

Prospectus of the General Cemetery Company : for providing places of interment, secure from violation, inoffensive to public health and decency, and ornamental to the metropolis : with papers illustrative of the subject.

Contributors

General Cemetery Co.
Royal College of Surgeons of England

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General Cemetery Company,

FOR PROVIDING

PLACES OF INTERMENT,

SECURE FROM VIOLATION,

INOFFENSIVE TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND DECENCY, AND

ORNAMENTAL TO THE METROPOLIS.

Capital £200,000, in Shares of £25 each.

PROVISIONAL TRUSTEES.

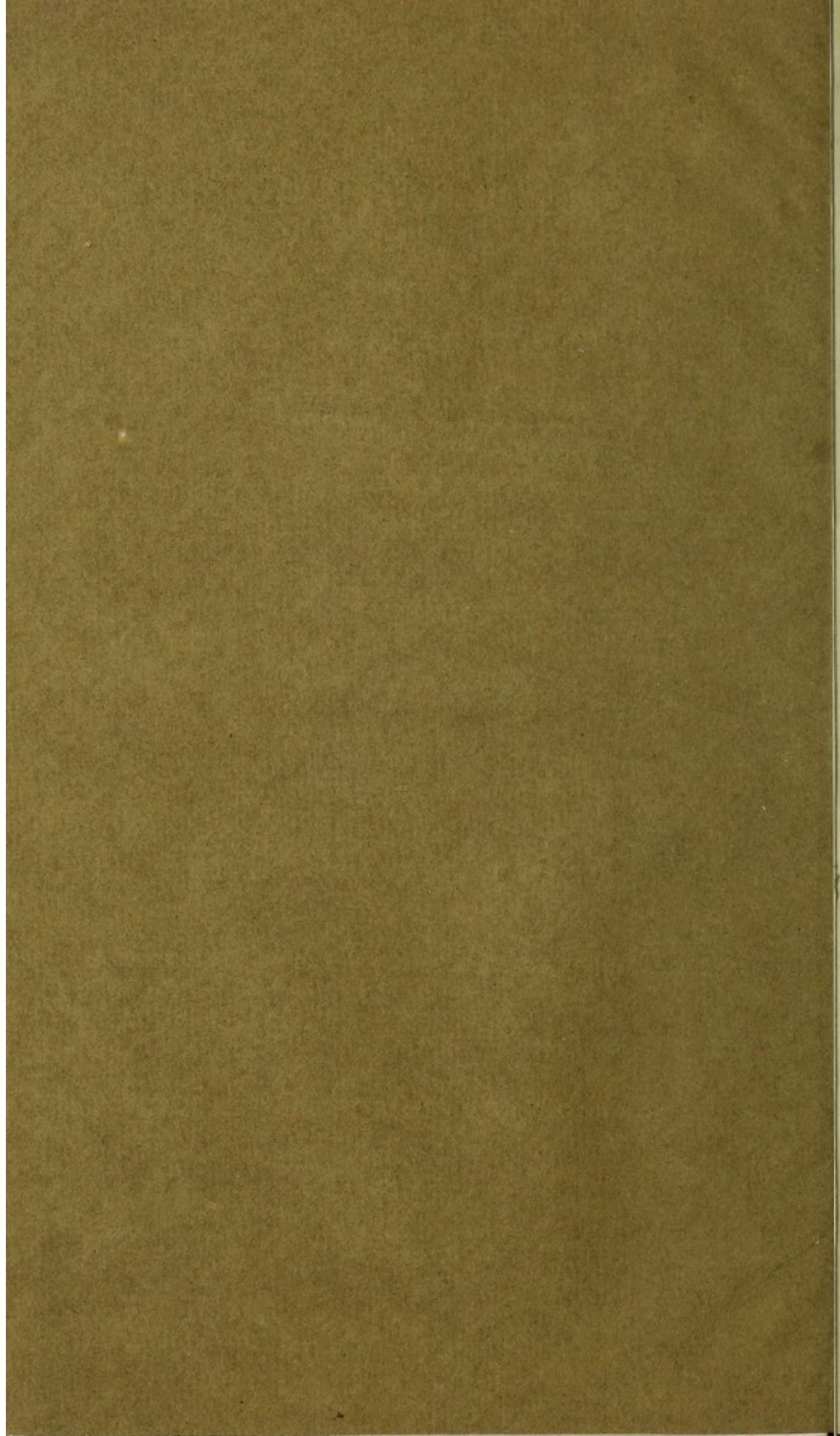
LORD VISCOUNT MILTON,
SIR JOHN DEAN PAUL, BART.
ANDREW SPOTTISWOODE, ESQ. M.P.
GEORGE FREDERICK CARDEN, ESQ.

BANKERS.

MESSRS. SNOW, PAUL, AND PAUL, TEMPLE-BAR WITHOUT.

SHARES MAY BE HAD OF THE BANKERS.

1830.



PROSPECTUS

OF THE

General Cemetery Company,

FOR PROVIDING

PLACES OF INTERMENT,

SECURE FROM VIOLATION,

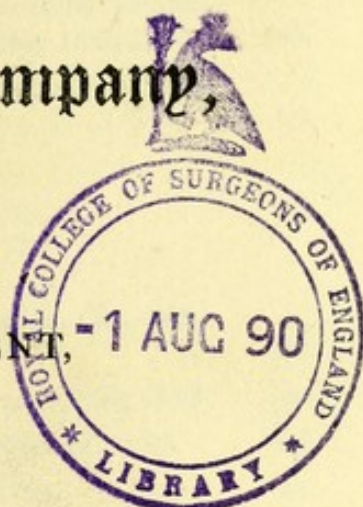
INOFFENSIVE TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND DECENCY, AND

ORNAMENTAL TO THE METROPOLIS.

WITH PAPERS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE SUBJECT.

LONDON:

1830.



LONDON :
Printed by A. & R. Spottiswoode,
New-Street-Square.

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CIRCULAR

*To Individuals who had expressed themselves favourable to the
Establishment of a Public Cemetery.*

SIR,

URGED by my friends to convene a Meeting of those persons who have expressed themselves favourable to my design of a Public Cemetery, I have the honour to request the favour of the attendance of yourself and friends at my Chambers on Monday next, the 8th day of February.

With regard to the plan of a Pyramid projected by Mr. Wilson, I have to state, that my design includes only a Cemetery on the plan of Père-la-Chaise.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

GEO. F. CARDEN.

3. Inner Temple Lane,
Jan. 25. 1830.

At which Meeting, Resolutions were passed in favour of the measure, and a Committee appointed, under whose auspices the Society has been again formed.

MAY 21. 1830.

PROSPECTUS

OF THE

General Cemetery Company,

FOR PROVIDING

PLACES OF INTERMENT,

SECURE FROM VIOLATION,

INOFFENSIVE TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND DECENCY, AND
ORNAMENTAL TO THE METROPOLIS.

CAPITAL £200,000, IN SHARES OF £25 EACH.

THE necessity for providing places of sepulture for the dead apart from the habitations of the living has been so fully shown in the former Prospectus of this Company, (published in the year 1825, under the title of the General Burial-Grounds Association,) and is now so generally admitted, that it is useless, on the present occasion, to enlarge upon it.

The limited extent of burial-grounds in London has, in many instances, led to the exposure of the remains of the dead, and to the dangerous practice of burying, in coffins of wood, under churches and chapels where divine service is performed. Some parishes, to avoid these evils, have provided burial-grounds in the outskirts of the town; but the expense is so great, and the difficulty of obtaining ground is so continually increasing, that even this partial expedient is seldom

resorted to; and these limited grounds will probably in a short time become nearly as offensive and unwholesome as those now in the heart of the metropolis.

Since the publication of the original Prospectus much additional information has been obtained; and on the 8th of February last, a meeting of the friends of the measure was convened, at which a Provisional Committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

An eligible site for a General Cemetery having offered itself, the public are now invited to join in forwarding this great National Improvement. The Capital is divided into small Shares, to afford an opportunity to a greater number of individuals to unite in an undertaking of such general interest; and the necessary measures will be taken to limit the responsibility of the Shareholders to the amount of their respective Shares.

The grounds will be laid out and planted, (after the manner of the celebrated cemetery of *Père-la-Chaise*, in the neighbourhood of Paris,) surrounded with an ornamental enclosure of sufficient height, and so watched and guarded as to prevent the possibility of the sepulchres within being violated or disturbed.

Within this area, parishes, public bodies, and individuals, may obtain ground for the purpose of interment, with liberty to erect mausoleums and monuments after their own designs: vaults and catacombs will also be constructed for general use.

A Chapel will be erected for the celebration of the funeral service, and the reception of monuments.

A plan of the ground, with the situation of every monument, and a reference to the names of the owners, as well as a register of the death, age, and description of every individual interred, will be kept, and be open to inspection, in the same manner as the registers of parishes.

Subscribers on or before the 30th day of June 1830, will be entitled to tickets of precedence, after the rate of one ticket for every five shares; which ticket will entitle the holder to a preference, according to the numerical order of the shares, in the choice of a situation for a grave, or monument. These tickets to be transferable without the shares upon which they shall have been granted, and capable of being held by persons who may not be subscribers or proprietors.

Original subscribers will be entitled to the privilege of removing the remains of their relatives from other places of interment to the Cemetery at reduced fees.

The amount required will, in all probability, not exceed three fourths of the nominal capital, and the greater part of the money called for will be expended in the purchase of the land, which will be secured in the names of Trustees.

The annual number of interments in the Metropolis, including the parishes of Paddington, St. Mary-le-bone, and St. Pancras, amounts to about 40,000. In Bunhill Fields alone upwards of 1000 persons are buried annually, and the ground may be said to be almost unfit for use. Where new grounds are purchased, a heavy tax or burial-rate is levied upon the parishioners; and where this expense has not been incurred, the parties are obliged to pay double, and sometimes treble, fees for interments in other parishes.

