

Notices of Archaeological Publications.

LOCH ETIVE AND THE SONS OF UISNACH, with illustrations. London, Macmillan & Co., 1879.

The vestiges, myths, and traditions of the primitive races by which these islands were peopled before the dawn of authentic history, as well as of those of their kindred on the continent, are, year by year, increasing in interest. Several Welsh scholars have treated of the subject so far as the Principality is concerned, Professor Cowrie and others have done the same for Ireland, the Vicomte de la Villemarqué has written of the Cymri of Brittany, and Dr. Williams in his *Prehistoric Scotland*, and Mr. Skene in his most valuable, but as yet unfinished, work the *History of Celtic Scotland*, have done much for that country. Scotland, however, affords a vast field for investigation as yet very imperfectly explored, and it is with pleasure we have perused the work at the head of this notice. We regret that the author should have withheld his name, for, using his own words in a similar case, we say, "we like to know the name of one who does much good and loving work;" nevertheless his intimate acquaintance with the locality and affectionate interest in every remarkable object, whether of nature or art, marks him, clearly, as a native of the district. The "book," he says, "was begun as the work of holidays, and was intended to be read on holidays, but there is not the less a desire to be correct," and this desire is manifest in every page.

Loch Etive is one of the most important of the lakes which pierce the sides of the western highlands of Scotland. This and its neighbourhood form the scene upon which the work is based.

In early times a very close connection existed between Erin and Alba, by which names Ireland and Scotland were then known. Mr. Skene shews that the two countries were almost regarded as the same territory, from the free and unrestrained intercourse which took place between them, and according to tradition Loch Etive formed the retreat of the sons of Uisnach when they fled from Ireland in the following circumstances. The legend is briefly this: In Ulster lived a very beautiful damsel named Deirdre, whom Conor, King of Ulster, was bringing up to be his wife, but she cast her eyes upon Naisi, the eldest of the sons of Uisnach, a powerful noble of that country, and made, what we should deem, unmaidenly advances to him. Naisi could not resist the temptation to make her his wife, and taking his beautiful bride, with his two brothers Ainli and Ardan and all his sept, he fled from the power of Conor and settled in the Glen of Etive. Naisi was well received in Alba and became as great a man there as he had been in Erin, and built, or

had built, for him and his brothers a fort which still bears their names, Dun Mac Uisneachan, the Fort of the Sons of Uisnach. Meanwhile Conor affected great regret at the loss of his gallant young chieftains, and sent Fergus, another chieftain, to induce them to return. By fair promises he effected this object, but when Conor got them into his power he treacherously slew them, but he did not secure Deirdre, for by her own hands "she died on the graves of the sons of Uisnach."

The Fort of the Sons of Uisnach is a place of considerable interest, and the site of many misty legends which, together with those attaching to other spots in the district, bearing the names of Naisi, Deirdre, &c., it is our author's object, as far as possible, to clear up. This is one of those vitrified Forts which have only very lately been brought under notice. It is situate on the top of a hill on a platform about 250 or 300 yards long, and about 50 yards broad. The sides of the hill are either actually precipitous or very steep. Vitrified walls are found along the outer edge of the platform, except where there are absolute precipices; and on the western side an inner wall runs along about nine feet within the outer, but "the vitrification is never carried inside where more refined work was required." The dwelling houses were within the enclosure, the apartments not being rectangular. Excavations have been made among the debris, but little has been found except bones of common animals. The only antiquities discovered were an annular iron brooch and some bronze wire. At a point of the north wall was, however, dug up a piece of enamelled bronze, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, in form resembling a cap or cover, having a hollow on one side into which something might have been fitted. On the other side it is ornamented with concentric circles of red enamel, the centre being a light yellow. It is of the *champlevé* class.

Our author remarks that the vitrified forts were built by men who "quite understood the mode of putting dry stones together in layers, and says a part of the vitrified mass, *in situ*, was overlying a built portion of a wall. Vitrified walls take us far back, but not necessarily beyond the early centuries of the Christian era, since one existing near St. Briene, in Brittany, was evidently built after the Romans had shewn their skill there." These vitrified Forts are not found in Ireland, and were introduced from the east of Scotland to the west. Professor Black states, in a letter printed as an appendix, that there are in Scotland many kinds of stone which can, without much difficulty, be melted or softened by fire to such a degree as to make them cohere together, and, as the whole country was anciently forest, material was abundant for fusing the stones.

In Connel Moss was found a lake dwelling, described as based upon a platform of birch-trees, evidently cut with a sharp axe, and therefore subsequent to the stone age. Probably it is not of any very great antiquity, for old habits and practices would linger long in this remote region. Many cromlechs and other relics of pre-historic times are described, but we must not pursue the subject farther, and conclude with a hearty commendation of the work to all who love the poetical myths and antiquities of our Celtic Ancestors, and like to see them lovingly treated. We have only to add that the work is well and fully illustrated.

