

25th January, 1855. MISCELLANEOUS MEETING.

THE REV. DR. THOM, V.P., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The following Donations were laid upon the table :—

From the Ethnological Society of London. Transactions of the Society, volume iii. for 1854.

From the Author, John Gray Bell, Esq. A Genealogical Account of the descendants of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster and King of Castile; illustrated with portraits and armorial bearings of the family of Bell, fol. pamph., 1854.

From the Author, Joseph Boulton, Esq. Seven Letters on the Estuary of the Mersey, pamph., 1854-55.

From the Author, Rev. John Sansom, B.A. Esther: a Sacred Drama, 16mo., Oxford, 1845.

From the Author, Thomas Sansom, Esq. A Letter to the Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel, Bart., on the Education of the Middle Classes, pamph. 8vo., 1845.

Mr. Mayer exhibited three numbers of the "Miscellanea Graphica:" a work descriptive of the collection in the possession of Lord Londesborough.

Mr. Mayer also exhibited eight etchings of objects now in his own possession. They represent part of a collection of earthen vases, flint arrow heads, &c., recently found in the barrows or tumuli of Danby Moor, near Whitby, in Yorkshire. The etchings also contained representations of a small comb made of flint, a bone hair pin, stone hammers, &c.

In illustration of her communication, Miss Farrington, of Worden Hall, forwarded five original drawings, viz.:—1. Elevation of Leyland Church, which was taken down in 1816. 2. Gargoyles from the old Church. 3. Incised slabs and other stones, part of a still earlier building. 4. 5. Incised slabs in the present Church yard of Leyland.

Dr. Hume drew attention to the lithographed statement of the Building Surveyor, respecting the buildings erected, altered, or taken down in Liverpool, in 1854. The annual rate of increase in the population was inferred from it to be 6,029.

Dr. Hume read a popular ballad, descriptive of the naval battle of Port Royal, in 1782, in which Rodney conquered De Grasse. Some of the topics of the present day authorised an allusion to the tactics then adopted, of cutting the enemy's line in two. The suggestion, though claimed by three persons, was generally attributed to Mr. Clarke, of Eldin, father of Lord Eldin, the Scottish Judge; but it appears that it was not unknown to the ancients.

The following Paper was then read :—

NOTES ON THE OLD CHURCH AT LEYLAND. *By Miss Farrington.*

I take the liberty of sending to the Historic Society some drawings connected with Leyland Church.

The first is the copy of an elevation, taken by some inferior Architect, just before the body of the Old Church was pulled down in 1816, and merely of value as being the only known representation of it as it then stood. It shows the porch, and the curious projecting line of Gargoyles placed at some distance below the roof, but we can gather from it very little respecting the true character of the three larger windows. The Church had a good waggon roof, painted blue, and dotted over with gilt stars. There was a western gallery, erected for the organ, in the early part of George the Third's reign; another and older one along the north wall, and one stretching from north to south across the Chancel Arch, which from its being only wide enough for one row of pews, and from its situation, must, I fancy, have been a "rood loft." The pulpit and desk were near the middle of the south wall.

I have given many of the Gargoyles in another drawing; they were sold as old materials, and my father bought them. The first is "the Cat Stone," to which appends



the usual story of the stones being removed by night (in this case from Whittle to Leyland), and the Devil, in the form of a cat, "throttling" a person who was bold enough to watch.

The tower and chancel were not touched, but the width of the body of the Church was increased nine feet on each side. When the old walls were pulled down, they were no further interfered with than the flooring of the new Church required; but some alterations in Farrington Chapel (which occupies the south east corner of the Church) a year or two since, and which necessitated the entire removal of the old foundations, brought to light the fact that they were partly composed of the fragments of a still earlier Church. The incised slabs drawn out are of very superior workmanship to those in the Churchyard, and the small headstone apparently more ancient. There were other portions of stone coffins besides the head piece I have drawn, and the stones from the Norman arch are in number respectively 11, 5, and 1. There seems no reason to doubt that the undisturbed portion of the foundations would be equally rich in fragments as this south east corner.

The two remaining sheets represent stones now in the Churchyard. There are some others, but I have drawn all or most of the different types. Some of them are defaced by inscriptions of the 17th and 18th centuries; but these, of course, I have omitted in the sketches.

The Farrington Chapel had a window (and not a door as now) at its east end. I am unable to say when it was first appropriated as a chantry, all my documents on the subject recognising it as already such. You are no doubt aware that a list of the Lancashire Chantries is a desideratum among antiquaries. It is dedicated to St. Nicholas, the Church itself to St. Andrew. In 1591 William Farrington obtained a confirmation of his previous family claim to it from Bishop Chaderton, who confirms to him and his heirs for ever, a right to "sit, stand, and otherwise repose themselves therein" while living, and after death to occupy "two several wawtes or tombes in the upper of the same lying eastward to bury the deade bodys of the men, and in the lower standing westward to bury the deade bodys of the women." There was a division between the two sexes in the family pew itself till 1816, and at the present time the men's free sittings run along the south side of the Church, and the women's the north. Prior to the alterations, all that part of the Chapel wall not occupied by monuments was covered with hatchments, helmets, tabards, and other relics of the age of heraldic funerals, but they were destroyed with the old Church. This was unfortunately pulled down at a time when church architecture was little thought of, and the restoration committed to an inferior hand named Longworth. The steeple, which contains six good bells, and the whole of the chancel were undisturbed.

There are three sedilia and a double piscina under four semi-circular arches, and in the opposite wall an ambry, with a small pointed arched door of rude oak as black as ink, till lately painted over. The roll moulding is the characteristic ornament of this part of the Church, and the windows are the simplest form of decorative. There are some fragments of old stained glass in the east one. In the window seat of that westward of the chancel door four folios are chained, viz.: Foxe's "Martyrs," and Jewell's "Apology," in black letter, and "A Preservative against Popery," of later date. From the apex of the chancel arch there hung, till a year or two since, the once sky-blue flag of the Leyland Volunteers, with a wreath of laurel painted on one side, and Britannia, copied from a halfpenny, on the other. I can give no particulars of the corps itself.

In the outer north wall of the chancel, about three feet above the ground, is a low arch, the purpose of which is not very clear. It is, perhaps, four feet wide, and nearly two high in front, and there are no indications of its ever having contained a recumbent figure.

We had a venerable yew tree in our Churchyard, but it was blown down in the storm of Christmas, 1852.

I have only examined the Registers with reference to my own family, but I never met with anything remarkable. Baines gives some account of them, but he does not mention anything curious.