

clerk is allowed to extract sixpence each as his demanded charge from visitors to the church, under pretence that "he receives no salary or other emolument." The complainant suggests that the exhibitor "ought at least to follow the example of other showmen by admitting children at half-price, and taking the money at the door before the exhibition commences." He should be thankful, however, that in the exhibition of the real tomb of so notorious a character as Shakspeare, in so interesting a church as Stratford-on-Avon, he was subjected to "no extra charge" whatever, such as Madame Tussaud would undoubtedly have exacted, on the Chamber of Horrors principle, could she have got hold of the genuine article before she went herself, poor lady, "down among the dead men." As to half-price, we do not believe that even in the great two-penny exhibition of St. Paul's, children have any such privilege. Why should they have it at Stratford-on-Avon, therefore, since the great central model establishment looks so respectfully down upon the rising generation as but so many little men and women, all at the "small charge of twopence" overhead?—On Tuesday in last week the foundation-stone of a new church for 300 persons was laid at Tatworth, Chard, by the lady of the vicar.—The two painted windows presented by Mr. R. B. Phillips, of Longworth, have been recently erected in the Ladye Chapel of Hereford Cathedral. They occupy the two windows on the south side, to the westward of Bishop Audley's chapel. The glass is supposed, by the *Hereford Times*, to be "of great antiquity, the ground-work being black tracery on a brown matter laid on to the glass; and therefore anterior to the general use of stained glass. The figures and devices, however, do not seem of equal antiquity with the rest of the window. The eastern contains in the head a seated figure, with the left hand held up, the thumb and two fingers being alone elevated." These windows were, we believe, formerly in St. Peter's Church, Hereford.—The improvement of the town of Liverpool is about to be decided on by suggestions, &c. from architects, engineers, or others.—St. Alban's Church, Limekiln-lane, Liverpool, was consecrated on Wednesday in last week.—The new Church of England Cemetery, at Sheffield, which occupies an area of about 8½ acres, adjoining the original cemetery, was consecrated on Thursday week. The ground was laid out by Messrs. Flockton and Son, architects, and planted under the advice of Mr. Marnock, of London. The new church connected with it stands with its tapering spire on an eminence adjoining, and will contain about 200 persons.—The new school to Glenorchy Chapel, Matlock-Bath, is now covered in.—Of late there has been quite a mania in Halifax for altering shop-fronts and putting in great plates of glass. The fronts of two shops had been pulled out last week, and cellars were at the same time being dug underneath. The upper part of the buildings were shored up as usual, but on Wednesday several ominous cracks were heard, and about tea-time the entire walls, floors, and roof (except the western wall), fell in "with a tremendous crash." As one of the shops had had a new front put in some years ago, it is probable the building was already much shaken. But surely the undermining work in the cellars might have been safely got through before the street front was pulled out.—St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, has been re-opened, after being decorated, and 150 additional sittings provided.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.

On the 29th June the prizes in the class of architecture, Thomas L. Donaldson, Professor, were awarded as follow:—

First year—(Fine Art.)—Prize and first certificate, Chas. B. Thurston, of London; second certificate of honour—Francis Gomperts, of London; third certificate of honour—William Henry Naale.

Second year—(Fine Art.)—Prize and first certificate—Wm. Howden, of London; second certificate of honour—John Young; third certificate of honour—Wm. Allingham, of Bermondsey; fourth certificate of honour—Thomas Gundry, of London.

First year—(Construction.)—Prize and first certificate—Chas. B. Thurston, of London; second certificate of honour—Samuel H. Blackmore, of Kingston, Herefordshire; third certificate—Francis Gomperts, of London.

Second year—(Construction.)—Prize and first certificate—William Allingham, of Bermondsey; second certificate—William Howden, of London; third certificate—Thomas Gundry, of London; fourth certificate—George Legg, of University Hall.

SIGHTS AND SCENERY.

Italian Opera House, Covent Garden.—A finer sight and more stirring scene than this theatre presented on Thursday night in last week, on the entrance of the Queen, after the abominable attack on her by a cowardly scoundrel in the streets, was never witnessed. The opera was in progress, Meyerbeer's noble *Prophète*, and Viardot, Castellan, Mario, with Costa and his wonderful band, were delighting all hearers; but band, singers, audience,—all ceased doing and listening to testify their loyalty and their love; and then came the National Anthem, which no Englishman can hear unmoved, and such demonstrations, loud and continued, as must have shown the Queen how fully she possesses the affections of her people. Right glad are we that we have a heading under which we, without departure from our path, may express our detestation of the act, and say, as we have often said before, "Long life to the Queen."

THE SEWERS COMMISSION AND ST. GEORGE'S, HANOVER-SQUARE.

At a vestry meeting of the parish of Saint George, Hanover-square, on the 4th inst. a petition to Parliament was agreed on, setting forth—

That the parish is suffering severely from the want of more perfect public sewerage, and consequently thereupon, from defective private drainage.

That the amount of sewers rates levied in the Westminster district alone, during the last twenty-two years, exceeds half a million of money.

