

How far the present interference of Government accords with this, is a subject of considerable interest and open to grave criticism.

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28th January, 1861.

THE REV. J. H. HILL in the Chair.

The following resolutions, &c., were passed in Committee:—

That Mr. G. C. Bellairs be treasurer in the room of the late Mr. Isaac Hodgson.

That the Rev. E. W. Woodcock be a member of the committee.

That Mr. Goddard be auditor for the year.

A letter from the Rev. J. M. Gresley, announcing his resignation of the office of joint honorary secretary, and of his retirement as a member of the Society having been read, it was resolved, "That the thanks of the Society be presented to him for his able and indefatigable services, and that he be elected an honorary member of this Society."

That Mr. North be elected Honorary Secretary of the Society in the room of the Rev. J. M. Gresley.

Mr. JOHN THOMPSON was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. VINCENT WING exhibited some fine and interesting photographs from the church of S. Chad, Stockton, Salop, which has been lately restored from that gentleman's own designs.

Mr. GODDARD exhibited an ancient iron stirrup and a spur.

Mr. VINCENT WING called the attention of the Society to the bad and dangerous state of the fine church at Melton Mowbray, and to the absolute necessity for extensive repairs being made to the fabric. He also referred to the limited supply of funds, and the great difficulty of raising money for the purpose.

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25th March, 1861.

THE REV. ROBERT BURNABY in the Chair.

Mr. NORTH (Honorary Secretary) presented and read the following Report of the proceedings of the Society for the past year, which was adopted, and ordered to be printed in the next annual volume of the associated societies:—

## THE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1860.

IN reporting the operations of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society for the year 1860, your Committee will divide their remarks into three sections:—

- I. The Bi-Monthly Meetings.
- II. Architectural Progress in the County during the year.
- III. The Exhibition and Soirée.

The bi-monthly meetings have been of a most interesting character, and the objects exhibited both rare and curious, but of so varied a character as to render anything like a definite description of them in a Report altogether impracticable.

The numismatical department has been well represented during the year. Among other contributions, Mr. G. H. Nevinson exhibited Roman coins found at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, counters and tradesmen's tokens; the Rev. G. E. Gillett, English silver coins from Waltham; the Rev. J. Sankey, Roman and English coins, with some medals; Mr. North, some local tradesmen's tokens. To Mr. G. C. Neale the Society and all coin-collectors are much indebted for a short Paper upon *Treasure Trove*, which your Committee have pleasure in presenting to the members of this Society in the volume of Reports and Papers about to be printed by the Societies in union for that purpose. The subject is one claiming the attention of all interested in local antiquities; for, if the Government is, unchallenged, to assert its right to all coins found below the surface of the soil, the private collector will have little inducement to follow his favourite study, and the local museum will be wanting in a department illustrative of local history, most interesting to all enquirers into the "by-gones" of particular localities.

Several typographical curiosities have been laid upon the table:

The *Ryde ware Cartulary*, a MS. compiled 2 Edward II., by Thomas de Ryde-ware, lord of the manor of Seile, Leicestershire, containing transcripts of charters, and illustrated by several curious drawings showing the dress, regal, military, and ecclesiastical, of the period, was exhibited by the Rev. J. M. Gresley, at the October meeting. The *Staffordshire Clog Almanack*, mentioned in Shaw's History of Staffordshire, was also exhibited and illustrated by a paper read by Mr. Gresley at the same meeting. The same gentleman exhibited numerous curiosities at the other meetings of the Society, as did also Mr. Goddard, Mr. Jacques, the Rev. J. H. Hill, and other members.

Several Papers illustrative of local history and antiquities, or of the objects exhibited, have been read during the year, which your Committee regret cannot be placed upon permanent record, they being worthy of more than a mere passing notice in a necessarily short Report.

- i. The Monumental Brass of Robert Staunton, Esq., and Agnes his wife, at Castle Donington; description of the Brass, and historical sketch of the Family, by the Rev. J. M. Gresley.
- ii. Churchyard Crosses, by V. Wing, Esq.
- iii. Newstead, by the Rev. J. M. Gresley.
- iv. The Biddenden Cake, by G. C. Neale, Esq.
- v. Staffordshire Clog Almanack, by the Rev. J. M. Gresley.
- vi. Treasure Trove, by G. C. Neale, Esq.  
If we may anticipate a few lines, and add to these the Papers read at the Soirée which we shall notice presently, we have
- vii. Mediæval Costume, as illustrated by Monumental Brasses, by the Rev. Chas. Boutell, M.A.
- viii. The Objects of Architectural and Archæological Societies, by F. W. Ordish, Esq.
- ix. The State of Leicester in the early part of the seventeenth century, by J. Gough Nichols, Esq., F.S.A.
- x. Recent Discoveries illustrative of Roman Leicester, by James Thompson, Esq.

