

Archæological Intelligence.

THE VALUE AND PRESERVATION OF THE COURT ROLLS OF MANORS.—We believe we cannot better further the laudable object which our learned *confrères* at Burlington House have in view, than by furnishing the members of the Institute with the following copy of a Memorandum which has just been issued by the Council of the Society of Antiquaries.

“The vast amount of light which the ancient Court Rolls and other Deeds appertaining to the numerous manors in this country throw upon the habits and civilisation, and the legal and social condition of its inhabitants, render them of great historical interest and importance. In questions of genealogy their value is self-evident, but in tracing out the development and gradual growth of those institutions, under which this country has so long flourished, the aid that they may afford to the student can hardly be over-estimated.

“The importance of preserving such documents has not, however, been always apparent to those who have had them under their charge; and many a bundle of Rolls has been consigned to destruction merely because at the present day they have become obsolete as legal documents, have been difficult to decipher, or have cumbered the space at the disposal of their custodians.

“Much of the land, which was formerly held under copyhold tenure, has now been enfranchised, and the tendency at the present day is more and more in favour of freehold tenure, so that within a comparatively short period it seems probable that manors, with their attendant formalities, will become things of the past; and the documents relating to them become practically valueless for legal purposes, and even more liable than now to heedless destruction.

“The Society of Antiquaries of London is anxious that steps should be taken, while yet there is time, for the preservation of Court Rolls and other Manorial Records, and is confident that if the attention of Lords and Stewards of Manors be called to the historical value of such documents they will readily assist in protecting them from injury, either by depositing them in some public repository, or preserving them with their other muniments.

“The public repositories where Court Rolls would, in all probability, be willingly accepted and preserved under the most advantageous circumstances for reference, are—the British Museum, and the University Libraries at Oxford and Cambridge, and the Public Record Office. But there are, in addition, many other local Institutions and Museums where such documents would be gratefully accepted and carefully preserved.

"In the Bill now before Parliament for the Compulsory Enfranchisement of Copyholds is a clause providing that, in certain events, the Court Rolls and other Manorial Documents may be deposited with the Master of the Rolls for safe custody, while right of access to them is still maintained. Their deposit with other Institutions might, if thought desirable, be accompanied by certain stipulations as to powers of resumption.

"The principal difficulty in dealing with the object now in view appears to be that of bringing home to the minds of the Lords of the Manors and their Stewards the value of what are apparently worthless documents. To do this, however, nothing more seems necessary than respectfully to call their attention to the subject, and this perhaps can most readily be effected by the circulation of a Memorandum such as the present among them.

"A movement of this kind seems especially to afford an occasion when the Society of Antiquaries may call for, and will doubtless receive, ready and efficient aid from the various Archaeological and Antiquarian Societies and Associations throughout the country; and, if each within its own district will send copies of this Memorandum to those who may probably have ancient Court Rolls and Records in their custody, attention will be generally called to the importance of their being carefully preserved, and the desired result will follow.

"Many, no doubt, of the present custodians of such records are already as anxious for their preservation as any Antiquarian Society can be, and these will see in the present appeal an ample justification for the care they have bestowed on the records in their charge.

"Burlington House, Piccadilly,
London, W.

March 17, 1886."

THE HOUSE OF WILLIAM BURGES.—MR. R. P. PULLAN announces the publication (by subscription) of forty photographs—16in. by 13in.—of this remarkable example of the genius of a valued and lamented member of the Institute. Accurate representations of so unique a building, embodying, as it does Mr. Burges' thorough knowledge of all the arts of the Middle Ages, will prove a fitting memorial of our departed friend; we shall hope to say more on a future occasion concerning their publication. In the meantime our readers will be glad to know that such "a treat to the eye and lesson to the mind" is brought within their reach. The plates will be accompanied by descriptive letterpress from the pen of Mr. Burges' accomplished kinsman, Mr. Pullan, to whom subscriptions, £4 4s., may be sent at 15, Buckingham Street, Strand, London. Mr. Pullan also announces the publication by subscription—£2 10s.—of a selection of photographs from the designs of our late distinguished member. These will further evince his versatility in the art of design and the large resources of his active mind.

THE REGISTER OF EDMUND STAFFORD, (A.D. 1395-1419); AN INDEX AND ABSTRACT OF ITS CONTENTS, BY THE REV. F. C. HINGESTON-RANDOLPH. LONDON: BELL AND SONS.—At the moment of going to press we have pleasure in announcing the appearance of this important portion of the Mediæval Registers of Exeter. We shall return to this publication in a fuller manner on a future occasion. Meanwhile we offer our cordial encouragement to the really laborious work which the Editor has set his hand to, by reminding our readers of the desirableness of

proceeding at once with the publication of the Registers of Bronescombe, Quivil, Stapledon, Grandisson, and Brantingham, "which, (including Stafford), will complete the History of the old Diocese of Exeter" for the greater part of two centuries. The next volume will contain the Registers of Bishops Bronescombe and Quivil (which are known to be of exceptional interest and value), and this is now offered to subscribers at the modest cost of 10d. 6d. Application should be made to the Rev. F. C. Hingeston-Randolph, Ringmore Rectory, Kingsbridge.

