

and I should be glad, if your  
 work goes through another  
 edition, to see the mistake  
 rectified — the sword  
 instead of being rusted  
 away is in my possession  
 and in perfect order

Your Obedient Servant  
 T. Nesham Capt. 40  
 late 68<sup>th</sup> Regt

to Thomas Carlyle Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Edinburgh

May to say I have been favoured  
 with letters from Paris respecting  
 the affair of Bernon — as well as  
 my dear father's death T. N.

Thomas Williams Nesham to TC, 19 January 1854, pp. 2–3

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## The Last Will and Testament of Stauros Dilberoglue

THE LATE MR. DILBEROGLUE— The death is announced, at the age of 60, of Mr. Stauros Dilberoglue, an eminent Greek merchant in the city, and one of the Lieutenants of the City of London. Mr. Dilberoglue was a leading member of the Committee of the Lancashire Cotton Famine Fund, commenced at the Mansion House in the Mayoralty of Mr. Cubitt in 1861, and during recent years he rendered invaluable assistance in the collection and distribution of the various other great charitable funds raised in the city.

The Times, Thursday, 25 April 1878, page 6

INDEED, A SEARCH OF THE (LONDON) *TIMES* FOR THE NAME Dilberoglue brings forth numerous instances of relief concerning the cotton famine in Manchester and neighboring midland cities that was worsened by Union naval blockades during the American Civil War. Stauros (sometimes spelled Stavros) Dilberoglue (or Dilberoglou or Dilberoglu) was described as a “Greek from Chios” in Thomas Carlyle’s annotation below his photograph in Jane Welsh Carlyle’s albums (*CSA* 25: 157). He came into the Carlyles’ circle through his association with the Jewsbury family, originally of Manchester, where he had worked as a cotton broker before moving to London, in both instances as an associate of C. J. Cavafy & Company brokerage at 31 Threadneedle Street. Frank Jewsbury, whose father had been a cotton manufacturer, gave Dilberoglue his start in business in Manchester, and the friendship was such that a Jewsbury son bore the name Stauros. In the Biographical Notes in *CL* volume 37, Dilberoglue is said to have been born in Smyrna (now Izmir in Turkey) and moved with his family to Corfu where he was naturalized as an Ionian citizen, the seven Ionian states being, from 1816 to 1864, a British protectorate. He came to England in 1835 and was naturalized as a British citizen in 1861, two years after his marriage to the actor Sarah Anderton (born Coxon). They lived in the London suburb of Islington, and Mrs. Dilberoglue is listed there at 13 Barnsbury Park in the address-book of Confederate spy Rose Greenhow, who was in London in 1864 (see *CSA* 25: 172). It was at the Dilberoglue’s home, referred to as the “Temple of Concord,” where JWC met the American actor Charlotte Cushman in September 1861. Sarah Dilberoglue wrote to Miss Cushman and her companion Emma Stebbins on 22 April 1866 to inform them of the sudden death of JWC (see *CSA* 24: 147–49).

Connected socially and commercially with the powerful Ionides, Cavafy [Kavafis], and Spartali families, Stauros Dilberoglue succeeded in business, contributed significantly to Saint Sophia’s Greek Orthodox Church, and collected paintings and sculpture from artists such as Whistler, Watts, Legros, Fantin Latour, and the Pre-Raphaelites including Thomas Woolner, for whom he was godfather to two of his children. A year before his death, he corresponded with Mary Carlyle Aitken concerning a Legros portrait of Thomas Carlyle.

Glimpses of him are found in the reminiscences of Francis Espinasse, Amy Woolner, and the Rossettis. He is the model for the character Stavros Frangipoli in George Henry Lewes's third, unfinished novel, *The Apprenticeship of Life* (serialized in *The Leader*, 1850). Espinasse (1823–1912), an Edinburgh-born journalist of Huguenot descent, recalled Dilberoglue in Manchester in the 1840s in this pen-portrait:

