

## Archaeological Intelligence.

PROPOSED COMPLETION OF ROTHWELL MARKET HOUSE.—It will be within the recollection of many members of the Institute that they visited this picturesque building during the Northampton Meeting in 1878,<sup>1</sup> and that a desire was then expressed that a movement should be set on foot towards the preservation of so remarkable a monument. In accordance with this feeling a report was drawn up by Mr. Somers Clarke, Junr., and an estimate formed of the probable cost, but bad times supervened and the matter went no further.

At a Public Meeting held at Rothwell, on February 12th, 1887, it was resolved that the most fitting way to commemorate the Jubilee of Her Majesty's accession would be by the completion of the old Market-house for the purpose, primarily, of a Reading Room.

The need of such an institution in Rothwell—which, after an interval of some two centuries, is again an increasing town—has long been felt, since there exists at present no place of resort where the inhabitants can find interest and amusement free of cost. It was the universal opinion that no more fitting place could be found than the old, half-completed building which was raised rather more than three hundred years ago by Sir Thomas Tresham, of Rushton, "*as a tribute*," so says the Latin inscription round the building, "*to his sweet fatherland and County of Northampton, but chiefly to this town, his near neighbour*."

Sir Thomas's good intentions towards Rothwell were unfortunately frustrated by the turbulence of the times, and the trials he underwent on account of his religious and political opinions, by which not only did he suffer in fortune and liberty, but his attention was engrossed to such a degree that of all the buildings he undertook (Rothwell Market-house, Rushton Hall, the Triangular Lodge, and Lyvedon New Building) only the Triangular Lodge was completed in his lifetime. "*Hard to say*," says Thomas Fuller, "*whether greater his delight or skill in building, though more forward in beginning, than fortunate in finishing his fabricks. Amongst which the Market-house at Rothwell, adorned with the Armes of the Gentry of the County, was highly commendable*."

The task which was abandoned in Queen Elizabeth's reign it is now proposed to complete in Queen Victoria's. The change of times necessitates a slight departure from the original intention of the founder. The lower storey was to have been an open Market-house; but there has been no market at Rothwell for many years. It is therefore proposed to enclose this storey and to let it as offices. By this means a regular annual income will be obtained, which will serve not only to supply the Reading Room with papers, but also to keep the building in repair; both of which objects, if left to annual subscriptions, are

<sup>1</sup> See *Journal*, vol. xxxv., p. 439.

likely to languish. As to the upper storey, it is not clear to what purpose it was intended to be put (it may have been intended for a school), but it is this room which is now to be used as the Reading Room. The space in the high-pitched roof will also be utilized.

We cordially congratulate the principal movers in this scheme upon the line they have taken. An obvious want will be supplied, a remarkable building and special county monument will be rescued from decay, and, most sensible of all, the vacant space on the ground level, till now the harbour and refuge of unseemly things, will be so made use of that there should always be funds for keeping the building in repair.

It should be mentioned that the work has been placed in the able hands of Mr. J. A. Gotch, who has done so much towards the elucidation of works of the English Renaissance, and particularly the buildings of Sir Thomas Tresham. We have generally shrunk aghast from any proposals of "restoration," but we must even "restore" sometimes—it sounds like a paradox,—if our successors are to have any ancient buildings at all. It is seldom indeed that we can feel that a matter is in such safe hands as those of Mr. Gotch. On this score we have no fear, and we would only venture to suggest that the date of any new work should be legibly inscribed upon the work itself, or such material used as would necessarily imply the Victorian Era.

The Rothwell market-house is a building of more than local interest. It is a well-known example of an important phase of architectural design, and as such deserves careful preservation; this it is much more likely to receive when used as a public building than when left in a condition which deters anyone from taking responsibility. To the county at large, in honour of which it was partly erected, it must always be of peculiar interest. And, again, to those families whose arms are carved in such profusion on its cornice it must appeal in the liveliest manner. "*Nothing but the common weal did he seek*," says the founder in the dedicatory inscription, "*nothing but the perpetual honour of his friends*." Some of his friends have left no posterity, but, on the other hand, some of them have, and the old names survive in the old places. To them, therefore, to all natives and inhabitants of the county, and to the large public which is concerned in the preservation of historical monuments, the Committee appeal for help. We think it probable that many members of the Institute, and particularly those who are interested in heraldry, will be glad of the opportunity of assisting in the protection of so fine a flower in "the Herald's Garden."

