JOSEPH CARYLL: A NOTE

The Rev. Joseph Caryll, M.A., is noticed in Calamy, Neal, and *D.N.B.* (and probably elsewhere), but the fact that in his early years he was a "minister" in Battersea is not there recorded. Matthews discovered the fact in Symon Patrick's *Autobiography* (1839 edition, p. 36) and included it in *Calamy Revised*; but Caryll is not listed with the Vicars of Battersea, nor is he one of the Curates named by J. G. Taylor in *Our Lady of Batersey* — Chelsea, 1925. Obviously there is a minor problem to be solved.

Symon Patrick had come to Battersea in 1656 as chaplain to the Lord of the Manor, Sir Walter St. John, and when, in the following year, Dr. Thomas Temple, Vicar of Battersea, became Rector of Braunston, Northants, Sir Walter, who presented to the living, was willing to appoint Patrick. Patrick shrank from the ordeal of appearing before the Triers, but he satisfied them that he was a good man, and as he was going away, Mr. Caryll said, "that he was once minister of Battersea, and had still such a love to them, that he desired me to have a special care of their souls". But in what way was Caryll "minister"?

The Wiltshire branch of the St. John family first became connected with Battersea in 1593, when Oliver, a younger son, married a widow, the heiress of the family that had leased the manor since 1454, first from Westminster Abbey and after 1540 from the Crown. This younger son made his career in Ireland, becoming eventually Lord Deputy (1616), Viscount Grandison in the peerage of Ireland (1620), and Baron Tregoze in the peerage of England (1626). In 1627 he completed the negotiations for the purchase of the manor of Battersea and Wandsworth from the Crown, and died in Battersea at the end of December 1630. A few weeks later his widow died. An elaborate monument by Nicholas Stone in the north gallery of the present church commemorates them both.

In an addition (16 December, 1630) to his will the Viscount bequeathed "to Joseph Carrill my Chaplyn . . . Twentie pounds". On 1 January, 1630/1, the Viscountess set her mark to her will, leaving "to Josephe Carrill my Chaplaine five pounds". It is interesting to note that the domestic chaplain of the Lord of the Manor regarded himself as a "minister" of the parish and maintained an interest in the spiritual well-being of the people.

Venn's *Alumni Cantabrigienses* adds a further detail. When St. John Holcroft was admitted to Christ's college on 5th July, 1636, at the age of sixteen, he was recorded as having been at school at Battersea (under "Mr. Carroll"), Eton, and Bishop's Stortford. The boy was a grandson of Viscountess Grandison by her first marriage, and received as his Christian name the surname of his grandmother's second husband. So, in addition to being the Viscount's domestic chaplain and helping with the church work of the parish, Caryll acted as a schoolmaster or, more probably, private tutor to young members of the family.

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