

Archæological Intelligence.

THE PERKINS SALE.—It is an encouraging sign for archæology that this sale, although taking place at a very inconvenient distance from London, and at a time when other attractions drew much attention away from such subjects, was yet an object of the greatest interest, and was watched by many amateurs who took no part in the commercial transaction, but were simply drawn together by the high character of so many of the volumes exhibited and sold. The prices obtained were not very remarkable in any way, except on the last day. The manuscripts on the whole sold moderately, considering their great beauty and condition. But the great event of the sale, and that which deserves a place here, was that, in the two last lots offered, the price hitherto reckoned the highest in the annals of bibliography was twice exceeded. We mentioned the two copies of the "Mazarine Bible" in the last number of the Journal, and have now to add that the vellum copy fetched 3,400*l.*, and the paper copy 2,600*l.*, thus in both cases the 2,260*l.* given at the Roxburgh sale for the Valdarfur "Boccaccio" was largely exceeded.

Sir John Lubbock, with a public spirited munificence which is creditable to him, has purchased Silbury Hill, in order to preserve it intact. The hill covers seven acres. A very complete account of it may be found in our Salisbury volume.

The restoration of St. Alban's Abbey has come to a stand-still for want of funds. About 15,000*l.* has been expended, and the central tower has been rendered secure, while many of the ancient features long concealed have been brought to light, especially in the transepts. A general distrust of "restorations" prevails very generally at present, and we cannot wonder that the public have not been willing to do more in the present instance. Still, much might be added to the recent work before the dangerous point would be approached. Perhaps the most important discovery during the progress of the reparations has been that of the Shrine of St. Alban, recently described by Mr. Micklethwaite before the Archæological Institute, and an account of which was printed in our last volume. The pieces found, though they do not quite complete the structure as it once was, are sufficient to indicate its appearance with tolerable accuracy, and have been restored to the place from which they had been banished for upwards of three centuries.

Archæological Intelligence.

SOME interest has been excited by the recovery of a brass plate lost in the fire at the Chapel Royal of the Savoy. There were many monuments in the chapel, almost all remains of which have disappeared; and it is satisfactory that this brass is one of the most interesting. The inscription runs as follows:—"Hic jacet Thomas Halsey, Leglinensis Episcopus, in Basilica Sancti Stephani Romæ nationis Anglicanæ penitenciaris, summæ probitatis vir qui hoc solum post se reliquit, vixit dum vixit bene. Cui lævus conditur Gavan Dolkglas natione Scotus, Dunkellensis Presul patria sua exul. Anno Xti. 1522." Halsey was appointed to the see of Leighlin in Ireland by Cardinal Wolsey, but appears never to have proceeded to his charge. The second name is that of the celebrated Scottish poet and statesman, the third son of Archibald "Bell the Cat," Earl of Angus. Among the State Papers, are several references to his journey into England. The safe-conduct was granted in January, 1522. He had started from Scotland, December 13, 1521, and appears to have reached London in February. He was probably at Norham Castle with Lord Dacre on his way, and seems to have been received and lodged at the same nobleman's house, in the parish of St. Clement Danes, when he reached London. It has been supposed that he had lodgings in the Savoy; but an anonymous correspondent of the *Times* of September 23 points out that in his will, he speaks of being "apud hospitium Domini Dacris in partibus Angliæ in parochiæ Sancti Clementis prope Lundonium." He directs that his body should be buried in the Chapel of the Savoy; and his will, which was dated on the 10th September, was proved on the 19th. He died, it is believed, of the plague, and probably at the same time Bishop Halsey also died of the same epidemic, and so the two prelates are laid side by side and commemorated in the same brass. Their bodies were seen some years ago by the chaplain in a vaulted grave under the chancel, and the brass is to be placed in a black marble slab and restored to its former position in front of the altar.

A most interesting discovery in the Troad is reported by Dr. H. Schliemann in a letter published in the Augsburg *Allgemeine Zeitung*. It is described as most probably the actual treasure of King Priam, found in the place in which it was concealed before the capture of Troy. Dr. Schliemann has been indefatigably occupied in exploring during the last three years, and his exertions seem to have been at last crowned with the fullest success. Vessels of copper, gold and silver, and weapons of copper, have been found in large numbers and of great intrinsic value. These objects present appearances of having been packed away in a wooden box, which was destroyed by fire, but the key of which has been found. An account of this most remarkable discovery will be published by F. A. Brockhaus, of Leipzig; but the articles themselves are destined for the museum at Athens, in return for permission to make excavations in Greece.

