

## Archaeological Intelligence.

CALENDAR OF THE RECORDS OF THE CORPORATION OF GLOUCESTER. Rental of all the Houses in Gloucester in 1455. Edited by W. H. Stevenson and the Rev. W. Bazeley.—The former of these documents consists principally of full abstracts in English, of the early local deeds in the possession of the Corporation. There are nearly 1300 of these documents; 571 are before 1300, and some date from the twelfth century. There are many fine seals of local families of early date, and this valuable collection which has been hitherto unavailable, has now been carefully arranged and calendared by Mr. Stevenson. The Calendar will be printed in demy 8vo, at 10s. 6d. The Rental was drawn up by Robert Cole, a Canon of Llanthony Priory, near Gloucester. In a length of parchment thirty-three feet long and fifteen inches wide, we have an account of every house in the borough, the names of the owner and tenant, his trade, rent, &c., and in many cases an abstract of title from the time of Henry III. Each of the four main streets are taken in turn, the houses being given in separate columns, the side streets and lanes being similarly treated. Between the columns the space representing the roadway is occupied by drawings of the churches, chapels, friaries, wells, the pillory, &c.. The work is thus at once a survey, directory, and rent roll of the city for 1455. It is proposed to print this curious record in its full Latin, a translation being also given, and the drawings reproduced in fac-simile. This volume may also be subscribed for at 10s. 6d., the price for the two works being 17s. 6d. Names may be sent to Mr. G. S. Blakeway, Town Clerk, Gloucester.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF SUFFOLK, by the Rev. J. J. Raven, D.D.—We have the pleasure to announce the forthcoming appearance of this work, which adds another to the long list of books on Bells. It will be fully illustrated, and will contain a complete list of the inscriptions on all the bells in the county, as well as on many that have been re-cast. The demy 8vo. edition may be subscribed for at 15s., and a limited number in royal 4to. size at 25s. Application should be made without delay to Messrs. Jarrold, Norwich, as the price will be raised on the day of publication.

A GUIDE TO PRINTED BOOKS AND MSS. RELATING TO ENGLISH AND FOREIGN HERALDRY AND GENEALOGY, by G. Gatfield, in demy 8vo, is now in hand.—It is unnecessary to point out the value of such a work as this to the ever increasing number of workers. The author's position and opportunities have well fitted him for the task. We need only mention that in addition to references to printed books a large number

of MSS. in public and private libraries have been consulted and made use of, as well as works relating more especially to Ireland, Scotland, Wales, America, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, India, Italy, West Indies, Japan, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland. The book will thus form one of the valuable series of guides to the contents of the National Collection, which is such a boon to students. Names of subscribers should be sent to Messrs. Mitchell and Hughes, 140, Wardour Street, London.

MR. WALTER RYE has a considerable work in hand, "Cromer Past and Present," which will doubtless be worthy of him. It will be well illustrated, and contain notes of every Inscription in Church and Church-yard, and of every Foot of Fine; References to every Will, and transcripts of every Subsidy Roll relating to the parish, and other local and more homely matter. The price of the work will be—large paper, £2 2s.; small do., 18s., to be raised after the day of publication. Names may be sent to A. H. Goose, Rampant Horse Street, Norwich.

THE CHURCH PLATE OF THE COUNTY OF DORSET. Edited by J. E. Nightingale, F.S.A.—A book on this subject from the hand of one so well qualified will be so very welcome that we need only say that a limited number of copies will be printed, with fifteen illustrations, at 6s., the cost of the printing. Intending subscribers should communicate at once with the Author, Wilton, Salisbury.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PLACE NAMES, with notes, descriptive, historical, and archæological of each place, is now in hand, by the Rev. R. S. Baker, Hargrave, Kimbolton.—Under the heading of Enquiry are Name, Saint, Situation of Village, Natural Features, Acreage, Manor, Church, Plate, Great Houses, Manor Houses, Customs, Traditions, Antiquities, British, Roman, Castles, Religious Houses, Crosses, Relics, &c., the whole being verified from personal survey. We shall call further attention to this work later on.

