

THOMAS CORAM IN BOSTON AND TAUNTON.

BY HAMILTON ANDREWS HILL.

It is interesting to those of us who have visited the Foundling Hospital in London, or who are familiar with the history of that great charity, to remember that Thomas Coram, its founder, spent ten years of his long and eventful life in the Province of Massachusetts Bay. Born at Lyme Regis, Dorsetshire, in 1668, the son of a sea-captain engaged in the fisheries, he became both a sailor and a shipbuilder. He landed in Boston sometime in 1693, and it must have been within a few months of the arrival from England of Sir William Phips, the first governor under the new charter, the earlier part of whose career had been very much like his own. It is almost certain that Sir William knew beforehand of his proposed coming to New England, and approved cordially of the object which was to bring him here. This object is explained in a memorial addressed many years afterward, in 1747, to the Archbishop of Canterbury: "Your memorialist hath in the prime and best part of his life had long experience in North America, where he resided ten successive years, to promote and carry on and conduct shipbuilding on account of some considerable merchants of London, and he carried for that purpose from hither divers shipwrights and other proper and necessary hands and also a great quantity of merchandise." His errand had the encouragement if not the direct support of the Government, for, in another memorial, August 26, 1703, addressed to Governor Joseph Dudley, he said: "Its something more than nine years past I came into this country and brought with me divers shipwrights and other handy crafts sent hither at the

charge of a very [] merchant Mr. Thomas Hunt of London whose good will for this country is well known to some of the chiefe persons here, he sent me hither for the carrying on a design of shipbuilding, and was permitted and protected by the Government at home in my coming hither for the better Improvement of ship building in these parts, and I had favour answerable there unto by the government here during the whole time of my building ships in Boston."

Of Coram's life in Boston, we know very little; but in 1697, or 1698, he moved to Taunton, and in 1699 he bought of John Reed a tract of land in the South Purchase, the detailed boundaries of which indicate the location to have been at what is now known as Bragg's shipyard at South Dighton. His yard, as described by himself, was situated "in the most commodious place on the river, with so good a depth of water, that if need were a fourth-rate frigate might be launched there." There was a house, with other buildings, and an orchard with an hundred and fifty apple-trees, and he valued the property at one hundred pounds.

There is nothing to show that Coram's life in Boston was not a pleasant one; but at Taunton it was far otherwise. He was a man of determined will, of positive opinions, of a rather choleric disposition, and, "free from all hypocrisy, he spoke what he thought with vehemence." Such an one would be better understood, and his peculiarities would stand out with less prominence, in the large town, where were men of all sorts, and merchants trading with all parts of the world, than in the remote country village, where no very wide deviation from the local standards would be allowed to pass without expressions of disapproving criticism. Then, too, Coram was a zealous member of the Church of England. In Boston, he found sympathy in this regard at King's Chapel, where he was a regular worshipper; but at Taunton, the people were all Congregationalists,

“dissenters” he would call them, although he does not seem to have been bigoted in his religious views, and they were not very tolerant, probably, to his preferences for the liturgy and the Christian year. He looked forward to the time, to use his own words, when the inhabitants there “should be more civilized than they now are,” and should incline to set up the worship of the English Establishment. It is easy to see that if any serious dispute should rise between him and any of these country-folk, the general feeling, among all classes, would be decidedly against him, and he would be likely to have an uncomfortable time of it; and that this proved to be so, we have abundant evidence in the Massachusetts archives, the Bristol County Court records, and his correspondence many years later. We think it will appear, also, that making every allowance, for such reasons as we have suggested, for his personal unpopularity, he was very badly treated by many of the Bristol County people, and that it was almost impossible for him to obtain justice in the local courts. The wrongs which he then and there suffered, rankled in his memory to the end of his days.

In the memorial to Governor Dudley, in 1703, from which we have already quoted, Coram said: “For four or five years last past I have built at Taunton in the County of Bristoll, where by the barbarous treatment I have had from some of the people, I have reason to believe they are some of the very worst of the creation, and to compleat and cloak their black action, have in their serpentine manner endeavoured to stigmatize my Reputation with the best of the countrey, and some of the Countrey Justices there abouts have been so partiall in their administrations towards me that they have violated their own oathes and given illegall Judgments against me.”