Dr. Birch has published a new edition, profusely illustrated, of his *History of Ancient Pottery*, originally published sixteen years ago. The author seems to think, and with good reason, that little more is likely to be discovered in illustration of the subject, and he has so treated it. That his manner of dealing with this very important and interesting subject leaves nothing to be desired, Dr. Birch's many contributions to the early pages of the *Journal* bear ample evidence.

Great improvements have recently been made by Sir Stephen Glynne at Hawarden Castle, in the course of which the opportunity has been afforded of examining some of the details of this very interesting structure. An account of the building is given in vol. xxvii. (p. 239). At the gate-house tower is a drawbridge, with the bridge-pit under it, which is popularly called "the dungeon." This pit has been an object of much discussion, and is a somewhat puzzling feature. Late investigations have led to the conclusion that it was made out of the inner fosse of the old earthworks, which was formed into an oblong pit, very deep, and with good ashlar masonry on all four sides. This was probably done during the Edwardian period, so that the inner fosse must have been filled up at that time. It may have been used as a reservoir by the garrison, as no well or other receptacle for water has been found. A so-called subterranean passage is probably a drain or waste-pipe. That a drawbridge passed over this pit, and was a road for horses into the court-yard, with steps only to the keep, is very evident. The gate-house is now only a mound of earth. In this mound is a small triangular chamber, with stone steps leading to it, the door at the bottom of which has been barred on the outside from a guard chamber, which has two other doors also, barred on the inside between the gate-house and the pit, and thus originally under the drawbridge. The road to this *tête-du-pont* from the valley below, winding round the foot of the keep, can be very distinctly traced.

Mr. Llewellyn Jewitt, F.S.A., has issued proposals for publishing, by subscription, "An entirely new, large, and comprehensive History, Topography, and Genealogy of the County of Derby." Subscribers' names should be forwarded to the author at Winster Hall, Matlock.

Mr. J. H. Parker, C.B., has circulated an appeal on behalf of the "Roman Exploration Fund," in which are some matters of interest. He says:—"An Act has passed the Italian Parliament, ordering that the general law of Italy with regard to Church property shall be applied to Rome without further delay. Thus more than half the buildings and the land within the walls of Rome must be sold in the course of the ensuing year. The stagnation, which had been caused by the locking up so much ground, had roused the Government to action. But this stagnation was favourable to the preservation of ancient buildings. The population of Rome is rapidly increasing; great manufactories and warehouses are called for; there is no saying how many of the old buildings will be destroyed. The new City is building on the hills, on the site of the City of the Empire, not on the low ground where the City of the Popes was built. The great *agger* of Servius Tullius is almost gone. A portion of the inner fosse, with the pavement at the bottom of it, was visible two years since. I am anxious to raise funds to save a section of it, as an historical monument. The monastery of S. Gregory, from which Augustine was sent to England to convert the Saxons to Christianity; the Forum of Augustus; the great Thermæ of Caracalla; are all threatened with destruction. It is known that Rome is undermined by subterranean passages, some of them very early, and similar to that lately excavated at the Mamertine Prison. Permission would readily be obtained to clear them out and examine them thoroughly at the present time; but when new streets and sewers are made, the opportunity will be lost. The Italian Government would have no objection to the action of a neutral body, such as a Society of Archæologists, trying to save the ancient monuments of Rome. All well-educated persons are interested in the Antiquities of Rome."

Archæological Intelligence.

FURTHER information supplies some corrections in reading the epitaph on the brass plate commemorating Bishop Halsey and Gavin Douglas, lately restored to the Chapel Royal, Savoy (see p. 203). For "Sancti Stephani," read "Sancti Petri;" for "Anglicanæ," read "Anglicor," contracted from "Anglicorum;" and for "Dolklas," read "Dowglas." Some further remarks will be given on a future occasion in reference to this epitaph.

It is gratifying to hear that the works at Beaulieu are making satisfactory progress. A curious heart coffin of stone has been found, in one of the receptacles of which was a small glazed earthenware jar, entirely broken. Those who attended the Annual Meeting at Southampton in 1872, and accompanied the party who were so kindly received by Lord Henry Scott at Beaulieu, will take especial interest in this discovery, which will doubtless be only one of many interesting items of intelligence to be brought before the Institute.

