

arrangements were made by Mr. Rutland it is unnecessary to state that they were in every way successful. The Rev. J. E. Field and Mr. Hedges were the conductors of the party, who visited the Castle, St. Leonard's Church, and other places of interest.

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WE have to record the sad and sudden death of Mr. J. Mowat, Fellow and Bursar of Pembroke College, Oxford, whose valuable notes on the Berkshire Domesday were commenced in our last Journal. He was devotedly attached to the study of Archæology and History, and was engaged in making excavations on the site of Roman wall just before his untimely death. One of his last acts was to send to the Editor his MS. of Berkshire Notes, which will be continued in our next Journal.

WAFERING IRONS.—Mr. Walter Money, F.S.A., recently exhibited a pair of wafering irons at a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries, which he had obtained from a blacksmith's shop in Newbury. These were used for impressing the wafers, or gift cakes, provided for Mothering or Mid-Lent Sunday. These offerings at the altars were in their origin voluntary, and became Church property. At length the parish priests compounded with the Church at a certain sum, and these voluntary donations of the people have become the dues now known as Easter offerings, which are still presented to the incumbents of many parishes. It was a general custom for youths and maidens to visit their mothers with a present of wafering cakes on this day, and this was called "going a mothering" (cf. Herrick's Poem). This ancient custom survives in Hampshire, and the wafers are still made by a family named Baverstock at Chilbolton.

NEWBURY.—Mr. Walter Money exhibited before the Society of Antiquaries part of a pilgrim's satchell, or wallet, dredged from the river Kennet at Newbury, of the xiv. century. It is a flat bronze bar, bearing the sacred monogram and the legend AVE MARIA | GACIA PLE<sup>m</sup> | A DOMINU | TECUM.

WINCHESTER AND THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.—Mr. Kershaw, F.S.A., Librarian at Lambeth Palace, sends us an interesting paper, read before the British Archæological Association, on the above subject, and refers to the territorial changes of the different dioceses, alluding to the far-extending sway of Lincoln, and the inclusion of Berks in that of Salisbury. He states that "in Sarum diocese was once a bishopric called Ramsbury, and the bishops were called *Episcopi Sunningensis*, and had an estate at Sonning in Berks, and quite recently the Prelate of Salisbury had a residence there. This little See of Ramsbury (within the larger one of Sarum) included, in the 10th century, such portions of Wilts and Berks as were at that time in the territory of the West Saxons; and during the 160 years' existence of this unique Wiltshire episcopate it numbered among its Bishops three who afterwards became Archbishops of Canterbury, viz.: Odo, Siric, and Elfric."