

President Henry Clerke's account describing the pregnancy of the organist's daughter, 1685. MCA PR20/MS1/1

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Dr Rogers & Vaughan Major.

The 12th of Jan. 1685/6 I called the Vicepresident and deanes to heare what Dr Rogers the Organist could say for himselfe, about his daughter etc. He sayd she had gott a great belly and had layd it to Vaughan Major etc

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On the 18th att a meeting in the Hall I shewed to the Company (being in number about 16 fellows which were more then a majority by 3 or 4) a copy of the Articles of agreement made betwixt Dr Pierce President Jul. 22. 1664 and Benjamin Rogers etc who was to be Informator Choristarum and Organist etc And to receive £60 per annum out of the College revenue during lyfe, if he forfeited not his places by misdemeamour

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They were also shewed a Copy of his patent under the Colledge great Seale, which confirmed the Agreement made betweene the President and him but the words (if he forfeit not his place by misdemeamour) were not exprest.

It was sayd by all, that they were implied, and necessarily understood, Otherwise the Confirmation was a nullity in Law.

His misdemeamour was the keeping of his daughter in his lodgings, who was a scandalous creature, and reputed a Common whore, contrary to the Order and command of the President who severall tymes warnd him to dispose of her, and to rid the Colledge of such a lewd creature. as severall of the fellowes knew and witnessed

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Another misdemeamour was his troublesome behaviour in the Chappell where usually he would talke so loud in the Organ loft that he offended the Company, and not leave it off, tho he hath beene sent to by the president not to make such a scandalous noyse there.

There were frequent complaynts of him from the Clerkes, to whom (especially the Chanter) he used to be very Crosse in not playing services as they were willing [ink blot] able to sing, but out of a thwarting humor would play nothing but Canterbury tune wherein he minded not the honour of the Colledge, but his owne ease and Lazinesse.

Another misdemeanor was, the bringing the divell into his Lodgings, and giving out [fol 52v]

that they were haunted with evill spirits, which was nothing in the world but a knavigh invention and report of him for what end God knowes, but suspected for this reason, that the world might believe his daughter was bewichd, etc

After the meeting in the Hall, Mr Pygott the organist of St Johns was brought to mee by Mr Wright, And offerd his service in dr Rogers his place for 40 pounds per annum

and the reversion of 20 pounds more after the decease of dr Rogers to which all the Fellows in the Hall had agreed, and also to allow dr Rogers 30 pounds per annum