

New Colors in The Abbey.

Some remarkable things in the way of restoration are being carried out at Westminster Abbey, and all kinds of beauties are being revealed which have been virtually a sealed book to English folk for generations.

About a year ago some experiments were made upon the tomb of Edmund Crouchback on the north side of the High Altar under the superintendence of Mr. Tristram, a well-known authority in artistic circles. Something like two hundred years ago a quantity of varnish had been placed upon the surface of this tomb and its two immediate neighbors. Very possibly Sir Christopher Wren was responsible for this well-intentioned but disastrous step. In course of time the varnish turned nearly black, and the material which was intended at the outset to serve as a preservative of the gorgeous decorations of these tombs came to have a precisely opposite effect, says "The Observer."


Mr. Tristram's experiments having made it clear that the varnish could be removed without the slightest injury to the decoration of the three tombs, the work was taken in hand, and it has recently been completed, with the result that three splendid specimens of the craft of the thirteenth century appear to-day a mass of gorgeous coloring, some of which is as perfect now as it was six hundred years ago.

But this is only a preliminary. In the north and south choir aisles on the wall spandrels there were placed by Henry III. a number of stone shields of the most graceful shape and proportions. They are the oldest specimens of architectural heraldry in the world. The shields were decorated with the coats-of-arms of various prominent personages at the time when the present choir of the Abbey was opened. Here appear among others, the shields of Henry III., Louis IX., of France, Henry's brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall, Simon de Montfort, and others too numerous to mention.

The beauty of the shields a year ago had well-nigh disappeared altogether. Evidently they had been subjected to the same fate as that which befell the three tombs. To-day, however, the majority of these shields, some fourteen or fifteen in number, are standing forth in all their medieval bravery. The familiar shield of St. Edward the Confessor, which is mainly of blue, is one of the least effective, for that color has perished more than any other. On the other hand, the lions of England, the elaborate shields of Cornwall, of Provence, and of de Warenne, are a joy to behold, while the brilliant crimson of Simon de Montfort is, perhaps, the greatest success of all.

The same process of renewal has been applied to the architectural decorations of the beautiful Islay Chapel in the north ambulatory. A few weeks ago no one had the slightest idea that these various stone emblems had ever possessed any color

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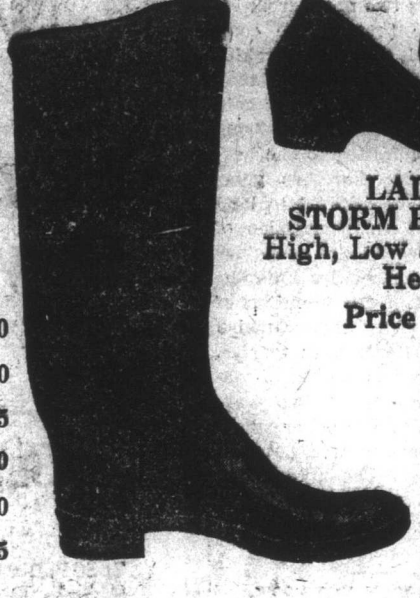
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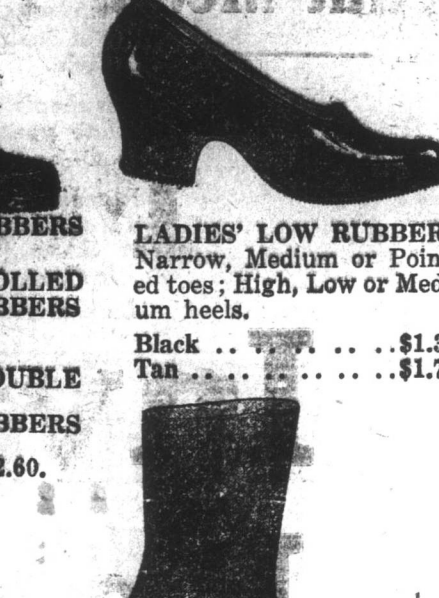
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whatever. To-day the shield of Abbot Islip, a beautiful work of art, is revealed in all its glory, while his rebus, a quaint architectural pun representing a little man in red trowsers slipping off a branch which he is ineffectually endeavoring to grasp (thus setting forth the Abbott's surname) is worth going many a mile to see.

