Notices of Archaological Publications.

SOME RECORDS OF A CISTERCIAN ABBEY: HOLM CULTRAM, CUMBERLAND. By Rev. G. E. GILBANKS, M.A., with illustrations by Major F. H. OLDFIELD, R.E., and others. London: Walter Scott, Ltd. 8vo, pp. 157.

Situate in a remote corner of Cumberland, the shapeless wreck of the once magnificent mitred Abbey of Holm Cultram has attracted little notice from the archæological world. And yet, founded by Prince Henry, while his father King David of Scotland ruled over the land of Carlisle by cession from Stephen the usurper, it owned great estates in England and in Scotland, and has a history of its own, full of interest. Christian, Bishop of Candida Casa, joined the Cistercian Order, to which Holm Cultram belonged, took up his residence there, and was buried in the church. Michael Scot, the Wizard, is also said to have found his last resting-place there, though Melrose and Glenhill also claim that honour. Certain it is that the neighbourhood is replete with legends of the Wizard, how he built the stone-vaulted roof of Bolton Church in a single night, how his magic books, which no man dare read, and live, were kept at Wolsty Castle, a stronghold of the Abbey, where their valuables were sheltered in time of war. A specially interesting chapter is devoted to an account of the Wizard, and another deals with the intrigues of the Abbot, Adam de Kendal, who wished to secure to himself the bishopric of Carlisle, with which object he dealt with the property of the Abbey in a spirit of reckless extravagance. His awful fate, which was revealed to him in a dream, is a striking instance of the realism with which the mediæval mind received the place of eternal punishment. Mr. Gilbanks, for ten years curate of Holm, has put much enthusiasm and energy into collecting the material for this book, which we can cordially recommend. The author has been ably assisted by his friend Major Oldfield, R.E., to whose skilful pencil are due the most of the clever illustrations which add value to this book.

A GLOSSARY of the Words and Phrases pertaining to the DIALECT OF CUMBERLAND. By W. DICKINSON, F.L.S. Rearranged, illustrated, and augmented by quotations by E. W. PREVOST, Ph.D., F.R.S.E. London: Bemrose and Sons; Carlisle: Thurnam and Son. 8vo, pp. cvi and 382.

There are in existence, but mostly out of print, or hidden at the end of collections of dialect poems, many glossaries of Cumberland words and phrases. The glossary now before us is a praiseworthy attempt to combine in one volume all preceding glossaries. It is based upon one which was compiled by the late Mr. Dickinson, of Thorncroft, and published at Whitehaven in 1859; a second edition was issued by the English Dialect Society in 1879. The first edition is now quite out of print, and copies of the second are scarce, so that the time had ripened for a new edition, or still better for a new glossary, which should supersede all previous ones, as the edition of 1879 did its predecessors. The opportunity was taken advantage of

by Dr. E. W. Prevost, who was born and who lived for many years in Cumberland. With the Glossary of 1879 he has amalgamated the older glossaries, added many words and introduced much new matter. He has also much enhanced the value and the interest of the glossary by illustrative quotations taken from local writers and other authorities. The glossary itself has thus been expanded from 118 pages to 382, while the introductory matter has swollen to cvi. as against xxiv in 1879. This includes two valuable essays, one on "The Phonology of the Cumbrian Dialect," the other on "The Grammar of the Dialect," both by Mr. S. Dickson Brown, B.A., to whom also is due, we imagine, the transliteration of the dialect words into the mysterious Glossic. The introductory matter also contains a useful list, giving the dialectal pronunciation of current or ordinary English words, which would otherwise have unduly and needlessly swelled the volume. This has been enlarged from Mr. Dickinson's list, as also have other lists in the edition of 1879. Neither Dr. Prevost nor Mr. Dickson Brown attempt to deal with the derivations of the Cumbrian dialect words, and so they throw no light upon the question of what percentage of Celtic words survive in it. The late Mr. R. Ferguson considered that probably four words in the hundred did, and possibly four more might. However, Dr. Prevost has produced a valuable addition to local literature, no mere book of reference, but one that can always be dipped into at spare minutes for instruction, or for amusement.

THE ANTONINE WALL REPORT. Being an account of excavations, &c., made under the direction of THE GLASGOW ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY during 1890–1893. Illustrations and plans. Glasgow: printed for the Society and sold by James Maclehouse and Sons, 1899. 4to, pp. ix, 173.

