

Archaeological Intelligence.

A valuable work of reference in connection with the History, Topography, and Antiquities of the Northern Marches is ready for publication (by subscription) by Mr. William Dodd, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. It will be entitled, "*Bibliotheca Northumbriensis et Dunelmensis*," and will comprise detailed notices of all the sources of information concerning the two most northern counties. Price, to subscribers, one guinea.

Mr. Aldis of Worcester, announces a collection of photographs of early sculptures in stone and wood in Worcester Cathedral, including a valuable selection from the carvings of the thirteenth century, the entire series of the "*Misereres*" in the choir, with their highly curious and grotesque sculptures.

The International Congress of Prehistoric Archaeology will take place at Brussels, commencing August 22, and closing on August 30. Full particulars regarding this, the sixth congress, and the proposed arrangements, excursions, &c., may be obtained from the secretary, M. Dupont, Musée Royal d'Histoire Naturelle, at Brussels.

An important volume on Prehistoric Ethnography in Europe is announced for publication at Brussels by M. Ch. Steur, member of the Royal Academy of Belgium. It will form three volumes 8vo, with maps and tables of comparative lexicography, the price being 8 francs each volume (about 7s. 6d.) delivered in this country. Subscribers' names are received by Messrs. Williams and Norgate, 14, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden. The work is entitled as follows:—"Ethnographie des Peuples de l'Europe avant Jésus Christ, ou Essai sur les nomades de l'Asie, leurs migrations, leur origine," &c.

The second portion of the collection of "*Irish Sepulchral Slabs and Christian Inscriptions*," from the earliest known examples to the twelfth century, chiefly from drawings by the late Dr. George Petrie, has recently been issued to the subscribers. The work is of essential interest, both in an artistic and philological point of view. It is edited by Miss Stokes, with the assistance of the Rev. W. Reeves, D.D., and of other distinguished Archaeologists in the sister kingdom. Full particulars may be obtained from the Rev. James Graves, Inisnag, Stoneyford, Kilkenny.

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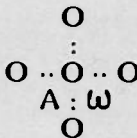
EXCAVATIONS AT CARDIFF CASTLE.—Many of our readers will remember that at the time of the recent visit of the Institute to Cardiff, the President of the Meeting had commenced the removal of some of the plaster and modern brickwork with which the interior of the castle had been altered and concealed. These works have been continued, and we understand that it is ascertained that the centre of the building was occupied by a great hall, of which the oriels are still seen on the east front, and which also had large windows, of a Perpendicular character, in the west or outer wall. The hall does not ascend to the top of the building, but only occupies one floor, having had a flat ceiling. We also understand that Lord Bute has commenced considerable excavations along the line of the wall which divided the outer from the inner ward. The wall, of great thickness, and with foundations of unusual depth, extends across the court from the Black Tower to the foot of the mound, and is continued in a north-westerly direction beyond the mound to the outer wall of the castle. There are indications showing that originally it was carried up the mound, to join the polygonal shell still extant there. Traces have been found of a gateway in this wall, near the outer gate, by the Black Tower, and at the other end was probably a second gate, and certainly, within and parallel to the wall, a very strong portcullis gate, leading from the inner ward to the foot of a steep flight of stairs, which lead to the Keep. Connected with the gate was a drawbridge across the ditch of the mound. This was worked between two walls,—the one the ward wall, the other a parapet resting upon a large round-headed arch, which spanned the ditch, and so allowed its waters to flow into the bridge pit. Near this gate is a well. The ditch of the mound is now being opened, and it is already evident that the ditch is much older than the wall which traverses it. The interior of the Keep has been probed, but contains no foundations. It is curious that while the outer wall of the castle has on the outside no foundations, though supported inside by 5 to 10 ft. of earth, the cross wall is sunk some 8 or 10 ft. in the earth. The above cursory account is written after a very hasty visit to the spot, but the operations are evidently carried forward, in a very methodical and judicious manner, by Lord Bute himself; and it is to be hoped that, when completed, he will draw up an account of them, with plans and sections. Those who remember Lord Bute's letter upon the excavations of Jerusalem, published some years ago, are all aware that he has a genius for topography. We hear that excavations are also in progress at Castel Coch.

