

## OLD CLOCKS.

At a meeting of the Archaeological Institute held on March 1st, 1861, and also at a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries held on June 20th in the same year, Mr. O'Morgan exhibited a miniature clock in the form of a square tower surrounded by a dome, on which stood the figure of a boy playing on a lute. The height of the clock without the dome was only one inch and three-quarters. The case was of silver gilt, the works of steel. It went twelve hours, struck, and had an alarm. Mr. Morgan believed it to be of German work, and placed its date about the year 1600. It was the smallest striding clock he had ever met with. And at a meeting of the same Institute held on December 7, 1855, the same gentleman exhibited two clocks of novel design and construction. One was in form of a griffin, bearing an escutcheon, on which was the dial; the animal constantly rolled its eyes whilst the mechanism was in movement, and it opened its mouth when the quarters struck, and flapped its wings at the striking of the hour. The other was in the form of a crucifix; the hours were shown on a globe, which revolved on the top of the cross. The date of this strangely shaped clock was the early part of the seventeenth century. In the South Kensington Museum is another clock arranged as a crucifix. It is of ebony, silver, and gilt, and enameled bronze. It is of French or Flemish manufacture of the seventeenth century. Its height is fourteen inches and a half.

The Hon. W. B. Warren Vernon has a clock of gilt metal in the form of a turret, with a pinnacle top, upon a stand of ebony; it has chased silver ornaments, and is of the seventeenth century. And of French manufacture. In the South Kensington Museum is a medallion clock, in a rock crystal case, supported on a baluster-

shaped crystal stem; it is dated 1609; its height is seven inches and three-quarters, and it was purchased at the Bernal sale for £14. Mr. A. J. B. Beresford-Hope has a gilt metal clock with columns and pinnacles at the angles, engraved dial, and square repoussé stand; it was made at Strasburg in 1614; also a gilt metal table-clock of hexagonal shape, with glass panels, resting on six terminal figures; it is of the seventeenth century.

In 1605 a clock was put up in the cathedral at Frankfort. It consisted of three parts or divisions. In the lowest, which looked like a calendar, where several circles, the first of which showed the days and months, the second the golden number, with the age and change of the moon, and the third the dominical letter. The fourth and fifth circles represented the ancient Roman calendar. On the sixth were the names of the apostles and martyrs, the length of the days and nights, and the entrance of the sun into the twelve signs of the zodiac. The seventh and eighth circles exhibited the hours and minutes when the sun rose and set. In another circle the divisions of the twelve signs of the zodiac, the four seasons, and the twelve months were marked. A circle in the centre showed the movable feasts. The figures which struck the hours represented two smiths with hammers in their hands. This piece of mechanism was repaired for the first time in 1704.—*Curiocities of Clocks and Watches.*

## ASSIGNMENTS IN TRUST.

Assignments made in trust for the benefit of creditors being, under the law now in force in this Province, the only means of effecting a rateable distribution of the assets of insolvent debtors, should meet with every encouragement from creditors and courts. So long as there is a real intention on the part of the debtor to give up everything, to be divided proportionally among all creditors entitled to participate, as little effect as possible should be given to technical objections to the particular form of assignment made. This is apparently the

course approved of by the wholesale trade generally on this subject, but there appears to be exceptions. Fortunately, our judges do not seem disposed to look favorably on litigation, having for its object the defeat of such assignments honestly made.

An instance in point has arisen quite recently in the case of one Cornish, a retail boot and shoe dealer of this city, who made such an assignment to Mr. Badenach, formerly an official assignee for this county. One of the Montreal creditors, having obtained judgment against Cornish, insisted on his stock being sold out by the sheriff, and the validity of the assignment tested in court. The interpleader issue directed for this purpose came on for trial before Chief Justice Wilson, of the Court of Common Pleas, at the present Toronto Assizes. One of the objections taken was that the deed was void because it permitted the trustee, if he saw fit, to employ the insolvent in the winding up of the estate. Another was that the deed was void by reason of a provision contained therein that the trustee should incur no personal liability except for his own wilful acts and defaults. These and other objections, all being of a similar kind, were promptly over-ruled by His Lordship, without even calling upon the opposite counsel for any argument upon them. The only authorities cited in support of the objections made, were some American decisions, which the learned Chief Justice, thought were not applicable under our law.

We understand that the assignment made by the Wellington Oil Company, of Guelph, is being questioned, in the interest of one of the London creditors, on somewhat similar grounds. It is more than probable that the objections made in that case will meet with the same treatment when they come before the court as those made to the Cornish assignment received. This would be a matter of congratulation to every one interested in securing an equitable distribution among all creditors, of the effects of bankrupt debtors.—*Monetary Times.*



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