



“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.

Notes and Replies.

OLD READING.—Mr. Brain informs us of the demolition of some old houses in Minster Street which once formed part of a famous Inn known by the sign of “The Cardinal’s Hat.” They are occupied by Messrs. Sharp and Golding. “The Cardinal’s Hat” is of historical interest, as being the house in which Julian Palmer, the Master of Reading School, was arrested, and thence conveyed to Newbury where he was tried for heresy and burned. He was one of the earliest of the martyrs of Mary’s reign.

HERSEY FAMILY.—Mr. C. Hersey, whose query appeared in these columns some time ago has succeeded in tracing the genealogical branches of his family for many generations. He finds that the Herseys of Berks were cousins to Oliver Cromwell. He would be glad to find the record of the marriage of Henry Lovelace and Rebecca Ager, who lived at Warfield in 1706. ‘It probably took place at Winkfield or Warfield between 1706 and 1713.

BERKSHIRE CROSSES.—Mr. De Vitre gives the Crosses of Berkshire. Lately I observed the following note in the MSS. collected by Miss Morrell, now in my possession :—“There was anciently a market cross at Wantage, the top stone whereof was lately presented to Mr. Stone, of Letcombe Regis, who has placed it on a mound of earth near his garden ; it is octagonal and adorned all round with half-length images in alto relievo of Saints and Apostles, the names of many are known by their badges, as St. Peter with his keys, &c.—EMMA ELIZ. THOMAS.

FARLEY HALL.—In reply to Colonel Gray's query we are glad to be able to state that Lady Russell will refer to the history of Farley Hall in her subsequent articles on Swallowfield.

BERKSHIRE CHILDREN'S GAMES.—Two very interesting articles on this subject have been contributed to "The Antiquary" by Miss Thoyts. They add largely to our knowledge of this branch of local folk-lore, and if our space would allow we should have been glad to quote some of the quaint and curious rhymes which the author has collected from her observation of the village maidens at their play. Mrs. Gomme is about to publish a book on this subject.

BERKSHIRE PEWTER.—Want of space obliges us to hold over an article by Miss Thoyts upon this subject, and also some reviews of recent books.

Queries.

THE ARMS OF READING.—What are they? What do they mean? How did they originate? These are questions that seem very easy to answer, but I am not sure that it is so. Mann says, p. 170, "Azure, five maidens' heads in saltire, the middle one crowned with E.R., in compliment to Queen Elizabeth who frequently resided here; probably a memorial of the massacre of Elfrede's nunnery by the Danes." Coates says, p. 454, "The arms are a king's head between four other heads, and they are so blazoned by Browne Willis—azure, a king's head crowned between an R. and E. in fess; and four other human heads in saltire (referring doubtless to Edward the Third, who granted them). This bearing was changed to a queen's head crowned, between four female heads (nuns?), the R. and E. still remaining, in compliment to Queen Elizabeth." On the iron gates of the market hall the heads unquestionably are male, on the Kendrick school equally female, while the new Blake bridge is strictly impartial and gives them so to speak epicene. Were the five nuns changed to five men and then back to five women? or what can be meant by the king's four companions? —A PUZZLED BURGESS.

