THE bill of fare, presented on this occasion to the historic student of our neighbourhood, is of an unusually diversified character, claiming the attraction of variety if not absolutely recherché.

Such objects and facts, however apparently trivial to the bustling men of the day, as are associated more or less with the progress and development of this great town, and thus calculated to prove of no little interest and reverence to our successors, have been chronicled as fully as the sources of information at the writer's command could supply. Contributions on such topics will at all times be "thankfully received."

Perhaps the most valuable, as it is the most rare of our archaeological discoveries of the year, is that of early ecclesiastical architecture and carved sepulchral slabs, dating from the Anglo-Saxon era, and disclosed during the restoration of the parish church of West Kirby in Cheshire.

The minor objects which have come to light, comprise,—
a Sestertius of the Emperor Trajan, in fair condition, and found during recent excavations in Whitechapel, but which cannot be deemed to have remained here from ancient times; a Shilling of Charles I,—mint mark, an anchor (1628),—discovered among foundations at Everton, and now in the possession of Mr. C. H. Bosomworth.

A Bristol Copper Token of 17th century; obverse, "A BRISTOLL FARTHING, 1660"; in the field "C.B."; reverse, "THE ARMES OF BRISTOLL"; the arms of the city in the field. This piece was found by master John Green, near Rose Lane, Walton-on-the-Hill, in February,
and is now in the writer's possession. Its occurrence here forcibly carries the mind's eye two centuries back, when the traders of Bristol, then a port vying with London itself, called in Liverpool Bay among little ports on the north-western coast, never dreaming of the future prosperity and opulence of this "littel creke of yᵉ Port of Chester." In this instance we may easily imagine the skipper of a craft (lying at anchorage, say off Bootle), or one of his "merrie men," taking an evening lounge up the neighbouring hill for a better view of the estuary and the Cheshire or Welsh coast, and losing his little token, or perhaps "shying" it at some passing bird, as being of no manner of use to him so far from home. The city of Bristol produced tokens to a considerable extent in the middle of the 17th century. Among the types issued by its numerous tradesmen, the present one proves to be not uncommon on the banks of the Avon, though rarely met with so distantly as those of the Mersey.

A silver *Two-penny Piece* (Maunday series) of James II, found by master Thomas Green in April, during levelling operations at the new Anfield Cemetery. The smaller denominations of this monarch's mintage are all scarce.

A *Whetstone*, of fine slaty limestone, one end of which is deeply bevelled for perforation and suspension, the other being much worn and rounded, as if the article had been latterly used to rub with, in place of being rubbed upon. It was found by Mr. Charles Potter, upon one of the mounds of soil formed in the construction of Sefton Park, in January; its date probably the 17th century.

**Operations at Wilderspool.**

Dr. Kendrick, having engaged to record the recent discoveries on this Roman site in a memoir for our next session, upon the present occasion merely supplies the following epitome:

"The excavations at Wilderspool, near Warrington, are
"proceeding very rapidly, and are watched with close atten-
tion by several local antiquaries. Although very few entire
specimens are found, yet the amazing quantity of Roman
"pottery, in a fragmentary state, shews that its manufacture
"was largely carried on at this spot, and many uncommon
"patterns and some unique forms of Roman vessels, have
"pleasantly rewarded the explorers. Fragments of glass
"vessels, implements of iron, bronze fibulae, hair pins, and
"Roman coins are also frequently discovered. As yet no
"traces of human habitation, with the exception of a few roof
"tiles, and flooring of clay, have been met with, but there
"is every reason to anticipate that, ere long, remains of build-
ings will be found, to complete the only link required to
"identify Wilderspool with the 'Condate' of Antonine."

SECTION OF BEWSLEY VALLEY AT WARRINGTON.

The railway under construction through the town of War-
lington is carried upon a viaduct across the Bewsey valley,
where extensive excavations were required, in order to reach a
rock foundation, on which the supporting pillars were laid.
The section thus presented was as follows, viz:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FT</th>
<th>IN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lacustrine accumulations, consisting of silt from the boulder clay, fire clay, and small pieces of coal transported from the neighbourhood of St. Helens downwards</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black soil, with bands of sand and furze remains</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient forest, consisting of fir, alder, oak, and hazel, the two latter predominating</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravel, consisting of rounded waterworn boulders and pebbles of syenite, quartz, graywauke and sandstone. This deposit is of glacial origin, and the representative of the boulder clay on the surrounding land, average depth</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shale of the pebble beds, which form the base of the Triassic group</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Depth of section .......... 24 0
In excavating through the ancient forest, the stumps of the trees were found in their original position, with their roots spreading in all directions, and when newly excavated the branches frequently presented the appearance of having been cut with a sharp instrument. A few fir cones were found and hazel nuts in great abundance. Near the upper surface of this deposit the skull of a bear was dug up, which appears to agree with *Ursus spelaeus* of Cuvier and Owen, found so abundantly in the ossiferous caves of Europe, and particularly in England, and will probably be found to belong to that species. Several bones were also dug up, but as they have not yet been identified it would be premature on my part to offer any opinion of the order to which they belong.

JAS. PATERSON.

*Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Remains at West Kirby.*

The parish church of West Kirby, in the north-western angle of Wirral, dedicated to St. Bridget, is one of the earliest religious foundations in Cheshire. In conjunction with that of the conventual “cell” on Hilbre, it was apportioned by Robert de Rodelent, vassal of Hugh Earl of Chester under the Conqueror, to the Abbey of St. Ebrulf, at Utica, in Normandy. No record, however, is known to exist relative to the foundation of either, but both probably date from the 9th or 10th century. Of the original church, no remains were suspected to continue above ground by those who have written upon the subject;* but the recent restorations have brought to light a very curious lintel, which, being of a greenish-white limestone, contrasts strongly with every other block which is composed of red sandstone. The former, rectangular above but rounded below, would seem to have been formed of equal length, depth and thickness; but the lower part is broken away toward either end, much mutilating the sculpture. Three patterns are carried throughout the length without any

border moulding, viz., one a braid of five interlacing bands, and a second of imbricated work, each 7 inches deep, followed by a species of chain-work terminating in a narrow central mould or bead. The reverse side displays the same patterns, but more rudely executed, the former being elaborately tooled by a round-ended chisel, giving the effect of a frosted ground. The designs are of the greatest rarity among our very scanty relics of Saxon architecture.

In addition to this interesting block, which is 5½ feet long, many headstones of a very early character were (with the exception of one still remaining in the masonry north of the tower) found embedded within the walls of the mediæval restorations—or rather alterations—of the church, and thickly encrusted with plaster therefrom. Perfect and imperfect, these number nearly a dozen, yet no two display a similar design, notwithstanding that each bears a cross, generally incised. One of them, with the design in relief, has a rich interlaced pattern on three of its sides (the fourth being broken), whilst the angles are neatly corded. This is probably of the 9th or 10th century, but the others vary much in date, ranging from the 9th to the 12th century. Some examples, analogous in design to what appear to be of medium date, are reported to have been lately discovered at Adel, near Leeds, and were hastily assumed to be Phoenician, probably from certain peculiarities of ornamentation, unnoticed hitherto in England. The well-known “Hilbre Cross,” in our President’s possession, bears considerable resemblance to several of the Kirby headstones, but none of these approach it in point of original size, varying from 2 to 4 feet in height, and 10 inches to 2 feet in width. These likewise belong to a very rare class of sculptured remains, for we possess few headstones identified as of earlier date than the twelfth century.

The mediæval remains consist of the face of a male effigy, portions of window tracery and columns, and a number of
backs of chairs from the choir, carved in oak, the upper portions forming *fleurs de lis*.

All the above are preserved in the grounds of the rectory, adjoining the churchyard.

**PRIMITIVE CANOE AT MARTIN MERE.**

A lengthy notice in the *Preston Guardian*, of 10th April, of the old swampy levels lying between Rufford and Southport, in connection with the discovery of a *canoe*, under what has for years been cultivated land, seems not to have attracted any attention in Liverpool. It would appear to have quietly lain in some snug "pigeon-hole" of the editorial desk, for several months at least, inasmuch as it commences by stating "there has just been discovered," and thus raising in the reader's mind anticipations no longer to be realized, as the present writer experienced on the day of publication. This highly-interesting relic having been left completely exposed to the sun, and the still more drying east winds of March, had thoroughly succumbed to the combined attack, and lay shrivelled up into a mere ghastly caricature of its former self. From personal enquiries of the finder, and a subsequent visit to the site, the writer is enabled to supply all the main reliable facts.

In the early part of January, a son of Mr. Robert Ashcroft, of Brickfield farm, Rufford, whilst ploughing a field in the occupation of his father, about a foot beneath the surface struck what he supposed to be a "stock" or trunk of an old tree—no infrequent occurrence hereabouts—and shortly procured assistance for its extrication. Upon clearing off the black peaty soil, the real character of the object became apparent; it was artificially hollowed out, in fact a boat, punt or canoe. It was found to lie on a considerable *incline*, thus inducing the conviction of its having been left hauled up, upon the then *beach*, remains of which, in a stratum of
gravelly sand, waved by tidal action, was struck four feet below the surface.

The canoe was found in an almost perfect condition, the sides alone being somewhat decayed, and would have proved a most interesting object for any neighbouring museum had it been properly conserved. From the exposure described, it seemed no longer worthy of removal to town, and has probably ere this been broken up for fuel. When discovered, it was very heavy, requiring the strength of several men in removal, being then temporarily secured by hoop iron. The outer dimensions were, 13 feet in length, 2 feet 10 inches in breadth, with a depth of 1 foot 8 inches, evidencing formation from an oak-trunk of noble girth. Four seats, the two central being a little wider than the terminal ones, retained their original position: these are secured to central supports by iron nails. The lateral joints proved rotten, and broke in the grooves when the seats were used. The nails proved to be the sole metal fitting of which any trace remained, and they not improbably had been used at a much later date than that of the original hollowing out of the canoe.

The bow, which is semi-circular, has a number of round perforations, all in line, and about 6 to 8 inches below the gunwale, being formed probably in connexion with some apparatus; but whether for sailing or piscatory facilities, or personal protection from enemies or the weather, it were now almost vain to guess.

Martin Mere was formerly a fine sheet of water and noted for its wild fowl. Leland, writing three and a-half centuries ago, says, "Martine Meare toward Lathom is the greatest "Meare of Lancashire, a iii miles in Lengthe and a iii in "Bredthe."*

Dr. Legh tells us, a century and a-half later,† that it was

above eighteen miles in circumference and two in diameter before its first surface drainage by Thomas Fleetwood, Esq., of Bank Hall, in course of which no less than eight canoes were found, resembling those used by the North American aborigines. One is engraved by Dr. Legh,* along with a "celt" of bronze and a whetstone, found in a neighbouring morass, and supposed to have been used in construction of the canoes. The example depicted is much more pointed and solid at each end than the one discovered near Rufford; it bears no trace of seats or accommodation for above one pair of oars. One of the eight is said to have had some plates of iron upon it. Dr. Legh's work appeared in 1700, and other small craft of this character may have been discovered since, especially during the efficient drainage of the present century, which has rendered the site dry, and replete with a good and fruitful soil.