INQUISITIO COMITATUS CANTABRIGIENSIS, nunc primum e Manuscripto unico in Bibliotheca Cottoniana asservato typis mandata ; subjicitur INQUISITIO ELIENSIS, cura N. E. S. A. Hamilton, Londini : Impensis Regiæ Societatis Litterariæ apud Io. Murray, 1876.

The work before us, for which we are indebted to the Royal Society of Literature, contains the Original Returns made by the jurors upon which the Domesday Book for the county of Cambridge is based, and it forms a very important addition to our knowledge of the condition of that county at the time the Survey was made. This valuable and unique record is preserved in the British Museum (Cott. Tiberius A. VI.) and though previously known to a few antiquaries, it has been strangely neglected until brought under notice some years ago by Mr. Nicholas Hamilton, the present able Editor, who was at that time officially connected with the Museum. Who knows what other literary treasures we may not, unwittingly, possess in our public and private collections !

The document is cited by Selden, Gale, and some other writers on Domesday, and is bound up in the same volume as the *Inquisitio Eliensis*, which relates only to the lands held by the Monastery of Ely, and it is most remarkable that the latter should have been selected by the late Sir Henry Ellis for publication by the Record Commissioners in the beginning of the present century, whilst this far more important document, containing as it does, the Lay as well as Ecclesiastical Fees for the county of Cambridge should have been entirely overlooked.

There can be no doubt that the record now brought to light, which is in the handwriting of the period, of which fac-similies are given, contains the original inquisition for Cambridgeshire from which the Exchequer Domesday was compiled. Like the Exeter Domesday, which was printed by the Record Commissioners, the details are given much more fully than in the Exchequer Book, which is merely an abridgement, and contains all the particulars upon which the jurors were commanded to enquire. Mr. Hamilton prints this Record and the Exchequer Book in parallel columns, so that the difference between them may be seen at a glance, whilst an examination of the text will disclose numerous particulars, of considerable interest, with respect to which the Exchequer Domesday is silent, and it will clear up many points upon which that record is obscure.

To make the work more complete is added a map shewing the situation of the places mentioned in the text, and also a reprint of the *Inquisitio Eliensis*, which the Editor has very carefully collated with two MSS. in Trinity College, Cambridge, noting at the foot the various readings ; and he has further printed several documents from the ancient Cartularies of Ely, " which refer to the method employed in obtaining the Survey, and which cannot fail to strike the reader as being of a very remarkable nature."

Very full and complete Indices are appended which greatly add to the value of the volume. They are arranged under three heads : Names of Persons ; names of Places ; and a selection of Subjects which the Editor considered likely to interest, and to be useful in researches of a miscellaneous character.

REGISTER OF THE RECTORS AND FELLOWS, SCHOLARS, EXHIBITIONERS AND BIBLE CLERKS OF EXETER COLLEGE, OXFORD, with illustrative documents and a History of the College. By the REV. CHARLES WILLIAM BOASE, M.A., Fellow and Tutor. Oxford, 1879.

Amidst many difficulties Mr. Boase, by learning, diligence and perseverance, has succeeded in producing a very valuable work. The Preface itself is most interesting. It contains a succinct history of the College from its foundation, as Stapledon Hall, in 1314 by Walter Stapledon, Bishop of Exeter, to the present time. The author cites Bishop Stapledon's original statutes of 1316, showing that the advantages offered therein to comparative poverty were the means of bringing forward many men who attained to great eminence. Whilst allowing that there was some narrowness in the old system, he urges "that the way to rise was not closed to the poor, and that the Universities in the middle ages, and in much later times, had some of the character of a popular body in which learning and study were recommendations." Throughout the whole of this Preface not only is a great deal of light thrown upon the condition of the College and University at all periods, but there are many incidental notices of considerable general historical value, and especially is this the case in such notices as relate to religious matters from the time of Wicliffe to the Revolution, in which matters the College, of necessity, took an active part.

With respect to the construction of the Register of Rectors and Fellows, Mr. Boase states that it has not been an easy matter, the old compilations, for reasons of various kinds, being very defective. There are no contemporary lists of Fellows prior to the commencement of the College Register on 25th October, 1539. The previous names, Mr. Boase says, are given as they stand in the accounts of the Rectors for each term, and as a Fellow is only named when his commons are diminished by his going out of residence for a time the lists are anything but complete, especially as some of the Rectors' accounts are missing. Notwithstanding these difficulties, from the sources available to him Mr. Boase has compiled a very valuable list of Rectors and Fellows. From the foundation of the College until 1384 the Rectors were elected annually, though, being eligible for re-election, they were sometimes chosen for two or three years in succession, but at that date the appointments were made perpetual. To each name, in addition to the election to Fellowships and Degrees, Mr. Boase has been able to append some very interesting notes of the subsequent career of the several persons named, and very often after the middle of the sixteenth century, the date of their birth and their parentage together with the social status of their parents. The list of the Scholars, Exhibitioners and Bible Clerks, for reasons stated, is more imperfect than the former list. Both these lists however, as far as they go, in addition to other advantages are very valuable for genealogical purposes, and the work should be in the library of every genealogist.

