

MEMORABLE PLACES AND EVENTS.—NOVEMBER.

NOV. 9.—LORD MAYOR'S DAY.

This is a grand feast day in the Guild-hall, as well as in the several Companies of the city of London. The old custom of "the Loving Cup" is then duly honoured, and the Companies display their fine old plate. The Election Cup of the Clothworkers' Company, here engraved as a specimen, is commonly called "Pepys' Cup," because it was presented by Samuel Pepys, who was Master of the Company in 1677. The Cup is of silver, richly chased, and is a very handsome example of the art of the period; and is, besides, an interesting memorial of the pleasantly gossiping diarist.

CAXTON'S HOUSE, AT WESTMINSTER.

In the Almonry, at Westminster, the first printing-press in England was set up by William Caxton, according to a curious placard, in his largest type, and now preserved in the Library of Brasenose College, Oxford; for in this placard he invites customers to "come to Westmonester in to the Almonestry, at the Reed Pale," the name by which was known the house here represented. It stood on the north side of the Almonry, with its back against that of a house on the south side of Tothill-street. Bagford describes it with the sign of the Queen's Head: it is stated to have fallen down in November, 1845; it was three-storied, and had a gallery to the upper floor, and a window in its bold gable. From the materials was saved a beam of wood,



"CAXTON'S HOUSE," IN THE ALMONRY, TAKEN DOWN NOVEMBER, 1845.

which have been made a chess-board and two sets of chessmen, as appropriate memorials of Caxton's first labour in England—"The Game and Playe of the Chesse," 1474, folio, believed to be the first book printed in England.—See "Curiosities of London," voce "Almonry."

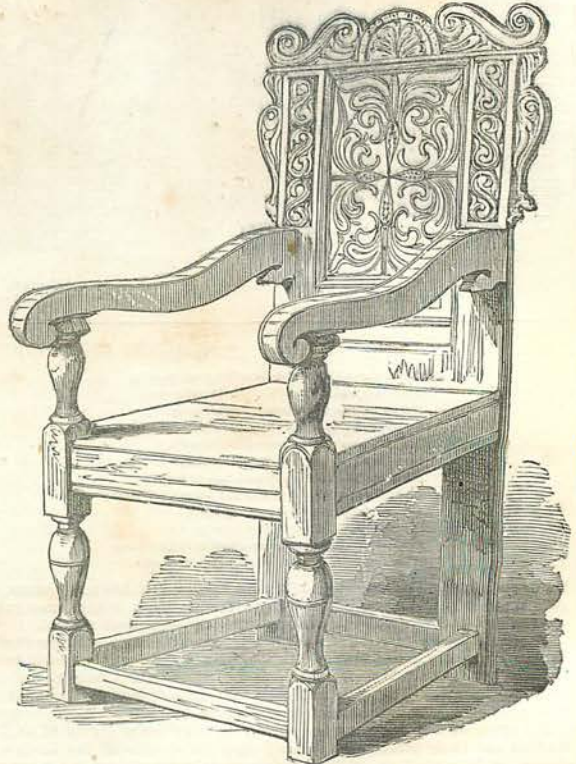
ADMIRAL SIR M. FROBISHER'S CHAIR.

This relic of the old Arctic worthy, an oak arm-chair, was presented to the Geographical Society in November, 1853, by Mr. Weld, the librarian of the Royal Society. It formed part of the Admiral's furniture in Altoff's Hall, four miles from Wakefield, in Yorkshire. Frobisher was assisted by Queen Elizabeth with £4000 from her privy purse; and on his return from his third Arctic voyage, 1578, the Queen bestowed upon him Altoff's Hall, which, before sequestration, belonged to the Abbey of Newland. The estate remained in Frobisher's family until the time of Cromwell, when it came into the possession of the Ingrams, of Temple Newsome. The Admiral will be remembered as the discoverer of "Frobisher's Straits." Mr. Weld, in his letter accompanying this interesting memorial, says: "The chair, the back of which is richly carved, bears the name of M. Frobisher, cut in antique characters, with the date 1580, at which period he was, according to his biographers, enjoying the repose of his newly-acquired estate in his native county,

having been born at Doncaster. Thus the chair in question is nearly three centuries old, and, had it no other interest than its great age, it would, as an example of the furniture of the period when it was made, be curious. But, bearing in mind that it belonged to Frobisher, one of our most enterprising and renowned navigators, who, when endeavours were made to dissuade him from engaging in the discovery of the North-west Passage, declared, 'It is the only thing in the world that is left yet undone, whereby a notable mind may be made famous and fortunate,' this relic becomes peculiarly valuable, and cannot, I think, fail to be regarded with interest by the members of the Geographical Society. C. R. WELD."



CLOTHWORKERS' COMPANY'S CUP (PEPYS').



SIR MARTIN FROBISHER'S CHAIR, PRESENTED TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, NOV. 14 1853.