



## A Tour Through Buckinghamshire.

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(Continued from page 85, Vol. 8).

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LITTLE LINFORD is on the other side of the river. The Church (St. Leonard, register 1757) was formerly a Chapel to Newport Pagnell. It contains monuments of the Knapp family of *Little Linford Hall*.

Two miles further the Branch railway finds its terminus at the market town of NEWPORT PAGNELL, which occupies the promontory between the Ouse, and the Ousel.

The name of *New Port* or *town* implies that there was an older Saxon settlement in the neighbourhood, and this settlement is probably to be found at Bunstye or Bonstye, about three miles to the N.W.

The second name comes from the family of Paganello. The daughter and heiress of William Fitz Ansculf married Sir Fulke Paganell, and the latter founded a Cluniac Priory at Tickford on the bank of the Ouse, which was at first a cell of the Monastery of St. Martin at Tours in France. In time the Paganells died out in an heiress, who married John De Somerie, the builder of a castle on the point of land, now occupied by the cemetery, between the two rivers. Nothing is left of either Castle or Priory. A modern house occupies the site of the latter, which, after the suppression of alien monasteries, was attached to Holy Trinity, York, another foundation of the Paganells. The Priory was one of those selected by Cardinal Wolsey as an endowment for his new Cardinal College at Oxford, but the King seized it, and it passed into lay hands. Dr. Henry Adkins, who was physician to Elizabeth, had possession of it about 1621.

Another ancient endowment at Newport is the Hospital of St. John on the bank of the Ousel near the iron bridge, which was

founded by one of the Somerie family, and restored and re-founded by Ann wife of James I., and is known as Queen Ann's Hospital. It has been lately rebuilt. A more modern Alms-house was erected by John Revis in 1763, and a still later one by Miss Charlotte Beaty in 1851.

The Church (St. Peter and St. Paul, register 1558) is a handsome building, and stands in a good position above the Ousel and in a central position in the town. The N. porch is Decorated and has a parvise over it. The S. porch is Early English and groined, and has an arcade. The upper part of the tower is Perpendicular.

The church-yard should be visited. Near the river is the square tomb of Thomas Abbot Hamilton, d. 1733, with a well-known inscription by the poet Cowper.

“ Pause here and think ; a monitory rhyme  
 Demands one moment of thy fleeting time.  
 Consult life's silent clock, thy bounding vein :  
 Seems it to say—‘ Health here has long to reign ? ’  
 Hast thou the vigour of thy youth ? an eye  
 That beams delight : a heart untaught to sigh ?  
 Yet fear. Youth, oft times healthful and at ease,  
 Anticipates a day it never sees :  
 And many a tomb, like Hamilton's, aloud  
 Exclaims, ‘ Prepare thee for an early shroud. ’ ”

In the new portion on the site of the castle is a monument to the Bull family. Dr. William Bull was a well-known pastor of the Independent Meeting, and a great friend of Cowper. The latter wrote a portion of the inscription on the monument in the Meeting-house. Dr. Bull founded an Academy for the education of Non-conformist Ministers in 1780. It was attached to the Meeting-house on the S. side of the High Street at the W. end of the town.

The founder of this Independent Meeting was John Gibbs, who was Vicar of the parish but was ejected for non-conformity in 1660. He remained Minister of this congregation until his death in 1699. Gibbs had a great controversy in the parish Church, in 1647, with another Newport man, Richard Carpenter, on the subject of infant baptism. Carpenter changed from the Anglican to the Roman Church and *vice versa* five times in the first half of the XVII. century.

There are remains of the Academy founded by Dr. Bull, and of the Old Meeting House which was built in the time of Gibbs. The Minister's house faces the street. The Students' rooms were approached from the yard which is entered by a gateway. Many of

the rooms and the dining-hall have been pulled down. The old front door, with a curious knocker, remains beneath a portico. What is left is a rambling old house now forming the back part of the Manse. Some of the rooms are panelled and have good chimney pieces.

The Meeting house, rebuilt a few years ago, stands in the centre of the yard. Within are tablets removed from the old building. Amongst them is that to the Memory of John Gibbs, who is however buried near the S. door of the Chancel of the parish Church. There are also those to Dr. William Bull, with the inscription by Cowper, to his son William Palmer Bull, and to his grandson Josiah Bull, all of them successively Pastors of the Meeting.

The vault of the Bull family is behind. The pulpit of the Old Meeting stood above it. On the W. side of the yard is the barn used as the original Meeting house by Gibbs, before the Old Meeting was built. Joining on to it are portions of the Old Meeting, vestry, organ loft, and other buildings preserved as Memorials of the past, and used as Sunday Schools and for other purposes.