One of the most pleasant excursions during the visit of the Institute to Edinburgh in 1891 was that arranged for the inspection of the Wall of Antoninus, under the genial guidance of Mr. William Jolly, F.R.S., F.S.A. Scot., and Mr. George Neilson, F.S.A. Scot. A small party, headed by the noble president (Earl Percy) left Edinburgh early for Bonnybridge, where they were conducted over the excavations made by the Glasgow Archæological Society, and also inspected a restoration of the Wall in that neighbourhood. Later on in the day they were joined at Croy by the rest of their friends; thence they traversed along the heights of the Wall to Dullatur. A keen and lively interest was aroused among the members by this excursion, particularly among those who had visited the Great Barriers of the Lower Isthmus with the Institute in 1882 and 1884, or were otherwise acquainted with that noble work. Frequent inquiries have since been made for the Report, which it was understood the Glasgow Society were preparing, but it has only now made its appearance. In the preface, readers are informed that "the Report, in practically its present terms, was all in type in 1893." No explanation of the delay is given, and we have no right to ask questions. But the book is well worth waiting for, and is of the highest interest to all students of the Roman era in Britain.

All the previous accounts of the Wall of Antoninus are mere surface surveys only, and the conclusions drawn from them are

liable at any time to be upset, when the scientific use of the spade reveals the secrets hidden below the turf. Such has frequently been the case on the Barrier of the Lower Isthmus, as shown in the reports of the Cumberland Excavation Committee. Such is also the case on the Barrier of the Upper Isthmus, as shown by the valuable Report now before us, which is divided into six chapters of varying length. The first chapter gives a brief general account of the Vallum of Antoninus. Then follows "A Conspectus of Early Notices concerning the Wall," divided into two parts: (1) Roman authors from Julius Capitolinus to Claudian; this part includes also the "Walling Tablets" that have been found on the line of the Vallum, Walling Tablets being a new name for certain inscribed stones, which on the Lower Barrier are called Legionary, or Centurial Stones; (ii) Gildas, Bede, and Nennius. We are glad to see all passages cited from these authors are given in the original Latin or Greek, and also in the vulgar tongue, as also are the "Walling Tablets." This largely increases the usefulness of the Report, and will deservedly add to its popularity.

The next chapter deals with the Roman authors, military or otherwise, who have written upon the structure of earthen ramparts, of which the Romans had two main types. There was the cespiticious vallum, built like a wall of sods; and there was the aggested vallum, heaped up from promiscuous earth. Modern authorities on Roman Britain had overlooked the distinction between these types, until it was forced upon their minds very clearly by the excavations near Bonnybridge we have just mentioned. Another chapter contains a short notice of structural accounts of the wall by modern authors, but the major part of the Report or fifth chapter is occupied by detailed descriptions of the excavations and sections, with elaborate plans. The sixth and last chapter contains the general conclusions and observations, and is the most interesting of all, though it is hard to discriminate between the chapters where all are so full of matter. We regret that our space does not allow us to give those conclusions and observations. The book itself must be referred to. In Appendix I, Mr. Haverfield, F.S.A., writes on an Altar to Silvanus found near Barr Hill, and on the Roman occupation of Scotland; he also attempts a catalogue of the discoveries of Roman coins in Scotland. In Appendix III, he gives an account of the Murus Exsipiticius discovered in Cumberland in 1895. The Report reflects the greatest credit upon Mr. George Neilson, to whom the actual preparation was entrusted, and is characterised by the careful accuracy and precision which mark all his work. Great credit too is due to the Glasgow Archæological Society, who started the work, and to the committee that had the direction of the excavations and exploratory works.

NOTES on the EARLY SCULPTURED CROSSES, SHRINES, and MONUMENTS in the present DIOCESE of CARLISLE. By the late Rev. WILLIAM SLATER CALVERLEY, F.S.A., edited by W. G. COLLINGWOOD, M.A. Kendal: Printed and published by T. Wilson, 1889, being Volume XI of the Extra Series issued by the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society. 8vo, pp. xviii and 319. Portrait of Mr. Calverley, and 200 illustrations from sketches by Mr. Calverley and Mr. Collingwood, and from photographs by Mr. W. L. Fletcher.

