

The Rev. F. Browne gave some memorials of the family of Gorges, and an outline of the history of NAILSEA COURT. This court was once occupied by the notorious Major Wade, who took an active part in the Monmouth rebellion, and proved a false friend to his associates. Capt. Rogers, a relative of this Major Wade, captured a Spanish vessel containing 500 bales of Pope's bulls, each bale containing 16 reams, intended for South America. The same person brought Alexander Selkirk from Juan Fernandez. The rev. gentleman read some very curious extracts from the Nailsea vestry books. One was in 1792, and related to a payment by the minister "to the viper woman for making a child on John Lovell, at a guinea a-week." This entry was long a source of difficulty to him; but in 1852 he found it stated in *Notes and Queries* that Pliny, Galen, and other ancients attached medicinal properties to the flesh of vipers. In Madame de Sevigné's letters there occurred an order for ten dozen vipers, two to be taken each day. He supposed that the woman had made viper-broth, and given it to Lovell's child. In 1715 there was entered one shilling for leather for the bell, and the head of an "oter," but in another place the churchwarden spelt it "the head of an author." The same year there was an entry, "Paid Dr. Lovell for a whip for the church, 2d." "Paid Dr. Lovell for whipping dogs at church, 31 weeks, 1s. 9d." It puzzled him to think who this unfortunate

medical man could be that was paid 1s. 9d. for whipping dogs 31 weeks; but on the next page he found—"Paid Dr. Lovell for mending Catherine Poole's shoes, 2d." The last entry was, perhaps the most unfortunate, as it was for whipping the vagrants,—“Paid John Tucker for entertaining those that looked after two vagrants till they could be whipped, 3s. 2d.”

Mr. Freeman remarked that viper-broth was in use within his remembrance, and that the office of dog-whipper was a recognised one in some cathedrals.

Mr. Dickinson asked Lord Talbot de Malahide whether it was correct that an Act of Parliament had been passed in reference to treasure trove.

Lord Talbot de Malahide said that he had a bill prepared and laid upon the table of the House of Lords; but he found the difficulties were so great that there was no prospect of its passing. Some of the difficulties were technical, and were of a very ridiculous kind, but it appeared that, in order to a bill being passed, it must originate in the House of Commons. The Society of Antiquaries in Scotland had prevailed on the Government to offer to pay the full value for all articles of the kind found in that country; and he himself had memorialised the Treasury to adopt a similar practice in England and Ireland. He had information to shew that this had been done in Ireland, and there was reason to believe that the arrangements were nearly completed in England; but he must confess that the difficulty of getting anything like an answer from the Chancellor of the Exchequer was such as he could not have conceived. The law of Scotland was different from that of England. In Scotland everything that was found in the earth belonged to the Crown; in England only articles of the precious metals; and in some instances the Crown had waived its

privileges, and given them to private individuals. Hence the difficulty of passing an Act, in which the rights of all these persons would be involved.

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