The first suit of which we find a record, in the course of litigation in which Coram became involved, was an action of slander, October 8, 1700, Peter Walker, plaintiff, versus

Thomas Coram. "Coram had said Walker took a false oath, was guilty of perjury, and he could prove it." This case was non-suited and the defendant's bill of costs was paid by the plaintiff.¹ The proceedings that followed are narrated in a petition to the General Court a few months later, from which we shall now quote.

At the Inferior Court of Common Pleas held at Bristol on the second Tuesday of January, 1700-1, Coram commenced an action of covenant against Peter Walker, of Taunton, husbandman,—as he explains in his petition,—“for not timely drawing all the timber and wooden materials, whether streight compass or knee Timber &c, to be used about a certain ship building in your Petitioners yard at said Taunton &c for the compleat building, launching and finishing thereof, according to Articles under the said Walker's hand and seal, bearing date the 18th of April, 1699. In barr of which Action the said Defendant pleaded a reference, submission and an award, and the Jury brought in a verdict for the Defendant to recover costs, and Judgement was entred up accordingly.” At the same Inferior Court, the petitioner, as he goes on to say, “brought another Action, of the Case against Eleazer Walker of Taunton aforesaid Yeoman, for that the said Walker had molested your Petitioner from cutting and carrying away into your Petitioner's yard, Timber for the building a certain Ship then upon the Stocks, which said Timber your Petitioner agreed for with said Walker in consideration of Forty eight shillings; In barr of which Action the said Defendant made the like Plea as above, and obtained a like Verdict and Judgement accordingly.”

Further, the petitioner relates that, at the same Court,

¹ We are indebted to the Rev. S. H. Emery, D.D., of Taunton, for extracts from the Bristol County Court records, and for a copy of Coram's memorial to Governor Dudley; also, to a very interesting paper, containing much information about Coram, by Mr. Charles A. Reed, in the Collections of the Old Colony Historical Society, No. II.

Peter Walker brought an action of debt against Coram "to recover five hundred pounds upon an arbitration bond, for not performing the award of Eliakim Hutchinson and Nathaniel Byfield Esquires and Capt. Andrew Belcher," and set forth the breach, etc., to which action Coram pleaded "there was no award delivered according to the submission, and further that the said award did not contain what was submitted and therefore no award." "In which case the said Peter Walker obtained a Verdict for five hundred pounds (forfeiture of the said Bond), and had Judgement entred up for him accordingly." Eleazer Walker brought the like action of debt, and recovered the like judgment and verdict.

In all these actions, Coram appealed to the next Superior Court, and paid the Clerk for entering the appeals; he also brought certain persons to be his sureties, but the Court objecting to them, he went out immediately to find others. He appeared again with his men, "but the Court was just then adjourned without day, and the Judges were sat down at dinner who refused to take bond" for his prosecuting the appeals, "saying they were then no Court and therefore could not do it." On the day following that on which the jury gave in their verdicts in the several causes specified, executions issued against Coram, and were immediately levied on two vessels in his yard, valued by him at nearly a thousand pounds each. The sums awarded under the arbitration mentioned above were only £33.8.0 to Peter Walker, and £8.2.0, and two and three quarters yards of cloth, to Eleazer Walker. Coram insisted in his petition, that the Court ought to have "chancered" to the just debt and damage in each case, instead of allowing judgment to go against him for the sums on the face of the two bonds, and also that, as it had allowed his appeals before adjournment, it should have taken his bonds for prosecuting them.¹

¹ See Mass. Archives, Vol. XL., pp. 645-57.

In a complaint presented to the General Court, in addition to the petition in which these facts had been recited, Coram says: "The executions in that petition mentioned was served by a person not att all qualified for such an office (as is wel knowne to som of this Honourable Court) hee beged the office of the Sherrif as the Sherrif Declard and promised to serve the Executions for very small part of the fees and did serve them without being first sworne." "This estate the said Deputy Sherrif has had appraised by two or three select prejudiced persons (as himself is). The Chiefe of those appraisers is a very Ill person who felloniously broake my Chest att my Lodging in Taunton and stole thence a wrighting obligatory on himself of considerable vallue and burnt it." Of the seizure of his property, Coram tells the Governor: They "got the ships and all the plunder apraised by some base prejudiced cuntry fellows of their own party no way skilled in such things, but they valued the whole short of what would satisfy for the two five hundred pound so as they might want some for an oppportunity to carry my person to Goal, by which horrid treatment the busines of my ships was wholly hindered for three months or very near it."

