

NOTES

Biddings.

In the Society's library (*Miscellaneous*, 1931-1935) are two examples of a curious custom which is often described as Welsh, though Mr. George Eyre Evans, the well-known antiquarian, informs us that it appears to have been limited to the valleys of the Towy and Teifi rivers with the adjacent districts, and does

purse. One of them was Joseph Stepneth or Stepney, vailed as far back as the 16th century, for an Act passed in 1534 expressly includes "bydales" among other prohibitions. He adds "the custom is not yet extinct in some remote places in West Wales: there are at least two printed Bidding notices in the National Library which were issued between 1914 and 1924."

The "stand and deliver" character of these invitations will be made clear by our two examples, which read:—

CARMARTHEN, January 20th, 1859.

Having lately entered the Matrimonial State, we are encouraged by our friends to make a BIDDING on the occasion, on TUESDAY, the 8th day of February, at the Glos'ter Arms Inn, near the New Market Place, when and where the favour of your good and agreeable company is most humbly solicited, and whatever donation you may be pleased to bestow on us then will be thankfully received, warmly acknowledged, and cheerfully repaid whenever called for on a similar occasion.

By your most obedient servants,

EDWARD ROWE,
Mariner.

ESTHER ROWE,
(late Richards).

The Young Woman's Father (Thomas Richards, Master of the Steamer's Barge), her Mother (Louisa Richards), her Brothers (George, John and Benjamin), her Grandmother (Mrs. Esther Richards, late of the Hope & Anchor), and her Uncle and Aunt (Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, of the Glos'ter Arms Inn) desire that all gifts of the above nature due to them be returned to the Young Couple on the above day, and will be thankful for all additional favours granted.

The Young Woman's company will meet at her Father's House at 11 o'clock.

CARMARTHEN, May 1st, 1866>.

As we intend to enter the **MATRIMONIAL STATE** on **Tuesday**, May 29th inst., we are encouraged by our Friends to make a **BIDDING** on the occasion, the same day, at the Fountain Inn, in Red-street, in this town, when and where the favour of your good and agreeable company is humbly solicited, and whatever donation you may be pleased to confer on us then will be thankfully received, warmly acknowledged and cheerfully repaid whenever called for on a **similar** occasion,

By your most obedient Servants,

LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS

(Butcher).

JANE JONES.

The Young Man, his Father (Thomas Williams, Butcher), his Brother (William Williams) and his Sisters (Hannah and Anne Williams), his Aunt (Anne Llewellyn), his Uncle and Aunt (George and Sophia Lloyd), his Cousins (William and Eliza Lloyd), his Cousin (Margaret Thomas), his Cousins (Henry and Hannah Williams), his Aunt (Elizabeth Williams), his Cousin (David Williams), his Uncle and Aunt (Thomas and Mary George), and his Cousin (Thomas George) desire that all gifts of the above nature due to them be returned to the Young Man on the above day, and will be thankful for all favours conferred on him.

Also the Young Woman, her Father and Mother (Robert Jones, Tallow Chandler, and Mary his wife), her Brothers (Charles and William Sutton Jones), her Sisters (Mary Ann Sophia Williams, Ann, Selina, and Catherine Jones), her Brother-in-law and Sister (Edward and Letitia French) and her Uncles (William Sutton and Capt. Charles Sutton) desire that all gifts of the above nature due to them be returned to the Young Woman on that day, and will be thankful for all favours granted.

The Friends of the Young Man will meet at the Fountain Inn ; and the Friends of the Young Woman at her Father's House, Saw-Mill Terrace.

A Survival of Neolithic Craftsmanship in Africa.

As stone club heads and mace heads are frequently found on neolithic and prehistoric sites, the illustrated article by Mr. C. W. Beer on the " Manufacture of Nuba Stone Knob Sticks " (*Sudan Notes and Records*, Vol. XVIII, No. 2, Khartoum, December, 1935), is of special importance to all antiquaries and archaeologists.

The Nuba knob sticks are composite and about 3 feet 6 inches long. The spherical head is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and weighs about $5\frac{1}{2}$ ounces. It is made of hard stone of a dark green or black colour and may be serpentine. Others are made

of diorite. Mr. Beer has illustrated the process of manufacture by a series of photographs. The heads are chipped by stones until they assume a globular form, after which stage they are rubbed on a flat stone until they assume a smooth spherical form. About fifteen days are occupied in the process of manufacture. The hole for the shaft is made by percussion, and not with a boring tool turned in a circular motion. The hole is punctured in the stone by a sharp flint which is struck by a stone until the hole is half-way. The head is then reversed and the hole made from the other side until the head is entirely pierced.

These clubs are not missiles, although they are used to throw at small game as occasion arises. Similar weapons are figured on archaic Egyptian palettes and the Egyptian monuments. It is evident that the method of the Nubas long preceded the use of the bow drill and must be the earliest known method of piercing these stone club or mace heads.

A. E. ROBINSON.

An old St. Albans Clockmaker.

Lost at or near North Hall the 25th past, a Gold Minute Pendulum Watch, middle siz'd, the Name in the Dial-Plate, Mountfort, St. Albans; and on the upper Plate, Zac. Mountfort, St. Albans; it had a Mettle Case covered with Shagreen, and studded with Gold. Whoever brings it to Mr. Samuel Potter at the Adam and Eve in Newgate-street, London, or to Mr. Mountfort, Clockmaker in St. Albans, Hertfordshire, shall have 2 Guinea's Reward, or if bought their Money again, with reasonable Profit.

