



# The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archæological Journal.

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THOMAS FULLER quaintly observes : "Some report that the toad before her death, sucks up, if not prevented with sudden surprisal, the precious stone (as yet but a jelly) in her head, grudging mankind the good thereof. Such generally the envy of antiquaries, preferring that their rarities should die with them, and be buried in their graves, rather than others receive any benefit thereby." Lest we incur a like condemnation, it has been determined to launch a new vessel wherein to convey the treasures of knowledge and the collections of the curious, to such readers as may choose to avail themselves of them. The three Counties can boast of many active Societies and many zealous workers in Archæological research, and it is the object of this Journal to record the results of their labours in the wide field of Antiquarian discovery. We shall welcome in these pages contributions on Local History, Transcriptions of Records, Notes and Discoveries of various kinds, Family History, Heraldry, Traditions, Folklore, Ancient Customs, and all that pertains to the study of the history of the three Counties. Most of the Societies whose names appear on the title page, have signified their intention to co-operate in the work ; with one or two the negotiations are in progress. It is hoped that all the Societies may find it convenient to utilise the Journal in making known their work and the discoveries brought before them in relation to the historical and architectural antiquities of the district. American genealogy will be an important feature of our work, and we have often received enquiries and communications from the descendants of old Berkshire families who migrated to America more than two

centuries ago. We desire to express our thanks to the Secretaries of the Societies and other gentlemen for the kind assistance they have rendered in inaugurating the Journal. We venture to seek the co-operation of all who are interested in Archæological pursuits, and we trust that the Journal may be useful in stimulating Antiquarian research and in recording the results of the labours of Archæologists in the three Counties. Again to quote the words of the wise Doctor: "May they ever be skilful in knowing, careful in keeping, and courteous in communicating, their curious collections in that kind."

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## Proceedings of Societies.

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OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.—The Official minutes of the proceedings of this active Society are published in this number.

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NEWBURY FIELD CLUB.—The Annual Meeting was held on February 6th, under the presidency of W. G. Mount, Esq., M.P. We regret that want of space prevents us from publishing the President's address and a full report of meeting. Mr. Mount described the excursion to Wilton House, the seat of the Earl of Pembroke, and to the town of Wilton, its Church, and interesting Town Hall with its charters and maces. The second excursion was to Wittenham Church, with the Crusader Chapel and leaden font, the site of the Roman discoveries at Long Wittenham, Dorchester and Little Wittenham. The officers were re-elected, and Mr. Walter Money gave an interesting account of the new volume of Transactions, which promises to be a valuable contribution to Berkshire History, adorned with several illustrations, and well worthy of the reputation of this distinguished Society.

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BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The Annual Meeting was held on March 27th. The Report was read, and will be published in the next number of the Journal. The officers were re-elected, and a Paper was read by the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield on "The Livery Companies of London." The Secretary requested aid from the members of the Society for the completion of the Survey for Berks, the institution of a Photographic Survey of the County, and the collection of Berks Words for the new Dialect Dictionary.