



“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 to 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.

Replies.

The facts about East Garston are:—(1) That East Garston is called Esgarestun in the *restal de Nevill*, and locally Argason. (2) That there is no West Garston. (3) That East Garston as such is not mentioned in *Domesday*; but that Lambourn which is hard by is in several portions one of which belonged to *Esgar* the staller. My conclusion is that the modern East Garston has been created out of *Esgarestun*—the “tun” of *Esgar* the staller. This appeared in the *Academy* some time ago, but I have forgotten precisely when.—T. MOWATT, Pemb. Coll., Oxford.

CHAPEL AT WHITEKNIGHTS, EARLEY: See p. 110, vol. III.—We have received a letter from Mr. Porter, of Erleigh Whiteknights, in which he says:—“When I bought, upwards of 34 years ago, the lease of the land on which it (the ‘chapel’) is situated, I was told that it never was, in reality, a chapel, but was built by a former Duke of Marlborough to represent one and was subsequently used as a cattle shed. I was also told that the building did not even stand on the site of the old Abbey but was placed where it now is in order to form a conspicuous object from the house then occupied by the Duke.” Since receiving Mr. Porter’s letter we have visited the “chapel” which is evidently of the description of an enlarged summerhouse. The walls are entirely of brick, only 9 inches thick at the bottom and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the top. The windows and doors are all shams. The building is not orientated, and was evidently constructed not more than 100 years ago.—EDITOR.

Notes.

ANCIENT BELL AT STREATLEY.—The tower of Streatley Church, built by Herbert Poer, last Bishop of Old Sarum, in 1215, was formerly surmounted by a Georgian cupola. In 1863 this cupola was taken down, and a bell which it contained was removed to the School. One of the canons being broken, a hole was drilled in the crown of the bell and an iron ring bolt inserted, by which it was so much cracked and damaged that it is useless in its present state. The bell is one of considerable interest. It bears the following inscription round the shoulder in letters of about the middle of the fifteenth century :—

hac in conclave gabriel nunc pange suave.

"In this cell, Gabriel, now strike sweetly."

Is the word *conclave* used in its proper sense of a locked or closed *cell*, or *closet* ; implying that the bell was originally intended to hang in a separate bell-cote, and leading us to infer that the modern cupola only carried on the tradition of an older erection ? Or is the word to be taken in its modern sense, of an *assembly*, or *congregation*, a synonym, in fact, for *Church* ? Obviously the false concord, *hac* for *hoc*, arises from a confusion with the word *clavis*.

The word *pange* is interesting. From its original sense of *to fix* it came to mean *to compose*, in a literary sense ; as in Horace, *poemata pangas* (Ep. I., 18, 40), and Lucretius, *tam lucida pango carmina* (De Rerum Natura, iv. 8) ; and then simply to *sing*, or *relate*, as in the sixth-century hymn of Venantius Fortunatus, *Pange, lingua, gloriosi prælum certaminis* ; whence probably the compiler of this inscription uses it in the sense of *strike* or *sound*.

Suave as a trisyllable is not unknown in mediæval versification, as in the hymn of the Magdeburg Breviary : *Alleluia vox suavis est choris cælestibus*.

The bell is named *Gabriel*, from which we may infer that it was used for ringing the Angelus. Its height, measured perpendicularly, is 15½ inches ; its circumference round the shoulder, 2 feet 3½ inches ; its diameter inside the sound bow, 13 inches.

J. E. FIELD.

THE *Parish Magazine*, edited by Canon Erskine Clarke, has for many years done much to popularize Archæology. To this year's number the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, Rector of Barkham, Berks, contributes papers of interest on "Gurgoyles," and "Lepers in England in the olden time."

LAUD'S PLACE, READING.—Members of the Society will be interested to hear that the authorities of the town have entertained a suggestion made by the Rev. Alan Cheales, and have directed name tablets to be fixed in Laud's Place, and at its approach, *i.e.*, from Broad Street.

BERKSHIRE HISTORY.—It will be matter of regret to most Berkshire Archæologists that Mr. Alfred A. Harrison cannot see his way to publish the fac-simile of the Wallascot Cartulary of Reading Abbey, which would have formed such a valuable addition to the History of the County. It seems almost a reproach to the antiquarian spirit of Berks that, although three copies of the Cartulary of this once important house are in existence, it has never been printed.

I have before me a circular of the Berks Ashmolean Society, founded in 1840, the objects of which are thus stated : "First, the publication of the Historical, Ecclesiastical, Genealogical and Topographical Remains of the County of Berks ;

Second, the re-printing of works connected therewith of sufficient rarity and importance to make such reprints desirable ; and Third, the publication of translations of similar works not previously rendered into English." The number of members was limited to 300, and the subscription one guinea annually, payable on the 23rd May, the anniversary of Ashmole's birth, for which payment each member was entitled to a copy of every work published by the Society. A list of works ordered for publication is given, of which the first three appeared between the above date and the four following years, viz., *Collection of Letters of Archbishop Laud*, *Chronicle of Abingdon Abbey*, and *Inventory of Goods of Sir Henry Unton*. Apparently the Society then became defunct, as no more works were issued, according to the British Museum Catalogue. I venture to suggest that this Society might with advantage be revived. The interest in matters of historical research has developed considerably during the last half-century, and other neighboring counties, such as Hampshire, have their Record Societies, which for some years have been doing very good work. I see no reason that the Royal County should not march with the times.

NATHANIEL HONE.

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[The Berks Archæological Society is the lineal descendant of the old Ashmolean Society, and strives to carry on the work of its distinguished predecessor. If the Society and *The Journal* were more generously supported it would be possible to carry out some of Mr. Hone's suggestions, the great importance of which we recognize and with which we heartily agree.—EDITOR.]

