

share the fate of other religious houses at the dissolution. Or if it had continued to be the property of the bishopric, the foundation of a new See for Oxfordshire in 1542 may have served as an occasion for seizing this manor and bestowing it upon a private owner.

Reviews.

"THREE CENTURIES OF NORTH OXFORDSHIRE," by Mrs. Sturge Henderson. We have studied this charming book with the greatest pleasure, and congratulate Mrs. Sturge Henderson upon her delightful historical sketch of a district very little known which abounds in interest for the antiquary and lover of nature. The history of Oxfordshire has been so much overshadowed by that of its great capital, that little has been written about the old towns and villages within the borders of the county. This book does much for the northern part of Oxfordshire, concerning which Mrs. Henderson writes so gracefully and so well. She tells stories of the grand old manor-houses, than which none in England are finer or more full of historical interest. She tells of the annals of Chastleton, Cornwell and Shipton, and other beautiful old houses, and calls back from their graves the old courtiers and warriors and squires who lived in them. We follow her to Wychwood Forest and see the wealth of wild flowers which flourish there. We keep company with James I. when he comes to Burford, and with Charles I. and his Queen at Enstone, with Lord Falkland the Blameless and his Lady, and linger with her in the walled garden at Great Tew, that haunt of ancient peace, and hear the sad story of her woes which ends in the song-like triumphant echo of her voice in our ears, "I have had my portion from the first, no woman more." The Civil Wars loom large in these pages. The battles of Chalgrave Field and Edgehill, the headquarters of the King at Oxford, the store of ammunition in the cloisters at New College, the drilling on Port Meadow, the marching of the Parliamentary army through portions of the county, which made the life of the villages full of incident—these and much more in the book help us to realise the condition of the country in that fateful time. But it is the sketches of the lives of the villagers that this volume has its chief charm. The old world beliefs and superstitions of the 17th and 18th centuries are duly chronicled. The curious seventeenth century "receipts and secrets in Physick and

Chirurgery," the science and nature teaching are remarkable. Thus we read that the migratory birds were believed to fly away to the moon when they left us in the autumn, and an observer with a telescope was able to verify this strange conception. Witchcraft flourished and the witches suffered. The illustration which we are able to give by the kind permission of the authoress and her publisher (Mr. Blackwell, Oxford), shows the entrance to Chastleton House, where Arthur Jones retreated after the execution of Charles I. Afterwards he raised a small force and joined Charles II. just before the Battle of Worcester. His wife had a thrilling adventure. Her husband returned home after the defeat of the Royalists, and the Parliamentary troopers soon followed him. They searched the house, but Arthur Jones was safe in a secret chamber. The troopers demanded food and hospitality for the night, and by drugging the wine Mistress Jones effected the escape of her husband who rode away on the steed of one of the troopers. The walls of this old house, built in 1603, could tell strange tales. It is interesting to note that the estate was bought by the family of Jones from Robert Catesby, the chief mover in the Gunpowder Plot. Space forbids us from following all the charming annals of country life which are recorded in this volume. It is a book to read and to enjoy, and will especially charm the inhabitants of the Shire which has found so graceful an historian.

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"SAINT BERIN, THE APOSTLE OF WESSEX," by the Rev. J. E. Field, Vicar of Benson (S.P.C.K.) Mr. Field has achieved a great work in recording the life of St. Berin to whose mission our forefathers in this part of England owe their Christianity. No one was more fitted for the task of writing this biography than Mr. Field, who has for many years lived near the scenes of the Saint's labours, and in addition to a careful study of all the authorities upon the subject, has collected all the popular traditions current in the district around Dorchester, which throw light upon the legends related by old romantic chronicles. The book contains graphic descriptions of the places associated with St. Berin, his cathedral church at Dorchester, Cholsey, Benson or Bensington, Churn Knob, Blewbury, etc; the sketches of Anglo-Saxon life reveal to us very clearly the condition of the country in the 7th century, and the characters of St. Oswald, Cynigils, and other personages are admirably drawn. All that can be gathered and told about St. Berin will be found in this work, which is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the early ecclesiastical history of England.