

## ARCHÆOLOGICAL MISCELLANIES.

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BY THE EDITOR.

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“ Si quid novisti rectius istis  
Candidus imperti ; si non, his utere mecum.”

ALTHOUGH Horace, in the epistle of which these words are the conclusion, calls the attention of his friend Numicius to the observance of certain moral maxims, the practice of which was held by the Stoics as essential, not only to make a man happy, but also to keep him so—and this seems to have been the principal end he had in view in addressing it to him—still there can be no doubt that the words above quoted were intended by him to have a much more extensive and general application. By them he designed to teach us that it is our duty, as social beings, not only to *acquire* knowledge, but at all times and upon all occasions to *be communicative of it to others* ; and to follow Truth, wherever it is to be found ; a doctrine, which the disciples of the school of Zeno not only very diligently inculcated, but also very strictly practised. Applying this, then, to the department of Science, in the extension and elucidation of which, we, as members of the Sussex Archæological Society, are more particularly called upon to devote our time and attention, how many are there amongst us that can say with the poet Wordsworth :—

“ Thus I entertain  
The antiquarian humour ; and am pleas'd  
To skim along the surfaces of things ;—  
Beguiling harmlessly the vacant hour.”

How many are there, and must there be—it cannot be other-

wise—who feel indisposed to sit down and write an elaborate disquisition upon

“A ruined Castle, or a lonely Tower,”

who yet are doing good service to the Society—fulfilling its wishes, and acting up to its rules—in a way open to all; when, like Wordsworth, they entertain the archæological humour sufficiently strong to induce them to jot down the result of their surface skimmings, in any matter connected with bygone times, whether they arise from, or are connected with, the smallest fragment of an earthenware vessel, or are exercised on some more important antiquarian object. “Laudatores temporis acti” we do not expect all our members to be, but we hold them as in duty bound to be communicative of such knowledge as they may possess. And though it may appear to them to be trifling, how often has it happened that, from such small foundations, important archæological facts have been elicited, and many a goodly superstructure raised. To this department of their labours, then, the Editor would here specially call the attention of the Society, and at the same time solicit their support. Unimportant as such communications may at first sight appear when placed in competition with the *graviora studia*, with the more erudite labours of some of the more active of its members, still they are not so. Nothing is without importance that leads to the increase of knowledge, and the establishment of truth. Skimmings and jottings, then, however trifling they may seem to be, will be at all times most thankfully received; and will generally be found noticed by me, as Editor, in this miscellaneous department of the Annual Volume, as long as it is in my power to continue to discharge the duties of the office. For my successors I cannot be expected to answer.

Of the communications of this kind which I have received, and which I shall insert in the present Miscellaneous Article, the first is contained in a letter to me from Dr. Bloxam, the Rector of Beeding, which reached me soon after Volume XXII. was issued; and the object of which is to inform me who the Mr. Hasledine was that wrote two or three of the letters addressed to Mrs. Lintott and her daughter; and which,

through the kindness of Mrs. Hunt, of Shermanbury Park, I was enabled to communicate to the members of our Society and their friends in that volume (see page 160); but I was then unable to discover anything otherwise than conjectural bearing on his history. On this point, then, Dr. Bloxam has kindly enlightened me. He says—

“ Beeding Priory,  
 “ Hurstpierpoint,  
 “ August 11th, 1870.

“ MY DEAR MR. TURNER,—

“ On glancing over the new volume of the Sussex Archæological Collections, I came upon the name (p. 170) of W. Hasledine, one of Mrs. Lintott's correspondents. I can give you some account of him.

“ William Hasledine was the son of a gentleman of the same name, residing in the Close at Lincoln. He was matriculated of Lincoln College, Oxford, in May, 1730, at the age of 16; and was elected Demy of Magdalen College, in July of the same year. He became a fellow of Magdalen College in 1733, and continued so till 1764; consequently he was a Fellow at the time the letters to Mrs. and Miss Lintott were written; in the first of which he alludes to the College election at the end of July for Demies and Fellows. He was presented by the College to the Rectory of Dinton, Wiltshire, in 1762. He was also Incumbent of Corberley, Gloucestershire, from 1764 to 1771; and Rector of Wishford, Wiltshire. He died in 1775, and was buried in Dinton church. He was the author of ‘Bellus Homo et Academicus,’ recited in the Sheldonian Theatre in 1733. He was also a benefactor to Magdalen College. The epitaph on his tombstone in Dinton church gives him no common character. The following is a copy of it:—

