HERE A POEM WAS BORN.

THE SPOT WHERE GRAY GOT THE IDEA OF HIS ELEGY.

How Stoke Pogis Looks Today and How it Appeared in the Past-Bits of History in Regard to the Family to Which William Penn Belonged.

The very accident of rural retiracy compelled or induced Thomas Gray to create the one bit of verse which gave him place among the immortals. From 1727 at the age of ten, when his mother placed him in Eton, and where, tradition has it, he began to versity, until he expired of inertia and gout in the arms of Dr. James Brown, Master of picturesque old Pembroke College, Cambridge, on the 30th of July, 1771, a period of 44 years, he was continuously in an atmosphere of books as any man whoever lived. For his day and time he was the most variously and penetratingly learned man in Europe.

He was practically mad for and from book knowledge. His devotion to research seemed an endless intoxication of acquirement for the thing or fact encompassed, rather than that healthful acquisition of knowledge for the uses to which it may be wisely put.

Precisely as with thousands of so-called scholars in our own time, he allowed study and learning-getting to become a disease, instead of making it subservient to wise living and noble accomplishment. You could fill a score of volumes with his erudite. notes, his wonderful indices, his exact and beautiful commentaries upon the works of others less learned and consequently more creative minds, fragments of stately tragedies, dissertations upon art and painting, Alcaic fragments. Latin "lines," Greek epigrams, Pindaric odes. brilliant dead age "imitations" and finished whatnots. But you could not make one thin little volume of one hundred pages comfortably filled with what Thomas Gray's great genius left to posterity for its own monument. The thirty-two stanzas of the "Elegy," the brief Norse poem called "The Fatal Sisters, "The Bard," "On A Distant Prospect of Eton College" and perhaps a half dozen sonnets, altogether not 1,000 lines, compromise all that would have ever interested the world at large, which after all is the final arbiter of either true poetry or prose, except for Gray's lovable, interesting, erratic and often curious personality.

It is no doubt also true that had he not written the "Elegy" his place in the biographies would have been no more than "Thomas Gray, erudite annotator, accomplished translator and sometime companion of Horace Walpole." Because his surpassing genius, through the blessed incident of rural inspiration, for once burst the tetters of sodden bookish enslavement and its consequent physical indolence, he attained fame and left us our most perfect revelation of tenderest emotions and introspections to the universal human heart. The malignancy of Johnson is quite forgiven for the most honest sentence he ever wrote about Gray: "Had Gray written often thus," said the cantankerous master of words, "it had been vain to blame and useless to praise him."

For these and other reasons the one place in all the world, Stoke Poges, which prompted a single incomparable example of what Gray might have been to literature had he been shut away from the deadening influence of Cambridge books, and perhaps compelled to earn his own living, becomes doubly interesting. Besides, the poet resided here for frequent intervals from 1742 to 1759. His grave is here. A stupendous monument stands almost within sight of his old home. The very church in which he worshipped and the churchyard rendered dear to the hearts of all men by his melodious, mournful elegy, remain today just as he saw and knew them in life. The place, too, has some historic importance; and the manor of Stoke Park was once the home of the descendents of William Penn. many of whom are buried in the family. vault in the nave of the mossy old church.

Stoge Poges is a thinly settled village or a thickly settled sylvan parish of Buckinghamshire, not over 25 miles west of London, and about two miles north of the railway station of Slough, which is in turn the same distance north of Windsor and Castle. It derives its unpoetic name from Amicia de Stoke, who brought the manor in marriage to a certain Robert Pogeis, a knight of the shire in the 12th century. In the time of Edward III. the estate passed into the possession of Sir John Molyns. He had a license from the king to fortify and embattle a mansion here; and it was he who built the picturesque old church made famous by Gray's elergy. The manor descended through temale heirs to the great earls of Huntingdon, one of whom rebuilt the manor house early in the reign of Elizabeth. Then Sir Edward Coke possessed it, and sumptuously entertained Elizabeth here. Remains of this splendid manor house are still standing a few rods northwest of the old church

