



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.

BANNS PUBLISHED IN THE MARKET PLACE.—“1657. John Barlow and Susannah fluate both of the parish of White Waltham in this county of Berks having had their intended marriage published three Market dayes at New Winsor were here marryed according to the Act of Parliament Aprill 26th 1657.” The above extract shows the method in which Banns were published during the Commonwealth period.—LL. TREACHER.

FONT AT LAMBOURN.—We are very glad to hear that the Vicar has at last succeeded in restoring the old font to the church, whence it had been removed since 1850. The font is of massive type, cut from one stone, and has been thoroughly restored by Messrs. Pound, of Newbury. The work was somewhat difficult, as the font had for years been exposed in a garden near Marlborough, and used as a plant vase.

“THE RELIQUARY AND ILLUSTRATED ARCHÆOLOGIST,” edited by J. Romilly Allen, F.S.A. The ninth volume of this admirable Journal maintains its high reputation, and abounds in interesting matter. The illustrations throughout the number are remarkably good. There are articles on Sussex pottery, Roman Intrecci or interlacing patterns on sculpture at Rome, an admirable account of the Church of St. Mary, Reculver, on large bells, and numerous notes on Archæology. Amongst these Mr. Bedford Pim’s notes on Norman Fonts in Norfolk are especially interesting.

NEW METHOD OF TRANSCRIBING REGISTERS.—One great difficulty of transcribing registers is to get possession of them. To work at them in a cold vestry is a painful business. Few vicars will consent to allow them to be taken home by the transcriber, and rightly so. I should not like to entrust the Registers of which I am custodian to anyone. The risk of loss by fire or carelessness is too great. Mr. Llewelyn Treacher, of Twyford, has devised a most excellent plan, which is worthy of the attention of all transcribers. He is an expert photographer, and with great ease can photograph page after page of these Registers in the Church. He takes the photographs home, develops them, and then with a strong magnifying glass can read them better than he can the original. The Index to the Ruscombe Registers, which will be published in this Journal, is the result of this method of working, which we heartily commend to all who are engaged in transcribing old documents.

"BOOKS FATAL TO THEIR AUTHORS," by P. H. Ditchfield (Elliot Stock). The publisher is re-issuing the Book-Lovers' Library at the small cost of eighteen-pence a volume. This book, which obviously cannot be reviewed here, formed one of the series intended for the delectation of book-lovers, and in its present garb looks not amiss.

"THE ANTIQUARY."—The April number of this Magazine contains an article on TREASURE TROVE, which is especially valuable at the present time when the Treasury is inclined to press unduly the ancient law and to hinder collectors in the pursuit of their hobby. Some Essex Brasses illustrative of Stuart costume, a chapter on Mont St. Michel with excellent illustrations, and news and notes complete an important number.

LONG WITTENHAM.—Mr. Hewett informs us that fragments of cinerary urns are often found in Wittenham Church-yard, which points to the fact that it must have been a burying-place from a very early period before the introduction of Christianity into the country. The early preachers probably availed themselves of the sanctity attached to the spot, and then built the first Christian church. It is not unusual to find a barrow in or near a church-yard, as at Taplow; and it is interesting to note this instance of pre-Christian burial in the consecrated ground at Wittenham.—EDITOR.

DICK WHITTINGTON'S FATHER-IN-LAW.—On the wall of the north transept of Wantage Church a very fine brass may be seen, which was once in a recumbent position on the floor of the building. It shows the figure of a Knight whose head rests on his helmet, and his feet are on a lion. Part of the hilt of his sword has disappeared, but the brass in its present position is saved from further damage. Even as a record of the armour and accoutrements of the early fifteenth century this remarkable work of art would be of great value, for it is the effigy of Sir Ivo Fitzwarren, who died (as the inscription records) on September 6th, 1414. His crest was a swan between ostrich feathers, which he took from the circumstance of having served with the Duke of Gloucester (a descendant of the Bohuns) at the siege of Nantes. He was the son of Sir William Fitzwarren, whose statue lies beside that of his wife in the Chancel of the Church, a splendid example of the alabaster carving of the fourteenth century.

