

Notices of Archaeological Publications.

CHRONOGRAMS. Collected (more than 4,000 in number) since the publication of the two preceding volumes, in 1882 and 1885. By JAMES HILTON, F.S.A. 4to. London, 1895 (Elliot Stock.)

We have here a third volume on a subject which the author has well made his own; an excellent example of successful perseverance in the neglected by-paths of literature. The former volumes practically introduced the subject to general notice, until then known to but few, hardly more than heard of by others, and entirely unknown generally. It may be stated that a chronogram is a mode of marking a date by so forming a sentence that the Roman numeral letters therein shall, when the numbers so represented are added together, give the year or date desired. For example, one given here will make all clear:—

Here yoV haVe yet another qVite neVV book of rIght
eXCeLLent ChronograMs IssVeD by I. HILTON, F.S.A.

The capitals, the Roman numerals, being added together give the year date 1895. Usually, as above, the date letters are larger, or in capitals, and thus attract attention. To make a true chronogram every word should contain at least one numeral letter. Every numeral letter must be reckoned; neither choice nor excess can be permitted, or there would be no certainty; also neatness and conciseness are necessary. The intention is to supply a date, not to make a puzzle. Over thirty-eight thousand examples of this form of curious ingenuity have been collected and noticed, of which number over fourteen thousand seven hundred are recorded in print. The antiquity of this custom can be traced as far back as the year 1210, necessarily in manuscript, but the sixteenth, seventeenth, and the early part of the eighteenth centuries were the times when it flourished, favoured of course by the extension of printing. Care must be exercised in determining the actual date of execution, as sometimes the work is retrospective—done actually after the date represented or recorded. As compositions these chronograms are seen often as most difficult; to those who can appreciate them their cleverness must be at once recognised. Their character varies, for they are found curious, serious, humorous, and scholarly. The subjects treated also widely varied, for here we have them on books, epigrams, sundials, emblems, engravings, portraits, title pages, medals, coins, the drama, history, horoscopes, mourning rings, monumental inscriptions, mottoes, broadsheets, nuptial congratulations, and almanacs. In the last-named each day has a distinct line or sentence with a chronogram; one example is named which has nine hundred and fifty-nine different chronograms, all marking the year 1724. A play was written in Flemish, each line in rhyme but containing a chronogram marking the date 1688. When recited, of course all the

clever ingenuity of this intention must have disappeared. Of the latest examples of this work one is given of 1874 and one of 1882. Since then there are some of 1887 relating to the Queen's Jubilee, perhaps so revived as a consequence of these publications.

Besides the chronogram there were other methods or forms of this literary conceit, namely, the cabala, the anagram, and the logograph. One form of the cabala was by using all the letters of the alphabet. Thus A to K inclusive marked units to ten. From L which marked twenty, to T inclusive mounting each letter by ten, reached one hundred. From U which marked two hundred, and then X Y Z mounting each letter by a hundred, marked to five hundred. Another form was by using the vowels only. thus a, e, i, o, u represented 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Of this plan a good example is given on page 244—very puzzling, but very clever.

Mighty pretty is the author's delight and astonishment on finding a wonderful unique book just suited to his mind, a *chef d'œuvre* of this class of labour, containing many examples—a sweet honeycomb, which he at once proceeds to rifle. We wish him heartily further similar luck and delight, and that fresh discoveries will reward continued research in the yet untrodden ways where such literature may be expected. We are almost promised more, judging by the following, which appears on the title page:—

Another bVDget neeDs another CLearanCe	= 1255
So noVV yoV haVe another Last appearanCe	= 170
Ask VVhether thIs the Very Last VVILL be	= 177
I Can bVt ansVVer "he VVho LIVes VVILL see"	= 293

1895

Much more could be noted from such a full volume, but it is hoped enough has been said to give a good and sufficient idea of the most valuable information it contains. No other similar work exists—nowhere certainly can such a mass of information as is here brought together be met with. Any one thus making a first acquaintance with the subject will soon feel a charming and keen appreciation of the newly-discovered art, for these conceits are really curiosities in literature—instructive, valuable, and entertaining. As a whole, the work will form a perfect guide to the student, and, as it fills a void it must soon have a place in every library in the list of standard reference books. It is the successful result of unwearied patience and tenacious research. The infinite capacity for taking pains, always indispensable to genius, is manifest on every page. Some title pages have been well reproduced, and also some curious tail pieces from old books—all worthy of notice. There is an excellent index giving full aid to the searcher.

