to their leap (*ad majorem saltus efficaciam*) they hold back their tails in their mouths (*caudam ipsam ore comprimunt*); and whilst they suddenly let themselves go (*se subito resolvunt*) from this sort of circular attitude they shoot themselves up (*transmittunt*) from the depths [beneath] to the heights [above] to the astonishment of those who stand by, with a sort of spring like that [caused] by the sudden unbending (*explicatione*) of a rod bent round into a circle," and the writer adds "the same kind of leaping is found in other rivers, but not on so large a scale."

The history of Westminster is a varied and a chequered one. According to Widmore the first benefactor was King Offa in 785. According to Flete, the first church ever built there was dedicated by King Lucius, the first Christian King of Britain and of the world, in 184. Then when the Diocletian persecution was over, it was degraded to be a temple of Apollo. Reconstructed by the Saxon King Sebert, this church was consecrated by St. Peter the Apostle 'in the spirit'; and, I have thought it not altogether uninteresting to draw attention to these quaint and interesting episodes in the monastic life of this Thames-side Abbey of Westminster.

F. T. WETHERED.

HURLEY VICARAGE, BERKS.
November, 1912.

The late Mr. James Parker, Hon. M.A., F.G.S.

THE tragically sudden death of Mr. James Parker, on October 10th, 1912, at the hotel in the Strand which he had frequented for over sixty years, removes one of the most familiar figures in Oxford. Born on May 5th, 1833, in Turl Street, in the house of his father, the well-known antiquary, John Henry Parker, C.B., he was educated at Winchester, under Moberley. From a very early age he was drawn towards his father's pursuits. I have seen a sketch of a bench-end from a Gloucestershire Church made by him at the age of nine, and his youthful diaries show quickly a growing interest in architecture. A series of driving tours with his father through Normandy, Brittany and Southern France in 1850-51 helped to

complete his architectural education. The beautiful drawings of the French antiquary, Mr. George Bouet, of Caen, who accompanied them, were among Mr. Parker's prized possessions. In 1852 he became a member of the Oxford Architectural Society, to which his father was librarian. Though to many of the present generation this Society is only one of many similar flourishing provincial institutions, yet it held a unique position when Parker joined it. Its early history is that of the Gothic Revival in England. Among its members were some of the best known Oxford men of the Victorian era. Freeman had been secretary, and still took an active part in its proceedings. On the Committee were: Charles Marriott, of Oriel, William Sewell, founder and first Warden of Radley, Edwin Palmer, of Balliol, Henry Liddon, John Burgon, John Earle, Thomas Combe, of the University Press, the friend of the pre-Raphaelites, and Orlando Jewitt, the engraver.

Turning over the reports at random, we find papers contributed by John Hungerford Pollen on the "Use of Decorative Painting in Churches," embodying the principles which he was to put into practice on the roofs of the Union Library and of Merton College Chapel; by Matthew Bloxam, of Rugby, on "Ancient Monastic Arrangement"; by Gilbert Scott, on "Doncaster Church"; by E. G. Street, on "True Principles in Architecture, and the Possibility of a Development founded thereon"; by Chamberlain, Vicar of St. Thomas', who was the first to use vestments in Oxford since the Reformation, on "Principles to be observed in ornamenting Churches, as regards Illumination, Stained Glass and Encaustic Tiles"; and among the younger men, by Lygon, of Christ Church—afterwards Earl Beauchamp—on "Mediæval Monuments and especially Brasses"; and by F. G. Lee on "Christian Epitaphs." The Society's authority on matters architectural was unquestioned; its advice on new buildings and restoration was sought from far and near. To its influence was largely due Acland's success in getting a Gothic design adopted for the New Museum, against the opposition of many who held to the old classical style. Street, then Diocesan architect, would bring his plans for the Society's *imprimatur*. The Committee, "one of whose ordinary occupations was the discussion of designs," furnished working drawings for churches, as far away as India and Newfoundland. Joining this distinguished body of men at the age of nineteen, Parker made his mark at once with a paper on "The Triforium and its Derivation," which received the compliments of the President, Dr. Harington, of B.N.C., on its

"ingenuity and research"—a remark which gives the key-note to the whole of his life's work. Within two years Parker had joined his father on the Committee, and established his reputation by a succession of papers on such subjects as "The Early English Style," and the "Architecture of Brittany" (1856), "The Study of English Domestic Architecture" (1859), "Walter de Merton as Chancellor, Founder and Architect" (1861), etc. It was largely due to the two Parkers during this period that the Society did not share the fate of its contemporary and rival, the Cambridge Camden Society, and wander away to perish of inanition in a barren wilderness of mere ecclesiology.

