

Document H197

The article has been transcribed from the Liverpool Daily Post of Thursday, May 22, 1890 with the addition of footnotes.

Death of Mr. Bernard Hall

The announcement of the death of Mr. **Bernard Hall**¹, who was for many years a member of the Liverpool Town Council, an alderman, and who also filled the mayoral chair in 1879-80, will be received with deep regret by all classes of the community among whom he was so well known, as well for the interest which he took in all movements, religious and social, having for the object the welfare of his fellow-citizens as for his liberality and open-handed benevolence. For more than half a century he was one of the most prominent merchants in the West India Trade, having entered into the business in Liverpool early in life, on his arrival here from the Midlands. In the mercantile community he rapidly rose to distinction, and in the course of time he became connected with several companies. Among others, he was the chairman of the Queen Insurance Company and a director of the Callao Dock Company (Liverpool board), of the West India Pacific Steamship Company, Limited, and of the Chester Boat Company, Limited. He was also owner of a large sugar plantation in Jamaica.

Mr. Hall first entered the Town Council in 1849, as member for Abercromby Ward, for which he was elected in the Conservative interest without a contest. Three years afterwards his return was opposed by Mr. Robertson Gladstone, who defeated him, the numbers being: Gladstone, 360; Hall, 226. In 1854 Mr. Hall contested North Toxteth Ward against Mr. W.H. Ogden (Liberal), with the results that he obtained 308 votes against 296 given for Mr. Ogden, and he was returned. He did not seek re-election at the close of his term, and his next contest was in Exchange Ward, in 1869, when his opponent was the late Mr. S.B. Guion (Liberal), who defeated him by 335 votes against 276. Soon afterwards in the same year he was elected alderman in the place of the late Mr. Thomas Bold. In November, 1879, he was elected Mayor, and his year of office proved to be one of very great importance in the history of Liverpool, because in the year 1880 it gave its name to the diocese of which the present Bishop was appointed the head, and in the same year it was raised to the rank of a city. Mr. Hall had long been known for his benevolent disposition, and it so happened that just about the time of his election Ireland was suffering from distress, the severity of which approached a famine. Considerable relief had been sent from Liverpool, and the late Mr. William Simpson placed his "bowl" on the Landing-stage. It was deemed advisable, however, on the suggestion of the Mayor, that the whole town should make one vigorous effort, and his Worship called a town's

¹ Bernard Hall (280)

meeting on January 20th for that purpose, in the Town Hall, over which he presided, and upon his appeal the handsome amount of £3,700 was subscribed in the Council-chamber as a nucleus for a much larger fund. On the same day the remains of Mr. John Torr, M.P., who died at his residence in Eastham were brought across the Mersey and conveyed through the leading thoroughfares of Liverpool to the Central Station, *en route* for Aylesby, Lincolnshire, where the interment was to take place, and Mr. Hall joined the procession with the late Town-clerk (Mr. Rayner), Mr. E. Whitley, and Mr. Raffles, who rode in the Mayor's carriage. Two days afterwards the Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne) passed through Liverpool on her voyage to Canada. Her Royal Highness was accompanied to the city by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh; and though the Royal visit was supposed to be of a private character, his Worship the Mayor the Mayoress, and Miss Hall awaited the arrival of the party at Lime-street Station, where Miss Hall presented a bouquet which the Princess graciously accepted. The Princess drove to the Landing-stage in the Mayor's brougham to join the steamship Sarmatian, while the Princes drove to the river in the open state carriage, the Mayor and others following in private carriages to the Landing-stage, where the leave-taking took place.

The next event of importance was the public announcement, on April 15th, that the Rev. John Charles Byle, who had recently been appointed Dean of Salisbury, had been chosen to be the bishop of the newly-created see of Liverpool. For a considerable time previously arrangements had been in progress to meet this event, and as one of the conditions was that sufficient funds should be collected to ensure an income &c., a "Bishopric Fund" was formed, and Mr. Hall was one of the principal subscribers, as he was also to the cathedral fund. The news of the appointment was received with great pleasure, and the Mayor lost no time in honouring the bishop-designate, who visited the town on April 22nd, inspected St. Peter's Church, with a view to use it as a cathedral, and in the evening was the guest of the Mayor at his private residence. Liverpool was raised to the rank of a "city" on Tuesday May 11th, and the Town-clerk received an intimation on the 12th to the effect that the letters patent had been signed and sealed on the day indicated. Mr. Hall was therefore, strictly speaking, the first Mayor of the "city" of Liverpool. He was present at the consecration of the Bishop in York Minster on June 11th, and at the enthronisation in Liverpool on July 1st, on which occasion Mr. Hall gave a reception in the afternoon in the Town Hall, followed in the evening by a banquet to the Bishop.

