

The third Anthem, "O Lord grant the Queen a long life" (Nares).

The sub-almoner then distributed to each man and to each woman purses of money.

Then followed the second Lesson, a fourth Anthem, "Who is this that cometh from Eden" (Arnold), and prayers composed for the occasion.

Each red purse contained a gold sovereign—was this like Queen Elizabeth's twenty shillings, in lieu of her majesty's gown? and a further sum of one pound ten shillings, as a commutation for provisions: each white purse contained the Maundy coin, consisting of fourpence, threepence, twopence, and pence in silver, amounting together to forty-two-pence, the age of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen.

MR. JAMES THOMPSON read the following Paper on

THE HERRICK PORTRAITS IN THE GUILD HALL, LEICESTER.

IN the chamber in which the Town Council of Leicester usually meets are suspended two ancient portraits. They rarely attract any attention, because, perhaps, they have remained there so long, and perhaps because the eye has become familiar with their dark colour and general appearance. They hang on each side of the Mayor's chair, and above the bench on which, in old times, the Aldermen were wont to sit, ranged to the right and left of the chief magistrate.

If the visitor to the Mayor's Parlour will look attentively at the pictures, he will discover something in them to awaken curiosity and to reward a patient examination. That on the left hand is evidently the portrait of a man far advanced in years. His grave and venerable aspect is that of a person once accustomed to exercise authority and to command respect. His head is bald and covered with a close-fitting skull cap; though his visage is still ruddy, as if, when he sat to the artist, he was enjoying a hearty old age. His steady grey eye bespeaks calm thought and matured intelligence. The white hair of the upper lip and the short beard tell their own tale of years gone through. The regular features and general contour of the physiognomy bear the impress of the Englishman of the standard type, free from admixture with Celt or Lapp or Finn. Around his neck he wears a frill. He is clothed in a long black gown. He wears ruffles round his wrists. In his left hand he holds his gloves. A diamond ring is seen on the little finger of the same hand. In the upper right hand corner of the picture is painted a shield, on which is blazoned the coat armorial of Herrick,

quartered with that of Bond of Ward End in the County of Warwick. In the upper left hand corner of the picture are these lines:

His picture whom you here see
When he is dead and rotten,
By this shall remembered be,
When he shall be forgotten.

This portrait is that of Alderman Robert Heyrick, who died in the reign of James the First; of whom some account will shortly be given.

Very different in description is the person who is portrayed in the picture on the right of the Mayor's chair. Something of the same style of feature may, indeed, be seen in him as that of his aged companion; but there is all the difference between the greybeard of more than seventy, and the mature but comparatively youthful man of thirty. There is the grey eye, and the middle sized nose, pointed, and slightly upturned; but the cheeks are not ruddy. They are thin and pale, and the whole countenance is that of a more refined, courtly, and intellectual person than the aged alderman. The ample forehead indicates the man of thought, and the compression of the lips suggests the man of decision and self confidence. The eyebrows are arched and wide apart. The head is covered with dark hair, brushed back from the face, and the upper lip shows a slight moustache; below which a short, dark, picked beard, completes the physiognomy. It is a three-quarter face, of which the right side is presented to the spectator. This person, like the other, has a frill round his neck, and is clothed in a long dark gown. He, too, holds his gloves in his hands; and round his wrists are lace ruffles. There is, however more attention throughout to the details of dress in the younger than in the older man. The younger man wears on the little finger of his right hand a signet ring, on which is engraved the shield of Bond of Ward End, distinctly visible. The left hand grasps an object which it is difficult to designate: it may be the corner of a table, or it may be a bag, or wallet, richly embroidered. On the little finger of this hand is seen another ring. In the upper right hand corner are painted the armorial bearings of the Goldsmiths' Company. In the upper left hand corner is the coat of arms of the Bond family. On the left hand side of the head are the words "*ætatis suæ 30:*" on the right side, "*An. 1594.*"

This portrait has generally been described as that of a citizen and goldsmith of London, named Bond; but Mr. John Gough Nichols, after a close inspection of it, has lately conjectured that the picture represents William Herrick, the youngest brother of alderman Robert Heyrick, just mentioned.