THE EIGHT-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPLETION OF DOMESDAY. This is *par excellence*, the age of celebrations, centenaries, and anniversaries, and it was hardly likely that Domesday would be forgotten. We venture to think that the eight-hundredth anniversary of this precious and venerated volume will find favour among a large number of antiquaries and historians for there is probably no book in the world which so well deserves, requires, and repays, the trouble of a critical examination as the Great Survey. It is a perfect mine of information and we are glad to see that the "Celebration" will partly take the sensible form of the delivery of a series of original papers on subjects connected with Domesday Book. The matter is in the initiatory hands of the President and Council of the Royal Historical Society.

THE ARCHEOLOGICAL JOURNAL.—It may be convenient to record that in consequence of Mr. St. John Hope's appointment as Assistant-Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries, the Editorship of the *Archæological Journal* has passed from his diligent and able hands. The Council of the Institute has again confided the fortunes of the *Journal* to Mr. A. Hartshorne, to whom all communications respecting it may be addressed.

MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE IN CHESHIRE.—The general arrangements for the meeting of the Institute at Chester, on August 10th, under the presidency of the Duke of Westminster, are now completed. The Presidents of Sections are :—*Antiquities*—The Bishop of Chester; *History*—Mr. Freeman; *Architecture*, Mr. Beresford Hope. The following places will be visited, among others, during the week of the meeting :—Flint, Conway, Carnarvon, Eaton, Marple, Bramhall, Llangollen, Wrexham, Beeston, Banbury, Nantwich, Hawarden, &c.

Archæological Intelligence.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ARCHEOLOGY AND OF THE HISTORY OF THE FINE ARTS.—It is within living memory that a large proportion of our transatlantic cousins who came to Europe were looked upon by the intelligent foreigners as eager and restless travellers going to and fro at high pressure, simply for the sake of seeing, or fancying that they had seen, everything that was worth a visit in the old cities and towns of the old continent and the old country. We have understood that the name these tourists gave themselves was "globe trotters," and in our earlier days we have often marvelled at the amount of time, money, and energy they spent and wasted in such unsatisfactory travel, however much we have enjoyed the genial company and quaint humour of our rapid-travelling friends.

Our experience of only a week's excursion with an Archæological Society, during which time castle, cathedral, "tower and town and cottage" pass in rapid succession, not to mention addresses inaugural and opening, papers and discussions in somewhat bewildering number—our experience we say is that we leave off at the end of the week, some succumb earlier in the fray, with our bodies wearied and our minds somewhat confused. Later on, when quiet comes, a good deal of what we have seen and heard unfolds itself again to us, but much has fallen quite dead on our senses, and, in fact, we almost regard ourselves sometimes as temporary "globe trotters," and feel that we have in our short excursion attempted too much.

But what must have been the state of the mind of many a travelled American who returned to the Land of Freedom after a six months' tour in Europe, say, thirty years ago? As he extricated himself from the "rude spirits of the seething outer strife," and crossed the melancholy ocean, pacing the reeling deck, how often the thought must have arisen, not how much he had seen and carried away in pleasant memories, but how hard he had worked and how much he had utterly forgotten.

That all this is quite altered is now certain, but if anyone still has doubts upon the matter we may refer him to "The American Journal of Archæology," giving the contents of Vol. I, 1885, and the programme for Vol. II, 1886. There is very little "globe-trotting" in these days, for during the last quarter of a century, and more particularly within the last few years, a great change has been silently taking place, and assuredly now not the least intelligent workers of all the visitors to the famous places in the old world are the Americans. It is interesting and instructive to see on what sound and catholic lines the

contributors to the Journal under consideration have set to work. We have, in Vol. I, for instance, from C. Waldstein, *The Panathenaic festival and the central slab of the Parthenon frieze*; from A. L. Frothingham, Jr., *The Revival of Sculpture in the XIII Century*; from A. R. Marsh, *Ancient crude brick construction*; from E. Müntz, *The Lost Mosaics of Ravenna*; from C. C Perkins, *The Abbey of Sumièges* and the legend of the Enervés; from A. Emerson, *Two modern Antiques*; from E. Babylon, *La Numismatique Grecque et Romaine*.

It appears that some of the papers in Vol. I, as well as others in prospect, are from the pens of men who are something more than temporary visitors to the old world, and it may be gathered from the programme that a large number of American archæologists are diligently, and what is more to the point, systematically, at work, assisted by distinguished antiquaries of European note. We are to expect further contributions from the Troad, Arabia, Phœnicia, Babylonia, Athens, Rome, and India.

We are casually reminded, and not without a pang, of the now far-off resting places of objects of antique art by the mention of forthcoming papers on "Etruscan Sarcophagi at Boston," and on "Babylonian and Assyrian cylinders in New York." In a more special field of American archæology many contributions are expected: this is just as it should be, for while Egyptian and classical antiquities are the priceless heritage of the civilized world, American Ethnology is a proper study for Americans.

