

Extract from the Minutes of a «Court holden in Christ's Hospital, London, on Friday, the 25th November 1791».

«Then was read a Report of a Committee of Almoners.

«At a Committee in Christ's Hospital, 27th Sepr. 1791.

«This Committee having taken into consideration the «very bountiful Bequest of Mr. Thomas Parr late of Lisbon, «Merchant, deceased, who in grateful return for the Benefits «of his Education in this Hospital left the Governors thereof, «the residue of his Estate, which has already produced Seven «thousand six hundred ninety four pounds sixteen shillings «and a penny, and will probably realise the further sum of «Five thousand two hundred pounds, were of opinion that «some special notice should be taken thereof. And it was «agreed to recommend to the Court that to perpetuate the «Memory of so liberal a Benefactor, a handsome Marble Mo- «nument with a suitable Inscription to be prepared by the «Upper Grammar Master, should be erected at Lisbon where «the said Mr. Parr was buried, according to a Drawing which «the Surveyor has produced, and that a Model thereof be «forthwith prepared under his direction, it appearing to this «Committee that such Monument can be conveniently Erected «at Lisbon under the inspection of Mr. John Thomas Forrest, «the Hospital's Attorney there.

«And the Committee do further recommend to the Court «to make an Order, in conformity to the wish expressed in «Mr. Parr's Will, dated the 14 March 1777. «That from «henceforth the Offspring born abroad of every one educated «here that is put Apprentice abroad, and who may there re- «side, be admitted to have the Benefit of and be received into «the Hospital, as if such Offspring had been born in England «and free of the City of London.»

«The Court by Vote agreed with the Committee in Opin- «ion to Erect a Monument to the Memory of so liberal a «Benefactor agreeable to a Model produced ; and ordered that «from this day the Children before described should be «admitted as Sons of Freemen of London whenever presented «for that purpose.»

## THOMAS PARR

British merchant & member of the «Factory»

Lisbon : 1734-1783

(Contributed by Mr. H. V. Harby)

Thomas Parr was born in London in the year 1719, and was the son of John Parr, a Leatherseller living in the Minorities. He was educated at Christ's Hospital where he was admitted in 1727, being then eight years of age, and remained there until 1734 when in July of that year he was apprenticed to a Lisbon merchant by name of John Ayrey for the period of six years.

Of his subsequent activities little is known other than that he prospered sufficiently to become a partner in business with John Bulkeley and John Tonkin, both well known wealthy merchants in that city ; he was also a member of the British Factory.

Parr acquired a considerable fortune, and, besides numerous other benefactions, stipulated in his will that the residue of his estate should go to the governors of Christ's Hospital for the benefit of that institution wherein he had received his education and training. The residue of Parr's estate realised the sum of £ 12,559. and in appreciation of this gift of his it was decided that steps should be taken to commemorate it as shown in the following record :

The marble tablet dedicated to the memory of Thomas Parr referred to above can be seen in the Mortuary house at the British Cemetery in Lisbon. Its inscription is as follows :

To  
the Memory of

MR. THOMAS PARR

a Member of the British Factory  
born in England  
and settled at an early age in the City of Lisbon  
He rose to eminence supported solely by the Virtues  
which distinguish and adorn  
the Merchant  
in the possession of affluence  
His manner  
mild and unassuming  
endeared him alike to Natives & to Foreigners  
His Benevolence  
towards the friendless & unfortunate was extensive without ostentation  
not less considerate than humane.  
Educated.

in Christ's Hospital in London  
he bequeathed a considerable portion of his substance  
to that Grand Seminary of Youth  
in testimony of his Gratitude and to assist in rearing  
the young & liberal mind to Virtue, Knowledge & Religion  
to the latest time.

He died the 3rd July 1783 aged 64 years  
Through his request

suggested in his Will, whoever educated in that house  
shall have been placed an Apprentice abroad and shall  
reside there, his offspring born abroad will in future be  
entitled to be admitted to the benefit of the same with  
the valuable preference enjoyed by the children of the

Citizens of London  
This Monument

was erected by the order of the General Court  
of the Governors of Christ's Hospital

1792

Parr also made a bequest to the British Hospital in Lisbon :

«I further bequeath our English Hospital in Lisbon Eight  
«hundred Milreis provided that every poor seaman that may  
«have the foul disease be admitted and cured in the said  
«Hospital, having known some of our Treasurers refuse them  
«that assistance....»

Witnesses of the Will were

Charles Molloy and John Montgomery, and the Will was  
opened and read by the British Vice-Consul, William Southern,  
on the 3rd July 1783, in the presence of :

Lewis Stephens  
Charles Molloy  
William Tonkin  
Abel Worth  
Henry Tonkin  
John Bulkeley  
John Thomas Forrest (his bookkeeper)  
Anastácio José da Costa  
João da Silva Figueiredo  
José de Sousa Côrte Real

and the signature of the Vice-Consul is attested by :

David Bowden  
George Allen  
Lewis Stephens

the Will being dated 14th March 1777 at the Quinta de Valfor-  
mozo (where he resided at that time) and registered at the  
British Consulate in Lisbon.

John Parr was married, his wife's name being given as  
«Ann» Parr : no children are recorded.

That this Memorial is to be found in the Mortuary house  
and not in the Cemetery itself appears to be due to the follow-  
ing circumstance : Colonel W. G. T. Pope (whose father,  
Canon Pope, was a former Chaplain of St. George's), states  
that since the Mortuary was only built in 1794, and Thomas

Parr died and was buried in 1783, the site must mark the actual place of his burial. Owing to the restricted space it had been necessary in those times to make the utmost possible use of the old British Factory Hospital burial ground by placing graves right up to the boundary walls, and when the urgent need arose of building the Mortuary and the only suitable spot was that adjoining the Cemetery gate, Parr's grave was evidently found to be occupying part of the desired position. The Mortuary was presumably built over and around the grave, and this doubtless explains why the Memorial is its principal internal feature, being embedded in that portion of it which forms part of the boundary wall adjoining the Rua da Estréla as if to indicate the head of the original grave. This noble marble Memorial Tablet provided by Christ's Hospital, of considerable size and really a fine piece of work, was not ready for erection until 1792, as its inscription records.