In order that we may learn who these two personages were, I here briefly notice the way in which the Heyrick family became connected with Leicester.

Originally landowners at Great Stretton, they had removed to Houghton-on-the-Hill in the earlier part of the fifteenth century, where Robert Eyrick possessed an estate in the year 1450. His son, Thomas, removed to this borough, where he became a settled inhabitant. At what time this occurred does not appear in any of the local records; as the Hall Books do not even show in what year he complied with the rule (then indispensable to municipal recognition and status of becoming enrolled in the Guild Merchant; without which enrolment he was ineligible to hold local office, and incapable of carrying on business; though it is probable he was not an inhabitant of Leicester much earlier than the year 1500.

Thomas Eyrick soon became a "man of mark" and substance, for in 1512 we find him filling the important and trustworthy office of joint-chamberlain of the corporation—an office all the more important and trustworthy as it formerly involved the performance of the twofold duties of our modern borough treasurer and borough accountant. Appointed by the commonalty as their chamberlain, Thomas Eyrick evidently stood high in the estimation of the burgesses generally; though he never reached the highest round of the ladder of municipal promotion—he was never chosen Mayor. It would appear that he did not pass beyond early middle life; for when he died in the year 1517, he left behind him a widow, a son Nicholas, about fourteen years old, a son John, about four years old, and an infant daughter. Thomas Eyrick lived, and in all probability died, in his house in the Market-place, which stood at the corner of the Cheapside.

The will of this burgess of former days gives us some insight into his character and position.* In it he bequeaths his soul to Almighty God, to our Blessed Lady his mother, and to all the glorious company of heaven; and he desires that his body may be buried in St. Martin's Church, whither he wishes it to be carried by the order of friars in Leicester, each of whom is to have 20d. for his services. He leaves also to every priest of St. Martin's Church 6d., to Robert the parish clerk 4d., to the other clerk 2d., to every priest that attended his funeral 4d., and every child a farthing. He desires also that a "trentall" of masses be said for his soul within the Church of St. Martin.

Having thus, like a devout Catholic, made provisions for his spiritual concerns, he next arranges his temporal affairs. He bequeaths to his son Nicholas the house in which he (the testator) was then dwelling, with £3. 6s. 8d., in ready money, and his best book covered with chamlet. To his son John he also bequeathed £3. 6s. 8d., with his second book with silver clasps, and his best mass-book. To his daughter Elizabeth also he bequeathed the sum of

* I ought here to acknowledge the courtesy I have invariable experienced at the hands of Messrs. Nevinson, the Registrars, who have always rendered me their kind assistance in all researches into the ancient wills of which they are the custodians.

£3. 6s. 8d., a mass-book "with a stone," and a long girdle that was his (the testator's) mother's. To his wife he bequeathed all his moveable goods in order to provide the prayers for his soul, with all his lands for her natural life; Nicholas and his heirs to have them afterwards; John to have them in default of issue to Nicholas; Elizabeth to have them in default of issue to John; and the widow and her assigns, should her children all die childless. Thomas Eyrick made his wife his executrix, and his father-in-law the supervisor of his will.

The two sons grew up and prospered. Nicholas lived in his father's house, where he carried on his business as an ironmonger, and it would seem that John lived with him for some years. Nicholas was admitted into the Guild Merchant on coming of age in the year 1524. In subsequent years he was chosen Mayor's Chamberlain, Auditor of the Borough Account within the East Gate, one of the Stewards of the Market, one of the Borough Coroners, and ultimately Mayor, in the reign of Edward the Sixth, and afterwards a justice of the peace for the remainder of his days.

But it was John, the younger brother, whose history it is more especially necessary to relate, as he was the father of the two characters whose portraits are on the walls of the Mayor's Parlour.

