



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.

CLOTH HALL, NEWBURY.—We are glad to see that this old Hall has been opened after its restoration. Want of space prevents us from giving an account of the proceedings.

CURIOUS CHARITY AT WEST HANNEY.—A curious old charity exists at this village, concerning which a law-suit has just been concluded. The report of the learned registrar, Mr. Jotcham, which must have been compiled with much labour, we hope to publish in our next number.

AMONG the articles which will appear in the *January* number of the *Genealogical Magazine* will be the following:—"The English Montmorencies," "The Blake Family Records," "The Pedigree of Amy Robsart," by Philip Sydney, and "The Kemp Family."

The Antiquary for *January* will contain among others the following articles:—"Some Shropshire Parish Registers," by Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher; "The Devil's Arrows, near Boroughbridge," by A. D. H. Leadman; "The Beast Fable," by Isabel S. Robson; and "The Bingley Font," by A. L. Fryer.

FAMILY OF SHERWOOD OF DRAYTON, &C., BERKS, A.D. 1570—1902.—Mr. Tudor Sherwood has compiled the descents of this old Berks family, and gives a list of his authorities and proofs. This is a good example of a single-sheet pedigree, and we would point out the convenience pedigrees of this form and size offer for purposes of reference, giving "chapter and verse" for all the statements contained in them. It is also important to use hand-made paper for pedigrees which are meant to be preserved. It is to be feared that much of the ordinary paper produced now-a-days will not last many years. Mr. Sherwood will be happy to exchange his pedigree for any other English Pedigree, printed or MS., that he does not already possess. His address is 50, Beecroft Road, Brockley, London, S.E.

RADNAGE CHURCH, BUCKS.—This Church is in the greatest need of restoration. The roof of the tower, which stands between the chancel and the nave, is in a dangerous condition. The timbers of the roof of the nave are very seriously decayed. The doors and windows, so far from excluding the air, admit almost as much of the cold blasts of these exposed hills as they keep out. The plaster of the walls is bulged and discoloured. The seats are for the most part old and rickety, and afford no accommodation for kneeling. All the furniture and appointments are poor and mean, unworthy of the beautiful architecture of the Church, which the piety of the Knights Templar raised and dedicated to the honour and service of God in the thirteenth century. £100 is sorely needed at once.

EPISCOPAL RESIDENCES OF THE BISHOPS OF SALISBURY.—I see in the *Archæological Journal*, just issued, a Paper on "The Diocesan History of Berkshire." In that paper I notice that the County of Berks was in 909 A.D. transferred from Winchester Diocese to Ramsbury, with the *Bishop's House at Sonning*; and in 1058 the Diocese of Ramsbury was united with that of Sherborne and the Episcopal seat was, for both Dioceses, fixed at *Sherborne*.

Whether the House at Sonning was ever used as the Episcopal residence I am not quite clear. I should like to have more evidence; no doubt there was a house belonging to the See there, but whether the Bishop lived in it is not so clear. Further, the Episcopal seat of both Dioceses—Ramsbury and Sherborne—"was fixed at *Sherborne*, 1058." No doubt that was so, but with reference to both points—the house at Sonning and the house at Sherborne—it may not be uninteresting to note that the Palace of Ramsbury was used long after the union of the two Dioceses, as late in fact as 1315 and 1389, i.e., after the seat was removed from Sherborne to Sarum in 1075. The first Resident Rector of Binfield, Thos. de Thorp, was presented to the Living by the Abbot of Cirencester in 1315, and the document embodying the injunction of the Court, &c. (now in the Salisbury Registry), and the name of the Institution is as follows:—"On the 8th of November, 1315, at *Ramsbury* the Abbot and Conventual Body of the Monastery of Cirencester presented Thos. de Thorp, &c." Again, John Staverton was instituted 26th of June, 1389, and the document runs thus:—"On the 26th of June, at *Ramsbury*, a certain Royal Presentation, together with two Briefs was made, on the reception of which the Rev. Father the Lord Bishop of Salisbury, admitted and instituted as Rector of Benefield one John Staverton." It seems, therefore, that the house which had been the Palace of the Bishops of Ramsbury was used both when the Palace was fixed at Sherborne and at Sarum. Possibly it may have been used as a sort of country house of the Bishops; as I conjecture Sonning was used, and some institutions were made there when it was a more convenient locality than Sherborne or Sarum. The Document relating to the Institution of Thos. de Thorp is curious.—Yours sincerely, E. SAVORY.

I should like to know when the Palace at Ramsbury ceased to belong to the Diocese?—E.S.

The Document relating to the presentation of Thos. de Thorp to Binfield in 1315 runs as follows:—

"On the 8th Nov. at *Ramsbury* the Abbot and Conventual Body of the Monastery of Cirencester presented Thos. de Thorp, Clerk, to the Church of

Benefeld, vacant, and belonging to their Presentation, who forthwith prays for letters of inquiry of the Archd. of Berks and his official, in the usual Form ; and on the 6th of Dec. at Potterne, the said Thomas, who had been so presented, bryht back the letters of inquiry, testifying in due course, together with the Register of the Court of Recovery in the suit of Presentation of the Abbey of Cirencester to the said Church, versus the Queen of England, of which the true tenor is forthwith apparent after the prohibition which follows

BENEFELD.

16th Dec. at Wodeford, a noble woman, Margaret, by grace of God Queen of England, presented to the Church of Benefeld, alleged to be vacant, Mr. Adam de Eglesfeld, Clerk, who exhibited the Royal Prohibition as follows, and concerning the Advowson of which a suit has commenced in our Court between Margaret, Queen of England and the Abbot of Cirencester, until it has been decided, in the same Court, to which of them the Advowson belongs. Witness my Hand at Kingsdipston, 10th day of Nov. in the 9th year of our reign : who, the said Adam, obtained Letters of inquiry directed to the Archd. of Berks and his official.

He (i.e. Adam) did not follow up the suit.

Edward D.G. King of England, to the Venble. Bishop of Sarum, health. Know that the Abbot of Cirencester in our Court, before our Justiciaries at Westminster has recovered his Presentation against Margaret, Queen of England, to the Church of Benefeld, by default of the Queen herself, and therefore we command you, notwithstanding the prior claim of the said Queen, that, upon the Presentation of the said Abbot to the said Church, you admit a fit person. Witnesse W. de Hereford, at Westminster, on the 1st day of Dec. in the 9th year of our Reign.

The document concludes as follows :—" This certificate having been read the aforesaid, by which it appeared that Mr. Thomas, who had been presented to the Church of Benefeld, had received the first Tonsure, which constituted him a Clerk ; the Lord Bishop on the same day, Divine Service having been celebrated in the Chapel of his Manor of Potterne, promoted Mr. Thomas to the order of Acolyte, and subsequently, having duly weighed all the circumstances, on that same day, he admitted him to the Church of Benefeld, on the presentation of the Abbey and Convent of Cirencester, and canonically instituted him Rector of the same, and thereupon he obtained Letters of Institution and Induction in the usual Form."

Queries.

DUKE STREET, READING.—Is anything known of the origin of this name ? Is any particular " Duke " signified ? It is in Speed's Map of the town.—J. C. ROWELL, 3, Duke Street, Reading.