Calculating, therefore, on a very small proportion of the whole number of interments, there can be no doubt of an adequate return for the capital invested.

May 21. 1830.

REGULATIONS.

Application to be made to Parliament for an Act to regulate the Company, and to limit the responsibility of the Proprietors to the amount of their respective shares.

The capital to be paid by instalments, not exceeding 5*l.* per share, of which three months' notice to be given.

The real property of the Company to be vested in Trustees.

The affairs of the Company to be conducted by twelve Directors, to be elected at the first General Meeting, to be held in July 1830.

After the year 1834, three of the Directors to go out by rotation annually, who are not to be eligible for re-election for one year.

Auditors to be elected annually, at a General Meeting.

Qualification for a Director, twenty shares ; for an Auditor, ten shares.

The Auditors to examine the accounts quarterly.

A General Meeting of the Proprietors to be held annually, when the accounts shall be submitted for inspection, and the dividend declared.

Special General Meetings to be convened by the Directors, or upon the requisition of not less than twenty Proprietors, holders of at least five shares.

Proprietors of five shares to have one vote ; ten shares, two votes ; fifteen shares, three votes ; twenty-five shares and upwards, four votes.

Proprietors, except the original subscribers, not to be entitled to vote, until they have held their respective shares six calendar months.

No right of voting by proxy allowed.

Subscribers for five shares and upwards, on or before the 30th of June, to be entitled to tickets of precedence.

The deposits on shares to be invested from time to time in Government securities, and, until an Act of Parliament shall be obtained, to be applicable only to the expenses necessary for placing the Company on a proper footing.

Donations to this great National Object to be applied to the erection of a Chapel and the decoration of the Cemetery.

Shares may be obtained of the Bankers, Messrs. SNOW, PAUL, and PAUL, Temple Bar Without, on payment of a deposit of 2*l.* 10*s.* per share, on account of the Provisional Trustees ;

LORD VISCOUNT MILTON.

SIR JOHN DEAN PAUL, BART.

ANDREW SPOTTISWOODE, ESQ. M. P.

GEORGE FREDERICK CARDEN, ESQ.

All communications to be addressed (post paid) to Mr. C. B. BOWMAN, Solicitor, (Secretary *pro temp.*) 18. Milk Street, Cheapside ; of whom, and of the Treasurer (*pro temp.*) G. F. CARDEN, Esq., 3. Inner Temple Lane, Prospectuses and every information may be obtained.

*To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland
in Parliament assembled.*

THE HUMBLE PETITION of George Frederick Carden, Esquire, of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, Barrister at Law,

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioner, in the year 1824, proposed a plan for an extensive burial-ground, similar to that of the celebrated cemetery of Père-la-Chaise, one of the four places of interment for the city of Paris.

That shortly after your Petitioner had promulgated his plan, there appeared in the Dutch papers an article to the following effect, viz. That His Majesty, the King of the Netherlands had submitted to a committee, composed of physicians and chemists, of various parts of the kingdom, the question, “Whether the practice of burying the dead in churches, was or was not injurious to the public health?” And that the opinion of the committee was, that the custom of burying in churches should cease, as being injurious to the living.

That your Petitioner being desirous of bringing about his plan as a measure of public utility, zealously exerted himself in obtaining the most correct information upon the subject of the provision made in London for the interment of the dead.

That your Petitioner has calculated, and firmly believes, that the number of interments annually, in the Metropolis, is not less than forty thousand.

That your Petitioner found the state and condition of the parochial places of sepulture, offensive to public decency and dangerous to the public health.

That the wise provisions made by an Act passed in the reign of Queen Anne of blessed memory, entitled “An Act for building Fifty-two new Churches,” whereby it was declared that there should be no interments in the vaults of the said churches, had, with very few exceptions, not only been

altogether disregarded, by the dead being deposited in the vaults underneath, but that they were placed there in coffins of wood only.

That your Petitioner found that in upwards of twenty of the parochial vaults underneath churches in London, the dead were so deposited in coffins of wood only.

That your Petitioner has seen, in the centre of a private chapel, a pit opened, the dead interred, and the place covered over with a moveable wooden floor; the evils likely to result from which system, your Petitioner humbly conceives to be self-apparent.

That within many churches interments are made as in the open churchyard, by the removal of the pavement, and the depositing the dead in the earth beneath.

That many vaults of parish churches communicate directly with the interior of the building; and that previously to any person venturing to enter the same, it is necessary that the vault door should be open for some hours.

That the pestilential vapours are thus sent through the whole building, and that even then a lighted candle will not not always burn in the vaults below, which indeed your Petitioner has seen to be the case in an open burial-ground in London, both when placed in the newly excavated grave, and also when placed upon the thrown-up soil, owing to the vapours arising from the saturated ground; whilst the air surrounding the churches, which have an external communication with the vaults underneath them, is ever contaminated by the effluvia escaping through the open gratings made for the purpose of rendering the vaults in any degree fit for entrance.

That in one church, your Petitioner was credibly informed, the use of fires in winter had been abandoned, owing to the increased effluvium which was found to arise from the vaults under the church.

That it is the fact, and must be well known to many Members of your Honourable House, that the Commissioners for building the recently erected churches, could not obtain sites for the purpose until they altogether abandoned the intention of making cemeteries connected therewith: that this proper

determination was general amongst the owners of land in London; and the same feeling extended itself beyond the boundaries of the Metropolis, as was lately seen in a notable example, where no land could be obtained for a churchyard in the whole parish. That there is a great want of ground for the purpose; some parishes being altogether without cemeteries, and others providing themselves with a substitute, by the expedient of bringing in a quantity of new earth. That this method is exhibited in the parish grounds of St. Andrew, Holborn; St. Anne, Westminster; St. Giles in the Fields; St. Martin in the Fields; St. Bride, &c. &c., and the same plan was recently adopted by the parish of St. Sepulchre, the churchyard of which parish had been already, in the same manner, at former periods, covered with fresh earth. That your Petitioner was present when the latter work was in progress in the year 1825, and saw the bodies of many persons, in a fresh state, cut through and mutilated, and many others removed out of the earth whilst a foundation was being dug through the centre of the burial-ground, for the building a dwarf wall to contain the fresh earth about to be brought in: that some bodies were in a perfect state after having been interred (as your Petitioner was informed and believes) upwards of twenty years. That three of the workmen employed were confined for several days incapable of work, owing to the pestilential vapour which arose from the ground. That your Petitioner, who was present only for a short time, had his health for a long period much injured, your Petitioner being violently affected by fever, causing the skin to peel off his hands and lips. That your Petitioner, accompanied by Mr. Clark, of Apothecaries' Hall, chemist, since deceased, remonstrated with the authorities upon the dangers to which the City was exposed.

That parish vaults are, through the double evil of impurity and want of room, frequently emptied, and the remains of the dead placed upon the soil in different parts of the country; and that the burial-grounds of the Metropolis are also, from time to time, partially emptied, in order that the surface may be kept level; and that the expedient of throwing large quantities

of quick lime over burial-grounds, has, in many instances, been found quite ineffectual to overcome the powerful nature of the corrupt matter constituting the soil itself.

That your Petitioner is prepared to bring evidence in support of his statements, and to disclose a state of things, at once shocking to humanity and highly dangerous to the public health.

Further, your Petitioner would remind your Honourable House, that many public improvements have, since the promulgation of your Petitioner's plan, been carried into effect, and that the church, with the vaults and burying-ground of St. Catherine near the Tower, were in consequence wholly swept away; and also that a burial-ground belonging to the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, whereon is now the New Farringdon Market, has been removed; that a portion of the churchyard of St. Martin in the Fields has been dug out, and that the work was stopped by order of His Majesty's Commissioners of Woods and Forests, and owing, your Petitioner firmly believes, to the danger of prosecuting it. And also, that it has been resolved that the parish church, vaults, &c. of Saint Dunstan in Fleet Street, shall be wholly removed. That your Petitioner, in the year 1825, entered the vaults of the said church, and found that the dead were deposited there in coffins of wood only, and saw the coffins below crushed by others placed upon them, and the remains of a recently interred corpse forced in part out of the coffin, and in a state of decomposition too disgusting to be described.

That your Petitioner considers he is performing the part of a good citizen in calling the attention of your Honourable House to this important subject; and your Petitioner would remind your Honourable House, that the admirable change adopted in the French capital was not the result of revolutionary movements, but arose from the scourging epidemic disorders which so frequently affected that capital.

That your Petitioner has communicated with the parochial clergy, and has found many of that much to be respected body highly favourable to his design; and your Petitioner is willing

to believe he is entitled to, and could obtain, if his views were openly discussed, the general concurrence of that body.

That a measure of the nature proposed by your Petitioner was a few years since adopted at Liverpool, under the sanction of the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of London, then Bishop of Chester, and is found to give the greatest satisfaction. That in several parts of the kingdom public Cemeteries have likewise been recently established; and that in other parts efforts are making for effecting a similar purpose, evincing the public feeling upon the subject.

That your Petitioner hopes to combine the interests of all parties, and has been assured of considerable support.

That if your Petitioner's plan received the countenance of your Honourable House, your Petitioner is satisfied there would be no necessity for adopting compulsory measures for closing any churchyards or Cemeteries, but that the good sense and proper feeling of the friends of deceased persons would cause them altogether to abandon the use of Cemeteries within the City.

That if an enquiry were instituted, facts would be disclosed which would call forth the deepest sensation of gratitude that this Metropolis has escaped the ravages of a plague.