John Eyrick was admitted into the Guild Merchant in the year 1535, that is, on attaining his majority. When about twenty-four years of age, he took to himself a wife. There was then living at Ward End, otherwise Little Bromwich, in the county of Warwick, a gentleman of estate named Bond. He was wealthy. He had built a Chapel, and endowed it with lands wherewith to maintain a priest; and round his mansion he had made a park, which he had stored with deer. He had also a daughter Mary. She was just a year younger than John Heyrick, who sought and was fortunate enough to obtain her hand. John brought his wife to Leicester, to the house in the Market-place, which he had purchased from his brother, and there the exemplary couple dwelt (as we shall shortly see) for many long years, in happiness and prosperity. They became the parents of twelve children—five sons and seven daughters.

John Eyrick and his brother Nicholas lived through periods of strange and stormy revolution. Born before the Reformation, they were trained up in the belief of the tenets of the Roman Catholic Church, yet they lived to see that church overthrown and her altars destroyed: they lived to witness the Church in which they had been baptised, stripped of all its ancient accessories and fittings in the reign of Edward the Sixth, refurnished with them in that of Queen Mary, and once more denuded of them on the accession of Queen Elizabeth. It is, in truth, on record that Nicholas Eyrick purchased a "tabernacle," or recess for an image, and John Eyrick

an organ chamber, on the public sale of the appointments of St. Martin's Church in the reign of Edward the Sixth. That they subsequently espoused heartily the doctrines of the Reformation cannot be doubted: though John Eyrick had served the office of Mayor in the reign of "Bloody Mary."

After having brought up his numerous family, and seen his sons established in business, and his daughters all married, John Eyrick died aged seventy-six, in the house in the Market-place, where he and his wife had lived together for fifty-two years, during which time they had "never buried man, woman, nor child, though they were sometimes twenty in household," as is recorded on an upright marble tablet still preserved in St. Martin's Church. The old townsman's will (yet extant in the Registry of the Archdeaconry of Leicester), marks how great a change had come over the minds of men during his lifetime; for, while his father, Thomas Eyrick had left money for the saying of masses for his soul, John Eyrick died in the full belief that he was "one of God's elect children," leaving Calvin's translation of the New Testament to his son Thomas, and to his daughter Mary, Fox's Book of Martyrs. The house he was dwelling in when he made his will, and where he had dwelt subsequently to his marriage (when he purchased it from his brother Nicholas), he bequeathed to his son Robert, with his scarlet gown: his "holiday gown," faced with foins, he also left to Thomas, and his satin doublet to John. Mary had in addition to Fox's Book of Martyrs, a silver spoon gilt, and the "aumbry" in the great parlour.

The eldest son of John and Mary Eyrick was Robert. It is this person whose portrait is suspended on the left hand of the Mayor's chair in the Guildhall. He was born in the year 1540, his boyhood being passed in the closing years of Henry the Eighth's eventful reign. He was brought up to his father's business, and apparently lived with him. When twenty-seven years of age, he married Elizabeth Manby, probably the daughter of William Manby, who was twice Mayor of Leicester, in the reigns of Queen's Mary and Elizabeth; and the old house in which he and his many brothers and sisters had been reared from childhood, was in a few more years as full of young people as it was in the time of his own infancy; for he became the father of two sons and nine daughters. Robert Eyrick followed in the footsteps of his father, and became a thriving Burgess: adding to the land which had been his grandfather's extensive properties in Leicester. Having graduated in municipal offices, he was first elected Mayor in 1584, when he was forty-four years of age. He rendered himself highly serviceable to the town; advancing money on its behalf to aid in the purchase of the Grange Estate; involving himself in debt in relieving the distressed, when the plague carried death and desolation into every household; filling the Mayoralty three times, and representing the

borough in Parliament during one session in the reign of Elizabeth ; and rendering material assistance in procuring the incorporation of Trinity Hospital. He died in the year 1618, laden with years and honour and respect, after a life passed in the practice of domestic virtue, civic usefulness, and genuine benevolence—the type of the venerable English burgomaster. In death, as in life, he—the father of eleven children—was mindful of the welfare of his poorer fellow-creatures ; for he bequeathed sums for the benefit of the poor widows of Leicester, and of the under-usher of the Grammar School ; for the distribution of bread to poor householders and “old bodies ;” for lending money to young burgesses ; and for the maintenance of Trinity Hospital.