It is noted that Arabic numerals began to be used in the Rectors' accounts about 1374, usually employed for purposes of distinction. This is the earliest date known to us of the use of these characters except the two instances brought under the notice of the Institute in 1850 by the late Mr. Hunter : *Archæological Journal*, vol. vii, p. 84.

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LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE CHURCH SURVEY, 1649-1655, Edited by Lieut Colonel Henry Fishwick, F.S.A., &c., Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, 1879.

The Archaeologists of Lancashire and Cheshire are a very active and enthusiastic body. For some time there has been printed in the *Leigh Journal* various original documents and historical scraps of considerable interest, which are reprinted quarterly, and at the end of the year form a volume duly indexed. There is also published, under the Editorship of J. P. Earwaker, Esq., F.S.A., and local Secretary in Lancashire for the Society of Antiquaries, a monthly periodical entitled "Local Gleanings," for the same two counties; and now with the greatest satisfaction we hail the formation of a Society for the publication of Original Documents relating to the same district.

The first volume issued by this new Society is now before us. It contains the Church Surveys for Lancashire made 1649-1655, and though we should have thought it desirable to begin with the earliest records, the Council of the Society, which contains the names of some of our best known Archaeologists, doubtless for good reasons, has judged otherwise.

These Surveys are of very great interest and value, falling, as they do, in a period when Episcopal Jurisdiction had for a while been suppressed, and Ecclesiastical Courts of Record abolished. They, consequently, contain information not elsewhere to found, and shew in great detail the ecclesiastical condition of the several parishes. Though abstracts of some of these returns have already been published the Society has done well in printing the whole *in extenso*. For the county of Chester there are no Parochial returns, but the same volume contains also the Surveys of the lands, &c., of the Bishop and Dean and Chapter of Chester, and of the Warden and Fellows of the Collegiate Church of Manchester. It is very well edited by Colonel Fishwick.

We are glad to see an announcement that a volume containing the Inquisitions post-mortem for Lancashire during the Stewart period, 1603-1650, edited by Mr. J. Paul Rylands, F.S.A., is nearly ready, and that the first volume of the Parish Registers of Prestbury in Cheshire, the largest parish in that county, and full of valuable information, is about to be printed, under the editorship of Mr. James Croston, F.S.A., and that these two volumes will be issued together in July next.

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HISTORICAL TRADITIONS AND FACTS RELATING TO NEWPORT AND CAERLEON. Newport : Printed and published by W. N. JOHNS, Stamp Office. 1880.

This is an unpretending little book, full of interesting detail. It begins by examining the legendary history of the district, which is worthy of record, though not to be relied upon. Yet truth may linger in the Welsh Triads, and inferences may be drawn not wholly devoid of reality. Habits and manners still linger, and modes of life continue, which are recorded to have been common 2,000 years ago. The coracle of the Severn and the Wye, and also of the Usk, is the identical craft used by the fisherman in Roman and pre-Roman times.

The writer of this volume puts forth an ingenious idea that the name "Siluria," by which the Romans distinguished South Wales, is derived from the Welsh "Syllwyr," or "Esyllwyr," which is thought to be derived from "Syllt," signifying a view or prospect, *i.e.*, a country abounding in *fair prospects*. Without venturing to adopt this etymology, it is certainly an ingenious attempt to solve a perplexing question.

The country of the ancient Silures is contained between the Severn and the Tovey, and comprehends the counties of Monmouth, Glamorgan, Carmarthen, Brecon, Radnor, and Hereford, and part of Gloucester and Worcester; a fine tract of country, and inhabited by a race that gave no small trouble to the Roman power before being brought into subjection. The incidents of this war form a never ending theme of pleasant study in the pages of Tacitus. The hills are everywhere crowned with earthworks, and give indications of a prolonged contest. The site of the last battle, in which the power of Caractacus was broken, is still undetermined, and to those who have examined the ground and compared it with the details of that historian, the task is not easy of solution. We only venture to suggest the Briden hill in Shropshire as coming nearest to the description of the historian.