Parker's interests, however, were not confined to mediæval archæology; he had taken up the study of geology at an early age, and his frequent antiquarian visits to Amiens and its neighbourhood had given him an intimate knowledge of the Somme Valley. Boucher de Perthe's discoveries of flint implements were made known to English archæologists by Evans and Prestwich in 1859, and within a year Parker had brought back a collection of implements, and a set of elaborate sections made by himself of the gravels of St. Acheul. Parker embodied his observations in a paper on *Early Flint Implements from the Somme Valley* (1862), in which he was able to compare his French specimens with those discovered by himself and Boyd Dawkins at Wookey Hole that year. This must be among the earliest English contributions to the literature of palœolithic man. His Somme Valley studies bore fruit in several subsequent papers read before the Architectural Society, the Ashmolean Society, and the Geologists' Association, of which body, by the way, he was the oldest member but one at the time of his death. From 1862 onwards he carried on those researches into the early history of the Oxford district, which made him the leading authority on the subject, contributing to the Proceedings of the Architectural Society, accounts of his excavations of the Roman villa at Beckley (1862), of the Garford Barrow (1872), a valuable summary of the Roman occupation of Dorchester and its neighbourhood (1868), and a critical discussion of the site of the battle of Ashdown (1871). These researches lead up to a paper (1871), which was subsequently expanded into the book by which he is perhaps best known, "*The Early History of Oxford*, 727-1100" (1884), one of the first publications of the Oxford Historical Society. On the departure of John Henry Parker in the later "sixties" for his excavations in Rome, his son stepped naturally into his place, and thenceforward

was identified more than anyone else with the study of mediæval archæology in Oxford. For the next thirty years he was the mainspring of the Architectural Society, and both by his direct teaching, and by the example of his method, supplied an invaluable adjunct to the study of history in the University. Nowhere was his work more valuable than in organising that regular series of architectural excursions, which had been originated by Maxwell Lyte in 1870, almost invariably contributing elaborate papers on the places visited. On the death of Freeman in 1891, Parker succeeded him as President of the Society, an office which he held till 1898, and only vacated when the advance of years obliged him to concentrate his energies on a few pet hobbies. His vast store of antiquarian knowledge was always placed most freely at the disposal of his contemporaries, and may be traced in much of their work. He accompanied Freeman in 1879, when the latter was collecting topographical material for his "William Rufus," and as Parker knew his "Wace" and his "Orderic Vital" just as well, and his Normandy, probably better than Freeman, he materially influenced the historian's conclusions in many important points.

Of the liturgical work which occupied his close attention, more especially between the years 1875-82, and which raised him to the front rank of English authorities on the subject, Dr. Wickham Legg writes :—

"I have been asked to speak of Mr. James Parker's services to liturgical studies. In his works on the successive revisions of the Book of Common Prayer (1876-7), he showed us the true way of treating the subject, namely, by beginning with the earliest recension till 1662 ; his work is a monument of human patience and industry. In his controversy with Lord Selborne, "*Did Queen Elizabeth take other order*"? (1878-9) he is thought by many excellent judges to have gone very far on the way to destroying the foundation of the Ridsdale Judgment. A very useful edition of *the Order of Communion, 1548*, privately printed 1876, was also brought out by him, and in this case, as in others, his modesty concealed his good work under the veil of anonymity. Parker saw the importance of the lectures of Dr. Lloyd, Bishop of Oxford, when Regius Professor of Divinity, as the starting point of the English school of liturgy, which, though it may seem to have lost something of its force under the frowns of the authorities of to-day, has yet done work which is the envy of Continental scholars."

His geological studies, which he kept up to the very last, are the subject of a separate notice.* He was no mean microscopist, and for some years was the centre of an informal society which met at his house in Turl Street, devoting special attention to the foraminifera. The width of his learning, however, did not make him a mere book-worm. He was always a keen theatre-goer, invariably choosing, until quite recently, the front row of the pit. I have often heard him speak of his early friendship with the Keeleys, who played leading parts at Drury Lane under Macready's regime in the "fifties," and at whose table he would meet Douglas Jerrold, Albert Smith, Montague Williams and other celebrities. His house-parties at Fyfield Manor, where he produced, stage-managed, and painted the scenery of, his own and other plays, are still remembered by a few of the elder generation. He wrote a lengthy notice of *Essays and Reviews* the day after they came out, for the *Literary Churchman*, then a periodical of considerable influence. The book, however, did not "catch on" for some little time, and when at length every-one was discussing it, and Parker was asked why he had not reviewed it, he was able to point to his unnoticed critique of six weeks earlier. The elder Parker had been an intimate friend of Sir Stephen Glynne, and this friendship was kept up by Gladstone, who used to visit the younger Parker when he came to Oxford. It was on one of these occasions that he met Goldwin Smith at Parker's house, and the long conversation between the two helped to overcome Gladstone's last lingering scruples against the introduction of the Irish Church Disestablishment Bill. Of Parker's generosity in help-ing fellow workers I have already spoken, but the acknowledgment freely rendered by the bigger men was not infrequently omitted by others, who tacitly accepted the credit for what they had borrowed. A more conscientious worker it would be impossible to meet; he would never accept any statement of fact at second-hand, but would test it by the earliest authority whether printed or manuscript, or would verify it by original field work. His gift for research was equalled by his ingenuity, and if the latter quality sometimes led him into sheer paradox, it was always backed by such a wealth of learning, as to command the respect, if not the assent, of his opponents. He was his own severest critic, ever striving after an impossibly ideal perfection in his work, and to this fact is due his comparatively small output of bigger books, and the vast mass of nearly or only half-finished material that he left behind him. Some 150 volumes of MS. topographical collections, and some sixty of liturgical, remain as a monument of his industry.

PERCY MANNING, M.A., F.S.A.

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