

Archaeological Intelligence.

PROPOSED EXHIBITION OF ANTIQUITIES AND WORKS OF MIDDLE AGE ART,

IN THE GREAT INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION AT DUBLIN, 1853.

A PROPOSITION, highly interesting to all engaged in the investigation of National Antiquities, has been originated by the noble President of the Institute, and brought by him under consideration of the Committee of the Great Industrial Exhibition, now in course of preparation at Dublin. Lord TALBOT de MALAHIDE, with the earnest desire to promote the extension of Archaeological science, and having noticed with gratification the successful effect of a combination of works of Art, in the Exhibition at Cork, has been impressed with the conviction that a collection of Irish Antiquities would form a valuable addition to the Industrial display of this year; conducive also to many important objects connected with that enterprise.

With this view, Lord TALBOT addressed the chairman of the Dublin Committee; he recommended that space should be set apart in the Exhibition, not only for minor relics of antiquity, but for all objects, pictorial, plastic, or simply ornamental, which appertain to early ages of the history of the country. He proposed to include models of peculiar and characteristic architectural examples, such as some of the most perfect Round Towers, Holy-cross Abbey, St. Canice, at Kilkenny, Clonmacnoise, St. Dolough's, &c.; also casts of sculptured and inscribed monuments, sepulchral effigies, wayside crosses, with numerous objects scattered throughout the country, essential to the formation of a series illustrating the progressive development of Art, but of which the originals, through impracticability of removal, are not available for such a desirable object.

The vestiges of early periods, hitherto regarded as almost peculiar to the sister kingdom, naturally form a feature of especial interest in the assemblage of characteristic examples contemplated by Lord TALBOT:—such as Ogham inscriptions, ornaments of gold, seals of oriental porcelain, and the numerous relics assigned in Ireland to the age of Scandinavian invasions. His Lordship's project includes, however, everything which may throw light upon the Arts and Manufactures of former times; works in the precious metals, pottery and glass, seals, arms, decorative tiles, relics of textile manufacture, and examples of skill in the manipulation of metals, so strikingly shown in the examination of Irish Antiquities. Lord TALBOT suggested also to the Committee the importance of obtaining good casts of the chief types in the Museum at Copenhagen, and of numerous ancient relics found in Northern Europe, most valuable for comparison with those of the British Islands.

The meeting of the British Association at Belfast, in September last, was marked by the admirable effect with which a museum of antiquities was introduced, as by no means inconsistent with the objects of physical science.

To the arguments thus urged by our noble President, accompanied by the offer of his zealous personal co-operation, the Dublin Committee, as

might be anticipated, most cordially responded. Lord TALBOT, in the prosecution of this beneficial design, has naturally felt convinced, that its full effect, in arousing an intelligent appreciation of the value of National antiquities, would be essentially furthered by the combination of all vestiges of ancient times. The comparison of such relics, discovered in various parts of the British Isles, those especially of the more obscure early periods, cannot fail to be of great reciprocal advantage to Archaeologists on either side of the Irish Channel. It may be confidently hoped that the invitation of our President, on an occasion which must be viewed by all members of the Institute with the warmest interest and sympathy, will secure the cordial co-operation of all, who have it in their power to render assistance in such an undertaking.

The views with which Lord TALBOT has engaged in the direction of this section of the Great Industrial Exhibition at Dublin, will be best appreciated through the following statement, recently addressed by him to our Society :—

“ Lord TALBOT has been authorised to organise such an addition to the original plan of the Dublin Exhibition as has been proposed in regard to the illustrations of National Antiquities and Art ; and he hopes that his antiquarian friends and fellow-labourers on this side of the Channel will not refuse their co-operation. He conceives that few arguments are required to prove the advantages which must accrue to the science of Archaeology by the proposed movement. They may, however, be summed up as follows—

“ It is necessary, as far as possible, to popularise the study of ancient Art, to extend the field of observation, and increase the number of persons who take an interest in the science. By so doing, we shall preserve from destruction many valuable and beautiful specimens of the arts of our ancestors, and, above all, introduce correct and chaste views in the application of High Art to modern requirements.

“ It is well known that the exhibition of Early and Mediaeval Art, which was carried out by the joint co-operation of the Society of Arts and Archaeological Institute, in 1850, was most popular and successful ; that it was productive of advantageous results in the cultivation of public taste, and as an auxiliary for various practical purposes. It need hardly be stated, what distinction has been conferred upon the useful arts by the beautiful and learned combinations of distinguished artists, whose names must be familiar to all men of cultivated taste.

“ The proposed exhibition is intended to illustrate particularly the arts, whether Architecture, Sculpture, the manipulation of metals, glass, pottery, are considered ; and, where the originals cannot be obtained, casts or models would be highly acceptable. Already arrangements have been made for obtaining casts of beautiful and interesting examples connected with Ireland, and exchanges may ultimately be made with great advantage to the collections of both countries.

“ The arrangements are intended to be, as far as possible, in conformity with those under which the Exhibition, carried into effect by the Institute in conjunction with the Society of Arts, was conducted ; but a more detailed prospectus will be soon issued, giving information on the details of the proposed plan. In the meantime, Lord TALBOT requests any gentleman who feels an interest in the subject, and is disposed to cooperate with him, to offer any suggestion, or supply information whereby such works of art or antiquities, available for the purposes of this exhibition, may be obtained for the series, now in course of arrangement ; particularly such as tend to

illustrate the natural connexion between the aboriginal inhabitants of Great Britain and those of Ireland."

