

The consecration of the Chancery Bar Lodge of Freemasons, attended by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, took place in the library of Lincoln's Inn on November 29, 1893.

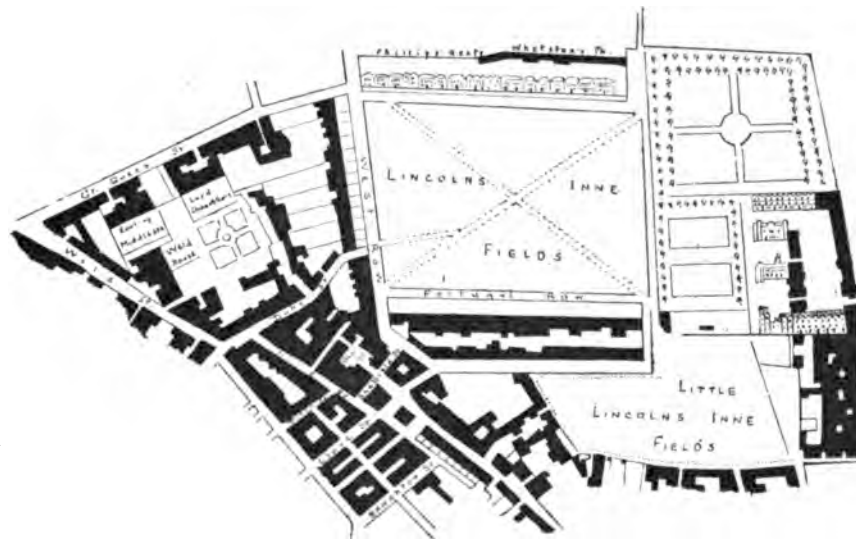
*Lincoln's Inn New Square* was built, in 1687, on Little Lincoln's Inn Fields, and forms no part of the Inn of Court called Lincoln's Inn.

Ancient inhabitants: Sir Samuel Romily, at No. 2, and afterwards at No. 6; and Sir William Grant, in No. 3; Arthur Murphy (b. 1730, d. 1805), a member of Lincoln's Inn, dramatist, and the friend of Johnson, lived twenty-three years at No. 1.

The plot of which New Square forms a part was originally called Fickett's Field, or Croft, afterwards Little Lincoln's Inn Fields, and, till about 1620, was a place of execution. It comprised about ten acres, extending from what was the Bell (the site of Bell Yard, Temple Bar, demolished when the new Law Courts were built) to Portugal Street, including all the ground now covered by the Law Courts, and part of Lincoln's Inn New Square. This field was, in ancient records, called the Templars' Field, it having been conveyed to them by the same William Cotterell, mentioned under the gardens of Lincoln's Inn, and is, in the earliest extant grant, described as 'terram sive campum pro saltationibus, turnamentis aliisque exercitiis equitum militumque regni nostræ Angliæ, presertim vero equitum sancti Johannis Hierosolimitan.'

On the abolition of the Order of the Templars, Fickett's Field was assigned to the Priory of St. John of Jerusalem, but about 1376 the site of New Square was laid out as a walking place, planted with trees, for the clerks of the Chancery, apprentices and students of the law. About 1399 a petition was sent to Parliament, in which it was shown that one Roger Legit had privily laid many iron engines called 'caltrappes' [*i.e.*, steel-traps] in the trenches of Fickett Field, with a malicious intention to maim the said clerks and others, for which he was punished by fine and imprisonment. On the dissolution of the monasteries the field was granted by Henry VIII. to Anthony Stringer, to hold *in capite*, under the description of 'Totum ill' campum, terram et pasturam vocat' Fickett's Field ad-jacen' messuag' vocat' Le Bell,' etc. From Stringer it came to John Hornby, 35 Henry VIII., who dying, 5 and 6 Phil. and Mary, it passed to his son Richard, who died in 1563, leaving Alice, his daughter and heir, who married Edward Clifton, who had a son, Hornby Clifton, by whom, in 1606, it was conveyed to John Harborne, Esq., of Taskley, Com. Oxon. But a portion of the property must have been alienated before then, for there is a deed extant,

