

by Mr. E. Stock. The book gives a wonderfully striking revelation of the great man's inner life and character. It is prefaced by Mr. Birrell, and Mr. Higgins analyses with care and knowledge the religious side of Dr. Johnson's character. Few people ever think of him as a profoundly religious man. Yet such he was, as this book plainly shows. We think of him amid the hilarity of the tavern supper, the great controversialist, the convivial friend, the furious disputant. Here we see him in the privacy of his room, in his solitary communings with God and his own heart, as he humbles himself before the Throne of Grace, mourns over his vices and sins, his sloth and broken vows, while he prays for pardon and amendment. It is a wonderful book. Manly sincerity, child-like trust, and a passionate longing after goodness, breathe in every page.

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The Antiquary, after a quarter of a century of vigorous life, begins with the new year a new and enlarged series. I am so familiar with the old cover, with its lance and shield and sword and helmet, that I hardly recognised my old friend in its new dress. But he comes in goodly garb, and has a rare wallet on his back, containing much store of rich treasure which I shall love to dip into and discover much that I did not know. I wish my old friend a long lease of new life. He carries on his back Goldsmith's saying: "I love everything that's old, old friends, old times, old manners, old books, old wine." I agree with him. I love especially "old friends," amongst whom I count my friend *The Antiquary*. The Editor has formed an attractive programme, and the new series should commend itself to the public, even more favourably than it has during the last 25 years. I wish it most heartily every success.

Proceedings of Societies.

The winter session has found the Berks Archæological Society busily engaged in a series of lectures. On November 17th Mr. Petrocokino lectured before a large audience on his Experiences in South America, which were charmingly illustrated by lantern slides. His lecture was entitled "The land of the Incas." On December

15th The Rev. Alan Cheales delivered a learned lecture on "Israel in Egypt," when Lord Saye and Sele presided. The lecturer, who is an authority on Egyptian antiquities, gave convincing proofs of the Bible narrative by references to inscriptions and other historical evidences which abound in that wonderful country.

Other lectures are promised, viz:—

"The Churches of Sparsholt and Childrey" by the President.

"A Tour in Northern France" by Captain Henderson.

"Touching for the King's Evil" by G. E. Peachey, Esq.

The Church Plate of Berkshire.

WICKHAM.

- 1 & 2. Cup and cover. Date letter 1804-5. Maker's mark, I.M. (cf. Chaffers, p. 190). The cup has an egg-shaped bowl, and on the base the sacred monogram. The cover is round, with three legs or knobs, and a dome-shaped top with the sacred monogram.
- 3 & 4. Two Plates bearing the same date letter and maker's mark. There is a kind of cable-edge. The sacred monogram is inscribed.
5. A small Cruet, with plated mount.

The cup and cover described above are said to be "The Berkshire Shape."

Height of the cup $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches, diameter $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, weight $13\frac{3}{4}$ ozs. Diameter of plate $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches, weight $8\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. Weight of cover $4\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.

WELFORD.

Cup, Paten, two Flagons and two Plates. Date letter 1737. Maker's mark I.W. vid. Chaffers, p. 181. This I.W. stands for John White.

Inscription on the cup "The gift of Susanna Archer, wife of William Archer, Esq., to the Church of Welford, Berkshire, 1738."