Among his [TC's] new acquaintances he seemed to be struck by an interesting member of the Greek colony established there. This was Stavros [*sic*] Dilberoglue, the Manchester representative of a Greek House [Cavafy] in London, a very handsome and cultivated young man, of singular refinement of mind and manners. He was a friend of Miss Jewsbury's, and became through her one of Mrs. Carlyle's. He was the donor to Mrs. Carlyle of the pet dog Nero, so often and so fondly mentioned in her correspondence, her fondness for whom procured her from Lady Ashburton the appellation of Agrippina, one not redeeming by its wit a conspicuous absence of good taste and good feeling in the giver. It was to Dilberoglue that Carlyle, enjoining on him a "due depth of silence," intrusted the commission to procure, as a birthday present for his wife, a little machine for making those cigarettes in which at one time she liked to indulge. Among Dilberoglue's personal characteristics was a certain longitude of neck, and, seizing on this with his usual quickness of eye for physical peculiarities, Carlyle compared him to a crane that had alighted on our shores and would one day wing his way to his distant home. Dilberoglue, however, when he had made a fortune, settled in London, where, from his knowledge of Lancashire, he proved a very useful member of the Mansion House Committee during the cotton-famine.

Dilberoglue's gift of the dog Nero to JWC has been documented in depth by Beryl Gray in her essay "'Nero c'est moi': Jane Welsh Carlyle and Her Little Dog" (*CSA*: 22: 181–213). TC's letter to Charlotte Williams Wynn, 27 November 1849, recently acquired by the David M. Rubenstein Library, in which he announces the arrival of Nero, is transcribed in this issue of *CSA*.

Amy Woolner, in her *Thomas Woolner RA: His Life and Letters* (New York, 1917) quotes from a letter her father wrote to fellow artist John Frederick Lewis, 22 November 1874: "I was going off to Venice to-morrow, but the friend with whom I travel caught a sorethroat and now I have to wait until his Dr. lets him off." In a footnote, the friend is identified as "Stauros Dilberoglue, a very delightful Greek friend, who was intimate with many of Woolner's circle. He was godfather to two of the Sculptor's children." And in the narrative, Amy Woolner explains: "In November [1874] M. Alphonse Legros painted a portrait in oils of Woolner just before the Sculptor was on a tour on the Continent with his friend Dilberoglue. They visited Paris, Milan, Verona, whose beauties and treasures he fully enjoyed, [and] Padua" (300).

That the Dilberoglues moved with ease in artistic and Bohemian and otherwise enlightened company is evident time and time again. The "Temple of Concord" was a household largely free of the strictures and hypocrisies so freely associated with Victorian manners and mores. In a Christina Rossetti letter to her brother William, [5 September 1872], she speaks of a shawl formerly belonging to the late Sarah Dilberoglue that Stauros wanted her to have. "Thank you for your dear letter received this morning. I am quite delighted with the Indian shawl, Mr. Dilberoglue's generous present, and suppose it may be the handsomest gift I ever in my life received" (*The Family Letters of Christina Georgina Rossetti* [London: Brown, Langham, 1908], 37). Apparently a man of Indian shawls, Dilberoglue earlier presented another to JWC (for which see JWC to Mary Russell, [31 December 1860], *CL* 37: 78). His wife Sarah died in 1869, and Stauros died on 23 April 1878; they were childless. His will speaks of godsons; sisters in Greece, France, and Corfu; a brother in Alexandria, Egypt; various friends, three trustees, and a housekeeper. Sir William James Richmond Cotton (1822–1902; *ODNB*), mentioned in the will, was Lord Mayor of London, 1875–76.

In a letter to his brother John, 27 April 1878, TC wrote: "John Stanley whom we otherwise called Colonel Stanley, who had long been an ardent follower of mine & was familiar to me from his boyhood suddenly died (at least to me suddenly) on Tuesday morning last,—a great shock to me when I heard

it from Miss Bromley before going out that day. The same morning about five, as you already know poor Dilberoglue got his release. I many a time wonder that I have any friends left, who can be taken away from me & added to the great multitude already gone.” In the will that follows, written some three months before his death, there is a significant legacy of £500 to the Hospital for Consumption at Brompton, leading one to surmise that the cause of his death may have been tuberculosis.

A search of *CLO* yields copious references to Stauros or Stavros Dilberoglue, his stunningly beautiful sister Calliope, and their mother. The editors thank English researcher Dr. Sara E. Atkinson for acquiring a copy of this will and others, Spring 2016.