That at the present time an extensive and eligible site for the purpose of a General Cemetery is secured; but your Petitioner ventures humbly to remind your Honourable House the difficulty of obtaining ground of sufficient extent would be greatly increased by delay, owing to the wonderful increase in the population of the Metropolis, and the consequent demand for land for building purposes.

Your Petitioner, therefore, humbly prays that your Honourable House will take the subject into your consideration, and that a Committee may be appointed to enquire into the evils of the present system of interments within this Metropolis, and the plan now proposed by your Petitioner for providing a remedy for the same.

And your Petitioner will ever pray, &c. &c.

REPORT OF THE SPEECHES IN PARLIAMENT,

Thursday, May 13. 1830,

ON PRESENTING THE PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

[From the Mirror of Parliament.]

INTERMENTS IN THE METROPOLIS.

Mr. Spottiswoode. — Sir, I have been requested to present to the House a petition, the subject of which is one of the greatest importance. The attention of the House has been occupied by matters for the ornament and improvement of the Metropolis, but there is no subject of more importance than that which concerns the health of the inhabitants. The petition is that of Mr. George Frederick Carden, Barrister, of the Inner Temple; and he calls the attention of the House to, what he very properly terms, the indecent and unhealthy practice of interring human bodies in churches and churchyards in the heart of this populous City, in which not less than 40,000 burials take place in the course of the year. He states, that in many churchyards the number of interments is so great, that time is not afforded for the decomposition of the bodies; and that, in consequence, many shocking spectacles present themselves to the public eye in those places, and that a putrid and most unhealthy exhalation is sent from them to the surrounding neighbourhood: and he prays that the House will take this important subject into consideration, and appoint a Committee to enquire into the present system of interment in the Metropolis; and also to consider the plan which he proposes as a remedy for this great nuisance. Sir, there is no one who moves about in this great town but must be aware of the disgusting circumstances to which the petition alludes. Even since this petition was drawn up, two instances of the kind have come to light; one in Fetter Lane, where, owing to the failure of the coffins in the vault under a chapel, a number of bodies were exposed in a state of decay; and a quantity of water having lodged there, the consequence was, that a most disgustingly offensive and putrid exhalation was felt throughout the neighbourhood. A person living in that neighbourhood assured me, that for the last two or three years he has been annoyed by an intolerable stench, and, until very recently, was unable to discover from whence it proceeded. Something of a similar kind has lately occurred in another parish, that of St. Mary Abchurch, the inhabitants of which seem either to have refused to obey, or

to have eluded, the order of the Bishop for enclosing the burial-ground.*

To show the long existence of this evil, I may quote the parish of St. Giles, the churchyard of which has been described as a nuisance at once offensive and dangerous. The preamble of the Act for making a new burial-ground for that parish in 1803, states that "the said churchyard is become extremely offensive and dangerous to the health of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood thereof;" and I find that an able and intelligent officer of this house (Mr. Luke Hansard) has, in his evidence before the Select Vestries Committee, described the St. Giles's churchyard to have been a nuisance from time immemorial, and shown that Pennant has spoken of it as such.

I feel greatly obliged to the Noble Lord at the head of the Board of Commissioners of His Majesty's Woods and Forests, for what has been done by that Board to improve the Metropolis. The Noble Lord has shown his zeal in this respect, in a manner which does him great credit. The explanation also which his Lordship gave of the limited power of the department over which he presides, I consider very important. An erroneous notion prevails, that it is in the power of the Woods and Forests to extend their improvements over the whole Metropolis. This mistake will now be corrected; and I trust the time is not far distant, when His Majesty's Government and this House will be convinced, that the only effectual way of providing for the convenience, the health, and, I may almost say, the morality of the inhabitants, is

* The case alluded to is thus stated in the *Morning Herald*, April 17. 1830.

"*St. Mary Abchurch, Lombard-street.*

"A meeting of the inhabitants of this parish was held in the Vestry Room on Thursday afternoon, for the purpose of electing the parish officers for the year ensuing.

"Mr. Haytmore, senior Churchwarden, in the Chair.

"The Meeting was also called to confirm the proceedings of the last Vestry, which related to a subject that has caused much discussion in the parish, viz. the intimation made by the Bishop of London, that the Churchyard should be forthwith enclosed. This step has been adopted by the Bishop in consequence of various letters received by him, complaining of the condition of the Churchyard, and the want of decency observed in burying the dead; it having been stated in the letters, that parts of the human frame had been picked up by passengers, thrown out of the graves, which were in the course of decomposition. At the last Vestry, after much discussion on the subject of the inconvenience of enclosing the Churchyard, a resolution was passed in opposition to the mandate of the Bishop of London; and requiring the parish officers to use all due means in future for the more decent burial of the dead. After some discussion, the resolution was confirmed, and the Rector requested to communicate the same to the Bishop of London."

by the appointment of a commission for the whole metropolis. With a moderate revenue, and no extraordinary powers, they might in a few years effect very extensive improvements.

It is not my intention, Sir, to press this subject further at present, but at some future time I purpose to return to it. Neither do I intend at present to move for a Committee as prayed by the petitioner, for I think that Committees are more remarkable for finding out abuses than remedying them, and my object is not to blame, but to remedy. I shall move that the petition be printed, that every Honourable Member may have an opportunity of reading it, and forming some notion of the extent to which this evil has grown.

Lord Viscount Lowther.—I certainly should approve of any plan by which the evil complained of might be remedied. The only burial-place over which I had any control was that of St. Martin's Church; and in the late alterations which were made there, I directed that large vaults or catacombs should be constructed, capable of containing all the bodies which may be brought for interment in the parish for many years to come.

Mr. Protheroe.—The example of the Noble Lord was a good one, and I hope it will be followed by those who have control over other burial-grounds; but I think that, instead of constructing catacombs or vaults of this kind, it would be much better to introduce a measure for removing the burial of bodies, under any circumstances, to a place distant from the metropolis.

Lord Viscount Lowther.—That, certainly, would be a still greater improvement, but it is wholly beyond my control.

Mr. Hume.—I believe it is quite beyond the Noble Lord's control, or that of any individual Member of this House. Nothing but an Act of Parliament will be sufficient to remove the evil; and I think the time has now arrived when some legislative attempt should be made for that purpose. Any one who has visited Naples, and many parts of France, must have observed the decency with which the interment of the dead is carried on in those countries; and must, in this respect, have seen many things to improve in our system. Four years ago I visited some of the churchyards and vaults of the metropolis; and I can state, from my own knowledge, that the most offensive effluvia came at times from them. I am not sufficiently a judge of the fact to state how far this may affect the health of the metropolis, but certainly it does, in my opinion, deserve the serious attention of His Majesty's Government. It is, I admit, a subject of very considerable delicacy to talk of the removal of the bodies of persons buried; but we may prevent the evil for the future. We shall gradually depart,

and our places be supplied by others; and if we begin the remedy now, by adopting a plan of burial at a distance from the metropolis, we may, before another generation shall have passed away, correct the evil. As to the prayer of this petition, though I am not in favour of pyramids for such purposes, yet I think any plan would be an improvement upon our present system.

Mr. Spottiswoode.—The petitioner does not speak of a pyramid; he speaks of a cemetery, something similar to that of *Père-la-Chaise*.

The petition was then read, and ordered to be printed.

Friday, May 14, 1830.

Mr. Spottiswoode.—Sir, I am desirous of correcting a mistake which has gone abroad as to what I said of the parish of St. Giles, in presenting a petition yesterday. I find that the worthy rector supposes me to have given his parish a worse character than it deserves with respect to its burial-ground. Had I said any thing whatever on its present state, my respect for the talent and zeal of that reverend gentleman would have led me to absolve him from the responsibility; but those Honourable Gentlemen who were then in the House will recollect that I merely quoted St. Giles's as having long remained an instance of the kind of nuisance of which I was speaking, and I drew my evidence from the parishioners themselves. That ground is now in a much better state, and there is probably no parish in the town which has taken more pains upon the subject. They have purchased a new ground at an enormous expense, and have allowed the old ground to remain untouched for many years; so that it is, perhaps, for the present, in as harmless a state as a burial-ground in the heart of the town is likely to be.

APPENDIX

OF

PAPERS

CIRCULATED IN THE YEAR 1825.

(1825.)

APPENDIX.

No. I.

PROSPECTUS.

(BRITISH PÈRE LA CHAISE.)

GENERAL BURIAL-GROUNDS ASSOCIATION.

CAPITAL £300,000, IN SHARES OF £50 EACH.

"Salus Populi suprema Lex."

THE numerous national advantages which must arise from the proposed Institution, in the encouragement of the arts (fully stated in former announcements), must ever be regarded as far inferior to the most important consideration of all—"the preservation of the public health."

Many persons have declared, and justly, that a design of such primary importance should rather be conducted under the immediate auspices of the authorities: this Society fully concurs in such an opinion, and cheerfully offered to retire before such noble opponents. The Committee cannot, however, omit this opportunity of praising an administration, that chooses rather to step forward as an auxiliary, when the united exertions of individuals are insufficient for the accomplishment of a work of utility, than, without actual necessity, and for the sake of patronage, to multiply the cares of government. The opportunity therefore afforded, by means of a Joint Stock Company, of uniting and associating together men of different religious sentiments, may be the means of ultimately rendering the plan more generally useful.

The subject naturally turns upon what people wish for? and what our Metropolitan Burial-grounds afford?—To those who have travelled into foreign countries, where cemeteries are generally provided on an elevated site and at a short distance from populous towns, a remedy for many of the evils justly a cause of deep regret, if not of animadversion, must, as soon as they beheld

them, have instantly occurred. Besides the dangers to which we thus voluntarily expose ourselves,—dangers which, in the opinion of those who have considered the subject, ought not to be disregarded; the present system of interring so many thousands annually (not less than 30,000) amongst our habitations, and amidst a dense population, is extremely impolitic. The first design, viz. the providing a place of sepulture in the immediate vicinity of London similar to the celebrated cemetery of Père-la-Chaise, near Paris, would, besides diminishing just causes of alarm, be highly honourable to our capital and country;—and let each individual ask himself whether it would not be in accordance with his own feelings, the wishes of families, and the general sentiment amongst men.