Humphrey Gainsborough was appointed Minister in 1739. He was a brother of the Painter, and was a mechanical genius and given to scientific experiments.

Newport Pagnell was a place of importance in the Civil Wars. In 1643 Sir Lewis Dyve of Bromham Hall, Bedfordshire, Sir John Digbey of Gayhurst, and Colonel Urrey, laid in stores and provisions for the purpose of making it a royalist garrison. The Parliament considered that Newport was a post a great deal too near to the Associated Counties to be allowed to remain in the hands of the enemy; and accordingly the Earl of Essex, Skippon, and Sir Samuel Luke, the famous Squire of Cople, Bedfordshire, the Hudibras of Butler's poem, were sent with a strong force to take possession of it. The royalists however retreated to Oxford without showing fight, and the Parliamentarians marched in and completed the fortifications which the King's men had begun, and drew a line across the base of the triangle on which the town stands between the Ouse and the Ousel. Skippon and Sir Samuel Luke remained in command, and the latter is said while he was governor to have occupied a house on the Green. Parliament voted £1,000 a month for the expenses of the garrison, and levies of men were made, especially in Bedfordshire. It seems almost certain that John

Bunyan, then a mere lad, was amongst these men. He certainly served in the Army in his youth, and at no other time in his life can he have been one of the 'press'd men,' for we know the whole history of his manhood.

It was at this time also that the eldest son of Oliver Cromwell died of small-pox at Newport, and about the same period, 1644, George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends, was residing here for some months at an Inn near cannon corner, called the 'Waggon and Horses.'

Lewis Atterbury, brother of Bishop Francis Atterbury, and son of the Rector of Willen, founded a Charity School for Girls at Newport, which is supported by a charge of £10 on estates left by him.

Harley, Bishop of Hereford, who was deprived of his See for marrying, was born at Newport. He was a strong Protestant of the days of Edward VI.

Arthur Annesley who had to do with the Restoration was created Baron Annesley of Newport Pagnell in 1661. His ancestor Robert Annesley had settled at Newport just before the dissolution of Monasteries, and received a share of the spoil as administrator of Abbey lands.

On the N. side of the Ouse opposite Newport Pagnell, is LATHBURY nearly surrounded by the river which here makes a large bend.

Lathbury House was in the XVII. century the residence of the Andrewes family. The house, which was built in the reign of James I. by Sir William Andrewes, has been pulled down, and another was built about 100 years ago. The Symes family afterwards occupied Lathbury by marriage of the daughter of the last Andrewes. This lady was a strong Jacobite and lived separated from her husband, Mr. Symes, in the Old house. She was there in 1745 when the Duke of Cumberland marched through Newport on his way to oppose the Pretender. There was at the time a bridge across the river into Lathbury park, and the Duke wished to take his soldiers across by this bridge instead of by the public one lower down, and accordingly sent for the keys. A message was brought back that Mrs. Symes was at her town house in Great Ormond Street and had taken the keys with her. The Duke waited two hours and then broke down the gates, and his men as they marched through the park cut down the trees and hedges. The old lady as it turned out was at home the whole time.

The Church (All Saints register 1690) which is in the park, has Norman work in the lower part of the tower. There are also Norman capitals with curious carvings to the pillars on the S. side of the nave. There are remains of fresco paintings over the chancel arch and in other places, and consecration crosses. The Church was restored 1869.

The marble pavement in the chancel was given by Miss Margaret Andrewes, a young lady of 14, who d. 1680 from the effects of chill caught while walking one evening in the garden. She bequeathed what property she had of her own for the poor, and for the purpose of laying down this pavement. The virtues of the young lady may be read in the inscriptions which occupy many of its flags.

The Lathbury bridge was purchased for the public in 1757. Mrs. Symes had previously charged a sum of 5/- for its use when the lower road leading across the meadows from the other bridge was rendered dangerous in flood time.

*(To be continued.)*

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## The Church Plate of Berkshire.

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**A**MONG the papers which were left by the late Rev. E. R. Gardiner, whose death is so much deplored, were some notes on the Church Plate of Berkshire, which Mrs. Gardiner has kindly sent us for publication. It will be remembered that Mr. Gardiner and Mr. A. J. Dasent some years ago commenced the task of compiling an Inventory of these precious objects, but their labours were never finished. It is hoped that now we may be able to proceed with the undertaking, and that ere long a complete volume will be published on the subject. We would ask for the kind co-operation of the Parochial clergy throughout the County whose churches were not visited by Mr. Gardiner, and would request them to send to the Editor particulars of their plate. Perhaps they will be good enough to note *the leading characteristics, size and weight of the sacred vessels, and more especially the number and appearance of the various hall-marks, inscriptions, coats of arms, &c., on each piece.* It is advisable to take impressions of the hall-marks