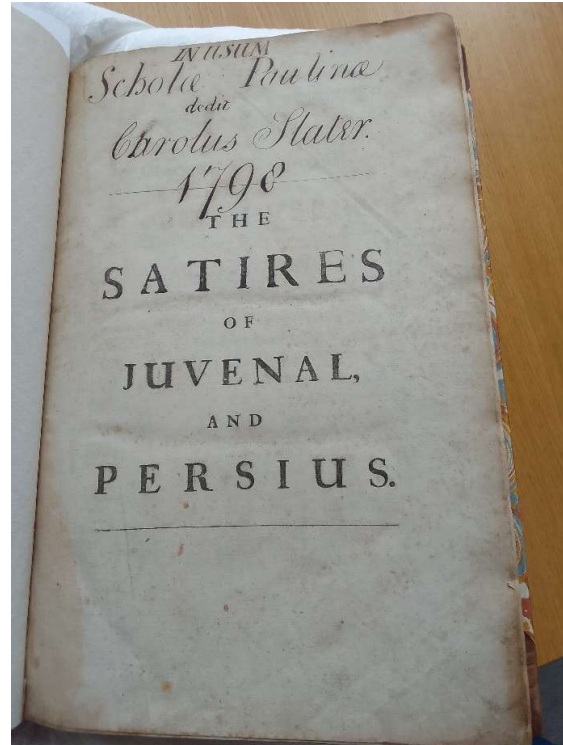


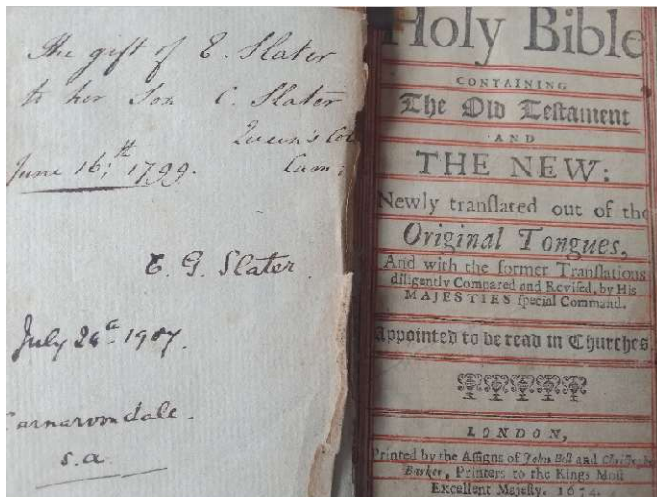
Charles Richard Slater 1780 – 1800: a postscript to the Carnarvon Dale Papers

Charles was born on 13th February 1780, the youngest son of Matthew and Elizabeth of Vine St, Piccadilly, and the youngest brother of my great, great grandfather Thomas, the 1820 settler (Carnarvon Dale Papers). He was admitted to St Paul's School, London on 7th July 1789 (Gardiner's 1884 Admission Registers) probably as a Foundation Scholar (which meant no school fees were payable). A plaque in New Change, a thoroughfare on the eastern side of St Paul's cathedral, records the school's approximate location between 1512 and 1884.



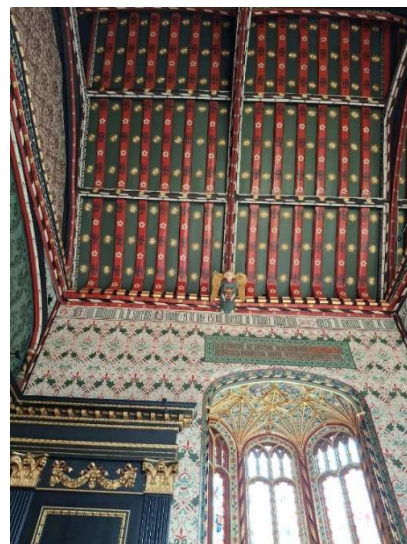
Thanks to the School archivist, Kathleen Gregory, I was shown the copy of the Satires of Juvenal and Persius, translated by Dryden (London 1693) that Charles presented to the school library in 1798. In that year he had been selected as a Pauline Exhibitioner to Queens' College, Cambridge. Exhibitions (scholarships), we are told by Gardiner, were awarded to advance the "aptest and most meetest" of scholars. In 1773 Exhibitions had a (lengthy) duration of tenure of six years and were paid at the rate of £40 a year (about £4 470 today).

On 27th April 1798 Charles was admitted (probably to study Greek and Latin) as a member of Queens' College in the category of a sizar. A sizar is an undergraduate at Cambridge who receives financial help from the College and formerly (in Charles' time) had to do certain menial duties for other members. That the exhibition didn't cover all expenses is confirmed by Charles' letters to his mother "filled with the ardent piety of the time" (Carnarvon Dale Papers). In May 1799 he requested two guineas to pay his bedmaker and the milkwoman. Later, he asked for three guineas to pay for a mahogany chest of drawers.



In June 1799 his mother gave him a bible (King James version 1674). In February 1800 he wrote to his mother thanking her for medicines (and three bottles of port!) she had sent him. Given the expense of sending the medicines from London, he asked for the prescription so that he could have them made in Cambridge. Writing in March, he complained that his cough “still continues”. Sadly, on 17th June, he died aged 20 years and four months.

In May 2025 my wife and I visited Queens’ College and were kindly shown around the buildings (that would have existed in Charles’ time) by the Alumni officer, Eden Dudley.



Old Court with 1733 sun/moon dial in background Ceiling of the Old Hall 1449

Today, St Paul’s https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Paul%27s_School,_London is ranked as the top academic boys’ school in the UK. Yet, according to a history of St Paul’s School, between 1769 and 1814 only 10% of students at the school went on to university. This shows just how unusual it was for Charles to have studied at Queens’!

John Slater Hart, September 2025