NOOKS AND CORNERS OF PEMBROKESHIRE. Drawn and described by H. THORNHILL TIMMINS, F.R.G.S., author of *Nooks and Corners of Herefordshire*. (London: Elliot Stock.) 4to. 1895.

From time to time a pleasant volume such as this comes before us. Without pretence to historic detail, it is nothing more than notes made in a wandering tour, in the by-ways of the pleasant land of Pembrokeshire, sometimes known as Little England beyond Wales.

Few localities can boast within so small a compass such varied attractions for the lover of old world associations. Besides old churches, ruined castles, and fortified houses, the constant occurrence of camps, cromlechs, hut circles, and other prehistoric remains, there are always quaint legends and superstitions—a happy hunting ground for those curious in folk lore. The hilly wild ways make travelling very tedious. There are said to be sixteen miles and seventeen hills between Haverfordwest and St. Davids, a wearisome journey. The author notices the strongholds of Pembroke, Manorbere or Maenor Pyrr (which is fully described), Carew, Roche, and Haverfordwest, and Tenby full of curious nooks. At Carswell there is a remarkable group of stone buildings with vaulted chambers, huge fire places and bulging chimneys, a puzzle still to the archæologist. Of Caldy lobsters an old writer says :—"The lapster sett whole on the table yieldeth exercise, sustenance, and contemplation ; exercise in cracking his legs and claws, sustenance by eating the meate thereof, and contemplation by beholding the curious work of his complete armour both in hue and workmanship."

It is to be hoped that readers will catch at the pleasure to be derived from such a peregrination as is here recorded, and give us similar examples of what may be done by an intelligent observer skilfully aided by pencil and kodak. There are maps, many pretty sketches, and an index.

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THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE LIBRARY: being a classified collection of the chief contents of the *Gentleman's Magazine* from 1731 to 1868. Edited by GEORGE LAWRENCE GOMME, F.S.A. English Topography. Part VII. Leicestershire—Monmouth. Edited by F. A. MILNE, M.A. (London: Elliot Stock, 8vo, 1896.)

This volume advances the editor's work, now including Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Middlesex and Monmouthshire. The last being distant from headquarters has not a long notice, but on the last page there is mention of a curious chalice at Bicknor bearing the date 1176. Many curious matters and customs are recorded as usual. At Hinckley, there is mention of an old oak bedstead, gilt and ornamented in panels, twenty-nine in all, each painted with emblematic devices, and having each its Latin motto. The mottoes are here printed and translated. At Rigbolt, in Lincolnshire, was another very remarkable panelled bedstead, thirty-six of the panels were left in 1793, and the then tenant of the house remembered it complete as being shut in or boarded up as it were on all sides with wainscot, two holes being left or made at the foot through which intending sleepers must have crept.

An inventory of the goods of a farmer in 1652 is interesting, and we think more attention could be paid to this class of document. London proper is not included as it will have a separate volume, but Middlesex has of course many things great and small recorded. There is a summary of its history, with some concluding miscellaneous remarks, in which it appears that Chelsea was once known as Calcuith. We can only again wish all success for these well edited volumes.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE AND THE SPANISH ARMADA. Edited from original manuscripts by W. MACKRETH NOBLE, B.A., rector of Wistow, Hunts. (London: Elliot Stock, 8vo, 1896.)

This little book is to be commended. We remember but one work on the subject published in 1888, the tercentenary of this important historic event, but, full of local interest as the time was, every point should be worked out for every county. The brunt of the anxiety lay on the maritime counties, but the men of inland Hunts were prepared and willing to back up others, and so joined the force assembled at Tilbury to guard the Thames and London. The necessary preparations extending over forty years bring out circumstances of extreme interest in the social life of the time. One great interest here is the constant notice of the Cromwell family, and there is a muster roll of a company commanded by an Oliver Cromwell in 1588; there are also many letters from Sir Henry Cromwell, showing his activity and loyalty. The loyalty to the Queen was one of enthusiastic devotion. The material used by the Editor is taken from a manuscript once in the possession of Lord de Ramsay, now in the

British Museum, but we would suggest that more of interest may probably be found in the Domestic State Papers, which, if added, would fairly exhaust the subject.

THE MONASTERY OF PETSCHENGA, SKETCHES OF RUSSIAN LAPLAND. (From historical and legendary sources.) By J. A. FEUS, professor in the University of Christiania. Translated by HILL REPP. (London: Elliot Stock, 8vo, 1896.)