Had this Society's work, during the past year, been confined simply to the bringing of these Papers before its members and the public, its existence would have needed no apology.

Paper No. IX. is also printed in the volume for the year 1860.

Though your Committee have to regret that during the past year few Architectural Plans have been laid before them, still, much has been done in the county in the way of church restoration, the erection of school-houses or other buildings claiming particular attention, in many of which members of this Society feel a deep interest, or with which they are intimately connected. The following may be cited:—

*S. Martin's Church, Leicester.* The restoration of this church is again being resumed: this time alteration as well as restoration is to take place. The spire and tower being pronounced in a dangerous state, the former has been taken down, and the latter is to follow in the ensuing spring. It will be remembered the tower rests upon four Norman arches, the western one being made additionally heavy in appearance, by the addition, some years ago, of a course of brickwork to increase its strength; these, with the large mass of masonry containing the belfry stairs, are to be removed, the whole to be replaced by an Early English tower, resting upon corresponding arches and surmounted by a broach-spire—should sufficient funds be forthcoming—in character and design similar to the well known example at Ketton in Northamptonshire. The belfry stairs will be placed in the north transept, the entrance being from the exterior. The north or Heyricke's chapel, which is in a very dilapidated condition, is to be restored, and the north transept to be carried out considerably: the whole being under the architectural care of Mr. Brandon.

The substitution of one style of architecture for another in rebuilding portions of an ancient church, is a proceeding which in almost every instance is open to severe criticism, if not to reprobation; but there will be so much apparent gain, in this instance, to the general effect and utility of the church, in bringing the chancel into closer connection with the nave, and in throwing open a large space by the removal of the belfry stairs, that the general rule is, perhaps in this case, judiciously departed from. Plans and elevations of the intended alterations were exhibited at the late Soirée of this Society.

*S. Mary's Church, Leicester.* During the past year the restoration of this venerable church has been brought to a close. This church is of large dimensions, and is peculiarly interesting as exhibiting various styles of architecture, beginning with early Norman, of which there are some fine examples. The works effected during the year consist of the rebuilding of the whole arcade on the north side of the nave, with the clerestory above. Before their reconstruction the arches on this side the nave were extremely plain, being entirely destitute of mouldings; they are now, however, richly moulded, to make them correspond with those on the south side. The clerestory, like the arches below, is in the Early English style, displaying twelve lancet windows, joined together on the outside by a continuous arcade with clustered columns. The north side of the nave now forms a fine feature of the church. The other works carried on during the year were the completion of the seats, which are of oak with carved poppy heads, and the substitution of an elaborately carved oak pulpit in the place of the old one. A south porch has also been erected in the Early English style, which has a fine recessed doorway with enriched mouldings. The inside is ornamented with an extremely chaste arcade with polished alabaster pillars. All the doors of the church, too, have been replaced in oak, those on the north and south being good specimens of carving, exactly copied from the old ones. The other doors are of plain oak, covered with richly wrought iron work. The lighting of the church is also entirely new, being effected by means of gaseliers suspended from the roof, manufactured by Skidmore of Coventry. They are of very handsome design, the coronæ in the chancel and that over the font being much richer than the rest. The rebuilding of the arcade of the nave and the erection of the south porch were carried out, from the designs of Mr. G. G. Scott, by Mr. Broadbent, of Leicester.

The munificence displayed in this work of restoration by a member of this Society—the outlay being almost entirely defrayed, and the works personally superintended by Mr. Thomas Nevinson—not only makes the town of Leicester, a lasting debtor to his large-hearted liberality, but sheds a lustre upon any Architectural Society which, like this, can number him among its most energetic supporters.

*S. Andrew's Church, Leicester.* This new church is now in course of erection in the parish of S. Mary, from designs of Mr. G. G. Scott. A sketch of the exterior was exhibited at the late Meeting and Soirée of the Society in Leicester.