Such was the character of the man whose portrait, after the lapse of nearly two hundred and fifty years, looks down upon us from the canvass on the walls of the Mayor's Parlour—of that apartment in which (remaining now nearly as it was then) his form was once frequently seen and his voice often heard, to guide the counsels and to benefit the fortunes of his fellow-townsmen. As the venerable burgess looks down from the picture in solemn composure, he may be imagined to be still exercising a kind of tutelary influence over the affairs of that body whose periodical meetings are held in the antique chamber which is now his abiding-place. He may be imagined, after the lapse of the long centuries, to be meditating on the fortunes of the place in which he once swayed the sceptre of local government with all the anxieties of the ruler of a petty kingdom.

An upright slate, in one of the chancels of St. Martin's, near to the tablet which records his father's decease, thus briefly commemorates, in quaint and homely phrase, the story of Alderman Robert Herick :—

“HERE LYETH THE BODIE OF ROBERT HERICK,
IRONMONGER AND ALDERMAN OF LEICESTER,
WHO HAD BEEN THRISE MAIRE THEREOF.
HEE WAS ELDEST SON OF JOHN HERICK AND MARIE :
AND HAD 2 SONNES AND 9 DAUGHTERS BY ONE WIFE,
WITH WHOM HE LIVED 51 YEARES.
AT HIS DEATH HE GAVE AWAY 16 POUNDS, 10 SHILLINGS,
A YEARE TO GOOD USES.
HE LIVED 78 YEARES :
AND AFTER DYED VERY GODLY THE 14TH OF JUNE, 1618.

ALL FLESH IS GRASS; BOTH YOUNG AND OLD MUST DIE ;
AND SO WE PASSE TO JUDGMENT BY AND BY.”

Alderman Robert Herick's brother Nicholas was the second son of their parents. He was born in the year 1542. When about fourteen years of age, he was articled to a goldsmith in London. He subsequently established himself in the same business, which, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, before the professional banker was known, was often a business associated with the keeping and lend-

ing of money, and its transmission to distant places. Nicholas was the father of one of our English poets, who has been fancifully designated the "English Anacreon"—a poet whose sweet lyrics breathe a passionate love of nature, of old customs, and of rural life, and, while we read them, familiarize us with the joyous and festive life of olden time, when the merry youth disported themselves in the meadows and the groves: in whose pages the sylvan scenes of old England reappear before us in all their freshness and beauty.

As, however, it is neither with Robert Herrick, the poet, nor his father Nicholas, that this brief memoir is concerned, I pass on to William Herrick, the subject of the portrait now hanging on the right hand of the Mayor's Chair. The youngest son of John and Mary Eyrick, and their youngest child but one, he was born in the year 1562. The register of S. Martin's parish attests the fact; though some uncertainty seems to have existed in relation to it, his age having been several times misstated. When William was born, Nicholas was of age, and commencing his life's career in the great metropolis. With what principles the two were fortified to pass through the career that lay before them, we may learn from one of good old John Eyrick's letters to his son Nicholas:*

"Nicholas Eyreck," he says, "your mother and I have us commended unto you, trusting that you be in health. We do pray to God daily to bless you, and to give you grace to be good, diligent, and obedient to your master, both in word and deed; and be profitable unto him, as well behind his back as before his face; and trust nor lend none of his goods without his leave or consent; and, this doing, God will bless you and all that you go about. And if so be that you be faithful and painful in your master's business, so as I hope you to be, doubtless God will provide for you another day the like as much again. And look—how you be yourself, so look you for the like; for it is a great part of the filling of God his commandments to do as we would be done unto. I pray God to give you his grace to live in his fear; and then you shall not do amiss."

Such are the affectionate exhortations of John and Mary Herrick to their second† boy, thrown into London—then, as now, a place where peril and temptation for the young abound; and it may be fairly presumed that the after success of Nicholas, and his young brother William, were in great part attributable to an obedient and filial observance of the precepts enjoined upon them by their parents.