This is not the only instance of the discovery of a canoe during the past year in the north of England. The Doncaster Gazette, of September 10th, contains a notice of a log of oak found in the North Riding, 7 feet long and 3 feet in diameter, of which 5 feet in length, to a depth of 1 foot 4 inches, had been hollowed out, forming a primitive shallop or canoe. This specimen has been deposited in the Yorkshire Philosophical Society's Museum at Leeds, and the writer is inclined to think it of much earlier construction than that above recorded, the date of which may not extend beyond the mediaeval period. The writer of the notice in the Preston Chronicle imagines it to be two or three thousand years old, but adduces no proof of great age. The great probability is its use at no very distant time by occupiers of the adjacent lands which surrounded the extensive mere. A farmer here would naturally desire to "paddle his own canoe" when visiting his fields across the water.

PURSE OF OLD ENGLISH SHILLINGS AT FORMBY.

Early in February, whilst removing the decayed thatch from one of the oldest tenements in the straggling village of Formby, the owner, whose family has resided in it for at least four generations, noticed, to his great surprise, some pieces of money dropping through the mass, and upon a careful examination the source of this supply was found in a pig's bladder, rotten with age and moisture, but which had apparently contained about a score of what proved to be English shillings of the 16th and 17th centuries, struck by sovereigns from Elizabeth to Charles II, both inclusive. All have been much pared at the rim and have seen considerable service in circulation, causing uncertainty as to mint mark in some cases, but the nineteen pieces which have come under notice may be tabulated as follow, the dates being appended:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mint mark</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mint mark</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Elizabeth...woolpack... 1594</td>
<td>2 Charles I...triangle in circle... 1641</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 James I...fleur de lys. 1604</td>
<td>1 ditto...P in circle 1643</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ditto...trefoil or cinquefoil 1613</td>
<td>1 ditto...R (?)...1644</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Charles I...crown......1635</td>
<td>1 ditto...R in circle 1644</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ditto...triangle...1639</td>
<td>1 ditto...K in circle 1644</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ditto...star......1640</td>
<td>2 ditto...illegible...1660</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Charles II...Crown(?)...1660</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total:—Elizabeth, 1; Jas. I, 3; Chas. I, 14; Chas. II, 1=19.

Of these the only mintage which may be considered scarce is that of Charles I, in 1644, bearing R within an annulet as mint mark. The residue are all common types, and the batch may be taken as an average lot, to be hoarded by small savings in a rustic household. In this case, however, a further intention is evident, that of secretion, and the complete success of the act is demonstrated by the result. During the two centuries which have since elapsed, how many different families may have lived and died in close proximity to the little hoard, yet wholly unsuspecting its existence—destitute at times, or sick, yet unconscious of this source of relief!

The material of which the receptacle was composed, the
bladder of a pig, was formerly in frequent use in this district for the purpose, and the custom may have been widely practised, inasmuch as this substance was the best, as it was the cheapest, the farmer or cotter could obtain. Nothing could be procured so light and yet so tough as this, and consequently the asserted fact of its use even within the last fifty years is by no means surprising.

PRODUCE OF THE CHERISH SHORE.

A fair yield of antiquarian objects was secured during the year, the greater portion of which has been added by Mr. Potter to his collection. In default of a detailed description their prominent features only will now be noticed.

Roman.

Three small bronze coins, one of which, struck by the Constantine family, has for reverse the wolf and twins, with a tree and two stars above. A fibula with chequered enamel, in green, yellow, and white, and a pin in bronze. A small bead in emerald-coloured glass.

Saxon.

A silver penny of Edward the Confessor, representing the king enthroned, a rather scarce type, but the coin is in indifferent preservation. A dress or hair pin, buckle, and strap tag in bronze. Beads in glass and terra cotta.

Medieval.

53 English silver coins, comprising—

1 Penny (half), William I, with two sceptres.
1 Do. do. do.
1 Do. (fragment) do. bonnet type.
12 Do. Henry II (one St. Edmundsbury).
9 Do. Henry III.
12 Do. Edward I or II.
3 Halfpennies, Edward I or II (one Dublin and one Waterford).
2 Farthings do. (London.)
1 Do. Edward III.
11 Quarters of Pennies and Halfpennies, Henry II to Edward II.

A *Counter* in copper, with large quatrefoil; *reverse* trefoil, with fleur-de-lis, &c.

**LATTEN.**—A *Ring Brooch* 1\(\frac{1}{2}\)-inch diameter, with cusps alternately solid, and set with coloured pastes, now decayed: it retains the pin.

A *Stud*, cruciform and chequered in the centre, the limbs elegantly terminating in fleur-de-lis.

A *Strap-tag*, with slashed ornament and acorn at extremity.

A *Needle*, 5 inches long, with round eye and round in the middle, but triangular below to the point, like the present sail needle.