This book is one which must have peculiar interest for the

members of the Royal Archæological Institute, as containing the expansion and the accumulated proofs of the late Mr. Calverley's theory of the "Pagan Overlap," which he first announced to the Institute at the Carlisle meeting of 1882, in a paper on the Edda myths on the Christian cross at Gosforth. Up to that time, the authorities had held that Christian monuments contained nothing but Christian subjects. Mr. Calverley's discovery of the "Pagan Overlap" created a distinct sensation: some believed, others doubted. In a while, proof after proof occurred, notably the discovery, by the Bishop of Bristol, of Scandinavian legends on the cross at Leeds, and at Kirk Andreas, Isle of Man. Year after year, Mr. Calverley added new instances in papers read before the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society, of whose series of extra volumes this forms one. He also re-wrote his paper on the Gosforth cross and laid it before the Institute in December, 1882; it is printed in the *Journal*, vol. xl, p. 143. At the annual meeting in Edinburgh in 1891, Mr. Calverley read a paper on "The Pre-Norman Cross at Halton," illustrated with rubbings, before the Architectural Section, over which the late Bishop of Carlisle (Dr. Goodwin) presided. It was then fully understood among the members of the Institute that Mr. Calverley would immediately follow up the success of his paper by a book, which he had long had in contemplation. But it was not to be; parish work demanded his attention, and his assistance was asked for and obtained by the Cumberland Excavation Committee, engaged upon the exploration of the Roman Wall. He did not, however, wholly desert his first love; he read an occasional paper thereon, as fresh discoveries occurred, before the local Society. In 1898, he prepared for the meeting of the Institute at Lancaster an elaborate paper on "Some Crosses and Pre-Norman Fragments," illustrated by a fine series of lantern slides, and by a map of the present diocese of Carlisle, including Halton and Heysham outside the boundary to the south, and Dumfries and Hoddam outside to the north-west.

The main roads, Roman and modern, were marked, and it is chiefly along the old roads and on the sites of the ancient churches that the old sculptures are found. But Mr. Calverley was not able to be present and to read his own paper; the hand of death was upon him, and he died shortly after the Lancaster meeting, leaving behind a great collection of drawings and of notes, materials for a book, but nothing that could be called the manuscript of a book. Luckily the assistance of Mr. Collingwood was available, a scholar well known both as an artist and as the biographer of Professor Ruskin. He was a friend of Mr. Calverley, well acquainted with the Sagas, had discussed Mr. Calverley's discoveries with him, and viewed them from the same standing point; thus he was able, after a great amount of hard and honest labour, and of bodily fatigue in journeys to see the originals, to write Mr. Calverley's book. Mr. Calverley's book, despaired of by many, is now before his friends.

The arrangement adopted by Mr. Collingwood is alphabetically by parishes. This has its disadvantages, as compared with the chronological method. But clearly the arrangement by parishes must logically precede the chronological, and it makes the best guide for those who wish to visit the crosses, &c. In the present case

no difficulty arises, for the alphabetical arrangement by parishes is followed by the "Editor's Afterword" (or Review of Early Cumbrian Art) in seven sections, in which he deals with (i) the Post-Norman Developments of Pre-Norman Forms; (ii) The Norman Period (Dials, Fonts, &c.); (iii) The Viking Age (Diagonesque Shafts, &c.); (iv) The Spiral School; (v) The Anglo-Classic School; (vi) The British Period; (vii) The Story of Cumbrian Independence. In connection with these sections Mr. Collingwood gives an account of the Ormside Cup of silver and copper, found there in 1823, and sent to the York Museum, where it now is. The catalogue declares it to be "one of the finest known specimens of Anglo-Saxon workmanship." So it is, but until Mr. Calverley happened to see it, no one ever thought of making sketches of this beautiful object for reproduction. This was done by Mr. Collingwood for the local Society's *Transactions*, and for this work. Of it he says, "The cup is remarkable for the combination in one design of interlacing work, apparently Anglian, with exquisite floral design, animals and birds, most delicately wrought, in the spirit and with the finish of the finest Greek-Italian craftsmanship." The book contains three beautiful illustrations of the cup, one in colours.

The corner of England with which Messrs. Calverley and Collingwood deal in this book contains far more remains of early Christian sculpture than any other English district of the same size. The principal and best known of these remains are the Bewcastle obelisk, the Gosforth cross, and the Bridekirk font, the work of Richard of Durham, a famous architect, who flourished *circa* 1120–1180; next, perhaps, come the Gosforth and Lowther hogbacks, but it is hard to pick out from over 200 instances the plums, when all are plums.