*Belgrave Church.* The chancel of this church has been recently restored by Mr. Evan Christian, the architect to the Ecclesiastical Commission. This fabric is ex-

ceedingly interesting, being of the Decorated character, and the details of the tracery almost *unique*—there being only two or three other churches in the country possessing similar architectural features. The original character of the fabric has been faithfully preserved; the reduced pitch of the roof adopted since the Reformation has, however, unfortunately being retained. The chancel is furnished with open seats placed choir-wise.

*Skeffington Church.* The restoration of this church, dedicated to S. Thomas à Beckett, is rapidly approaching completion: when the works were commenced the intention was merely to re-seat the church and replace the roof, which from decay had become in a dangerous state, by a new one: Richard Sutton, Esq., however, would not allow the good work to be stayed where absolute necessity would have allowed it, but at his own cost undertook the re-erection of the aisles, south porch, font, &c. Subsequently Mr. Sutton has also rebuilt the chancel entirely at his own expense, inserting in the east end a stained glass window by Wailes of Newcastle. The church is now almost a new structure, but, with the exception of the porch and chancel, is a faithful copy of the original building. The seats are of Spanish deal. The roof is of the same wood, *one bay* of the old one fortunately remaining as a guide to the restorer in erecting the new. The font, of Aubigny stone, is placed close to the south door.

The chancel has been rebuilt from designs by the architect, in a character to harmonize with the other portion of the church, which is built in the Late Perpendicular style; the old chancel was of so late a date as to be properly avoided in the rebuilding. The reredos is of stone, with alabaster panels, and is richly carved. The seats here, screens, altar-rails, pulpit, and desk are of oak.

Mr. Millican of Leicester is the architect; the carving, by Mr. Barfield of Leicester, is admirable workmanship.

*Pickwell Church.* This Church, dedicated to All Saints, has a tower at the west end, and a good sized nave, aisles, and chancel. A peculiar feature here is that the chancel is nearly the same height as the nave, and there is no arch to divide the two. The north aisle is one bay longer than the south; and the northern arcade, which is composed of late Norman arches, originally extended nearly to the end of the chancel. The tower, which is Perpendicular work—like so many others in this part of the county—is of excellent workmanship. The lower half of the belfry windows had been blocked up, but they are now opened, and restored to their original condition: the lower window and base mouldings have also been repaired.

The original plans for the restoration comprised new roofs on nave and aisles, rebuilding the south aisle and porch, opening the tower arch, removing plaster from the walls, and renewing the mouldings; re-seating with open benches, new pulpit and reading-desk, re-glazing the windows, new pinnacles on the south aisle, and the introduction of an arch between the nave and the chancel. All these works have been carried out, with the exception of the pinnacles and chancel-arch, which were abandoned for want of funds. The division between nave and chancel is shewn by bringing one of the roof-principals lower down, and filling up the spandrils with tracery.

The native stone has been used for the new ashlar work, and Ancaster stone for the door and window dressings. The expenses, beyond what is raised by rate, are being defrayed by the Earl of Gainsborough, A. Smith, Esq., of Leesthorpe, and the Rev. G. Lovett. Mr. R. W. Johnson of Melton Mowbray is the architect.

*Welby Church.* This church is a plain building, without aisles, and has a small gabled tower at the west end. The chancel has a good east window of Early Perpendicular work, and windows of a similar character on either side. The nave of the church, in addition to windows of a nondescript character, was lighted by two heavy dormer windows intersecting the roof, which was ceiled. In last summer, the roof having given way, a new one became a necessity: so the dormer windows have been removed, and a new open roof in character with the building has been put on. New windows similar to those in the chancel have replaced the old ones, and a new south doorway and porch have been erected.

The internal fittings, with the exception of the pulpit—which is Jacobean—are very poor; it is hoped the parishioners will complete the restoration by re-seating the church, a plan for which is now under consideration. Further improvements, by lowering the ground, &c., are to be made; formerly there was a descent of two steps into the church, now the floor and the churchyard will be level. Mr. R. W. Johnson of Melton is the architect employed.

*Fenny Drayton Church.* Two years ago this church presented a lamentable spectacle of neglect and desolation; it was covered—nave and aisles—by one low-pitched roof, and lighted by a skylight! The chancel window was gone, and its place supplied by a square opening. Internally, there were the to-be-expected features—a low plastered ceiling, and the high ugly pews.

