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The Mosaics at Westminster. From the London Athenaum

ROTT OF BUILDING

Two portions of the decoration for the Central Hall in the Houses of Parliament have been completed in the glass mosaics of Messrs. Salviati & Co. These portions consist of a picture, by Mr. Poynter, over one of the archways through which one passes to the Central Hall, and the filling in of the vault of the groined roof between the ribs. The latter, being confined to armorial flowers and heraldic emblems, comprises decora-tions proper, the design of Messrs. Clayton & Bell; and if such mosaics are admissible in the place at all, they deserve nothing but praise. We think, however, that mosaics or any other mode of decoration would have been more wisely adopted if the work had been kept in the lightest possible tone of coloring, and marked by the greatest simplicity of design. The sculpture and other enrichments of this edifice, especially those of the Central Hall, were already exuberant, and mocked the eyes which sought repose after seeing countless mouldings, statues, and pictures in stained glass, fresco, and stereochrome. Countless surfaces of all possible forms exhibited gold, burnished and unburnished, and the very pavements gave the tortured eye no rest. To the roof one loosed for a little change—for a moment's ease; and there, notwithstanding the folly that had been perpetrated of painting the stone itself and for ever spoiling its beautiful natural color, something like quiet was found in the dull monochrome, and the shadows lay comfortably, so to say, among the groinings. So far as the Central Hall and other portions to which we shall refer hereafter are concerned, there is an end of this, thanks to the glittering works of "The Venice and Murano Glass and Mosaic Company." It would have been less unfortunate had a less effective but more sober sort of mosaic been used here; for nine-tenths of the designs are illegible on account of the glittering of the gold and other colored tesse-ræ. These reflect the light from the great gaselier in a manner which is distressing; nor is there any hope that time will reduce this untoward splendor, because it is boasted of these mosaics that they suffer no changes and remain undimmed by age. Hope pre-sents itself, however, in the assurance of the promoters of these decorations that they may be washed: if so, it is clearly expected that they will get dirty; therefore as dirt will dim them, we say let them remain unwashed for long periods of time.

It is characteristic of Englishmen when dealing with artistic questions that they frequently forget propriety and circumstance in carrying out their desires for reproducing forms of art which are admirable in other countries and climates and for other purposes. Thus our windy hills and bleak moors are studded with "Italian" villas, our smoky cities enriched with buildings which offer costly carvings to the destructive air and its deposit of soot. It was but the other day that, at a tremendous cost, we finished in granite the parap s of the Thames embank-ment, and wrought them, not in the grave manner of the Egyptians when dealing with the same material, or what would have been best, in a simple form of Gothic character, but with the elaborate, angular, and manifold mouldings of one of the noblest phases of Gothic art, which were wisely adopted for soft stone only. Thus we three both money and labor away. London is rife with blunders like these. We spoiled a good arch and a tolerable colossal statue by bringing them together at Hyde Park Corner. Having got them there, and our blunder being obvious, we obstinately keep together what, if apart, would be ornaments, to form eyesores. A frightful sum was spent on the facade of the British Museum, and a colonnade erected to darken one of its most important galleries. We spoiled Trafalgar Square and the National Gallery by sticking in a small space in the middle of its large area a column which would have been an example of bad art, but is fatal where it is. Instances of such defective judgment are almost innumerable. Now, the mosaic decorations which suit the brilliant atmosphere of Venice, and the vaulted spaces of Romanesque roofs and unmoulded domes, and the expansive walls of Italian churches, are not suited to buildings such as the Houses of Parliament, which are mostly used at night, and illuminated by scores of jets of gas of which the light is reflected in dazzling brightness from thousands of tessere of glass. Nor does it seem desirable to fritter away what unbroken surfaces remain in the already too dark roofs of the "Houses" by introducing elaborate and deeply-hued patterns, however well they may be designed, and however faultlessly they may be wrought. To put colored decorations, such as pictures and the like, in places which are illuminated in the day by light which passes through a superabundance of richly-hued stained glass is absurd. If we must have colored windows, then grisaille only is compatible with gorgeous pictures and resplendent mosaics. This being undeniably the case, is it not strange that, with every facility for reproducing the designs of Messrs, Poynter and Clayton & Bell in a sober sort of mosaic, we employ tessere which flash back the garishness of the chandeliers, and rival the guady windows in splendor? All this is contrary not only to common sense, but to the practice of Gothic architects of the best time.

