Replies.

THE SIDDONS SHAKESPEARE RELICS (clxi. 191, 230).

The story of the gloves is as follows. In a letter dated Philadelphia, April 3, 1874, Fanny Kemble wrote:

Young Mr. Furness, the son of my dear and venerated spiritual pastor and master, the editor of Shakespeare, comes occasionally with his wife and passes an evening with me. I was so much pleased with the enthusiastic devotion to his laborious task of his Variorum Shakespeare that I gave him the pair of Shakespeare's gloves Cecilia Comble left me in her will, and which had come to her mother, Mrs. Siddons, from Mrs. Garrick. I also gave him a pretty drawing of myself, while I was reading, by the daughter of Richard Lane, the artist, my father's intimate friend.

That precious bequest of Shakespeare's gloves reached me one evening while I was giving a reading in Boston, and occasioned me such an emotion of delight and surprise that one of the few times when I made blunders in my text was when I resumed my reading after finding them in the room to which I retired for rest in the middle of my performance. My Boston audience were my friends; and I think if I told them the cause of the mistakes I made, when I resumed my seat and my book, they would have sympathized with me and pardoned me. Perhaps they would have liked me to show them the gloves, which I never showed to any American that he did not directly put his hand into one of them.

The exception to this was my dear and reverend Dr. Furness, who hardly seemed to dare to touch them; but "reverence, the angel of this world," had blessed him with its influence ('Further Records,' 1890, i. 37).

The "spiritual pastor and master" was the Rev. Dr. William Henry Furness (1802-1896), in his day a noted Unitarian minister of Philadelphia. "Young Mr. Furness" was Dr. Horace Howard Furness (1833-1912), the elder, who in 1871 published the first volume of his Variorum Edition of Shakespeare, and who bequeathed his Shakespearean library and collection of relics to his son, Dr. Horace Howard Furness (1865-1930), the younger. The latter, who continued his father's editorial work, bequeathed the books and relics to the University of Philadelphia, together with $100,000 endowment for their maintenance. I am told that a room is now being prepared at the University (which is in Philadelphia), for their reception.

Albert Matthews.

Boston, U.S.A.

FUSSELL FAMILY IN SOMERSET-SHIRE (clxi. 208, 251). — In reply to Mr. Willis Watson on this query I would say that Wadbury is in the parish of Mells, in the Frome district, the name apparently being originally confined to the earthwork which is described and illustrated in E. J. Burrow's 'Ancient Earthworks and Camps of Somerset.' It is now applied also to the very picturesque valley of the stream which flows from Mells to Elm, then through Vallis on its way to the Somerset river Frome at the spot now known as Spring Gardens, near the much older Bradford's Bridge, which Mr. Watson may see mentioned in the Quarterly Sessional Records. There are at Mells a Wadbury House and a Wadbury Farm. It is Wadbury House which was one of the residences of the Fussells, who for long carried on an edge-tool manufactory in the Wadbury Vale and elsewhere in the district.

This business came to an end by about 1890: I remember that there were employees of the firm living at Elm after the extension of the franchise in 1884-85. The earliest reference that I know to this business is in Collinson's 'History of Somerset' (published in 1791), where, under 'Mells,' the "romantick narrow valley called Wadbury" is mentioned and there is a note:

It is worthy of remark that in this sequestered vale there are two iron forges which at this period are carrying on a trade, little inferior, in point of extension, to those in the northern part of this kingdom. All the western counties are supplied at these manufactories with every iron implement of husbandry, and their connexions extend to the European and American continents.

I believe the name "Fussell" on edge-tools was thought of sufficient value for another firm to take it over when the local manufacture came to an end.

One of the places of residence of the Fussell family was at Chantry, in the civil parish of Whatley, where there is a church built in 1846 by Sir George Gilbert Scott at the cost, I understand, of one or more members of the family. At the same time new ecclesiastical parish was formed, and in Kelly's 'Somersetshire' ("County Topographies"), published about 1875, the living was said to be in the gift of the Rev. James G. C. Fussell, of the Chantry (a neighbouring mansion), "lord of the manor and principal landowner." So far as I know, there is no member of this Fussell family now living in the district. I have just noticed an allusion to them more than a century ago in E. Green's...