

MEMORABLE PLACES AND EVENTS.—APRIL.

THE CHANTREY MEMORIAL.

In the pleasant village of Norton, about four miles south of Sheffield, Francis Liggitt Chantrey was born, on the 7th of April, 1781. His parents' rank in life was humble; and that young Chantrey at one period carried milk from Newton to Sheffield is certain, though it has been added, he not only lingered on the road to form grotesque figures of the yellow clay, but moulded his mother's butter on churning-days, into resemblances of various objects, to the great admiration of the dairymaid. John Raphael Smith, the mezzotinto-engraver and portrait-painter, was the first to perceive and appreciate Chantrey's devotion to the study and practice of drawing and modelling, when he was an apprentice to a carver and gilder, at Sheffield. How Chantrey came to London in 1802, and then began to labour at sculpture, in which he never had an hour's instruction from any sculptor; how he laboured eight years without making £5 in his profession; yet how his marble progeny of statues people our cathedrals and public institutions with the truthful works of his genius,—we have not space to detail. Chantrey died suddenly, November 25, 1841, and was buried in his native village of Norton; the sculptor having willed that his mortal remains should be laid here, in a vault which he himself had built at the south-west end of the church, in the year 1840.

It was fitting that such purely English genius should be commemorated. Accordingly, an Obelisk has been raised upon Norton-Green, a short distance from the church, to mark the place of Chantrey's birth; and, it has been well observed by a contemporary, that "the inhabitants of Norton and the friends of Sir Francis Chantrey consider that they could not do less than raise this modest memorial to a man who elevated himself from the condition of a milk-boy to wealth and fame, and who has left the whole of his large property as a legacy to his country."

The obelisk is a block of grey granite, 22 feet in height: it was designed by Mr. Philip Hardwick, R.A.; and the only inscription it bears is the name of CHANTREY. The granite is "fine-axed," and is from the Cornwall Cheesewring quarries.



SIR FRANCIS CHANTREY, BORN APRIL 7, 1781.—THE CHANTREY MEMORIAL, NORTON, NEAR SHEFFIELD.

THE BEAUFOY SHAKSPEAREAN MEDAL.

WE are indebted for this fine work of medallic art to the munificence of Mr. B. H. Beaufoy, and to the skill of Mr. Benjamin Wyon. In 1851 Mr. Beaufoy invested 1000 guineas, the

interest to be given annually to the most successful competitor among the boys of the City of London School in the production of an Essay on Shakspeare and his Works; a Silver Medal also to be presented as an additional honour. The obverse of the medal bears the head of Shakspeare, copied from the bust upon his monument at Stratford. The reverse has the figure of Tragedy, in the centre, standing erect, with a dagger in each hand; on the left is seated Falstaff, relating his acts of braggart valour to Prince Hal. On the right is seen the Cardinal Wolsey, meditating on his fallen greatness, expressed by his holding lowly, in his left hand, his doffed hat. Next to him is Prospero, with raised wand, bidding Ariel dispatch, like a nymph of the sea—the figure floating in the air, and occupying most artistically the upper portion of the field. In the exergue is "City of London School Shakspearean Prize. Founded, 1851, by Henry B. H. Beaufoy, F.R.S., born April 23, 1785." The day appointed for the annual competition among the scholars is April 23, the birthday of Mr. Beaufoy, and therefore kept in the school as a holiday; this being also the anniversary of the birth and death of Shakspeare, in commemoration of which the award of the founder's medal takes place "to commemorate the birth and genius of Shakspeare; and to encourage among the pupils a taste for reading and studying the writings of so eminent a man, justly styled 'our great national bard,' whose works occupy so prominent a position in English literature, and give a clearer insight into the manners and customs of the Elizabethan age than any other author; and to make these available to the pupils in the study of English history; and also as studies in comparison with the dramatic works of ancient Greek writers, as well as the dramatic writers of France and Germany, and other countries."



THE BEAUFOY MEDAL, IN COMMEMORATION OF THE BIRTH AND DEATH OF SHAKSPEARE, APRIL 23, 1564—1616.