of the low intellectual condition of the country during the Dark Ages, the illiterate character of the clergy, especially their ignorance of the Holy Scriptures, and, contrasting their statements with the actual text of the works which they cite as their authorities, pointing out how the extracts have been garbled, or the plain sense of the writers distorted, for the evident purpose of misleading the reader. Dr. Maitland's treatment of the subject is terse, witty, powerful in reasoning, pious in spirit, and profoundly learned; and his selection of topics enables every reader to judge for himself of the gross misrepresentations which have been promulgated by those popular writers, who, in Professor Smyth's words, have hitherto given the tone and the law to the public mind.

Dr. Maitland says the purpose he has in view is to furnish some materials towards forming a right judgment of the real state of learning, knowledge, and literature during the Dark Ages, in other words to shed some light on the darkness of the period in question, and in this object he has been eminently successful.

The authors whose works are chiefly commented upon are Robertson, Jortin, Mosheim, Maclaine, and White, but there are others who are equally untrustworthy, among them Hume and others of equal popularity and greater name; and historical students, after reading Dr. Maitland's work, will, it is hoped, be very cautious how they place any reliance upon the statement of such writers, and will verify their references.

### Archaeological Intelligence.

THE RIGHT TO A PARISH REGISTER.—It is not often that the proceedings of the metropolitan police courts have any archaeological interest, but the following report from the daily papers of Jan. 9th, 1890, may with advantage be enshrined in the *Archaeological Journal*.

"Mr. HENRY GRAY, a bookseller of Leicester Square, was summoned at the Marlborough Street Police court yesterday, by the Rev. J. M. Rees, Cwm, Flintshire, for detaining a 'certain manuscript, on vellum, consisting of a true note and terrier of the glebe land and tithes, signed by the minister and principal inhabitants of the village of Cwm, in the year 1781, and the baptismal and burial register of the years 1791 to 1812.'—Mr. Arthur Gill appeared on behalf of the Treasury to support the summons. The Rev. Thomas Major Rees said that he produced registers which were continuous up to 1820, except for the years 1791 to 1812. They bore the signatures of the Rev. Peter Whately, who was then vicar of Cwm. About three years ago a man called upon him and asked to be allowed to see the record of the burial of a person who died in the year 1810. On going through the registers the one containing the records of that year could not be found. Three or four weeks ago extracts from the catalogue of a sale at the defendant's premises, were forwarded to him by some friends, and in consequence of their containing a description of the missing book, he communicated with Archdeacon Williams.—Adolphus Emery, clerk to Messrs. Dalziel and Beresford, Solicitors, of the Strand, said that on the 13th of November he went to the defendant's place of business and served upon him a

demand for the relinquishing of the book.—Mr. Gray, electing to be sworn, said that he purchased the book in the year 1888, from a bookseller carrying on business in the Goswell Road. He had put the price £5 5s. upon it in his catalogue, but had offered to accept £2 10s.—Mr. Hannay: You see what is urged is that in 'market overt' you cannot become possessed of a register belonging to a parish.—Mr. Gill: Churches in remote parts of the country are unprotected, and it may frequently happen that old registers would be removed without the knowledge of the parishioners. If a person could sell them as he chose there would be no recovering them.—Mr. Hannay (to Mr. Gray): I think I must hold that Mr. Gill is right, and order the delivery up of the book.—After some further protest, the book was handed over."