We desire to speak of Mr. Poynter's design. before referred to, with reservations as to the sort of mosaic which has been employed to reproduce it. As a picture it is admirable, and perfectly suited to mural decoration. The subject is St. George, who appears standing between figures of Fortitude and Purity. The expressions, drawing, color, and enrichments of this work are what we should expect from such accomplished hands. We congratulate the public on the skill and learning of the painter employed in their service.

Other mosaic works of the company in question are in progress at Westminster: thus the roof of the landing at the head of the staircase which leads to the Royal Gallery from the Norman Porch is being decorated in their mode from designs of Messrs. Clayton & Bell, and so far as we able to form an opinion of it as at present unfinished, apparently with great success; here the work is small, its surrounding architecture is comparatively sober, and its ascompanying decorations simpler than in the Central Hall. A trifling specimen was some months ago executed in the chimney-piece of the Queen's Robing Roon. We have said nothing of the cost of mosaic as a mode of decoration: it must be very great, but the permanency of the results is to be set against the expense.

CONFIDENTIAL.

A Clerk of that Sort Steals \$5000-Particulars of the Robbert and Flight.

The Chicago Post of Saturday says:—

well-known young man of thi city, Charles E. Rowan, has played what now appears to be a deep game upon his employers, Messrs. C. Hinckiey & Co., commission merchants, having an office in the Chamber of Commerce building. He has abscouded with United States boad

valued at \$6000 and currency amounting to \$2000. He has been employed as confidential clerk and bookkeeper by the above firm for 5 years past

On Monday evening last, Rowan, who is a single man of about twenty-eight years, left his aged and widowed mother, saying that he was going to Waukegan to spend the 22d. Two days afterwards a letter was found upon a bureau in Howan's room, addressed to his mother, and in which was inclosed a letter to Mr. Hinckley. In the letter to his mother Rowan bade her In the letter to his mother Rowan bade her good-by, and said that was probably the last time she would see him alive. The letter to Mr. Hinckley was substantially as follows:—"My brain is cracked; I cannot stand this pressure any longer. When you find me, you will learn the quickest manner of death; and I bequeath to you all that is left of me."

Upon learning of Rowan's departure, Mr. Hinckley made an examination of securities at the Union National Bank, and found that his United States bonds, amounting to \$5000 and valued at \$6000, had even withdrawn by Rowan

valued at \$6000, had eeen withdrawn by Rowan after banking hours, he having been authorized to do the banking busines of the firm. Upon further investigation, a deficiency of a couple of thousand dollars was discovered, making Rowan a defaulter to the extent of about \$8000. Nothing has been seen or heard of Rowan since his departure. The abscender is five feet eight inches high, has brown wavy hair, and

moustache and whiskers of the same hue. He has a Roman nose and dark blue eyes. He is of rather slender stature, and weighs about 140

WANTED A BABY.