That between the 2th January and 31st December, 1849, the expenditure in the Ranelagh district has been—

	£	s.	d.
Works	3,622	9	4
Surveys	734	8	9

£4,356 18 1

Management .. 1,994 8 11

The expense of management being 45A. 16s. per cent. on such expenditure.

And in the Western division of Westminster Sewers—

	£	s.	d.
Works	8,194	6	4
Surveys	1,667	9	0

£9,861 15 4

Management .. 3,676 19 11

The expense of management being 37s. 5s. 7d. per cent. on such expenditure."

That the manner in which the account in abstract is laid before the public is unsatisfactory: "the total amount charged for the year's management being the enormous sum of 22,400l. 17s. 5d., forming about 26½ per cent. of the whole expenditure, although that excludes another charge of 8,339l. 19s. 10d., for surveys, &c., which your petitioners are of opinion should form part of the expense of management.

That the vigorous efforts made in 1847 to render the Metropolitan Commission of Sewers efficient, have not only proved utterly unavailing, but that, while under the new commission the cost of management, as shown above, are enormous, the works of the commission are less satisfactorily performed than heretofore; and that the petitioners mainly attribute the unsatisfactory proceedings of the old and present commissions to the want of a constitutional control by the rate-payers, and they therefore ask such redress as may seem expedient.

STRIKE ON SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY.

—The engineering workmen at the Bricklayer's Arms and Deptford stations, thirty-five in number, and comprising smiths, carpenters, coppermiths, &c., as well as engineers, have struck work in consequence of a notice of reduction of wages from 3s. to 3s. 3d. to 3s., and 34s. 6d. to 30s. a week, suggested by a new manager.

Miscellaneous.

THE SCRAPING PROCESS AT HAMPTON COURT.—As you told me that a resident had contradicted my statement that the brickwork of Hampton Court is being scraped, I considered it my duty to make another visit to the spot, in order that I might ascertain the truth of my own previous impressions. A few days ago, therefore, I went over again to Hampton Court, and found that to one front of the gateway in question they had scraped the whole of the brickwork, some of the stonework being new and the remainder scraped. I could at once see that such was the case, but wishing to have a "resident" or two on my side of the question, I asked of one what had been done; he informed me that the brick and stonework had been scraped. A second "resident" not only said the same, but that the two fine terra cotta medallions inserted in the walls had undergone the same process. The scaffolding is now on that front of the gateway which forms part of the first quadrangle the same work—not of restoration, but spoliation—is going on here, and will probably be completed in about a week. If the scraper is to go the entire round of the building there will be an end to that quiet grandeur which so particularly belongs to Wolsey's glorious old Palace of Hampton Court. There are old ladies and young ladies, ancient buildings and modern buildings. Antique ladies should not be treated as young ones, neither should old buildings as modern ones. Old ladies are ridiculous when dressed out like their granddaughters, and rouged and painted into the bargain; so also are old buildings spoilt when scraped, painted, or added to, with the desire of making them look young.—G. T.

THE IRON TRADE.—*Arts & Gazette* reports that "upwards of a dozen more furnaces have of late been put out of blast in Staffordshire, and that unless the present downward tendency be controlled, it is probable that in another month a still greater number will be in the same position." There is also a decided anticipation of quarrels with workmen about contemplated reductions of wages, so that the masters appear to be still in a very despondent state, notwithstanding a nominal sustenance of former prices till the principal quarterly meetings take place. Wages are lower in Wales, in the North of England, and in Scotland, than in Staffordshire, and, accordingly, whatever reason the workmen may have for complaint, the masters at least regard trade as there in a less unfortunate position. The reduction of make in Scotland, however, has been very extensive, and it is questionable, after all, whether trade be in any better position there in consequence of the lowness of wages. It is but justice to the Staffordshire masters to state that they seem to be very reluctant to have any misunderstanding with their workmen by lowering wages, however unenviable their own present position may be.

STEEL PENS.—For producing steel pens the best Dannemora—Swedish iron—of hoop iron is selected. It is worked into sheets or slabs about three feet long, and four or five inches broad, the thickness varying with the desired stiffness and flexibility of the pen for which it is intended. By a stamping press pieces of the required size are cut out. The point intended for the nib is introduced into a gauged hole, and by a machine pressed into a semi-cylindrical shape. In the same machine it is pierced with the required slit or slits. This being effected the pens are cleaned by mutual friction in tin cylinders, and tempered, as in the case of the steel plate, by being brought to the required colour by the application of heat. It unfortunately happens, however, that the process of tempering, upon which entirely the quality of the pen depends, is in most cases most carelessly performed. Some idea of the extent of this manufacture will be formed from the statement, that nearly 150 tons of steel are employed annually for this purpose, producing upwards of 250,000,000 pens.—*Art Journal.*

MASTER CARPENTERS' SOCIETY.—The 75th anniversary meeting of this society was held at Richmond last week, when about thirty of the members dined together and spent some pleasant hours. Amongst them were Messrs. Higgs, Stephens, S. Bird, Geo. Bird, Eales, Gooch, Nesham, Locke, Biers, Norrie, &c.