Subscriptions may be sent to Robert Watts, Esq., the Manor House, Rothwell.

**TICHMARSH CASTLE.**—Many of our readers are aware of the discovery, by Mr. Bland, of the foundations at Duffield of a rectangular Norman Keep of first-class dimensions, unnamed in records, and completely forgotten in its neighbourhood. More recently the foundation of a similar structure, also unrecorded and forgotten, have been discovered at Tichmarsh, in Northamptonshire, and have been cleared out, and plans taken at the charge of Lord Lilford, the owner, and under the very competent care of the Rev. R. S. Baker, of Hargrave.

It has been usual to regard the castles of the Norman Lords as centres of oppression, and as such to have produced impressions of their existence both deep and lasting, especially in their immediate neighbour-

hood, and yet here are the undoubted remains of two castles of the first class, of which not only have the ruins themselves perished, but of which the very tradition is forgotten. And they were not of the slight and temporary class stigmatized by Stephen as Adulterine, but works to the full of as substantial a character as even London or Rochester.

**WESTMORLAND CHURCH NOTES.**—Being the Heraldry, Epitaphs, and other inscriptions in the thirty-two ancient Parish Churches and churchyards of the county of Westmorland, by Edward Bellasis, Lancaster Herald, of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister-at-Law. We have no scruple in bringing before the readers of the Journal a part of the prospectus of a work such as we should like to have for every county in England. The whole country is teeming with antiquaries of different kinds and degrees, but it appears that the bulk of them are hearers and readers rather than doers and workers; certainly very few of them are labourers such as a book of this sort implies: we may, therefore, probably wish in vain for Church Notes for the whole of England. To the certain weariness and painfulness of copying inscriptions we may add the general thanklessness of the task, and, looking throughout England, we see no body of antiquaries who are likely to immediately follow in the wake of Westmorland, except the industrious antiquaries of the neighbouring county of Cumberland.

"This work, comprising over 4,000 entries and blazons, was begun in 1874 by Mr. Bellasis and brought to a close by Mr. J. Hamerton Crump in 1887. It includes all the monumental inscriptions, whether intramural or extramural, connected with all the old parish churches of the county. Monuments, as giving the age of persons at death, are, on this ground alone, invaluable for purposes of identification, more especially those erected previous to the General Registration Act, yet, on the whole, too little attention has been paid to them. The entries are arranged alphabetically for each parish, but a general index will terminate the issue, which it is proposed to print in two parts, commencing in alphabetical order with the churches and church-yards at Appleby. Great pains are being taken to ensure accuracy in the transcripts, *i.e.* by going over the work, so far as possible, a second time, before proceeding to press, and the help herein received is more particularly acknowledged in the book itself.

"It has not been deemed necessary for such practical purposes as those for which alone the task has been undertaken, to space out the texts of the epitaphs just as they appear on the original stones and brasses, still less to reproduce the precise style of lettering, a course that would have involved expensive type, and enhanced the cost to subscribers. Attention, however, has been paid to capital letters, capriciously enough as these are wont to figure; and, as a rule, material from other books, often found inaccurate in this and other respects, has been incorporated only in cases, duly cited, where the known inscriptions have disappeared or become undecipherable.

"The position of each tomb has been noted with reference to the church, and a description, such as altar tomb, brass, &c., or somewhat more detail in the case of remarkable monuments, has been deemed sufficient for identifying, if desired, any particular monument.

"Systematic annotation has been studiously avoided, since it would have entailed years of labour with no adequately useful result to

compensate for the delay thereby entailed in the publication of the book.

"The transcriber feels that his has been only porter's work, but knowing well how soon these invaluable data become lost through friable stone, influence of weather and other causes, he cannot regret the labour that he has been put to; and he trusts it will incite others to undertake Cumberland. Since he first set to work monuments have disappeared, and looking to the value of past gleanings in this historic field, which have rescued for all time what has now gone past recall, he believes that his task will be appreciated, and regard being had also to its great extent and many difficulties, that due allowance will be made for such chance errors and short coming as may be discovered in the notes."