A circumstance which has recently occurred *, exhibits in one cogent and public example, the true state of (it is to be feared) many burial grounds, which are daily required to be used.

“ The churchyard of † ——— in the City was being enlarged by the removal of one or two houses; a dwarf-wall was to be erected and the ground levelled; to gain a foundation, it was necessary to clear out a bone-hole. A man at the bottom (a depth of about twenty-five feet) was filling baskets with bones: the sides, from the surface downwards, were almost entirely of bones. Three men were at work in another large cavity, then twelve feet deep. A strong overpowering vapour arising, which was sensibly inhaled at the mouth, a lighted candle was given to the labourer at the bottom: the flame contracted, burnt dimly, but remained alight. The candle was then removed into the purer air, the wick spread open; the surface of the earth removed, and when replaced, *the air was too impure to sustain life*. The work was to be carried the whole length of the ground, *through a regular place of interment*, at the depth of fourteen feet. Some coffins, after twenty years, at a depth of five feet, were quite perfect; others were in various stages of perfection or decay. The tenement of one in particular was partly decayed, and the unconscious inmate too perfect for the sight, was covered by a fresh coffin into which the whole was intended to be put and conveyed away ‘under cover of the night.’ Although the writer did not go into the pit, he was ill throughout the day, and for several days after in a state of fever, causing the skin to peel from off his lips and the insides of his hands. A celebrated chemist visited the spot, and expressed himself unequivocally as to the cause of the sickness, and warned the

* A statement of this appeared in the *John Bull*, 7th August, 1825, the *British Press*, &c., a day or two after the commencement of the work.

† St. Sepulchre.

parish officers of the probable consequences of exposing so great a surface of saturated soil. *Several of the workmen were confined to their homes for many days afterwards, totally unable to resume their labours.* And all this to gain a small addition to the church-yard! Large quantities of unslacked lime had been previously thrown upon the ground, so urgent were the necessities of the parish for want of sufficient room: upwards of 3000 persons had been buried there during the last twelve years. The sexton said, the experiment of the candle had been tried some time ago, in a grave then making (five feet deep), and it could not be made to burn at all."

With this striking fact, who must not lament the alleged necessity, the ground of palliation for such dangerous proceedings? To be convinced of the deleterious gases thus sent abroad throughout the metropolis, must we witness the dreadful ravages of a plague, or see the almost instantaneous death? We ourselves may be the victims of our incredulity.

It can be also proved, that the air within a vault, where leaden coffins were always required, had become so vitiated, that lighted candles attempted to be carried into it were immediately extinguished. The lead generally used is, probably, much too thin to be a sufficient protection. This likewise occurred in the City: the entrance to the vault was from within the church.

Scarcely then will it be credited, that, in the present enlightened age, the dead secured only by a *wooden* coffin, are nevertheless, *knowingly and without restraint*, received into the *parochial* vaults of not fewer than *twenty parishes* within this Metropolis. The inevitable consequences of this must occur to the mind of every one, and need no description. It is said, that when the casement goes to decay, or when, owing to the pressure of superincumbent coffins, any thing unpleasant is visible, a new coffin is provided at the charge of the parish.

Who can but reprobate so thoughtless a system? Who bold enough to stand forward as its advocate? We know these things beyond idle and casual report; we have ourselves diligently searched them out, and entered into some of these storehouses of putrefaction. Then we are told (officially) that the contents of this or that vault were lately removed away. Was the "sacred depository" invaded to make room for new victims, or because the place was past endurance?

We have no resentments to gratify; yet we think ourselves bound to caution the Public, who cannot be aware of the extent of the evil. Convinced of the veracity of our statements, however, men for their own sakes will become our warm supporters. It is,

n truth, a labour of love, in which *every* inhabitant of this Metropolis, is, in some measure, interested. We have thought it decorous at present to reveal only a few particulars.

Great pains are taken to fumigate and fresh paint the houses, and even also to burn the clothing of those carried off by infectious disorders: should all precaution cease, and the deceased be deposited in a vault, in a coffin *of wood only*? or is any enquiry made into the cause of death with a view to greater precaution? Instances are not rare of infection being received by persons only passing the door of a house where certain disorders are prevalent; we are ourselves sometimes sensible of a contagious atmosphere; and how pestilential is the air which is thence inhaled! Be it ever remembered, to the credit of the Rector of St. John, Westminster, that he has stood superior to any pecuniary advantage that might have arisen from granting permission to have the vaults under his church used for interments. No coffin is allowed to be placed therein.

Within some churches there are regular graves under the aisles and the pews, the same as in churchyards; in others "pits," or vaults, (not bricked, but of earth,) the entrance into which is from within the building. In others, the vents to the vaults are actually within the church. These things happen, as it may be termed, under the eye of the law. To pass over occurrences which have been before the public, can any thing which may happen in the numerous private vaults and burial-grounds amongst our habitations be matter of surprise, where the *prudence* or *avarice* of an individual proprietor is the *sole* criterion in the exercise of due precaution? The frequent robbing of graves has caused considerable traffic in the building of vaults; and neglect in guarding or properly securing our grounds has made many persons consider vaults as the only places of security; thus, whilst adding to the evil, rather holding out an inducement for greater negligence.

The rights of individuals must be respected; yet, for the blessing of robust health, and a vigorous constitution, what sacrifice can be too great on the part of the wealthy? Owing to the great want of new places of sepulture, sufficient time is not allowed after an interment has taken place to effect a complete decomposition. In some parishes, beyond three feet for a child, and four feet for a grown person, is considered an extra depth; in others, when a greater depth (for the purpose of gaining room) is required, it too frequently happens that a passage is opened through ground already tenanted.

The nearer the surface, and the drier the soil, the quicker decay takes place. Hence, unavoidably, exhalations. The Parisians did

not discontinue the use of their ancient burial-grounds (in the course of time, like our own, in the heart of the city), until compelled by the exhalations from the public graves. In 1773 the grounds within the city were commanded to be closed. The population of Paris is, at this time, 713,966; the deaths annually 20,000: of London, per census 1821, 1,222,200 within the bills of mortality; the deaths, per annexed table, 30,000. In twelve years not less than 333,000 interments have taken place within the bills of mortality (in which the parishes of St. Pancras, Maryle-Bone, and Paddington *, are not included). In twelve years, in the burial-ground of one parish alone, upwards of 13,000 inhumations have taken place; in another, 10,000; and each in most populous neighbourhoods.

How it is accomplished, the grave-diggers can alone inform us. It is wonderful! yet we vouch that the number is not less than we have stated; and, be it moreover remembered, the grounds were even termed "full" before! What powerful or consuming agent thus magically sweeps away the inhabitants of the tombs? Common sense declares it next to impossible. We ourselves beheld, after a lapse of twenty years, at a depth less than five feet, a coffin sound and perfect when removed from the soil; and yet a certain rector did not deny our assertion regarding his own parish, that not six years elapsed before graves were re-opened for general use. The numbers buried must indeed render it necessary.

In the proposed application to Parliament, it is not intended by this Society to apply for any restrictions in its favour, well knowing that the feelings of many persons would be severely wounded, were they restrained from using the sepulchres of their forefathers; yet subscribers and the public may look with satisfaction at the little less than certain results that will ensue; a circumstance more strongly than any other evidencing the state of men's minds upon the subject, and showing, that however great the desire of kindred to bury with kindred (a principle some falsely pretend superior to every other consideration), yet that the general abhorrence at interring the object of former regard in grounds saturated as many of those in use are, is far greater, and this although several large plots of ground have since the period referred to (1700) been set apart for the purpose.

"The number of burials within the Bills of Mortality (as distinguished from the metropolis) has absolutely decreased since the

* The Churchyard and Church are romantic in appearance: the great number of handsome tombs, the overshadowing foliage of trees, and the *tout ensemble*, tend to impress the mind with truly appropriate feelings.

year 1700, according to the Bills of Mortality ; and, according to the Parish Register, cannot be said to have increased, while the population, up to 1800, has increased as 3 to 2, from 665,000 to 1,050,500!!" — *Parl. Pop. and Obituary Return*.

And this notwithstanding a very great impediment ; since parishes, in order to prevent the introduction of strangers (whereby they would more frequently have to purchase a new ground, which parish funds can but ill afford), generally charge *double, sometimes treble, and even higher, or next to prohibitory fees*. Others again will not permit a non-parishioner, or person dying out of the parish, to be buried in their ground, unless a member of the family has been previously interred there. Some parishes have no burial-grounds fit for use ; others continue to use them through absolute necessity : to the parishioners of such parishes (and many there are thus situated) the liberal plan of this Society would afford very seasonable relief.

No fee is payable, by *Law*, upon the removal of a corpse out of the parish in which the death takes place. *

Remuneration to incumbents and others, whose incomes might be diminished, was formerly spoken of ; it is sufficient, therefore, here to express a willingness on the part of the Society to enter into any arrangements not directly prejudicial to the interests of subscribers.

Subscribers may now inspect copies of the Tables of Fees payable in upwards of 100 places of interment, to satisfy themselves of the pecuniary advantages likely to accrue when this plan shall be carried into effect : underneath are extracts † : —

“ Vault to contain eight coffins, 200 guineas (50 guineas was the sum required only two or three years back).”

“ For a Non-parishioner, if buried in the catacombs in lead, 40*l*.”

“ For every coffin the vault will contain, at the rate of 21 guineas.”

