



Notes and Queries

RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the three counties. Correspondents are requested to write as plainly as possible, on one side of the paper only, with REPLIES, QUERIES and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name of the writer appended to each communication.

Notes.

THE base of the old village Cross at Ardington, mentioned by Mr. De Vitre in a former volume of Berks Journal, has now been removed from the intersection of four roads (where it was in danger of every passing vehicle) to the south side of the Church, in the Church Yard.—W. H. HALLAM, East Lockinge.

ANCEPS starts an old hare, and "inclines to the heresy" that Wallingford is Calleva. He says Ptolemy makes Silchester Vindonis in his map. I was not aware that Ptolemy gave us any nineteenth century identifications, nor yet that he mentions Vindonis at all. He goes on "the Hercules stone proves Silchester to be the capital of Segontiaci." Macaulay's New Zealander, when exploring the site of London many centuries hence, might as well argue, if he found a tombstone to a Yorkshireman, that London was in Yorkshire. And the argument for the Itinerary is double-edged. If Wallingford suits Calleva better than Silchester in Iter xv., Silchester suits it better than Wallingford in Iter vii. Moreover, minute precision in the Itinerary is not expected by any one who studies its MSS or its vagaries abroad, or even at home—in Yorkshire, in Gloucestershire and elsewhere. The case really stands thus: Calleva, according to the Itinerary, is the great centre of roads in the district. According to existing remains Silchester alone is such a centre. And if the Itinerary depicts Britain at one epoch, and the existing remains belong to another epoch of the Roman domination, then irremediable confusion broods over this branch of archæology. I have personally a pious opinion that Vindonis indicates a "branch line," just as we are accustomed to see in *Bradshaw* stations on branch lines inserted between lines next to the name of the junction in the main line time table. On any other hypothesis, Vindonis, Noviomagus, and a part of the fifth Iter in East Anglia appear to me to present insuperable difficulties.—B., November 7th, 1896.

OBJECTS FOUND IN THE THAMES.—The river Thames, formerly the great highway of Southern Britain, has naturally received many curious objects, lost or cast away by the various races who have travelled along that famous stream. A complete collection of all the objects discovered in its bed would be interesting. Saxon and Danish swords, the primitive weapons of pre-historic times, and many other curious finds, have been dredged up. Mr. Tress Barry, M.P.,

has sent us several objects which he has collected, a list of which is now given, and we hope that other collectors will favour us with similar lists. An awl, made of bone—a flint flake, showing signs of wear, a stag's horn of ancient date, several curiously shaped flints—a common flake showing the action of water—an iron axe-head covered with stones embedded in mud—several very good flakes—a pot-boiler—two tobacco pipes of the Commonwealth period—and some bones of deer. Mr. Barry has discovered also a very fine flint hammer and bone dagger, which he presented to Sir John Evans, and form part of his unique collection. A flint axe-head, 5 inches \times $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, highly polished at the cutting edge, has also just been discovered. — EDITOR.

BUCKLAND CHURCH.—It appears that this Church is being restored, and the following letter from Mr. Niven, F.S.A., protests against the removal of the old pavement, which in too many cases has to give way to the usual green-house tile flooring. We feel sure that the views of Mr. Niven will be endorsed by all antiquaries who have constantly to grieve over the evils wrought in the name of "restoration."—Sir,—Lest I should be considered a renegade from the principles which I have endeavoured to advocate and practise all my life, I must, in justice to myself, ask you to give me the opportunity of saying publicly that I am innocent of the destruction of the old flooring of the nave of Buckland Church—in fact that it has been done despite my protest. I have always held that, amongst the various unnecessary renovations in an old Church, the removal of the old inscribed slab flooring, that was not laid down at one time by a contractor, but has grown with the use of the building, is more destructive of its interest and history than any other work of the same extent. Here the old slabs were perhaps not beautiful—certainly they were not smart—but they formed a natural part of the building, not separating themselves from it. Each stone differed a little from its fellow in texture and colour. Many were inscribed or numbered, and marked the resting place of some, perhaps humble, villager. Their worn faces told of the joys and sorrows, weddings and funerals of those who have gone before us; and I believe their destruction will be keenly felt by some of the older parishioners. It is painful to me to have to write thus, but under the circumstances I do not see that any choice has been left me.—Yours faithfully, W. NIVEN, Carswell.