*David Southern*



*I Stauros Dilberoglue* of No 13 Barnsbury Park in the County of Middlesex Esquire hereby revoke all Wills and Testamentary dispositions heretofore made by me and declare this to be my last Will and Testament I declare that I am a naturalized British subject and that my domicile is in England I bequeath the following pecuniary legacies that is to say to The Hospital for Consumption at Brompton Five hundred pounds To my sister Benetta Vamous of Athens in the Kingdom of Greece Widow the sum of two hundred pounds To my Godson Hugh Woolner son of Thomas Woolner R.A. fifty pounds To my Godson Eustace Stanley Cotton son of Alderman Cotton M.P. fifty pounds and to my friend Arthur Paul Stone hereinafter mentioned fifty pounds I direct the legacy to The Hospital for Consumption at Brompton to be paid out of that part of my personal estate which is legally applicable for that purpose and I declare that the receipts of the Treasurer or Secretary for the time being of the said Hospital shall be a sufficient discharge for the same And I direct that if either of my said Godsons shall be under twenty one years when their said legacies shall become payable the same shall be paid to the said Thomas Woolner of Alderman Cotton as the case may be to be managed by them at their discretion for the benefit of

their said sons till they shall attain twenty one years And in such case the receipt of the said Thomas Woolner or the said Alderman Cotton shall be an effectual discharge for the said legacy I devise and bequeath all my real and Personal Estate whatsoever (except what I otherwise dispose of by this my Will or any Codicil hereto) unto and to the use of Charles James Hyde Allen of No 4 Park Crescent Portland Place in the County of Middlesex Esquire William James Richmond Cotton of No 43 Cromwell Houses Cromwell Road in the said County of Middlesex Esquire M.P. Alderman of the City of London and Arthur Paul Stone of No 12 Kings Bench Walk Temple Esquire Barrister at Law their heirs executors and administrators respectively upon trust that they or the survivors or survivor of them or the heirs executors or administrators of such survivor (herein after called the said trustees or trustee) shall subject as to my personal estate to the consent hereinafter mentioned) in such manner and under such stipulations and upon such terms in all respects as they or he shall think fit sell collect or otherwise convert into money (according to the nature of the premises) all such parts of the same premises as shall not consist of ready money and may buy in or rescind any Contract of Sale or of any other description and resell without being answerable for loss and may for the purposes aforesaid execute and do all such assurances and things as they or he shall think fit and shall out of the money to arise from such sale collection and conversion and the money of which I shall be possessed at my death pay my funeral and testamentary expenses and debts and the legacies bequeathed by this my Will or any Codicil hereto and shall set apart or appropriate a sum of three thousand pounds and a further sum of two thousand pounds upon the trusts hereinafter declared of the same respectively And shall with the consent in writing of my sister Calliope Homere hereinafter mentioned during her life and after her death in their or his discretion invest the residue of the said moneys in their or his names or name under their or his legal control in any of the public stocks or funds or Government securities of the United Kingdom or India or any Colony or Dependency of the United Kingdom or any Foreign Country or State or upon freehold copyhold leasehold or chattel real securities in England or securities of any Corporation Company

or public body municipal commercial or otherwise in the United Kingdom or India or any Colony or dependency of the United Kingdom or any Foreign Country or State or upon real security in any Foreign Country And I declare that the said trustees or trustee may with such consent or at such discretion as aforesaid vary the said stocks funds shares and securities for others of any kind hereby authorized and shall pay the income of the said residuary trust moneys and the investments for the time being representing the same unto my sister Calliope Homere the wife of John Homere of the City of Paris for her life for her sole and separate use free from marital control but she shall not have power to deprive herself of the benefit thereof by any dealings therewith in the way of anticipation and the receipt of the said Calliope Homere whether covert or sole to be effectual discharges for the same and after the death of the said Calliope Homere the said trustees or trustee shall stand possessed of the said trust premises stocks funds and securities and the interest dividends and income thereof in trust for such one or more exclusively of the others or other of the children of the said Calliope Homere in such manner and form as the said Calliope Homere whether covert or sole shall by any deed or deeds with or without power of revocation and new appointment or by Will or Codicil appoint And in default of such appointment and so far as the same is incomplete shall not extend in trust for all the children or any the child of the said Calliope Homere who being sons or a son shall attain the age of twenty one years or being daughters or a daughter shall attain that age or marry if more than one in equal shares provided always that no child of the said Calliope Homere taking any part of the said trust premises under any such appointment as aforesaid shall be entitled to any share of that part of the premises of which no such appointment shall be made without bringing his or her appointed share into hotchpot And if there shall be no child of the said Calliope Homere and such failure of issue as aforesaid the said residuary trust premises stocks funds and securities and the income thereof shall be held upon such trusts and in such manner as the said Calliope Homere whether covert or sole shall by Deed with or without power of revocation and new appointment or by Will or Codicil appoint And I hereby declare that the said



