



## “Notes and Queries”

### RELATING TO BERKSHIRE.

#### NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the County. All Literary Communications should be sent of the EDITOR, Barkham Rectory, near Wokingham, written on one side only of the Paper.*

*It is requested that all MSS. intended for printing should be written on foolscap paper, in an orderly manner, with REPLIES, QUERIES, and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name or initials of the writer appended to each communication.*

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#### Notes.

**TERRIER AND INVENTORY OF CHURCH POSSESSIONS IN THE PARISH OF WELFORD.**—The Lord Bishop of Oxford ordered at his Visitation that a Terrier should be made of the Church possessions in each parish of his diocese, and doubtless his commands have been obeyed, and some list of Church property deposited in every parish chest. But few parishes possess a printed Terrier, and it has not been our privilege to see one so perfect and complete as that of the parish of Welford. This is the work of Mrs. Stephen Batson, wife of the Rector of Welford, who has for some years been collecting materials for a history of the parish, to which we shall look forward with much interest. The present work is an extremely valuable and exhaustive record, containing a brief history of the parish and its Church, and a full inventory of the furniture and ornaments, monuments, registers, library and schools. If our space permitted we should have wished to record in our pages some extracts from Mrs. Batson's work. We commend it as a model for all future compilers of Terriers to strive after, if they cannot attain unto. Mrs. Batson is fortunate in having so interesting and ancient a parish to write about, and Welford is fortunate in having so able an historian.

**DISCOVERY AT COOKHAM.**—It may be of interest to record in the next issue of your Quarterly Journal the discovery in August last, at the Cookham Lock, of what seems to be the remains of an early pile-building. In the course of constructing a boat-slide alongside the lock, it was necessary to get a concrete foundation at each end, and on excavating a hole some 12 feet square and 6 feet deep at the lower end, in the peat mud over the gravel there were found a horse's skull and some bones, together with two fragments of pottery, tolerably well baked, glazed back, and hand-made by design and character, similar, I am in-

formed by Dr. Stevens, of Reading, to whom I sent them, to some of the corks found at Silchester, which he describes as Romano-British. In the gravel were about a dozen oaken piles, some three feet in length, standing perpendicularly, much charred, and cut or scraped to a point, as a badly-cut lead pencil. Some of these I have kept. The Thames, as you are doubtless aware, is divided here into three branches and an artificial cutting for the lock, which unite again under the Cliefden Woods. On the islands thus formed are traces of former streams, and old maps of about the 16th century show streams that no longer exist; no doubt in earlier times when the village was at Coxburgh, near the present railway station (as pointed out by Mr. Darby in one of your recent numbers), the alluvial flat here was a swampy morass and a very likely place for pile-building, and both Dr. Stevens and Mr. Read, of the British Museum, agree in supposing that this must have been one of them. I have been waiting for the excavation of the upper end of the slide before sending you this report, hoping there might be further discoveries, but there were none.

R. E. GOOLDEN.

### Queries.

A COUNTY HISTORY OF BERKS.—In the introductory notes to the January issue of the *Journal* a hope is expressed that the information collected in its columns may be of use "when a complete history of the County of Berks is contemplated." I venture to ask whether the time has not arrived when such a history might be undertaken? Among the goodly tomes of County Histories which adorn the shelves of our public and private libraries, monuments of the patient research of our forefathers, that of the Royal County is, unfortunately, conspicuous by its absence. It is well-known that MS. compilations exist in the national collection and elsewhere, which would form a good basis for such a work, and I have reason to believe that many have been working for some years, as a labour of love, at different portions of the county. If the burden (pecuniary and otherwise) of publishing a history, worthy of the name, is too heavy for the shoulders of one individual, could not a syndicate be formed as, I believe, has been done in other quarters, to raise the necessary funds and organise and distribute the work? I throw this out as a suggestion, and should be glad to hear from anyone interested in the subject.

NATHANIEL HONE.

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