We shall expect to see, as time advances, that the volumes of this American Journal of Archæology will, in the natural sequence of history, come down into later periods, and occasionally treat of subjects and places within the range of historic times within our own shores. We had a passing thought, from certain indications in our own Journal, namely, the occasional appearance of papers upon subjects of a very early date, as well as of a time not far removed from our own, that the study of the arts and monuments of the Middle Ages was somewhat tending to the appearance of being worked out. Perhaps our American friends, while following in the general and unalterable archæological lines which we have laid down, might carry us to fresh points of view, and considering the keen perception and caution with which these accomplished citizens are endowed, papers by them would be doubly welcome to us.

RECONSTITUTION OF THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ROME.—It is very desirable at the present day, when so much new work is being carried out in Rome, that this society should continue upon a really solid basis. It has now existed for twenty years, and may claim to have done some service in the elucidation of the antiquities of Rome, and in facilitating their study by the British and American visitors to the Eternal City.

Its foundation was due to the initiation and exertions of Mr. Drury Fortnum F.S.A. At a meeting held by the consent of the British Consul, Mr. Joseph Severn, in the rooms of the Consulate at Rome on the 5th of April 1865, Lord Talbot de Malahide, Mr. Odo Russell, the Baron de Reumont, Mr. R. R. Holmes, F.S.A., Mr. J. H. Parker, F.S.A., Mr. Shakspeare Wood, Mr. Charles C. Perkins and others being present, resolutions were passed for founding the Society, a committee was appointed, and Lord Talbot de Malahide was chosen the first President.

For several years (from 1871 to 1875) the late Mr. J. H. Parker took the most active part in the management of the Society; and although many of his theories were not accepted by archaeologists, he promoted a knowledge of Roman antiquities by his active explorations, by the important series of photographs made under his direction, and by the zeal with which he laboured to communicate to others the interest that he felt in the remains of ancient Rome. A Roman Exploration Fund raised in connection with this Society was the means, among other things, of revealing the site and remains of the ancient Porta Capena.

For some years the Society has continued its operations with varying success, depending for material support upon a fluctuating body of associates, and for contributions to its proceedings upon the assistance of such British and American archaeologists as might chance to be in Rome, and willing to devote to it some portion of their time. After some feeble seasons, the members who were in Rome in the spring of 1884 had to face the question, whether the Society should be allowed to drop, or whether an effort should be made to sustain it, and to place it upon a better and safer footing. Other foreign nations are represented in Rome by Scientific Institutions supported by their respective Governments. The Germans especially have their Institute of Archaeological Correspondence which has won for itself a high position among the learned societies of Europe; and the French Government maintains an Academy of Archæology in Rome, which has a suite of rooms set apart for its use in the residence of the French Embassy at the Palazzo Farnese.

The efforts which are being made to establish a British Academy at Athens naturally suggest the question, whether such a school is not as much needed at Rome, and whether the same Institution might not undertake the direction of both. Without entering upon this question, it appeared to the few gentlemen who found themselves called upon to decide what ought to be done with reference to this Society, that an Association having for its object to concentrate and assist the researches of English and American antiquaries in Rome, and at the same time to furnish information and means of study to visitors who are induced by the influence of the place to interest themselves in archæology, was one for which, if it did not exist, the need would soon be felt; and that, as the existing Society possesses a collection of books, photographs and drawings of considerable value, which with slight additions might form the nucleus of an adequate archæological library, it would be a subject of regret if some effort was not made to sustain and strengthen it.

With this view the following measures were adopted. The rules of the Society were submitted to a Committee for revision; and the revised rules have since been approved by a general meeting of the Society. In this revision one of the main objects has been to provide against the uncertain character of the membership of the Society, which has hitherto been practically constituted afresh every year from among the British and American visitors passing the season in Rome. According to the new rules, the Society is to consist of members and associates; the former being its permanent constituents, the latter enrolled for the season only. And into the former class it has been decided to elect only those persons who have some claim to the name of archaeologists, and who may be capable, whether present in person or not, of furthering the objects of the Society.

Earl Percy, President of the Archæological Institute, was elected to the office of President of the Society, vacant by the death of Lord Talbot de Malahide; and to the list of Vice-Presidents the names of the British Ambassador and the American Minister were added.

The Society, as reconstituted under the new Rules, will, it is hoped, acquire a solidity which it has hitherto wanted, and will be secured in the receipt of a more certain income; which is necessary for the maintenance of its library and for the publication of its proceedings. In order to place the Society in a position more adequately to represent British and American Archæology in Rome, it is the wish of the Council to enrol among its members those antiquaries of either nationality who have made a study of classical antiquities. At the same time it has been thought advisable to raise, by donations, a small fund to enable the Institution to fulfil at an earlier period one of the main objects of its existence, that of providing an adequate archæological library for the use of British and American students and visitors.