Whatever county is encouraged by Mr. Bellasis's example it can hardly do better than adopt his plan of treatment, and if for larger countries the book is priced at the same relatively low amount there should be no lack of the patronage which his book so well deserves.

The work will be issued in two volumes, thick royal 8vo., with wide margins, and the impression is limited to 250 copies. Volume I will appear at the end of the year and volume II within a year from that date. Price to Subscribers £1 1s., Mr. T. Wilson, Publisher, Kendal.

DEVONSHIRE PARISHES, BY CHARLES WORTHY.—Within our own recollection the parish churches of England have suffered so grievously from "restoration," that the principal key of the history of most parishes has thereby been lost. We are not without hope, however, that some of the churches in "Devonshire Parishes" may have escaped the modern ravage or, at least, have been so tenderly handled that their intelligible story has not been quite converted into meaningless jargon. Judging from the sample page which has reached us the manorial history is likely to be well treated so that the book will possess more than a local interest. The work will be in two volumes, each complete in itself and containing minute accounts of fourteen parishes. Price of each volume 15s. W. Pollard & Co., North Street, Exeter.

THE SOMERSET RECORD SOCIETY.—This Society has been formed for the purpose of seeking out, editing, and printing, such documents as bear upon the history of Somerset. Its aim is, "1—to publish at least one volume per annum. 2—In the choice of records for publication, to keep in view the work of tracing the stream of country life and the devolution of property from the earliest documentary period. 3—In the treatment of records, to present them in such form as will preserve the important parts of the original wording, and to give also such translation and annotation as will open their contents to the general reader, and spread an interest beyond the narrow range of experts."

The Council of the Society contains at present but six names but it would be difficult indeed to find half a dozen better men in any county; we mention the names of Mr. F. H. Dickinson, Mr. E. A. Freeman, and the Rev. W. Hunt as those of "searchers after truth" of whom Somerset may well be proud. The first publication, Bishop Hobhouse's edition of Bishop Drokensford's Register, has just been presented to the subscribers. The value of the earlier Episcopal Registers is now recognized and it is to be hoped that the Society may be enabled to carry on a work that has been so well begun. Mr. E. Green has in hand an account of all the Chantries of the County from the report made upon

them at the time of their dissolution which will, doubtless, be very good reading, and the society has in preparation "Kirkby's Trust" by Mr. Dickinson, the "Cartularies of Bruton Abbey and Montacute Priory" by Mr. W. J. Batten, &c.

The Subscription is £1 1s. per annum, the secretary of the Society being the Rev. J. A. Bennett, South Cadbury Rectory, Bath.

**HISTORY OF THE WILMER FAMILY.**—The sympathy of the Institute has never been withheld from works which deal with family history. Only those persons who have embarked upon such arduous undertakings can realize what the family historian has to encounter, and persons who go conscientiously to work can say with truth with the old writer, and long before they finish, "what toil hath been taken as no man thinketh so no man believeth but he that hath made the trial." Pages of correspondence (the curse of modern times,) and days of research will often result in the addition of only one line to the work, oftener still not one word, and perhaps the most disheartening feature in the compilation of a family history is the apathy, not to say the rudeness, with which one's questions are received by the present generation. Not only this, every enquirer knows the difficulty in getting, even from willing informants, a plain and complete answer to a plain and simple question. Thus, the family annalist who is concerned with the story of modern people is beset with far greater difficulties than the historian who draws his information from such pure and now happily accessible founts as the Pipe Rolls.

We have reason to believe that the History of the Wilmer family will prove an excellent example of such works, and the long list of the pedigrees which it will contain at once gives it a value and an interest outside the immediate circle of the family with whose history it deals. The subscription is 12s. 6d.; names may be sent to C. Wilmer Foster, Gamlingay Vicarage, Sandy, Beds.