* In only one or two parishes in London, a small fee is exacted upon the removal of a corpse out of the deceased's parish.

† It must not be supposed that such large sums go into the coffers of the clergy, &c. : were it so, it would be in vain to expect their concurrence ; the greater portion is paid to Church Trustees for the good of the public in their respective Parishes ; it may be called a dead tax. It is conceived that it would be far better if, by an equitable rate, the whole purchase-money of the ground were paid and the sums necessary for the support of the Church rather levied when men were unoppressed by affliction, than at a time when they are borne down by sorrow, and with the expenses of sickness least able to bear so unseasonable a burthen. The hearts of many incumbents, whose incomes are thus uncertain and derived from surplice fees, we have reason to know support us in this suggestion.

- “ Private vault, for each coffin 40 guineas, exclusive of the fees to the minister, &c. &c.” (It is an indulgence to be allowed to be interred there.)
- “ For ground purchased, viz. 4 ft. 4 in. wide by 9 ft. long — Parishioner, 20*l.*; Non-parishioner, 30*l.*”
- “ For allowing any monumental stone whatever to be placed in the Burial Ground, 20*l.* for a head and foot-stone; 30*l.* or 40*l.* for a flat stone or ledger.”
- “ Grave-stone under the church, and making thereunder a brick grave 8 ft. 9 in. long, by 4 ft. 3 in. wide, 30*l.*; for a Non-parishioner, 60*l.*”
- “ Dues laying down grave-stone under the middle aisle of the church, 20*l.*; Non-parishioner, 40*l.*
- “ For permission to fix a tablet within the church, 50 guineas,” (general charge).

This Society has been positively assured by several clergymen (incumbents of large parishes), highly favourable to the intended plan, that they wish the sums were even greater, as tablets are seldom ornamental to the church, and the practice of interring within the church ought to be restrained.

The period is likewise favourable to the formation of a General Burial Ground. Extract from the *Evangelical Review*: — “ Bunhill Fields (in the City) contains 8000 family graves, and the ground is now so full, that permission is refused pretty generally, except to those who have family graves; 25,000 interments have taken place within the last 25 years — 1000 annually.” And then it goes on to state the feeling of the Dissenters for want of proper provision being made for the dead. The *parliamentary population and obituary return* confirms the number of 1000 annually; and it is there further stated, that 500 interments took place annually in that ground 100 years ago.

The Lease of another large Dissenters' Burial Ground will, it is said, shortly expire. The noble proprietor has, it is also said, no intention of granting an extension of it for the present purpose. The numbers buried there, it is well known, exceed 2000 annually.

It is also well known, that his Grace the Duke of Bedford, Marquis Camden, and it is said the Earl of Northampton, and also Lord Calthorpe, have come to similar determinations; and it was in consequence of such resolve *only*, that very few of the lately-erected New Churches have ground attached to them; and where there is an open space, the parishes are strictly bound not to use it for the purpose of inhumation. How evidently essential, therefore, that an extensive piece of ground should be provided to answer

the future necessities of this metropolis, so wonderfully increasing in its population !

One design, only, is intended to be prosecuted in the first instance ; namely, the laying out a piece of ground something similar to the celebrated Cemetery of Père-la-Chaise, near Paris. The spot likely to be obtained (part of an extensive freehold) is upon the rise of a hill, in the immediate vicinity of London, and accessible by several public roads: 70 or 80 acres are considered sufficient. As at Paris, so in the British Burial Ground, the public will be at liberty to erect what description of monuments they please, so that they be not inconsistent with the nature of the place.

The Directors will not assume the power of calling for deposits exceeding 25*l.* per Share (such a sum being considered more than amply sufficient to complete the first design) until after a Special General Meeting, for the purpose of hearing a report of the finances, &c.

This Society is almost secured from risk beyond the sums to be originally expended, and is also liable to incur but few debts ; on the other hand, it is the custom regarding interments to require the fees to be paid previously to using the ground.

Subscribers wishing to erect a family vault are to have the preference in point of situation, &c., and to each Subscriber one or more tickets of precedence are proposed to be granted, in order that they may oblige their friends : such tickets would, in a few years, become extremely valuable.

This Society is already acquainted with the intention of several persons to remove the remains of beloved members of their families from the vaults wherein they are now deposited. From the nature of the place in question, the great want of vaults, and appropriate places of sepulture, as well as from former precedents, the revenue, there is reason to believe, would be, almost immediately, considerable. The ground may be had, either in perpetuity or for a certain number of years, renewable to answer private convenience. When desired by particular Sects, certain larger portions might be set apart for them exclusively. Besides the Chapel proposed to be erected for the performance of Divine Service, it is also in contemplation to erect another near the spot, where those not of the Church of England may, previously to entering the Ground, be attended by their particular Minister.

Every necessary precaution will be taken to render the sacred spot secure from lawless intrusion.

It is not intended to close the Share List until after the meeting of the London Clergy : subscribers, however, desiring

it, may, by application to the Solicitor, receive an order to pay into the Bankers the first deposit of 2*l.* 10*s.* per Share.

Applications (post paid) may be addressed either to the Bankers, Sir WALTER STIRLING, Bart., HODSOLL and STIRLING, Strand; or to the Solicitor, JAMES CARDEN, Jun. Esq., Farrar's Buildings, Temple.

NOTES.

The revenue arising from "Père-la-Chaise" is immense, although the poor are buried for nothing, for the privilege granted by the government to receive the rich.

The practice of remoter burials continued to the age of Gregory the Great, when the monks, beginning to offer for souls departed, procured leave, for their greater ease and profit, that a liberty of sepulture might be in churches, or in places contiguous. Cuthbert, Archbishop of Canterbury, anno 750, brought from Rome this practice into England; from which may be dated the origin of churchyards in this kingdom. Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, seems to have been the first who brought up the practice of vaults in chancels, and under the very altars, when he had rebuilt the church of Canterbury, about the year 1075.

The crowded part of the City was purified by the memorable conflagration in 1666. In the year before, 68,566 persons died of the plague, and London was at that time seldom free from contagion; in nothing was the progress of the fire more remarkable than in the destruction of Churches, and, together with them, the contents of the vaults and churchyards attached to them. Afterwards, when the fifty-two new churches were erected, the legislature would not allow any of the catacombs to be used for the purposes of interment: permission was at a more recent date obtained by particular acts of parliament. The annual mortality, in the middle of the last century, was as one to twenty of the inhabitants; at present, it is only as one to forty.

No. II.

(Document referred to in the Prospectus of the General Burial-Grounds Association.)

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CELEBRATED CEMETERY OF
PÈRE LA CHAISE,*

NEAR PARIS,

And of the General Effect produced upon the Minds of Travellers upon beholding it.

FOUR or five miles from the city of Paris, on the exterior Boulevard of the Barrière d'Aulnay, is the entrance into this celebrated Cemetery. Anxious bustle, and the gaiety of the city are no longer heard, or even visible—the rattling of the cabriolet and the calash distract not the thoughts; and even the modest foot-step of a passenger seldom breaks in upon the tranquillity that reigns around. As much retired as if fifty miles from the metropolis, what spot can be fitter for the mansions of rest? The road likewise indicates that there is but little communication with the country beyond, and all is hushed and silent as the grave. The object of the present enquiry is upon a rising ground, called, Mount Louis; some give the place the pathetic name of the “Garden of Tombs,” but it is more generally called “Père-la-Chaise,” being the ground which was formerly the site of the habitation of a holy friar of that name.

Language is inadequate to give an accurate description of this surprising Cemetery. Overpowered—even at the threshold—can any one continue an equally impassioned narration unto the end, if at the outset he venture to launch forth thus unreservedly?

* The manuscript was accompanied with this prelude—“The period at which I visited it was the first week in May: in as much, then, as the season of the year, both in the vigour and freshness of the vegetable kingdom, as well as in every other natural advantage, was most favourable, I must caution you, lest, tempted to visit it at a moment less fortunate, you should think I have set down the workings of fancy, and, neglecting truth, or overlooking the real effect so extraordinary and imposing a scene had upon me, an Englishman, be thought wilfully to deceive you, or cause you disappointment, by having heightened excessively the colouring of the representation I have given, instead of speaking of it in a lower strain of admiration. Thousands there are who can confirm my statement; and I declare again, what I have often said, that any one would be abundantly rewarded for his trouble, if he would travel from London to Paris, and back again, to see Père-la-Chaise,”

what tongue indeed so eloquent, what tones so imposing, what sound so grand, so pleasing, or so sublime, as to be able to describe accurately a scene as it were of enchantment, or to call up, or picture to the imagination the sensations which secretly affect the senses upon entering into this sacred cemetery? and having entered — wonder and astonishment engross the soul. Pause a moment, curious reader, “silence and solemn stillness dwell around;” you have entered at the gate, and now, within a space of sixty-four acres, learn that the remains of 100,000 mortals are here consigned to the tomb.—No small portion were endowed with worldly goods, and their families or friends have erected to them 15,000 monuments:—The prince and the peasant are, nevertheless, equal here. But mark the man of great renown, of great wealth, or great endowments: no inconsiderable number may be seen, even 1,500, rendered objects of more than ordinary interest by the neatness, magnificence, or peculiarity of the ornamental structures erected to their memories. A species of awe is naturally excited by viewing a repository of the dead, but here a great gratification, if so it can be called, of a peculiar description, and a power never felt before, possesses every faculty; and the imagination becomes strongly impressed by the appearance, the multitude and the nature of the surrounding objects. The religion of the Redeemer worketh not by its terrors; it invites the human race by the mildness of its precepts. No frightful images here cause the willing visitor to withdraw his footsteps. Man, indeed, conscious of the shortness of his natural existence, has in all ages endeavoured to perpetuate, beyond the grave, the recollection of his journey upon earth; and sculpture, in remoter times, was nurtured by this the legitimate exercise of the art, and it has been the delight of succeeding ages, and the height of their ambition, to copy after, and to endeavour to equal, the many monuments of antiquity. The same feeling pervades nearly the whole human race; and all ranks, according to their ability, adopt means to preserve their names; and, though placed in the cold earth, a plate of inscription is alike fixed to indicate the name, &c. of the deceased; whilst the Christian world thus acknowledges the expectation of the promise that “man does but sleep, waiting the resurrection.” If, in the theatre of life, the ingenuity of man shows itself in every possible form, here assuredly in the lone retreat, rivals start up on every side. Here may be seen every possible device in the least applicable to so solemn a subject. On one side behold pure and unaffected simplicity courting you to read the last memorial of departed worth; whilst at no great distance, grandeur, exhibited even in the tomb, commands an enquiry to whom can it belong? The tablet will probably unravel the

