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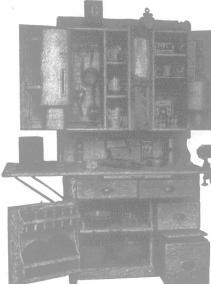
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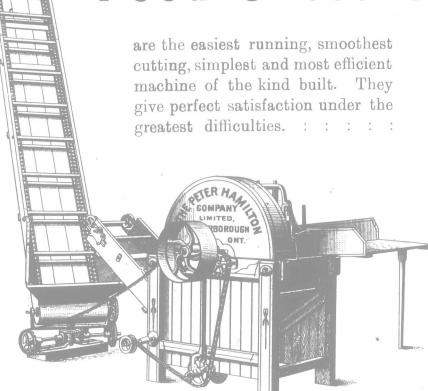
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Oliver Cromwell's Head.

The exhibition last spring at the Royal Archæological Institute, by the Rev. H R. Wilkinson, of an embalmed head, purporting to be Oliver Cromwell's, and the discussion that has followed, will have given many of my readers the desire to hear the story of this remarkable relicespecially as we are now assured, on the united authorities of Sir Henry H. Howorth and Dr. Boyd Dawkins, that the head is indeed that of the Protector. Dealing with the internal evidence for the authenticity of the relic, Sir Henry Howorth says in the Times

"In the first place, the head is an embalmed head, which is an exceedingly rare thing. Cromwell was embalmed The hair, the moustache, as well as the dried and shrunken flesh, are all there, and the features are well shown. There is also the ragged beard, which agrees with the statement that Cromwell in his last days became superstitious about having his beard cut, and this agrees with the evidence of the mask of his face taken after death, which has been preserved. There is also a tiny hole where the famous wart or mole once was."

Dr. Boyd Dawkins, reviewing these statements in a talk with a representative of the Manchester Guardian, said:

"Taking all these facts into consideration, it is impossible not to accept this as the real head of the great Protector, the man to whom England owes so much. The meeting was distinctly of this opinion, and the whole question was treated with the reverence due to the name and to the remains of one of the greatest benefactors of our country. is to be hoped that this unique relic will ultimately find its way into the possession of the nation, and be kept as a precious heirloom which cannot fail to be of the deepest historic interest to all the English people."

What if we should live to see the solemn re-burial of Oliver Cromwell's head in Westminster Abbey!

THE BURIAL OF CROMWELL IN THE ABBEY.

It would, of course, be a re-burial. 'Oliver Cromwell's vault' was for many years an object of interest in the Abbey. Indeed, its massive walls, abutting on the resting-place of Henry VII., form the only part of the Abbey dating from the Commonwealth. Here Cromwell was buried with great pomp, and, according to Royalist accounts, little lamentation. Two vivid descriptions of the scene have come down to us. "It was," says Cowley, "the funeral day of the man late who made himself to be called Protector, I found there had been much more cost bestowed than either the dead man, or even death itself, could deserve. There was a mighty train of black assistants; the hearse was magnificent, the idol crowned; and (not to mention all other ceremonies which are practiced at royal interments, and therefore could be by no means omitted here) the vast multitude of spectators made up, as it used to do, no small part of the spectacle itself. But yet, I know not how, the whole was so managed that methought it somewhat represented the life of him for whom it was made: much noise, much tumult, much magnificence, much vainglory: briefly, a great show, and yet, after all this, but an ill sight."

"It was," says Evelyn, "the joyfullest funeral that ever I saw, for there were none that cried but dogs, which the soldiers hooted away with as barbarous noise, drinking and taking tobacco in the streets as they went."

THE TYBURN MUTILATION.

Even at this point legend and dispute creep in, for it is said that the real interment had taken place two months before in private, and this mystery, says Dean Stanley, probably fostered the

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