**SOUTH OF ENGLAND CAST-IRON WORK.**—MR. J. Lewis André has in preparation an illustrated volume upon this subject. We need hardly call attention to the interest of this subject since it is well known and was amply illustrated by the objects shown in the temporary museum, established during the Lewes meeting of the Institute in 1883. But we may remind our readers that the work in question will treat of both Roman and Mediæval cast-iron workers—City Companies—Patron Saints—Iron Works in the reign of Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I.—Camden—Wealth acquired by Ironmasters—Will of Ironmaster—Laws—Extinction of Iron Trade in the South—List of Iron Works in Sussex, Hants, Kent, and Surrey, Notes of the Owners, and Specialities produced—Method of Working for Ore—Cast Cannon—Firebacks—Flemish Designs—Scriptural, Mythological, Historical Subjects—Heraldic, Animal, Floral, and Emblematic Designs on Firebacks—French, "Plaque de cheminée,"—Firedogs or Andirons—Cob-Irons—French "Chenets"—Sepulchral Slabs—Attempt of Sussex Men to Found in Scotland—17th Century Notions on Properties of Iron.

Mr. André will give an essay on the rise and fall of the Southern Iron Industry and the whole of the illustrations will be drawn to scale. Subscribers' names may be sent to the author, Hurst Road, Horsham, Sussex. The Subscription is 15s.

**THE GREAT SEALS OF ENGLAND.**—By the late Mr. A. B. Wyon, and Mr. Allan Wyon. The Great Seals which have been used by the

Sovereigns of England from early times to signify the Royal Assent to public documents, present on their faces a brief epitome of the history of England, whilst the narrative of events connected with the Seals themselves gives further illustration of many important and interesting facts connected with that history.

The "Great Seals of England" gives a descriptive, illustrated, and historical account of these Seals, with many curious and interesting particulars as to their general history and the laws concerning them. It sets before the reader the few Royal Seals which are known to have existed in Saxon times; and with the reign of Edward the Confessor it commences a series of Seals which continues unbroken down to our day. A *facsimile* of each Seal is given accompanied by a description of the Seal and its design, a statement of the period during which it was in use, references to the dates of the Charters and other documents to which impressions of the Seals are still attached, and the places where these original Charters have been found and examined by the authors. In most instances these particulars are supplemented by the addition of information and original notes concerning the history of the Seals.

Many extracts from the Records of the Privy Council concerning the Great Seals are now published for the first time. A list of the Lord Chancellors and Keepers of the Great Seal from the time of Edward the Confessor to the present day is added; and also a list of officers attending the Great Seal in olden times, with particulars of their duties and emoluments, which furnish much curious information.

We are glad to see that the illustrations will be made by the autotype process. In earlier days we were accustomed to dwell with admiration upon the exquisite and accurate workmanship of Mr. Le Keux. Nothing but the autotype can equal that fidelity, and it is gratifying to know that so worthy a subject will be so worthily treated. Three hundred copies of the work will be printed. The price to subscribers, £5 5s., will be raised after publication. Names may be sent to Mr. Stock, 62, Paternoster Row.



## Archaeological Intelligence.

ANCIENT SEPULCHRAL MONUMENTS.—By W. Brindley and W. S. Weatherley.—There is certainly no more hopeless aggregation of ugliness than may be seen in the great cemeteries near London or any other large English city. We shudder with horror when we think not of the graves—for graves are apt to excite the finer feelings—but of the monstrous monuments which cover them. And when we contemplate the lines of marble deformities and the walks of aggressive stony vulgarities at such places as Kensal Green or Highgate our spirits fairly sink within us as the thought arises “what a dreadful legacy to posterity;” and we contrast them with the simple picture of modest and sufficient memorials in many a quiet old country churchyard. But something is at last being done to mitigate this evil, and we gladly call attention to the forthcoming appearance of a work, which, from its admirable character, we are convinced will do a great deal towards improving the taste in cemetery monuments, and, it may be hoped, go some way towards obliterating the wily advertisers who pester people on the occasion of any death in the family with lithographed expressions of sympathy and crude prints of marble urns and other pagan “trappings and the suits of woe.” We are far from being so sanguine as to think that this book will at once leaven the whole of the New Road, for instance, and effect a total overthrow of all the “works of art” in that quarter; indeed, such a sudden change is in some regards not altogether desirable; for many artistic enigmas are there which have stood so long that their removal would not only create a blank in a prospect not remarkable for its variety, but also deprive us of the service of numerous objects which may soon act as public scarecrows and warnings, and may on this account remain to assist the taste. And it will probably be years before the influence of the work in question trickles into the yards of country stone masons, and sinks into the minds of these men; for the minds of monument masons are almost as difficult of new impressions as the granite, many of them work so tastelessly upon.