“ Underneath lie the remains of the Rev. William Hasledine, Vicar of this place, Rector of Wishford, and formerly a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, who departed this life December 3rd, 1775, in the 60th year of his age. He was a gentleman, a scholar, and a Christian; a fine writer, an eloquent preacher, and a diligent, bountiful, and affectionate pastor of this parish, without titles and dignities, though

endowed with virtues and talents that would adorn the highest. Undisturbed by violent passions and inordinate desires, he enjoyed a plentiful fortune, with moderation and decency; lived to a maturity of years, happy in the love and esteem of all that knew him; and died in peace.

“Drop, reader, one kind tear upon his urn,  
And, pensive, home with better heart return.”

“Yours, very sincerely,  
“J. R. BLOXAM.”

My next Miscellany bears on the important question—who was the Foundress of the Priory of Tortington, near Arundel? and whence arose her connexion with Tortington Priory, in West Sussex?

Dallaway, in giving in his history of the Rape of Arundel an account of this small Religious House, says that it was an Augustine Priory of five Canons only, and that it was founded in the reign of King John, by Lady Hadvisia (Tanner says Hadwissa), or Avise Corbet; and this is probably correct. But the question at issue arises from what he goes on to state in order to account for her connexion with the part of the county in which Tortington is situated. She was, he says, probably a widow, and a daughter of some member of the D'Albini family. The contiguity of this Priory to the Castle and Town of Arundel would, he doubtless felt, give great plausibility to this supposition. What evidence then, have we to shew that this could not have been the case?

In the autumn of last year, I was brought into communication, by letter, with Mr. Bond, of Tyneham, a well-known Dorsetshire archæologist, through our mutual friend, Mr. Medland, of Steyning. Like myself, Mr. Bond was dissatisfied with Dallaway's haphazard conjecture as to the family the Foundress of Tortington Priory belonged to. That her name was Corbet at the time the Priory was founded is not called in question. Mr. Bond's object is to shew that she was a Corbet, and connected with Tyneham, the parish in Dorsetshire in which he resides; and this he thinks is shewn by her giving the advowson of Tyneham—and if the advow-

son, the Manor also to which it was attached—to this little Priory.

In a letter to me, as the historian of this, and many of the other Religious Houses in Sussex, Mr. Medland says:—

“ Steyning Vicarage, October 26th, 1870.

MY DEAR SIR,—

“ I have been in communication with a friend at Tyneham, Dorsetshire, in regard to the Priory of Tortington. I sent him an extract from your paper in the XIth Volume of our Archæological Collections on the subject of the ‘ Foundress.’ I now send you an extract from his answer, which he requested me to communicate to you, saying that the facts he had mentioned might perhaps afford a clue, which, if followed out by a Sussex topographer, may lead to the discovery of something more about Tortington and its foundress than we at present possess.

“ The latter,” he says, that is Dallaway, “ had, I think, no ground beyond haphazard conjecture for supposing Alicia Corbet to have been a D’Albini. I have strong grounds for thinking she was either the same person, or at all events of the same family, as the Lady Adela Corbet, concubine to King Henry 1st, and daughter of Sir Richard Corbet, Lord of Alcester in Warwickshire, and mother (by the King) of Reginald, Earl of Cornwall. This earl had a sister Roberia—no doubt a half-sister by the same mother—married first to Henry De la Pomeroy, and secondly to John Russell. This lady was owner of Tyneham; and as the advowson of the Church of Tyneham was given by some one or other to the Priory of Tortington, I can find no other probable connection between Tyneham and Tortington but this; and I think it highly probable that Roberia De la Pomeroy (whose father’s name was Bardulph) gave the Church of Tyneham to a priory founded by her mother’s family. Tyneham was held at the time of Domesday by the Earl of Moreton, and probably, like the rest of the lands held by that great lord, formed part of the earldom of Cornwall. An original deed is extant, and in the possession of Lord Falmouth, by which Reginald, Earl of Cornwall, gave a manor, in Cornwall, to his

sister Roberia, and I am much inclined to think that she obtained Tyneham in a similar manner."

Mr. Medland then adds—"Perhaps you would like to write to my friend who sent me the above extract. If so, his address is 'Thomas Bond, Esqre., Tyneham, Dorsetshire.' But if you prefer it, I will let him know your opinion upon the above.