A *Continental Imitation*.—Sterling of Galcher of Chatillon, Count of Porcieu. *Obverse* "\(\times\) GALCHS. COMES. "PORC." around an Edwardian head within a dotted circle. *Reverse* "NIONET. NOVA. YVE," a cross batonné in the field. This type, of a class which it would be incorrect to describe as *counterfeits* of our contemporary English pennies, has not unfrequently occurred in this country, as in a trouvaille, chiefly consisting of Edwardian Sterlings, discovered at Wyke near Leeds, in February, 1836, and described by the Rev. D. H. Haigh in the *Archaeologia*. It dates from about 1318, and is engraved by Sneeling,† but is found to vary in respect of single letters in the inscription. Galcher was Constable of France. He coined money at Ivè and Neufchatel in right of his wife, the widow of Theobald II,

*Vol. xxviii, pp. 47-74.  † Plate iii, No. 25*.
Duke of Lorraine, whom he married in 1314. He was presented by Philip King of France with the County of Porcieu in Rathelois in 1308.

A Seal (see plate No. 3), well preserved was found during the autumnal equinoctial gales, the face of which is bluntly oviform, the stem hexagonal, and the handle trifoliate and perforated for suspension. The impression shews a seated figure of the Virgin Mary suckling the infant Jesus, who reposes on her left arm. At her right is a conventional two-leaved palm tree. The inscription "Ave Maria Gratia" (plena), and the device described are both of very frequent recurrence in mediæval times, save that the palm is but seldom introduced. The Angelical Salutation would appear, from its prevalence, to have been holden in especial regard, and was probably even held by the commonalty to possess talismanic virtues. It is to be seen upon many of the relics found on this site, including annular brooches, earrings, and a spindle whorl, all in lead or pewter. "Ave Maria" alone, occurs upon two small latten seals of similar execution to the present example, one of which is in the Mayer Collection. These bear over the figures of Mary and Elizabeth a fleur-de-lis of the very simplest form; here this emblem follows the salutation and precedes the divisional star. In all three instances the characters and figures are but rudely fashioned. In date they may be apportioned to the 14th century.

Pewter.—Brooch, the upper portion whorled with fine tendrils, enclosing a beaded circle half an inch across, which by the hinder supports appears to have held an ornament of glass, enamel, or ivory; lower portion flamboyant, two inches long.

Brooch, formed of triangle within triangle, or the male and female principle united.

Brooch, digitated diagonally, with pin.
Brooch, a fragment, bearing “VE MA,” part of “Ave Maria Gracia Plena.”

Strap-tag, crescent-shaped, with foliate terminations.

Stud, an eagle standing with extended wings.

Stud, a small, upon a large quatrefoil, the latter pierced longitudinally.

Stud, a quatrefoil, each petal with cusp; a central square for setting.

Ornament, possibly an earring, with loop in imitation of a leaf, very finely reticulated.

Buckle, a new type, loop-shaped, with a long iron pin. Another of larger size is only represented by a fragment.

IRON.—Two Arrow points, one sharply barbed and well formed.

Key, with single spike in place of ward, 2 inches long.

Knife blades, some with hafts complete, 2 inches to 6 inches long; two of small size retain their original wooden handles.

A Hunting knife possesses its handle and guard, the latter with the pommel being circular, of iron and wood.

Goad of a spur, nearly 3 inches long.

Spade, shield-shaped, of wood, bound broadly with iron from the shoulder to the point. Across the shoulders, where the metal is somewhat flanged, it measures 10 inches: total length 19 inches. It is of the class denominated in Ireland “women’s spades”; but though used till recently in the Sister Isle, it has long been obsolete in Cheshire.

GLASS.—Two Beads, ring-shaped, of straw colour. Another of a pale blue is fluted at the side, and measures half an inch in diameter.

Later English.

Two Shillings of Charles I, one with mint mark, a triangle, the other uncertain.
Early Printed Books.—With the issue of works from the early local press we appear to have but little acquaintance; and if this supposition be not wide of the mark, increased attention to the subject by bibliopolists and amateurs who possess the necessary leisure, might result in curious discoveries of more importance than the one eliciting the remark. A bookseller of Cockermouth, Mr. H. T. Wake, has informed the writer that a work recently passed through his hands, *The Psalms in Metre* (Tate and Brady’s version), 12mo, and "Printed at Liverpool in Dale Street, 1718." Upon referring to Mr. Albert J. Mott’s paper on this subject,* no mention is to be found of any work published here between the years 1712, when *Owen’s Hymns* appeared, and 1736, the date of the first issue of Seacome’s *House of Stanley*, and enquiries have failed to bridge over this considerable gap. Thus we "go from home to learn news," which by a little attention might probably be gleaned in tenfold quantity without straying; certainly we ought to be independent of such casual and distant sources of information. It is, however, possible that the above-named work, though printed, may not have been *published* in the town, which would account for non-insertion in Mr. Mott’s memoir.

Foundation of the "Liverpool Library."—In the record of our year’s transactions, by no means the least interesting is the presentation to the Society, by the executors of the late Mr. William Everard of this town, of an old-fashioned *cupboard and contents*, the former memorable as once serving to contain the nucleus of the important library now located at the Lyceum.

"An Historical Sketch of the Liverpool Library." appears in the ninth volume of our *Transactions*,† which is replete

*Transactions*, vol. xiii, p. 103. † 1856-1857, p 225.
with very interesting matter and statistical information relative to the foundation and growth of this institution, furnished by the late P. Macintyre, Esq., M.D., who was long connected with its direction. His account of its origin is, however, in some particulars supplemented by Mr. Henry Roscoe, in his memoirs of his celebrated father, the historian and poet, from whom he would obtain perfectly reliable statements—Roscoe having from the first taken a prominent part in its formation.