Aside from its poetic associations the manor came to have peculiar interests to Americans when, in 1760, it was purchased from the noble family of Cobham by Thomas Penn, second son of the great founder of Pennsylvania by his second wife, Hannah Callowhill. The grave of Willian Penn is but nine miles distant, beside the quaint old Quaker meetinghouse at Jordan's; and all of Penn's descendents through the tamily line of this son, Thomas, who have since deceased are lying in the Penn family vault in the old Stoke Poges church. Thomas Penn's oldest son, the last John Penn and grandson of the founder, was "a virtuoso, builder and ornamenter of fine residences" and also an author. He built the great house in Kensington Gardens, and, in 1789, the present noble mansion of Stoke Hall, which stands a tew hundred yards to the

the north of the church for Gray's former | Argonaut

home. It is a beautiful and picturesque half ruin, occupied by the keeper of Stoke Park. Its chimneys are the largest I have seen in any old English manor house, and there are undoubtedly today more bricks n these ivy covered mementoes of old time cheer than were originally required in the

entire construction of the walls. John Penn built the modest yet noted mansion of Solitude, still standing on the banks of the Schuylkill, opposite Fair-mount, in Philadelphia. Much of the revenue from remaining Pennsylvania "Proprietary" interests was expended here. Vast sums were used upon new Stoke Hall, and its library, statuary and paintings. He also rescued from oblivion the actual burial place of Gray, by placing the memorial slab against the church wall, beneath the vestry window, and erected at his own expense the huge monument to the poet which dominates all the slumberous

A curious illustration of the decadence of great families, as well as of vast fortunes even in England, is found in the final extinction of this the most eminent branch of the Penn family, and the diversion of their once great estates. Every one is familiar with the escheating of William Penn's American possessions, in which the "estate of the late proprietaries was vested in the Commonwealth," the payment by Pennsylvania of £130,000 sterling to the devisees and legatees, "in remembrance of the enterprising spirit of the Founder," and the granting by the English parliament, in 1790, of an annuity of £4,000 to his heirs and descendents. All this was in addition to the rich English possessions of the Penns, which included the manor Stoke. And yet on March 29, 1867, Granville John Penn, lord of the manor of Stoke, died in his chair with an unsigned will in his hands. All his properties were inherited by his brother, Thomas. That gentleman, who was in clerical orders and a man of extraordinary learning, was subsequently declared insane and incapable of managing

These passed into the tentacles of that great English octopus, the Chancery Court, and finally, after the death of the unfortunate Thomas, got into the possession of William Stuart, gentleman, of Aldenham Abbey, in the shire of Herts. Today the Penns of Stoke Poges are no more. The romping children of a country squire have banished the tender wraiths that peopled the home and haunts of Gray at West End Cottage. While the lord of the manor whose park keeper now uses as a farm house the ancient home of the Cobhams the cokes and the lordly house of Hastings, were Queen Elizabeth was royally entertained, and whose own present princely habitation was once the palatial seat of the Penns-is a maker of matches in Lon-EDGAR L. WAKEMAN. don.

A LONG VIGIL AT A GRAVE.

A Chinese's Vow to Watch His Mother's Tomb for Three Years.

A correspondent of a Shanghai journal, writing from Klukiang, on the Yangtse, mentions that he has seen a sight which is not often seen even in China. This is a man who has taken a vow to watch three years at his mother's grave. The lady died at the end of last year and was buried. as usual, on the side of a neighboring hill in the family burying place. When the remains had been consigned to the earth the son declared that he would not leave the grave for three years, and so far he has been true to his word. The neighbors took upon themselves to provide for his wants and a subscription list was started, ten piculs (133 pounds each) of rice being contributed by his relations and those who knew him. Families take turns in preparing his food and bringing it to him. Others brought straw and poles and made a rude hut for him large enough to contain him-self and the grave of his mother. The writer saw him when he had already been at his self-appointed task nearly seven months and says he will not soon forget the sight and smell. Around the hut there were three well-kept graves, those of his father, brother and wite, and inside, that of his mother.

During the three years of his vigil he does not wash himself, the straw upon which he lies is not removed, he does not change his clothes until the time has expired, he does not come out of the little place for any cause whatever, he speaks to none, except perhaps, occasionally, and then only briefly, to his nearest relatives. He spends the time muttering prayers and burning incence at the head of the tomb, along the length of which he is stretched. The hut is not high enough to allow him to stand upright and is only a few feet longer than himself. "One can faintly imagine the foulness of such a den and the condition of the purposers human being after such tion of an unshorn human being after such an existence; what he will be like at the end of the summer I cannot conceive. It does not seem possible that a man should be able to live through three years of such horrors-none but a Chinaman could do it." If he survives the three years he will be highly honored, the officials will go in state and receive him and report the matter to the throne, and he will receive from the emperor's hand a board containing four characters lauding his virtue. He may also receive some small official preferment, and will thus be provided for. The natives say that although he is alone on the hillside among the graves, no ghosts or devils will inter-fere with him and poisonous snakes will not come near him. Some of the people were not quite sure what his motives were; some said, significantly, that he knew what he was doing-there was not very much to do, and at the end of three years lying at the grave, being fed by his friends, he would likely enough find a comfortable support for the rest of his natural life.-London

He Suggested a Compromise.

