

RICHARD BROOKE, Esq., F.S.A., exhibited an ancient and very curious deed, dated the 2nd of December, in the 4th year of the reign of King Charles I., (1628) between Sir Cuthbert Halsall, of Halsall, in the County of Lancaster, Knight, and John Barnes of Sutton, in the same County, Gentleman, relative to a Mansion called Micklehead Hall, and a Dove House, and other property in Sutton. Mr. Brooke exhibited two other deeds relating to the property in Sutton, one dated 5th November, in the 23rd year of Charles I., and the other 13th July, in the 19th year of Charles II.

THOS. MOORE, Esq., exhibited a very complete and interesting series of Acts of Parliament, Maps, Drawings, Views, and Documents relating to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.

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The following papers were then read :—

I.—A DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT OF THE HISTORICAL DECORATIONS NOW PUTTING UP IN THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, PRESTON.

*By Frank Howard, Esq.*

At Preston, there is a Grammar School fast rising into eminence, of which the original endowment is unknown. The property having become undistinguishable from the estates of the Corporation, that body has made a liberal calculation of the value which the endowment of the School would have attained, in the present condition of the town, and makes an annual allowance of a fixed sum, as an equivalent for the rents which the trust would have been entitled to receive, and a subscription is entered into by various gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood, to place the School on a footing with the best public Schools in the Kingdom.

The new buildings in Winkley Square, Preston, into which the school has been removed, form, with other public buildings erected adjoining to them, a very picturesque composition; and the opportunity has not been neglected of making the walls a medium of instruction in history. For this purpose, Mr. John Addison, the judge of the County Court and Recorder of Clithero, one of the leading patrons of the school, applied to Mr. Howard for a design for the decoration of the school with paintings. The whole school consists of three rooms, called respectively the Greek, Latin, and English schools; the decoration of all of which was contemplated in the original design;—and it was therefore proposed to illustrate in these schools the Greek, Roman, and English Histories respectively, in which case the large gable end of the English school, twenty eight feet high above the

wainscot panneling, and twenty-six feet wide, would have been devoted to what may be called the chivalric period of our own history; viz. :—from the Battle of Hastings to the last of the Tudor sovereigns. Various circumstances however have led to a modification of the original plan. It appears that Preston has been the scene of many important events, in connexion with various Sovereigns: which there is some desire to record, as especially appropriate to the place. There are also some Saxon feelings with respect to Lancashire, which are entitled to consideration. Moreover, Mr. Addison, whose liberality gave birth to the scheme, and extended to the completion of the gable end of the English school, the decoration of which he has contributed as his further donation to the school, was desirous of making his example as attractive as possible, with a view to induce the other patrons to extend the donations. They might thus record the history of Lancashire, both as a County Palatine, and in connexion with the events that have influenced the progress of the Empire of Great Britain.

Mr. Howard in a long and able paper, traced the events which he has selected to form the series of historical pictures, with which he has decorated the end wall of the English school. Our limits will not, however, allow us to do more than to give a very brief catalogue of the subjects, which commence at the apex of the gable with THE INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY INTO THE NORTH OF ENGLAND, when, at the instigation of Paulinus, Coifi, the high priest, mounted on a war horse armed, riding into the sacred enclosure, threw a spear at the idols, and thus desecrated the temple.

The space to be decorated below the point of the gable, has been divided into four horizontal rows, which are distinguished by arches of the four leading styles of architecture :—

1. In the upper series, the arches of which are *semicircular*, are arranged the following. In the centre, the FOUNDATION OF OXFORD UNIVERSITY, of which Alfred has the reputation; to the left, CANUTE REBUKING HIS COURTIERS; to the right, HENRY II. ESTABLISHING THE FLEMISH WEAVERS. Scrolls and emblems are introduced, such as the Danish raven, (the sacred standard Reafan,) the white horse of the Saxons, &c., which carry on the composition of the future and the history of the period.