mystery, and declare the author of so magnificent a work more prominent, perhaps, than the name of him whose virtues or whose fame it is intended to record. So, on either side of the finely-coloured gravel walk, neatness and gaudiness alternately attract the attention of the visitor. There stand the stately marble pillars, here the superb and chaste temple; the portal is open, and the stranger is tempted onwards by some beauteous flowers, preserved under glasses, secured by a light iron railing from a ruthless hand, the guardian also of the precious remains contained within its precincts. Tombs of marble of every hue, and of stone carved according to the skill of the most able workmen, with sepulchral urns and vases of every shape and every fashion, are amongst the not least remarkable of the ornaments of this place.

In the midst of all this solemn splendour, are the humble and unobtruding monuments of the less wealthy. What fortune denies, nature furnishes in abundance: stately trees with finely shadowing foliage, interspersed here and there, cover the walks from the piercing beams of the glorious sun, and serve as a canopy to the superior monuments; but the smiling flowers of the parterre, respondent to the unceasing care bestowed upon them, grow in rich luxuriance around the more humble tombs, gladdening the sight — the poor man's consolation. Some, however, cut from the parent plant, lie heaped together, there to wither and to fade — an emblem both of the shortness and the casualties of life, well befitting the occasion; yet again the watchful attention of friends has conveyed thither the works of the most skilful florist to make a perpetual spring, and to render imperceptible the decay in nature, and artificial flowers in proud triumph are ingeniously placed among the tombs, interwoven with the natural foliage, so as to be taken by a casual observer as actually the gift of the goddess Flora herself. The irregularities of nature are a surprising feature in the *tout ensemble* of this pious design, and add peculiar beauty to the scene.

Laid out upon a hill of uneven surface; sundry minor elevations, as well as lower grounds, have afforded the artist the greatest possible field for embellishment, and given scope for the most admirable arrangement. When arrived at the summit the sight pierces into a deep valley, and, shooting along an immense slope, thousands of grave-stones, erected to men scarcely known in the busy scenes of former life, are visible, side by side, without intermission. A distant view of this is generally considered sufficient to satisfy the wishes of a disinterested person; and the traveller, impressed by his own contemplations, departs from it to behold those scenes where the talent of the most celebrated artists, actuated upon by a religious zeal in their calling, has produced a magnificent

coup-d'œil. He returns by a circuitous route, tracing his steps to the furthest corner—he pries into every recess—he ascends another gentle steep, by a path cut around the mount. On the one side all is free and open to his view; on the other, the hill itself seems but a nest of sepulchres—a nothing else but vaults and tombs, presenting a continuation of costly mausoleums, whilst the grassy summit is undisturbed above. Thus, at one time ascending, and then again dipping into the vale beneath, transported—he wanders from spot to spot, yet more and more enchanted; fragrant bowers stay his course, plots of shrubs, moral and pointed epitaphs—all that can make the silent abode speak consolation, or render serviceable a visit to the mansions of the dead, by these their last and solemn warnings, or move the soul to tenderness and pity, is to be found in this sacred spot.

Some friends, with ill-timed and selfish affection, have made the departed apparently bewail the shortness of their earthly career; whilst others, with true piety, upon the tomb of their only child, in the touching softness of their native tongue, have caused to be inscribed—“Every gift is from above—the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” Perhaps in some secluded spot a devout husband, a pious wife, or children urged by filial love and affection, may be adding to the interest of the whole; whilst perceived, yet scarcely seen, in fervent prayer, they are, according to the principles of their faith, making intercession for some dear friend, who has already entered into “the valley of the shadow of death,” and with solemn looks, “each speaking in his heart, only his lips moving, but his voice heard not,” they breathe forth an ardent expectation, that their supplications are not in vain.

Through the thick foliage of the trees and the high-raised cenotaphs may now and then be seen a figure pressing forward in some well-known path, with perturbed looks and downcast eyes, wishing to elude observation. Who can view this daughter of affliction and weep not, or feel at least some rising sympathy? Others, again, with a calmer aspect, and less troubled step, are returning towards the entrance:—gentle smiles of inward satisfaction, at being enabled to renew their prayers, in despite proclaim the strength of their hopes, and their fond expectations.

The tomb of Abelard and Eloise calls up into the mind the most conflicting passions. Who could not weep at the recollections of their history, as handed down to us by our own poet: their figures, as large as life, cut in stone, lie extended at full length, side by side, upon a couch of spacious dimensions, over which is a protecting canopy, surmounted by an elegant spire, the whole sup-

ported by twelve beauteous marble pillars. One common mausoleum contains their remains — fail not to enquire for this memento of unpropitious yet faithful love!

How often human judgment errs! Marshal Ney was permitted to be buried here. On account of his political offences, no inscription was allowed upon his tomb — it stands apart upon the lawn. Listen, ye rulers! the grave of this man is more sought, and his history more often repeated than that of any of his contemporaries. Ye would have blotted out the remembrance of him — ye have, on the contrary, rendered his name less perishable than if recorded on a tablet of brass, and it will be handed down from age to age by oral tradition. This will ever be the case, when even the grave cannot stay the hand of persecution: yet, if prolonged animosity can be in any case justifiable, it is when a man, breaking through a trust reposed in him by his sovereign, turns traitor to his king and to his country.

In fine — within this Cemetery are deposited the remains of men who honoured the world by their virtues, enchanted it by their writings, and embellished it by their genius and masterpieces.

This extensive site, adorned by the trees it still boasts of, the ruins of its ancient edifices, its commanding position, (affording a prospect of Paris and the adjacent neighbourhood equal to a panoramic view,) and the gloomy foliage of its cypress trees, accords admirably with the sacred use to which it is adapted. Within this asylum of the dead are united all qualities and all ages. The Russian is placed by the side of the Spaniard, and the Protestant and the Jew not far from the Catholic.

Nature, art, and situation, all indeed combine to render this the proudest spot in Europe. Half a day would pass but as an hour; and who could then depart without an intention of returning to pursue his meditations, where the soul of man becomes inspired with thoughts more heavenly than terrene?

Note. — “Père la Chaise” has been used as a Cemetery more than 20 years, in which time upwards of 100,000 persons have been buried there: there are four similar Burial-grounds for the city of Paris, but this of Père la Chaise is the most celebrated.

No. III.

CIRCULAR.

To the Clergy of London.

REVEREND SIR,

I HAVE the honour to lay before you a copy of a Prospectus for the formation of a General Cemetery. I am forced to address you,

generally, by letter, although as far as I was enabled, (and as the promoter of the plan it was thought proper I should do so,) I have waited personally upon many members of your respected body, the better to explain the motives in forming such an institution, and to learn your opinions respecting it. I was happy to find that the plan met with very cordial approbation from many Ministers of our Church, who are no less interested than yourself in the issue of this question. Few persons, indeed, in their private capacities, have doubted the great public benefits that would arise from an institution of this nature; but I have now to address you as the Minister of a Parish, having the rights of successors to maintain.

And here I beg to call your particular attention to a plan of a similar nature vigorously prosecuted, and which was avowedly undertaken by persons not professing opinions in unison with those of the Church of England, but more particularly so on the subject of burial. Strongly attached as we are by inclination as well as education to the principles and practices of the Established Church, we should view with regret the formation by any other community of an establishment of the nature alluded to, which would carry along with it such great reverence, in the eyes of persons even in superior stations, but more especially in the minds of the multitude. That there is pressing occasion for some change in the system, facts strongly confirm, and none can doubt that public opinion is very strongly in favour of any plan tending to diminish the frequency of burials in the very midst of the habitations of the people.

Assured of our attachment to the Church, you have it thus almost in your own power, and can nearly by your own act, effectually frustrate any attempts made or making by those differing from us in the forms of our worship, a body wonderfully on the alert, and greatly increasing of late years. Nothing, indeed, could be easier than the accomplishment of this plan, were we not anxious to obtain the consecration of the ground.

The Society has no wish to curtail the emoluments of the Church, but desires to effect a compromise not injurious to the just expectations of the subscribers, and insuring to you the fees which long custom has sanctioned as your own. You generally receive fees only when you perform the duties of your office; in consequence, therefore, of the state of your grounds, many incumbents derive scarcely any fees at all from burials; and yet, whilst many of you are thus deprived of your emoluments, your parishioners, for want of room, or because your parochial ground is unfit for use, are forced to inter in the burial-ground of another parish,

or perhaps in the burial-ground of Sectarians. Thus the connection with the Church is decreasing, and the influence of the Dissenters gains ground: whereas, by the present plan, the indulgence wished to be granted to those persons whose religious tenets are different from our own, would procure great good-will towards the National Church. It must be also added that, by the present system, persons are generally so dissatisfied both with the want of respect, and the great want of security, to the remains of the departed, that some plan or other for the remedy of those evils must soon be devised.