(*The London Gazette.* From Thursday July 4 to Monday July 8. 1695.)

Lost: A Pocket Book.

Lost the 30th. of January last betwixt Lawrence-Lane in Cheapside and the Red-Lyon-Inn in Aldersgate-street, or betwixt the said Inn and Wine-Office-Court in Fleetstreet, a small Pocket Book with a Green Cover, one Alphabet, and with some Accounts and Papers in it, of no use to any but the Owner James Welch at the Wooll-Pack, St. Albans. Whoever brings it to the White-Hart-Inn in Aldersgate-street, shall have 10s. Reward, and no Questions asked.

(*Daily Courant.* Tuesday February 3. 1713.)

A Fatality at St. Stephens.

Friday Se'nnight the following remarkable Accident happened at St. Stephens near St. Albans, where some Labourers having sunk a Well to a great Depth, the Earth fell in upon one of the Men, and cover'd him over, except His Head, and one Arm; upon which he call'd to his Companions for Assistance, one of

whom went down, who got his other Arm out, and fastening the Rope under his Arm-pits, endeavour'd to pull him out; but the Weight of the Earth was so heavy upon him, that he was obliged to desire them to desist. In this melancholy Situation he remained till Sunday Morning, during which Time he received all possible Assistance from the Neighbourhood, and a Person being then digging him out, perceived some more Earth to fall ; upon which he made a Signal to be drawn up, which was no sooner done, than the Earth fell in upon the poor unhappy Man, and smother'd him.

(The Country Journal: or, the Craftsman. Saturday, December 13, 1735.)

Ringing Feast at St. Albans.

St. Albans, June 20. On Monday last was celebrated the annual ringing feast of the College Youths of St. Albans, when many of their brethren from London, and other parts of the kingdom, were pleased to favour them with their attendance, in a very decent and regular procession from the Town-hall to the Abbey-church, where a sermon was preached to them from 1 Cor. xiii. 1. and after divine service they returned to the Town-hall to dinner, where a very plentiful and genteel entertainment was provided by the Master and Stewards of the Society, at which were present many gentlemen of rank and property ; many loyal and constitutional toasts were given on the occasion, and the day concluded with universal harmony and chearfulness.

(The Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser. Fri. June 22, 1764.)

REVIEWS

A Guide to St. Albans and Verulamium. By R. L. P. Jowitt.
F'cap 8vo., pp. 216, with illustrations and plans. London :
Frederick Muller, 1935.

This book is more than a Guide, it is the best history of St. Albans that has been published for many years. The author's work as one of the excavators at Verulamium enables him to speak with first-hand knowledge of the discoveries made there since 1930, while the chief events in the history of its successor, St. Albans, are to be found in this volume, which is written in an easy style too often absent from similar works. As a book of reference it is of undoubted value, while the excellent illustrations add greatly to its interest.

The Roman Theatre at Verulamium : A Reconstruction.

By A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A. F'cap 4 to.,
pp. 64, with illustrations and plans. London : The Marchand
Press, 1935.

The aim of this book, as stated in the introduction, is "to show the part the Theatre played in the life of the town, and to supply the reasons for the successive phases of alteration or rebuilding which it underwent." This has been skilfully accomplished in six scenes, in which the author's verbal pictures are interspersed with the dialogue of imaginary Roman townsmen. It is a very entertaining and informative book, which will be appreciated by all who wish to know more of the Verulamium theatre and its history.

The Parish Church of St. Michael, St. Albans : A Short Illustrated History. By John C. Rogers, A.R.I.B.A. Crown 8vo.,
pp. 39, with illustrations and plans. St. Albans : H. A.
Richardson, 1935.

Mr. Rogers here records the history of the church from Saxon times to the present day, and describes the extensive restorations and repairs which have recently become necessary and are now nearing completion under the direction of the author. The numerous plans form a complete record of the alterations made in the building at various periods. It is an excellent production, which will no doubt meet with the success it deserves.

Statement of Accounts for the Year ending December 31st, 1935

| RECEIPTS. | £ | s. | d. | PAYMENTS. | £ | s. | d. |
|------------------------------|------|----|----|--|------|----|----|
| Balance, 1st January, 1935 . | 28 | 15 | 7 | Subscription to National Trust for Pre- serving Places of Historical Interest | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 276 Subscriptions at 10/6 . | 144 | 18 | 0 | Subscription to British Records Association | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Interest on Investment | | 9 | 4 | Subscription to Monumental Brass Society | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Subscription to Archaeological Congress ... | 3 | 12 | 0 |
| | | | | Donation to St. Michael's Restoration Fund | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| | | | | Lectures and Excursions | 58 | 6 | 4 |
| | | | | Transactions | 46 | 17 | 6 |
| | | | | Memorial Tablet to the great Duke of Marlborough | 13 | 8 | 5 |
| | | | | Library | 1 | 16 | 9 |
| | | | | Stationery and General Printing | 6 | 13 | 0 |
| | | | | Postages | 4 | 0 | 8 |
| | | | | Balance, 31st December, 1935 | 30 | 11 | 3 |
| | | | | | £174 | 2 | 11 |
| | £174 | 2 | 11 | | | | |

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F. M. WHITING,
Hon. Treasurer.

Examined with Pass-books and Vouchers and found correct.
(Signed) N. P. ANDREW.
January 13th, 1936.

TRANSACTIONS

1933—1935

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