dated May 10, 1584, by which William Moresome, citizen and skinner of London, and Allyce, his wife (evidently the above-named Alice), sold for twenty marks to various persons a piece of ground, lying in the field called Fyckett Field on the south side of Lincoln's Inn, adjoining to the buildings then contained with the limits between the turnpike gate of Lincoln's Inn, adjoining the said field, to the mud wall next the gardens in the occupation of John Bevington and others, southward, etc. The property sold to the above-mentioned John Harborne is thus described in the *Inquis. post mortem* on the decease of John Hornby: 'All that messuage and tenement called the Bell, with all its appurtenances, lying and being in the parish of St. Dunstan, in Fleet Street, London,

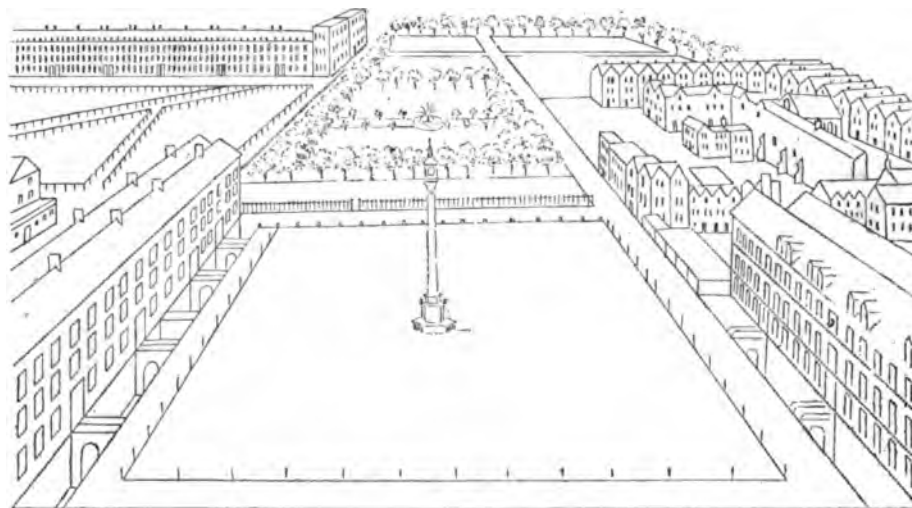


LINCOLN'S INNE FIELDS IN 1658.

lately belonging to the Priory of St. John of Jerusalem, etc. And a certain field and pasture, called Fickett's Field, near adjoining, together with ingress and egress, with horses and carriages, by two gates at the east end of the said field, that is to say through one gate leading from the lane called Chauncery Lane towards the aforesaid field, and through the other gate at the west end of the same way, abutting upon the aforesaid field.' (See Serle Street.)

It appears that two-thirds of Fickett's Field afterwards passed to Sir John Birkenhead, the writer of the *Mercurius Aulicus*, and sometime Master of Requests (*b.* 1615, *d.* 1679), and from his sons and his executors the land, as we

learn from Sir John Branston's autobiography, was purchased by a Mr. Henry Serle, of whom little else is known than that he, and a person named Clerk, had some claims on Fickett's Field, which were settled by an agreement, dated 1683, between them and the benchers. The specific properties of the parties being settled, Mr. Serle was permitted to build on the field. He began the building of Serle's Court, now called New Square, but did not live to see it finished. He died in 1690, intestate, and much in debt. The square was completed about 1697. His arms, together with those of the Inn, are over the gateway which forms the southern entrance from Carey Street into New Square, and which consists of an oval arch with a human head keystone and Doric pillars on each side panelled; the south side is stone, the north side brick.

