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### "Ivy Mantled Tower" Danger of Collapse

Church That Inspired Gray's Immortal Elegy is Threatened by Tooth of Time and Claw of Real Estate Agent.

The "Ivy Mantled Tower" of the country church in whose churchyard Gray wrote his "Elegy" is in danger of falling down and the "madding crowd" is closing in upon the once peaceful spot that he immortalized.

A cry for help has recently gone out from the ancient town of Stoke Poges, England, where a gallant fight is being made to preserve the old church of St. Giles and its immediate surroundings, which are threatened both by the tooth of time and the claw of the real estate agent.

Mrs. Edith Wharton, American novelist, now in France, has called the matter to the attention of Ruter B. Jewett of D. Appleton & Co., with the inquiry if Americans are not interested. Mrs. Wharton is giving the project her personal aid.

Gray Born in 1716

Thomas Gray was born in London in 1716. His mother and her sister, Mary Antrobus, kept a millinery shop in Cornhill and another sister lived in Stoke Poges, which was then about 20 miles out from the city. After the death of Gray's father, his mother moved to Stoke Poges and died there.

The manor house of Stoke Poges probably was first a Saxon Thane's dwelling, then it was the castle of Sir John de Molynes, whose family held it for 100 years, then the Elizabethan mansion was completed in 1555 by the second Earl of Huntingdon.

In 1760 Thomas Penn, son of William Penn of Pennsylvania, bought the estate and in 1790 John Penn, his son, built the present manor house. The Penns held the property for about 80 years. The Penn vault are in the church, but William Penn lies in the Quaker burying ground six or seven miles away.

The old oak timbers in the porch have withstood the weather for between 500 and 600 years and are still staunch.

Through in his college years and later, in his travels, Gray made friends, and even apparently disapproved a little occasionally, he was essentially a solitary and

# RED ROSE

## TEA "is good tea"

Fine, brisk flavor! Best of all in the ORANGE PEKOE QUALITY

melancholy genius, unable as a rule to bring his infrequent, scholarly and exquisitely finished verses down to the level of the average appreciation.

The Elegy, however, struck a universal note. It was at least four years in the writing and it has taken its place as one of the five great elegies of English literature.

Boys and girls have memorized it and recited it and parsed it, generation after generation. It flows as naturally as an old and lovely tune.

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day.

The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea.

The plowman homeward plods his weary way.

And leaves the world to darkness and to me.

Restless souls still tell its words like beads, half saddened, half consoled and wholly charmed by their spell:

Full many a gem of purest ray serene

The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear;

Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,

And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

Almost as well known as the elegy itself is the remark of Wolfe as his boat slipped down the St. Lawrence in the darkness before the battle of Quebec:

"The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,

And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,

Await alike the inevitable hour;

The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

He murmured, "Gentlemen, I would rather have written those lines than take Quebec." And next day the path of his glory led to the grave.

Gray died July 30, 1771, and was buried beside him other in Stoke Poges Churchyard. His tomb is still there. One of the Penns put up a monument to him more remarkable for bulk than beauty about 100 yards outside the churchyard.

When Gray dreamed and polished his verses under the "yew trees' shade" the churchyard was what he called "a neglected spot," set in the quiet and lovely country side of Buckinghamshire. He looked out over the "glimmering land-

scape" to the plowman plodding his weary way homeward through the fields and caught and held the spirit of lonely and reflective peace that brooded over it.

Appeal For Funds

Today, brought close to London by modern transportation, it is a tempting district for homes, and the ranks of small houses and apartments are fast marching across it.

Two residents of Stoke Poges have bought the Penn Monument and a small piece of ground around it and presented it to the National Trust that is seeking to preserve the place for the English-speaking world, but further action is needed quickly to save the 10 acres that are all that remain of the fields and trees.

YELLOWED CURTAINS

If the curtains are sunburned to an ugly brown and you cannot bleach them to their original color, dip them in a solution of saffron and water. They will dye a lovely ochre and look like new.

# MOTHER!

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Ask your druggist for genuine "California Fig Syrup" which has full directions for infants in arms, and children of all ages, plainly printed on bottle. Mother! You must say "California" or you may get an imitation fig syrup.



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