

the advowson to him and it has remained the property of the representatives of his family ever since. Mr. Bushnell at the same time held a Lectureship at Thatcham and he seems to have kept in touch with his University of Oxford, as he paid frequent visits there and on one occasion went up to preach a sermon at St. Mary's. He was fond of music and subscribed liberally to the local concerts and paid for a clarionet for the Beenham choir, for there was a village band for the Church music in those days. The band, however, may have fallen off in numbers, for eventually he provided an organ and altered the gallery to receive it. In the same year a Vestry was built at his suggestion and mainly at his expense, assisted by a subscription from the parish of £20. In 1814 he and his wife contributed towards the cost of Feasts at Beenham and Thatcham in celebration of the Peace, and the following year they subscribed to a fund raised in these parishes for the sufferers at Waterloo. He died in 1839. A tablet was put up to his memory in Beenham Church with this inscription: "To the memory of the Rev. John Bushnell, nine and twenty years Vicar of this Parish. Obit. 5th Sept., 1839. Ætat 53. Also Sarah his wife, who fell asleep April 4th, 1888, aged 90."

NOTE.—The Rev. W. D. Macray, D.D., writes: In the translation at page 20, April number, "A.S." does not stand for "Old Style," which is impossible in October; but for "Anno Salutaris." The translation should be "From this life, by the welcome exchange of another, being released from his body he departed" . . . "in the year of Salvation."

(To be continued.)

The Shiplake Virtuoso.

By Emily J. Climenson.

(Continued from page 28.)

This famous dog was on April 3rd, 1778, a subject of conversation at the "Literary Club," the dog was then offered for sale, *vide* Boswell's "Life of Johnson":—

"F" (said to be Lord Upper Ossory): "I have been looking

at the famous antique dog of Mr. Jennings' valued at a 1,000 guineas, said to be Alcibiades' dog."

Dr. Johnson: "His tail then must be docked; that was the mark of Alcibiades' dog."

E. Burke: "A thousand guineas! the representation of no animal whatever is worth so much! At this rate a dead dog would indeed be better than a live lion!"

Dr. Johnson: "Sir, it is not the worth of the thing but of the skill in forming it which is so highly estimated. Everything that enlarges the sphere of human power, that shows a man can do what he thought he could not do, is valuable. The first man who balanced a straw on his nose, who rode upon three horses at a time; in short, all such men deserve the applause of mankind not on account of the use of what they did, but of the dexterity which they exhibited."

The dog is said to have been discovered at Monte Cagnuola, and to be the work of Myron, a celebrated Greek sculptor. This dog is now in the hall at Duncombe Park, the property of Lord Feversham, whose ancestor, the Honourable Charles Duncombe, bought it. When I had published my "History of Shiplake" in 1894, my husband wrote to the Rev. C. N. Gray, Vicar of Helmsley, to inquire about the dog, here is his answer:—

"February 26th, 1894.

"Dear Sir,—The dog as I know to my cost, for I had a terrible job with others, was got out of the first fire 15 years ago. Some of the men working under me had given him up as a bad job, but knowing the value, I insisted that we must try and slide him out. When lo! the pedestal turned out to be wood, sham stone, and we got him slid on to the top of the steps outside with great difficulty, and there covered him up. If it had been stone I do not know what we should have done, as the fire was raging in the next room. The 'Quoit Thrower' was next, and his weight was great. Since that they have been in the York Exhibition, and so escaped this second dose (the second fire at Duncombe Park). They are there now. The new central part of the house will be before long ready for them again; only, unfortunately, they are making the hall about half the size, still there will be lots of room for 't' Dawg' as we say in Yorkshire.—Yours truly, C. N. Gray."

Mr. Gray has only recently died. Many other pieces of sculpture, etc., were sent over to England by Mr. Jennings to his mother's

care at Shiplake, amongst them a bronze bust of Venus, said to be by the hand of Praxiteles. This was the chief treasure and only shown to those people he deemed *presentable*. This bust was kept in an iron chest "in which his divinity was enshrined, and he approached it brandishing the key in a peculiar manner and applied it to the lock with a certain degree of reverence." Not only did he collect statuary, but books, manuscripts, pictures, prints, miniatures, carvings, and shells. Of the latter he had a peculiarly fine collection, one Harp shell cost him £120, for three less valuable specimens he gave £90.