With a view to carry out the above objects, a circular of which the above is a reproduction, has been addressed to members of kindred Societies in Great Britain and America. Those desirous of becoming members of the Archæological Society of Rome, or willing to assist it by donations of books, or by subscriptions to the Library Fund, are requested to communicate with the Hon. Secretary, the Cav. Arthur Strutt, 81 Via della Croce, or with the Treasurer, I. C. Hooker Esq. (Maquay, Hooker and Co. Bankers) 20 Piazza di Spagna, Rome. Mr. Pullan has kindly consented to receive on behalf of the Society any books which it may be more convenient to send to his address in England. (R. P. Pullan Esq. 8, Melbury Road, Kensington, W.) The yearly subscriptions for Members and Associates is 25 francs, or £1 sterling.

THE FOLK-LORE SOCIETY.—The eighth Report of this Society informs us that the Council have been endeavouring to prepare the way for some important work which the Society ought to undertake, and they think that if sufficient support is given this work may be satisfactorily accomplished. The many indications that the study and collection of Folk-lore is now engaging the attention of most countries in Europe, make it necessary that this Society, being the first to introduce a systematic study of Folk-lore, should as far as possible work in unison and confederation with similar organizations abroad, and should draw within its membership foreign scholars and students. The last annual Report mentioned one or two efforts which had been made in this direction, particularly that of the appointment of Local Secretaries. The result of this action, though necessarily not very extensive at present, satisfactorily indicates that much might be hoped for in the future. Mr. Stewart Lockhart, who was appointed Local Secretary for China, has procured a valuable collection of birth, marriage, and burial ceremonies, collected from the natives of Hong Kong by Mr. Mitchell Innes, and has placed the MS. in the hands of the Society for printing. Mr. Lockhart has also translated the papers on the Science of Folk-lore which appeared in the *Folk-lore Journal* for 1885 into Chinese, and has prefaced them by a few notes, for the purpose of placing them, as a kind of guide-book, in the hands of native Chinese students who would help him in his researches. It is thought that such results as these are encouraging, and point the direction to which the future efforts of the Council should tend.

A second very important work which the Council are of opinion the Society should undertake at once is the issue of an authoritative exposition of the scope and aim of the science of Folk-lore, accompanied by questions which may be used by travellers and collectors. During the year the Council were asked by the Council of the Palestine Exploration Fund to assist them in drawing up a set of questions for the use of collectors in Palestine. That Society had secured the services of some native workers, under the direction of Dr. Post, and they wished to be informed of the best means of employing this valuable help. The Council at once assented to the proposition, and appointed a Committee to consider the best means of assisting the object of the Palestine Exploration Fund. The Committee reported that they considered the time had come when the Society should issue an authorised Handbook to the Science of Folk-lore, similar to the *Anthropological Notes and Queries* issued by the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Council concurred in this report, re-appointing the Committee to consider and draw up a scheme and code of questions. The Committee consisted of Messrs. Edward Clodd, H. B. Wheatley, Nutt, Gomme, Stuart-Glennie, Captain Temple, Dr. Richard Morris, and Miss Busk, and they are still considering this important subject. They have adopted, as a basis, the plan of dividing the subject into the heads suggested in the *Folk-Lore Journal* for January 1885, and they propose that Members of the Society and their friends should be asked to undertake certain sections, and send in a code of questions to the Committee, who will then arrange and prepare them for ultimate publication. We may direct attention to the importance of the work which the Folk-lore Society have in hand, and to the able manner in which their publications have been carried out. The Society had lately had to deplore the death of their founder, the erudite Mr. W. J. Thoms, but there can be no doubt of their firm establishment and future prosperity.

THE EIGHT-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPLETION OF DOMESDAY.—We called attention in the preceding Journal to this important historical celebration. We are now able to furnish the contents of a circular which has been issued by the Committee appointed by the Royal Historical Society. This will sufficiently show in how thorough and sensible a manner the Committee is going to work :—

“It has been decided to commemorate, in October of the present year, the 800th Anniversary of the completion of the Domesday Survey of England. The Commemoration will take the form partly of a series of meetings for the reading of papers and the publication of a volume of Domesday Studies, and partly of an exhibition of manuscripts at the Public Record Office and the British Museum. It is proposed that the papers shall, as far as possible, deal with Domesday Book as a whole, but without excluding local inquiries which may lead by inference and comparison to results of wider application. Later surveys and censuses may also be discussed, if they are in any way illustrative of Domesday Book. The following subjects for papers have been proposed ; and the Committee will be glad to receive the names of persons who will undertake to read papers on these or any other analogous subjects :—The History of the MSS. of Domesday and their Custody ; the Purpose, Occasion, and Objects of the Survey ; the Order of the Compilation ; Omissions from Domesday ; Geographical Limit of the Survey, and the

cause of the Omission of certain districts ; Ancient Domesne ; the Boroughs and Cities ; Changes in the Extent and Names of Shires and Hundreds ; the Distribution of Socage Tenure throughout the Country ; the Lands laid waste in the North ; Industrial condition of England ; Population ; the Church in Domesday ; the Magnates of Domesday ; the Juxtaposition of Personal Names in Domesday ; the Classes of Tenants ; the Danegeld and the Fiscal System of Domesday generally ; Legal forms in Domesday ; the Clamores, Occupationes, and Invasiones ; Courts and Jurisdictions ; the Measures of Land ; Comparison of the Domesday Survey and other Surveys, such as Exon Domesday, Winton Domesdays, Gheld Inquest, Gloucestershire Fragment, Inquisitio Eliensis, Liber Niger of Peterborough, Survey of Lindsey, Boldon Book.

