to Rych: "The King considers the Duke's hesitation (regarding the surrender of Ewelme and Donnington) ingratitude and unkindness. . . . Touching the decay of Ewelme and Donnington, the decay is evident and great sums would be needed for their repair. At Donnington the house is in decay and Mr. Fetiplace, the keeper, has destroyed the deer and game and wasted the woods. The King expects that the Duke will part with the reversions friendly and freely remembering what benefits have been conferred upon him, and Rych is to be plain with the Duke, and councils him not to give the King cause for jealousy or mistrust, and he had best write liberally to the King." Previously, on the 24th July, Rych writes to the King that he had moved the Duke to grant the reversions; and then follows some miserable hucksterage over a dead man's goods for a fortnight before the King had sent to the block a once trusted friend, the martyr for his faith, Sir Thomas More—and now adds Rych, the Duke desires that you will not grant any of Sir Thomas More's lands lying about Chelsea as he wishes to have the house and land adjoining as part recompence for certain reversions. The end of the business was that the King purchased of the Duke the manors of Ewelme, Donnington, Hooknorton and others, and in July, 1536, granted to Lord Sands and to Thomas Wriothesley the office of Constable of Donnington Castle, keeper of the park and deer, with the herbage and pannage, also the office of Master of the Almshouse with fees as enjoyed by Walter Walshe or Ed. Fetiplace.

(To be continued.)

HURLEY.—Whilst Newlock Weir was being re-made in 1882 the blade of a bronze sword was found in the Thames. It is 13 inches in length and 1½ inches in breadth at the hilt—its broadest part. There are, at the hilt, two rivet holes in the metal which were used for affixing the handle. The blade is sharply pointed and is slightly ribbed on both sides. After the palæolithec and neolithic ages in this country, bronze succeeded. Iron, which succeeded bronze, must have been in use in South Britain—we are told—not later than the 4th or 5th century before Christ; and, by the 2nd or 3rd century before Christ the employment of bronze had practically ceased. The Thames, which hereabouts in Saxon days formed the southern boundary of that great kingdom of the Heptarchy and known as Mercia, and the northern boundary of the kingdom of Wessex, must ever have been a tribal frontier; and the sword may have been a relic of some river fight between the Celts on this side of the Thames and the Celts on the other side, at a period so remote from the present time as to be almost incalculable. Thus, this blade is between two thousand and two thousand five hundred years old.—F. T. WETHERED, Hurley Vicarage, May 28th, 1898.