But to return to the book before us, the paper on the Gosforth cross is by Mr. Calverley, and is interesting as the birth of his theory of the "Pagan Overlap." This paper is entirely the work of Mr. Calverley. By a very convenient arrangement, all his original writings, whether previously published or extracted from his manuscript remains, are printed large—in "long primer" type. All matter contributed by the Editor is in small type—bourgeois. The student thus knows at once with whose work he is dealing, and whose opinions he is taking in. The numerous illustrations to the book are of high merit, and we must not omit to mention Mr. Collingwood's two clever maps, "The Viking Settlements" and the "Sketch Map of Cross-Places," but we are bound to find here serious fault—with the bookbinders. The first of these maps is a two-page map; the binder has doubled it down the middle, and inserted it in the book by the middle instead of by the edge, so that it can never be opened flat. We have almost forgotten to say that this book contains a sensible reading of the puzzling Beckermet St. Bridget inscription, which has been given up as hopeless, and in an unknown tongue. Mr. John Rogers, a student of old Celtic and a Gaelic-speaking native of the west of Ireland, suggested the inscription was Manx-Gaelic, written phonetically, with the omission of some aspirated letters. Worked out on this basis, the inscription reads—

This cross was
made for
John mac Cair-
bre gone to
rest in the keeping
of Christ. Be gracious
to him, O Christ.

Which commends itself as very likely to be correct. It is most interesting to find the Manx-Gaelic on a monument, almost opposite to the Isle of Man.

Mr. Collingwood does not hesitate to nail to the counter as forgeries the Runic inscriptions on Barnspike and Hazelgill Crags in the parish of Bewcastle, forgeries which Professor George Stephens engraved and recorded in his great work "The Old Northern Runic Monuments of Scandinavia and England." The same kindly office is done for the so-called Crosthwaite "bolster stone," and Adam's Cross, at the head of Shoulthwaite Moss.

By the kind permission of Mr. Collingwood and of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society we reproduce the following illustrations:—(i) Beckermet St. John's, the white cross; (ii) The Bewcastle Dial; (iii) The Dragons from the Bridekirk Font; (iv) The Lowther hogback; (v) The St. Bees lintel and the Waberthwaite shaft.

It will interest Mr. Calverley's many friends to hear that a copy of the Dearham Standing Cross marks his grave in Aspatria churchyard, near the copy of the Gosforth cross, which he and Christopher Dickinson carved and set up in Aspatria churchyard in 1887.

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THE PARISH AND CHURCH OF GODALMING. By S. WELMAN. London: Elliot Stock, 1900. 4to, pp. 74. Thirty-seven illustrations.

The architectural history of Godalming church, which takes up nearly the whole of this little volume of 74 pp., is well and carefully worked out by the author, by means of a series of plans and perspective views, showing the progressive stages in the development of the building from the eleventh century to the present time. The evidence for the existence in pre-Norman times of a small church consisting of nave and chancel seems conclusive, and the western wall of the central tower is shown to be built on the almost unaltered eastern gable of the nave of the early church, the area of the tower being that of the original chancel.

Mr. Welman goes on to trace the development of the cruciform plan, and the subsequent enlargements of the church in the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries, and carries the structural history of the building down to the calamitous "restorations" of 1840 and 1879, when the western portion was practically rebuilt, the western tower arch destroyed, the eastern arch "altered," and much of the ancient ashlar of the chancel so ruthlessly dragged that the original tooling was entirely obliterated. It is sad to see that these barbarities are recorded without a word of condemnation, and it might even be inferred from the context that some of them are rather commended than otherwise.

An excellent feature of the book is the insertion of a plan and three sections to scale, though it is a pity that the longitudinal section should not have been reproduced to the same scale as the other three drawings.

The remaining plates and illustrations in the text sufficiently explain the author's views, but in some cases leave a good deal to be desired in the matter of execution. It was inevitable, in the following out of the scheme of the book, that a perspective view of the pre-Norman church should have been attempted, but the presentment given on Plate XII rather suggests in the proportion of its windows and other details a building of middle twelfth century date than one of the first half of the eleventh, the period to which the early church is here assigned.

THE ABBEY CHURCH OF TEWKESBURY, WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE PRIORY CHURCH OF DEERHURST, GLOUCESTERSHIRE. By H. J. L. J. MASSÉ, M.A. London: George Bell and Sons, 1900. 8vo, pp. 126. Forty-four illustrations.

This volume, published uniformly with Bell's Cathedral Series, is a welcome addition to this series of handbooks, which are designed to supersede the unsatisfactory class of local guide books with which

the visitor to any of our great churches has too often to be content. Like all the former volumes of this series, it is neat, compact, and portable, and liberally provided with illustrations.