This appeal from the President of the Institute will be met with cheerful concurrence by the members of the Society, and many others, through whose kindness the collections formed at our Annual Meetings have been enriched. No opportunity, equally advantageous, has hitherto been afforded for the advancement of Archaeological knowledge, through an extensive comparison of the vestiges of various periods and successive races, by which the British Islands have been occupied. The plan, thus originated by Lord TALBOT, is calculated not only to produce results useful or gratifying to the antiquary and the artist, or even practically available for the interests of industrial ingenuity; but it must likewise prove auxiliary to historical inquiries, connected with the more obscure periods.

All persons disposed to cooperate in such an object are requested to communicate with Lord TALBOT DE MALAHIDE, Malahide Castle, co. Dublin; or with the secretaries of the Institute.

CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.—Nov. 29, 1852. The MASTER of JESUS COLLEGE in the Chair.—Mr. C. C. BABINGTON gave an account of mediæval remains lately discovered in Corpus Christi college, in the course of repairs. The following is a list of these objects, found partly under a floor, and partly in a sort of cupboard, which had been covered over and was forgotten.

1. An imperfect copy of a small tract, of twenty-four pages, measuring $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $3\frac{1}{4}$ in., printed in black letter, and thus entitled,—“The general pardon, geuen longe agone, and sythe newly confyrmed, by our Almightye Father, with many large Priuileges, Grauntes, and Bulles graunted for ever, As it is to be seen hereafter: Drawne out of Frenche, into English. By Wyllyam Hayward. Imprinted at London, by Wyllyam How, for Wyllyam Pickeringe.” No date, but it is believed to have been published in 1571.¹ 2. A wooden comb quite perfect. 3. The remains of a small knife in its embossed sheath. 4. The end of the scabbard of a sword. 5. A very small tobacco-pipe with a potter’s mark on its spur or foot, a monogram composed of the initials T. B. 6. A purse of white leather, containing two small purses attached to its inner side. 7. A small glove of white leather, ruffled at the wrist, and slashed over the middle knuckles of the fingers. 8. A pair of shoes of thin leather most elaborately slashed. 9. A pair of slippers of double leather with cork soles, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch thick, and slashed across the toes. 10. A strong shoe with a row of slashes on the instep, accompanied by a wooden clog fastened by a strap with a peg of wood in the place of a buckle. 11. A thin shoe with a row of slashes on the instep. Also several fragments of little interest.

All these things seem to belong to the time of Queen Elizabeth. Two circular oak medallions, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, were also found. Each is ornamented with a bust in relief, one male, the other female. These resemble the celebrated “heads” formerly on the ceiling of the King’s room at Stirling Castle, but they are not so beautiful in design. C. C. B.

KILKENNY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Nov. 3. The Marquis of ORMONDE, one of the Patrons, presided, and he presented a collection of Roman Imperial coins, as also Kilkenny tokens, siege pieces, &c., and various antiquities. A series of drawings of sculptured crosses in co.

¹ Mr. Babington would feel obliged for information concerning this tract, as he

wishes to obtain a transcript of the parts wanting in this copy.

Kilkenny, by Mr. O'Neill, were laid before the Society, and Mr. Graves called attention to the proposed publication of these curious monuments (see p. 399.) Mr. Prim related a singular tradition regarding "the Butt's Cross," Kilkenny, and the person by whom it was erected. A communication on the subject of Antiquities in co. Kerry was read, by the Rev. A. Rowan; also a Memoir on the Cowley family, settled in Kilkenny, in the XVth century, and ancestors of the late Duke of Wellington. His Grace, as appeared by a characteristic note addressed by him to the Secretary, in 1850, appeared to have been unaware of the connexion. This autograph was produced, and excited much interest. Mr. Prendergast contributed a Memoir on Hawking, and the sports of the chase, in Ireland, in ancient times; and on the high estimation in which the falcons of that country were long held. Mr. Ferguson sent a curious contract between the O'Neil and the Archbishop of Armagh, in 1455, preserved in the Primate's Registry. An appeal was made for the preservation of Jerpoint Abbey, one of the most interesting examples existing in Ireland, and much in need of judicious conservative precautions.

The formation of an ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY for the county of Essex was concluded, Dec. 14, *ult.*, at a meeting in the Town Hall, Colchester. Mr. DISNEY, an antiquary distinguished by his liberal promotion of archaeological studies in the University of Cambridge, and the donation of his Collections to the Fitzwilliam Museum, has been chosen President. To the members of our Society he is well known by his friendly encouragement and participation in our proceedings, from an early period. Any person desirous to aid this extension of antiquarian research in Essex may communicate with the Hon. Sec., the Rev. E. L. Cutts, Coggeshall.

Miscellaneous Notices.

Mr. C. ROACH SMITH, F.S.A., who has recorded in the first series of his *COLLECTANEA ANTIQUA*, a valuable mass of evidence, relating chiefly to the earlier and more obscure periods of Archaeological enquiry, has announced his intention of continuing that periodical, early in 1853. The work will be restricted to *subscribers*, and will be produced in quarterly parts, forming one volume annually. Those who desire to encourage the undertaking of so able and indefatigable an antiquary, are requested to add their names to his list, as early as possible. Communications to be addressed, 5, Liverpool-street, City.

The Rev. EDWARD TROLLOPE, of Leasingham, Lincolnshire, has in readiness for the press a small volume of illustrations of ancient art, the ornaments, implements, appliances of daily life, &c., from objects found at Pompeii and Herculaneum. He proposes to give 400 woodcuts, executed by Mr. Utting, with letter-press, forming a Manual, very useful as an accompaniment to the Dictionaries by Dr. Smith, or Mr. Rich. The work will appear as soon as sufficient encouragement may be received from subscribers, to whom the price will be one guinea. Subscribers' names received by the author.

It is proposed to publish, in Parts, Lithographic representations (21 in. by 15) of the curious Sculptured Crosses in Ireland, which, from their dimensions and peculiar ornaments, are amongst the most valuable