"The Exhibition at the Public Record Office will comprise the manuscript of Domesday Book (2 vols.), the Abbreviatio, the Breviate, a copy of the Boldon Book, the Red and Black Books of the Exchequer, the two volumes entitled "Testa de Nevil," early Hundred Rolls, Book of Aids of Edward III, &c., &c.

"The Exhibition at the British Museum will comprise the Survey of Lindsey, Monastic Cartularies containing surveys, Inquisitio Eliensis, the transcript of the original Domesday return for Cambridge, printed editions of the Surveys and Translations, and (it is hoped) loan contributions from other libraries.

"It is very desirable to make this exhibition as complete as possible, and the Committee hope that the owners of all manuscripts bearing on the subject of Domesday will lend them for the purpose. The Committee have much pleasure in announcing that the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury have already promised to do so. The Principal Librarian of the British Museum has kindly consented to take charge of any documents that may be sent to him. The Committee will be glad to receive any suggestions that you may be pleased to make with regard to the objects and scope of the exhibition.

"As a permanent record of this commemoration, it is proposed to compile a list of existing works relating to Domesday Book. In this it is proposed to include :—1. Brief descriptions of the various Domesday MSS. with references to their places of deposit. 2. The titles of all separate works dealing with any portions of Domesday Book. 3. The titles of all papers and pamphlets on the subject. The following scheme for collecting and arranging the materials for this work has been suggested :—1. That application should be made to librarians at home and abroad for a list of the titles of all the works on Domesday in their custody. 2. That the secretaries of Archæological Societies at home and abroad should be asked to furnish titles of, and references to, all papers on Domesday appearing in the various "Transactions" of their societies. 3. That the county histories should be examined for translations of any portions of the Survey. 4. That the principal antiquaries in every county should be asked to revise and make any additions to the lists so compiled."

In order to defray the cost of printing the Bibliography and the volume of Domesday Studies, the committee have resolved to make a charge of one guinea for subscriber's ticket. The ticket will entitle the subscriber to one copy of the committee's publications, and will admit the subscriber and a lady to the meetings for the reading of papers

and to the exhibitions of manuscripts. As the number and amount of the committee's publications will depend entirely on the amount of the subscriptions, it is hoped that the number of subscribers will be large. Subscriptions can be received by the Treasurer, Mr. W. Herbage, Treas. R. Hist. S., London and South-Western Bank, 7, Fenchurch-street, E.C. ; or by the Hon- Secretary, Mr. P. Edward Dove, 23, Old Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.

HASTED'S HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF KENT, being a History of the hundred of Blackheath.—There is, probably, no more toilsome literary task than the compilation of a county history. If it only approaches to being at all well done, or even if it is done at all, by one man, it must be the sole work of that man's lifetime, and we are by no means without instances of such undertakings being not only thankless works but generally profitless and occasionally ruinous. Within the last fifty years such a vast amount of information has been gathered up for the general history of every county, so much documentary evidence has been extended and made available for use, so much Roman, architectural, heraldic, and biographical history has been intelligently sifted and set forth by Antiquarian and Archaeological Societies, both local and general, that we may the more truly say now that the compass of one man's lifetime is insufficient to write, or even to re-write upon the old lines, a history of any ordinarily sized county that shall be up to, and, as it ought to be, a little beyond the general knowledge of the day. This being the case, we are not surprized to learn that the new History of Kent, has already been nearly a hundred years in hand. The prospectus now before us shall speak for itself as it is an apt illustration of what we have said :—

"So long ago as the year 1836, the late Reverend Thomas Streatfeild, of Charts Edge, issued a circular announcing his intention of publishing a History of Kent, to the accumulation of materials for which he, for nearly half a century, devoted the energies of his life. Mr. Streatfeild secured the co-operation in his task of his friend the late Rev. Lambert B. Larking, Vicar of Ryarsh, who was himself a well-known collector of information connected with the County of Kent.