2. In the next range of *pointed* arches, RICHARD CŒUR DE LION is seen

on his march, after the debarkation in the Holy Land, with Philip of France; next to this a niche contains CONSTANCE of BRETAGNE and PRINCE ARTHUR, and in the next compartment, KING JOHN IS SIGNING MAGNA CHARTA. In the centre, a triple arch has been obtained, and WICLIF, CHAUCER, and FROISSART are introduced as exemplifying the three leading lines of Literature, Religion, Poetry, and History. To complete this range, the following subjects are introduced: HENRY III. MEETING THE ARMED PARLIAMENT; EDWARD III. AND PHILIPPA; and EDWARD THE BLACK PRINCE bringing his prisoner KING JOHN, of FRANCE, into LONDON. In this, as in the upper series, emblems, shields, &c., show other great events of the period.

3. The third range under *florid Gothic* arches, comprises the following subjects:—WAT TYLER AND RICHARD II; RICHARD II. DESIGNED AS A MONK TAKING LEAVE OF HIS YOUNG QUEEN; the MARRIAGE OF HENRY V. WITH CATHERINE OF FRANCE; HENRY VI. CROWNED AT PARIS. On the sides of this central subject are painted in niches, HUMPHREY the *good* Duke of GLOUCESTER, and RICHARD NEVIL the King-making Earl of WARWICK. The MURDER OF PRINCE EDWARD, after the battle of Tewkesbury, the CHILDREN IN THE TOWER; and the BATTLE OF BOSWORTH FIELD, complete this series of subjects, which, occupying the arches and niches of the most highly decorated architecture, are surmounted with carved tabernacle work, and enriched with arms, badges, and cognizances.

4. The lowest range of arches, of the *Tudor* form, include four illustrations of the reign of the Tudor Sovereigns:—HENRY VIII. DISMISSING CARDINAL WOLSEY; EDWARD VI. GIVING THE LITURGY TO BISHOP RIDLEY; MARY RELEASING THE PRISONERS WHOM SHE FOUND IN THE TOWER, when she entered that fortress on the deposition of Lady Jane Grey; and QUEEN ELIZABETH HOLDING THE COUNCIL for the defence of the country against the Invincible Armada.

Mr. HOWARD exhibited general sketches, as well as cartoons for the different divisions of his subject, and entered at some length into a detail of the sources whence his authorities for the history, as well as for the costumes, portraits and accessories have been taken. The paintings have been executed in Liverpool in separate compartments, in oil, on paper, pasted on canvas, a method which affords as great brilliancy as fresco in most hands, and combines the greatest durability with convenience of execution. They are fitted to their situations with facility on battens

previously secured to the wall. It is impossible, however, without greater space than this mode of publication admits, and in the absence of the power to illustrate our summary with sketches, to enter further into the subject. The cordial thanks of the Society were given to Mr. Howard for his interesting and valuable paper.

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II.—ON THE QUERN RECENTLY PRESENTED TO THE SOCIETY, AND ON HAND MILLS IN GENERAL.

*By the Rev. A. Hume, LL.D.*

Bread, "the staff of life," is used by all nations more or less; and therefore the mode of its preparation in various countries becomes a question of much interest. The history of the Quern is accordingly engrafted on a more general subject, and a history may be read *geographically*, as well as *chronologically*. In other words, there are people in existence at this day corresponding to almost every grade of civilization; and thus, facts of a primitive kind, which are only traditional with ourselves, are illustrated by the actual circumstances of less civilized nations.

(1.) The simplest mode of preparing grain for food is by boiling or roasting it; in the former case it is softened, in the latter it is made brittle. (2.) A degree of advancement is the trituration by stones. In New Mexico, the maize is beaten on a broad stone which is inclined to the ground at a small angle, by a smaller one like a painter's muller. (3.) Next in order come the pestle and mortar. The Israelites, as we find from the Mosaic narrative employed these. (Numb. xi. 8.) (4.) The next step in advance is the *common use* of the *quern*; and this is the chapter in the general preparation of food which is now to be read in some detail.

I.—DERIVATION OF THE TERM "QUERN."—In the Suio-Gothic, or ancient language of Sweden, the word is spelled as it is with ourselves; in the ancient Teutonic it is *querne*. From this Teutonic root a provincial term used in Northumberland is derived, which in Mr. Brockett's "Glossary" is spelled *kern*. This is identical with the Scottish *kirn*, and the English *churn*. Not only is a relationship established between the quern and the churn by their etymology; the same term, *kern*, is also used in Northumberland to denote both. Mr. Huband Smith says—"It seems more than probable that the Latin verb 'cerno,' whose primary meaning is to *separate*