Dr. Macintyre states, "a few gentlemen had for a year or two, prior to 1757, been in the habit of meeting together for the purposes of discussing literary subjects, and of reading a portion of the periodical publications of the day. They met from time to time at the house of Mr. William Everard, an eminent mathematician and a schoolmaster, who lived in St. Paul's Square. The small collection of books brought out on these occasions was kept in a corner cupboard in Mr. Everard's parlour. It was in the year 1757, however, when the books becoming more numerous, and requiring to be transferred from the cupboard to a large chest, that the idea of circulating them among the members of the club, came to be entertained and acted upon." The corner cupboard here mentioned is the identical receptacle lately presented to the Society. Mr. Roscoe informs us that the original proposition came from Mr. Edward Rogers in 1757;* it was immediately acquiesced in by his intimate friend William Roscoe, whilst Mr. Thomas Taylor and Dr. Rutter, quickly followed suit. Dr. Macintyre in continuation supplies facts which may be shortly stated. In the beginning of 1758, some of the principal merchants, professional men, and probably all the members of the St. Paul's Square club, formed a society for the establishment of a circulating library,

* This gentleman died in 1795. Roscoe composed some touching verses In Memoriam; but they are neither to be found in his "Life," nor in Young's compilation of his poetical effusions.
the result being the foundation of "The Liverpool Library" on the 1st of May, 1758, each member contributing one guinea and a permanent annual subscription of five shillings, or books. A catalogue was published the same year, with a list of the 109 proprietors (headed by "Mr. William Goodwin"),* and of the 450 volumes purchased or presented, Mr. Everard being constituted librarian, an office he held for twelve years. At first the books were domiciled in a house in Prince's Street, but in 1759 Mr. Everard removed them to one of his own in John Street, where he now resided, the library occupying the first floor. For this housing and his trouble he received ten pounds per annum, being succeeded by a gentleman named Broderick, who for two years officiated for £15; a Mr. George Barker following at the increased salary of £20. He retained the position for the long period of forty-six years. Such are a few of the simple records of the formation of a Library asserted by Dr. Macintyre to enjoy "the proud distinction of being the first circulating library, not only in England, but in Europe."

_Early Delft Cup._—Although the old cupboard, with its few and voluted shelves, could have held but a very limited assortment of books, it nevertheless came to us well freighted with small relics of Mr. Everard's generation. Among ladies' high-heeled satin shoes, buckles, old china, and other objects of English or foreign manufacture as used about a century ago by the fair denizens of Liverpool, we find two articles which command attention from their close connection with its productive industry at this period.

The earliest of these is an earthen drinking mug, nearly 5 inches high, and painted in a clear blue on a white ground, with a coast view, and shipping in full sail, inscribed above

* Mr. Ll. Jewitt states in his _Life of Wedgwood_ that Mr. Thomas Bentley, his friend and partner, was a founder of the Library, but he does not appear to have done more than join the proprietary this year.
DRINKING CUP IN DELFT WARE.

The earliest identified example of the English Manufacture, and probably the produce of SHAW'S POTTERY, on the site of the FREE LIBRARY and MUSEUM, LIVERPOOL. Formerly in the possession of Mr. William Everard, and now in the Museum of the HISTORIC SOCIETY.

(4\text{\text{\small by 4\,\text{\text{\small inches actual size.}}}})
"John Williamson, 1645." The ware is that technically termed *English Delft*, being analogous in its yellowish brown body and porcelain-like "slip" or thick glaze, to the products of the well-known manufactories at Delft in Holland, and originally produced by workmen from that locality, who were induced to settle in this country by Queen Elizabeth and her ministers. Although the fact admits of no dispute, not a single specimen of this early fabrication has yet been identified, and the oldest piece hitherto recognized as of English make is but of the age of Queen Anne! This is the very valuable, curiously quaint, and locally interesting rectangular plaque in the Mayer Collection, representing "A West Prospect of Great Crosby, 1716," which is undoubtedly the produce of a Liverpool Pottery "Bank," not improbably that owned by the father or grandfather of Alderman Shaw, whose works were located near the site now occupied by the Free Library and Museum. Mr. Mayer, in his valuable contribution to our history of local industries,* informs us that the earliest mention he has been able to discover of Liverpool pottery is in the list of town dues payable at the port in the year 1674. As, however, no authenticated example earlier than the piece mentioned has been published by any recent writer upon English ceramic productions, it may be taken for granted that none have come into notice, and consequently it is an occurrence of great interest for, and congratulation to, the Society to find itself in possession of an example, not only of Liverpool but of *English Delft* ware, above seventy years older than any other known to be extant, in the little mug of "John Williamson." (See plate). This is a well-known Liverpool name, and the individual was probably a burgher who had ordered it for his private use, or received it as a present from some potter of the town. As will be noticed later on, an alderman, Edward Williamson, was Mayor in 1663.