The first twenty-seven pages of the book are taken np with a history of the fabric from its foundation to the present time. The visitor is then conducted round the exterior of the church, starting from the north transept, and finishing at the south-east of the choir, after which the interior is systematically perambulated, the nave being taken first, then the north transept, the ambulatory and chapels as they occur, the south transept, and finally the choir, everything of interest being commented on in its turn.

The result of this method undoubtedly makes for thoroughness in the matter of sight-seeing, and the visitor who takes Mr. Massé's book for his guide will have the satisfaction of reflecting, on leaving the church, that he has seen every "object of interest" which it contains. But whether he will have any clear idea of the development of the building, and the sequence and intention of the various alterations, will depend rather on himself and his own powers of observation than on his guide. And be this said without any wish to detract from the value of the descriptions of the various portions of the building; but at the same time, a more methodical system would undoubtedly add to the value of the book. Take, for example. the description of the central tower, which is placed, somewhat unexpectedly, between that of the north porch and that of the west front. The pinnacles and battlements are first mentioned (as far as a fallible memory serves, the date on the north-west pinnacle is 1600, and not 1660 as given). Then the tower piers are referred to, and then the stages of the tower above the roofs, beginning with the lowest. The features of the first three are briefly noted, but the topmost stage, by no means the least imposing, is dismissed with the remark that in it is "another range of arcades and columns." The use of the word "wall-plate" to denote the weather mould which marks the pitch of the former roof is inadmissible, and in several other places a looseness in the use of architectural terms is apparent, as when, on p. 34, the eastern cloister doorway is described as having a low pointed arch, struck from two centres. On the opposite page is a photographic reproduction of this doorway, from which it is clear that the arch in question is struck from four centres, and not from two.

On p. 71 is the statement that all the Norman choir above the Norman capitals (*sc.*, of the main arcade) was pulled down in the early part of the *thirteenth* century, and that the Norman pillars were then carried up three feet, and fitted with Decorated capitals. This is perhaps a misprint, but as it stands is clearly impossible. It is also difficult to see why Mr. Massé considers the windows of the choir to be considerably later than the arcade below them, or why the circle in the head of the eastern window should be described as "a fine catherine-wheel."

The canopy over the tomb of Sir Hugh le Despenser is said to have "trefoil-headed" arches throughout (p. 91); this should, of course, be "cinquefoiled."

In the account of Deerhurst Priory church, the earliest mention of the priory, or abbey as it then was, is rightly referred to 804. The

point is worth mentioning, as Leland's mistake as to the Venerable Bede's acquaintance with Deerhurst is often repeated in modern descriptions.

The tower is said (p. 108) to have been reduced in height—probably when the "steeple" (*sc.*, spire) was blown down in 1666—but as the preparation for the base of the spire still exists in the topmost stage of the tower, the reduction in height can have been little, if any, more than that occasioned by the loss of the spire itself.

The projecting stones above the ground and second floor openings in the west wall of the tower are here considered to have a resemblance to "a broken mechanical contrivance for hoisting up weighty goods into the upper part of the tower." This seems a little far-fetched. It is worthy of note that the opening in the second floor is clearly a doorway, and not a window, as here stated.

The description of the body of the church is supplemented by a long quotation from Mr. Micklethwaite's paper in the *Archæological Journal* (Vol. LIII, 293), with a plan of the church and a section of the tower from the same source.

In the present state of our knowledge, any attempt at dating Saxon buildings must be considered purely speculative, and liable to be upset at any time by some definite discovery; and Mr. Massé wisely leaves the question of the age of the building untouched. But apart from this, there is a good deal of information to be obtained from the descriptions of Buckler and Butterworth, and from the building itself, which might have been with advantage included in the present account, due allowance being made for the condensed form which a handbook of this kind must take. Mention should have been made of the very interesting moulded stringcourse which runs all round the nave walls outside, just below the apex of the present aisle roofs; of the relief facing the west doorway of the tower; of the projecting stone over the door of the south transept, similar to the two on the western face of the tower; and of the ribwork remaining on the fragment of the presbytery wall, south-east of the blocked arch in what is now the eastern wall of the chancel.

The remains of the monastic buildings, which are shown as of fifteenth-century date on the plan facing p. 126, though they contain at least one fourteenth-century feature, are shortly described. The statement that the destroyed western range "perhaps comprised the prior's apartments and a dormitory or infirmary" might have passed muster fifty years ago, but, at the present day, is hardly worthy of a place even in guide books of the type which Messrs. Bell's publications have practically rendered obsolete.

A short notice of Odda's Chapel and plans of Deerhurst Priory and Tewkesbury Abbey conclude the volume.