"Believe me, dear Sir,

"Yours faithfully,

"THOMAS MEDLAND."

"The Revd. Edward Turner."

My answer to Mr. Medland, which he forward to Mr. Bond, brought me the following reply from this latter gentleman, who was then sojourning at Bournemouth:—

"Glasserton House, Bournemouth,

"10th November, 1870.

"DEAR SIR,—

"Mr. Medland has forwarded to me your letter addressed to him, in which you state you propose to print in your next Volume a short notice of the Foundress of Tortington Priory. I have done the same in the new edition of 'Hutchen's History of Dorsetshire,' now in course of publication. My reasoning has been of this kind:

"Tortington (says Dugdale) was founded before the 2nd of John by Hadwissia Corbet; and I find that the prior of this religious house was, from the earliest recorded period, taken from the Rectory of Tyneham in Dorsetshire. I naturally, therefore, look for some other connection between Tyneham and Tortington, and enquire what reason the lord of a remote manor in Dorsetshire could have for patronising this little priory, by granting to it this advowson, for I assume that the church was, as usual, dependent on the manor? Tyneham—at least the principal manor, as I believe, in the parish—belonged, in the time of Domesday, to the Earl of Moreton, and the Earldom of Moreton, in England, afterwards constituted in a great measure the Earldom of Cornwall. Reginald, natural son of Henry 1st, by the Lady



Adela Corbet, daughter and co-heir of Sir Robert Corbet, of Alcester, in Warwickshire, became Earl of Cornwall in the time of Stephen. He had a daughter Roberia, married to Henry de Pomeroy, to whom he gave the manor of Redwri, in Cornwall, as appears by an original charter in the possession of the Earl of Falmouth, which I have printed at length in the *New History of Dorsetshire*. Roberia De la Pomeroy became possessed of Tyneham; and though she is said in an old manuscript to have got it from her father, Thomas Bardulph, yet I think it highly probable she obtained this property also from her half-brother, the Earl of Cornwall. Be this as it may, it is clear that inasmuch as her father was a Bardulph, and Reginald, Earl of Cornwall, was her brother, as stated by him in his deed of gift, she must have been a daughter of the Lady Adela Corbet, who was certainly married either before or after her liason with the King.

“Thus we prove a connection between a lady of the Manor of Tyneham and one of the Corbet family.

“Nothing seems to be known as to the family Hadwissa Corbet belonged to. What, therefore, so natural as to conjecture from the connection between Tyneham and Tortington, that she was of the family—if not identically the same person as Roberia’s mother. But Roberia’s mother is in the manuscript noticed by Dugdale in his ‘*Baronetage*,’ printed by the late Charles Young, Garter, in the ‘*Collectanea Topographica*,’ named Adela, and not Hadwissa, while other authors call Hadwissa Alicia. The difficulty, therefore, is how to reconcile these Christian names. I have met with undoubted instances in these early times, where a lady has been mentioned by two names totally unlike one another; such as Nicholaa and Scholastica. I think it highly probable, then, that Hadwisia, Adela, and Alicia, may have been one and the same person. And this is the point on which I hope you may be able to assist me. With the clue I have given it is just possible you may be able, in your researches in *Sussex Topography and genealogy*, to hunt up some further evidences which may throw light on the subject. It is one of much interest to me, from my own connection with Tyneham, and my general interest in *Dorset Topography*. If, therefore, you can help me, and will do so, I shall be greatly obliged.

“ I have already said that Roberia De la Pomeroy had a second husband, John Russell, ancestor of the present Duke of Bedford; and in an old deed of one of the Russells—a son, I think, of Roberia—I find mention of a Corbet. But being at present from home, and from all my books and papers, I write merely from memory. The Corbet family, like that of the De la Pomeroy, was connected with Devonshire; and Peter Corbet and Henry De la Pomeroy married the two co-heiresses of the wealthy family of Valletort. This was two or three generations later than Roberia. A point to be aimed at in this investigation is—How came Adela Corbet, or anyone belonging to her, to get possession of Tortington? We have mention of the Prior of Tortington as early as the 2nd of John, but Roberia Russell lived until Henry III. became king. She must, however, I think, have been then very old; indeed, she is proved to have been so by original documentary evidence, and it is pretty clear that she was a wealthy lady. She married John Russell about the 6th of John.

