



## Wanderings in Buckinghamshire.

By the Rev. A. J. Foster.

(Continued from page 86, Vol. 16.)

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### ETON COLLEGE CHAPEL.

THE Chapel is 173 feet long, 40 wide, and 90 high. A staircase leads from the ante-chapel direct into the street. This was for the benefit of the parishioners. Round the chapel are Mural paintings, now covered up by wood panelling. They were executed between 1479 and 1487, and have reference to the cultus of the Blessed Virgin. All the windows are filled with modern stained glass. The E. window was erected by subscriptions from the boys in 1847. Two in the ante-chapel are memorials of Etonians who fell in the Crimean War. At the E. end is a Decorated reredos. The screen at the W. end, designed by G. E. Street, R.A., has memorial plates to officers who fell in the Afghan and South African campaigns. The colours in the chapel are those of the Buckinghamshire Regiment, placed there in 1877. On the N. side is a little chantry chapel erected by Provost Lupton at the end of the XVth century. It has his *rebus*, the letters *lup* on a *tun* or cup, in the spandril of the doorway. Within it is the splendid brass of the Provost. It also contains the tomb of Provost Bort. Monuments to remarkable Provosts and others are in the ante-chapel, where there is a statue of Henry VI. by Bacon, R.A., and a monument to Provost Goodall by Weekes, R.A. There is also a recumbent figure of Provost Hawtrey, d. 1862.

There is a black marble slab to the cynical Sir Henry Wootton, scholar, poet, diplomatist, and Provost 1623—1639, with the inscription :—

“Hic jacet hujus sententia primus acutor—  
Disputandi pruritus fit ecclesiæ scabies.”

Wootton took Deacon's orders when appointed Provost, but his predecessor Sir Henry Saville, Elizabeth's tutor, had remained a

layman. Sir Henry set up a printing press in the College, from which he produced an edition of the works of St. John Chrysostom.

The great Lord Bacon was a candidate for the post of Provost after the death of Saville in 1622, but James I. handed over the nomination to his favourite the Duke of Buckingham.

Dr. Francis Rous, the Puritan Provost and Speaker of Barebone's Parliament, is also buried here, and so is Richard Allestree (the founder (?) of the Upper School), appointed Provost after the Restoration. It is said that Charles II. had challenged his courtiers to find a man more ugly than himself, and after Allestree had been introduced to him as fulfilling this requirement, he considered that some reward was due to him and gave him the post. Allestree died at Eton 1680.

The beautiful gateway erected by Provost Lupton in the early part of the XVIth century at the E. end of the Chapel, leads into the Green Yard which is surrounded by cloisters. On the W. side is the *Dining Hall*. This has been altered from time to time. The Elizabethan and early Jacobean builders added on to the upper portion of the walls built by Waynflete. The older work may be seen from the exterior on the W. side. The hall has been lately restored and the three old fire-places have been uncovered. The panels bear the arms of former Provosts and others, and above these are portraits of many famous Etonians. The Collegers dine here.

The College Library S. of the hall contains many rare books, and some valuable MS.S., chiefly Oriental.

The Provost's Lodgings also join on to the Green Yard. They contain portraits of many former Provosts, and one of Jane Shore, who interceded for the College with her royal lover.

Other interesting rooms are the *Election Hall* with curious glass in the windows, and the *Election Chamber* with portraits of Henry V., VI., and VII., and of the famous Headmaster Dr. Keate, presented by his pupils, whom, according to tradition, he had flogged so freely.

The *Playing Fields* are to the E. of the College. They form a beautiful park bounded on the S. by the river. Through the centre runs the Chalvey Brook. There is a splendid view of Windsor Castle from these meadows, and from the opposite bank is as equally a magnificent view of the Chapel and College buildings.

The town of Eton, it has, however, never been a market town, consists chiefly of one long street. *The Christopher* is a well known Inn, and old Etonians often put up there. "The Christopher,

Lord! how great I used to think anybody just landed at the Christopher," begins Horace Walpole in a letter to Montagu, dated from this house.

Barrie's Pool bridge which crosses a small water-course a few yards S. of the chapel marks the boundary of the College domain.

The parish Church (St. John) was originally only a chapel-of-ease, as the College chapel continued to be used by the parishioners. It was first erected in 1769 by William Hetherington, Fellow of Eton, and was rebuilt in 1854. In 1875 it was made a parish church, and ecclesiastical connection between the College and the town came to an end. The E. window is a memorial to the late Prince Consort. The old registers which belonged to the College chapel contains a list of those touched for the King's Evil from 1686—1688.

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## Notes and Queries

RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

*Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the three counties. Correspondents are requested to write as plainly as possible, on one side of the paper only, with REPLIES, QUERIES and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name of the writer appended to each communication.*

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### Notes.

THE MYTH OF THE PENT CUCKOO: By the Rev. JOHN EDWARD FIELD, M.A. Subscriber's Price, 7s. 6d. net.—We desire to call attention to this work by an esteemed contributor to this Journal. The Myth appears to embody the gibe of a racial feud between aliens and natives, and there are good grounds for thinking that both this, as it is current in England, and also the designation of the Cuckoo-Pens are to be interpreted in connection with the Saxon invasion, while the name of the Cuckoo has come in merely through a popular corruption which admits of a simple and reasonable explanation. Kindred myths of the pent owl, the impounded crow, and the cooped dabchick, found in isolated instances, are examined side by side with the more widely known story. Of all the tales which the folk-lore of our country has handed down, this Cuckoo-myth is certainly one of the most curious and interesting. And the district of the Cuckoo-Pens is full of associations which have an attractive charm to the tourist