Mr. Hall had for some years past taken a prominent interest in educational questions, and especially in the work of the Liverpool Council of Education, to whose funds he gave a donation of £500 to found a scholarship which has since done good service. During his mayoralty he had an opportunity of still furthering the same cause by taking the chair at a town's meeting called to promote the establishing of University College, when subscriptions amounting to £80,000 were announced. One of his last official acts was the unveiling of the statue (by Warrington

Wood) of Sir A.B. Walker in the Art Gallery, September 3rd, when the principal speakers were the late Sir Thomas Edwards-Moss and Lord Sandon M.P. After the close of his mayoralty, years began tell upon him, and he retired from active business about five years since, but he did not cease to help the poor, and especially the children of that class. Mr. Hall gave to Liverpool the Florence Institute, for the benefit of working boys, at the South-end. The building and furnishing of it cost about £15,000, all of which was generously defrayed by the donor. It will be remembered that the establishment was opened on the 7th September last by Mr. Edward Whitley, M.P. There are now 600 boys who participate in the benefits of this home and club. The institute is similar to the Gordon Boys' Institute, erected at the North-end by Mr. William Cliff, and has for its object the provision of recreation of an innocent and healthful kind for boys at the critical period of life between the time they leave school and enter upon their manhood. The site of the building, which is called the Florence Institute in memory of a beloved daughter² of Mr. Bernard Hall, is at the corner of Mill-street of 150 ft. and 72 ft. to Wellington-road. The main block of buildings occupies the central portion of the site, and comprises on the ground floor social and reading rooms 90 ft. by 21 ft. having five large mullioned and transomed bay windows facing Mill-street. At the rear of those rooms is a commodious gymnasium 60 ft. by 30 ft. The basement of this portion of the building is prepared for a number of schoolrooms and workshops, which can be utilised as necessity arises. On the first floor there is a concert hall 90 ft. by 40 ft. approached by a wide and easy staircase and which is lighted by six bay windows, these being continuations of those in the rooms below. On the Mill-street side of the hall a large stage for concert purposes, with ample dressing-room accommodation is also provided. On the north side of the main block are the principal entrance hall and staircase. The hall contains a commemorative tablet to the lady whose name is associated with the building. Four large schoolrooms face Wellington-road - two on the ground floor and two above. The angle at the junction of Mill-street and Wellington-road is occupied by an octagonal tower, having an open balcony, which commands a fine view over the river Mersey and the Cheshire coast. A wide corridor running through the main block connects the main hall with the south entrance, the latter being intended more exclusively for the use of boys frequenting the gymnasium. The keeper's apartments are finely situated on this floor, and command the south entrance, the social-room, and the gymnasium. There are three floors above this portion of the building, containing classrooms, workrooms, dressing-rooms for concert purposes, already alluded to, and the keeper's bedrooms. The main façade of the building to Wellington-road and Mill-street is executed in red brick and terra cotta. The building is designed in the style of the English Renaissance prevailing about the close of the sixteenth century, and the ornamentation is particularly rich. There are rooms where boys resort to after their day's work is done, where they may learn music, vocal and instrumental, joinery in all its departments, wood carving, drill,

² Florence Bernadine Hall (768)

and gymnastics of all kinds; and also reading-rooms and concert halls for their amusement during the evenings of the week. Provision is made for evangelistic services being held upon Sunday; and as the institution is intended for boys of all denominations, these services are conducted on purely undenominational lines. For several years past he had been in the habit of spending the winter at his own villa, Mariposa, Cannes, in the South of France, and the relic died, yesterday morning, in his seventy-eighth year. Mr. Hall was twice married, first to Miss Titley³, of Jamaica; and secondly to Miss Calrow⁴, of Walton Lodge, Preston, who survives him. There are living four sons⁵ and two daughters⁶.

³ Mary Ann Titley (279)

⁴ Margaret Calrow (281)

⁵ Bernard Vincent Hall (762), Alexander Titley Hall (287), Percy Bernard Hall (764), Douglas Bernard Hall (285)

⁶ Margaret Bernadine Hall (766), Muriel Bernard Hall (769)

The article has been transcribed from the Liverpool Mercury of Thursday, May 22, 1890.

The Late Mr. Bernard Hall

The funeral of Mr. Bernard Hall, who was Mayor of Liverpool in 1879-80, took place at Cannes yesterday.

A telegram was received in Liverpool yesterday afternoon announcing the death, at Villa Mariposa, Cannes, of Mr. Bernard Hall, who had reached the age of 78.

