



## 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.

READING ABBEY.—The note with regard to the ruins of the Abbey, kindly sent by a Correspondent, has created much interest, and an enthusiastic antiquary wishes to make excavations on the spot and to trace the underground passage. As its entrance is in the roadway, under the arch of the Abbey Gate, we fear the Reading Corporation might create difficulties. The legend that the passage lead to Caversham and went under the river Thames is, of course, wildly improbable. The monks were very clever people, but it is extremely doubtful whether they could tunnel under the Thames, and anticipate the feat of Brunel. Underground passages still exist between Fawley Court and Henley.

"THE BERKSHIRE LADY."—Mr. Llewellyn Treacher, in his researches in Parish Registers, has discovered the following interesting entry in the Marriage Register of Wargrave :—

"1706, March 28. Benjamin Child, gent of Reading, and Frances Kenrick of ye same."

This is without doubt the marriage of the famous "Berkshire Lady" of the Ballad, who proposed in a somewhat forcible manner to marry the barrister, Benjamin Child, or to fight a duel with him. The marriage has always been supposed to have taken place at St. Mary's Church, Reading.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE RECORDS.—A curious discovery was made recently. In an iron box in one of the houses of the now destroyed Holywell Street, London, were found a number of old deeds, some nearly 600 years old, and several of them, ranging from 1433 to 1709, related to some property at Taplow. The London County Council came possessed of them, and generously handed them over to the Bucks County Council for preservation. Possibly we may hope to see some of them published in the Bucks Records.

ROMAN STATION AT STANFORD-IN-THE-VALE.—It is not generally known that there was a Roman settlement, probably a military station, near Stanford-in-the-Vale, Berks. The site, a low flat-topped hill, rising out of the plain

between Stanford and Faringdon, is called Chinnon Town, or the City, by the labourers of the district. There are no remains of walls as at Silchester, but numbers of coins, locally known as Chinnon bits, have been picked up here. They are mostly bronze or copper, but some described as white like a shilling, others as looking like a sovereign. There are evidences of pavements at no great depth, the plough being sometimes observed to glide along over smooth, hard surfaces, stones, and large bones have been turned up, and a labourer digging for stones some years ago unearthed an ancient steel-yard. The similarity of the name Chinnon to Chinnor in Oxfordshire, where the Prætorian Way or Ikenild Street enters that county, suggests the probability of both places having retained their Roman appellations. The village of East Garston (corrupted from the Saxon Esgar's Town), near Lambourne, is still called by its Roman name Argus-stone, shortened to Argus'on by the natives.—Mrs. STEVENSON, Oldfield, Balking.

MR. G. L. APPERSON, I.S.O., author of *The Idler's Calendar*, is engaged on a new work entitled *Bygone London Life : Pictures of a Vanished Past*. It will deal more particularly with Old Time Restaurants and Coffee Houses, London Museums and similar subjects. It will be copiously illustrated by many curious drawings and will be published by Mr. Elliot Stock.

UNDER the title of *The Ancestry of Randall Thomas Davidson, D.D., a Chapter on Scottish Biography*, the Rev. Adam Phillips will shortly publish through Mr. Elliot Stock a history of the lineage of the Archbishop of Canterbury. It will be fully illustrated with portraits and photographs of the localities mentioned in the book.

BARKHAM.—The following Bond exists amongst the MSS. in the Reading Library :—"Edmund Heyford to Charles Boothe both of Barkham in the sum of £14 for which he sell to Charles Booth all that close or pydle of arrable land called or known by the name of Dotkins containing 2 acres." "No. 4. Confirmation of the above." Both dated 30th October, 1595.

## Queries.

On the eighth day of October, 1616, Richard Aldworth of Drayton, in the County of Berks, yeoman, and Edward Dawson of (unknown abode), in the County of Oxon, innholder, were sureties for the marriage-bond of Robert Aldworth, yeoman, and Elizabeth Fethorn (alias Faysthorne), both of Watchfield, Berks. I should be glad to identify any of the parties to this contract.—A. E. ALDORTH, Laverstock, Salisbury.

DRAYTON.—Can you tell me if there is in existence a "Terrier" of Drayton, Berks, or one of Steventon, Berks? My great-grandfather's great-grandfather was Edward May, of Drayton Mill, a miller, and I am endeavouring to trace his birth and marriage, at present without much success, as I regret to say the particular Church Registers are in a very indifferent state of preservation.—WALTER MAY, Elmley Lodge, Western Elms Avenue, Reading-on-Thames.