I would, therefore, respectfully request you to inform me, for the information of the Committee, whether the plan, when effected, will be likely to interfere with your interests as minister of a parish; and, if so, that you will also be so obliging as to state what concession or arrangement you think ought to be made by this Society.

The facts disclosed in the accompanying statement must necessarily be unpleasant to the feelings of some persons; but, in executing this task as a public duty, the Committee are well aware that parochial difficulties very frequently exist which render the advice and wishes either of one party or the other not always listened to with attention, and sometimes almost impossible to be put into execution. Desirous that it should be considered as a matter entirely for amicable arrangement, I am permitted to state, that the Committee would duly appreciate the honour, were you disposed personally to aid their counsels; or, if preferred by you, any gentleman might be instructed to appear in behalf of yourself and the parish of which you are minister, that, both in appearance and in truth, every satisfaction may be granted to you.

Not doubting that you will duly appreciate our motives in being thus ardent in the prosecution of that which we conceive will gratify individual and public feeling, exalt the institutions of our country in the eyes of foreigners, and, above all, tend to the preservation of the public health;

I have the honour to subscribe myself, (apologising for having so largely trespassed upon your time,)

Reverend Sir,

Your most obedient,

and very humble Servant,

GEO. F. CARDEN.

10, *Farrar's Buildings, Temple,*

3d November, 1825.

No. IV.

CIRCULAR.

To the Gentlemen of the Vestry.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM instructed to transmit to you a copy of a Prospectus relative to a plan for lessening the number of interments amidst our habitations.

The great satisfaction with which a suggestion of this nature has been received by several incumbents of parishes, and by a large portion of the Public, whilst highly gratifying to the Society, causes its members to look forward with pleasure to the full benefits of its execution. The Committee will feel honoured by any communication from your body, either in suggesting what may render the adoption of it more generally beneficial, or with respect to any interests not hitherto sufficiently considered.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,

Your obedient humble Servant,

JAMES CARDEN, JUN.

Solicitor to the Association.

10, *Farrar's Buildings, Temple,*
3d November, 1825.

No. V.

Unwholesome Practice of Burying the Dead in Churches.

THE following paragraph appears in one of the Dutch papers received on Tuesday:—

“It is reported that his majesty the king has submitted to a Committee, composed of physicians and chemists of various parts of the kingdom, the question, whether the practice of burying the dead in churches is or is not injurious to the public health; and

that the opinion of this committee is, that the custom of burying in churches should cease, as being in the long run injurious to the living."

The practice of interring in churches and churchyards, which, till lately, was as universal in Catholic Europe as extreme unction, has been discontinued in several countries of the Continent, both Catholic and Protestant. It is rather curious that this *reformation* of the churchyard and the vault should have begun in Spain, where the reformation of the Church is considered so hopeless, and that such a religious monarch as Charles III. should have been the first to carry into effect a measure for burying in cemeteries *without* the precincts of the towns. Perhaps in that kingdom, where the population is crowded into cities, and where the climate is so warm as to occasion rapid putrefaction, the inconvenience was more felt, and a remedy was more urgent, than in northern countries. The clergy, however, regular and secular, who conceived that the shutting up of the church vaults was a diminution of their domain, at first raised a loud clamour against a practice which is now, we believe, generally, if not universally, observed throughout the Peninsula. The example of Charles III. was followed, though with unequal success, by Joseph II. of Austria. His Imperial Majesty made interment in cemeteries without the walls of towns one of the reforms which he had decreed for his Belgic provinces, and, unhappily, it was likewise one of those which excited most against him the fanaticism of the clergy, and the violence of the mob. It is well known that in the capital and all the considerable towns in France, interment *within* the churches is now prohibited by law. For the burying-grounds and church-vaults within the city of Paris, from which so many evils were experienced or dreaded before the Revolution, four great cemeteries have been substituted beyond the Boulevards, the chief of which is that of Père la Chaise. It is singular that in the Protestant countries of Holland and England, — where the doctrine of purgatory is renounced, where masses for the dead are unknown, and where, of course, less superstition is connected with the spot where they are interred, — the practice should still exist of burying the dead in places of worship, and among the habitations of the living. It would appear that the King of the Netherlands has now got the opinion of a Medical Commission that such a practice is injurious to the public health: and every one who, in this metropolis, observes our churchyards converted into thoroughfares, and our temples into charnel-houses, must allow that it is at once offensive to health and decency. — *Times*, Nov. 1825.

No. VI.

The following letter has been printed, in consequence of the numerous applications and enquiries relative to the mode of compensating as well the clergy as parish officers, the amount of whose fees, owing to the proposed new arrangement, might probably be diminished. The document, it is but justice to say, was never intended except for the body to whom it is addressed, and for parish clerks generally.

To the Master, Wardens, and Court of Assistants of the Parish Clerks' Company.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM directed to acquaint you officially with the formation of an Association for the purpose of providing more suitable places of interment at a short distance from the habitations of the people. I shall be happy to lay before the Committee any communication you may think proper to forward to me relative to your own interests. The courteous and obliging manner in which many of you have furnished the members of this Society with the information they requested, makes the Committee anxious to remove every anxiety on your parts relative to the probable diminution in the amount of fees compared with the sum hitherto received by you annually upon Burials. The nature of the proposed arrangements (which has been already communicated, as opportunity offered, in personal interviews with a considerable number of your body) has doubtless been already made known amongst yourselves; to which, indeed, may be greatly ascribed the ready assistance which has been afforded by many of you. I may here venture to add, that the majority seemed perfectly satisfied of the good intentions of this Society towards all parties. The arrangements indeed, appear likely, in a great number of instances, to increase rather than to diminish the amount of your incomes upon Burials.

You are perfectly aware that, with scarcely an exception, no fee is payable to you upon the removal of a corpse out of a parish, and that there is no law compelling burial in a particular spot. It has, therefore, been suggested, that, were a duplicate certificate to be given by the clerk of each parish, to accompany every corpse, (without regard to the religious tenets formerly held by the deceased or the Sect to which he belonged,) without which no corpse should be received into the Cemetery, a certain sum (to be hereafter determined) might be agreed to be paid by the Trustees of the ground to the officers of each parish to which the

deceased belonged. This would not be any hardship upon the church, nor even upon the Dissenters, for the sum required upon every interment need be very trifling, and yet upon numbers would amount to a considerable sum; and as the use of the ground would be optional with the friends of the deceased, none could complain. The actual necessity for some better system is so generally felt and acknowledged, that an establishment of this nature must ere long be brought about.

You most probably know already, that the consecration of a piece of ground unattached to a church is not a new thing in this country*; for when, owing to the melancholy exigencies of former days, and in consequence of the number of deaths, and the overcrowded state of the burial-grounds of the metropolis, they were found insufficient for the purpose, the Parliament caused the consecration of that extensive ground (now scarcely fit for use, and afterwards let to individuals,) called Bunhill Fields. An Act of Parliament, the voice of the people, can find a speedy remedy for every evil; but there will be no occasion to apply for such relief, since the accomplishment of this work, so highly gratifying to the feelings of individuals, can be effected without any prejudicial interference with private rights. Many incumbents of populous parishes, satisfied upon this point, have become warm supporters of this plan.

Were this Society not anxious to exalt the institutions of their country, there would be no occasion to enter into preliminary arrangements; and any Sect might, by adopting a similar plan, totally deprive you of all emolument upon a burial in their ground.

This Committee will feel obliged by any information you may think proper to communicate in furtherance of the design, which every day gains additional support, and you will find this Society act towards you with equal liberality.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient humble Servant,

JAMES CARDEN, JUN.

Farrar's Buildings, Temple,

Nov. 20. 1825.

Note. — The great advantage of a double registry, namely, in the books of the parish where the death took place, and also in the books of the Society, in whose ground the deceased was interred, whilst greatly aiding the public service, may, in its results, be of incalculable benefit to individuals.

* Since the above letter was written, a Public Cemetery has been consecrated at Liverpool.

No. VII.

To the Subscribers.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that, since the annexed Letter was prepared for the press, it has been deemed advisable, in order to give a decisive tone to the efforts of the Society, that a meeting of the subscribers, and gentlemen favourable to the proposed plan, should forthwith be held. I have, therefore, to request the favour of the attendance of yourself and friends interested in the design, on Tuesday, the 20th instant, at 11 for 12 o'clock, at my Chambers, and, by adjournment, at the Crown and Rolls rooms, 110. Chancery-lane.

It is proposed that the nominal capital should be only 150,000*l.*, and that the efforts of the Society should, in the first instance, be directed to the formation of only one public cemetery. I am authorized to add, that, should the proposed site be approved of by the Society, the proprietor is himself desirous of holding even 1000 Shares.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Temple,
5th December, 1825.

JAS. CARDEN, JUN.

Mem. — Of the probable return at the expiration of twenty-five years — Eighty acres contain 387,200 square yards, and allowing the usual average of 6 feet by 3 feet for each grave, 193,600 interments might take place, which, at £3 each, amounts to £ 580,800

According to the extent of *Père la Chaise*, the proportion of superior tombs, or purchased graves would be about 30,000, } 300,000
which, at £10 each extra, amounts to }

TOTAL £ 880,800

A profit might, also, arise from the erection of mausoleums, &c. when desired by the relatives.

No. VIII.

To the Subscribers.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour herewith to send you a copy of the Prospectus, which, together with an appropriate Circular, has been forwarded

to the Reverend the Minister of each of the metropolitan parishes, in number 154, to the Gentlemen of the Vestry of each parish, and, for parish clerks generally, to the *Parish Clerks' Society*. The period since your application for Shares has been employed by the Committee in personally waiting upon the Clergy in particular, in order to ascertain their sentiments, and in endeavouring to render them favourable to the design. I am happy in being enabled to state that several incumbents of large parishes have expressed their decided approbation in favour of the views of this Society, and that its exertions, up to the present time, have met with every anticipated success. So evident, indeed, seems the necessity of some change, that it is confidently expected this great public good will be speedily accomplished, since, besides the liberal and zealous aid of the public press, the execution of it can be accomplished with little interference with the rights of individuals, because, without detriment to the Subscribers, a considerable portion of the fees payable to the Clergy and others upon burials might be allotted to them.

