

PROVINCIAL.—A new museum is about to be erected by subscription at Oxford, at a cost of 50,000*l.* The site chosen is in the park, near the Wadham College gardens, Marton College. —St. Michael's Church, Gloucester, has been gutted preparatory to demolition, to make way for the works of restoration. (1) The tower alone will remain. —The building fund of the Normal College for Wales has exceeded 3,000*l.* —The numerous repairs and alterations in progress for the last two years, at Lancaster Church have been completed, and the edifice reopened. The whole has been re-roofed, and indeed it was the falling in of a portion of the old roof that led the Woods and Forests to grant the means of repair and alteration, the design for which was supplied by Mr. Salvis, and superintended by Mr. Stone. —Mr. Robins, we observe, announces the forthcoming sale by auction of a "freestone Episcopal Chapel, of the Gothic order of architecture, newly built in the township of Moss Side, near Chorlton-upon-Medlock, presenting (of course) a capital investment." It is said to have, as it is, accommodation for above 1,000 persons, and to have cost 6,000*l.*, but whether built on spec or otherwise, is not declared. —The porch of Hunstanton Church, near Lynn, which is a specimen of decorated work, has lately been restored, under the superintendence of Mr. Frederick Preedy, principally at the expense of some liberal but unknown subscriber. —Messrs. Lee and Sons have contracted with Government to protect the cliff, at Harwich, from its commencement to Mr. Bagshaw's property, by a wall of Kentish rag-stone, with a promenade 8 feet in breadth, to the new breakwater.

BIRMINGHAM WORKHOUSE—SECOND COMPETITION.—Forty-three designs were received, and were referred to Messrs. Edg, H. J. Stevens, and Gibson (pice Shaw). They have reported upon them, and state their first object was to reject such designs as they considered to be inadmissible; and as many of them were imperfect and ill-considered, and as others had been evidently prepared for other places, they had not much difficulty in reducing the number to ten sets, all of which appeared to have been studied with diligence to the locality, and to demand a close scrutiny. After making a further careful comparative analysis of the ten designs, they again reduced the number to six. To these they had devoted a large portion of time; for though they had not experienced much difficulty in arriving at a judgment, they felt that it would be unjust to decide which they would recommend, without giving to these reserved designs the full benefit of the closest investigation. The result had been an unanimous and decided opinion in favour of two plans, the numbers of which were specified in the schedule. Both these sets of designs appeared to have emanated from the same architects, from the similarity of principle observed in the arrangements, and in the descriptive particulars. A third set of designs were therefore selected for recommendation as deserving of the second premium—a distinction to which they were fairly entitled by the great care bestowed upon their preparation. The three architects stated various grounds on which they preferred one of the two designs before referred to the other, and their opinion that it could be erected for the stipulated sum. The guardians resolved that the six plans therein referred to should lie for the examination of the guardians for one week, when the meeting to be then held should be made special for adopting such resolutions with reference to them as might be deemed desirable. The letters accompanying them were sealed up in an envelope, and will not be opened till after the final decision both by guardians and Poor-law Board.

LAYING IT ON.—We are told that a Trowbridge minister has had gutta serena piping carried round his chapel, and connected with a large oval funnel in the book-board of the pulpit; and wherever a deaf bearer sits, he has an ear trumpet attached to the tube, by which he can hear all that passes. —Loving music, and anxious to extend the enjoyment of it, we have often contemplated the possibility of laying it on to various quarters by means of pipes from a central producing orchestra. The possibility seems to be becoming a probability.

PROSPECTIVE WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 10th September, for various works, for her Majesty's Ordnance, Farnbrooks district; by 4th September, for re-laying four gun sheds, at the Grand Depot, Woolwich; by 1st, for painting the iron railings and curbs of Tavistock, Gordon, and Harrington squares, and for the interior and exterior painting required at the Commissioners' office (Bedford estate); by 20th October, for the whole or any part (four divisions), of the works in the erection of the new Grammar Schools and Master's house, at Loughborough, Leicester; by 27th inst., for the erection of a British school at Thaxted, Essex; by 27th, for the erection and completion of a garden market at Worcester; by 7th September, for the several works required in the execution of a railway of three miles in length, crossing the river Blyth (Newcastle); by 31st inst., for the carpenter's work of sheds to be erected on the quays of the Nelson Dock, Liverpool; and by 6th September, for 50 iron gas columns, and 50 street posts, at Bethnal-green.

THE TUBULAR BRIDGES.—In a recent report, Mr. Stephenson states that the masonry of the Britannia-bridge contract is completed as far as practicable, prior to the floating and lifting of the tubes; that some delay had arisen from an unsoundness in one of the large castings of the new hydraulic press in the Anglesea Tower, which occasioned so much leakage, as threatened to render a new casting necessary; that the leakage, however, had been stopped, and the lifting might have been completed, but he had deemed it prudent to lift by short stages only, and to build up step by step underneath with brickwork, in order effectually to guard against the serious consequences which might arise from any failure or derangement of the hydraulic presses, whilst the tube was suspended from them. Such an accident he believed to be very improbable; but, after the fracture that took place in one of the cross-heads during the lifting of the Conway tubes (fortunately discovered in time to prevent a very serious disaster), the utmost caution was deemed expedient. The issue has since proved the great necessity of such prudence and caution. The lower part of the defective cylinder burst, on 17th inst., with a tremendous explosion. Only one man was injured, but he was dreadfully smashed by the falling mass of nearly three tons weight. The precautionary packing and bricking, with cement, under the tube, alone prevented the most terrible consequences. The tube is now raised about 21 feet from the base. In the 26th report of the Parliamentary Commissioners on this route of railway it is stated that, on careful examination of the Menai-bridge, the whole structure appears to be in as perfect a state as when first opened. The Conway-bridge has also been found perfect.