The Shah of Persia, Nasr-ed-Din, was in south of the church, and the old Stoke England in 1873. When informed of the manor house. At the time of Gray's resi- immense wealth of more than one of the dence at Stoke Poges old Stoke Hall was | English dukes, he calmly told the Prince the home of Lady Cobham, whose antics of Wales that all such subjects were dangerto secure acquaintance and subsequent ous, and therefore should be put to death, friendly intercourse with the shy poet, who and zealously enjoined upon the Prince the then lived with his mother and aunt in necessity of so doing. "But," replied the West End cottage, about a mile distant, Prince, "I cannot do that." "You," said are preserved in the romantic incidents so the Shah, in astonishment-"you, the heir felicitously related in Gray's facetious poem of the "Long Story."

The new Stoke Hall was built by John Penn from designs by Wyatt. Many visitors here mistake the old manor house at the false should be compared to the throne, and cannot put a subject to death?" "By no means," said the Prince, without process of law." "Well, then," said the Shah politely, as if to compromise the matter, "I would put out their eyes."—

WOMEN IN PROVERBS. Wise Saws of Many Lands on Woman and Her Curious Ways.

Women's jars make men's wars. A change of wives makes men bald. A woman's tears are a fountain of craft. Where women and geese are there is no lack of noise.

ENGLISH.

The best of women are never at a loss for words.

A bag of flees is easier to watch than one woman. Where the devil cannot go himself he sends an old woman.

What woman wills God wills. He who takes a wife fibds a master. A woman conceals what she does not | tured.

Never a looking glass told a woman she

was ugly. The born beauty is born betrothed. Women and hens are lost by gadding. When woman reigns the devil governs. In craft women can give points to the

Judge a maiden at the kneeding pan, Give your wife the short knife, keep the

long one yourself. One hair of a maiden's head pulls harder than ten yoke of oxen.

GENERAL. Women are wise on a sudden and fools

A woman who looks much in the glass spins little. A tender hearted mother makes a shabby

A deat husband and a blind wife makes a Weather, wind and women's mind change like the moon.

It is a sad house when the hen crows onder than the cock. Women, donkeys and hazelnuts need strong hands.

A woman's in pain, a woman's in woe, a woman is ill when she likes to be so. Who loves not women, wine and song, remains a tool his wole life long .- St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

He Was the Large Party Himself.

A story is told of a gentleman prominently connected with one of the big foundries in Pittsburg. The gentleman in question is an unusually large man, very tall and far around. Finding himself caught in a little town about twenty-five miles from Pittsburg one night, with no train going to the city, and being very anxious to reach there at 11 o'clock, he wired to an express down the track to stop

"We stop for officials only," came the Quick as a flash went the second tele-

"Will you stop for a large party?"
"Yes," was the reply, and the long express slowed up and stopped when it reached the little town, and the gentleman

complacently stepped aboard.

"Where is the large party?" inquired the conductor, with wide open astonished eyes as he gazed about the empty depot.

"Ain't I large enough?" chuckled the

delighted new passenger.

The conductor glared, and then burst into a hearty laugh, as the fitness of the application burst upon him .- Ex.

How Would You Like to Try It.

Here is a simple exercise to reduce hip measurement. Just try it an hour a day for two months and see if its effects are not magical. Hunt up a solid box that will raise you two or three inches from the floor. Stand firmly on right foot, hands on hips, with the left knee stiff, slowly swing the left leg from the hip backward and forward, not bending at waist. Reverse the movement, standing on left foot.

THE BEST

Remedy for colds, coughs, and the common disorders of the throat and lungs, Ayer's Cherry Pectoral is universally recommended by the profession. It breaks up the phlegm, soothes inflammation, allays painful symptoms, and induces repose. In bronchitis and pneumonia, it affords speedy relief, and is unrivaled as a prompt and effective

Emergency Medicine in croup, sore throat, and the sudden pulmonary diseases to which young

children are so liable. "Ayer's Cherry Pectoral has had a wonderful effect in curing my brother's children of a severe and dangerous cold. It was truly astonishing how speedily they found relief, and were cured, after taking this preparation."-Miss Annette

N. Moen, Fountain, Minn.

AYER'S Cherry Pectoral Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Prompt to act, sure to cure

> **ERBINE BITTERS** Cures Sick Headache ERBINE BITTERS Purifies the Blood

ERBINE BITTERS Cures Indigestion The Ladies' Friend

ERBINE BITTERS Cures Dyspepsia

Large Bottles. Small Doses. Price only 25c. For sale all over Canada. Address all orders to 481 St. Paul Street, Montreal.