The first active work of the recently appointed rector, the Rev. J. E. Colyer, was—aided by subscriptions—to place the church in the hands of Mr. W. Jackson, architect, of Leicester, to effect a thorough restoration. The old roof has been replaced by new ones of higher pitch over the nave and south aisle; the walls have been cleared of stucco and partly rebuilt; a new east window has been inserted; the old pews have given place to carved stalls in the chancel and open benches in the body of the church; a new chancel-arch with responds supplies the place of the wooden beam which finished the old ceiling; a new tower-arch that of the old "singers' gallery;" and a new porch of stone that of the old one of brick.

*Thorpe Satchville Church.* This church has been partially restored, and wholly re-pewed in oak; the pulpit, reading-desk, and altar-rails, are new, as is the east window, font, &c. The works were executed by Mr. Sherwood and Messrs. Linley and Fern, under the inspection of Mr. Henry Goddard, architect, Leicester.

*Burrow-on-the-Hill.* This church has also been restored by Mr. Henry Goddard, architect, of Leicester. In addition to new seats in the church, a new oak pulpit, reading desk, altar-rails, stalls in chancel, &c., have been erected; and the richly ornamented Early English font thoroughly cleaned and restored. It is now placed near the south entrance. On scraping the arcade arches the remains of elaborate decorations in colours were discovered, and the timbers of the roof, &c., were found to have been similarly ornamented. The works were executed by Mr. Broadbent, of Leicester.

*Owston Church.* This church (the only remaining portion of the abbey founded here in the reign of Edward III. by Robert Grimbold) has been thoroughly restored, and the spire heightened. The works by Mr. Broadbent; the architect, Mr. Henry Goddard, of Leicester.

*Birstall School.* A new national school has been erected at Birstall, from the designs of Mr. W. Millican, architect, Leicester. It will accommodate 120 children. The cost is £400., exclusive of site. The building is of Mountsorrel granite, with Bath stone dressings to windows, doors, &c.; with an open timbered roof, covered with tiles. The whole is of an early character.

*Enderby School,* by the same architect, and of similar design and materials, is completed, and will shortly be opened.

Your Committee, in addition to the ecclesiastical and scholastic edifices thus enumerated, can point with pleasure to many private residences lately erected, or now in course of erection, in the neighbourhood of Leicester, which show great originality in plan, and considerable taste in many of their details. With room for further improvement, there is, undoubtedly, a freedom and boldness which promise much in the future.

In consequence of intended arrangements for the annual meeting, to be held at Lutterworth, not being carried into effect, it was determined that the year should not close without the members and friends of your Society being called together, as they had been, once at least during each year of the Society's existence; these meetings not only being found most agreeable and interesting to the members themselves, but tending to strengthen and to carry out the intentions of the Society by the addition of new members, by causing to be brought together for exhibition antiquities, and works of art, which otherwise would never appear before the public, and by eliciting papers upon local topics—architectural, historical, or antiquarian—from members or friends of the Society.

It was therefore proposed to hold a meeting in Leicester. The arrangements were placed in the hands of a sub-committee, who determined upon the rather bold experiment of an Archaeological Soirée, to be held in the Music Hall, on the 5th of December. The loan of antiquarian objects, photographic views of churches, drawings of ancient buildings, architectural designs, specimens of carving, antique china and objects of *virtu* was solicited, the intention of the exhibition being, as stated by the Committee in their circular, "to illustrate the Art of Architecture and the Science of Archaeology, and, as subordinate thereto, to exhibit specimens of Decorative Art generally." This appeal was well responded to. The tables were arranged, as far as possible, according to date; whilst the drawings and photographs were hung upon the walls, and upon upright stands prepared for them.

[The Report proceeds to record the proceedings at the Soirée, which do not require repeating here. See p. 1.]

In concluding a somewhat lengthy Report, your Committee would congratulate the Society upon the increased desire exhibited throughout the county to uphold and to restore the venerable fabrics in which our fathers worshipped for so many centuries; and upon the care, and, in most instances, the correct architectural taste, shewn in the restoration or rebuilding of them. They must also be permitted to refer with considerable satisfaction to the success attending the Exhibition and Soirée just referred to. It being the first meeting of that kind attempted by the Committee, there were, unavoidably, some slight mistakes in the arrangements, which experience will teach how to avoid in the future. Congratulations must not, however, blind us to the fact that your Society does not make the progress in numbers and consequently in influence which its objects certainly claim.

