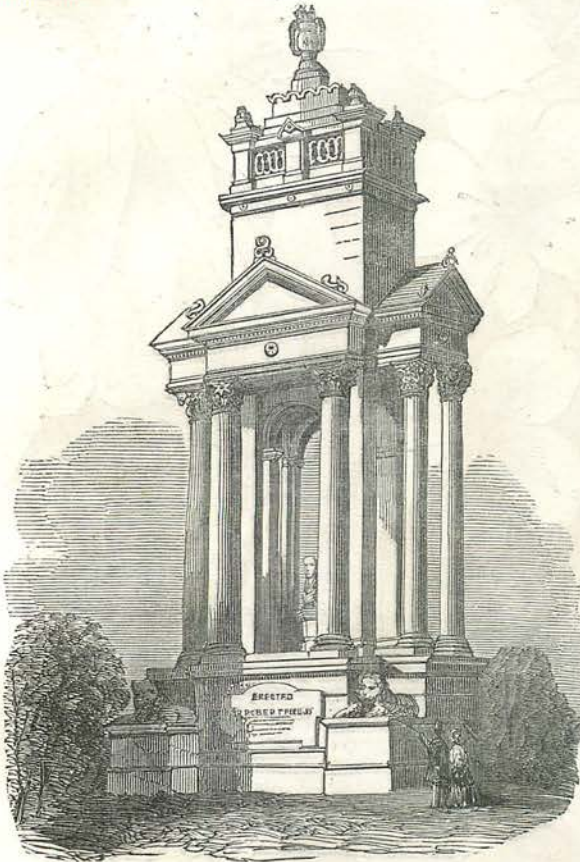


MEMORABLE PLACES AND EVENTS.—JULY.

MONUMENT TO THE LATE SIR ROBERT PEEL, AT FORFAR.

WERE anything wanting to testify to the wide appreciation of the statesmanship of the late Sir Robert Peel, it would be found in the circumstance that the small county town of Forfarshire, with a population of some 9000 inhabitants, the bulk of whom are weavers, was the first to erect a memorial to his



MONUMENT, AT FORFAR, TO THE LATE SIR ROBERT PEEL: DIED JULY 2, 1850.

name. As our Illustration will show, their tribute, considering the means of those who raised it, is very creditable as a work of art. The monument occupies a very commanding site, within the new cemetery to the south of the town, and is a conspicuous object for miles around. It stands about forty-five feet high, and is built of freestone ashler, brought from the neighbourhood of St. Andrew's. The bust is cut from a block of Craigeith stone, and is the production of William Anderson, of Perth, a young sculptor of promise, to whose liberality in executing it, at an almost nominal charge, the committee are indebted for being able to complete the structure, which otherwise they could not have accomplished with the funds at their disposal. The architect of the monument is Mr. James Maclaren, of Dundee, whose design was selected in preference to thirty-one others.

GREAT FLOOD AT BRECON.

IN July, 1853, the upper parts of the valleys of the Wye and the Usk were devastated by the flood of those rivers and their tributaries, and the bursting of a waterspout in North Breconshire. Twenty-two bridges were more or less destroyed; the loss of cattle and crops was very great; and eight persons perished in the floods, making the day of their loss (July 9) sadly memorable for many years to come. The greatest devastation was committed on the banks of the Honddu, which runs north-west of Brecon; and the accompanying Illustration shows the flooded river carrying away buildings, after it had torn up the very foundations of a stone bridge.

FAIRLOP FAIR IN JULY.

This suburban festival, for many years held in Hainault Forest, in Essex, originated with an annual "bean-feast," given by John Day, a block and pump maker, of Wapping, to his several workmen. They were joined by the workmen of other shops, and thus it became a public festival, with a procession to the Forest, and a gathering around a remarkably fine tree, known as "The



THE FAIRLOP OAK, IN HAINAULT FOREST, SIXTY YEARS SINCE.

Fairlop Oak." Around this tree, some seventy years since, an archery meeting was held by the gentry of the district, with pic-nics in tents, bands of music, &c., and then, to protect the old oak, it was inclosed with a spiked paling, having on it a board inscribed as follows:—"All good foresters are requested not to hurt this old tree, as a plaster has been put to its wounds." About thirty-four years ago the tree fell, some gipsies having fifteen years previously burnt out the inside. "When a boy," says an old friend, "I have driven in a hot day, from out of the hollow, three horses, and sometimes four or five cows." The pulpits of Wanstead and new St. Pancras' Churches are, in part, made of the beautiful wood of this oak. It is shown in the Sketch as it existed some sixty years since.

Hainault has been in progress of disafforestation and inclosure within the last few years; it has lost many picturesque features of wild expanse of woodland, heaths, and mosses; of umbrageous tree-tops, and little patches of civilisation, with here and there a little town sending up its fleecy smoke amidst the forest



GREAT FLOOD AT BRECON, SOUTH WALES, JULY 9, 1853.

boughs. Hainault was the exclusive property of the Crown, and was designated the "Queen's Forest." It possessed more beautiful scenery than, perhaps, any other forest in England; and what rendered its preservation the more desirable was, the access to Hainault being very convenient, both by railway and by road.

The breaking up of the pleasure-grounds of the people has been much opposed; and more than one witness before the Parliamentary Commission described the forest, from its vicinity to the metropolis, as a great source of enjoyment and recreation to the Londoners.