Caerleon on Usk, if tradition may be trusted, appears to have been the chief town of Siluria, but this name was acquired after the Roman conquest, the Second Legion having been stationed there. The Roman town succeeded a still more ancient one, the burial place of the ancient Kings of Gwent. This is not at all improbable. The high mound outside the Roman castrum may mark a more ancient occupation, just as the Tourmagne at Nismes marks the burial place of a mythical hero, transformed into a divinity.

The author of this little treatise has done full justice to the historic importance of Caerleon, and his remarks upon the Roman Roads, of which it was the centre, are well worth attention, being concise and clear, also his enumeration of the many camps in the neighbourhood; but at

p. 34 he has fallen into a mistake in stating that nothing now remains at *Caerai* but the name. He has evidently not seen the spot, as the earth-works are distinct, and also a small camp amphitheatre, at the eastern extremity.

The notice of the Roman period of occupation sums up a great deal in small compass, but the writer, or perhaps the printer, has fallen into a curious mistake at p. 26, where in describing the hostility of the Roman power to the influence of the Druids, he contrasts it with the "*intolerant indifference*" shown by them to other creeds. There are several typographical errors which should be corrected if the book comes to a second edition. At p. 30, instead of the "*Archæologia Cambrensis*" is printed the "*Archæological Cambrensis*"; and also "*Rutupiæ*" printed "*Rutupo*," p. 40; and "*testio*" for "*testis*" at p. 43.

Some reliance seems to be placed in Richard of Cirencester as an authority, whereas the work is now well known to be a forgery.

The description of the Roman buildings that once adorned Caerleon are ably inferred from the many inscriptions which have been found, and are recorded by Mr. Lee in his *Isca Silurum*, and also the vicissitudes through which the city passed; but the writer has fallen into a grave mistake when he speaks of "*Mithras*" as the *Goddess of Fortune*, p. 47. *Mithras* is the *Sun God*, the source of fertility. His worship was introduced from Persia, and the signs of the zodiac were found sculptured round the image, in a cave dedicated to his worship, at Burcovicus, on the line of the great Northumbrian wall. There is in the Island of Capri a spacious cave, where his effigy and an inscription was found, and where the seat running round, still remains, and the floor rises in successive stages. The cave is close upon the sea.

The early introduction of Christianity into Roman Britain is undoubted, but the manner, or the persons by whom it was brought, will we fear, be for ever a subject of discussion. No certainty can be arrived at; but that a Christian church flourished in Roman times in the West of Britain is an undoubted fact, if history is to be believed. The story of Lucius and Elutherius rests on no certain evidence, but it serves to show that at a very early date Christianity was planted in Britain. The legendary history of Glastonbury points in the same direction, though the stories of mediæval times have distorted facts. The subject, however, in this little treatise is well stated, without any desire to enlist authorities that are dubious. The ancient Druidical rites having been superseded by a new code of belief, and a new manner of worship, to which the native mind was not habituated or attached, it is not to be wondered that a purer and a nobler faith found easy admission, and took a firmer and more lasting root. We are glad to see that this important subject has not been passed over in the sceptical spirit which has sometimes shown itself in recent times.

One of the most instructive portions of this little work is the account given of successive visits made to Caerleon in ancient times, which have been recorded, and the remains then existing. Beginning with Giraldus, 1185, the writer mentions in succession whatever notices have been preserved, and shows the melancholy destruction of remains which has for centuries been carried on. We cannot but feel thankful that the sad work is now arrested by the formation of the museum in 1847. Since then the interest has been increasing, and every year adds to the value of

the collection. Mr. Lee's exertions have not been without fruit, and his work, *Isca Silurum*, will remain a valuable monument for future ages, now that the importance of Roman inscriptions and architectural remains is duly acknowledged. A work like the *Historical Traditions and Facts*, which gives in a popular form the history of a locality which teems with associations, and which has been ennobled by poetic legends, cannot but further archaeological tastes and studies, and render essential service.

We hail the first part of this little work as a real gain to archaeology. The style is pleasing, and the writer is evidently well qualified for the task he undertakes; and we doubt not that the slight errors we have alluded to—certainly in no captious spirit—will be corrected in a second edition, and that this first portion, as well as the second, will receive the support that it so well deserves.

CALENDAR OF STATE PAPERS, DOMESTIC SERIES, OF THE REIGN OF CHARLES I, 1640, preserved in Her Majesty's Public Record Office. Edited by WILLIAM DOUGLAS HAMILTON, Esq., F.S.A., of Her Majesty's Public Record Office and the University of London, under the direction of the Master of the Rolls, and with the sanction of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department. London—Longmans and Co., Trübner and Co.; Oxford—Parker and Co.; Cambridge—Macmillan and Co.; Edinburgh—A. and C. Black, Douglas and Foulis; Dublin—A. Thorn and Co. 1880.