Of the two ships on the stocks, one, not quite finished, with all the timber and plank in the yard to be used for finishing her (234 tons), was appraised at £432, but was really worth £1,000, as she lay. Another ship "neare 130 Tons," which was "finished on the Stocks and Riggd" and had "all her Sails and Cables on bord her and her anchours att the Bows," was appraised at £650, but was worth more than £1,000.¹ The shipyard, with all its

¹ Longfellow, in "The Building of the Ship," describes his vessel as rigged and ready for sea, while yet upon the stocks, and he says in a note: "I wish to anticipate a criticism on this passage, by statng that sometimes, though not usually, vessels are launched fully sparred and rigged. I have availed myself of the exception as better suited to my purposes than the general rule; but the reader will see that it is neither a blunder nor a poetic license." To the examples which he gives, we may now add another from Thomas Coram's shipyard. It was, probably, quite common to rig the smaller craft before launching.

buildings and equipment, and with the orchard adjoining, was valued by these appraisers at £12, about one-eighth of its real value. For two debts amounting to only forty or fifty pounds, property was seized which was worth more than two thousand pounds. Evidently, there was a conspiracy in Taunton to break Coram down, to take everything from him, and to drive him from the place. Fortunately there was a higher power to which he could appeal, and which was prompt to put him in possession of all his rights under the law. The General Court, impressed by the statements contained in his petition, cited the Bristol County Justices to appear and make answer to it at an early day. The original of this citation has recently come into our possession, and is as follows:—

Province of the Massachusetts Bay.	To John Brown, Thomas Leonard & Nicholas Peck Esq ^{rs} Justices of the Inferiour Court of Common pleas in the County of Bristol, Greeting.
---------------------------------------	--

Whereas Thomas Coram of Boston, sometimes residing at Taunton in the Province aforesaid Shipwright by his Petition exhibited unto the Great and General Court or Assembly now sitting, hath complained that he is greatly injured and oppressed by certain Judgements by you given against him at the Inferiour Court by you holden at Bristol on the Second Tuesday of January last past, in several Actions there tryed between him said Coram and Peter Walker of Taunton husbandman, and also between him and Eleazer Walker of said Taunton Yeoman, In that you did not chancer certain Bonds put in suit against him by the said Walker's to the just debt and damages, and also In that you refused to take his Bonds for prosecuting appeals from the said judgements, which you had allowed unto him upon his claim thereof during the time of the said Courts sitting, &c. And hath prayed to be relieved against the said Judgements and the Executions thereupon issued, by some Special Act of the said Great and General Court or Assembly.

And whereas the said Great and General Court or Assembly being willing you should have an opportunity of

being heard before them (if you see cause) relating to your proceedings in the Causes aforesaid, before they proceed to make any act for the relief of the said Coram as he hath prayed, have ordered that you be notified of his said Petition and heard upon the matters therein set forth, on the fifth day of March next, if you see cause then to appear for that purpose.

These are therefore accordingly to notify you, of the aforesaid Petition, and also to appear (if you see cause) before the said Great and General Court or Assembly, now sitting at Boston, upon Wednesday the fifth of March aforesaid to be heard upon the matters set forth in the said Coram's Petition before mentioned.

Dated at Boston, the Twenty Sixth day of February 1700. In the thirteenth year of His Majesty's Reign.

By order of the Lieut Governour
Council and Assembly

Is^a Addington Sec^y

Boston, March 5 1700

In General Court

Stephen Phillips of full age made Oath, That this within written notification being committed to him he Executed the same, by reading thereof unto the within named Justices Mr. Browne and Mr. Peck being both together at said Mr. Browne's house in Swanzey, upon Monday the 3d instant, in the forenoon of the same day, and Mr. Justice Browne afterwards tooke it into his own hands to read.

Stephen Phillips

Att. Is^a Addington Sec^y

Mr. Justice Leonard appeared.