But Sir Ivo Fitzwarren was in his day a far more interesting personage than the records of him hitherto published in Wantage have revealed. He married Maud Dargentein, of the Herefordshire family, in which the office of Royal Cup-bearer was hereditary; and by her he had two daughters, of whom one, Alianor, survived him and became his heiress; the other, Alice, was married to Richard Whittington, son of Sir William Whittington, of Pauntley, near Newent, in Gloucestershire, who married (in about 1356) Joan Mansell, daughter of the Sheriff of that county for 1313, and widow of Thomas Berkeley, of Cubberley. The eldest of Sir William's sons died young. The second, Robert, inherited the Gloucestershire estates, on which his descendants are living to this day. The third went to London as soon as he was twenty; and, in spite of the fact that his father was outlawed in 1359 (possibly for having married a widow without the special license then necessary), he made his way so quickly in the mercer's business he took up that by 1379 he is recorded in the City archives as having contributed 5 marks to a City Loan. His business evidently prospered in high quarters, for he is known to have sold velvets and damasks to the Earl of Derby, afterwards Henry IV.; and, after filling various important offices, he was appointed Lord Mayor by the King on June 8th, 1397, Adam Banne having died in his term of office. In that October the citizens elected him for the

ensuing twelve months. In 1397-8 he was again Lord Mayor, and in 1406-7 he held that proud position for the third time, an honour unequalled since his day. His prosperity enabled him on several occasions to make loans to royalty, which was usually prepared to consider ready money kindly in those troublous times; and as much as £6,400 was the total of one transaction, for which Richard Whittington had his security ready to hand in the customs and subsidy of the ports of Calais and London, in both of which cities he was Mayor of the Staple and Collector. This combination of reiterated office, commercial success, and loans to royalty, so worked upon the popular imagination that legends of Dick Whittington and his Cat have become public property of every English Nursery since the fifteenth century. He was not so great a Mayor as several of his predecessors, but he was the last of the mediæval Lord Mayors before the Wars of the Roses; and, as his wife pre-deceased him, and was childless, he was able to devote a large fortune to public and patriotic purposes. He built Greyfriars Library, soon to be pulled down, on the north side of the great cloister of Christ's Hospital. He repaired St. Bartholomew's Hospital, which now desires to enlarge its boundaries on the same site. He improved and enlarged Guildhall itself. His executors were directed to rebuild Newgate Prison, which is to-day undergoing yet another restoration. He handed over Leadenhall to the Corporation of London. All these things are facts, even if his Cat and his hearing of Bow Bells be myths. And one of the facts that touched him most nearly was his marriage to Alice Fitzwarren, whose father's monument is to-day in Wantage Church.—THEODORE ANDREA COOKE.

READING ABBEY, fine engraving by Buck, mounted in oak and gold, date 1735. Size 45 x 25 inches, rare, 3 guineas.—W. MARSDEN, Sheffield.

Queries.

INSCRIPTION ON BELL AT RUSCOMBE.—The following appears upon a Bell at Ruscombe: "Sancte Clete Or." Does this stand for "Sancte Clemente Ora?"—LL. TREACHER.

SOUTH STOKE.—Mr. James Finlay is seeking information with regard to this parish, and would be glad to receive some notes on the same from any of our readers. His address is Elmlea, South Stoke, Goring-on-Thames.

HERSEY FAMILY.—Can you oblige by any clue to Hercys of Nettlebed before 1586 and after 1666? I cannot discover whence the Herseys of Reading came in 1586, or those of East Hendred in 1554. In Bucks I have tried to trace the family before 1135. Hugh de Hersi had 1½ Knights' fee in Wingrave.—CHARLES HERSEY, 42, Dennington Park Road, West Hampstead, N.W.

PONTIFEX.—Can anyone tell me of any earlier mention of this name than John Pontifex, d. 1589, at West Wycombe?—CHARLES HERSEY.

BROUGHTON FAMILY.—I am trying to trace a branch of the "Broughtons" of Staffordshire, who settled in Berks about 1600. They entered themselves at the 1660 Visitation as "Broughtons of Wokingham." I have the entries in the Parish Registers of Wokingham, and also at Bucklebury, where some of them were living. Do you happen to have come across the name at all in your searches? If you have, and could give me any information, I should be very much obliged to you.—R. E. BROUGHTON, The Vicarage, Prestbury, Cheshire.