

Which is the hottest place in a church or chapel? The gallery.

Why is the gallery of all public places hotter than the lower parts of the building? Because the heated air of the building ascends, and all the cold air which can enter through the doors and windows, keeps to the floor till it has become heated.—*Dr. Brewer's Guide to Science.*

**HUGH MILLER'S MUSEUM.**—The geological museum of the late Mr Hugh Miller has been purchased by the home government for £500. In addition to this sum, another of about £600 subscribed all over the country, with a view to the purchase of the collection, will be handed to Mr Miller's widow. The collection will remain in the Edinburgh Museum.

#### THE LATE SIR W. REID, K.C.B.

Major-General Sir W. Reid, K.C.B., late Governor of Malta, died on Sunday. He belonged to the corps of Royal Engineers, and obtained his commission in 1809; became a Captain in 1814; Brevet Lieutenant Colonel in 1837; Brevet Colonel in 1851; and Major-General in 1856.

Within a year of receiving his first commission he was sent to the Peninsula, and served to the end of the war. He was at the three sieges of Badajos, the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo, the siege of the Forts and the battle of Salamanca, the sieges of Burgos and San Sebastian, and battles of Vittoria, Nivelle, Nive, and Toulouse, and was wounded at Badajos, Ciudad Rodrigo, and San Sebastian. He was present at the attack on Algiers under Lord Exmouth in 1816. In 1832 he was employed at Barbadoes in rebuilding the Government buildings which had been destroyed by the hurricane of the preceding year, and then he first conceived the idea of endeavouring to trace the laws which govern the movements of these agents.

Subsequently, as Governor of Bermuda, Barbadoes, and Malta; as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Great Exhibition of 1851; and as the author of the "Law of Storms," he rendered services to this country which ought not soon to be forgotten. Of the local improvements which he effected in his several governments, and the vigour and spirit which he infused into his administration of their affairs, we cannot speak in detail. It is not too much to say that the success of the Exhibition, at least in its early stages, and, above all, its punctual opening at the appointed time, were in a great degree owing to his tranquil energy and determination, which in some instances refused even to yield to the highest influence. At the close of the Exhibition he was made a K.C.B., and the government of Malta was conferred upon him, which he administered during the Crimean war; and there were not a few persons here who regretted that he had not the administration of the war itself nearer to the scene of action. He only returned last summer, at the expiration of the usual period of colonial government. His well known work on the "Law of Storms"—that is, on the laws of motion of the tropical whirlwinds—was founded in a great measure on his own experience in the West Indies, where he had been on Military duty before his government of Bermuda. This work, it may not be generally known, is not merely a theoretical investigation, but of eminently practical value to all who have to navigate in the seas both of the East and West Indies. What was, in fact, a second edition of it was published a few years ago under the title of the "Progress of the Development of the Law of Storms." It is remarkable that such a work should have proceeded from a military and not a naval officer; but Sir W. Reid's mind was one that could not be idle, or fail to be impressed with any phenomena either of the natural or moral world with which he was brought into contact. He possessed the placid and calm temper of a true philosopher, with a determination to avoid all personal conflicts and disputes which is sometimes not an accompaniment of philosophy, combined with a rare talent for conducting business, and in making his colleagues and subordinates do their best. In private life he was one of the most amiable of men, with a pleasant mixture of gravity and cheerfulness.

Sir W. Reid was married to a daughter of the late Mr Bolland, of Clapham. His wife died a few months before him, and he has left five daughters. The deceased General was the eldest son of the Rev James Reid, minister of the parish of Kinglassie, Fifeshire, where Sir William was born in 1791. He was educated at Musselburgh, and subsequently in the military academy at Woolwich.

#### ORIGINAL HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

When one has made out a full genealogical table of the Saxon line of English kings, he will find two things very plainly indicated by it: First. He will find that *the trouble of the line* began with the circumstance of Edward the Elders' supplanting Ethelbald, the son of his uncle king Ethelred. His father Alfred had succeeded Ethelred merely because the Danes were infesting England when that monarch died, and his son Ethelbald was in his infancy or childhood. If Ethelred had bequeathed him the kingdom (as some allege), he must have done so only on this account—hence it was not unnatural in Ethelbald, on Alfred's death, to desire that the royal succession should revert to the house of the elder brother.

Now, although the first consequence of Edward's refusing to give place to Ethelbald, was the death of his opponent (who fell in battle contending for his imaginary rights), yet, history does not speak as though the circumstance of Ethelbald's death tended much to the comfort of Edward's house.

As years rolled on, disturbance after disturbance broke out among Edward's offspring, and his male representatives became fewer and more wretched.

Out of fourteen children, he had only four sons himself, and all of these but one died childless. Edmund the Elder, (the one referred to,) who, by the way, was stabbed by a robber in his own house, left but one son that had posterity; and he was none other than *the hateful* king Edgar, called by the monks *the peaceful*, because of his submission to their authority. It was this prince, that, at the instigation of Dunstan and his followers, rebelled against his brother king Edwy the fair, whose wife had been so savagely murdered, (on the pretence of her being too nearly related to her husband), and, driving that unhappy monarch from his dominions, occasioned his death of a broken heart.

Edgar had but two sons, one of whom, whilst but a youth, (viz., Edward the martyr), was stabbed, like his grandfather, by an assassin, and died unmarried; whilst the other (viz., king Ethelred the unready), had the misfortune to have three of his sons murdered, and no posterity by the fourth. This fourth son was Edward the Confessor, the last of the Saxon kings of England. The crown therefore endured in the family of Edward the elder only for four generations; whilst in three out of four of these generations a king was put to death by violence, in the remaining one, a king died of a broken heart.

The second thing that a genealogical table of the Saxon kings of England evidently shows, is, that "the name of the wicked shall rot," even though he be a monarch. King Edgar, not content with getting a kingdom, must also get a wife by violence; wherefore a nobleman is murdered, and his wife wedded. But what are the consequences?

First, the wife (Elfrida) thus iniquitously got, after her husband's death causes Edward the martyr, *his son by a former marriage*, to be treacherously stabbed, that her own son Ethelred may supplant him.