The general Index, kindly taken in hand by members of the Institute, has now been extended from twenty to twenty-five volumes. Subscribers will see particulars relating to this addition among the announcements on the cover of this No. of the Journal. Communications should be addressed to the Rev. W. Dyke, Bagendon Rectory, Cirencester.

The works in progress at Exeter Cathedral, so recently the subject of observation at the Annual Meeting of the Institute, have lately brought to light a chamber in the south-west corner of the Priest-Vicar's Court on the south side of the choir, the existence of which was hitherto unknown. It is nearly square, being 7 ft. by 6 ft. 6 in., and nearly 15 ft. in height, with a vaulted roof of early character. It was reached through an arched passage and by making a descent of about 9 ft. Among other suggestions as to its early use, that of its having been a dungeon has been made.

The Dean and Chapter of Lincoln have lately decided upon improving the condition of the muniments of that diocese. A preliminary examination has brought to light many interesting documents, some of which, it is hoped, may appear in the Journal of the Institute.

In excavating at Box Hall, Milton, near Sittingbourne, a Roman coffin, containing a few bones, a twisted wire gold ring, and some wooden square-headed nails, has been found. The site of the discovery appears to have been a Roman cemetery, and six or eight coffins—some being elaborately ornamented—have been found there. It is hoped that some fuller account of this discovery may be laid before the Institute.

Archæological Intelligence.

SOME idea of the fruitfulness of the Roman soil in antiquities, and of the extent of excavations carried on in that city and its neighbourhood during the past year, under the direction of the Archæological Commission, and with the sanction of the Italian Government, may be formed from the following list of objects secured during that period :—

- 17 statues,
- 24 busts,
- 6 basso-relievi,
- 7 sarcophagi,
- 2700 fragments of sculpture,
- 125 inscriptions on marble,
- 14,900 coins,
- 8 rings,
- 2 *colliers* of gold,
- 700 stamped bricks,
- 2050 stamps from amphoræ,
- 217 lamps of terra cotta,

and various objects in bronze of the estimated approximate value of some £8000 sterling. The Forum has been completely unearthed ; also great part of the Palatine, of the Thermæ of Caracalla, of Ostia, and of Hadrian's Villa.

The Annual Meeting at Ripon, for which the arrangements are now getting well forward, is fixed to commence on Tuesday, July 21.

The General Index to the first Twenty-five volumes of the Journal of the Institute is in progress, and will be published at the price originally announced for that to *Twenty* volumes, viz., One Guinea. Subscribers may forward the amount by P.O. order to the Secretary.

The church of St. Mary, Pembroke, one of those structures remarkable for a combination of features of a military type with the ecclesiastical, has long been in a state of great decay. A movement is on foot for its restoration under the charge of Mr. Buckeridge. A Committee has been formed to aid in raising the necessary funds, and communications may be made with the Hon. Sec., W. O. Hulm, Esq., Pembroke.

The International Congress of Orientalists is to be held in London in the course of the summer, when the languages, archæology, ethnology, and the arts and sciences of the various Oriental countries will form the subjects for discussion. Communications should be addressed to Robert K. Douglas, British Museum, London.

Some interesting remains of an early structure, probably of the original manor house, have been found in the course of the demolition of the old "Manor House" on Chiswick Mall. The remains consist of carvings of

foliage and grotesque figures, as well as wrought mouldings in Oxfordshire stone, all of the later Norman period. These have been built into the walls of the house of the Tudor period, of which there are many remains also, which in its turn gave way to the structure of the eighteenth century, now demolished. Chiswick belonged to the church of St. Paul, London, and in the time of Elizabeth was leased to the church of Westminster by Gabriel Goodman, Prebendary of Chiswick and Dean of Westminster. During his time additions were made to the manor house, and it was long used as a sanatorium for the Westminster scholars.

The tower of the very interesting Church of St. Mary, Guildford, visited by the Institute in 1872 (*see* vol. xxix. p. 366), and subsequently the subject of a memoir by Mr. J. H. Parker, C.B., has been lately pronounced by the architect, Mr. Woodyer, to be in an unsafe condition; which he ascribes to the alterations made in the structure at various times. It is to be hoped that timely precautions will prevent any great harm resulting, but for these it is said that pecuniary aid is much needed.