Of all the volumes of Calendars of State Papers which have been published, no one exceeds in interest that recently issued under the editorship of Mr. W. D. Hamilton. As one evidence of its importance, though it only covers a period of five months from 1st April to the end of August 1640, it forms a bulky volume of 660 pages. This arises from the stirring events which occurred during this brief period; events of the most supreme importance to the subsequent history and constitution of the kingdom. It opens with Scotland in a state of revolt. Notwithstanding the so-called "pacification" which took place at York a few months before, the Scottish malcontents were again in arms, had seized some of the king's castles, and threatened an invasion of England. The king was without an army, and without the funds to raise one, to suppress their insolencies and bring them into subjection. Therefore, relying upon the general patriotism of his people, and believing that, considering the emergency of the occasion, the Parliament would not withhold the necessary supplies, he resolved upon summoning one. The Parliament accordingly assembled on the 13th April, and, it is needless to say, Charles was grievously disappointed in his expectations. The Lower House was found to be utterly impracticable. It refused to enter upon any discussion relative to the affairs of Scotland, and instead of granting the necessary supplies, though the king offered to relinquish ship-money, absolutely, if the House would only grant him twelve subsidies, it raised the old question of its supposed grievances. On the 5th May the king suddenly and unexpectedly pronounced a dissolution. Various conjectures have been offered as to the causes which led the king to take this decided step, but it seems now to be made clear from a letter dated 5th May, and abstracted in this volume. The writer says, "The English Parliament has as yet settled nothing, but are this day about to petition his Majesty to hearken to a reconciliation with you his

subjects of Scotland." Had such a measure been adopted by the Parliament, it would have been impossible that the king could have taken any further step in the prosecution of the war. It appears that during the session of Parliament the Scottish rebels had sent Commissioners to London, who were in constant communication with the Puritan leaders of the Lower House, and this, together with the contemplated act, had come to the king's knowledge. So ended what is called the Short Parliament.

Though the Parliament was dissolved on 5th May, as stated above, the Houses of Convocation continued to sit under the king's special license, which course the judges pronounced to be quite legal. In this Convocation the famous Canons of 1640 were passed, which called forth a host of protests and remonstrances, and became a subject of great contention, forming, subsequently, one of the principal charges leading to the impeachment and death of the Archbishop. The Parliament afterwards declared the Canons invalid, and they have never been acted upon, but having been duly adopted by the two Houses of Convocation and approved by the king, we see no reason to doubt that they are still, in law, binding upon the clergy.

Upon all these matters the papers in the volume before us afford most valuable information. The news letters of Edward Rossingham, News Correspondent to Viscount Conway, are most interesting upon all public affairs, upon which he appears to have been exceedingly well informed. His letters contain a vast amount of gossip of both a public and private nature of singular interest.

Having failed to receive from Parliament the supplies necessary for carrying on the war, the king, with the advice of his Privy Council, had no alternative to the adoption of other means. The Scots, however, had many sympathisers in England, and the difficulties in raising money were very great, even to the collection of the ordinary taxes and dues. The opposition to the ship-money, though the impost was pronounced by the judges to be perfectly legal, and to the other military imposts, was very great. Representations were received from many sheriffs of their inability to collect the sums assessed upon their respective counties.

The Sheriff of Derby, reciting that he is directed by letters of the Lords of the Council, dated 11th May, to levy £3,500 ship-money on the county, one moiety to be paid on 31st May and the other 24th June, by certificate dated 4th of the latter month, says:—"I find such opposition and evil affectedness in the greater part of the county that since the dissolution of the last Parliament they do not forbear to dare me, and bid me distrain at my peril, giving forth threatening words against me and many of them refusing so much as to appear upon my warrants to give any answer to me, or to assist me to make their assessments"—(p. 269). The Sheriff of Herts states:—"The county is generally averse to the payment of it, and the officers, constables and others refuse to do their service as on former like occasions. The assessments upon the inhabitants of the several parishes I can by no means procure, without which I cannot distrain"—(p. 246). And again:—"The people are averse and either pretend to disability or offer excuses instead of payment, and the officers, who formerly complied in the service now refuse to execute warrants, to assess, or assist in anything that may advance that service"—(p. 283). The Sheriff of Worcester alleges:—I have "employed my

servants and others at a great charge in collecting the ship-money charged upon my county; who find the whole country so averse and backward in the payment of it, that the petty constables and other officers as well as others are wholly opposing the service"—(p. 300). In London, Rossingham writes:—"The city officers go from house to house to call for ship-money, but not above one man paid it, wherefore the Lord Mayor willed the Sheriffs to take distresses upon the refusers, but they refused, desiring him to do the office himself, it not being required by the writ"—(p. 307). It is useless to multiply instances, for representations of the same backwardness come from all parts of the kingdom, and in some cases the Sheriffs themselves are supposed to have been wanting in zeal and diligence in the cause.