A HISTORY OF OXFORDSHIRE. By J. Meade Falkner. (Popular County Histories Series.) London: Elliot Stock, 1899. 8vo, pp. 328.

Mr. Stock's Series of Popular County Histories proceeds steadily, and now includes over a dozen volumes. Cambridgeshire has been

succeeded by Oxfordshire, which, though a small county, has contrived to supply material for a larger volume than any preceding one in the series. This is due mainly, as the author points out, to the necessity of linking the history of the University of Oxford with that of the city and county, as had already been done in the case of Cambridgeshire. The fact is that Oxfordshire, like other of the Mercian shires, has little or no individual history of its own. Counties like Norfolk, Kent, and Devon have preserved a distinct and separate existence from the earliest times; their inhabitants have marked individual characteristics and distinct dialects, and generally exhibit a stronger local pride than men of the shires. But Oxford and other Mercian shires only sprang into separate existence in comparatively late Saxon times; the period is not in this case or in others exactly to be determined (but we fancy that the Rev. C. S. Taylor has thrown some light on the subject, in his paper in the *Bristol and Gloucestershire Transactions*, Vol. XXI, p. 32).

However, the fact remains that Mr. Falkner has contrived to produce a very interesting volume. University history plays a large but not too large a part; it might, however, have been as well if the first two chapters had been slightly abridged, and some of the irrelevant matter relating to Roman history and to more remote times omitted. That Mr. Falkner is intimately acquainted with the topography of the shire, his editorship of Murray's *Handbook to Oxfordshire* is a guarantee; but why, oh, why, does he not provide a map? Without a map at hand for reference a county history loses half its interest; and a few rough sketch-maps in the text, illustrating the different periods of history, would have been better than nothing. It is, in fact, a want common to the whole of the series, and we hope that the publishers will in future adopt a more enlightened policy in that respect.

There are, in our opinion, other deficiencies in the work, regarding it from the archæological rather than the purely historical point of view; for instance, there might have been a fuller discussion of the ecclesiastical architecture, a point in which Oxfordshire takes high rank among English counties, presenting a variety and average excellence only surpassed by its neighbour Northants. Secondly, we should have liked to see more discussion of place-names, and the light they shed on the history of the county. No allusion is made to the traces of Danish settlements as indicated in the hamlet of Thrup, near Woodstock, at Heythrop, near Chipping Norton, Neithrop (a suburb of Banbury), and the border villages of Adlestrop and Southrop in Gloucestershire. And thirdly, the interesting comparative table of town populations on p. 315 might well have been supplemented by other statistical tables, as Mr. Conybeare has done in his excellent *Cambridgeshire*.

We have read this history with great pleasure from beginning to end, especially the account of the Reformation period and Civil Wars, in both of which times Oxfordshire and Oxford played a striking part. Mr. Falkner's style is vivid, and his pages are brightened by numerous quotations from contemporary writers, such as Antony Wood, with his delightful picture of the "juvenile Muses in the Vicaridge" at Thame, and the fright that they, "particularly A. W.," received from the advent of the Parliamentarians

one Sunday in 1645. We think we can detect anti-Protestant and anti-Puritan sympathies throughout the author's account of these times—a bias that in no way detracts from the merits of his narrative.

A few small points strike us as requiring comment. On p. 28 mention might have been made of the use of the local Stonesfield slates for the roofing of the Roman villas, also of the probability that the windows were glazed as an additional protection against the severities of the climate (evidence of this exists in Gloucestershire). It should be pointed out that the Angel Choir at Lincoln is *not* the earliest Pointed work in England (see p. 74), nor is it pure Early English (if that is what the writer intends); it is, of course, St. Hugh's Choir that takes rank as the earliest pure Gothic work in England.

On p. 218 Burford is spoken of as noted for bell-casting in the seventeenth century; but the foundry of the Keenes at Woodstock was far more important at that time, and their fame quite eclipsed Edward Neale's, as is evinced by the comparative numbers of their bells remaining. The Bagleys, of Chacomb, belong to the latter half of the seventeenth century, not the early part as here stated (Henry Bagley's earliest bells are dated 1632). Some mention might be made of the tradition that the author of *Piers Plowman* is associated with Oxfordshire; it is not, however, certain whether he derives his name of Langley from a hamlet near Burford or from one in Salop (see the introduction to Dr. Skeat's edition, p. xv.).

We hope that all future volumes of this series will preserve the high standard set up by the present one, which we can confidently recommend to readers.