The boyhood of William Herrick was passed in the old house in the Market-place, where his grandfather had lived and died, where his father was born, and where his aunts and uncles also had lived.‡

* Mr. John Gough Nichols informs me that this letter was addressed to William, not to Nicholas Heyricke.

† The fifth son, if William were addressed.

‡ The home of the Herricks stood on the site of the house and premises now

Three hundred years ago, the Market-place was surrounded with old houses of timber, their gables pointing to the open area and overhanging the lower storeys, around them being gardens or plots of ground—elm trees spreading their leafy boughs across the grass-grown space, and the pinfold standing in one corner.

It was a kind of sunny social life the people then enjoyed, free from the ostentatious parade and corroding anxiety of modern times. Some of the popular sports were coarse—for they baited the bear and the bull in the Market-place; but others were less so; as, for example, when the inhabitants went a birding, with hawk on wrist, in the unenclosed fields round Leicester; and there was a simple and hearty hospitality and genuine neighbourly feeling then existing, which complete a picture somewhat different from that presented in the more refined and pretentious nineteenth century.

It was this kind of Leicester with which William Herrick was familiar in his boyish days, when he was in all probability a pupil at the Free Grammar School. But he was sent very early to London, to his brother Nicholas, where he was initiated in the business of a goldsmith. His father, writing to Nicholas, in the year 1575, says, "I have received your letter by your brother William. And I give you hearty thanks that you would send him to Leicester to see us; for your mother and I did long to see him; and so did his brothers and sisters; for the which we give you hearty thanks. We thought he had not been so tall as he is, nor never would have been."*

We here get a pleasing glimpse of the interior of the household in which William Herrick was nurtured. It was one evidently in which gentle and natural affection, and brotherly and sisterly union, reigned supreme. The boy of fifteen, springing up into the tall youth, was clearly welcomed home with equal pride and pleasure.

Three years after, his mother forwarded to him a pair of knitted hose and a pair of knitted Jersey gloves, in return for presents of marmalade, foreign fruit, and fish, which he had conveyed to her some time before. Indeed, the letters extant show that William Herrick was at this period of his life continually forwarding presents

occupied by Mr. Griffin, ironmonger. We discover the fact in this way:—In the will of Alderman Robert Heyrick, dated March 26, 1617, he desires to be "given forth of the house he dwelt in, to be paid yearly for ever," £5 into the Mayor's hands, for the purpose of purchasing loaves of bread to be distributed among the poor in all the parishes of the town. This annuity is still paid, more than two hundred and forty years after the date of the bequest, by Mr Griffin, as the owner of the house which stands where the venerable alderman's originally stood. It is the corner house of the Market-place and Cheapside. Ald. Robert Herick inherited the property from his father, John Eyrick, who purchased it from his elder brother Nicholas, who succeeded his father, Thomas, by whom it was bequeathed to Nicholas in the will made in the year 1517. Judging from the style of buildings erected at the commencement of the sixteenth century, it was probably one of four gables—two overhanging the Cheapside, two the Market-place—and a picturesque fabric.

* Nichols's History of Leicestershire, vol. ii., part 2, p. 621.

from London to his parents, manifesting warm filial affection in return for the unceasing regard they expressed to him, which shines out of these ancient messages as freshly and brightly as if the writers were alive but yesterday, instead of having been in their graves two hundred and sixty years.

When the portrait in the Mayor's Parlour to which allusion has been made, was painted, William Herrick was thirty-two years of age. As already remarked, this picture has been for some time considered to be that of a citizen of London named Bond; but the pedigree of that family does not contain any person whose age would correspond with that mentioned on the portrait. What has probably led to the supposition that the person represented was a Bond, is the introduction of the arms of that family into the picture, in one corner, and upon the signet-ring worn on one of the fingers of the subject. As, however, a ring with the same arms upon it appears by the will of old Robert Heyricke to have been in his possession, and as the Bond shield is figured on the wainscot of an old pew in Woodhouse chapel with William Herrick's initials above it—thus showing that the brothers at one time committed the not uncommon mistake of appropriating their mother's armorial insignia—it is very probable the same error was fallen into by the artist who painted William Herrick's portrait. That the latter was a member of the Goldsmith's Company when his likeness was executed is tolerably certain, and this accounts for the appearance of the arms of the Company by the side of those of Bond. There is little difficulty, therefore, in coming to the conclusion that the second portrait was that of William Herrick.

