

By C. B. Robinson, Esq. An earthen mug of early English pottery, covered with the old smear glaze, and ornamented with a rude design in colours. This mug has been kept in the family at Peel Hall, Cheshire, and is supposed to be the one used by William III. when staying at Peel, in 1690, on his way to Ireland.

By James Kendrick, M.D. A large loaf of "jannack" about eighteen inches in diameter and three inches thick. It is made of oatmeal, and leavened with a portion of the old dough. It was formerly much used by the middle and lower classes in Lancashire.

#### MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS.

1. MR. BROOKE, F.S.A., exhibited a Prayer Book which had been used by a congregation of Protestant Dissenters, in Liverpool, usually called Octagonians, from their frequenting the Octagon Chapel, in Temple Court, on the site of which is now the Fire Police Station. "The congregation was peculiar in the circumstance of regularly using a prayer book, of which two or three of the prayers resembled those of the Church of England. The congregation was formed by some members from the Dissenters' Chapels in Key Street and Benn's Gardens, in Liverpool, who preferred the use of a printed book of Prayers and Psalms; and Divine Service was first celebrated in the Octagon Chapel, in 1763. It never had a very numerous body of frequenters. The congregation was broken up in 1776; and the last time that Divine Service was solemnized according to their form in it, was about the 25th of January, in that year, when the Rev. W. Clayton was the minister. The building was then purchased by the Rev. John Plumbe, a clergyman of the Church of England, and it was soon afterwards licenced for Divine Service, according to the rites of the Church of England, and called St. Catharine's Church; and it was afterwards purchased by the Corporation of Liverpool. It was in use as a church from the 25th of March, 1776, until the month of March, 1820, when, being out of repair, and standing in the way of the improvements of the town, it was pulled down by orders of the corporation, and the materials sold. The prayer book belonged to Mr. J. Wyke, a member of the congregation of Dissenters, from whom Wyke's Court, Dale Street, derived its name; and though now it appears to us a most objectionable part of the town to select for a residence, he had a house in which he lived, and what is still more remarkable, a tolerably sized garden there. The court has some years since been pulled down: and the site of the court, the house and the garden, is now covered by the buildings, &c., which were the old Gas Works. The clergymen who held St. Catherine's Church after the Rev. John Plumbe, were the Rev. — Wilmot; the Rev. Brownlow Forde, (afterwards Dr. Forde, the ordinary of Newgate); the Rev. R. K. Milner, and the Rev. Thomas Bold. The two last held it jointly."

2. "MR. BROOKE also exhibited a paper, published by the late Mr. Bryan Blundell, called 'Recollections of Liverpool,' and observed that, amongst other matters, it mentions the often repeated circumstance of eight bags of cotton, from the United States of America, having been detained by an officer of customs, at Liverpool, on the ground that cotton was not grown in the United States. Mr. Brooke stated that a misconception seemed to exist respecting that occurrence, and that much more had been said respecting it than it merited. It merely seems to amount to this: that a blundering and perhaps very young officer, who knew nothing about cotton, had temporarily detained it, (similar mistakes equally remarkable, occasionally occur even now, with respect to other articles,) but the matter appears to have been set to rights as soon as the result of his ignorance was known to his superior officers; and there is not any reason to believe that any reference was made to the Commissioners of Customs, to decide the important point,—whether cotton could be imported from the United States. Mr. Bryan Blundell has given the date of the occurrence as 1784, and he was a very high authority, for at that date he was a young man living in Liverpool, and the circumstance was most likely to be retained in his memory, because he afterwards held the responsible office of Jerquer in the customs. Mr. Brooke also mentioned, that he had recently made enquiries on the subject, from his own father, who not only resided in Liverpool at that date, but had resided there from a period anterior to the American Declaration of Independence of 4th July, 1776, and who is yet living in his 91st year, and whose memory is still wonderfully clear. He states that the anecdote is a true one, and that his impression is, that the date given by Mr. Bryan Blundell is about correct, and that for some time after the close of the first American War, though some little cotton was imported into Liverpool from the United States, it was in very insignificant quantities. Mr. Bryan Blundell's account of the transaction is as follows:—'In 1784, an American vessel imported eight bags of cotton into Liverpool, which were seized by one of Her Majesty's officers of customs, as supposing they were not of the growth of America.' If they had not been grown in the United States, it is clear that by our Navigation Laws, they could not be legally imported in an American vessel, into Liverpool. Mr. Brooke added that, though the commerce had never been completely interrupted with the North American States, during the war, yet it probably was so far interrupted, that the blundering officer alluded to might not have heard that cotton had ever been grown there and imported from thence; especially as the peace with that country only took place the year before, (in 1783.) Mr. Brooke also stated, that so far from its importation from the United States being unprecedented, or unknown, prior to 1784, he was prepared to shew that before the first American War, cotton certainly was imported into Liverpool from the British States of North America, afterwards the United States; and also that the list of imports of goods into Liverpool, as long ago as in 1770, contains the particulars of several importations of cotton from thence into Liverpool."

3. DR. HUME noticed that fifteen drinking bowls had been found amid the ruins of Babylon, similar to those exhibited by Mr. M'Quic, at the first meeting of the present session.