“ Yours faithfully,

“ THOMAS BOND.”

Here, then, the matter rests for the present, my reading having as yet thrown no light on the subject; and of the documentary history of Tortington but little has come down to us.

In the “ Preliminary History of the Rape of Chichester,” Dallaway, in a list which he has there given of the Religious Houses of Western Sussex, says of Tortington that it was a house of regular canons, founded in 1180 by Hadvise D’Albini, *widow of Sir Corbet*. Of this I shall not attempt to offer any explanation. It seems, however, to imply that this Hadvise was one of the D’Albini family, and that she became a Corbet by marriage. Dallaway gives no authority for this assertion.

The next Miscellany which I shall bring under the notice of the Society came to me in the course of last year from General Davies of Danehurst, through the intervention of our Secretary, Mr. Powell, of Newick. The General’s object, it should be borne in mind, is not to re-open the *long-veaxed*, but



now *finally-settled* question, of the site of the battle fought by Alfred the Great against the Danes, in the year 871, which, deceived by a similarity of names, one of our Sussex historians has been led to claim for the locality of Ashdown Forest, in this county, instead of a tract of land known by the same name, which is situated on the chalk hills of Berkshire, near Wallingford. Horsfield's ignorance of Asser's spirited description of this hard-fought and very important battle, with all its attendant circumstances, probably led him into this error. General Davies' wish is to direct our attention to the important fact that though the battle between Alfred and the Danes was not fought upon the Sussex Ashdown Forest, a subsequent battle between Edmund Ironsides and the Danes, in 1016, *might have been, and probably was.* A long residence on the southern confines of this forest, and an intimate acquaintance with the names of the numerous localities which he refers to in his own immediate neighbourhood as bearing on the point which he is desirous of establishing, the name of his own residence being one, gives great credibility to the evidence he adduces. The General says:—

“ The little village of Danehill is situated on the high road from London to Lewes, by Chailey, about two miles south of Ashdown Forest. There is a tradition in the neighbourhood that the Danes here defeated the English; that in the night the women rose and released the men who were in captivity, and that the Danes were massacred. To the south of the village there was a common, the greater part of which is now enclosed, and called the Dane Wood, where the people slain are said to have been buried. To the north of this, just within the bounds of Ashdown Forest, there is an old embanked enclosure, which goes by the name of ‘The Danes’ Churchyard’ It is not generally known that the field of the memorable Battle of Assendun, or Ashdown, fought by Alfred, took place in Berkshire. But there was another Battle of Assendun, fought in 1016, by Edmund Ironsides, under the following circumstances, according to William of Malmesbury, when Canute was repulsed by the citizens of London; the Danes retreating with their plunder to their ships in the Medway. Edmund crossed the Thames at Brentford, and following them into Kent, defeated them at Aylesford; but

not taking all the advantage that he might have done of his victory, the Danes assembled again and defeated the king at Assandun.

“From all this, it is evident that the second Battle of Assandun was not fought where the first was, namely, in Berkshire. It is also very improbable that it should have been so; for the Danes retreated into Kent, and to the Medway, which rises on Ashdown Forest. It is also equally improbable that the Assandun in question should have been in the north part of Essex, as Sharon Turner makes it. Is it not probable, then—is it not plain almost to a demonstration, all things considered—that it took place on Ashdown Forest, somewhere near Danehill?”

Malmesbury further states that “after Canute became King of the whole of England, he built churches in all the places where he had fought, and more particularly at Assandun, and appointed ministers to them, who, through the succeeding revolutions of ages, might pray to God for the souls of the persons there slain.” And then, alluding to some particular church so erected in the neighbourhood of what is now described as Ashdown Forest, he says—“At the consecration of this edifice the king himself was present, and the English and Danish nobility made their offerings.” And Malmesbury then continues—“It is now,” that is, it was in his day, “according to report, nothing more than an ordinary church, under the care of a parish priest.”

“Close,” the General continues, “to the edge of this Forest, on the Nutley side, in a wood still called ‘The Chapel Wood,’ stood formerly an ancient chapel, the foundations of which are now entirely removed. When it was destroyed I know not; but it is marked in a map of Sussex of the time of Queen Elizabeth, which I saw in the Chapter-house of Chichester Cathedral.”

