



Reviews.

A RECORD OF THE REDES, OF BARTON COURT, BY COMPTON READE (HEREFORD, JAKEMAN AND CARVER, 1899).—To trace out the ramifications of a family line is indeed an exciting and delightful task, and we doubt whether there is a single man of education in England who is not interested in his pedigree, and who does not desire to know what manner of men his forefathers were. But not every one has such a long and intricate task before them as Mr. Compton Reade when he began to write the above learned work. The Reades have spread their branches widely, and left their mark on many a page of history. They have been closely connected with Berkshire and Oxfordshire for many centuries. John Rede, of Checkendon, was M.P. for Oxon in 1388 and founded the Boarstal line. Edmund Rede served as Sheriff for Oxon in 1438, and William Rede was Mayor of Reading in 1452 and M.P. for the Borough in 1453. Barton Court was the ancestral home of the family for many generations, Thomas Rede being the founder of that branch, who acquired the Manor together with the ancient palace of the Abbots of Abingdon, and rests with many of his family in the Rede aisle of St. Helen's Church, Abingdon. The family is of royal descent. The Northumbrian Redes owe their origin to Cairbre Riada who established the kingdom of Dalriada on the west coast of Scotland, and nine sovereigns of this dynasty ruled in succession, and by marriage with Anne Hoo Thomas Rede, of Barton, was allied to the Kings of Scotland and had cousinship to Queen Elizabeth. Moreover, they are descended from John of Gaunt, from Edward I., from Malcolm Canmore, King of Scotland, from Welsh Kings, Henry III., Robert Bruce and Charlemagne—a right royal record truly! All this and much more the historian of the family plainly sets forth with abundant detail. Thomas Reade, High Sheriff of Berks in 1606, received the honour of knighthood. By the custom of the manor he was bound to entertain royalty whenever the King came to Barton, and King Charles I. on several occasions enjoyed the hospitality of the Reades. Barton House

must have been a noble mansion, and was unfortunately destroyed during the civil war; an account of its destruction is given in the volume. Sir Thomas was taken prisoner, but subsequently made his peace with the Parliament and died in 1650. Sir John Reade, of Brocket Hall, Herts, was created a Baronet in 1642 and granted a fresh patent of baronetcy by Cromwell in 1656, for which he received a pardon from Charles II. Yet another baronetcy was granted to the family, Sir Compton Reade, of Beedon and Barton and of Shipton Court, being the fortunate recipient in 1663. Sir George Compton Reade is the present holder of the title. It is impossible for us to follow in our limited space the very numerous branches of the family, the Ipsden, Brocket, Boarstal, Marcham and many other lines, not omitting the American representatives of the Reades. Many of them have distinguished themselves greatly in their country's service and left their mark on the pages of history. One of the family was Chief Justice of England and guardian of Henry VIII. In recent times Charles Reade, the distinguished author of the charming books "The Cloister and the Hearth" and "Masks and Faces," has conferred honour on the family. This work is a monument of careful and persevering research, and is full of graphic sketches of family history. We congratulate the author most heartily on the result of his laborious toil. The book is beautifully printed and is adorned with several good illustrations of family portraits.

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THE PARISH AND CHURCH OF GODALMING, BY S. WELMAN.
(London, Elliot Stock.) It is seldom that the fabrics of an ancient Church receives such exhaustive treatment as is here bestowed upon that of Godalming. Its author is evidently a painstaking antiquary, and has produced a very handsome and interesting volume. Not much is told us about the Parish apart from the Church, so the title is a little misleading, but the Church contains so many points of remarkable interest and the story is told so pleasantly and graphically that we cannot blame the author for confining his attention to the ecclesiastical history of the place he knows so well. The Church dates from the eleventh century, but it has unfortunately been heavily "restored" in 1879, and the Saxon chancel arch was most barbarously removed and a modern arch substituted. The admirable sketches and drawings which this volume contains assist us much in following the history of the building. We see it in its

pre-Norman condition, the Norman work in the transepts, the early English Church with its nave aisles, chantry aisles and broached spire ; the fourteenth century Church and subsequent alterations. There is an interesting chapter on the Vicars of Godalming, a rather scanty supply of extracts from the Parish Registers which contain few unusual entries, and other chapters which will be read with interest. Unfortunately the book has no index.

The Silchester Excavations.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON
ARCHÆOLOGICAL JOURNAL."

DEAR SIR,—The tenth Report of the Silchester Excavation Fund has been issued, and the results of last season's labours have been exhibited in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries. These are no less important and interesting than those which the work of former years has disclosed, and in due time they will be deposited in the Reading Museum. The people of Reading have hardly begun to realise the priceless value of the collection which has been placed in their midst, and by their subscriptions show little appreciation of the treasures bestowed upon them by the Society of Antiquaries. The gentlemen who devote so much time and labour in the conduct of the excavations feel very much the apathy of the people of Reading in this matter. Subscriptions are much needed, and I trust that many more will come forward with liberal contributions to enable the Society of Antiquaries to carry on the work which benefits so largely the town of Reading.

Yours faithfully,

ANTIQUARY.