STROLLS

IN THE

BRIGHTON

EXTRA-MURAL CEMETERY.

FIRST AND SECOND SERIES—
1864-67.

BY

JOHN GEORGE BISHOP.

Reprinted from the Brighton Herald.

BRIGHTON:
FLEET AND CO., "BRIGHTON HERALD" OFFICE.
1867.
CEMETERY STONE AND MARBLE WORKS.

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Statuary and Mason,
Opposite the Cemeteries,
LEWES ROAD, BRIGHTON.

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("This may be one and no contemptible argument in favour of such
kind of accounts, that when monuments themselves decay, inscriptions
wear out or are defaced, marble broken, brass plates unfastened or thrown
aside out of sight, or perhaps returned to the founder, or sold to a
tinker; when effigies, urns, and inscriptions in glass, &c., are broken
mangled, and disappear, the contents of them may be preserved in a
sheet of paper—monumentum amerc contemplatum."—De Lapiefield's MSS.,
cited in Whateley's "Hamlet Church.""

BRIGHTON:

FLEET AND CO., "BRIGHTON HERALD" OFFICE.

1867.
INTRODUCTION.

The reader of the subjoined "Strolls in the Brighton Extra-Mural Cemetery" will not unnaturally look for some brief history of the Cemetery itself; and the proper prelude to this is, that reform in the burial of the dead, here and elsewhere, which has been of such importance and advantage to society.

The attention of the Brighton public was first directed to the great want of accommodation for purposes of Sceplture by the Report of Mr Creasy, a Superintending Sanitary Inspector sent down by the General Board of Health in 1849, and by the Sanitary Lectures of Mr Cordy Burrows and Dr. Kebbel; the sole space applicable for Interments within the town at that time being the Old Church-yard,—a spot in use from time immemorial, and which had been gradually raised by interments to a level many feet above that of the surrounding ground,—the two small Enclosures adjacent; and a small unconsecrated burial ground attached to Hanover Chapel, in Church-street.

To remedy this hurtful, not to say discreditable state of things, rather than with a view to profit, the Brighton Extra-Mural Company was formed in July, 1850; the first Board of Directors consisting of J. C. Hewett, Esq. (Chairman), John Best, Esq., M.P., R. C. Bewick, Esq., Cordy Burrows, Esq., Rev. Dr. Butler, B. Archer Burton, Esq., Charles Chalk, Esq., C. Robson, Esq., Rev. J. N. Goulty, George Gull, Esq., and Lieut. James, R.N.; Messrs. Tucker and Stevenson, Sun Chambers, London, were the Solicitors; Amon H. Wilds, Architect; and Horatio Nelson Goulty, Secretary. The Rev. J. N. Goulty and Mr Cordy Burrows were the two Promoters before the Bishop, and to these gentlemen and the above-named Directors the Brighton public is mainly indebted for the possession of one of the most beautiful Cemeteries in the kingdom.

After the necessary legal proceedings, the Directors pur-
chased eight acres of land fronting the Lewes-road, and extending eastwards. The Brighton Water Company, taking alarm at the contemplated burial of the dead so near to their works, threatened to apply to the Court of Chancery for an injunction; but in this difficulty the Marquis of Bristol (grandfather to the present Peer) kindly came to the aid of all parties, by offering to exchange nine acres of land belonging to His Lordship, and running back eastward of the Company’s, for three and a half acres fronting on to the Lewes-road, giving, however, a carriage-road through this latter, which has led to the formation of the beautiful avenue by which the Cemetery is entered. This liberal offer was accepted; and so pleased was the Earl with the way in which the Cemetery was laid out and conducted that, in 1866, learning that additional space would ultimately be required for it, he most generously gave an additional eight acres of land to the Company: a space which is called the “Bristol Ground,” and which has been chiefly devoted to the use of the poorer inhabitants of Brighton.

The above act of munificence was shortly followed by a gift to the Parish of twenty acres adjoining, and which are now used as the Parish Cemetery: two only of many acts of liberality on the part of His Lordship to the town of Brighton, to which he was deeply attached.

To resume our historical sketch of the Cemetery, the Church and Chapel were designed by Mr Amon Henry Wilds, the Company’s architect, and are without architectural pretensions, but well adapted for the Services for which they were intended. The Grounds were also laid out by Mr Wilds, who displayed great taste in his arrangements, and owing to his skill and the natural beauty of the locality, no Cemetery in England can boast of a more picturesque or pleasing appearance.*

* To Mr Wilds, who died several years since, Brighton is mainly indebted for the planting of the Level with trees: an addition to the attractions of the Town, which he superintended without fee or reward. He also designed the Fountain upon the Stile and laid out the flower beds and clumps of trees: the work being projected and carried out by Mr Curly Burrows in 1846.

A portion of the Extra-Mural Cemetery was consecrated by the present Bishop of Chichester on the 14th August, 1861; and the first interment took place on the 27th November of the same year. The remainder of the Cemetery (with the Bristol Ground) was consecrated Nov. 14, 1857.

The beauty of the Cemetery Grounds has continued year by year to increase, forming a charming retreat from the bustle and cares of life, and affording in their quiet seclusion peace to the sorrowing heart not to be found in the noisy and confined grave-yard.

Before bringing these introductory remarks to a close, it is with peculiar pleasure we are enabled to make known that arrangements are rapidly progressing by which this really beautiful and well-kept Cemetery will be for ever maintained in the same satisfactory condition in which it now is. The Directors, in addition to many presents for the purpose, have set apart £100, and an annual sum, taken from an increased charge for some of the most expensive grave-spaces, to form an accumulating fund, the interest of which, after a term of years, will be sufficient to employ gardeners to protect and keep in good order the whole ground in perpetuity. This fund, to be called, “The Ornamentation Fund,” was suggested by Mr Yarrow (whose beloved wife was removed from Boulogne, to be reinterred here, in 1866.) The Directors at once thankfully adopted so excellent a suggestion, and will very shortly ask the Mayor and Town Council to undertake a trust, the carrying out of which will tend so much to gratify the feelings of those whose relatives lie here, and who themselves will in due time be gathered to their long home.

In closing these remarks, we feel it to be due to the Directors of the Extra-Mural Cemetery to express our cordial approval of the public spirit they have displayed in this and other respects, and of the care and liberality with which the affairs of the Company are conducted.
INDEX TO THE NAMES, &C.,
MENTIONED IN THE "STROLLA."

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STROLLS, &C.

FIRST SERIES.

JUNE, 1864.

I.

To a large class of people, Cemeteries have a place in the catalogue of "things to be avoided." Some regard them as modern fixtures upon ancient customs; whilst others—and by far the larger number—associate them with all that is gloomy and depressing. We know a gentleman, residing close to the gate of a beautiful Cemetery, who, on the latter ground, has not entered it for years, and even then only in the performance of a solemn duty.

For ourselves, we confess to a penchant for Cemeteries. We regard their formation in rural or retired districts as a vast improvement upon the confined graveyards of the city or town, where, amid din and bustle, the living and the dead jostle each other; where, in some places, the very grave-stones, trodden on and packed as closely as pavement-bricks, seem out of place; and where the only touch of Nature consists of a few thin blades of grass, which struggle for an ephemeral existence in a scarcely-visible soil.

To such Golgothas as these an Extra-Mural Cemetery is far superior, where, mingled with the memorials of the departed, the tree, the shrub, and the flower have room...