For an account of this free chapel, see Volume ix., p. 41. And to this General Davies might have added another chapel, which Hogg, in his picturesque views of the antiquities of England and Wales, says stood upon the Forest of Ashdown; but the precise locality of which is not at present so well known as the Nutley Chapel. He calls it “Dudeney Chapel.”

It is no more than due to that painstaking and indefatigable archæologist, Mr. Thomas Honeywood, here publicly to acknowledge the service which he has been the means of late of rendering to our Society, by watching the progress of the drainage works, which have lately been going on in the town of Horsham; and securing everything which the excavators of the trenches threw out, which he thought might be worthy of a place in his own already extensive collection of Sussex Antiquities. To these I shall not further allude; hoping Mr. Honeywood will himself find time to give us an article on some of the most curious of them. On one only I shall make a few observations. I allude to a medallion, which was thrown out with the earth, and which has on one side of it King Charles I. concealed in the oak after the battle of Worcester; and on the other, the words "Royal Oake." The medal is about the size of one of our half-crowns. It is of brass, and very thin. Might not this, then, have reference to the contemplated Order, called "Knights of the Royal Oak," which Charles 1st had thoughts of establishing, but which I cannot find he ever did establish, as a reward for such as had by their personal exertions in his behalf shewed eminent loyalty and attachment to him. It was proposed that each knight should wear a silver medal, with the device upon it of the king in an oak, such medal being suspended by a ribbon round the neck. If the king's intentions were ever carried out, certain it is that they were, from motives of State policy, immediately suppressed. P. Le Neve, Norroy—MSS. 1660, in the British Museum—alludes to this Order, and gives the following list of nineteen Sussex men who had been selected as members of this Order, with the annual value of their estates:—George Lunsford, Esqre., of Whiligh, in East-hoathly, £600; — Lunsford, Esqre., of Windmill Hill, £600; — Thorneton, Esqre., £800; George Barker, Esqre., £2000; Thomas Middleton, Esqre., £600; Walter Dobell, Esqre. (Folkington), £1000; Henry Clune, Esqre., £600; John Machell, Esqre., £1000; George Brett, Esqre., £600; Edward Eversfield, Esqre., £600; Henry Goring, Esqre., £2000; Henry Inghish, Esqre., £2000; Thomas Henshaw, Junr., Esqre., £600; Edward Mitchell, Esqre., £1000; John May, Esqre., £600; Walter Burrell, Esqre., £600;

John Eversfield, Esqre., £1500; — Michelbourne, Esqre., of Stanmer, £600; John Cooper, Esqre., of Strood, in Slinfold, £600.

Besides, then, a display of loyalty towards the King in his misfortunes, it would seem from this list that a landed estate yielding £600 per annum and upwards was requisite as a further qualification for admission as a member of this Order.

With regard to antiquities accidentally discovered during the carrying out of repairs and alterations in our Sussex mansions and churches, it is but little under this head that I have now to report; for since the last Volume was issued, but little has come to my knowledge. I may, however, state that a vague rumour reached me in the course of the autumn of last year, that some interesting remains of an arcade had been exposed to view in Slindon House, during the time it was undergoing reparation in the preceding spring. This could, I think, scarcely have been the case; for had such a discovery been made, Mr. Leslie, who has shewn himself to be by no means wanting in archæological zeal, and who has hitherto communicated freely with us on such subjects, would surely have known, and informed us of it.

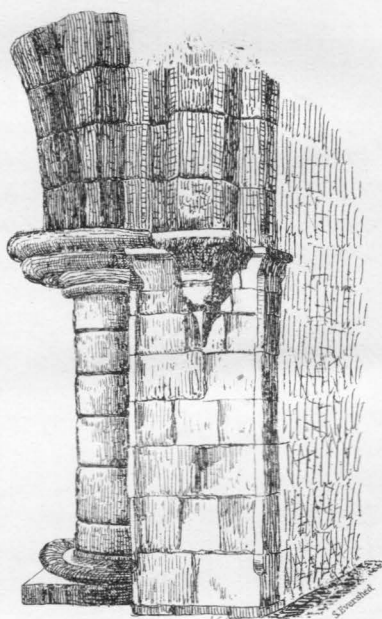
The circumstance that Slindon House, which is situated about midway between Arundel and Chichester, and is quite one of our more important aristocratic residences, was built early in the thirteenth century, as an occasional residence of the Archbishops of Canterbury; and that it was in early times more frequently used by them as a summer retreat than the more spacious and centrally situated palace of Mayfield, is quite true. This may have arisen from the roads about Slindon being at the time in a far more passable state than those about Mayfield. In 1228 Archbishop Langton, who is supposed to have built the house, died here; and in 1288 Archbishop Peckham held an Ordination in the Palace Chapel. In 1543 it was abandoned as an archiepiscopal residence, and after one or two other occupations, it became the residence of the Earl and Countess of Newburgh. Of late years it has been the property and residence of Colonel Leslie. The house, which is large and