The same difficulties arose with respect to other means of raising money to which the king was obliged to have recourse in the emergency. The king applied to the city of London for a loan of £200,000 upon the security of the "Customs Collections, and choicest branches of Revenue," at 8 per cent. per annum, but the citizens could not be prevailed upon to advance the money, so that eventually the Government determined to raise the money by a forced loan after the manner of the ancient benevolences, and for that purpose required each alderman to furnish a separate book to the Council of the names of the richest citizens in his ward, grouped according to their abilities. These Returns are preserved amongst the State Papers, and form, Mr. Hamilton justly observes, a kind of City Directory, giving the names of all the principal citizens. Baffled in every attempt to procure money for the purpose of carrying on military operations, the Government at last resorted to the unjust and indefensible expedient of seizing the bullion of the London merchants deposited in the Tower for greater security until it could be coined.

The king at length succeeded in bringing together an army, if the ineffectively armed and undisciplined and tumultuous mob which assembled in the north may be so designated. There was, however, so much vacillation and delay that the war which was intended to be offensive became defensive in the invasion of England by the Scottish Covenanters. Whilst all was confusion in the English camp, and the soldiers less than half inclined to the work in hand, the Scots were well armed and drilled, and well provisioned; and, what was better than all this, they were all animated by the same spirit, everyone, to a man, being ardent in the cause they had embraced. The final result, therefore, was not difficult to foresee. The Scots crossed the Tyne at Newburn, on the 20th August, after a short engagement with a detachment of the king's troops under Lord Conway, which they routed, and hastily marched to Newcastle. Sir John Conyers, writing to Conway from Berwick on the 24th August, says:—"The Scots march night and day to be at Newcastle before the king's army, and some say they will seek to cross the Tyne at Hexham, and they lodge to-night at Felton or a mile or two short of it. They have 11 pieces of cannon, 54 field pieces, little drakes, and 80 frams, *alias*, Sandy Hamilton's guns." Conyers seems not to have been aware that they had already crossed the river. They pressed on to Newcastle, which they took on the 27th or 28th, not without treachery, and the king's army withdrew to Durham and thence to York. The most minute particulars of all the proceedings will be found in the papers calendared in this volume.

Besides the papers on affairs of state, there are numbers which illustrate the state of society and the general condition of the country, and not a few which afford much information upon topography and family history. As a specimen we quote the certificate of William Ryley, Bluemantle, dated 21st April, that Lady Margaret Baroness Stanhope of Harrington, daughter of Henry MacWilliams of Stanborne, Essex, pensioner to Queen Elizabeth, and late wife to John Lord Stanhope, departed this life at her house at Charing Cross, called Stanhope House, on Tuesday, 7th April, 1640. Her funeral was solemnly celebrated on Tuesday, the 21st of the same month, at the parish church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, where she lies in the chancel near her husband. She had issue three children, Charles Lord Stanhope, now Baron of Harrington, unmarried, Elizabeth and Katherine. Elizabeth married to Sir Lionel Tollemache, Kt. and Bart., by whom she had issue Lionel, John and Francis, who died young. Lionel Tollemache, junr., had nine daughters, Elizabeth, Katherine, Anne, Susan, Margaret, Mary, Jane, Dorothy, and Bridget; the eldest, Elizabeth, married William, only son of Sir Giles Alington of Horseheath in Cambridgeshire, by whom she has issue Giles, William and Elizabeth, now living; and Lionel and Dorothy, who died very young; the second daughter, Katherine, married Sir Charles Mordant of Massingham, co. Norfolk, Kt. and Bart., he being eldest son of Sir Robert Mordant, who have issue Charles Mordant and Katherine; the fourth daughter, Susan, married Sir Henry Felton of Playford, co. Suffolk, Bart., who have issue Henry and Anthony. Katherine, the other daughter of the before-mentioned John Lord Stanhope, married Sir Robert Cholmondeley of Kells in Ireland, by whom she has no issue as yet. The truth of this certificate is attested by Sir Lionel Tollemache, Kt. and Bart.

We must not conclude without saying a word in commendation of Mr. Hamilton's ably written Preface.

LANCASHIRE INQUISITIONS, returned into the Chancery of the Duchy of Lancaster, and now existing in the Public Record Office, London. Stuart Period, Part I, 1 to 11th James I. Edited by J. PAUL RYLANDS, F.S.A. Printed for the [Lancashire and Cheshire] Record Society, 1880.