He had now become a prosperous man, having evidently for some time left the house of his brother Nicholas, and entered on an independent career. In the ten or twelve years following the attainment of his majority, he had amassed considerable wealth, for he purchased the estate at Beaumanor from the agents of Robert, Earl of Essex, in 1595, when he was only a year older than he is seen to be in his portrait. In another year the new proprietor of Beaumanor married Joan May, daughter of Richard May, Esq., a citizen of London, and sister of Sir Humphrey May, Knight, once Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. He now renewed his connection with his native town, and became enrolled on the list of freemen, giving to the Mayor "in kindness" twelve silver spoons, with the cinquefoil upon the knobs of them, instead of the usual fee of 10s. Shortly afterwards, in the year 1601, Mr. Herrick was elected one of the Burgesses in Parliament, with Mr. Belgrave, of Belgrave, and remained in that position until the decease of Queen Elizabeth, in March, 1603. In that year, Sir Henry Skipwith and Sir Henry Beaumont of Gracedieu were elected to represent Leicester in Parliament. In the early part of the year 1605 William Herrick was knighted by King James, and he was a second time returned member

for Leicester in the place of Sir Henry Beaumont, who deceased in the month of October of the same year. At this time also he was appointed to an office in the royal jewel-house,* having for one of his coadjutors George Heriot—the “jingling Geordie” with whom Scott has rendered us delightfully familiar in his “Fortunes of Nigel,” who was the contemporary, and in some sort the rival, of Sir William Herrick; who himself must have seen as much of the eccentric and pedantic monarch as Heriot did in his frequent intercourse with royalty. The owner of Beaumanor was now as frequently a resident in the metropolis as in the country, for he was appointed a Teller of the Exchequer about the same date as that under review; and in this capacity, as in that of the great capitalist and court banker of the age, whose money was lent alike to the king, the noble, the peeress, and the commoner, he cannot help but have been constantly employed.

He was not however a mere sordid money maker; since we find his services were sought by the inhabitants of Leicester in affairs of importance, and by him freely given. He lent his valuable assistance—his “great paynes and care”—in the purchase of the Grange, near this town; for which the whole Corporation acknowledged themselves “bound unto him,” and which services Mr. Manby, the Mayor, said “all succeeding ages” would have great cause to acknowledge. He was, besides, mainly instrumental in the incorporating of Trinity Hospital. The numerous and important benefits conferred upon the borough by Sir William Herrick led to the declaration by the Chief Magistrate, and his compeers in the municipal body, in 1616, that they were beholden to him, not only in regard to the affairs of Trinity Hospital, but for “divers others” his “loving favours” manifested unto them and the whole Corporation, and they desired the continuance of his kind favours; “for,” they added, “upon yourself we and our whole corporation are bold wholly to rely, without which we know not what might befall us.”

* In the year 1620, the worthy knight was a third time elected member for Leicester, with Sir Richard Morison, Knight, Master of the Ordnance. In the letter to Mr. Pares, the Mayor, (still extant,) in which he returns thanks, he characteristically writes: “It is a sentence in the Gospel that there were ten lepers cleansed, but there was only one that returned to give thanks. I wish I may be that one; for of all vices I would not be counted ungrateful. I acknowledge your love to me in chosing me your burgess; and I speak it with truth, never any did with better alacrity attend that service than myself did.”