trustees or trustee shall stand possessed of the sum of three thousand pounds In trust for such of the six children of my brother Paudeli Lombardo Dilberoglu of Alexandria in Egypt as shall be living at my death and who being a son or sons shall then have attained or shall attain twenty one years or being a daughter or daughters shall then have attained that age or have been married or shall thereafter attain that age or marry if more than one in equal shares I bequeath to my sister Cornelia Sordina of Corfu in the Ionian Islands Widow all and every the sum and sums of money which may be owing to me by her late husband and in addition thereto I do hereby declare that the said trustees or trustee shall invest the said sum of two thousand pounds in their or his name or under their or his names or name or under their or his legal control in or upon any of the stocks funds or securities hereinbefore authorized for the investment of my said residuary moneys And shall pay the annual income of the said sum of two thousand pounds and of the investments for the time being representing the same unto the said Cornelia Sordina during her life And after her death shall hold he said sum of two thousand pounds in trust for such of her children Andrew Sordina Calliope Sordina and Angelica Sordina as shall be living at her death if more than one in equal shares I declare that the said trustees or trustee shall either forthwith sell and convert into money my said personal estate or with the consent in writing of my said sister Calliope Homere during her life and after her death at their or his discretion permit any stocks or securities to remain in their actual state of investment and defer the sale and conversion thereof or any part thereof without being responsible for any loss occasioned thereby and I declare that the trustees or trustee for the time being of this my Will shall have the fullest power of determining all matters as to which any doubt difficulty or question may arise under or in relation to the execution of the trusts of this my Will or any Codicil hereto And I declare that every determination of the said trustees or trustee in relation to any of the matters aforesaid whether made upon a question formally or actually raised or implied in any of the acts or proceedings of the said trustees or trustee in relation to the premises shall bind all parties interested under this my Will and shall not be objected to or questioned upon



any ground whatsoever and I declare that no appointment of a new trustee or trustees of this my Will shall during the life of my said sister Calliope Homère be made without her consent in writing being first had and obtained and that upon every or any such appointment the number of trustees may be augmented or reduced And I appoint the said Charles James Hyde Allen William James Richmond Cotton and Arthur Paul Stone Executors of this my Will In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of January one thousand eight hundred and seventy eight. \_\_\_\_\_ Stauros Dilberoglue \_\_\_\_\_ Signed at the same time who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses \_\_\_\_\_

W. T. Lloyd Sol<sup>r</sup> 8 Frederick's Place Old Jewry London. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ann Twyman 13 Barnsbury Park House Keeper to M<sup>r</sup> Dilberglue  
[sic]

*On 8<sup>th</sup> June 1878* Admōn with the Will annexed of the Personal Estate of Stauros Dilberoglue late of No 13 Barnsbury Park in the County of Middlesex Esquire deceased who died 23rd April 1878 at No 13 Barnsbury Park aforesaid was granted to John George Homère Esquire the lawful Attorney of Calliope Homère (wife of the said John George Homère in the Will written John Homère [sic]) the sister the Residuary Legatee for life named in the said Will for her use and benefit now residing at Paris in France and until she shall duly apply for and obtain Letters of Administration with the Will annexed of the Personal Estate and Effects of the said deceased to be granted to her he the said John George Homère having been first sworn Charles James Hyde Allen William James Richmond Cotton and Arthur Paul Stone the Executors and Residuary Legatees in trust named in the said Will having respectively renounced the Probate and Execution thereof.

