

CHURCH OF ENGLAND CEMETERY,

FOR BIRMINGHAM AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD,

UNDER THE SANCTION OF

THE LORD BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE,

AND

THE CLERGY OF THE TOWN.

TO BE INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

CAPITAL, £20,000.

IN TWO THOUSAND SHARES OF TEN POUNDS EACH.-DEPOSIT, ONE POUND PER SHARE.

Provisional Committee

THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON SPOONER
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THE REV. T. MOSELEY, M.A., Rector of Birmingham.
THE HON. AND REV. G. M. YORKE, M.A., Rector of St. Phillip's.
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THE REV. E. BIRD, M.A., Rector of St. Thomas's.
THE REV. J. P. LEE, M.A., King Edward's School.
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PROSPECTUS.

DECENTLY to dispose of the dead, and vigilantly to secure their remains from violation are the first duties of society;-the most barbarous of mankind would burn with indignation at beholding the remains of a beloved relative exposed, mangled, or mutilated ; and yet among us, in a moral and Christian country, the abode of the dead is openly violated, its deposits are sacrilegiously disturbed and ejected, the tender solitudes of survivors cruelly sported with, and the identity of relationships destroyed ;-so eager indeed is the haste to dispossess previous occupants, that time is not even allowed for the general dissipation of decaying human putrescence.

The melancholy disclosures of the past few years, as to the condition of the Burial Grounds of the Metropolis, induced the Government to institute an Inquiry on the subject, the result of which is thus stated by Mr. Chadwick :-"that inasmuch as there are no cases in which emanations from human remains, in an advanced state of decomposition, are not of a deleterious nature, so there is no case in which the liability to danger should be incurred, either by interment, (or intombment in vaults, which is most dangerous,) amidst the dwellings of the living ;-it being established as a general conclusion, (from which there are no adequate grounds of exception,) in respect to the physical circumstances of interment, that all burials in towns, where bodies decompose, contribute to the mass of atmospheric impurity, which is injurious to the public health."

These facts have led to the establishment of Public Cemeteries in the neighbourhood of London, as well as of several other large Provincial Towns, where they may be well considered to constitute "by far their most useful ornaments, when viewed as a means of protecting the health of the living from the infection of the dead, by the removal of the latter to properly adapted place of sepulture, and yet not separating the dead from the living."

It has been well observed, that "our Churchyards, (established in the heart of busy and populous towns,) are repulsive to the sensitive mind : they cannot attract the man of taste, and thus by repelling many, they deprive the soul of that deep and holy converse with the dead, that might serve it for the duties of this world, and the destinies of the next ; for who can doubt that a walk among the tombs, invitingly arranged and simply adorned, throws an instructive light on the pursuits and frivolities of time, and seems to unfold the portals of immortality. It is on such principles that Public Cemeteries are recommended, to give to the departed a quiet habitation, sacred and inviolate to the march of improvement; to furnish friends a spot where, free from interruption and the intrusion of vulgar curiosity, they may indulge, without restraint, their tenderist sensibilities, and muse of the reminiscences of the past, over the dust of the dead ; to furnish to all a haunt of deep soul-felt communion ; and, in a word, stripping the grave of its revolting associations, to constitute it an eloquent and impressive preacher to the living."

By a return of the number of deaths in the Town of Birmingham, it appears that there have been registered during the past year, 1844 :-

In Birmingham, (five parishes,)	...	...	...	3890.
In the Borough districts of Aston	...	...	...	1020.
In Edgbaston	...	...	...	120.

Thus it will be found, that the number of deaths is upwards of 5000 per annum, making an average of nearly 100 burials per week, to be provided for.

This fact, coupled with a review of the present crowded state of all the Churchyards of the Town, and the malaria arising from them,-particularly in the summer months,-to the annoyance of the surrounding neighbourhoods, where even the wells are rendered unsafe for domestic purposes, from their proximity to the grave yard and their consequent impurity,-has led to a conviction that great benefit must accrue to the inhabitants of Birmingham, by the establishment of a Public Cemetery, where the ground, hallowed by consecration, protected by Act of Parliament, and thus becomes for ever inalienable, may be set apart for the burial of the dead : and it is therefore proposed to form a Company for the attainment of that salutary change, which the overburthened state of the grave yards of the Town but too urgently requires.

The object of this Company is to establish, under the powers and authority of an Act of Parliament, a Public Cemetery for Birmingham and its neighbourhood, with a chapel, and all necessary Vaults, Catacombs, &c. On one or more large plots of ground, conveniently situated in the outskirts of the Town, to be consecrated by the Bishop of the Diocese, and set apart for ever for interments, according to the order of the Established Church of England and Ireland. And in order that the Cemetery may be available, even to the poorest inhabitants, notwithstanding that its site will be some distance removed from several of the manufacturing parts of the town, it is also proposed that suitable conveyance for the body and mourners of poor persons, shall be supplied by the Company, on payment of a small additional fee for such accommodation.

Great profits are known to have arisen from the possession of private Burial Grounds, but it is scarcely decorous, in a matter that so deeply interests our best feelings, to hold out an expectation of gain, as a first and prominent feature in furtherance of an undertaking mainly intended to provide a great public establishment, to supply the urgent wants of the rapidly increasing population of the Town ; a clear per centage on the capital invested of upwards of ten per cent. per annum may, however, be calculated on.

The registers will be kept free of charge, and, being authorised by Act of Parliament, will be legal evidence in the courts of law, for members of the Church of England, as well as Dissenters of every religious denomination, so that an accessible and authentic means of identification will be thus secured.

APPLICATIONS FOR SHARES, are to be made to the Provisional Committee, addressed (pre-paid,) under cover, to

MR. JOHN B. HERBERT, Solicitor,

TEMPLE STREET, BIRMINGHAM

FORM OF APPLICATION.

To the Provisional Committee of the Church of England Cemetery Company, Birmingham

I request that you will allot me Shares of £10. each in the capital of the above-named Company, and I will accept the same or any less number. I also agree to sign the Parliamentary Contract and Subscribers' Agreement when called upon, and forthwith to pay the required deposit of £1. Per share, together with the further calls, as and when the Directors for the time being, may require the same to be paid.

Dated the day of 1845.

Name

Residence

Profession or calling