"The two friends pursued, with untiring energy, the task they had undertaken, and their joint investigations resulted in the acquisition of a vast amount of information which they fondly hoped to embody in their History, and submit to the public. The death, however, of Mr. Streatfeild in 1848, and of Mr. Larking in 1868, prevented the realisation of their hopes, and at the latter date their collections fell into the hands of Mr. John Wingfield Larking, of The Firs, Lee, who determined to perpetuate the memory of his brother, and of his friend Mr. Streatfeild, by utilising the materials which they had gathered together, and giving to the county of Kent the result of their labours. Several years, however, elapsed before he succeeded in finding a competent editor for the contemplated Work. Fortunately, he eventually obtained the services of Dr. Henry Holman Drake, who undertook the onerous duty ; and after a lengthened period, and the expenditure of editorial labour which can only be appreciated by the initiated, Mr. Larking is able to present to the gentlemen of Kent the History of the Blackheath Hundred of the county as a work complete in itself, but designed to constitute a part of the History of the entire County."

Men of such patriotism as Mr. J. W. Larking are wanting, but are

hardly likely to be found, in other counties, for it is obvious that all the old County Histories must be re-written. As regards Dr. Drake, if sufficient encouragement is forthcoming to justify it, he is willing to undertake the further prosecution of the History of Kent on a scheme similar to that on which the History of the Hundred of Blackheath is based, namely, upon the text of "Hasted" revised, recast, and enlarged, with the information acquired by Messrs. Streatfeild and Larking, and additional notes by himself.

Dr. Drake has set his hand to an honourable and laborious task, he is encouraged by the special patronage of the Queen, and we heartily wish him the strength and support necessary to enable him to carry his labours to a successful end. Subscriptions for the Hundred of Blackheath, £5, may be sent to J. W. Larking, Esq., The Firs, Lee, Kent.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE HON. ROGER NORTH.—Those who have read that delightful book "The Lives of the North,"—and what educated man has not,—will welcome the Autobiography of its author and the more so since the work will pass through the able editorial hands of Dr. Jessop, himself the author of another well-known Norfolk volume "One Generation of a Norfolk House." We gather from the prospectus that the Hon. Roger North purchased the estate of Rougham, in Norfolk, in 1690; for forty years after that date he employed himself more or less in literary pursuits, yet, until lately, it was generally believed that he left no literary remains behind him, or, if he did that they had long ago perished. When the library of the late James Crossley came to be sold in 1884, not only a considerable fragment of Roger North's Autobiography, but a large mass of his correspondence was found to have been in Mr. Crossley's possession for many years, and the more valuable portions of the collections were bought by the Trustees of the British Museum at the sale.

The Autobiography is almost a necessary appendix to the author's lives of his brothers and the correspondence will be of unusual interest, covering, as it does, a period of more than sixty years, from 1670 to 1733. Roger North's own letters give a refreshing picture of the private life of a man of high birth, abilities and accomplishments, and it is proposed to issue the Autobiography, a selection of the letters, and some few Essays which have never yet seen the light, the whole being prefaced by an introductory narrative. Subscriptions £1 1s. Od., may be sent to Mr. D. Nutt, 270 Strand, London. A limited number of copies will be printed on large paper.—Price £3 3s. Od.

AN INVENTORY OF THE CHURCH PLATE OF LEICESTERSHIRE.—The Rev. A. Trollope announces the publication of this work by subscription, illustrated by woodcuts and photo-lithographs of more than 200 pieces of plate, drawn to scale. The communion plate belonging to each church in the county has been carefully examined by the author himself, and the measurements, hall marks, and weight of each piece will be given, as well as biographical accounts of the numerous donors whose names have been brought to light. The work will also include the description of communion plate in private chapels in the county, as well as classified tables of hall marks &c. The price to subscribers will be £1 10s Od.; names should be sent to Messrs. Clarke & Hodgson, 5, Gallowtree Gate, Leicester.

WARWICKSHIRE NATURALISTS' AND ARCHAEOLOGISTS' FIELD CLUB.—

The summer meeting of this Society took place on July 28th. The members, among whom were several Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries, started from Coventry and made a long excursion through the famed Forest of Arden, under the leadership of their President, Mr. M. H. Bloxam, upon whose shoulders the weight of eighty-one summers seems a surprisingly light burden. Among the places visited, the most important was Astley church, which has a history of "dissolution" destruction, and extraordinary rebuilding that somewhat recalls the vicissitudes of the beautiful Cistercian Abbey of Dore. When, at last, one has realized the strange doings which went on at Astley church, one can understand the alterations to the chantry stalls which Sir Thomas Astley set up in 1338. The chantry was subsequently enlarged into a collegiate foundation, and, long after, namely in 1624, the great painted figures of Saints and Doctors were depicted under the stall canopies, as well as the sentences of scripture on the walls, taken from the "Bishops' Bible," and comprised within excellent Renaissance scroll work borders. Here are also fine effigies, *temp.* Henry VII., a real helmet of the same period set up over a wooden targe, long exterior cornices filled with heraldry, and many other things which deserved leisurely examination. The moated castle, probably the work of the Dissolution grantee Henry Marquis of Dorset, afterwards Duke of Suffolk, and father of Lady Jane Grey, stands upon an older site. This picturesque and still inhabited, though as to the interior, much altered fortified house, is famous as the scene of the betrayal of the Duke of Suffolk. Interest of another and a milder kind attaches to Birchley Place, the quaint old house said to be the spot described by George Elliot as Mrs. Poyser's farm. The Fillongley earthworks, which were inspected under the guidance of Mr. T. W. Whitley, carried the thoughts back to the unsettled times of Stephen, and the remains of the castle recalled the license to crenellate it granted to John de Hastings in 1301.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS.—This is a most excellent and painstaking Society, which well deserves the sympathy not only of the Archæological Institute, but of all Antiquarian and Architectural Societies throughout the kingdom. For the last forty years the members of the Institute may have been fully aware of the mischief that has been going on, for it has been constantly pointed out in the *Journal*; but the world at large has not even yet quite realised what a grievous wrong has been wrought by the present generation through the villainous process of "restoration." Local history, architecture, and genealogy, are but a few of the matters that have succumbed to the restorer, and the most extraordinary thing is that the evil still goes on, and, to speak merely of churches, in a somewhat modified form only, as we think, because nearly every church has been restored. To save the remnant has been the object of this Society; there was no time to lose, and we appreciate the admirable persistency with which it goes to work. We ascertain from the ninth annual report, now before us, that public opinion is changing, and there is the more cheering and tangible sign that custodians of ancient buildings are beginning not only to ask for the advice of the Society, but also, occasionally, to follow it, though we have observed that this line of action with church restorers in general is not necessarily in logical sequence. The report before us is so very interesting that we wish it could be widely dis-