Early in the month of June, of the present year, a Roman magisterial chair, or throne, was discovered at a small country place near Aquila, in


the Abruzzi. It is of that kind known as *biseltium* (one of which is figured in Mus. Borbon., vol. ii. tav. 31), and is made of bronze, inlaid with silver. The feet are formed as four griffins, with silver claws and eyes; the arms, to the right and the left, as two horses, lying down; the back and all the framework is ornamented with *intarsia* work of silver, representing hunting scenes, battles, sacrifices, domestic scenes, &c., and containing many hundred figures of the most exquisite and artistic execution. This remarkable work of antiquity, unrivalled of its kind, is estimated as worth 3000*l*. It was purchased by Signor Castellani for 400*l*., who, with a patriotic munificence which does him the highest honour, has presented it to the Capitoline Museum at Rome.

News of some remarkable early Christian antiquities have also come to us from Spain, where they have been recently discovered. One is an object of great interest. It would seem to be the bronze plaque of a standard—a *labarum*—with the well-known monogram of Christ, the *chi rho* ☩, sustained by two eagles, and believed to have been of the time of Constantine.—Also a *thuribulum*, or censer of bronze, ornamented with the cross and the dove.

Accounts from the south of France speak of the acquisition of two early Christian rings of interest—one of bronze, having the ☩ engraved upon the bezel, and surrounded by a coronet of ivy; the other a child's ring, of gold, inscribed LVCIÆ ✕ VELIÆ. The tomb which yielded this ring, also contained two earrings of gold and pearl, the lower portion of the drops ornamented with five dots connected by smaller

ones in the form of a cross,  and the letters *alpha* and *omega*.

Also a gold *collier*, with pendant shells and pearls, but not having any Christian emblem. Another necklet of gold and pearls, with the Greek cross ✕ eight times repeated, and centred with a wreath of laurel. A silver spoon, with the inscription NÆVI VIVAS. A *collier* of

jet, the central oval bead engraved with  surrounded by a wreath of vine leaves, grapes, and ears of corn, surmounted by two doves.

We trust that the information which has been so kindly supplied concerning these very interesting objects, will be followed up by more detailed notices of them.

"Alderley Edge and Neighbourhood, Past and Present" is the title of a work about to be published, by subscription, in illustration of a district of Cheshire of the highest interest to the archæologist, abounding in architectural buildings of great beauty, and with special characteristics, as well as in scenes highly picturesque. In the district are found three out of the small number of black and white timber churches existing in the whole of England. The halls of Baguley, Bramhall, &c.,

are excellent specimens of domestic architecture, and there are many examples of the style special to Cheshire and the adjacent counties to be met with round Alderley. The churches are very rich in monumental effigies, and the neighbourhood is full of the historic associations of the ancient knightly families long settled there. Much additional information respecting this locality has come to light since Mr. Ormerod published his valuable "History of Cheshire" in 1819, and the collection and arrangement of these materials has been undertaken by Mr. J. P. Earwaker, B.A., the honorary secretary to the Oxford Architectural and Historical Society. The work will be illustrated by photographs by Mr. A. Brothers, and will form a royal quarto volume, price two guineas; small paper copies, one guinea and a half. Intending subscribers should communicate with the author at Brocklands, Alderley Edge.

Mr. W. COPELAND BORLASE, F.S.A., who for some time past has devoted careful attention to the examination of ancient interments and sepulchral urns in his county, announces for immediate issue, to subscribers, "*Nenia Cornubiae*," an essay illustrative of the funereal customs of the early inhabitants of Cornwall. The work, to be published by Messrs. Longmans, will form one volume, 8vo, with many illustrations; price, 16s. The name of the distinguished archaeologist of the West, whose treatise on the Antiquities of Cornwall, published in 1769, still occupies a high position in researches of its class, cannot fail to confer on the labours of his descendant an increased interest.

