

side. Jennings now began to make his first collection of objects *de vertu*, statuary, etc., and from the following circumstances acquired the vulgar name of "Dog" Jennings, a soubriquet that stuck to him through life. The story shall be told in his own words :—

"I happened one day to be strolling along the streets at Rome and perceiving the shop of a statuary in an obscure street, I entered and began to look around for any curious production of art. I at length perceived something uncommon at least, but being partly concealed behind a heap of rubbish I could not contemplate it with any degree of accuracy. After all impediments had been removed, the marble statue I had been poking for was dragged into open day ; it proved to be a huge but fine dog ; and a fine dog it was and a lucky dog was I to discover it and to purchase it ! On turning it round I perceived its tail was docked : this gave me a hint. I also saw the limbs were finely proportioned and that the figure was noble—that sculpture in short, was worthy of the best age of Athens, and that it must be of the age of Alcibiades, whose favourite dog it certainly was. I struck a bargain on the spot for 400 Scudi, and as the muzzle alone was damaged, I paid the artist a trifle more for repairing it. It was carefully packed and being sent to England after me, by the time it reached my house in Oxfordshire it had cost me £80. I wish all my other bargains had been like it for it was exceedingly admired, as well I knew it must be, by connoisseurs, by more than one of whom I was offered £1,000. In truth by a person sent, I believe, from Blenheim I was offered £1,400 ; but I would not part with my dog ; I had bought him for myself and I liked to contemplate his fine proportions, and admire him at my leisure, for he was doubly dear to me as being my own property and my own selection."

This quotation is taken from Timbs' "English Eccentrics," in which there is a short life of Mr. Jennings.

(*To be continued.*)

Proceedings of Societies.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—On the 26th ult., the President gave a most interesting lecture on the Churches of Stanford-in-the-Vale, Hatford and Shellingford, and the Chapels of Goosey and Baulking. As usual the lecture was illustrated by lantern slides, from photographs specially taken by Messrs. Walton Adams.

The Two-day Excursion of the Society will be to Chichester on the 11th and 12th of June.