BREAKAGE OF GLASS.—Messrs. Hartley, glass manufacturers, Sunderland, lately brought an action against the Great Northern Railway Company for 16*l.* 10*s.* loss on rough plate-glass, a residue not required by Messrs. Peto in roofing the railway station at Lincoln, and ordered to be returned *via* Peterborough to save packing, but sent by the Company *via* Grimsby, and thereby destroyed. Glass being excepted under the Carriers' Act, the judge on the northern circuit, before whom the case was tried, directed the jury to return a verdict for the defendants, as no additional charge was paid by way of insurance. Leave, however, was reserved to the plaintiffs to enter the verdict for them if the Court above should decide that the direction was wrong.

RAMSGATE SEAMEN'S INFIRMARY.—The foundation stone of the Ramsgate Seamen's Infirmary was laid on Friday, the 17th day of August, by Mr. John Ashby Warre, the president of the institution, in the presence of a large number of spectators. The building is to be erected from designs in the Grecian style, prepared by Mr. Wm. E. Smith, Architect, of Ramsgate. The site selected for its erection is on the West Cliff, in the district recently assigned to Christ Church. The incumbent of this (the Rev. E. Hoare) will have the moral and religious superintendence, and to whom praise is due for the promotion of this institution, which must be found of service to the afflicted mariners occasionally visiting the harbour of Ramsgate.

CONDITION OF EDINBURGH.—In your last week's paper you have an article on the adornment of the city of Edinburgh: I will venture to give you the impression made on me at a recent visit to this city, as to the vanity of our Scottish neighbours in attempting to adorn their city while they are so utterly regardless of the common decencies of life. Prince's-street and Canongate form a sad contrast to each other: in the former the luxurious Scott monument,—the handsome screens, with columns, &c., on the bridge overlooking the lower town, near the Post-office,—the affected imitation of the Parthenon, on the Calton-hill, may be cited as examples of so much money spent in adornment. An apostle has said, "Cleanliness is next to godliness;" our pious Scotch neighbours overlook this passage strangely; the filthy exhibitions in Canongate are hardly credible in this reformed age. A worthy citizen of Edinburgh told me he really believed that there was not a single privy or accommodation of any character throughout Canongate. For the information of those who have not visited Edinburgh, it should be mentioned that Canongate, for the most part, is a wide street, more than a mile in length, and a steep hill the whole length; lofty, irregular, barrack-like houses; the shops, for the most part, stores of different kinds; the upper floors, or flats as they are called, seven or eight in number, frequently inhabited by labouring classes; the exhibitions at the windows often of not very delicate character,—more than half the glazing of the sashes deficient, the vacant panes stuffed with straw or a piece of a garment; the narrow staircases frequently jutting out into the street, give a peculiar character. The affected imitation of the Parthenon on the Calton-hill is, I think, a disgrace to the age. Think of the poverty of idea to servilely copy that which the men of Athens set up more than 2,000 years ago! No adaptation of principle of design, but a mere servile copy! Ye men of Edinburgh, consider if this is not plain truth.—R.

ANOTHER ROMAN PAVEMENT AT CIRENCESTER.—We understand that, in digging a sewer down Dyer-street, Cirencester, a Roman tessellated pavement has been discovered in good preservation. The principal object is a dragon within a chequered border. It was found about 2 feet below the surface; and from the fact of a former one having been discovered many years ago in the cellar of the house parallel with it, the supposition is that it must originally have extended a great distance. It seems that its preservation is not contemplated: it is to be hoped, however, that a drawing will be made of it, and the spot where it was found carefully mapped.

THE STATUES OF ANGELS.—Bishop Percell, of Cincinnati, has received the first of a pair of kneeling angels to adorn his cathedral, sculptured under the direction of Hiram Powers, in Italy. Some one asked the bishop if the statues was not of uncommon size, it being the kneeling figure of a person six feet in height. In answer, he gave the history of his commission to Powers. He had directed it to be made "of the natural size." Powers, in reply, requested something more definite, alleging that "he had never seen an angel." The bishop referred to Revelations xxi. 17 for his measurements. This was conclusive, and was the gauge as to size and proportions of the object sent.—Boston Chronotype.

BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS, MODERN AND MEDIEVAL.

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Part III. of this work, price 2*s.* 6*d.*, to be published on the 1st of September, will contain Views of Roslin Chapel, near Edinburgh; New Church at Howerton, Middlesex; the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew; Bridgewater House, London; Sir Benjamin Heywood's New Bank, Manchester; Ely Cathedral, East End; the Théâtre Historique, Paris; Sir Robert Peel's Picture Gallery; with descriptive letter-press.

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