

has been kept intact ; but the legendary beds and curtains have long since been removed. The so-called haunted chamber is the ante-room to this apartment. The Painted Room is fraught with unusual interest, the walls and ceiling being painted by a Dutch officer (a general) and other prisoners, who were detained at Littlecote, during the Commonwealth period. This is said to have been done in return for the kindness shown them by its owner, Colonel Alexander Popham. The principal scenes represented are from Don Quixote and Hudibras, and evince a remarkable amount of artistic humour and unquestionable merit. In the course of the Dutch war, in which the Admirals Van Tromp, De Ruyter, and De Witt were met by the Commonwealth leaders, Blake, Deane, and Monk, a number of prisoners were taken by the English, and despatched to various provincial towns. Several hundreds were sent to Newbury, and in 1653, John Burch, the Mayor, petitioned Parliament that the town might either be paid for the keep of the Dutch prisoners or have them removed, as the inhabitants were sorely distressed by this extra burden laid upon them. The Littlecote prisoners were probably sent there about this time.

A RARE COIN.—A shilling of Edward VI. has been found in the neighbourhood of Beaconsfield, where the excavations for the new main line of the Great Western and Great Central Railway Companies are in progress. The coin, which is in good preservation, bears a well defined bust of the boy King.

OLD CLOTH HALL, NEWBURY.—In a recent number of your Journal you kindly gave a plate of this ancient building, at the same time drawing attention to the work taken in hand by a large and influential committee, to purchase, restore, and fit up as a Museum of Local Antiquities and Art Gallery this building, as a memorial to our late beloved Queen Victoria. The building has been purchased, and the work of restoration should be completed this next month (October). A very liberal response has been made to our appeal for funds, but there is still wanting some £400 to meet the liability incurred by the committee. May I urge any of your readers who have not yet subscribed, and who take an interest in the preservation of these fine old buildings, to forward subscriptions to the Treasurer, John Rankin, Esq., J.P., Mayor of Newbury, or to G. J. Watts, Hon. Sec.?