turreted, stands on an eminence, commanding a most extensive and beautiful maritime view. Of the original palace but little more than the foundations have heretofore been supposed to remain. The rest of the present house is probably of the 15th century. The discovery of ancient arches, then built in *with*, and hitherto concealed from view *by*, the 15th century work, was not at all unlikely to have taken place. Still, I have no confirmation of the rumour that this has been proved to be the case. An account of any such discovery, of whatever nature it may be, will be thankfully received by me, as Editor, and brought under the notice of the members of our Society in the next volume.

Of churches restored, the only two in the county which have come under my observation are those of All Saints, Hastings, and Henfield; in both of which the works going on have led to some rather interesting Archæological discoveries. Of those brought to light during the restoration of All Saints Church, Hastings, I need say nothing, as Mr. Ross has given us a full description of them in the preceding paper. I shall, therefore, proceed to describe the discoveries made in Henfield Church during the restoration which it has lately undergone.

This church, which is dedicated to St. Peter, is of the usual type of our Sussex churches. Cartwright, in speaking of it, says that it consists of a nave, which is divided from the side aisles by an arcade of four arches on each side, and a chancel. The date of the building is for the most part of the time of Edward III. The exceptions are the chancel on the north side and the battlemented stone tower at the west end, which are of a later date. This northern chancel belongs to the lessee of the great tithes, now commuted into a rent charge, under the Bishops of Chichester. The present lessee is Lord Zouche, of Parham. An ancestor of his is buried in this chancel. The east window is a particularly fine specimen of the style of Gothic architecture of the time of Henry VI., and as Thomas Beckington, who was afterwards the munificent Bishop of Bath and Wells, was Prebendary from 1438 to 1443, we may reasonably infer that it was given to the church by him.

Scarcely any mural paintings were discovered in this church.



BRACKET FOUND ON THE NORTH  
SIDE ONLY OF THE CHANCEL IN  
HENFIELD CHURCH.

ETCHED IN AQUAFORTIS AND PRESENTED  
BY SAMUEL EVERSLED ESQ.



The most curious of those partially exposed to view during the progress of the work was a small coloured painting on the north wall of the church, of no great antiquity. This was brought to light by taking down a monument which had been erected upon it to the memory of one of the Cheales, of Shiprods, in this parish. In fixing this monument to the wall the painting had been much injured. Still the colours of what remained of it were very bright. It consisted of the remains of an heraldic shield, on the third quartering of which a portion of a harp remains, and this is all that can be made out of it. Around this is the garter with the motto; below it the rose and the thistle; and beneath this, on a label, bordered above and below with a very pretty scroll pattern—  
 . . . . . “V: ET: MON: DROIT;” and then, in Old English letters, rudely executed, “John Gratwicke . . . . . domi: 1694.” This must evidently have been the king’s arms, and possibly John Gratwicke was the churchwarden at the time they were painted. There were also slight traces of wall paintings on the south wall of the chancel. The Gratwicke were of Shermanbury Place, as will be seen by the preceding volume.

Annexed is rather an interesting illustration of the only ornamented part of this church. It will be found in the springing of the arch at the entrance of the chancel. It displays, perhaps, one of the most simple things in the way of a Gothic ornamented corbel that was ever designed, and in its perfect simplicity its beauty consists.

One or two more miscellaneous articles, and these very short ones, and I have done.

