

Christ Church Library, Carroll Collection

Digitised image notes and captions by Edward Wakeling

H - Deanery Collection - The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary

Introductory notes:

A rare copy of Dodgson's publication of *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary* inscribed "Rev. T. J. Prout from the Editor." Dodgson recorded in his diary for 27 December 1869: "Theatrical performance at Mr. Synge's, very enjoyable. *The* treat of the evening, to me, was the 'Dirge over Dundee,' sung by Alice Shute, to the tune of 'Ye banks and braes,' unaccompanied, and with a perfectly true and deliciously sweet voice. There was a good scene from *King Lear*, for Mr. Synge, *Kenilworth*, versified, in which Miss Synge acted capitally as Queen Elizabeth, *Old Poz*, in which Eva Shute acted the child very sweetly and simply, a few charades in dumb show, in which I took a part as an M.D., ending with *Poor Pillicoddy*, very fairly acted by Wilfred, Mr. Synge and Miss Synge. Mr. and Mrs. A. Trollope were present. I am trying to commemorate the evening in print, *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary*."

The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary was a 16-page pamphlet produced by Dodgson for private circulation as a keepsake in memory of the evening's entertainment at the home of William Webb Follett Synge (1826-1891), author and diplomat. It was issued as No. 9999 and dated 29 December 1869. Very few copies have survived (Princeton and Christ Church). The pamphlet begins with an introduction entitled "Opening of the New Theatre" and then gives the programme of the evening, a mixture of readings from plays and charades. The full text of Synge's prologue written and performed by himself, an episode from "Kenilworth" versified by Synge, and an Epilogue also by Synge and performed by Eva Shute and his son, William Makepeace Thackeray Synge (1860-1929), are reproduced in full. Dodgson wrote the interlinking text. Among the other performers during the evening not mentioned in Dodgson's journal entry were Dodgson's youngest brother, Edwin, and also Mary Merriman, and Josephine Craigie. Also present was the writer, Anthony Trollope (1815-1882), with his wife, Rose née Heseltine.

The recipient of this pamphlet, Thomas Jones Prout (1823-1909), MA Christ Church, was vicar of Binsey (just outside of Oxford), and a lifelong friend of Dodgson.

Carroll-H_01

Page 1 of *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary* – title page

Carroll-H_02

Page 2 of *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary* - "Opening of the New Theatre"

Carroll-H_03

Page 3 of *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary* - Programme

Carroll-H_04

Page 4 of *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary* - Programme continued, Charades, and Prologue

Carroll-H_05

Page 5 of *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary* - Prologue continued

Carroll-H_06

Page 6 of *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary* - Kenilworth

Carroll-H_07

Page 7 of *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary* - Kenilworth continued

Carroll-H_08

Page 8 of *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary* - Kenilworth continued

Carroll-H_09

Page 9 of *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary* - Kenilworth continued

Carroll-H_10

Page 10 of *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary* - Kenilworth continued

Carroll-H_11

Page 11 of *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary* – Kenilworth continued

Carroll-H_12

Page 12 of *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary* – Kenilworth concluded – Poor Pillicoddy

Carroll-H_13

Page 13 of *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary* – Poor Pillicoddy continued - Epilogue

Carroll-H_14

Page 14 of *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary* – Epilogue concluded - Supper

Carroll-H_15

Page 15 of *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary* – Dirge

Carroll-H_16

Page 16 of *The Guildford Gazette Extraordinary* – the last sheet is blank