There are no records of greater importance as evidence of genealogical descent, and the devolution of manors and lands, than the Inquisitions post mortem, and we are glad to see that the Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society has so far recognised the great value of these documents as to select a series of them as the subject of one of their earliest volumes. The intention of the Council is to divide these records into three sections or periods—the Plantagenet, the Tudor, and the Stuart. We regret, and believe all true genealogists will agree with us, that the Council should have chosen the last for earliest publication. Several reasons may be alleged against this course. Among these may be mentioned the fact that, so far as genealogy is concerned, these later inquisitions are less valuable than the earlier ones, for there are four *Heralds' Visitations* of the County of Lancaster (to which the volume before us is limited) between 1533 and 1664, and the pedigrees of the principal gentry for this late date therein recorded may be accepted as

being generally accurate. Moreover, if we mistake not, some, if not all, of these Visitations have been printed by the Cheetham Society.

The Inquisitions post mortem for the Duchy of Lancaster, including returns from all the various counties within the jurisdiction of the Duchy, were returned into the Duchy Chancery. A Calendar was made of them and published by the Record Commission in 1823, and the inquisitions themselves were bound up in thirty volumes, but, unfortunately, no care was taken to place them in chronological, or any other, order; and mixed with them in the earlier volumes are other instruments of a different character.

The regular series of Inquisitions post mortem begins in the third volume with the reign of Henry VII, and continues through the remainder. The whole of the Records of the Duchy were transferred to the Public Record Office a few years ago, and in addition to the volumes above mentioned there were transferred two bundles, containing about fifty Inquisitions post mortem from the time of Richard II to Elizabeth. These were not included in the Calendar of 1823, but they are entered alphabetically in an appendix to the thirty-ninth Report of the Deputy Keeper. The editor of the volume under notice says in his preface: "Although some copies of Lancashire Inquisitions were known to exist among the Christopher Towneley MSS., it is to be regretted that the originals of the greater part of them are not now to be found. Two volumes of Latin abstracts of Lancashire Inquisitions were edited in 1875 for the Cheetham Society by Mr. William Langton, and are not only made singularly valuable by the absence of the originals, but also by the interesting notes which Mr. Langton has added." These facts are worth noting, for it is possible that in this somewhat miscellaneous collection may be found Inquisitions post mortem of gentlemen who died seized of lands held under the Duchy, for whom no such Inquisitions can now be found among our Chancery or Exchequer records.

From this collection the abstracts in the volume before us have been made from the Latin originals by Mr. J. A. C. Vincent. They are brief but comprehensive. Nothing of importance would seem to have been omitted, and the volume altogether reflects great credit upon the editor and all concerned in its production. We heartily wish success to this useful Society, and should rejoice to see similar ones formed for every county, for original documents are the very soul of history.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF RUTLAND; their Inscriptions, Traditions, and Peculiar Uses; with chapters on Bells and Bell-founders. By THOMAS NORTH, F.S.A., Honorary Secretary of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society, Honorary Member of the Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. With Illustrations. Leicester: Samuel Clarke. 1880.

WE have here the third in Mr. North's valuable series of Midland County Bell books. "Church Bells of Leicestershire" came out in 1876, and "Church Bells of Northamptonshire" in 1878. The latter was reviewed at some length in our *Journal*, vol. xxxv., p. 451, and therefore we have less to say on the present occasion than we otherwise might. It has no doubt been from motives of economy that the general introduction has been brought out identical with that in the Northampton-

shire volume. But though the expense of printing is thus diminished, it is a pity that purchasers of the Rutland book have not the benefit of some improvements which might have been made in this portion of the work, good as it is. In it we find an admirable summary of the archaeology of bells, which will prove most interesting to any who now have their attention directed to the subject for the first time. And if any country parson be at a loss for materials for a popular lecture, he cannot do better than have recourse to Mr. North's general introduction.

Coming to the local matter, we may bear in mind that Rutland is the smallest as well as one of the youngest of English shires. In Domesday part of it appears as an appendage to Nottinghamshire, and part was reckoned to Northamptonshire. How the present Rutland gained the rank of a shire, though not the style or title of *Rutlandshire*, we do not know. It has formed part of the diocese of Peterborough ever since the creation of that see in 1541, previous to which it was included in the then enormous diocese of Lincoln. Mr. North informs us that there are in the county of Rutland at present 191 church bells, of which only 36 were certainly cast before 1600. Among the less usual dedications we find St. Thaddæus, St. Faith, and St. Ambrose, one each, and there is a very interesting bell inscribed "*Aveo Rex Gentis Anglorum*," (Ayston 2nd bell). Does this refer to Edward the Confessor, to St. Edmund king of the East Angles, or to the popularly canonized Henry IV.? We think most likely to the last. Or possibly we have a mistake for *Angelorum*, and if so it is of course addressed to the King of Kings and of Angels. The 4th bell at Ketton bears the very singular legend, "Me Me I merely will sing, 1598." Mr. North does not offer any explanation. May we suggest that "Me Me" may be "Mi, Mi," the third note in the musical scale? It would be interesting to know what note is sounded by the bell at the present time. Certainly it is remarkable that two such curious inscriptions as this and the last should be found in the little shire of Rutland.