Your Committee, in order to strengthen its position, would strongly urge upon each member the duty of paying his subscription punctually, enlisting his friends as members, and of furthering the objects of the Society to the best of his ability.

THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNT for the past year, shewing a balance of £8. 17s. 6d. in favour of the Society, was also presented and adopted.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Society: The Rev. E. J. Colyer, Fenny Drayton Rectory; the Rev. R. J. Allen, Leicester; the Rev. Assheton Pownall, South Kilworth Rectory; Mr. Wm. Jackson, Architect, Leicester; Mr. Fred. Jackson, Architect, Nottingham; Mr. Henry Moore, Leicester.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the following memorial, referring to the new Government Offices, be sent to the Right Hon. Lord John Manners, M.P., for presentation to the House of Commons.

“To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled,

The humble petition of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society sheweth

That the Gothic Style of Architecture is in the opinion of your memorialists the national style of England.

That whilst it is universally recognized as the most fitting for ecclesiastical edifices, it is equally, they believe, well adapted—whether considered as to its beauty or economy—to every purpose of public utility, and is thoroughly identified with the natural tastes, sentiments, and traditions of the people.

Your memorialists therefore humbly pray your honourable house to adopt the Gothic style of Architecture for the new Government Offices about to be erected.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

Signed on behalf of the members of the Society,

THO. NORTH,

Hon. Secretary.”

MR. G. C. NEALE exhibited two fine medals and described them thus:

I exhibit a very interesting and well struck medal commemo-

rating the defeat of the Spanish Armada, improperly, if not impiously, called the "invincible." It is the work of a Dutch artist, and dated 1588, the period from which commenced the gradual decadence of the once powerful and flourishing kingdom of Spain. From the device and inscriptions, we regard the medal as satirical. On the obverse are seated in Council, the Pope, wearing his triple crown, cardinals, bishops, and other Roman Catholic princes, having their eyes bandaged, and their bare feet placed upon prickles. Above is the inscription, *O coecae hominum mentes, O pectora coeca*—"O the blind minds of men, O their blind breasts." Between two beaded circles we read, *Durum est contra stimulos calcitrare*—"It is hard to kick against the pricks." On the reverse is represented the destruction of the Armada; some of the ships have struck upon the rocks and are sinking in the deep; their sails are swelled and riven by the wind; and men are floating on pieces of the wreck or struggling in the waves. Above is a play on the memorable words of a more successful invader than Philip: *Veni, vide, vive*—"Come, see, live." Whilst the Spanish monarch and his courtiers ascribed the dispersion of the mighty fleet to the weather, or as a judgment from heaven for allowing the Moors to dwell in Spain, the Queen of England and her subjects piously expressed their feelings in the inscription which encircles this medal, *Tu deus magnus et magna facis tu solus deus*—"Thou art the great God, and doest great things as the only God." It is interesting to observe how medals as well as coins assist in establishing or confirming historical facts. For instance, on the defeat of the Armada, the High Admiral, Lord Howard of Effingham, reverently alluded to God as being "our best friend," for whilst the vigilance of Drake, and the sudden appearance of our fire-ships in Calais roads effected much, it is evident the "freshening gale" was the more immediate cause of the enemy's destruction. Another medal, struck for the occasion, has the appropriate inscription, *Flavit et dissipati sunt*—"He blew and they were scattered." The legend on Elizabeth's "fine sovereign," *A Dno factu est istud, et est mirab in ocul nrs*—"It is the Lord's doing and marvellous in our eyes," might at first sight seem to allude to the aforementioned event; but we read that the Queen uttered these words on hearing of the death of her sister. However this may have been, we are certain it was not an original but an adopted motto, as it appears on the gold coins of the previous reign. The interesting little picture on the reverse of the medal reminds us of the graphic description given by Drake of the defeat and annihilation of the Spanish armament,—"*Beaten and shuffled together from the Lizard to Calais, driven by squibs from the anchors, and chased out of sight of England, about Scotland and Ireland, their invincible and dreadful navy, with all its great and terrible ostentation, did not in all their sailing about England so*

much as sink or take one ship, bark, or pinnace, or cock-boat of ours, or even burn so much as one sheepecote on this land."