tributed. We have not the space to deal with it here at the length it deserves, but we may mention the success that has attended the efforts of the Society in the important cases of the York churches and the Charterhouse. Some of the instances of "restoration" are so grotesque that if the matter were not so serious they would be quite amusing.

There has lately been a ridiculous flourish of trumpets about a proposed "restoration of Waltham Cross," a building that has "suffered," not indeed three times, like the Cross at Northampton, but at least once, in 1833. What the Waltham Cross seems really to require now is protection from the weather, from vicious mutilation, and from the new danger of its modern "restoring" friends, truly the natural enemies of any building of historical interest.

The list of buildings for the preservation of which the Society has worked during the past year comprises nearly two hundred and fifty cases, and we are glad to think that in many of them its intervention has been successful; its labours are not confined to our own country, for the Society is catholic in its aims.

No doubt a body, which has already done so much and will do much more towards directing public opinion in matters of taste as well as sense, has a considerable future before it, and we are disposed to look a little forward, and to have sanguine expectations that if it continues its useful work it may eventually have the satisfaction of passing into other lines and leading a general crusade against the monstrous and incongruous vulgarities that have within our time been deemed fitting accessories for the House of God. We cannot recall—would that we could!—the countless human records which have been so wickedly turned out from old churches and destroyed, and we cannot bring back the buildings with the evidences of their gradual growth and the hallowed stamp of time upon them; these things, alas! have gone from us for ever. But our successors—for the change we have in view can hardly come in our own time—may abolish much that ought never to have been put into the ancient places: those discordant abominations, the stained and varnished deal roofs, the gaudy organs, the sticky pitch-pine seats—beloved of quantity surveyors and builders, the fretful and distressing tile pavings, and acres upon acres of painted glass arranged in so many suffering old churches with a view to that special kind of harmony which causes each window to quarrel with its neighbour. With these will also go that most common, inappropriate, and cumbersome of all church furniture the stone pulpit of the "art manufacturer," and in its wake must follow much heavy impedimenta of strangely coarse iron and brass work. Of modern reredoses, small and large, the particularly favourite scars and blots in so many old churches and cathedrals, the focus, in fact, of all the other horrors, there will be a great array, and no doubt these wretched Bath-stone productions with their stained and blotched alabaster saints and angels will linger longest. It will be a pleasing sight, indeed, when all this tawdry lumber is cast out.

There has been no scruple in the rough handling that old churches and their contents have received—we know the loving touch of modern workmen—let us hope that at least as much vigour will be employed in the evictions which we have ventured to foreshadow, and that the Society to which we already owe so much, may continue to help us by its intelligent labours to the fuller cultivation of a better and a purer taste.

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PRESERVING THE MEMORIALS OF THE DEAD.—This is another Society which the vagaries of "restoration" have brought into being. Exasperated by the ruthless manner in which monuments and inscriptions, which told us so much, were being swept away to make room for tile pavings which told us nothing, save what a very lucrative trade that of the tile maker must be, a body of sensible men, hoping, like the members of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, to save the residue, undertook their difficult task five years ago. The good work that has since been done has amply justified the formation of the Society. But its scope is so large that it is in a more difficult position than the body to which we have just alluded. For while the mischief to be encountered in respect to ancient buildings, though large in the aggregate, was only, so to speak, intermittent, and here and there, the evil with which the National Society had to cope was at once everywhere, and the difficulty was increased tenfold by the fact that every inscription turned out of a church was fast perishing. A name, a word, one letter, or one figure less upon a memorial makes all the difference to its value as a historical record, or as legal evidence, and we are glad to know that the methodical way in which the society set to its task, with its small means, has been fruitful of good results.