Mr. Ross informs me that in the month of November, 1867, a Hastings labourer took to him a small brass box of about the size in circumference of a penny-piece, which, when it was opened, was found to contain nine farthings of the reign of Charles I., in a good state of preservation. The account he gave of their coming into his possession was that he found them while lowering a bank of earth on the west side of Oxford Terrace, St. Mary Magdalene, Hastings, at a depth of about three feet below the surface. From corrosion and pressure the box was much damaged. And the same gentle-

man further informs me, that his neighbour, Mr. Rock, had a short time back some old iron sent to him, which had been dug up in the garden of a Mrs. Collyer, at Playden. It was found in digging at a depth of from three to four feet below the surface, and about five hundred yards from the River Rother. Not knowing what to make of it, it was forwarded to Mr. W. D. Cooper, for his opinion upon it; who at once declared it to be the swivel and head-piece of some person who had been hung in chains; and he suggested that they might have been those of a man who had been convicted of piracy, or the plunder of a vessel at sea, and sentenced to be hung on a spot within sight of the scene of his crime, as was the case with the pirates who were hung opposite to Black-wall.

And here I cannot but express the gratification which I feel at the improved state of the County of Sussex, and the country generally, with regard to public executions, and the disappearance from amongst us of those gibbets, on which such executions have taken place. One of the last exhibitions of this kind in the County took place pursuant to the sentence passed upon two men, named Drewett, who were brothers, and who had been convicted at the Spring Assizes of this County, in 1799, of robbing the Portsmouth mail, on North Heath Common, near Midhurst. They were executed on Horsham Common, April 13th, and their bodies afterwards removed to the place where the robbery took place, to be there, what is usually called, "hung, *in terrorem*, in chains." The bodies of criminals so condemned were encased after death in a framework, constructed of iron hooping, similar to those found at Playden, and being hung up on a gibbet, were so left to decay. These revolting exhibitions, however, have now been discontinued, and even common executions no longer take place in public; and, I need scarcely add, that since these have been the case, a marked improvement has come over the public mind. North Heath, it will be observed, is on the road from London to Portsmouth. After leaving Haslemere, this road passes over North Heath to Hind Head, at the top of which, on the right-hand side, is the deep dell called Huckham Bottom, but more generally "The Devil's Punch Bowl;" from thence it passes through Liphook and

Rake to Sheetbridge ; but little of Sussex is traversed by this route, the North-western angle only of the County being touched upon by it ; but that little comprises some of its wildest and most picturesque scenery. Where women and children, and even men, were afraid to tread after nightfall, and some of them to trust themselves alone in broad daylight, so great was the dread of the gibbet and its associations, the present poet Laureate has built a mansion for the residence of himself and his family ; and a few miles further on, just in Hampshire, that giant of the Law, Sir Roundel Palmer, is doing, if he has not already done, the same thing. In the story of "The King's Mail," there are many faithful descriptions of this heathy district, more especially of Blackdown, Lurgashall, and Northchapel, and of the country around Midhurst and Petworth ; whilst the writer makes an attack on the Royal Mail on Hind Head Heath, on its way from London to Portsmouth, in 1785, the chief incident of his story, and exceedingly well does he tell it. Great were the facilities for violence and crime, which this barren and lonely tract offered in former days to the lawless and flagitious ; and the older residents of the neighbourhood of Midhurst still talk of the Drewetts' gibbet, and of the deeds of daring with which their names were associated, and point with fear and trembling to the place where the gibbet stood.

It is worthy of note that the younger of the two Drewetts who were here executed asserted his innocence to the very last moment he had to live ; and a belief prevails in Midhurst and its neighbourhood, to which the Drewetts belonged, and where they were well known, that he was innocent of the crime for which he suffered ; but that as he could not acquit himself of it without implicating his father, who was really the guilty person, he preferred death to the disclosure of a parent's guilt. He submitted to be hung for his father's crimes.

Few, with the exception of such as are acquainted with North Heath, and the country about Blackdown, are aware that within so inconsiderable a distance from the metropolis, a district so rugged can be found, or that the County is half so picturesque as this locality shews it to be.

The body of a smuggler, named William Carter, was hung

in chains, near Rake, on the same Portsmouth road, in 1749. (See the account of the atrocities committed by smugglers in Vol. X. of our "Collections," pp. 86-7.)

A copy of the placard, headed, "The Last Dying Speech and Confession of Robert and William Drewett," is, Mr. Arnold informs me, occasionally to be met with ; but it is not of sufficient literary merit to be perpetuated by insertion in our Volume. Its uncouth verbiage shews that it is the production of a very illiterate person.

Mr. Arnold also informs me, that a Saxon coin of Alfred, of an entirely new type, has been lately found at Chichester. As, however, I have received no description of it, I must postpone my account of it until the next Volume.

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