Sold in St. John by S. McDIARMID, and E. J. MAHONEY, Indiantown.

THINGS OF VALUE.

help to a man. Kites rise against and not with the wind Even a head-wind is better than none. No man ever worked his way in a dead calm.

PELEE ISLAND CLARET for Dyspepsia is the same Grape Cure so famous in Europe. GLASGOW, 17th December, 1891. FOURTH QUARTERLY REPORT FOR 1891 ON ROBERT BROWN'S "FOUR CROWN"

I have made a careful analysis of a sample of 10,000 gallons of Robert Brown's "Four Crown" Blend of Scotch Whiskey, taken by myself on the 9th inst., from the Blending Vat in the bonded stores, and I find it is a pure Whiskey of high quality and fine flavor, which has been well ma-

The sense of duty is the fountain of human rights. In other words, the same inward principle that teaches the former bears witness to the latter. Duties and rights must stand and fall together .- Chan-

Gents,—My daughter was suffering terribly with neuralgia. I purchased a bottle of MINARD'S LINIMENT, and rubbed her face thoroughly. The pain left her and she slept well till morning. Next night another attack, another application resulted as prevously, with no return since. Grateful feelings determined me to express myself publicly. I would not be without MINARD'S LINIMENT in the house at J. H. BAILEY. ny cost. Parkdale, Ont.

It is curious that men are not generally ashamed of any form of anger, wrath, or malice; but of the first step towards a noble nature—the confession of a wrong—they are ashamed.

An agreeable preparation of the phosphates, for Indigestion, Nervousness, Mental and Physical Exhaustion.

Recommended and prescribed by Physicians of all

in stamps. Rumford Chemical Works, Providence, R. I.

3-Toothing; Colie, Crying, Wakefulness 24 4-Diarrage, of Children or Adults 24 28-Nervous Debility .. 30-Urinary Weakness, Wetting Bed .. .25

Accertain amount of opposition is a great

BLEND OF SCOTCH WHISKEY.

JOHN CLARK, Ph. D., F.C.S., F.I.C. Agent, E. G. Scovil, Teas and Wine, St. John, N. B.

C. C. RICHARDS & Co.

Trial bottle mailed on receipt of 25 cents

HUMPHREYS

Dr. Humphreys' Specifics are scientifically and carefully prepared Remedies, used for years in private practice and for over thirty years by the people with entire success. Every single Specific a special cure for the disease named.

They cure without drugging, purging or reducing the systemand are in fact and deed the Sovereign Remedies of the World.

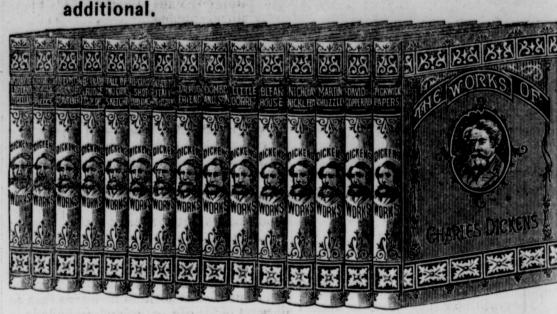
Fovers, Congestions, Inflammations. . .25

- Worms, Worm Fever, Worm Colle... . .25

HUMPHREYS' WITCH HAZEL OIL, The Pile Ointment.—Trial Size, 25 Cts. Sold by Druggists, or sent postpaid on receipt of price. Dr. Humphreys' Manual (144 pages,) mailed free. HUMPHREYS'MED. CO., 111 & 113 William St., NEWYORK.

PECIFICS.

Charles Dickens' Complete Works-15 vols Given for one new or renewal subscription and \$4.50



-- We have no premium that is so great a bargain as our Set of Dickens in 15 volumes; handsome cloth binding, plain large print with 257 illustrations. This set of books is listed at \$15. but usually sells for the bargain retail price \$7.50. Our price to old of new subscribers with a years subscription is \$6.50.

COGNAC

THE SECOND LARGEST SHIPPERS OF BRANDY FROM FRANCE.