Efforts have been made, and not without success, to replace in churches the mural monuments that have been turned out. We may therefore hope that by the teaching of the Society, and better still, by the example which the clergy should set, that many a wall monument, and many a great ledger stone of the eighteenth and nineteenth century may be fetched home again. We believe if the people could be taught to see their real value historically, and more particularly legally—for the average Briton at least appreciates the legal value of a thing—the fantastic pavements would soon be flecked with the tombstones of the forefathers. We recommend education of this kind to the consideration of the School Boards.

There is no more melancholy sight than the closed burial grounds of great cities. Outside the rusty railings, the strife and race for existence; within, the mouldering and grass-grown stones, but,

"Ev'n from the tomb the voice of Nature cries."

They are not pleasant places to look upon, but they have a higher interest than many other things and places about which people concern themselves a great deal, and the National Society also undertakes to preserve this considerable class of perishing and dishonoured memorials. With such work in hand we are not surprised to find that funds are much wanted. The tooth of time, aided by neglect, is so rapidly destructive that we have no hesitation in insisting that money would be well laid out now in copying such monumental inscriptions before the records themselves are no more. The National Society has lately been encouraged in its uphill work by the Council of the Society of Antiquaries and by the Archaeological Institute. The address of the Secretary is Mr. Vincent, Belle Vue Rise, Hellesdon Road, Norwich, to whom all communications should be sent.

ROMAN CHESHIRE.—Mr. W. Thompson Watkin's work on this subject has just been issued, price £1 5s. 0d. It is in demy 4to, illustrated with large plans and maps, and more than 160 woodcuts. Intending subscribers should communicate with the author 242, West Derby Road, Liverpool.

Archæological Intelligence.

SOME MUNICIPAL RECORDS OF THE CITY OF CARLISLE.—Under the Editorship of our valued members, Mr. R. S. Ferguson and Mr. W. Nanson, another work will shortly be added to the extra series of the publications of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Antiquarian and Archæological Society. We have pleasure in calling attention to this forthcoming book, as much because the name of Mr. Ferguson is alone a guarantee of good work, as because it gives another instance of how much sound and useful work may be done by local societies who set themselves sensibly to their task. No society has worked better in our day than the society in question, and its eight thick volumes of transactions are its tangible and abiding testimony. The new work will contain a brief history of the Corporation of Carlisle, or Guild Mercatry and its relation to the eight Trading Guilds—the Merchants, the Weavers, the Smiths, the Tailors, the Tanners, the Shoemakers, the Glovers, and the Butchers. The curious bye-laws of the Corporation and of the Guilds are printed from the originals in the possession of the Corporation and of the Guilds, and are copiously illustrated by extracts from the Court Leet Rolls belonging to the Corporation, and from the minute books of that body and of the Guilds. The work preserves for the student of municipal antiquities a mass of interesting matter, and throws much light upon the social life and manner of an ancient English border city. Subscriptions, 15s., may be sent to Messrs. Thurnam and Sons, Carlisle.

THE CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE OF SCOTLAND FROM THE TWELFTH TO THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.—By David Macgibbon and Thomas Ross, architects, Edinburgh : David Douglas, 1887 (two volumes). We gather from the contents of volume i, and the mention of 500 illustrations in it, that this will be a considerable work. We are, however, somewhat surprised to see the statement in the second sentence of the heads of the introduction that there has been “hitherto no systematic treatise on the subject.” This would seem to imply that the fame of Mr. G. T. Clark had not yet penetrated so far as to the modern Athens. We were certainly under the impression that if any subject had been systematically treated it was that of military architecture by Mr. Clark, and we are thus placed in another difficulty as to how the Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland can possibly be properly dealt with without reference to, indeed constant use of, Mr. Clark’s goodly volumes of “Mediæval Military Architecture in England.” We look forward to the solution of this enigma when we see the actual volumes. In the meantime we must content ourselves

with simply calling attention to the book by means of the information we get from the prospectus which has reached us. The introduction appears to treat generally of the whole story of castles, with references to many fortresses which are well known to us from the accounts which have appeared in the *Archæological Journal*, by the late Mr. Hartshorne and by Mr. Clark. The work is then divided into first, second, and third periods (1200 to 1542), and a great number of castles are described. The fourth period forms the subject of vol. ii, and with regard to the illustrations, we can only say that if they are all as good as the specimens given in the prospectus, of Linlithgow Palace, the book will be well illustrated indeed.

PLAS MAWR, CONWAY.—This fine house, which has now become the house of the Royal Cambrian Academy of Arts, is one of the best examples of Elizabethan Architecture in the Principality, and being historically connected with many of the oldest families in North Wales, deserves to be more generally known and to be preserved in an enduring record. We are glad, therefore, to see that Messrs. A. and H. H. Baker are preparing a monograph, giving a full account of this building, illustrated by numerous measured plans and details. Subscriptions, £1, may be sent to Messrs. Baker, 14, Warwick Gardens, Kensington, W.