

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES IN ST. LUKE'S OLD-STREET.—At the monthly meeting of the Board of Guardians, held on Wednesday evening last, Mr. Churchwarden King in the chair; on a motion by Mr. Ashkin, for a committee to be appointed to carry into effect the laudable object of establishing baths and washhouses in the parish of St. Luke's, Mr. Shillbeer observed, in supporting the motion, that he did so with more than ordinary pleasure, because he felt that the densely populated district of St. Luke's parish required such an establishment, to afford the poorer portion of his fellow parishioners those advantages of personal comfort and cleanliness which in other parishes had been found of such vast benefit to the working classes. He hoped no further time would be lost in putting in force the Act authorizing the creation of such an establishment, and felt sure that although, at first, it might increase the parish rates, yet it would soon become a self-supporting institution, and ultimately a source of profit to the parish, and meet with the cordial approval of every ratepayer. Other guardians having expressed their entire concurrence in the object of the motion, a committee was appointed to consider of, and report to the board, the best means of establishing baths and washhouses in the parish.

THE MECHANICAL SECTION OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION is very fully reported in *The Civil Engineers' Journal* for the current month; and diagrams are given to illustrate Robert's moulding machine; Appold's centrifugal pump (an ancient machine revived); Heston's means for preventing the oscillation of locomotives; Brunton's coal mine ventilator; Hosmer's self-acting cistern; and Robert's patent tide winding apparatus.

THE ART-JOURNAL of the current month contains what must be considered a very remarkable notice of the Birmingham Exhibition of Industrial Art, presenting no less than one hundred and fifty admirably-drawn and engraved illustrations of articles exhibited. When it is known that the whole has been produced in somewhat less than a month,—collected, drawn, engraved, and printed,—the feat appears marvellous. The editor, with justice, puts in his claim to early advocacy of the advantages of a national exposition of works of industry and art.

FROCESTER CHURCH RESTORATION.—An architect, dating his letter from Bristol, says,—Passing the railway station the other day, I observed that the wooden spire had been taken down, and I must say that I was exceedingly disappointed to learn, from the architect's account in a late number of *THE BUILDER*, that it was to be replaced by a *stone one of more taper proportions*. This wooden spire was a perfect curiosity in the neighbourhood. Except at Almondsbury, I believe there is not another in the county. It presented a considerable similarity to those simple wooden erections in the county of Surrey, and harmonized admirably with the *genius loci*, and at the same time contrasted very well with the neighbouring well-known and excessively taper spire of Slymbridge. Defend us from such restorations as these!

PAROCHIAL BURYING GROUNDS—JOINT OR SEPARATE.—Your correspondent, the "Colonel," who has with so much ability and public spirit given his opinions and calculations to the public, but who states that "no ideas" had been previously offered, is, I am sure, not aware of the plan and calculation for joint parochial cemeteries which your humble correspondent gave in your excellent pages, vol. iv., pp. 261 and 310; which also I am emboldened to say has been adopted, not only in one or two country districts, but in the recent "Report on the Subdivision of Parishes," &c. I will not presume to say—certainly with the immediate recollection of the distinguished authors, two of whom, to my own knowledge, had seen the pamphlet in which it was afterwards incorporated,—but practically, because the suggestions had originated *so where else*; which I am sure they will accept as an *Ecclésiastical* argument of authority. Although the above suggestions applied principally to joint grounds, which should have a common chapel in the centre, with a proposed radiating divergence of lines, the calculation was nearly as well suited for individual grounds.

J. D. PARRY.

NELSON COLUMN, TRAFALGAR-SQUARE.—With regard to the Nelson column, there is reason for apprehending that, however satisfactory they may be in themselves as works of art, the bronze bas-reliefs with which the panels on the pedestal are to be filled in will in a short time after being put up be scarcely distinguishable—and thus blankness will be exchanged only for blackness. The latter, however, will be in keeping with the capital of the column; which, as might have been foreseen from the first, shows only as a dark mass whose details are entirely lost. We doubt if bronze be fit for other than small ornamental articles which are intended for close inspection, or large single figures and statues, which, however viewed, show their outlines distinctly. We question if it should be applied to reliefs on a large scale, unless some method could be found of keeping the surface of a uniformly clear and clean hue, so as to exhibit light and shade both forcibly and distinctly. As to the "monument" itself, since a column it was to be, it is to be regretted that Mr. Raibon did not venture to deviate from precedent and routine by greatly expanding the base, by means of a boldly sweeping *apophyte*, similar to that given to the columns within the temple at Bassa. Had this been done, the pedestal would have been increased in proportion,—and the column would have stood far more firmly and majestically than it does now. Such, however, is the respect paid to precedent, that art is misled by the very course intended to preserve it.—*Athenæum*.—[One of the bas-reliefs has been hoisted into its place, on the south side of the pedestal; but, at this present, its merits cannot be canvassed, because its face is.]