I beg also to exhibit a medallion of Queen Anne, engraved by Croker, and struck to commemorate what is described as "Great Anna's reign, long accounted the Augustan age of England." A medal commemorative of an era adorned with the names of Sir Isaac Newton, Locke, Pope, Steele, and Addison, is interesting to the general observer, and most valuable to the collector. Both may regard it as a little tablet on which England gladly recorded her appreciation of an age of literature and science. The obverse has a magnificent bust of the Queen, boldly struck and finely delineated. The head is crowned, and the hair tied back with strings of pearls. The drapery is rich and jewelled, and several orders are worn upon, or suspended from the breast. The inscription is the same as on the coins of the reign, *Anna dei gratia*, &c. On the reverse is represented Minerva: in one hand she holds a spear; the other rests upon a shield, on which is engraved the head of Medusa, not beautiful, as described by the Greeks, or as seen upon amulets, but hideous, with large open mouth, great teeth, lolling tongue, and hair transformed into snakes. The figures on Etruscan vases answer to this description. In the plume surmounting the helmet of Minerva we observe an owl, the substituted symbol of the goddess. The inscription above is *Novæ Palladium Trojæ*. A well preserved coin or medal of Queen Anne is scarce. The bust is raised so far from the field or level surface, that the figure is generally much abraded.

MR. JAMES THOMPSON exhibited a curious small chest or casket, oblong in shape, and about seven inches in length, probably a reliquary: it was found in sinking a shaft in a cellar in the neighbourhood of Oakham. It was made of copper, enamelled, and inlaid with figures of saints, and from its style of ornamentation and general appearance, was probably the work of the thirteenth century. Much discussion was elicited as to its probable use. In shape it was not unlike the shrine figured in *The Glossary*, vol. i., p. 426, it having a high pitched lid. Reliquaries were common in churches before the Reformation; they were made of wood and stone as well as of metal, and were frequently elaborately ornamented with most costly embellishments. Again, small coffers or caskets were used for the safe keeping of precious jewels. The one under notice, however, from its size and formation, could hardly have been used for that purpose.

Mr. Thompson further laid before the meeting many fragments of pottery and some Roman coins, which he illustrated by the following remarks:

Within the past seven months extensive excavations have been carried on in the space lying between North Bond Street and South Bond Street in this town, for the purpose of laying the

foundations of a new manufactory, and constructing a reservoir, on the premises of Messrs. Fielding and Johnson, worsted spinners. The site, viewed relatively to the ancient boundaries of Leicester, is nearly central, though nearer to the eastern than the western wall of the original city.

A very large quantity of earth has been removed, to the depth of ten or twelve feet, and, in consequence, the nature of the soil lying over the virgin mould has been discovered. What that would be, after the lapse of from fourteen to eighteen centuries, on a spot which has been inhabited more or less ever since, it is a matter of curiosity to discover. But beyond the presence of a darker coloured earth, lying over the ancient level at irregular heights, and containing small fragments of pottery and bone and rubbish, the sections exhibited no noteworthy specimens of antique objects. Many other fragments, with a few coins, were however turned up, and to those I invite the attention of the Society. I may classify these objects thus:

1. The white pottery.
2. The Samian ware.
3. The coins.

The principal specimen of white pottery is an ampulla, which had originally two handles, one now remaining.

The Samian ware is all in fragments. I produce numerous specimens, lettered for the purpose of explanation. On those lettered from A to I are embossed figures of the animals which were hunted by the Romans—the hare, the stag, the boar, and the rabbit. On fragment D is the stag, in bold relief; on F are the lower limbs of some animal pursued by another, with the potter's name CINNAMUS (probably) partly remaining in relief on the outside. The fragments lettered J and K refer to the gladiatorial customs of the Romans. On J are parts of two naked gladiators, apparently pugilists; they are in bold relief. On K is the figure of a vanquished gladiator, with one knee on the ground, holding up his right hand, in the attitude of soliciting mercy from the spectators. The fragment lettered L is full of subjects. The space is divided into compartments by dotted lines. In one of these the god Mercury is represented in a bent posture, holding in his left hand the caduceus; in another compartment a satyr stands on a pedestal formed of a mask; in another is a rabbit; in another a Cupid; and in another the lower part of an altar. On the fragment lettered M is the representation of Hercules with his club, and on the right of him the compartment is filled with a quasi-column composed of fruit baskets, a mask, and dolphins. On fragment N two cocks are seen sparring. On O are three circles containing a mask, a stag *couchant*, a lion's head, and a semi-draped female figure standing on a pedestal. On P is a rabbit in a circle, surrounded by foliage. On Q are two large leaves. On R are embossed a dog and bird.