This paper would be extended much beyond the limits of such a memoir as can be offered to the notice of a meeting like the present,

* *Nichols's Leicestershire*, vol. iii., part 1, page 150, note 6.

were all to be included in it that could be said of Sir William Herrick. It must therefore be brought to a close. On the Knight's retirement from Parliament, he seems to have sought the tranquil enjoyments of a country life in his mansion, surrounded by the noble oaks of Charnwood Forest. There he dwelt until the year of his decease in 1653, aged 91, surrounded by his children's children's children, as his venerable mother Mary Eyrick was, when—at the age of 97—she died in 1611, having seen before her departure one hundred and forty-two of her descendants.

It is here worthy of mention, that since the decease of Sir William Herrick, the estate of Beaumanor has passed in regular succession through the hands of five other William Herricks, whose united ages yield an average to each of 76 years; the present proprietor (Wm. Perry-Herrick, Esq.) being the seventh link in the genealogical chain, and enjoying the prospect of a longevity equal to that of any of his forefathers. The late William Heyrick, Esq., of Thurmaston, the last male representative in the direct line of Ald. Robert Herrick, died, it will be remembered, at a good old age, a few years ago.

Enough will, I think, have been said to show that the portraits of the brothers Herrick, preserved in the old Guildhall of Leicester, are those of two Town Worthies; to whose efforts in the past, we of the present day are indebted for the preservation and extension of our municipal heritage. To such men we may point as to those who greatly helped to build up the fabric of local self-government, in the reigns of the Tudors and Stuarts, and who, by their civic services, their public benevolence, their patriotic spirit, and, last but not least, their exemplary domestic lives, showed the worth existing in human nature. Sincere but unostentatious; austere in profession but genial in practice; rigid in creed but tolerant in heart—these municipal magnates of the Puritan times come down to us as types illustrative of ancient manners and forgotten principles, the study of which may serve to stimulate and instruct their successors; and in an age in which men live in large towns, of which the government becomes every day more complicated and more important, examples of simple life, of elevated integrity, and of love of doing one's duty for its own sake, may well be brought before us, even from the graves of men of the seventeenth century, to excite our admiration and to enkindle our emulation. We need not turn to the cities of ancient Greece, nor to the turbulent municipalities of ancient Italy, for models of human conduct, while we have had in our own towns patterns of private and public virtue, more homely perhaps than those described by the classic historians, but more true to nature, safer to imitate, and, being of our own race, better acquainted with the wants and requirements of the people of their age, who only differed from the people of our age in being placed in circumstances

varying from ours, but who were identical with us in all the essentials of national character.

29th July, 1861.

The REV. ROBERT BURNABY in the chair.

MR. JAMES THOMPSON having communicated the information that Mr. John Gough Nichols had collected and arranged the ancient letters in the possession of Mr. Perry-Herrick, the following motion was adopted:—

“That, in the opinion of this Society, the extracts from the letters of the members of the Herrick family, used at the late *soirée*, indicated that the letters possessed great local interest and value, and therefore the publication of the whole series would be viewed with pleasure by this Society.”

It was reported that arrangements were completed for holding a General Meeting at Lutterworth on the 18th and 19th of September next.

MR. JAMES THOMPSON further made some observations relative to the value of the past transactions of the Society, and advocated their publication.

The following articles, antiquities, &c., were exhibited:—

By MR. ORDISH, a chromo-lithograph of Ecclesiastical and Domestic Furniture, designed by the late Mr. Pugin, and shown at the exhibition of 1851. Mr. Ordish presented the picture to the Society.

By MR. HUNT, an ancient coin, found near the church at Humberstone. On examination it proved to be a Nuremberg jetton, issued by Damian Krauwinckel, and probably of the fifteenth century. These jettons or tokens are found abundantly all over the country. They were coined by the eminent merchants of Nuremberg, when that great city was the emporium of European commerce, and when they had dealings with merchants in all parts of the world. A great variety of articles were made there, and hence the couplet:

“Nuremberg's hand
Goes through every land.”

The frequency of the finding of these tokens in England is in some measure accounted for by their having formerly been commonly used as counters.

By MR. THOMPSON, a manuscript book, containing the rent-roll of Philip Sherard, Esq., of Teigh, in the county of Rutland, of which he gave the following account:—