In 1765 Mr. Jennings married a Miss Juliana Atkinson, but where the marriage took place is not known. The next year 1766 Mr. Jennings' money troubles began, a King's Bench summons was issued against him, and his great grandson says already Shiplake was heavily mortgaged. In 1768 a son was born to him "at the Red Lion Hotel whilst on a journey" is his note to this, but whether at Henley or elsewhere not stated. Probably this child was put out to nurse as many were at that period, but no mention of his death is made in the Shiplake registers. On Oct. 31st, 1769, Mrs. Jennings died, "wife of Henry Constantine Jennings of Wargrave, Berks, was buried at Shiplake." Probably he was renting Wargrave Hill from Mr. Hill (Cowper's friend), who up to the time of his marriage in 1771 did not reside there often. Mr. Jennings had sold his pack of hounds he kept at Shiplake to Lord Barrymore. At the time of Mrs. Jennings' death, Mr. Jennings was again in great pecuniary trouble and was borrowing money; he now consolidated his debts into one large amount to Sir Charles Raymond, of Valentines, Essex. In 1774 the death of his rich old uncle, John Jennings, at Piddletrenthide, Dorset, relieved his distress, as he left him the estate—some 3,800 acres. This estate he sold to a Mr. Cox, of London. He now with his other extravagances bought a horse brought from Bombay for 300 guineas. This horse was supposed to be a Cappadocian horse of the celebrated Bagdad breed. Mr. Jennings named it "Chillaby" after William III. famous white barb. He was a most vicious animal. Our hero now hired a house and 80 acres of land at South Weald, Essex, as his future breeding stable, and bought a number of brood mares. By 1806 this establishment cost him £10,000! Near South Weald lived two Miss Nowells. The eldest, Elizabeth Catherine Nowell, was only seventeen, her father was dead and had left her a large fortune with the condition in his will that whoever she married was to take the name

of Nowell. This suited Mr. Jennings in many ways, he persuaded her to run away with him in 1777, and they were married at Haddington, N.B. Mr. Jennings became Mr. Jennings Nowell by virtue of the will. At the end of 1777 his troubles began again, he was arrested for debt and lodged in the Fleet prison, from whence he was removed to the King's Bench. He got out of prison by selling part of his collection. "The Dog" was put up but bought in. After he left prison he retired to Havering Bower and recommenced collecting curiosities with redoubled energy. By his second marriage he had three children, only one survived, Elizabeth, who married William Lock of Norbury Park, near Leatherhead. About 1783, being again in difficulties Mr. Jennings Nowell found himself in Chelmsford jail, where he remained for some years. Mrs. Nowell who with her little girl had taken refuge with her mother and sister-in-law then living at Shiplake House, now sued Mr. Jennings for maintenance and a mutual separation was agreed upon, she retaining the name of Nowell, he reverting *legally* to Jennings. He, however, for convenience for himself used the name of Nowell, dropping Jennings entirely when it suited him, as can be seen in the Shiplake parish books !

And now as to his personal appearance. His portrait in Wilson's "Wonderful Characters" by R. Cooper, is not unpleasing ; he is represented in a great coat, and an odd little round soft hat turned up in front, a stick under his arm, gazing at a Classical print ; a somewhat lengthy aquiline nose set in a long face, with broad forehead, and a pleasant laughter-loving mouth is far from repellent. He was thin, and as he grew older stooped a good deal ; was fond of throwing stones up to his stick, never failing to hit them away falling. As he remained some years in Chelmsford jail, he probably then acquired some of his curious after-habits from the feeling of want of exercise ; one was to drill before retiring to rest, with a ponderous wooden instrument capped at each end with lead, with the exercise of which he put a genial warmth in him before sleeping. In the morning he was an early riser, and in his own words : "Flourishing my broad sword exactly three hundred times, I then mount my chaise horse, composed of leather and inflated with wind like a bellows, on which I take exactly one thousand gallops !" Before his residence in prison at Chelmsford, and subsequently he composed several pamphlets, of which there are copies in the British Museum, and they are ably written. Besides these pamphlets he wrote an octavo volume, entitled "Moral and Historical Memoirs "

by H. J. C. Jennings, printed for "Edward and Charles Dilly in the Poultry, 1779." There is no doubt that he knew nearly all the best people in Society, and the cleverest in literature and art as well. With Mrs. Montagu the "bas bleu," he was acquainted, and paid her this compliment: "It may be objected to the above reflections that perhaps we could boast at no period of a greater number of female writers than at present; yet we should consider there is but one Mrs. Montagu; the rest, notwithstanding their merit, are of inferior rank and condition." His mother dying Sept. 5th, 1791, he came into her jointure of £800 a year and a third of her West Indian property at Mondego Bay. This enabled him to emerge from prison and take possession of Shiplake House, in which his mother and sister had been living. His sister Susannah retired to London. He now commenced his third collection of curiosities! Fresh pecuniary trouble arising, Mr. Jennings offered Shiplake Court to Mr. Elisha Biscoe for £40,000, who refused it and bought Holton Park near Oxford instead. Mr. Biscoe had been renting Shiplake Court for some years. In 1804 the estate was offered by Mr. Andrews of Reading, and Batten & Anstice of St. George's, Westminster, and sold to a Mr. Hamilton, who quickly resold it to a Mr. William Newell, a yeoman farmer. Mr. Jennings was now living in Lindsey Row, Chelsea. A gentleman who visited him in 1803, describes him thus: "He sat enthroned in all the majesty of virtue, amidst his books, his pictures and his shells." In 1816 he was again in the King's Bench, when most of his collection was sold including "The Dog" for £1,000. He now lived, still under the rules of the prison, in Belvedere Place, St. George's-in-the-Fields, where he died on February 7th, 1819, and was buried at St. Margaret's, Westminster, ætat 88.

Lord Wallscourt and the late Lady Walsingham were his direct descendants from his one surviving child Elizabeth, wife of William Lock, of Norbury Park.

