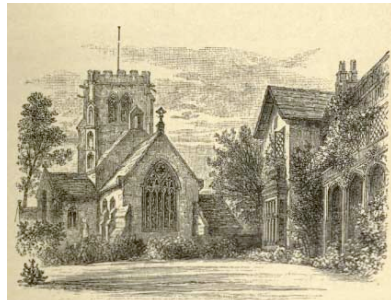
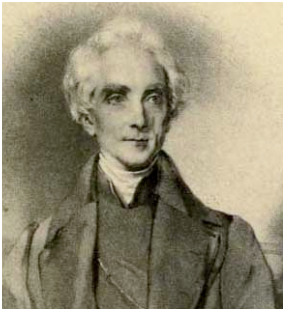


*Rev. Arthur Penrhyn Stanley
(1815-1881), Dean of
Westminster*



Above: Bishop Edward Stanley (1779-1849) and the church and Rectory at Alderley Edge. *Below:* The Bishop's Palace, Norwich, Arthur's Room there, and house at Christ Church.

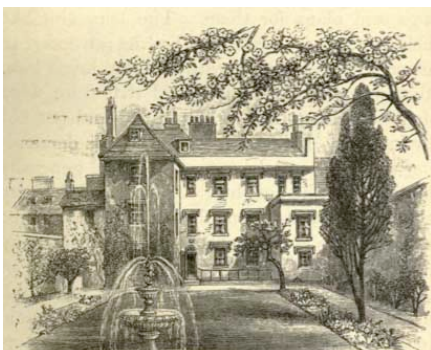
Arthur Penrhyn Stanley was born at Alderley Edge, Cheshire in 1815, where his father was rector. When his father was consecrated Bishop of Norwich in 1837, Arthur began to move in the exalted circles that would be so important later in life.



After Rugby, the future Dean of Westminster went up to Balliol College, Oxford in 1834, and was ordained to the priesthood five years later when he was also elected a fellow of his college. After a trip to Greece and Italy in 1840, he returned to Balliol where he was a tutor for ten years. He began publishing early with his *Life of Arnold* (1840) and *Sermons and Essays on the Apostolic Life* (1847).



Stanley was created canon of Canterbury Cathedral in 1852 and between 1852-1853 he made his important visit to Egypt and Palestine that resulted in the publication of *Sinai and Palestine* (1856). He had already published (1855) his *Commentary on the Epistles to the Corinthians* and *Memorials of Canterbury*. Stanley's next appointment in 1856 was as Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Oxford. This brought with it the post of canon of Christ Church and its charming residence. His first visit Russia the following year may have inspired his *Lectures on the Eastern Church* (1861). In 1862, at the command of Queen Victoria, he accompanied the Prince of Wales for a tour of Egypt and Palestine. His ecclesiastical and personal future now secured Stanley was ready for another phase.





Lady Augusta Elizabeth Frederica Bruce (1822–1876), the daughter of Thomas Bruce, seventh earl of Elgin and eleventh earl of Kincardine. Her brother James, the eighth earl, was viceroy of India.

Marriage and Westminster

The marriage of Dean Stanley with Lady Augusta Elizabeth Frederica Bruce in 1863 was desired by the Dean's mother, who certainly had a hand in engineering the union which, unfortunately did not take place until after her death. Lady Augusta was cultured, spoke French fluently, and would turn the deanery into a salon for clergy, intellectuals and politicians. (She was Tory) Upon her marriage Lady Stanley was appointed extra woman of the bedchamber to the Queen, who benefitted from the stories Lady Augusta told of her travels with the Dean, especially their trip to Russia in 1874 to attend the marriage of Alfred Duke of Edinburgh to the Grand Duchess Marie. Lady Stanley's untimely death was a blow to the Dean, who had come to rely upon her help and friendship. The Queen was sufficiently bereaved to come out of retirement to attend the funeral. Lady Augusta was buried in the Crypt of the Henry VII Chapel at Westminster Abbey, where her husband later joined her.

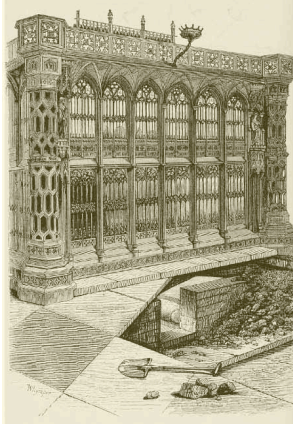
Palestine Exploration Fund. Dean Stanley was one of the founders and supporters of the Palestine Exploration Fund which developed from a literary society founded by James Flinn, British Consul at Jerusalem. The first meeting of the Society took place in the Jerusalem Chamber of Westminster Abbey. The original prospectus stated: "Our object is strictly an inductive inquiry. We are not to be a religious society; we are not about to launch controversy; we are about to apply the rules of science. . . to an investigation into the facts concerning the Holy Land. No country should be of so much interest to us as that in which the documents of our faith were written, and the momentous events they describe enacted."

The first publication of the Society recounted Captain Charles Warren's discovery of a shaft leading to "Hezekiah's Tunnel" under the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Among their projects were The Survey of Western Palestine (1871-1878), The Ordnance Survey of Sinai (1872), Excavations at Tell-el-Hesu by Sir William Flinders Petrie and The Wilderness of Zin Archaeological Survey by Sir Leonard Woolley and T. E. Lawrence (1913-1914.)



Drawing of a gallery at the southeast corner of the Temple sanctuary taken from Warren's informative and entertaining *Underground Jerusalem* (1876). Warren claimed the Society was underfunded and slow to pay. At the time of these excavations Palestine was part of the Ottoman Empire.



Above: Entrance to the crypt of the Henry VII chapel at Westminster Abbey where the Stanleys were later buried as seen on opening the vault in 1869. From Stanley's *Memorials of Westminster Abbey* (1865). Queen Victoria ordered a memorial window and an alabaster monument with recumbent figure was placed in the Chapter House did not survive WWII.

The Broad Churchman

Dean Stanley's liberal leanings were probably a reflection of his father's. Traditional Anglicanism was not his cup of tea. He supported reforms in the church and advocated open communion and admittance of non-Anglicans to Anglican pulpits, and even supported the episcopal consecration of a man who did not accept infant baptism. He thought little of creeds: *"all confessions and similar documents are, if taken as final expressions of absolute truth, misleading."* However, he protected Tractarians from church condemnation. He invited both Rev. John Keble and Dr. E. B. Pusey to preach from the pulpit of Westminster Abbey. They declined graciously and regretfully. Keble did not want to seem *"to bear with doctrines which you avowedly uphold, and which I believe in my heart to contradict the foundations of the faith."* Dr. Pusey, gave as his excuse: *"People might ask 'what do these people think to be truth?'"* Undaunted, the Dean was *"always striving 'to find points of unity and agreement between those who were estranged from each other by divergent views.'" And he was distressed by "the hatred of churches by each other for their theological opinions."*

He would have been happy to know that his pallbearers were of differing political parties, Anglican and Board Church, men from Oxford and Cambridge and many others. They may not all have agreed with him, but they respected him and considered him to be a gracious gentleman.