The thanks of antiquaries are due to Mr. Rees for his public spirit in bringing forward the matter, and it is an additional proof, if any were needed, that the clergy of the present day take something more than "an intelligent interest" in the registers of their parishes, whatever they may be supposed to have done in the past. We can, in imagination, draw a picture of the amount of officialism and red tape that would have intervened if such a case as the above had arisen and the proposal to remove all the parish registers of the kingdom to one central depositary in London had been carried out. The matter of the missing Cwm registers was just a case where prompt action, like that of Mr. Rees, was absolutely necessary, because, at any moment, they might have been sold to a stray nameless purchaser, and carried off to a distant region of Greater Britain, or absorbed into some collection in America—that grave of the Old World's antiquities—never again to return to the parish of whose human record they formed a part.

THE REGISTERS OF WADHAM COLLEGE, OXFORD.—The Rev. R. B. Gardiner, F.S.A., has undertaken this work, with the approval and assistance of the Warden and Fellows. It will present the record of all persons who have belonged to Wadham since its foundation. Part I. 1613 to 1719 will shortly be published, price £1 1s., to Subscribers 12s. We need hardly refer to Mr. Gardiner's well-known "Admission Registers of St. Paul's School," in evidence of his capabilities for the labour he has set his hand to. The period contained in this volume is full of interest, including not only the Foundation of the College, but the important University Epochs of the Civil War, the Parliamentary Visitation, and the Revolution of 1688; for the explanation of which a Table of Dates will be prefixed.

Names should be sent to the Author, 3, Gliddon Road, West Kensington, London, W.

INDEX TO THE PREROGATIVE WILLS OF IRELAND, 1536-1810.—Edited, with a Preface, by Mr. Arthur Vicars, F.S.A.—It is proposed, if 150 Subscribers be forthcoming, to publish a complete Index to the Prerogative Wills of Ireland from 1536 (in which year the first is recorded) to 1810, alphabetically arranged, giving the residence and description of each testator and date of will. It is unnecessary to draw attention to the great importance of such an Index to Genealogists, Historians, and Archæologists at large, who find in Wills one of the most fruitful sources of information, and if the Author meets with the encouragement he so well deserves, we hope he will continue the series as he contemplates. Names of Subscribers (the price is £1 1s.), should be sent at once to the Author, care of Mr. E. Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

THE PEDIGREE OF THE BABINGTONS, of Burghley, Chilwell, Kiddington Knowle, Normanton, Rampton, Rothley, Packington and Tymore, in the Counties of York, Nottingham, Oxford, Devon, Derby, Leicester, and Stafford. Compiled from the Rothley roll of 1627, the Derbyshire and other visitations and collections, the Harleian MSS., and other records, public and private. By the Rev. M. D. Babington, in 1813, and G. T. Clark, in 1847 and 1888.—This is a noble contribution, copious and elaborate, to county histories, privately printed in a grand style by one whose name alone is sufficient guarantee for accuracy and research. The main line was of Dethick and Kingston, and as the family intermarried with the best gentry, this record has a good deal of Midland interest. Much credit is due to the printer, Mr. William Lewis, Duke Street, Cardiff, for the admirable manner in which he has handled the subject, and so accurately fitted together and set forth so much information in capital clear type. And when it is stated that the pedigree occupies a sheet measuring 6ft. 7½in. wide by 6ft. long, some idea may be gathered of the care that has been used.

KIRKSTALL ABBEY.—It is good news to hear that the Leeds Corporation have obtained the advice and assistance of Mr. St. John Hope respecting the preservation and reparation of this Abbey. It is cheering to know that the Chairman of the sub-committee appointed to superintend the work has given orders that the whole of the Ivy is to be cut down. This good work already begun, it may be hoped will have many imitators throughout the country.

YARMOUTH NOTES.—Mr. F. Danby Palmer, whose archæological labours in his native town are well known, has collated from the file of the Norwich Mercury, from 1830 to 1872, these useful items of interest. It will be remembered how much of antiquarian interest has perished in Yarmouth during this period, and how many buildings of a like kind have been happily saved from destruction by local antiquaries. We may add that the "Notes" in question can be obtained at Mr. J. Buckle's, 36, King Street, Great Yarmouth, price 3s. 6d.