Mr. Hall was a member of an old Liverpool family, his father, Mr. John Hall, being the founder of the firm of West Indian merchants, John Hall and Company. In early life the deceased gentleman travelled much, visiting some of the West Indian and other colonial possessions. He devoted himself to commercial pursuit, and the house of which he was the head carried on extensive business as merchants and ship-owners. He was well known and highly respected on 'Change, and in all his dealings maintained the high honour of a British merchant. He was associated with the leasing commercial associations in the city, and for years was chairman of the West Indian and Pacific Steam Navigation Company. In politics Mr. Hall was a Conservative, and was an earnest supporter of the various local and national organizations connected with his party. He first entered the Town Council in 1849, when he was returned for Abercromby Ward without a contest, but he was defeated in 1852 by the late Mr. Robertson Gladstone. In 1869 he was brought out as a Conservative candidate for Exchange Ward, when he was defeated by the late S.B. Guion; but the same year he was elected as an alderman on the retirement of the late Mr. Thomas Bold, and in 1879 was chosen Mayor. In his capacity as chief magistrate of the city, Mr. Hall displayed a graceful hospitality, great dignity, and tact, and won by his conduct the approval alike of Liberals and Conservatives. His mayoralty will be memorable in the annals of Liverpool, for during his year of office many important matters affecting the community took place. On the 11th of May in that year the letters patent constituting Liverpool a city were received, the Rev. Dr. Kyle (on the nomination of Lord Beaconsfield) was appointed the first Bishop of Liverpool, and the movement which culminated in the establishment of University College originated at a meeting over which Mr. Hall, as Mayor, presided, and at which the magnificent sum of £80,000 was promised. On September 3rd the same year Mr. Hall unveiled the statue of Sir A.R. Walker at the Art Gallery. During his mayoralty other interesting ceremonies occurred, and in all of which, as well as in the transaction of corporate business, the deceased gentleman displayed courtesy and kindness. He retired from Council in 1883, mainly in consequence of failing health and during the winter months of the latter portion of his lifetime, resided abroad, principally at Nice and Cannes. In addition to other public honours

which he hold, he was a magistrate of the city, having been appointed to the bench in 1871. To Mr. Hall the Florence Institute in Mill-street owes its existence, he having founded it in memory of a daughter who died a few years ago. He leaves a family, who for a long period has been prominently identified with the Hospital Sunday and Saturday movement.

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Magisterial References

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The flags were hoisted at half-mast yesterday at the Town Hall, the Municipal Offices, the Police Courts, the Art Gallery, and other public buildings, and at the Queen Insurance Offices, out of respect to the memory of Mr. Hall

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transomed bay windows facing Mill-street. At the rear of these rooms is a commodious gymnasium 90 ft. by 53 ft. The basement of this portion of the building is prepared for a number of school-rooms and workshops, which can be utilised as necessity arises. On the first floor there is a concert hall 90 ft. by 40 ft., approached by a wide and easy staircase, and which is lighted by six bay windows, these being continuations of those in the rooms below. On the Mill-street side of the hall a large stage for concert purposes, with ample dressing-room accommodation, is also provided. On the north side of the main block are the principal entrance hall and staircase. The hall contains a commemorative tablet to the lady whose name is associated with the building. Four large schoolrooms face Wellington-road—two on the ground floor and two above. The angle at the junction of Mill-street and Wellington-road is occupied by an octagonal tower, having an open balcony, which commands a fine view over the river Mersey and the Cheshire coast. A wide corridor running through the main block connects the main hall with the south entrance, the latter being intended more exclusively for the use of boys frequenting the gymnasium. The keeper's apartments are finely situated on this floor, and command the south entrance, the social room, and the gymnasium. There are three floors above this portion of the building, containing classrooms, workrooms, dressing-rooms for concert purposes, already alluded to, and the keeper's bedrooms. The main facade of the building to Wellington-road and Mill-street is executed in red brick and terra cotta. The building is designed in the style of the English Renaissance prevailing about the close of the sixteenth century, and the ornamentation is particularly rich. There are rooms where boys resort to after their day's work is done, where they may learn music, vocal and instrumental, joinery in all its departments, wood carving, drill, and gymnastics of all kinds; and also reading-rooms and concert halls for their amusement during the evenings of the week. Provision is made for evangelistic services being held upon Sunday; and as the institution is intended for boys of all denominations, these services are conducted on purely undenominational lines. For several years past he had been in the habit of spending the winter at his own villa, Mariposa, Cannes, in the South of France, and the rebo died yesterday morning, in his seventy-eighth year. Mr. Hall was twice married, first to Miss Tibbey, of Jamaica; and secondly to Miss Calrow, of Walton Lodge, Preston, who survives him. There are living four sons and two daughters.

The Daily Post

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MAGISTERIAL REFERENCES.

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