On the 5th of March, "the whole Court being together in the Council Chamber," Mr. Justice Leonard only appeared, with the petitioner; the papers were read, and both parties were heard. "Mr. Speaker and the Representatives returned to their Chamber." A resolve was passed, that the petitioner should be enabled by a special act, to have his appeal, in the cases referred to, to the next Superior Court, he to give security to prosecute with effect as the law directs, the several judgments and all the pro-

ceedings under them to be vacated, and all the goods and estate levied thereby or any of them to be restored to the petitioner. The special act was approved by the Lieut.-Governor, William Stoughton, March 12, 1700-1.¹

The Superior Court reversed the decisions of the lower tribunal²; the property which had been seized was already released, with the exception of certain stores of some value, for which Coram recovered two judgments against the deputy sheriff, and levying upon his land, took fifty-nine acres of his farm. Coram's troubles, however, were not yet over, nor did he ever derive any personal benefit from these acres, which, as we shall see, had a history of their own. Just before returning to England, in the autumn of 1703, he addressed the memorial to Governor Dudley³ from which we have twice quoted, asking that he might be put in peaceable possession of his own. The Superior Court confirmed the judgments against the deputy sheriff, after which, says the memorial, this officer "carried his gun with him and threatened to kill the sheriff or any that should attempt to attach him, so the sheriff of the County delivered me some of the deputed sheriff's land to satisfy the two Judgments which I had obtained against him, and when the high sheriff and I came from said land into the highway were fired upon out of some thic̄k bushes near the roadside, we could not see the man that shot but the bullets whistled very near by us and I am morrally assured it was

¹ Province Laws, Vol. I., p. 454.

² Judge Sewall refers very briefly in his diary to the session of the Superior Court held at Bristol in September, 1701; the Hons. John Walley, Elisha Cooke and John Saffin were on the bench with him; he makes no mention of Coram, but the reference to Peter Walker may relate to one or more of the cases between the two, then pending:—

"Sept. 8. rid to Rehoboth with Mr. Cooke, Major Walley; Mr. Saffin went last week.

"Sept. 9 to Bristow. Mr. Saffin and others met us near the Ferry. Peter Walker charg'd Mr. Saffin with urging a man to swear that which he scrupled to swear."

³ Joseph Dudley arrived in Boston with his commission from Queen Anne as governor of the province, June 11, 1702.

this deputed sheriff whose name is Abel Burt, and some time afterward on the 26th of May 1702 this Burt threatened me if I ever should come upon the land which the sheriff had delivered me, and the said Burt then laid violent hands on me and believe would have murdered me had not others Rescued me. I knowing him to be a dangerous fellow I went immediately complained to Captain Leonard the Justice at Taunton of the same and carried two persons with me that saw the Assault to make affidavit of it." But the Justice would not grant him security for the peace against Burt, and would not receive the affidavits which were offered; so that Coram could not have his land laid out and divided from the rest of Burt's land, nor could he "get any to adventure themselves to mow the grass on said land," nor was it safe for him to be seen "in that town." He therefore asks the Governor that some skilful person may "with security" lay out the land for him, that he may obtain possession of it, and then go without fear to Taunton and enjoy his right. In closing, he says that he wants to be able to speak well of the country after his nine years of experience and observation "relating to what it might produce fit for the use of her majesties Navy Royal, or other matter that" he "might be required at any time to give an account of." Notwithstanding all that he had suffered, he had not lost and never, to the end of his life, did lose his interest in the province, and particularly, his concern in behalf of its shipbuilding possibilities and its ocean commerce.¹

¹ The year after his return to England, he and others secured the passage of an Act of Parliament to encourage by a bounty, the manufacture of tar in the American colonies, and we are told that he had successfully originated the industry here in 1698. In later years, he interested himself in the lighting of Boston Harbor, and in the establishment of a pilotage system on this coast.

At one time he was busy with a scheme for settling Nova Scotia, where, he thought, hemp and other naval stores might be produced, and the lands between Nova Scotia and Maine. In 1735, Horace Walpole, writing from The Hague to his brother, Sir Robert Walpole, on colonial affairs, said: "Lose no time in talking with Sir Charles Wager, Mr. Blandin, and one Coram, the honestest, the most disinterested, and the most knowing person about the plantations I ever talked with."