> THEIR BRANDIES ARE UNSURPASSED IN AGE AND QUALITY

Ask your Wine Merchant for them. APDELMONEUS NE DECOMPOSO CO CONTROL DE DECO CONTROL DE CONTROL DE

Blue Store, North End.

The Cash Clothing Store, Is the Best Place to Buy Clothing.

Prices Way Down. Our

Special stock of Youths' fine Black DressSuits, and Boys' Blue and Black D. B. Cheviot and Scotch Checks.

Children's, Boys' and Youths' Reefers and Long Cape Overcoats. Children's fine

Winter Suits.

Fall and Winter Stock is the best ever shown in this City.

Our Driving Coats, Cape Overcoats, Pilot Overcoats, Melton Overcoats Black and Blue Beaver Overcoats, and Black Cheviot Overcoats are the best make and cut in Canada.

Come and look. You will save money in coming to the

BLUE STORE,

Cor. MILL and MAIN STS., North End.



TO ADVANCE THE STANDARD OF TYPEWRITING!



CENTIL in Cash—Columbian Fair Prizes Yost Writing Machine Co.

(To Operators in the United States and Canada.) - \$1000 1 Grand Prize, -1000 Prizes of \$100, 1000 500 500 100, 1000 \$5000

ONE GRAND PRIZE OF \$1000

will be given to the successful competitor on the Yost Writing Machine who shall write in the neatest form, in the shortest space of time—all in the presence of the Judges, and one of each style of work to be written from dictation on the spot—two business letters, two insurance company's annual reports, and two commercial balance-sheets; lines twelve inches long, paper thirteen and a half inches wide.

The Judges to be appointed by the WORLD'S COLUMBIAN FAIR COMMITTEE that shall be appointed to judge of the typewriting exhibts at the Fair.

Those intending to compete for this grand prize of \$1000 must send in their names and addresses one month before the trial, which will be held in Chicago shortly after the opening of the World's Columbian Exhibit.

TEN PRIZES OF \$100 EACH will be given to pupils in typewriting schools, or operators anywhere, for the best ten original essays, not exceeding four thousand words each, written upon the Yost Writing Machine. Subject: "Typewriting as a Fine Art," "The Future of Typewriting," or any of the list of subjects furnished by the Yost Writing

TWENTY PRIZES OF \$50 to pupils in typewriting schools, or operators anywhere, as follows: Ten prizes to the ten operators who shall, upon the Yost Writing Machine, a tain the greatest speed for one minute, upon a memorized sentence to be furnished—this speed contest to be upon an entirely new standard of absolutely perfect work of both operator and machine. Particulars furnished. Ten prizes to the ten operators who shall write correctly from dictation of new matter, upon the Yost Writing Machine, the greatest number of words in five minutes. Particulars furnished.

TWENTY PRIZES OF \$25 EACH pupils in typewriting schools, or operators anywhere, as follows: Ten prizes for the best ten transcripts, upon the Yost Writing Machine, of legal matter to e furnished. And ten prizes for the ten best samples, upon the Yost Writing Machine, of new and original designs of fancy work. Particulars furnished.

FIFTY PRIZES OF \$10 EACH to pupils in typewriting schools, EXCLUSIVELY, as follows: Ten for the best ten original essays, not exceeding two thousand words, written upon the Yost Writing Machine—subject, "The Excellencies of the Yost Writing Machine;" ten for the best ten transcripts on the Yost Writing Machine of legal matter to be furnished; ten for the best ten original designs of fancy work upon the Yost Writing Machine; and twenty for the best twenty business letters written upon the

Yost Writing Machine. Particulars furnished. Winners of any of the higher prizes for SIMILAR WORK to be barred from this competition TEN PRIZES OF \$100 EACH ill be given to the proprietors of the ten typewriting schools whose respective pupils obtain the largest number of the above-named prizes.

Full Particulars as to the conditions governing all these contests furnished upon application to the

Merchants' Exchange National Bank, 257 Broad-

This is to certify that the Yost Writing Machine Co., 71 Breadway, New York, has made a special deposit with this bank of \$5000, subject to the draft of the committee to be appointed by the Judges on Typewriters at the World's Co.umbian Fair at Chicago, Ill., in 1893, as described above. New York, June 20th, 1892.

YOST WRITING MACHINE CO.,

71 and 73 Broadway, New York,

OR IRA CORNWALL, General Agent for the Maritime Provinces, Chubb's Corner, St. John, N. B.

Second-hand Remington's, Caligraph's, Hammond's and other machines for