*Transactions*, vol. vii, p. 178.
Although, as has been stated, specimens of early English Delft are rare, several unappropriated ones are preserved in the Mayer and other collections. The writer had the pleasure of discovering an unpublished one of especial interest in the house of Mr. Isaac Pitt, of Cirencester, during a recent excursion in the west. It is a plate 9 inches in diameter, and bearing within a wreath, composed of two palm leaves, the inscription O I, all painted in blue. The initials stand for 1688 those of Oliver and Jane Sansom, of Abington, Oxon. The former was an active preacher and missionary of the Society of Friends (opprobriously termed Quakers), and suffered much at the hands of the authorities in those persecuting times. A duodecimo volume, entitled An Account of many Remarkable Passages of the Life of Oliver Sansom; (London: printed by F. Sowle, in White Hart Court, in Gracious Street, 1710;) describes his life and death. Having been born at Bedon, in Berkshire, in 1636, the plate has probably been ordered by himself or some well-wisher, after he had passed his fiftieth year; and as at least the half of his long-married life was then spent, it cannot have been a wedding present. He resided during his latter years at Abington, where he died, and was buried in 1710. The plate was formerly in the possession of Daniel Rutter, Esq., of Witney, Oxon, who left it to his nephew, the present possessor. Its place of manufacture has not yet been identified, but Worcester or Bristol may probably substantiate a claim.

Printed Enamelling.—The other object is an oblong and rectangular box, apparently intended for a lady's toilet table. It is composed of brass, and measures $\frac{3}{4}$ in. by $\frac{2}{3}$ in., and is $\frac{1}{8}$ in. high. The metal is coated over within and without with a white enamel, this again being covered throughout by printing in black, the same being signed "J. Sadler Enam"
and consisting of a large amount of lettering and figures, comprising *The Ladies' Pocket Kalendar*, which occupies the cover and base; *Dominical Letter Tables*, the front; another *Dominical Letter Table, Golden Number, Epact, and Cycle of the Sun for 1760 to 1777*, the back; table for finding *Shrove Tuesday, Easter, Holy Thursday, Whit Sunday, Trinity Sunday, and Advent during the same long period*, the ends.

Enamelling on brass or copper was practised during the latter half of the last century at Battersea, at Bilston in Staffordshire, and perhaps other localities in Great Britain; but Liverpool does not appear to have been accredited with this peculiar manufacture by any author or "bric-a-brac."

The signature—and it is not the only instance—is unequivocal, "J. Sadler, Enam"; it can mean nothing else than that Sadler, by his own hands or those of an assistant, covered the metal with enamel before printing with the elaborate tables enumerated. Had the signature stood alone, it might be assumed that the word *sculpsit* had been intended, but the Mayer collection possesses, among many other valuable examples of Sadler and Green's printed enamels, a portrait of Frederick III, King of Prussia, signed "J. Sadler, Liver Enam". The inaccuracy of the contraction *Enam* in place of *Enamell, or Enamel* is in favour of the authenticity of the signature, seeing that, clever as he was, Sadler had not received a classical education, and consequently was liable to errors of this kind. Mr. Mayer has adduced important evidence to prove that to him the credit of inventing the art of printing ceramic wares by the medium of copper-plates is clearly due, and though the same is claimed for potters at Battersea, Worcester, and Lowestoft, it cannot be denied that the industrious Liverpool engraver has at least a coeval claim to the discovery and application of this most useful art, which in the course of the year 1756 became
almost simultaneously known to the country through the productions of Liverpool, Worcester, and Battersea.

*Enamelled Patch-Box, &c.* Another article in enamelled copper, and probably of Liverpool make, was discovered in May last by a youth named Geoghegan of this neighbourhood, who, taking a fancy to ransack an old family clothes-chest, found in this ancestral depository a "secret drawer," containing several MS. letters and a lady's patch-box, within which, in place of black patches for the face, lay a pair of silver knee-buckles. The first have by accident not reached the writer, but are said to have been penned by a lady to her butler, who would seem to have kept these and the box as souvenirs of his departed mistress. The patch-box, of copper but mounted with brass, is of the ordinary small size of the latter part of the century, when patches of but limited dimensions were in vogue; it is oval in form and enamelled throughout. Upon the upper surface the lid is printed in lilac, on a white ground, with a jovial-looking male head, having on the right side a loaf, and on the left a foaming tankard; below are a couple of tobacco-pipes "*en sâltier,*" and from the mouth a small scroll issues, labelled "Peace and Plenty." Above this brusque design is inscribed—

"With Bread so large, & Ale so fine,
You soon will have such cheeks as mine."

Both subject and motto are thoroughly characteristic of the period. The remainder of the outer surface is yellow, within being white except the lid, which is of a pale mottled green. It may be remarked that the lilac colour used in the printing was evidently a favourite one with Messrs. Sadler and Green, and being rarely used elsewhere, these facts confirm the present appropriation.

*XVII Century Token of Peter Atherton.*—Mr. Mayer has recently added to his large collection of Tokens of this period an unpublished Liverpool type, "PETER ATHERTON";
1. Unique and unpublished Counterfeit Sterling of XIV Century, inscribed to Julius Cesar.

2. Halfpenny Token of "Samuell Rathborne" issued in Liverpool, 1669.

3. Seal of Latten, found on the Sea Beach of Cheshire.

4. Halfpenny Token of Peter Atherton, Liverpool, 1668.
in the field a long plain shield. Reverse "OF LIVERPOOLE, "1668"; in the field "HIS HALF PENY." See plate No. 4.