Besides ascertaining the actual state of the various burial-grounds, &c. of the Metropolis, the Committee have obtained copies of the fees payable in nearly 100 places of interment, which I shall be happy to show you, together with every paper connected with the subject, and likewise explain to you the nature of the proposed arrangements. Great profit, it is well known, arises generally, from the possession of private places of sepulture, but it would never have done, in a matter which so deeply interests the feelings, to have had the expectation of excessive gain (however reasonably and justly to be acquired) the first and most prominent feature in the formation of such an institution.

You have already thought this plan worthy your attention. I now beg leave to intimate that the names of any of your friends who may have expressed themselves interested in a design of this nature, and who might further desire to enjoy the privileges of Subscribers, be forwarded to me as early as possible.

I am happy to state that the Society can obtain a very eligible spot, on a rising ground, almost contiguous to Primrose-hill. I may also communicate to you that every day adds to the number of those who ardently wish this plan success, and that a general pleasure seems diffused around, now that the period of its accomplishment is so nearly arrived. I fully anticipate that the measures taken by this Society will meet with your approbation at a General Meeting, when the business will be laid before you; in the meantime, however, it is not considered necessary for me to lay before you any thing more than that which regards the general

design. When application is made to you for payment upon the Shares allotted to you, every satisfaction you may desire will be granted to you ; until which time neither responsibility nor expense will attach to any individual who may think proper to forward his name to me, as one desirous of aiding in the formation of such an establishment.

The affairs of the Society will not be conducted, as heretofore, in Abchurch-lane, but, *pro tem.*, at my chambers.

I have the honour to subscribe myself,

Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

JAS. CARDEN, JUN.

Temple,
December, 1825.

No. IX.

To the Subscribers.

SIR,

THE public mind being so greatly agitated at the present moment, the intended Meeting is postponed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES CARDEN, JUN.

Solicitor to the General Burial-Grounds Association.

Temple,
Dec. 15. 1825.

No. X.

Number buried in each Parish within the Bills of Mortality during the last Twelve Years, and in the Year 1824, in the Ninety-seven Parishes within the City Walls.

	1824.	12 YRS.
St. ALBAN in Wood-street	11	153
Alhallows Barking	55	589
Alhallows in Bread-street	3	59
Alhallows the Great	18	208
Alhallows in Honey-lane	2	11
<i>(The ground re-opened in the year 1819.)</i>		
Alhallows the Less	3	37
Alhallows Lombard-street	9	121
Alhallows Staining	14	167
Alhallows on London Wall	36	247
St. Alphage near Sion College	31	247
St. Andrew Hubbard	2	45
St. Andrew Undershaft	10	167
St. Andrew by the Wardrobe	21	346
St. Ann within Aldersgate	24	203
St. Ann in Blackfriars	56	779
St. Anthony, vulgarly Antholin	5	52
St. Augustin, vulgarly Austin	7	88
St. Bartholomew by Exchange	—	52
St. Benedict, vulgarly Bennet Fink	10	126
St. Bene't Gracechurch	5	54
St. Bennet at Paul's Wharf	7	194
St. Bennet Sherehog	1	5
<i>(One buried in 1815, 3 in 1818.)</i>		
St. Botolph at Billingsgate	8	47
Christ Church Parish	42	616
St. Christopher's Parish	—	—
<i>(None registered during the period.)</i>		
St. Clement near Eastcheap	—	79
St. Dionis Backchurch	21	236
St. Dunstan in the East	20	329
St. Edmund the King	5	96
St. Ethelburga's Parish	14	174
St. Faith under St. Paul's	13	208
St. Gabriel in Fenchurch-street	2	33
St. George in Botolph-lane	7	82

	1824.	12 yrs.
St. Gregory by St. Paul's	45	459
St. Helen near Bishopsgate	20	175
St. James in Duke's-place	7	28
St. James at Garlickhithe	21	288
St. John Baptist near Dowgate	6	62
St. John the Evangelist	1	6
St. John Zachary	12	89
St. Katherine Coleman	12	245
St. Katherine Creechurch	56	483
St. Laurence Jewry	16	113
St. Laurence Pountney	2	57
St. Leonard in Eastcheap	1	61
St. Leonard in Foster-lane	13	56
St. Magnus by London Bridge	10	113
St. Margaret in Lothbury	9	121
St. Margaret Moses	4	21
St. Margaret in New Fish-street	2	55
St. Margaret Pattens	3	41
St. Martin in Ironmonger-lane	2	31
St. Martin within Ludgate	19	242
St. Martin Orgars	—	107
St. Martin Outwich	3	57
St. Martin Vintry	8	109
St. Mary Abchurch	4	71
St. Mary Aldermanbury	7	66
St. Mary Aldermay	11	160
St. Mary Le-Bow in Cheapside	10	59
St. Mary Bothaw at Dowgate	2	41
St. Mary Colechurch	—	—
<i>(None registered during the period.)</i>		
St. Mary Hill near Billingsgate	16	179
St. Mary Magdalen in Milk-street	—	—
St. Mary Magdalen Old Fish-street	19	231
St. Mary Mounthaw	6	88
St. Mary Somerset	22	206
St. Mary Staining	5	91
St. Mary Woolchurch	—	1
<i>(One in the year 1820.)</i>		
St. Mary Woolnoth	19	205
St. Matthew in Friday-street	2	68
St. Michael Bassishaw	11	132
St. Michael in Cornhill	12	131
St. Michael in Crooked-lane	14	212
St. Michael at Queenhithe	29	314

	1824.	12 YRS.
St. Michael Le-Quern	1	41
St. Michael Royal	4	82
St. Michael in Wood-street	6	48
St. Mildred in Bread-street	11	67
St. Mildred in the Poultry	7	57
St. Nicholas Acons	1	29
St. Nicholas Coleabby	2	58
St. Nicholas Olave	6	111
St. Olave in Hart-street	25	234
St. Olave in the Old Jewry	5	61
St. Olave in Silver-street	16	205
St. Pancras in Pancras-lane	—	8
St. Peter in Cheapside	—	15
St. Peter in Cornhill	1	127
St. Peter near Paul's Wharf	8	117
St. Peter le Poor in Broad-street	11	104
St. Stephen in Coleman-street	36	463
St. Stephen in Walbrook	15	131
St. Swithin at London Stone	14	143
St. Thomas the Apostle	13	106
Trinity Parish	16	155
St. Vedast, <i>alias</i> Foster		81
	<u>1,127</u>	<u>13,577</u>

Buried in the 17 Parishes without the City Walls.

St. Andrew in Holborn	581	8260
St. Bartholomew the Great	55	617
St. Bartholomew the Less	9	117
St. Botolph by Aldersgate	173	1287
St. Botolph without Aldgate	226	2836
St. Botolph without Bishopsgate	295	3316
Bridewell Precinct	14	157
St. Bridget, vulgarly St. Bride's	156	1628
St. Dunstan in the West	127	1646
St. George in Southwark	883	8534
St. Giles by Cripplegate	216	2865
St. John in Southwark	220	3188
St. Olave in Southwark	227	3337
St. Saviour in Southwark	426	5805
St. Sepulchre's Parish	248	3134
St. Thomas in Southwark	53	149
Trinity in the Minories	8	127
	<u>5,044</u>	<u>60,578</u>

Buried in the 24 Out-Parishes in Middlesex and Surrey.

	1824.	12 YRS.
St. Ann in Middlesex	315	3434
Christ Church in Surrey	393	3170
Christ Church in Middlesex	436	4681
St. Dunstan at Stepney	517	6469
St. George in Bloomsbury	218	2392
St. George in Middlesex	621	7101
St. George in Queen's-square	171	1750
St. Giles in the Fields	793	8209
St. James at Clerkenwell	600	6428
St. John at Clerkenwell	132	1312
St. John at Hackney	422	3922
St. John at Wapping	91	852
St. Katherine near the Tower	22	821
St. Leonard in Shoreditch	1058	10982
St. Luke in Middlesex	388	6340
St. Mary at Islington	292	3609
St. Mary at Lambeth	1410	13624
St. Mary Magd. Bermondsey	616	7479
St. Mary at Newington	531	6005
St. Mary at Rotherhithe	392	4258
St. Mary at Whitechapel	509	7326
St. Matthew at Bethnal Green	406	5270
St. Paul at Shadwell	272	2877
West Hackney	62	62
	<u>15,711</u>	<u>178,951</u>

Buried in the 10 Parishes in the City and Liberties of Westminster.

St. Anne in Westminster	1045	6263
(Return biennial.)		
St. Clement Danes	322	3660
St. George by Hanover-square	—	8281
(Return biennial.)		
St. James in Westminster	1158	13159
St. John Evangelist in Westminster	690	6222
St. Margaret in Westminster	523	7898
St. Martin in the Fields	530	5780
St. Mary le Strand	59	981
The Precinct of the Savoy	33	163
St. Paul in Covent Garden	166	2012
	<u>20,237</u>	<u>233,370</u>

12 YRS.

Add the number buried in places extra-parochial, in grounds attached to Hospitals, and in sundry precincts and liberties, as well as for persons of different persuasions, and the various sects, according to an average made some years ago, or according to the computation of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of deaths in London, upon the whole population annually, for twelve years, amounting to	}	100,000
Total	.	<u>333,370</u>

Certified to be correct,

JAMES CARDEN, JUN. Solicitor.