The founders' names and marks appear to be the same in Rutland as in the adjoining counties; there is no evidence that it ever had a foundry of its own. We have some of the familiar mediæval stamps, and the well-known names of Newcombe, Watts, Norris, Eayre, &c. The chapter on founders, as well as that on "Peculiar Uses," is necessarily in great part repeated from the corresponding chapters in former volumes. So again the note on Alphabet Bells, hence almost all that is really new in this volume is what relates to the actual inscriptions. There is, however, one very good feature, namely, the account of local customs, given, so far as these could be ascertained, under each separate place. The particulars were obtained by circular from the clergy, and Mr. North has followed the same plan in making collections for his forthcoming volume on Lincolnshire Bells. It appears that in Rutland a "Gleaning-bell" is commonly rung during harvest, and that the sexton sometimes claims a small fee from the gleaners. The object is that all may "start fair."

Of course no one of the now numerous lovers of bell archaeology will be satisfied without adding Mr. North's "Rutland Bell" to his collection of books about bells, but as it possesses considerable general interest we trust it will be favourably received by many others also. And we may take this opportunity of expressing an earnest hope that the author will be helped and encouraged in his much greater work on the Church Bells

of Lincolnshire, by a goodly number of subscribers, without whose help no books of this kind can be brought out. Lincolnshire will, we believe, afford a greater amount of interesting matter than any of the counties Mr. North has hitherto undertaken, and it ought also to afford him a greater number of supporters, whether in the way of subscription or otherwise. When we think of these books as the result of the energetic leisure of an invalid, no longer young, and obliged to live away from his home, they have a special interest on that account, and we trust that Mr. North may long find comfort in the feeling expressed in the motto which he has adopted, "God's appointment is my contentment."

THE ENEMIES OF BOOKS, by WILLIAM BLADES, *Typograph*, Author of "The Life and Typography of William Caxton," &c. London: Triibner and Co. 1880.

All lovers of books, and what intelligent man is not? will be charmed with Mr. Blades' little volume noted above. It is needless to say that he is, and for many years has been, a well-known *bibliophile*, whose sole object has been the preservation from all harm, intact, the objects of his affections. He is not one of those *bibliomaniacs* who, hitherto, have despoiled priceless volumes of their title pages, illustrations, and colophons to form useless collections for the gratification of a morbid taste. Those who, like the present writer, have to mourn over the destruction of some of their favourites, in reading Mr. Blades' pages will feel themselves in the presence of a sympathetic friend offering consolation, though in some instances, his words arouse a just indignation.

Mr. Blades treats of the destruction of vast libraries, from the time of the burning of that at Alexandria, B.C. 48, by fire and water, in some cases by design, in others by accident, and in not a few by negligence and carelessness. In some instances damages to libraries may possibly have arisen from unavoidable causes, but in most cases they have been occasioned by ignorance, neglect, and damp.

The sulphurous fumes of gas is a most devastating agent in the destruction of books, whilst the great heat which gas produces intensifies its pernicious effects. No man who has any regard for his books would allow a single gas jet in his library. Mr. Blades says that, having gas in his library, in a year or two the leather valance which hung from the window, and the fringe which hung from the shelves to keep off the dust, became like tinder, and dropped off from its own weight, while the backs of the books were perished, and crumbled away when touched, being reduced to the consistency of Scotch snuff. "The sulphur in the gas fumes," he says, "attacks morocco quickest, while calf and russia suffer not quite so much." Our unfortunate experience differs from that of Mr. Blades in this last respect. We should place the degree of damage in inverse order. Russia suffered most, and calf next, whilst morocco showed no ill effects. Gas, however, affects the externals of books, the bindings only, destructive and vexatious as it is, it leaves the vitals uninjured, but it necessitates the rebinding, which is often, through the ignorance or obstinacy of binders, especially country binders, even more damaging than the gas, and we most cordially coincide with Mr. Blades in his vituperation of binders.

Want of proper ventilation and damp are still more destructive to the books themselves than gas, producing mould, "fox" spots, and gradual decay of the whole fibre of the paper until it crumbles away like dust. Our author justly says: books require the same treatment as children, "who are sure to sicken if confined to an atmosphere which is impure, too hot, too cold, too damp, or too dry."

Mr. Blades' accounts of his visits to various libraries during the last 30 years, and the condition in which he too often found them, though saddening, are interesting, as are also his many incidents and anecdotes of loss through ignorance of various valuable volumes.

Lovers of books will find many useful hints and valuable information in Mr. Blades' pages, and will not set down the book without admiring the beauty of the type and the tasteful manner in which the volume is produced.