

and ward outside his bedroom, where he had them in custody. I may in closing draw a short moral from his and Gifford's history. Both help to prove men's power to overcome adverse circumstances by probity, energy, and industry. Both may be quoted as illustrations of those fine lines of Wordsworth's in *The Excursion*—

“Within the soul a faculty abides,
That with interpositions, which would hide
And darken, so can deal that they become
Contingencies of pomp, and serve to exalt
Her native brightness.”

JAR FOUND AT MUSBURY.

BY P. O. HUTCHINSON,

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(Read at Ashburton, July, 1876.)

TOWARDS the latter part of the year 1874, and during great part of 1875, extensive additions and restorations were carried out at Musbury Church, in this county. The whole church was taken in hand from one end to the other; and in carrying out the works, it was found necessary to lower the ground in the south aisle. This aisle is ancient, even if it is not part and parcel of the original design with the nave and tower, which show features of decorated character. There are six kneeling figures of the Drake family in the south-east corner, with inscriptions bearing dates from 1558 to 1643. To carry out the intention, the floor-boards were taken up and cleared away, and then men were set to work with spades and pick-axes to excavate the earth. When about one foot of the soil had been removed, one of the men, called Whakeley, who was wielding a pickaxe, struck the point of that tool into the bottom of an earthen vessel, and broke it to pieces. On perceiving that a discovery had been made, the workmen who were present, according to the common but stupid idea, raised a cry that a crock of gold had been found; so they made a rush and a scramble, and not only rendered the fragments more fragmentary, but scattered the contents of the urn beyond the power of subsequent collection or examination. Mr. Stretchley Churchill, a stonemason, of Sidmouth, who has done a good deal of work for me at various times, was at work in Musbury Church when this occurred. On returning to his home on the



Saturday afterwards, he brought me some of the pieces; but on his returning to his work on the Monday morning, I charged him to bring me all the remains he could collect, and even some of the earth, if he thought he could identify the spot where the vase had been buried. I have been told that there appeared to have been some soft brown earth under it; but I confess that I have but little reliance in anything like details, inasmuch as the confusion and the ignorance displayed on the occasion precluded the possibility of careful observation. Since then I have myself been over to Musbury, but I have not obtained any very satisfactory particulars even on the spot.

Under these adverse circumstances I am obliged to confine myself to the vessel itself, being unable to give any account of what may have been within it. I have not been able to hear that either coins or bones or charcoal were noticed in the scramble; in short, no note was taken of anything. It is in such a fragmentary condition that I am only able to put portions of it together; but these, at all events, will suffice to inform us as to its size and shape. The pieces of the top ring when fitted together show that the mouth was nearly seven inches and a half across, and the circle of the bottom was seven inches in diameter. In height it is believed to have been one foot or thereabout, as the finders testify. It was made on the wheel of red earthenware commonly called "clome" in Devonshire, to which a brownish or greenish glaze had been applied both inside and out. The spot where it was met with was near the middle of the south aisle, and at about three yards eastward from the south door. When I was told that it was found with the bottom upwards, and the mouth downwards, I was rather sceptical, because that implied ancient British and pagan, or perhaps Roman burial by cremation; but the men assured me that it certainly was so, and in support of this assertion, they drew my attention to the hole on the under side made by the point of the pick when it struck it. But if so great an age or so remote a period of antiquity cannot be assigned to a jar of this finish, I would suggest whether it may have been of mediæval date, and whether it may have been an acoustic jar, accidentally buried in the position indicated? We have not forgotten the interesting account of the acoustic jars found in Ashburton Church laid before the members of this Association at Sidmouth in 1873 by Mr. John Amery. I merely throw it out as a suggestion, and shall be glad to profit by any remarks or any opinions which any of the members may be pleased to pass upon the case which I have laid before them.



JAR FOUND IN MUSBURY CHURCH, DEVON.

ONE QUARTER THE FULL SIZE.