In a letter to Dr. Colman, minister of Brattle-street Church, written nearly forty years after these events, Captain Coram blames Nathaniel Byfield, one of the most influential men in the province, for all the bitter persecution to which he had been subjected. Mr. Byfield was in England in 1715, and endeavored to obtain the governorship, when Governor Dudley was superseded, or some other high office in the province, but failed utterly.¹ On his return to Boston, he inveighed bitterly against Jeremiah Dummer, the agent of Massachusetts in London, and said that he had betrayed him. Captain Coram's letter (September 22, 1738), gives us the secret history of his failure: "Coll. Byfield went from here about that time from hence where I had stuck in his skirts to prevent his obtaining to be Governor or so much as judge of the Admiralty again in New England for the Intolerable Oppressions that Proud base Monster had Malliciously brought on me in that Country for three or four years together and for no more cause than you have given to me, his only pretence for it was that I had, as he said, been hard upon his tenant's son named Dan Throope who had covenanted with me to build a vessel with my Timber and Plank in my Building yard at Zebulon then in Taunton now in the New Township called Dighton on the further side of Taunton, and had received his first Payment thereon, and found means by the help of the mistress of the house where I lodged, in the year 1699 near my said Building yard, to break open my Chest and

¹ "Nathaniel Byfield, who was a person of some importance at this period, was son of a member of the Westminster Assembly of Divines, and nephew of Bishop Juxon. He came from England in 1674, and settled at Bristol. In 1693, he was Speaker of the House, and Judge of Probate for his county. In 1703, he was appointed Judge of Admiralty and held the office through the whole of Dudley's administration. Dudley, when he came over as Governor, found him in office as a Counsellor, but they soon fell out, and the breach was never reconciled. In England, Byfield quarrelled with Dummer, who took Dudley's part, though between himself and the Governor there was still no good will." — Palfrey's History of New England, Vol. IV., p. 340, note. Byfield had lost his judgeship in the Admiralty Court, when he went to England in 1715. He was recommissioned in 1728-9, and held the office until his death in 1733.

take out the said Covenant and burn it. I could not obtain a warrant of the Justice in Taunton to take the Rouge up, but afterwards took him in Boston where he got his Fathers Landlord Byfield to be bound for his performance of the Work, before which tho I had been five or six years in New England had never been in Byfield his Company or spoken with him, yet he used me with very scurrilous language and said his being bound to me should be my Ruin, and he endeavored it accordingly not only in Bristol County where he had a Party would do any vile thing he desired or were told would please him, even the Inferiour Judges of the Court as well as most of the Jurymen (not all) and other idle Fellows did all the Divil could put in their heads to please him and Ruin Mee. I say this Monster Byfield finding here anno 1716 [1715] he had Injured a man who remembered it, and that he was never like to obtain anything here of those I was known to, he returned, I cannot say whether ashamed or not."

It is to be observed that Coram's statements find general confirmation in all the official records which have come to our knowledge, and that, in every instance, he was sustained by the higher courts to which he appealed. A less plucky and determined man than he would have been driven to the wall in these controversies; but he boldly withstood his enemies to the end, and, when he sailed out of Boston Harbor, probably in command of one of the ships he had been building here, he had been vindicated in his character, and confirmed in the possession of all his rights. Mr. Dummer wrote truly, in a letter from London in 1720: Mr. Coram "is a man of that obstinate, persevering temper as never to desist from his first enterprise, whatever obstacles lie in his way."

At the end of the year 1703, Coram conveyed the land which, at such hazard to himself and others, he had gained from Abel Burt, to the vestrymen of King's Chapel, for the benefit of the Church of England in the province, with

the provision that they might grant any part or parcel of it for an Episcopal Church in Taunton, if forty ratable men there should make application for it. He had employed the Attorney-General in Boston, Mr. Newton, to draw the deed "amply strong and in due form," so that "none of the crafty New Englanders might ever find a flaw in it, I knowing too well," he said, "what sort of folks the major part of the inhabitants of Taunton then were." This gift lay neglected and unimproved for many years, to the great vexation of the giver, who attributed this treatment of it to the circumstance that he had lodged the deed in the hand of the Rev. Mr. Bridge, the assistant at the Chapel; for which reason, he thought, Mr. Miles, the senior minister, "disrespected the said deed of gift, and prevented the vestry from taking any notice of it."¹ In 1740, Coram proposed that the land should be deeded to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, feeling sure that the inhabitants of Taunton at that time would not adventure "to play their tricks with the corporation, as," he said, "the last generation of vipers there did with me." This suggestion, however, was not carried into effect; and, in 1754, three years after his death, the wardens and vestry of the Chapel conveyed the property to Stephen Burt, of Berkeley, for one hundred pounds, which went into the fund for their new house of worship then approaching completion. Coram had been applied to in London, by a member of the congregation, to contribute toward the erection of this building, but had refused, emphatically, not to say passionately, because his gift had been allowed to lie unimproved for nearly half a century; as was usual with him, he had expressed himself so unqualifiedly that there could be no room for doubt as to his meaning: "he knew it was in his power to serve the church very much, but if the

¹ See *Annals of King's Chapel*, Vol. I., p. 365, for a "miniature" of the two ministers, "etched," says Mr. Foote, "with a mordant pen," by Captain Coram.