THE NORWICH AND WEST SUFFOLK ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETIES met on Thursday in last week at Thetford, and the proceedings were opened in the town hall by the mayor. A visit was paid to the ancient British mound and camp, where the Rev. Mr. Bulmer addressed the meeting upon its history. A visit to "The Place," or nunnery, was the next point, containing many architectural beauties, but which are now converted to ignoble purposes, and Mr. Timms, the secretary to the West Suffolk Society, read a paper upon its antiquity. Taking in their way the old Grammar School, on the site of which are many antiquarian beauties, the company arrived at the abbey, to the pretty grounds of which, by the liberal dispersion of tickets, were admitted many besides its members. Excavations to a considerable extent had been carried on for the purposes of this meeting; the original floor, with its encaustic tiles, was laid open, and the base and shaft of the columns of the noble church, built in 1170, gave an idea of its magnificence and extent.

DWELLINGS FOR THE POOR.—It has been suggested that parochial bodies should be empowered to erect dwellings for the working classes in localities where such are required, and as they have the power to erect baths and washhouses I do not see why they should not have this power also conferred on them by Act of Parliament. It is the only remedy that I can see for the present state of things.—A LONDONER.

EXPLOSION OF A SEWER IN SOUTHWARK.—On Saturday evening last, an explosion of sewer-damp happened in Friar-street, in the Borough. The cast-iron plates, covering the man-holes in the flag pavement in Friar-street, are said to have been blown into the air, and flames came through the gully-gratings into the streets. A statement on the subject by an officer of the commissioners is given in a previous column; but it should be further investigated. At the present moment, when the best mode of ventilating sewers is occupying attention, it is of consequence that the cause of the accident, and the circumstances attending it, should be thoroughly understood.

WATER FOR THE TOWER OF LONDON.—The arrangements of the water-works to be supplied to the soldiers have induced the forwarding of arrangements whereby a limited supply of pure spring water has been introduced for the present. It is to be used for drinking and cooking alone, as it does not exceed 2,000 gallons a-day. It is said the Duke of Wellington has induced the Woods and Forests to agree to bore an Artesian well in the Tower for supply of the garrison.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.—It is understood that the Government are to lend money, on sufficient securities, to railway companies, at 4 per cent., the Government being able to raise it at 3, so as to place at the disposal of Ministers a profit of 1 per cent. in reduction of taxation.—During last half-year 96 persons have been killed, and 75 injured by railway in Great Britain and Ireland.—The dangerous curves on the Lancashire and Yorkshire line at Charlestown have recently been reduced from a radius of 660 to one of 2,000 feet.—The result of the Crown investigation into the fall of the bridge at Roxburgh, on the North British line, is the indictment of the contractor and resident engineer for trial at next assizes.—The works on the tunnel of the Great Southern and Western Irish line have been suspended, and a large body of labourers disemployed. The reason assigned is, that the Directors are desirous of ascertaining what the amount of traffic will be when the line has been opened from Cork to Blackpool on the 14th inst.

ENGLISH SHIP BUILDERS.—A correspondent writes:—"Latterly work has been very dull with steam ship-builders; and knowing that the following order is now in the market to be given away, I send you a note of it. Six first-class steam-vessels and four small ditto have been ordered by the Messrs. Elder and Co., the French shipping agents, for the Mediterranean and French trade. The engineer appointed by them intends dividing the contracts between Glasgow, London, and Newcastle, thus showing that England still maintains the superiority of its character for ships and marine engines; although, in a French paper (*National*) a long article was recently given, setting forth the superiority of French work and Frenchmen in these departments of trade. The contracts can be completed in this country for an average of 4,000 sterling each vessel less than in France; proving, that in price a great advantage is had in this country, where skill and the division of labour reduce the expense, although wages are higher than in other countries.—J. S.

NEW REGULATIONS AT SALISBURY CATHEDRAL.—The nave and transepts of the cathedral are to be thrown open to the public daily, between the hours of the morning and afternoon services. The choir and other parts of the interior can only be inspected by applying to the vergers, as before. The spire has been nearly completed by the workmen engaged in pointing and restoring it.

PROFITS OF ROYAL FORESTS.—According to the daily papers, the total income of the year from all the royal forests and woodlands belonging to the crown was 29,860*l.*; the total expenditure 31,682*l.* Public deficiency, 4,822*l.*

THE SEWERAGE AND REFUSE OF LIVERPOOL.—It is the intention of the Health Committee to purchase or rent several thousand acres of waste land near the shore, in the vicinity of Ince or Formby, and apply to these the manure conveyed thither from Liverpool in boats. The farm operations are to be carried on by able-bodied paupers from the parish, and it is supposed that the profits will not only pay for the cost and the value of the manure, but leave a surplus in favour of the corporation.—*Liverpool Courier*.

HEREFORD.—The chapter-house of the cathedral is to be restored, in order to render the library accessible to the clergy. In 1643, the lead was taken off its conical roof to repair the breaches in the castle.

NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AT KENTISH TOWN.—The first stone of the Church of St. Alexis, Fitzroy-place, Kentish Town, was laid on the 1st inst., by Prince John of Spain. Mr. Wardell is the architect, Mr. T. Jackson the builder. The church is to be cruciform, according to our informant, 105 feet long and 55 feet wide, will have a central tower and spire 200 feet high, and will accommodate 1,000 worshippers.

THE "COLLECTANEA ANTIQUA."—The first part of Mr. Roach Smith's "Etchings and Notices of Ancient Remains," illustrative of the customs and history of past ages, contains a full and interesting account of the Roman villa at Hardip, in Kent, with numerous engravings. The walls of the rooms and passages here had been well stuccoed and painted, in some cases, red, in others white.