There are many other works of art in Westminster Abbey, particularly of an heraldic descriptions which in all probability can be vastly improved

by the skilful process now being carried on.

Living Wage Idea is Misleading.

The United States Railway Labor Board has created a stir by declaring that the phrase "living wage" is nothing more than "a bit of mellifluous phraseology, well calculated to deceive the unthinking." This pronouncement has had disturbing effects in two directions: First, it has stimulated the enemies of the Labor Board to new attacks and declarations that the Board doesn't know what it is talking about; and second, it has excited comment and argument on the part of those who are interested in the economic theory that the words "living wage" imply.

The Board's attack on "living wage" was embodied in a majority opinion which was offered in reply to a dissenting opinion presented by A. C. Wharton, labor member of the Board, after the majority of the Board had refused to grant a minimum wage of 48 cents an hour to maintenance-of-way employees. The petitions of the maintenance men had been based on the "living wage" theory. The Board, in its majority opinion, said that this theory, "if carried to its legitimate conclusion, would wreck every railroad in the United States, and if extended to other industries, would carry them into communistic ruin.

"If the contentions were that the Board should establish a 'living wage' the majority would readily accede to the proposition," the opinion said, "and as a matter of fact, the Board in this instance as in all others has granted a living wage. But the abstract, elusive thing called 'the living wage,' confessedly based upon a makeshift, and a guess, cannot receive the sanction of this Board, because it would be utterly impractical and would not be 'just and reasonable,' as the law demands."

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AVOIDING TROUBLE.

Along the line of least resistance I take my calm and cheerful way, and so keep trouble in the distance and have a picnic every day. Some friends of mine are always ranting, they hunt up evils to reform, up some hard road forever putting, a weary and bedraggled swarm. They hope to rend the world asunder and make of it a whiter spot, but it all ends in smoke and thunder, and they're a disillusioned lot. I hold it true that every error will some day shrivel up and fall, but if I were a holy terror, I couldn't hasten things at all. So oft I've seen the ardent martyr go forth to howl abuses down, and in the end he hired a cart to haul his weapon back to town. I've certain rights that should be cherished, men say, my vigil I should keep; but if some tinhorn rights have perished, I let them slide, and lose no sleep. I've noticed that the people jealous of all their rights are short of friends, and they are those who like to tell us a narrative that never ends. Let dauntless souls go forth to battle with windmills or chimneys dire; in peace I sit and daffily rattle a stream of discords from my lyre.

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Mr. William King, whose house and furniture were destroyed in the fire which occurred on Thursday last, list that, would appreciate any assistance, financially or otherwise, to help him in his present need, as the whole accumulation of a lifetime was lost during the few hours of the conflagration. As no insurance was carried on either building or contents, the loss is a

most serious one. Such donations as may be forthcoming will be gratefully acknowledged. All such as are disposed to help may send or leave their donations at the residence of Mrs. Bessie King, 11 Buchanan Street.

Fads and Fashions.

The elaborate materials are very simply draped in newest models. One sees the turban headresses now in place of jeweled tiaras. Deeply turned brims are emphasized in southern millinery.

Velvet and metallic cloth vie in popularity for evening wear. A satin-like suede in all colors is introduced for suits. Tailed evening trains a draped gown of sapphire blue velvet. Wide-brimmed hats, cut away in the back, set off the brim trimming. Tulle frocks for spring make use of ribbon as trimming. Tulle appears to be as popular as ever for linings and entire dresses. A novel cape of suede is collared quite effectively with monkey.

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