

Camden Hall

Frederick Miller (in *St. Pancras Past and Present*, 1874:250) wrote:

The corner house by King-street, belonging to the Camden Hall Company, was occupied sixty years since by a city merchant as his country house; it became afterwards a boarding school for young ladies; later still it was taken by a Mr. Hart, who erected the Hall for his school-room, and it was known as 'Hart's Schoolroom' till it passed out of his hands and, after various fortunes and misfortunes, passed into those of its present lessees who hold it for twenty-one years. Camden Hall has long been associated with religious and moral efforts, as well as with the promotion of saving habits, in its building societies and penny bank.



Collage 182225. Camden Hall on far right (all property now demolished)

Camden Temperance Society at Camden Hall, King Street on Sunday and Monday evenings

THE LECTURE

DELIVERED AT CAMDEN HALL, CAMDEN TOWN,
ON FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 12, 1858,

BY THE
REV. BENJAMIN DAVIES.

SENTIMENTS OF CONDOLENCE AND SYMPATHY. 187

Resolutions at a meeting of the inhabitants of Camden town.

No. 1.

That this meeting desires to give utterance to the feelings of grief and horror with which it has heard of the assassination of the late President Lincoln and the murderous attack upon Mr. Seward, and to convey to Mrs. Lincoln, the United States government and people, an expression of its profound sympathy and heartfelt condolence.

On behalf of a public meeting of the inhabitants of Camden town, held in Camden Hall, Friday evening, May 5, 1865.

Senate Documents - Volume 217, Part 4 - Page 187

21 February 1865:

London.'

" 21st.—Delivered lecture on Napoleon at the Working Men's Institute, Camden Hall, Camden Town. About a hundred and seventy present.

" 28th.—In the evening I attended a meeting of the George Harris, *The Autobiography of George Harris*, 1888.

WORKING MEN'S
SOCIAL CLUBS

AND

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES.



BY

HENRY SOLLY,

LATE SECRETARY TO THE WORKING MEN'S CLUB AND INSTITUTE UNION.

LONDON :

PUBLISHED BY THE WORKING MEN'S CLUB AND INSTITUTE
UNION, AND TO BE HAD AT THEIR OFFICE,
150, STRAND, W.C.

1867.

[All Rights Reserved.]

Among Clubs that are distinguished by having been at once self-supporting and extensively useful, we know of none that excel, few that equal, the Camden Town Working Men's Club, in King-street, Camden Town, London, N.W., commenced in 1863. Several have been as useful, and others as pecuniarily successful; but few, if any, have equally combined success in both departments. One cause has undoubtedly been excellent premises, including a concert and lecture hall, in a central situation. Another is to be found in the determination of the promoters and managers, from the first, to make the Club something more than a place for mere recreation. They have fostered both the educational and commercial element, while they have, at the same time, been untiring in their attention to the recreation department. But the main secret of their success, humanly speaking, has lain in the devoted, self-sacrificing zeal and judgment of its committee and secretaries; while a still more noteworthy, because more important and rarer, element of success is to be found in the fact that, in the concluding words of their report, as a

One ground for apprehension with regard to this Club—but it is a serious one, and requiring constant attention—is, that it has been so good that tradesmen in the neighbourhood use it, and the class of working men by whom these Clubs are especially needed is not so fully represented as one could wish. This drawback is probably increased by the ground-floor rooms being frequently occupied by classes and friendly societies, instead of being kept for sociable chat and the inevitable “weed.” The best room in the house is given up to a “reading-room.” However, there is no doubt as to the incalculable good the Camden Town Club has been instrumental in effecting. The members last year formed a Limited Liability Company, and, with the aid of friends, purchased the whole of the premises. This spirited proceeding places them in a very advantageous position as regards rent, &c., and will probably prove eventually a source of profit, even to the shareholders. [Since the above was written this Club has experienced a severe check to its prosperity. But having purchased the premises, the Club not only holds its ground,

53

committee, they have always “sought wisdom and strength where alone it can be found.” It is not, indeed, often that a Club committee can be found in which, as in that of Camden Town, the persons composing it are all of them prepared and willing to commence their weekly meeting with united prayer. But we must be permitted to say we think it would be a wonderful blessing, and the surest guarantee of success, if they *could* do so, and that, where that was not found practicable, if those who were thus disposed could either meet together at some other time to ask for help or guidance, or would each individually do this before coming to the meeting. It must be distinctly observed, that neither this course, nor that which the Camden Town Committee have followed, in the slightest degree compromises the strictly neutral, unsectarian character of the Club, which, indeed, cannot be too jealously maintained. If any of the members of a Club, whether when meeting for business or any purpose, *unanimously* desire to engage in united prayer in a room where for the time being they have the sole right of access, no other person's liberty of conscience is affected, no principle of the Club is in the slightest degree violated. But, of course, all depends upon the desire being unanimous.