ROMANO-BRITISH PILE-DWELLING AT HEDSOR, BUCKS.—In the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries we find an account by Mr. A. H. Cocks, F.S.A., of the Romano-British Pile-Dwelling at Hedsor, which Mr. Goulden, Mr. Rutland, Mr. Darby and other gentlemen had the satisfaction of discovering and excavating. The existence of this dwelling was first brought to light in 1894, by the digging of a cesspool, when an oak floor supported on oaken and beechen piles was discovered, together with sundry bones of red deer, an iron spear-head and other objects. Last year the Explorers commenced the regular work of excavation, and continued it gallantly for some weeks until they were drowned out by the influx of water which steadily refused to be pumped out. At a depth of 4 feet 6 inches they reached the platform, or floor of the house, having met with scraps of Roman pottery, and oyster shells, as well as some sticks which probably formed part of the hut, and a short upright post. The flooring of the dwelling consisted of masses of brushwood and was four feet in thickness. Bones, scraps of pottery, &c., were found at nearly all depths, suggesting the gradual raising of the floor by the addition of fresh wood. The larger bones had evidently been split for the marrow, and most of them gnawed by dogs. These bones reveal the presence of the red deer, pig, ox, sheep, goat,

dog, and domestic fowl and crow. There was a small hand-bell of iron washed over with yellow metal, part of a worn-out horse-shoe, leather sole of a shoe, and flint-flakes. One human skull was also found. Great credit is due to the energy and perseverance of the antiquaries who were engaged in the work of excavation under somewhat trying circumstances. There is still a large portion of this pile-dwelling at Hedsor which has not been yet discovered, and the water difficulty will have to be overcome before any further progress can be made.

Replies.

MARRIAGE BONDS (p. 96).—The 102nd Canon of 1603 ordered that Bonds should be entered into by persons contemplating marriage. The parties seem always to have been bound in the sum of £100. To quote the Bond of Brooke and Franklin, 7th Feb., 1617, (Pec. Banbury): "The condition of this obligacon is such that if the above bounden ——— and ——— may lawfullie solemnize matrimonie together and that there be no lett or impediment in lawe to the contrarie and that the pties have the consent of their parents and that they be lawfullie married in the Church that then this obligacon be void or else to remaine in full force and virtue." In a later instance, Luke and Bright, 5th Oct., 1735, (Arch. Bucks), the wording is slightly altered: "The condition of the above written obligation is such that if there shall not hereafter appear any lawful Let or impediment by reason of any Pre-Contract, Consanguinity, Affinity or other just cause whatsoever but that ——— and ——— may lawfully marry together; And that there is not any suit defending before any Judge, Ecclesiastical or Civil, for, or concerning any such Pre-Contract; And that the Consent of the Parents, or others the Governors of the said Parties be thereunto first had and obtained; And that they cause their said Marriage to be openly solemnized in the Face of the Parish Church of ——— between the hours of Eight and Twelve of the Clock in the Forenoon; And do and shall save harmless and keep indemnified the abovenam'd [Dr. John Bettsworth, Dr. in Laws, Commissary and Official in and for the Archdeaconry of Bucks, lawfully constituted] his Surrogates and all others his Officers and successors in Office, for and concerning the Premises; Then the said Obligation to be void; or else to be and remain in full Force and Virtue." In the Bishop of London's Registry there are no Marriage Bonds on file of latter date than 1761; the practice of requiring them probably ceased therefore about that time.—G.F.T.S.

GOODWYER.—Some enquiries were made some time ago about a man bearing the name Goodwyer. A glance at the old *Reading Mercury* reveals that Dr. Goodwyer was a Reading surgeon.—E. E. THOYTS.

Query.

"READING MERCURY."—Where can I find copies of the old numbers? The set at the Library is far from complete, 1786—1835—1890-6. The Bodleian has 1745—48, and then none till 1780. A complete set would be very valuable in Reading.—E. E. T.