On S is a youthful figure carrying a small amphora. On T are a winged figure and a rabbit. On U is a diminutive figure. On V (the rim of a small vessel) is seen a leaf with its stem. Two or three other specimens are not lettered, as they show no marked peculiarity.

On other portions of Samian produced, are impressed the potters' marks, all known to the antiquary, and included in the list appended to Wright's work, *The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon.* Among these are BIGA FECIT, TITURO, ALBUCUS, and SEVERIANUS. One or two names are too faintly impressed to be made out.

The coins found in the same locality with the pottery were not numerous. They consist of a first bronze of Hadrian, with the laureated head on the obverse, and a female figure, holding her right hand over an altar, on the reverse. A second bronze apparently of Cæsar Augustus (the first Roman emperor) who ruled about the commencement of the Christian era. A second bronze of the brutal Domitian, who ruled from 81 to 96 A.D. A second bronze apparently having on the obverse the profile of Hadrian, and on the reverse a seated figure, with spear and shield, and beneath her the word "Britannia." And two or three smaller bronzes.

A small bronze fibula (complete) was also turned up: it is now produced. After the lapse of fifteen or sixteen centuries the pin retains still some "spring" in it.

It should be added that the preservation of these antiquarian relics is to be ascribed to Mr. Fielding Johnson, who has bestowed both care and money in rescuing them from oblivion. As additional evidences of the Roman habitation of Leicester, they are valuable and instructive.

The REV. J. H. HILL exhibited a series of stereograms of Cranoe Church and Rectory, executed by a local artist.

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27th May, 1861.

THE REV. ROBERT BURNABY in the chair.

A letter was read from the Right Honble. Lord John Manners, M.P., acknowledging the receipt of the memorial from this society in favour of the Gothic style of Architecture for the new Foreign Offices, and expressing a hope that all similar societies, would follow so good an example.

The following gentlemen were elected MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY:—

The Honble. Major H. L. Powys-Keck, Stoughton Grange;

C. W. Packe, Esq., M.P.; W. U. Heygate, Esq., M.P.; Major F. Wollaston, Shenton Hall; The Revs. H. L. Dodds, Glen Magna; H. J. Hoskyns, Blaby Rectory; C. W. Belgrave, North Kilworth Rectory; John Sankey, Stoney Stanton Rectory; P. Wilson, Mowsley Rectory; H. D. Millett, Leicester; Edward Elmhirst, Shawell Rectory; Messrs. R. Overton, Jun., Leicester; T. W. H. Miller, Loughborough; F. W. Franks, Billesdon; T. H. Thomson, Leicester; John Taylor, Loughborough; James Spencer, Leicester; and Chas. A. Spencer, Leicester.

IT WAS RESOLVED that a General Meeting and Exhibition be held at Lutterworth early in September next, and that an excursion be made therefrom.

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

By The REV. J. H. HILL, two fine old engravings and a series of photographs of etchings and engravings by Jennings of Market Harborough. He also exhibited a tintured coat of arms of the Ellis family, framed, which was thus described on the back: "Elys or Ellis a family of great antiquity and in great repute in the reign of Edward the third King of England as is confirmed by an ancient manuscript taken Anno Domini 1326 of the nobility and gentry then boare for their standard coat of arms gold on a cross black five crescents of silver. W.E. A.D. 1809."

By The REV. ERNEST TOWER, a sword from Bosworth Field and some portions of encaustic tiles from Shenton Church, bearing heraldic devices, one being apparently Lozengy Or and Gules, the arms anciently borne by Creon of Freeston or Burton Croun, C. O. Lincoln, whose descendant William Lord Vaux, the second son of Petronal de Creon, married Eleanor, daughter of William Lord Ferraris, temp. Hen. III. According to Domesday Henry de Ferrariis held lands at Shenton when the general Survey was taken. A Nuremberg token of the ordinary character was also found lately in Shenton Church.

By Mr. NORTH, specimens of Maundy money of George III., and of the present year. He also contributed the following notes on the

#### MAUNDY CUSTOMS.

It is curious to trace the Maundy customs down to the present moment.

Maundy-Thursday is the day preceding Good-Friday. The word Maundy has received several derivations: according to Halliwell the Anglo-Norman *Maund* signified to command, *Maundement* a commandment; accordingly Maundy-Thursday is the day of Christ's commandment on instituting the Lord's Supper. Again it has been supposed to be derived from the French *Maun-*