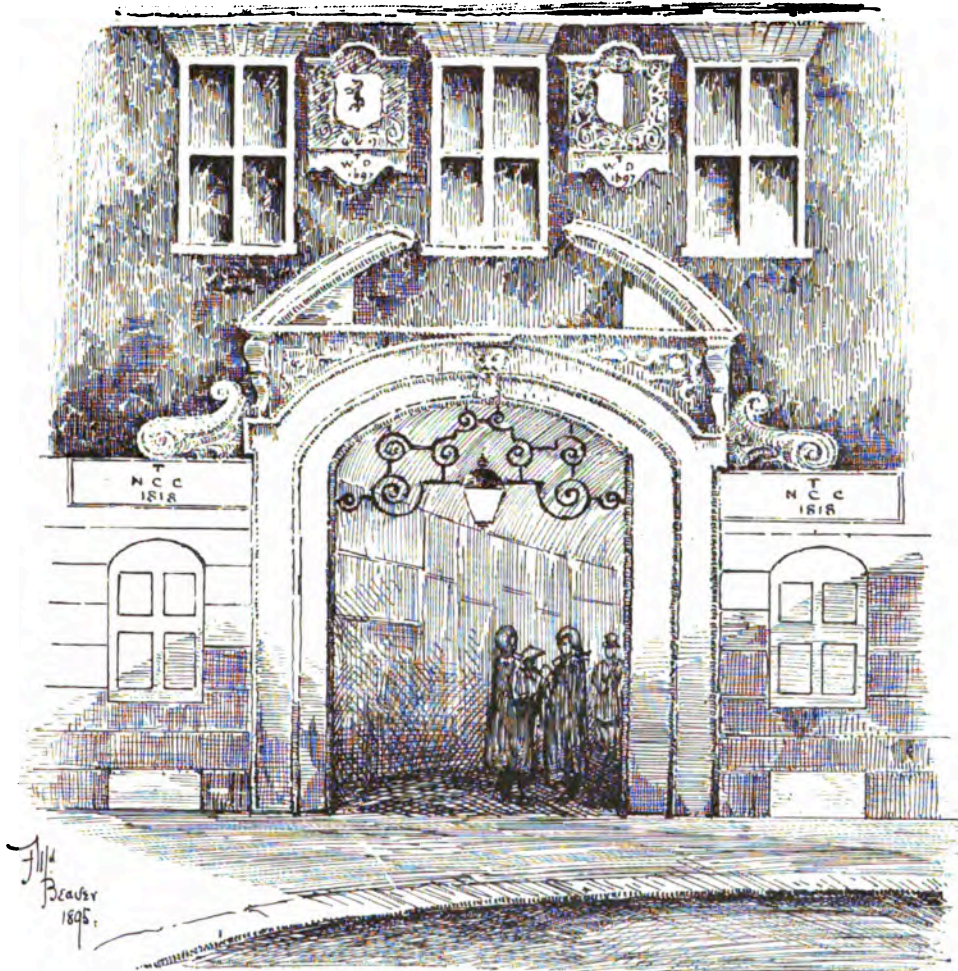


NEW SQUARE IN 1720.

The premises under the gateway are appropriately occupied by an eminent firm of law booksellers. The second edition of *Barnaby's Journal* was printed in 1716, for one Illidge, 'under Serle's Gate.'

The houses in New Square are occupied exclusively by lawyers; in the last quarter of the last century the west side was occupied by the stamp office; they are freehold, but subject to certain restrictions inserted in the agreement between the benchers and Serle. The whole of the chambers within the jurisdiction of the society entitle the holders to a vote for members of Parliament for Middlesex and Westminster.

The open space in the square originally was covered with gravel, and very neatly kept. In the centre was formerly an ornamental column and fountain, designed by Inigo Jones, and of the Corinthian order, with a sundial placed at the top; at the angles of the pedestal were infant tritons, who spouted water



GATEWAY, NEW SQUARE TO CAREY STREET.

from their shells. At the bottom was a basin to receive the water, with a railing round it. There were also distributed about the garden statues of Augustus, Pompey, Julius Cæsar and Mark Antony, as well as figures of Neptune and Hercules, the gifts of different benchers. The ornamental column and fountain