We notice in the prospectus which has reached us, that the drawings of Ancient Sepulchral Monuments have been made for the most part to a uniform scale of an inch to the foot, with, in many instances, details one quarter of the real size. These latter features should be a great boon, for although it is true that the country monument mason may, generally speaking, get as much for himself any moment from ancient monuments in his own parish church, it is also true that he never does so endeavour to purify his work. So the authors wisely recognise that proper drawings of details must actually be put into the hands of the monument mason of the usual type that suffices the public, even if the original examples from which they are taken are only a few yards off. A great deal of this apathy on the part of workmen, arises from special causes, social and commercial, which we need not go into now.

We may state that the book in question will give between 600 and 700 examples of ancient sepulchral memorials, ranging from Obelisks and Monuments, to Headstones and Incised Slabs. To these will be added a series of examples of heraldry, a most desirable adjunct to such a book, for what antiquary has not paled at the sight of modern heraldry and its charges, both sculptured and depicted! It remains for us to add that the drawings are all from the admirable hand of Mr. Weatherley, and no more need, therefore, be said on this head. The work is now being issued; price, to Subscribers, £3 3s., Non Subscribers, £4 4s. Application should be made to the Authors, 20, Cockspur Street, Pall Mall, London, W.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES and QUERIES, a quarterly Journal devoted to the Antiquities, Parochial Records, Family History, Traditions, Folk-lore, Quaint Customs, &c., of the county. Edited by E. L. Grange, M.A., LL.M., and the Rev. J. Clare Hudson, M.A. Price 1s. 6d. a quarter. Annual subscriptions, 5s. — The more the truth of the adage, "When found make a note of," is realized by antiquaries the sooner will special Notes and Queries be established for every county in England. Yorkshire, Cheshire, "The Seed Plot of Gentility," Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire, "The Heralds Garden," were early in the field, and we now specially welcome Notes and Queries for the great county of Lincoln. The editorial notice sets forth very well the scope and aim of this new magazine, and we can hardly doubt that it will receive ample support in Lindsey, Kesteven, and Holland, for what intelligent Lincolnshire man is not interested in his Diocesan and County Records, his Churchwardens' Accounts, his Manorial Rolls, his Churches, Churchyards, County Celebrities, and County Literature, and as much of the Ancient Speech which has not been swamped by the seven standards! A man need neither be an antiquary, or try to be one, in order to take interest in the preservation of such things as these. They are part of the common property of the nation, and it is as much the privilege as the duty of every Lincolnshire man to preserve and hand down all he possibly can in his own county to his successors. It is to assist him in this duty that Lincolnshire Notes and Queries has been established. The stores of antiquarian treasures in Lincolnshire are as great as in any other county—greater than in many, and it may be hoped that through the medium of this new publication many a long-closed volume may be re-opened, many a document extended and again made available for use, and many a precious fragment saved ere it be borne away by the ever-rolling stream of time. All communications should be addressed to the editor, care of the Rev. J. Clare Hudson, Thornton Vicarage, Horn-castle.

THE BOOK OF SUNDIALS.—Edited by H. K. F. Gatty and E. Lloyd. This is a new edition, in preparation, of a picturesque work on a picturesque subject which appeared some years ago, from the accomplished pen of the late Mrs. Alfred Gatty. It is greatly enlarged as to the number of examples, as well as in the descriptions of dials of Greek, Roman, Saxon, and other early forms. The work will be published by Messrs. G. Bell and Son, 4, York Street, Covent Garden, to whom subscriptions (10s. 6d.) may be sent.