XVII Century Token—Rathbone Family.—At an early meeting of the Session a local token of some interest, possibly unique, and certainly unpublished, was exhibited by Mr. Mayer, through the kindness of Mr. William Rathbone, M.P. The family of Rathbone was well known to be one of the oldest belonging to and still connected with the town, but it is believed few reminders of this association exist beyond the last century. There can be little doubt of the token having been issued by one of its leading members in 1669, one of the latest years in which such pieces—whether pennies, halfpence, or farthings—were allowed by the government of Charles II, after the license had continued for about eleven years. As only well-to-do tradesmen usually availed themselves of this privilege, it is no presumption to consider "Samuell "Rathborne"—such being a variation of the orthography two centuries ago—as a burgess of repute in the good old town. Referring to the illustration, No. 2, the piece will be found inscribed on the obverse "SAMVELL RATHBORNE," with a rose for division, a lion rampant occupying the field, this device being probably the sign of his business establishment, possibly the family crest. On the reverse the inscription is continued "IN LIVERPOOLE 1669," followed by another six-petalled rose, whilst in the field appears "HIS HALF "PENY," with three pellets beneath. Whether this burgess in addition issued penny or farthing tokens, we have no means of ascertaining, the present being the only piece of his as yet heard of. It was unknown to Mr. Boyne, or would have been described in his work,* where only the following Liverpool types are described:—

Charles Christian ...... Penny............ 1669

Addam Crumpton .................. 1657
Richard Crumpton........ Halfpenny ...... 1667
Roger Gorsuch ...................... 1672
Thomas Johnson ........ Halfpenny ...... 1666
John Pemberton........ do. .......... 1666
Edward Williamson ........ do, .......... Alderman.

The last-named issuer was chosen Mayor in 1663. Both Williamson Street and Williamson Square were named after him. An example of Christian's and another of Richard Crumpton's issue the writer has already described as found in recent years upon the sea beach of Cheshire; none of the series are of common occurrence, and this second addition to the published list of Liverpool's 17th century tokens may thus not improbably be supplemented by the discovery of others.

Among the Bold Charters in the Museum at Warrington, the name of Robert Rathbone occurs as a witness in 1536 to a grant of land in Great Sankey, from James Ford to John Parker. He was probably an ancestor of Samuel.

The next notice to be mentioned regarding this family occurs a couple of generations later. It is furnished in form of an official document of the Society of Friends, to which the father of the subject of it was joined in membership in middle life.* This religious body has been accustomed almost from its very earliest days to record through its local "monthly meetings," and after decease, testimonies of those who have exercised within its sphere ministerial functions. The document in this instance being of a more than ordinarily interesting and comprehensive character, is subjoined entire. It proves that for at least a century and a half ancestral virtues have been notably transmitted and sustained by one of the first families of our "Merchant Princes."

"A Testimony concerning William Rathbone of Liverpool, deceased; from Friends of the Monthly Meeting of Hard-

* In 1677, a widow named Elizabeth Rathbone of Widnes, was buried in the graveyard attached to the Friends' meeting house at Penketh.
"shaw* in Lancashire, holden at Warrington the 15th of the 12th Mo., 1789.

"Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace."—Psalm xxxvii, v. 37.

"Our dear friend, William Rathbone, was born in Liverpool, in 1726, of parents who were members of the National Church; but his mother dying before he was two years old, and his father being very soon after convinced of our religious principles, their son was carefully educated therein, and being in a good degree obedient to the visitations of divine grace, he became, even whilst young, an example of sobriety and industry.

"About the seventeenth year of his age, being under discouraging circumstances, he formed the intention of going abroad, with a view to acquire wealth, but when he thought himself on the point of carrying this design into execution, his mind was brought under a weighty exercise, and he was impressed with a persuasion that his appointed station was in his native place, where a field of religious labour was opened before him; and that if he persevered in his intention his religious interests would be subverted, and the divine will concerning him be opposed. In this state of conflict he was convinced that if his whole dependence were fixed on the Almighty arm, it would supply all his wants, and be an unfailing support in the various trials that might be allotted to him. Through the continued extension of divine regard, he was enabled to yield obedience to these convictions, to enter into a covenant with a covenant-keeping God, to limit his desires after perishing riches, and to bear the turnings of the holy hand upon him.

"And as he was favoured to enter upon the active scenes of life, with faith and dedication of heart, so he was supported in his passage through it, to bear his portion of

* Formerly Hartshaw.
disappointment and affliction with Christian fortitude. The gracious Being who had directed his feet into the right way was mercifully pleased to be with him from step to step, so that he increased in stability and religious experience, and became eminently qualified for usefulness.

In the thirty-third year of his age he was appointed an Elder, and we esteemed him worthy of double honour, he being vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach, patient, not covetous, one that ruled well his own house.

He was of sound judgment, his intellectual faculties were clear and strong; and having by long obedience to the manifestations of duty, known the work of sanctification, he became clothed with the humility of a Christian, skilful in the mysteries of the Kingdom, and zealously concerned to turn many to righteousness.

He was very diligent in attending our meetings for worship and discipline, and his movements in the church were truly exemplary and edifying, being marked with firmness, impartiality, and rectitude.

In visiting families his service was great, he being eminently endowed with divine wisdom and power to speak to the various states of the visited, to the edification and comfort of many; and he was frequently under appointment to visit Monthly and Quarterly Meetings in different parts of this nation, and once those in Ireland. In conversation he was solid and deeply instructive; his deportment was weighty and serious, but accompanied with great meekness and condescension.

In the discharge of his various relative and social duties he was an amiable example, and in transacting his temporal concerns his uprightness and punctuality gained him great confidence and esteem.

In the forty-ninth year of his age he came forth in public
testimony, and afterwards performed several journeys with our certificates.

