



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.

EXHIBITION OF ANTIQUITIES AT SHREWSBURY.—An Exhibition of Shropshire Antiquities will be held in May at Shrewsbury. Mr. Herbert Southam, Innellan, Shrewsbury, is the Secretary, and he will be glad to hear of any articles which any of our readers may be willing to lend relating to the County. The Exhibition promises to be most successful, and we hope that every support will be given to the energetic Council who are arranging the meeting. There are a large number of patrons, and the Rev. T. Arden, F.S.A., is the Chairman of the Council.

BIRCHETS GREEN (HURLEY).—The original derivation of the word "Birchets" is from the Birch tree. It was "Birchurst" in Anglo-Saxon days. "Ashley Hill Wood," in Hurley Parish, takes its name, of course, from the ash tree, for which once it was famous, even as Wokingham (Oakingham) takes its name from the oak. In a Terrier now before me dated November 29th, 1704, transcribed into our Church Registers at Hurley, the words "Browne's acre in Hall Place Field by Birches Green Gate" occur, and in the same document we come upon the following,—"about $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre where Thomas Meades lives in Birches Tithing," and in an old book of accounts the words occur, "Hurley and Birches Green Tythings." Probably no name in Berkshire has been more mangled than that connected with the Hamlet of Birchets Green. "Burchetts," "Burchers," "Burchatt's," "Birchetts," "Birtchett's Burchess," "Britchedts," "Burchedt's," "Burchets," and "Burchett's," all find place in books or documents of some sort in the room where I am now writing. The word "birch" comes straight from the Anglo Saxon *birc*, as "oak" from A. S. *æsc*, and thus, clearly the method of spelling the name which is nearest to that of the tree is the most correct. I have ever since I became Vicar of Hurley in 1868 always written it "Birchets."—F. T. WETHERED, Hurley Vicarage, Berks, October 15th, 1897.

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM.—With reference to an article on the Ashmolean Museum in the October (1897) number of the *Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archaeological Journal*, which professes to be a verbatim report of Mr. Madan's words, Mr. Madan wishes to state that the article in question is a summary of a paper

read by him on November 27th, 1894, before the Oxford Architectural Society, and fairly represents the sequence of ideas, but that he must disclaim the language in which the ideas are conveyed, and is not responsible for the misprints, no proof having been submitted to him.—F. MADAN.

[The paper was reprinted from a report of the lecture which appeared in an Oxford journal, and was sent to us for publication in our journal. We regret very much that it did not appear in the form Mr. Madan desired, and we hope that all correspondents will send their communications duly prepared for printing in our pages.

CURIOUS GUIDE TO THE ROAD BETWEEN ENSTONE AND ATHERTON.—Mr. Mitchell, F.S.A., Lyon Clerk, sends us a note written by his great grandfather, John, to his son Benjamin Mitchell, which will probably interest our readers. It is a guide to the way across country from Enstone to Alkerton, and was written about 1780. It shews the difficulties which travellers met with in that period. "When you arrive at Enstone present my compliments to Mr. Morris and beg the favour of him to let you have a sure-footed horse to go Alkerton on my business and let him know you will return on Wednesday next. Settle with him what hour the coaches come through Birmingham and Worcester and Enstone on that day and be sure to be at Enstone time enough to be at farthest at Tetworth on Thursday morning next. Tetworth Sunday evening 15th July, 1787. Let Morris know that in about a fortnight I intend calling on him on my way to or from the north of Oxfordshire. When at Enstone he will put you in the way to Woodfordbridge by keeping the hedge on your left hand till you come to the fford. When over the fford, keep the hedge on your right hand thus and turn to the right hand with that same hedge still on your right hand till you come to a gate. When through the gate, you will have a hedge on your left hand, till you come to a little furze ground, follow the road across that ground which will bring you to a great road, cross that great road directly athert. You will then have a hedge on your right hand, which keep till you come down to the Mill. Cross the water and lean to the hedge on your left hand which will bring you up to Great Tew Townend. Our house on your left hand go strait down the town till you come to a road that turns at right angles to the left hand, follow that road till you come to the great pool head and when over the head of the pool, go strait up the hill and pursue the road till it brings you out at a gate, then you will cross the turnpike road from Chipington to Dedington, pursue that road northward through the bushy down hill, will bring you to Swerford brook, continue that road will bring you to Wiggington town's end, leave the houses on your right hand still going northward will bring you to Wigington heath; upon the heath nether incline to the right hand nor the left, but still keep northward will bring into the inclosures belonging to Swailiffe, and on the left hand you here pass a Barn, pursue that road which will incline to the left which will bring you to Swailiffe Grange formerly and I believe now is a dog kennel, the road inclines then to the right hand which will bring you to Swailiffe as far as the Church. Enquire your road to Shutford. Then enquire your way to Shutford Gate which leads into Alkerton inclosure. You here then have a great straight north that will bring you the road from Banbury to Alkerton. When there turn at right angles to your left hand will bring you Alkerton.