wire rope-making, the exhibit of which is represented by Messrs. The Bridgwater Wire Rope Co.

While there are many more industries that are worked in the town, space does not permit the representation of them all, and it is by the kindness of the different manufacturers concerned, Messrs. Peace, Ltd., and Mr. G. H. Bown, for the loan of horses, lorries, etc., that the representation has been produced in this manner on the Pageant field.

As the modern procession passes there enter two present-day young men, Bill and . Bert (impersonated by Mr. J. A. Banwell, of Yeovil, and Mr. E. L. Turner, of Ilminster, respectively). One is in fancy dress, and the pair enter into an amusing conversation about Bridgwater until

“The Spirit of the Bridge” appears. The characters in the Pageant have by now taken up their positions, and then enter “the Future,” Airmen, Soldiers, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Wireless Operators, etc., surrounded by children. Then is sung the “Song of the Bridgwater Men,” a rousing composition. Blake also enters, and Michael appears on the bridge. There is a thrilling moment when a huge cross blazes into light in a fine old tree near the bridge, and after the “Spirit's” final address, a great procession is formed to the singing of the grand old hymn, “O God, our help in ages past.” The effect is heightened by the introduction of a descant (written by P. W. Whitlock) to several verses and sung by the pupils of the County Secondary School for Girls; Whilst the singing proceeds, the wagons move off slowly, and the whole company having made their exit through the town gates, “The Spirit of the Bridge” returns to her post, and so the Pageant ends.