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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-*

*dier*, to beg, because the poor on that day were partakers of the liberality of the sovereign. *Maund* is also an old word for a hand-basket with two lids or openings, such as we now see in the butter market; baskets of this kind may have been formerly used in which to carry the gifts on Maundy-Thursday, and so, as Archdeacon Nares remarks, have given a name to the day.

From whatever source the name may be derived, there is no doubt the customs observed on Maundy-Thursday were in commemoration of that act of humility, performed by our Blessed Lord, in washing the feet of His disciples, on the night of His betrayal, as recorded by the Evangelists.

The custom observed by our English sovereigns of then washing the feet of the poor and distributing gifts in commemoration of that event is undoubtedly an ancient one; for centuries past the number of poor people of both sexes chosen to receive the royal bounty, has corresponded with the age of the reigning monarch. There is printed in *Archæologia*, vol. i., p. 8, "The Order of the Maundy made at Greenwich, March 19, 1572," by consulting which, an interesting picture is obtained of the ceremony as performed by Queen Elizabeth. The Queen being then thirty-nine years of age, that number of poor women—the men seem to have been omitted—were assembled in the hall, when her majesty arrived attended by the like number—thirty nine—ladies and gentlewomen, who—after singing, with prayers and the gospel read—assisted her in washing one foot of each of the poor persons in so many basins of warm water and sweet flowers; after which she "wiped, crossed, and kissed them." The Queen then gave to each certain yards of broad cloth to make a gown, then a pair of shoes, then to each a wooden platter, wherein were half a side of salmon, as much lyng, six red herrings, and two loaves of bread; she then gave to each a white wooden dish with claret wine, and having received from each waiting lady her towel and apron, gave to each poor woman one of the same. The treasurer of the chamber then came forward and presented to her majesty thirty-nine small white purses, wherein were thirty-nine pence after the number of the years of her majesty's age, which she distributed; she then further received from him as many red leather purses each containing twenty shillings, for the redemption of her gown, which by ancient order she ought to have given to some one of them at her pleasure. To avoid the "trouble of suit" which was made to obtain possession of the gown, she changed the reward into money, to be thus equally distributed amongst them all.

King James II. was the last English monarch, who in person washed the feet of the poor. This ceremony, until its desuetude, was afterwards performed by the Lord High Almoner. In the *Gentleman's Magazine* for April 1831, will be found an account of the distribution in that year at the Banqueting house, Whitehall.

In addition to the provisions as mentioned before, each recipient received a leathern bag in which were one penny, twopenny, threepenny, and fourpenny pieces of silver, and shillings, in all amounting to about four pounds to each person. The washing by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord High Almoner, took place afterwards in the Royal Chapel, Whitehall.

Hone describes the ceremony as performed in 1814. After distribution of provisions in the morning, at three o'clock in the afternoon seventy-five poor men, and the like number of women (the King, George III. being then seventy-five years of age) assembled in the Chapel Royal, Whitehall, the men on the one side, the women on the other. A procession then entered, consisting of a party of the yeomen of the guard, one of them carrying a large gold dish on his head, containing one hundred and fifty bags, with seventy-five silver pennies in each for the poor people. These were followed by the sub-almoner in his robes, with a sash of fine linen over his shoulder and crossing his waist. He was followed by two boys and two girls, the secretary and another gentleman wearing similar sashes, &c., &c., all carrying large nosegays. The evening service was then performed, at the conclusion of which the silver pennies were distributed, and woollen cloth, linen, shoes, and stockings given to the men and women, and a cup of wine to drink the king's health.

The ceremony of the washing appears now to have been abrogated; perhaps the white sash was a feeble descendant of the ancient towel, and the "nosegays," the representatives of the "sweet flowers" used by Queen Elizabeth. The Maundy ceremonies were further curtailed upon the accession of her present majesty. On Maundy-Thursday, 1838, the men and women received each two pounds ten shillings, and nineteen silver pennies (nineteen being the age of the Queen). The men were presented with woollen and linen clothing, shoes and stockings, and the women with one pound fifteen shillings each, in lieu of clothing. The men and women also received one pound ten shillings, *a commutation for the provisions heretofore distributed*.

Since that time to the present, the annual ceremonies appear to have been the same. This year (1861) the charities were distributed to forty-two aged men and forty-two aged women in Whitehall Chapel. A special evening service was performed. After the first lesson Nares' Anthem, "Blessed is he that considereth the poor and needy" was sung.

The sub-almoner then distributed to each woman one pound fifteen shillings, in lieu of clothing, and to each man shoes and stockings.

Second Anthem, "Hide not Thou Thy face from us O Lord" (Farrant).

The sub-almoner then distributed woollen and linen clothes to each man.

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,