



# The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archæological Journal.

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## Gossip of an Antiquary.

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The Editor tells me that this, the first number of the Eleventh Volume of our Journal is so crowded with interesting matter, that I must curtail my gossip. This is an unkind reflection upon that part of the Magazine which I deem most interesting; but Editors are curious folk, and one has to put up with their eccentricities. But I must not omit to record the important announcement which has been made, that the British Archæological Association purposes to hold its 62nd Annual Congress in Reading, during the week commencing July 17th, and concluding on the following Saturday. The Mayor of Reading has kindly consented to give a Reception in the Town Hall on Monday, July 17th. Interesting excursions will be made each day, and valuable papers read during the evening meetings. Amongst the places visited will be Uffington and White Horse Hill, Wallingford, Abingdon, Newbury, Basildon House, Upton Court, Silchester and Aldermaston. A congress ticket, price one guinea, will admit a gentleman and lady to all the meetings of the congress free, and to the excursions at the same rate as that paid by the members of the Association. The official programme will be issued shortly.

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The Bucks Archæological Society is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation, and we hear something of an exhibition of antiquities to be held in the county, and other important functions, but details of these events have not yet been received.

A new volume of the Booklover's Library has just been issued, by Mr. Elliot Stock. It is entitled "Literary Blunders, a chapter in the history of human error," and written by the editor of the series, Mr. H. B. Wheatley, F.S.A. It is one of the most amusing books I know, full of remarkable instances of quaint blundering. He tells us of queer "ghost words" which have appeared in dictionaries, but are really misprints, of absurd etymologies, mis-quotations, Irish bulls. Then we can read of the blunders of authors, and their name is legion. Britton made Judge Jefferies preside over the trial of Charles I. Mr. Gladstone made Daniel walk unscathed in the burning fiery furnace. A future Lord Chancellor, when doing a little dramatic criticism for the *Morning Chronicle*, in reviewing *Romeo and Juliet* gave a sketch of the plot and a little wholesome advice to the author, recommending a curtailment in parts, so as to render it more suitable to the taste of a cultivated audience. Mis-prints, school-boys' blunders, foreigners' English, translators' blunders, all contribute to Mr. Wheatley's store of amusing anecdotes.

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Want of space prevented me from noticing in our last number the Rev. Geoffrey Hill's *Some consequences of the Norman Conquest* (Elliot Stock). This is not a book dealing with the great issues of the Norman Conquest as shown forth by Freeman and Stubbs, and other great historians. The author deals rather with the smaller consequences, some of which are of considerable importance, and none are devoid of interest. He tells us about the change in the population, the influx of French and Norman settlers, and the influence wrought by these migrations, of the safety from foreign invasion, the advantages of the silver streak, and the French abuse of England, a propensity on the part of our Gallic neighbours to which we have long been accustomed until the *entente cordiale* made all this right. I cannot see that the author has always satisfactorily traced the faults and blemishes of the English character to the advent of the Normans, such as the charges against the English of over-eating and over-drinking, or the inaccuracies of our writers and speakers, but his dissertations are always interesting. They abound with learned notes, the result of wide reading, and his remarks are not without the saving grace of humour.

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Our readers may be interested to know that in a forthcoming number of *The Studio* will appear a description of the old ceilings

taken from Walsingham House which has now entirely disappeared. It is written by the Editor of this Journal, and illustrated by plates taken from the excellent photographs of Mr. Walton Adams.

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## Proceedings of Societies.

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**BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.**—On February 8th, the President gave a very interesting lecture on the churches of Sparsholt and Childrey, which we hope to publish in our next number. The Mayor of Reading, M. J. Sutton, Esq., occupied the chair. Mr. Keyser also kindly entertained the members to tea.

On March 1st, Captain Henderson gave an able lecture on a tour in Northern France and Paris, illustrated by excellent lantern slides taken from his photographs. Lord Saye and Sele presided, and tea was kindly provided by the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Wyly.

Mr. Peachey will lecture on "Touching for the King's Evil," on April 6th, and the Annual Meeting will be held on May 4th, when Mr. Childs, Principal of University College, Reading, will lecture on "The site of Early Reading," a subject that will doubtless lead to some animated discussion.