Twelve Apostles were to apply to him in behalf of it, he would persist in refusing." In reporting the result of his call, the gentleman who had received this rebuff naïvely remarked: "I thought this a definitive answer, and so took my leave."

For many years Captain Coram kept up a very full and friendly correspondence with Dr. Colman, of Boston.¹ We have given an extract from one of his letters to this excellent man; although not directly related to our subject, we venture to present one or two more. Under date of August 24, 1739, he wrote: "On the 14th Instant The King signed the Charter or the Bill so calld before the Great seal is affixed, it is to my satisfaction in every perticuler since with much Difficulty I got several amendments to it which the Attorney General opposd I suppose he thought it a blemish to his honour to desire any amendments whereupon I petitioned the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for those amendments we made which their Lordships order to be done accordingly. I have now sent my Mother [in law] a Written Copy and have desid her to send it for you to see as also an Impression of the Common Seal of the Corporation which I chose out of the affair mentioned in the 2^d of Exodus of Pharoah's Daughter and her Maid's finding Moses in the ark of Bulrushes which I thought would be very appropo for an hospital for Foundlings Moses being the first Foundling we read of."

In connection with the cost of the charter, we have this characteristic remark: "The fees will be more than two hundred guineas to prepare and pass the charter through all the offices and officers notwithstanding it is on so compassionate a case, but I am told and do believe, if it was to prevent the abolishing of Christianity out of the World no lawyer nor office man would abate of his fees."

¹ Many of these letters have been preserved among the Davis Papers, in the collections of the Mass. Hist. Society.

In a postscript to the same letter, he adds: "I think I may say I am sure of having thirty-four acres of land in the fields before Queen's Square in Ormond Street for a site for our Hospital and everything proper belonging thereto it is about an equal Distance from Aldgate and from Whitehall or St James Palace." There were fifty-five acres in this estate, which belonged to the Earl of Salisbury, and as he refused to divide it, the governors of the hospital were obliged to buy the whole, the cost being one hundred pounds an acre. They had previously had an offer to take Montague House on a lease; while that offer could not be accepted, yet it "started the charity very much."

Writing to Dr. Colman, September 13, 1740, Coram tells of the recent death of his wife, "a virtuous, kind and prudent wife, without a fault," whom he had married in Boston forty years before (June 27, 1700). She was Eunice, daughter of John and Eunice Wait, near neighbors of Judge Sewall and mentioned by him several times in his diary.¹ The first male child baptized at the Foundling was named Thomas Coram; the first female, Eunice Coram, "some nobility of the first rank standing godfather and godmother" to them and others.

Captain Coram outlived his wife nearly eleven years. "This singular and memorable man," says an old pamphlet lying before us,² "exchanged this life for a better, and

¹ Sebastian, or Bastian, a negro belonging to the Waits, was in Judge Sewall's service: "Sept. 26, 1700. Mr. John Wait and Eunice his wife, and Mrs. Debora Thair came to speak to me about the marriage of Sebastian, negro servant of said Wait, with Jane, negro servant of said Thair. Mr. Wait desired they might be published in order to marriage. Mrs. Thair insisted that Sebastian might have one day in six allow'd him for the support of Jane, his intended wife and her children, if it should please God to give her any. Mr. Wait now wholly declin'd that, but freely offered to allow Bastian Five pounds, in money per annum toward the support of his children per said Jane (besides Sebastian's cloathing and diet). I persuaded Jane and Mrs. Thair to agree to it, and so it was concluded."—*Sewall's Diary*.

² "Essay on the Character of Capt. Thomas Coram," belonging to our associate Mr. Henry H. Edes. There is a copy of this pamphlet of twenty pages in the Society's library, and in the Boston Athenæum. It was first printed in London in 1751, and was reprinted the same year in Boston.

passed from doing to enjoying good, on Friday, March the 29th, 1751, in the fourscore and fourth year of his age; making it his last request that his corpse might be interred in the chappel of the Foundling Hospital." The motto which he took for himself as well as for the hospital, tells the story of his life, *non sibi, sed aliis.*

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.