

Mr. Aymer Vallance has shown in his recent book, *English Church Screens*, that he has come to a different conclusion about the purpose of these openings. It is to be found in another requirement of Catholic practice. He points out that it was the custom of our forefathers, indeed a touchstone of orthodoxy, at the Elevation during Mass to raise the head and look upon the uplifted Host. He gives numerous examples to prove how firmly implanted amongst our ancestors was the custom of looking up at the Elevation, and points out that although adults would easily see over the top of the middle rail of the screen, with young children this was difficult if not impossible.

The openings, which may quite well and correctly be called Elevation squints, were therefore made for the purpose of allowing the smallest as well as the biggest child to see the Elevation, and they appear to have been made one by one as required and quite without order or system. They may even in some instances have been made by the children themselves.

There is a danger from their inconspicuousness and apparent uselessness that during some "restoration" or repairs a tidily-minded parson or churchwarden might, with the idea of improving the church, fill up the holes or replace the panels containing the squints with new ones. Such an "improvement" would destroy valuable historical evidence, for they are a part of the long history of our Church and direct evidence of a custom at one time of considerable importance.

ARTHUR R. GREEN.

A COBBLER'S ACCOUNT OF 1709.

THE following bill, the items of which date from November 1708 to December 1709, was made out to S. Mumford, Esq., Winchfield (N.E. of Odiham), Hants :—

	s	d
Clogging up Miss	-	10
Toe capped, Master	-	2
Turned up, dogged up and mended maid	1	6
Lined, turned up and put a piece in Madam	4	6
Soleing and covering the Maid	-	6
Tapping Madam	-	6
Putting a piece in Madam	-	6
Stretching and easing little Master	-	7
Welting and stitching (<i>sic</i>) the Maid	-	10
Mending and patching the Cook	-	6
	10	5

S. E. WINBOLT.