A Peculiar Case in a Justice's Office—Value of a "White Complected Baby." An amusing case came up for adjudication in a Tennessee court recently, which created quite a little sensation among the numerous spectators in the court. A colored girl named Clark sued a Mrs. Clara Patterson, who lives on McCall street, to recover the sum of two hundred. dred and fifty dollars "for services rendered in procuring a baby." The evidence showed that at the present time Mrs. Patterson has a husband who is at present a resident of Davenport, Iowa. A short time ago she told the girl Clark that she was to procure a baby, and offered her three hundred dollars if she would get her a "nice, white-complected one." The girl went to work, and after diligent search for three weeks among her friends and acquaint-ances, she managed to get a colored woman who had a quadroonish infant of about three months old, to surrender it into her keeping, promising that the juvenile would be carefully attended to and properly brought up. With her little charge in her arms she went directly to the house of Mrs. Patterson, although it was about eleven o'clock at night, and handed the infant to her. No sooner, however, had she inspected the little one's face than she exclaimed: "Good gracious! I don't want a nigger baby," and plaintiff refused to have anything to do with the child, or to have anything to do with the child, or to pay the girl the amount she had promised. The girl was in a dilemma. The mother refused to take it back. Mrs. Patterson would have nothing to do with the youngster, and as the girl was unable to support the child, her friends advised her enter suit for the amount mentioned in the verbal contract. In order to bring this case under the jurisdiction of a justice, she threw off fifty dollars and entered suit for \$350, which, as previously stated, came up for a hearing before Justice Griffith. Several witnesses corroborated the testimony of the girl as to the main facts. and she received judgment for the amount claimed. The case was appealed.

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At 10% o'clock A. M. and 7½ o'clock P. M., at No. 1116 Chesnut street, will be sold, a large assortment of the above ware, comprising toe and coffee services, with arms and trays to match: dinner and breakfast castors; butter dishes: spoon goblets; ladles; spoons; forks; wine frames, otc. etc. diance; spoof government of pearl and ivory-handle table cutlery. Goods open for examination on Tuesday. 2 28 3t

SALE OF A RETAIL STOCK OF HOUSEKEEPING GOODS, TOYS, TIN, WOOD AND IRON WARE, ETC. At 10 o'clock, at the auction store, No. 1110 Chesnut street (second story), will be sold the stock of a house-keeper's furnishing store, consisting of tin ware, a large assortment of French fancy baskets, japanned toilet ware, sheepakin door and carriage mats, iron ware, brushes, casters, akates, toys, feather dusters, stepladders, towel racks, shoe-boxes, sewing machines, children's bats, etc.

Catalogues can be had on Wednesday. Catalogues can be had on Wednesday.

Saie at No. 1116 Chesnut street.

SUPRRIOR NEW AND SECOND-HAND HOUSE-HOLD FURNTURE; Rolls of New Brussels Carpets; Axminster, Brussels, and ether Carpets; Second hand Rossewood Piano Fortes and Parlor Organs large and small Mantel and Pier Mirrors; Spring and Hair Mattresses; Office Tables; Counters; Show-cases; Silver Plated Ware as d Cutlery; Oil Paintings and Rugravings; large Marble Clock, with carred figures; Stoves; China; Glassware, etc.

On Friday Morning,
At 9 o'clock, at the auction store, No. 1116 Chesnut street, will be sold, a large assortment of superior new and second-hand furniture, carpets, mirrors, etc., of every description.

FURNITURE OF A DWELLING.

FURNITURE OF A DWELLING.
Also, the entire furniture of a dwelling-house At 2 o'clock, will be sold, rosewood pianos; 2 walnut-case parlor organs; large marble clock; 2 usright silver-mounted show-cases, etc.

T. A. MCCLELLAND, AUCTIONEER No. 1219 CHESNUT STREET. nal attention given to sales of Household Furni

ture at dwellings.

Public sales of Furniture at the Auction Rooms, No.
1219 (HESNUT Streett, every Monday and Thursday.

For particulars see Public Ledger.

N. B.—A superior class of Furniture at private sale. C. D. McCLEES & CO., AUCTIONEERS

LARGE AND ATTRACTIVE SALE OF BOOTS, SHOPS, BROGANS, ETC.
On Thursday morning, March 3,
At 10 o'clock, including a large line of ladies', misses', and children's city-made goods, to which we invite the N. B.—Sale every Monday and Thursday. 2 28 2t LIPPINCOTT, SON & CO., AUCTIONEERS.

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