



## Notes and Queries

RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

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*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.*

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### Notes.

ANCIENT WEAPONS FOUND NEAR WARBOROUGH, OXON.—We read in history that a battle was fought at Bensington between Offa King of Mercia and Cenwulph King of Wessex, in which the former was victorious. It is probable that this struggle took place in the upper part of that wide field which is bounded by the parishes of Warborough, Newington, Berrick and Bensington. Though the locality of this particular battle cannot be indicated with certainty yet there is evidence to prove that a fierce encounter occurred in the neighbourhood. In a small field, traditionally called Battle Green, which lies about two hundred yards east of Warborough Hill and in the direction of Ladybrook copse, Newington, some sixty years ago a labourer named Charles Eldridge found three ancient iron weapons :—a sword about two feet long, another shorter with a sharp point, and a kind of axe shaped liked a cleaver, but longer and narrower, with a tang for insertion in the handle. Besides these fragments of other weapons have been frequently picked up since. After lying in a shed for some years the axe or halberd was utilised as a garden scraper, but with the other relics at last disappeared without having been seen by any person competent to determine their character and degree of antiquity.—WILLIAM COZENS, Benson.

KNIGHTS OF THE ROYAL OAK.—I enclose a list of the names of those in Berkshire whom Charles II. proposed to create Knights of the Royal Oak. This list is taken from Le Neve's manuscript and gives the amounts per annum the proposed knights were returned at. It is curious to note how all these families in Berkshire are now extinct except one, viz., Blagrove. The order of the Royal Oak was an order of knighthood which Charles II. proposed to create and confer on those who had helped him during the time he was in exile, but was persuaded not to institute lest it should kindle jealousies and animosities which were smouldering or dying out.—Sir Compton Reade, Bt., £2000; Hungerford Dunch, Esq., £2000; George Purefoy, Esq., £3,000; Edmund Fettiplace, Esq., £700; John Whitwicke, Esq., £800; John Blagrove, Esq., £2,000; Colonel Richard Nevil, £1,500; John Freeman, Esq., £800; Sir St. John Moore, Knt., £1,500; John Elways, Esq., £700; Edward Keyte, Esq., £1,000; Richard Garrard, Esq., £1,000. In a future number of the Journal I propose to give some account of these families.—JOHN H. COPE, F.R.H.S., Member of Harleian Society, Sulhamstead Park, July, 1900.