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"The Art Treasures of Lambeth Library ; a Description of the Illuminated MSS. and Illustrated Books, with outline Lithographic Illustrations," is the title of a work which has just been published by Mr. S. W. Kershaw, M.A., Librarian. This Manual gives a sketch of the Library, and describes the general and artistic features of each illuminated MS., followed by a list of the paintings contained in it. These Art Treasures have never been specially noticed, and are only generally known by the Catalogue of the MSS. compiled by Dr. Todd. A small number of copies only are printed, price 15s., for which application should be made to the Author, the Library, Lambeth.

We are glad to learn that Part VI. of Sir John Maclean's valuable "History of Trigg Minor in Cornwall" is in a forward state, and that subscribers may expect to have it delivered very shortly. This Part will complete the first volume of this publication, to the preparation of which the Author has devoted several years of patient study and research, and will be accompanied by carefully-compiled indices to names of persons and places, and to subjects. The present volume will extend to nearly 700 quarto pages, and will be illustrated by about thirty full size plates, and a number of engravings of ancient crosses, armorial bearings, &c. The work is particularly rich in genealogical matter. Another volume will complete the laborious task the Author has taken upon himself. Subscribers' names should be sent to Sir John Maclean, F.S.A., Pallingswick Lodge, Hammersmith.

Publication is announced of the "*Fasti Monastici Aevi Saxonici*," giving an alphabetical list of the Heads of Religious Houses in England previous to the Norman Conquest, by Walter De Gray Birch, of the British Museum. This is a subject upon which many archæologists must have often found difficulties, and they will be pleased to find that it has been taken up by one so able to deal with it. The publishers are Taylor and Co., Little Queen Street, and the price is 5s.

Capt. T. P. White, R.E. (of the Ordnance Survey), F.S.A., Scot., proposes to publish "*Archæological Sketches of the District of Kintyre, Argyllshire*." This district of the Western Highlands is rich in early relics, which Capt. White's occupation has given him special facilities of noting and sketching. The interesting subject of the topographical nomenclature of the district will also be specially dealt with. The work will be in 4to. and contain above a hundred illustrations; price to subscribers 17. 11s. 6d.; publishers, Messrs. Blackwood, Edinburgh and London.

"No. 1" of a new Antiquarian Journal entitled "*LONG AGO. A Monthly journal of Popular Antiquities*" has just been published in London, price 6d., office, 86, Fleet Street. It proposes "to follow in the honoured footsteps of Sylvanus Urban, Gent."

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PUBLICATION is announced of a work entitled "The Antiquities of Cyprus, discovered by General Luigi Palma di Cesnola." This work refers to the collection which excited so much interest last year in London, and which was purchased for the United States. It consists of photographs by Stephen Thompson, printed by the Alethetype process, from a selection made by Mr. C. T. Newton, of the British Museum, with an introduction by Sidney Colvin, M.A. There are thirty-six plates, representing above one hundred objects. Price, complete, 4*l.* 4*s.* The plates can be had separately. London : Mansell & Co., 2, Percy Street, W.

The Rev. J. Harwood Hill, F.S.A., Rector of Cranoe, Leicester, has just completed the second and concluding part of "The History and Topography of the Hundred of Gartree, Leicestershire." It is in folio, and replete with illustrations of the churches and monuments in the district. The pedigrees in the volume are also an important feature of the work. The price is 50*s.*

The work projected under the title "Alderley Edge and Neighbourhood," by J. P. Earwaker, B.A., and referred to at p. 199 of this volume, has grown so much under the author's hands that he has thought good to extend the title. It is now proposed to entitle the volume "East Cheshire; Past and Present," price two guineas, for which the author desires to be favoured with names of subscribers at Brocklands, Alderley Edge.