In the exercise of his gift he was concerned to wait in deep attention to the single leadings of the Holy Head of the Church, that his offerings might be kept pure, whereby he was enabled to preach the Word in much plainness and simplicity, with the demonstration of the spirit and power; neither seeking popularity nor regarding the censorious, but being careful to fill up the measure of his duty and to serve his generation with faithfulness; thus, building on that foundation which standeth sure, he became a steady pillar in the church to the conclusion of his time.

For some months before his decease his mind was remarkably gathered from and raised above all temporal things, and his public testimonies were attended with increased liveliness: he appearing like one with his loins girded about and his light burning, waiting for the coming of his Lord, and we have good cause to believe the solemn summons found him prepared.

He was enabled to sustain his last illness, which was short yet severe, with patience and serenity, and the night before his departure, he was much engaged in supplication, and favoured with near access to the Throne of Grace; and though the nature of his disease rendered it difficult for him to speak distinctly, yet it was a season of awful solemnity, in which he was supported under great pain and weakness to sing a triumphant song of praises to the Lord.

He departed this life the 11th of the 8th month, 1789, and was interred in Friends' burying ground* the 14th of the same, in the sixty-fourth year of his age; a Minister about fourteen years.

Signed in, by order, and on behalf of, our aforesaid monthly meeting, by

John Bludwick, Clerk.

* Situate in Hackin's Hey.
The son of the worthy citizen whose merits are thus simply but emphatically recorded—another of the long succession of William Rathbones—married Hannah Mary, only daughter (by his first wife, Hannah Darby of Coalbrookdale) of Richard Reynolds, the philanthropist of Bristol. They were the parents of the justly revered gentleman—said to be the fifth William in succession—who, full of years, was lately removed from among us, and were consequently the grand-parents of our present Liberal representative in the national senate.

**COIN TROUVAILLES IN WALES, AND THE TREASURY CLAIMS.**

A keen relish for any casual disentombment of medallic treasures is natural to the numismatist, but the archæologist and the topographer have likewise a vital interest in such realizations. A monster influence is, however, at work, snatching the very bread from their mouths and robbing History herself. This vampire is "the law of treasure-trove," which is at once essentially absurd in inception, unjust in operation, and impolitic throughout; in short, it demands a thorough reconstruction, in conformity with the advanced spirit of the age.

That great Emperor, the chief mundane benefactor whom Britain ever knew, the illustrious Hadrian, abolished the previous Roman laws on this subject; and though, no doubt, it may be advantageously modified to suit the present social condition of European nations, his edict exhibits a far more enlightened appreciation of the principles of *meum* and *tuum* than any of our later national laws. By this decree, treasure found in a man's own, or in any sacred ground, belonged to himself; if in another's—even that of the Emperor—half went to the finder and half to the owner of the soil. Eighteen centuries have rolled away, and the proud Briton of our
boasted day of civilization finds himself subject to the following medieval regulations:

Coin or other valuables, found hidden in the earth, the owner being unknown, belong to the Crown; if the owner be known or ascertainable such remain his. The Crown’s title is clear, if such appear to have been deposited with the intention of reclaiming it. Where intentionally abandoned, as assumed when found in the sea, ponds or rivers, or upon the surface of the earth, it is the property of the finder.

This being, it is believed, a correct epitome or digest of the present law, who can wonder, when, under these conditions, nine-tenths of the hoards of coins which come to light, revert legally to the Crown, that every effort should constantly be made to evade its claim, by obliterating all traces of the exact site of discovery and maintaining silence on the fact?

These remarks have been elicited through a recent circumstance. The writer some few months ago received, from an intelligent person of the lower class, a communication in which allusion was made to no less than four instances of discoveries of coin in Wales, in every one of which, fearing these claims, the finders, at the earliest possible opportunity, had taken or consigned the pieces for sale at bullion offices or shops of pawnbrokers in this town—of course simply for their metallic value—rather than risk suspicion of their discoveries, by attempting to obtain a more discriminating value at the hands of a connoisseur. By such practices how many valuable numismatic relics have been lost to science!

In the course of the past summer a hoard of about 200 coins—presumably English of 13th or 14th century—were found in Carnarvonshire, three only of which have as yet come to light, being sent as a sample, though probably taken at random, the finder being desirous of learning the value, numismatically it may be assumed, before disposing of the lot in the usual summary manner. The three pieces were
submitted to the writer, who could only report that if they were virtually a "sample," they represented a most interesting trouvaille. Two proved but common pennies of well-known Edwardian mintage, the third, however, so far as information is attainable, is an unique piece, and may be thus described:— (See plate No. I.)

Obverse.—"NOM . IVLIVS . CESAR"; in the field a crowned head with long flowing hair, in the mode of our earlier Edwards, below which is a fleur-de-lis. Reverse.—"DA . C'RVM . CESARI," or "SACRVM . CESARI," some uncertainty existing in regard to the primal letter, which is more imperfect than its fellows. Whichever way numismatists may decide the point, as "rendering unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's," or simply "sacred to Cæsar," we here possess a very singular example, unique and unpublished, of a 14th century "counterfeit sterling." In the field appears the ordinary cross and pellets of the common English currency.

A large proportion of these imitations bear the name of Edward, but here the penalty for forgery has been ingeniously averted, and it doubtlessly being assumed that few would trouble themselves to peruse the circumscription, if assured of the genuineness of the metal, the piece has passed muster among the current pennies of the realm. Whether it may be classed among the productions of Luxembourg, which, passing into this country, were usually designated "Lushborrows," is uncertain,—such pieces, with others issued by several of the smaller continental states, were much circulated in England during this century.