



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.

LINES CUT ON A BEECH TREE ON "SINODUN HILL."—The late Mr. Mowat, of Pembroke College, some twenty ago gave me a MS. copy of these lines, which I gathered he had himself made some time previously when the letters were legible. He was a very careful transcriber, and the pages of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal are indebted to his labours as regards the Domesday Survey. The copy printed in your last number agrees very fairly verbatim et literatim with Mr. Mowat's transcription, but in one particular I think it may be worth while to point out the variation.

After the line :—

"In misty distance see the barrow heave "
instead of—

"There lies forgotten lonely Cwichelm's grave,"

Mr. Mowat reads

"There lies forgotten lonely *Cutchelmsleawe*."

The name of the so-called barrow is found variously spelt. It is reasonable to suppose that the earliest is the more correct. We have it in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle under the year 1006 Cwiclmes-hlœw (with variations in Chronicle D of Cwichelmes and in E of Cwicchelmes). We have it again amongst the original Charters in the Cottonian Collection (Aug. A. II. 15), and in the early copy of the Abingdon Charters (Claud B. VI. fol. 96) exactly the same. Florence of Worcester, writing early in the twelfth century, also copies the earlier reading of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle; while Henry of Huntingdon copies the reading of the D. MS.

As is common with medieval writers and historians, a name gets variously spelt, and so Matthew Paris writes of the place as "qui lingua Anglorum Quichelmeshlawe usque hodie dicitur," and Robert of Gloucester also in the 13th century writes, "And so aboute Quychelmesley, and so in many toune." Several other spellings might readily be found.

In more recent times it has come to be spelt "Cuckhamsley," though in the Ordnance Map of 1830 (following probably the local pronunciation), the name is engraved Scutchamfly Barrow. No doubt many variations might be found

between the two. But the point is, how can the author of the lines contrive to make it rhyme with "heave." Possibly he saw it written *hleaue* and took the liberty to read the "u" as a "v." The reading of "grave" is ingenious and gets nearer to a rhyme, but still I would prefer to take Mr. Mowat's reading as the more correct one.

No other variation occurs except that in line 15 Mr. Mowat reads "under" instead of "yonder," and he has taken the pains to put in an apostrophe instead of the vowels in the words lab'ring, shelt'ring, and form'd.

I remember the inscription when it was fairly legible, but the last time I saw it, it was very difficult to decipher at all.—JAMES PARKER, Turl, Oxford, Nov. 4th, 1898.

Mr. Henry J. Hewett writes to say that the lines were composed and carved by the late Mr. Joseph Tubb, of Warborough Green. He did the work in his leisure time on occasional summer evenings in 1844 and 1845. There are discrepancies between the MS. now in possession of Mr. Ben Tubb, of Brightwell, Bucks, and the lines on the tree, which are due to the inscriber occasionally leaving the MS. behind him, and cutting out a line from memory. Mr. Hewett kindly sends a copy of the MS., and we notice that instead of Chwichelm's grave" it reads "Cwichelm's cleve," and instead of "Within that field where lies the grovelling herd," a far better line is given, "And yonder, far, where browse the lowing herd." The other discrepancies are not very important.—EDITOR.

BRITISH AND ROMAN REMAINS.—You will be interested to hear that I can find traces of British and Roman foundations on my farm at Willington, and fragments of British, Roman and Saxon pottery on nearly all the fields. The other day I found near the Romano-British Cemetery about a quarter of a mile from Pearith's Farm some more fragments of very rare black pottery like I found on North Field Farm. I see they have a scrap of the same ware in the Museum at Reading, found at Silchester. Dr. Stevens says the scroll is Roman design, and contains the Lotus. It is similar to very hard Samian only black, and its extreme hardness is due he believed to its colour, as the colouring matter, Carbon, would render it hard. Some are fluted, some with very fine lines and small dents, and some with the Lotus and scroll which is very fine. In digging gravel near my house on the banks of the Thames I found traces of Roman foundations in the gravel, but nearly all the stones have been removed. We found a quantity of broken Roman pottery and a knife, a coin of Constantine the younger. With the broken pottery we found some fine coloured powder, like India red. I believe we could find Roman foundations all along the banks of the Thames at Wittenham, where it is high enough to be above the flood.—HENRY J. HEWETT, Willington, Long Wittenham, Abingdon.

BRUDENELL TOMB AT STOKE MANDEVILLE.—Mr. Charles Strachey's action in the praiseworthy effort of saving from destruction the tomb described in our last number has been crowned with success. Lord Ailesbury, the representative of the Brudenell family, has made the necessary arrangements for the removal of the monument from the old deserted church to the new church in the same parish, where it will be free from the attacks of Vandals and damage by the weather. We congratulate Mr. Strachey on this satisfactory result of his endeavours.