Antiquaries and others who have supported the "Bulletin Monumental," directed for so many years by M. de Caumont, will be pleased to hear that the lamented death of that distinguished archæologist will not cause the publication to cease. It will be continued under the direction of M. de Conguy, whose address is "Château de la Grille, près Chinon." The price is fifteen francs the volume for France, yearly, and eighteen francs for other countries.

Mr. Mayer, of Liverpool, has just issued the second volume of "Vocabularies" to his important and very interesting work, "A Library of National Antiquities," which is privately printed by him. The "Vocabularies" are from MSS. in public and private collections, and are edited by T. Wright, Esq., F.S.A.

The Perkins Library, which was recently mentioned in the *Archæological Journal* as one of the few which contains a copy of the Mazarine Bible on vellum, has just been sold by auction at Hanworthy Park. With the exception of Gutenberg's Bible on vellum, and a second copy on paper, which were sold on the last day, the books are arranged alphabetically. The features of the first day's sale were a magnificent

manuscript Bible of the 13th century, in two folio volumes, containing many illuminations, probably of the Italian school; a copy of the printed Bible of 1462, the first with a date, on vellum; a "Bible Historiée" of the 14th century, containing 130 miniatures, by a French illuminator; the English Bibles of 1535 and 1537, both almost perfect, and many other editions. The second day comprised a good many illuminated MSS., chiefly books of Hours, some printed on vellum, by Verard and others: the "Cent Histoires" of Christine de Pisan, a very fine MS., with 115 historical miniatures of the highest importance; two "*Evangelistaria*" of the 9th and 12th centuries, and Caxton's *Confessio Amantis* of 1483. On the following days among the treasures disposed of were a fine 4to book of "Horæ," a French MS. of the 15th century: *Gretiani Collectio SS. Canonum*, a fine folio, full of miniatures; Caxton's "Higden," two folio books of "Horæ," of the 15th and 16th centuries, both finely illuminated; a MS. of Lydgate's "Siege of Troy:" MS. Romances, and many fine Missals, both MS. and printed;—several remarkable MSS., including a *Vita Christi* and a *Pontificale*; Shakespeare's four folios of 1623, 1632, 1664, and 1685, all perfect; and finally the Mazarine Bible, in two volumes, on vellum, with two leaves in facsimile; and, as a last lot, a very fine copy on paper, quite perfect.

The valuable collection of antiquities made by Signor Castellani has at length been acquired by the Government for the British Museum—a subject of great congratulation to all archæologists. One of the most remarkable objects in this collection is the bronze head supposed to be of Aphrodite, in which we have an undoubtedly original and cardinal work by one of the great sculptors of the best period of Grecian art. It is supposed to have been found in Thessaly, but the history of its discovery is not yet fully known. An Etruscan sarcophagus of *terra cotta* is perhaps the most important object which has yet been discovered in that material. It is of the largest size, and the cover is surmounted by a male and a female figure reclining together, as at a banquet. At one end, Achilles and Memnon, armed for the fight, are taking leave of their mothers and female friends. On the longer front the fight is represented in the centre; on either side are friends, and on that of Memnon a genius is flying upwards. The wailing Eos and her companions are represented at the other end, while the back is occupied by what appears to be the picture of the funereal feast. An inscription in the Etruscan character is painted round the upper edge, seeming to denote that the sarcophagus was occupied by a lady. Besides these two most important objects, there are numerous carvings in ivory and amber, and fictile vases. Altogether the acquisition is one of the richest that our National Museum has made for very many years.

The publication in Paris is announced of a fellow volume to that recently published there, entitled "*Les Collections Célèbres d'Œuvres d'Art en France*," to be called "*Works of Art in the Collections of England*." It is to consist of fifty folio plates engraved on copper, each specimen accompanied by a short descriptive text. Price ten guineas. Messrs. Williams and Norgate are the London agents.