Far away to the north on the coast of the White Sea, on the shores of Russian Lapland, a country still almost unvisited, is laid the scene and story here related. The narrative opens with the adventures of three sportsmen, who are camping out, when one of them happens upon a millstone, causing a surprise which could have been equalled only by Robinson Crusoe's discovery of the footmark in the sand. Enquiry from the Lapps results in learning that by a tradition with them there was long ago a monastery thereabouts, and this information later, being followed by research in the Norwegian and Russian archives, has enabled the author to tell his tale. This monastery, the most northerly in the world, was founded by a repentant brigand and murderer, who, perhaps judiciously, seeking solitude far from the haunts of men, wandered northwards in 1524, and settled on the Petschenga river. Getting fame as a hermit pilgrims visited him, when he built a chapel and returned to Russia for a priest. In time he managed to attract the notice of the Czar, and so got a grant of the land and all rights in 1556. The result was soon a prosperous trading station and wealth, destined not to last long, however, as during a war between Sweden and Russia, some Finnish troops reached the monastery, and plundered and burned it with the various warehouses in 1589. So trees grew on the site, everything having disappeared save the millstone.

PREHISTORIC MAN IN AYRSHIRE. By JOHN SMITH. (London: Elliot Stock, 8vo, 1895.)

Rarely do we meet with a work so persistently and intelligently followed as is shown in this volume. The history of the early inhabitant is gathered from cromlechs, crannogs, turf spirals, dinans, kits, hut circles, and vitrified walls, urns, pottery, and every other sort of remains. The author has evidently worked the county thoroughly, and more, he has carefully made drawings of his finds, and these are here well and carefully reproduced, much enhancing the value and interest of the book. There is a good drawing of Dunvin fort on the Ring Knoll, also of Dalmellington Moot hill. The turf village at Old Gallock, of which a plan is given, is of great archæological interest, there being eighteen houses and two hut circles remarkably entire. Some trenches on the banks of the Fail Water, called locally the Roman trenches, must be unique in plan. The author supposes them to have been made as an approach to cover an attack on a British stockade, but as really nothing can be known about this curious place it must long probably remain a puzzle. Recording incidentally the find, not as pre-historic, of some gravestones at

Kilwinning Abbey, one bearing shears and a cross is supposed to indicate a woman, or spinster, but we would suggest that this emblem marks an archdeacon. An archdeacon performs archidiaconal functions, and one function was conferring the tonsure, hence the shears.

LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS AND THE LOCALITIES ADJACENT: their historical and topographical associations. By CHARLES WILLIAM HECKETHORN. Small 4to. (Elliot Stock, London, 1896.)

Lincoln's Inn Fields and Environs, by Charles W. Heckethorn, is a book of well thought out and interesting facts, and to those of Archæological tastes it is a most valuable addition to a library.

Mr. Heckethorn carries us back to the early part of the 13th century, when we are told the Black Friars occupied the Holborn site of Lincoln's Inn. This brotherhood increased and outgrew the monastery, removing to a locality on the Thames, since named after them, Blackfriars.

After pointing out how this spot was the centre of learning, we read the names of many eminent students, members, and residents. Sir John Fortescue (b. 1395, d. 1485), one of the benchers, being the man who is first mentioned, and to whom it owed its rising celebrity; Sir Thomas More is also mentioned, Prynne, Thomas Sutton, founder of the Charterhouse, and others bringing the list down to Simon Michell, Esq., who purchased the church of St. John, Clerkenwell, where he was subsequently buried.

Passing on to the surroundings of Lincoln's Inn Fields, we find a description of such buildings and places as the College of Surgeons, Clare Market, St. Clement's Lane, Portugal Street, King's College Hospital, and the Duke of York's Theatre, this last named building existing until 1745, when it was taken possession of by a detachment of the Foot Guards, and eventually became Spode's china repository.

We find the merry Mr. Pepys to have frequented these parts, as he is mentioned as having been a visitor in Vere Street, where a theatre existed, in which was performed on the opening night, November 8th, 1660, the play "King Henry IV."

This history of Lincoln's Inn is made doubly attractive by the numerous illustrations by Alfred Beaver and others, handing down to posterity pictures of some of the most interesting portions of old London which are so fast disappearing.

COUNTY RECORDS OF THE SURNAMES OF FRANCUS, FRANCEIS, FRENCH IN ENGLAND, A.D. 1100-1350. By A. D. WELD FRENCH. 8vo. Privately printed. Boston, U.S.A., 1896.

Mr. French's *Index Armorial of the surname of French*, and his *Frenches in Scotland*, have already been noticed in previous volumes of the *Journal*. The present work contains extracts from miscellaneous documents and charters in which the name of French, in its many variations, appears. Unfortunately, no reference is made to the sources from which the information is derived, nor are the references to the various rolls, &c., given.