

assumed the Preaux Arms with the difference of tinctures reversed ; it may be that the Great Tew branch of the Preaux Family preferred a slight variation in their arms ; or it may be—and this is the most probable explanation—that the herald in taking hurried notes of the church monuments, accidentally reversed the tinctures in his description of the shield. But in any case, even with the tinctures reversed, the coincidence is too remarkable to be the work of chance. We may safely affirm that Alice the wife of John Wilcotes, Alice of the monumental brass, the “*Matronis speculum miseris dos, pacis amatrix*” was heiress of the de Prewses, and inheritress of their Manor of Great Tew.

---

## **Carmundzlea at Appleton, Berks.**

*By John Edward Field, M.A.,*

*Vicar of Benson.\**

---

**T**HE early records and traditions of Abingdon Abbey have come down to us in two beautiful manuscripts of the thirteenth century in the Cottonian Library in the British Museum.<sup>1</sup> They were edited under the title *Chronicon Monasterii de Abingdon* by the Rev. Joseph Stevenson under the direction of the Master of the Rolls in 1858. A large number of charters, some of them genuine and some of them doubtful or spurious, bestowing grants of land upon the Abbey, are incorporated into the work.

In the reign of Kinwin, or Centwin, King of the West Saxons, we are told, there was an under-King named Cissa ruling in Wiltshire and the chief part of Berkshire. Hean, the founder and first Abbot of Abingdon, “a man very rich and powerful and religious,” was nephew to Cissa ; and Cilla, elsewhere called Ceolwitha, was the sister of Hean.<sup>2</sup> From a document described as the Testament of

---

\* The writer desires to acknowledge much assistance from the Rev. W. Moore, M.A., Rector of Appleton.

1. MSS. Claud. B vi. and Claud. C ix. It will be convenient to refer to them as B and C.

2. *De Abbatibus Abendoniae* (MS. Cott. Vitell, A, 13), in *Abingdon Chron.* II. App. II. 268, 269.

Hean before he was made Abbot,<sup>8</sup> we learn that a portion of land in Bradfield had been given to him by the King and Queen, his parents, and this, together with other lands presently to be noticed, he gives to his sister if she survives him, and after her death they are to return to the Monastery which he is proposing to found near Bradfield.

Cilla's own inheritance was on the Thames at Helenstow<sup>4</sup> (where the town of Abingdon now stands), and she obtained the consent of her uncle Cissa to found a house of nuns at that place; but after her death, about the year 700, this house was removed elsewhere,<sup>6</sup> and eventually it came to an end.<sup>6</sup>

In the year 675 Cissa bestowed upon Hean a site for a monastery on the east side of the Thames,<sup>7</sup> and in the south of Oxfordshire,<sup>8</sup> presumably at Whitchurch or Goring in the district nearest to Bradfield. According to the treatise *De Abbatibus Abbendoniae*, Cissa had given land situated at Sevekesham which was afterwards called Abendun, and this was confirmed to Hean by Ceadwalla, the successor of Centwin, after Cissa's death.<sup>9</sup> Ceadwalla's grant is described as twenty hides at Abbendon.<sup>10</sup> But Hean, for whatever reason, put off founding the monastery. In 688 Ceadwalla died, and was succeeded by Ini, who annulled the grants made by his predecessor, and also took away from Hean the chief portion of his inheritance which he had assigned to the proposed monastery; but afterwards he relented and restored the lands, adding at the same time, as the Chronicle states, a further gift of 250 hides.<sup>11</sup> In a charter (contained only in MS. C.) probably executed about the year 689, Ini restores forty-five hides in Bradfield, Bestlesford (Basildon) and Streatley, which had previously belonged to Hean.<sup>12</sup> The Testament of Hean, already mentioned, which appears to be of the same date as this charter,<sup>13</sup> specifies forty-eight hides in Bradfield (presumably including those in Basildon and Streatley), fifty-five in Escesdune or Ashdown (which may reasonably be connected with the adjacent Ashampstead<sup>14</sup>), and also eighty-three hides in Ear-

3. *Abingdon Chron.* I. 13.

4. *De Abbatibus Abbendoniae* (as above), II. 269.

5. See *Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archaeological Journal*, X. 113.

6. *Abingdon Chron.* I. 8; II. 269, 270.

7. *Ibid.* I. 10. 8. *Ibid.* II. 269.

9. *Ibid.* II. 271. 10. *Ibid.* I. 126; compare I. 8, note 1.

11. *Ibid.* I. 9.

12. *Ibid.* I. 12; compare II. 498, note 4, and *Eng. Hist. Rev.* XX. 695, *The Beginning of Abingdon Abbey*.

13. *Eng. Hist. Rev.* XX. 696. 14. *Ibid.* 695.

mundeslea.<sup>15</sup> Another charter of Ini (contained only in MS. C.), spurious in its present form, but not without value, confirms the grant of the lands near Bradfield, together with eighty hides in Æaromundeslee.<sup>16</sup> There is yet another charter (found in both manuscripts), obviously spurious as it stands, but apparently composed of fragments of genuine charities clumsily put together, and attributed in MS. C. to Ceadwalla and in MS. B. to Ini. It grants to Hean the lands east of the Thames and a hundred hides in Bradfield (evidently the forty-five of the first charter and the fifty-five in Ashdown), and also 173 hides *near Abbendune*.<sup>17</sup> We should have expected to read here also of Earmundslea, but it looks as if the compiler has added together the 80 hides of Ini's charter and the 83 hides of Hean's Testament, and by an error the 163 has become 173.<sup>18</sup> In any case it appears that a very large tract of land about Abingdon was given to the Abbey, including the land of Cilla's original inheritance and including also that known as Earmundslea.

---

15. *Abingdon Chron.* I 13. 16. *Ibid.* I. 12.

17. *Ibid.* I. 10; compare II. 495-497, and *Eng. Hist. Rev.* XX. 694.

18. *Eng. Hist. Rev.* XX. 696.

(*To be continued.*)

---

## The Early History of Maidenhead Bridge.—An Historical Parallel.

By *E. H. Young.*

---

THOSE who have lately been investigating the rights and wrongs of Maidenhead Bridge and the Maidenhead Corporation, are no doubt well acquainted with the following fragment of their early history. But it may not be so well known to others who take an interest in the authentic history of the town.

In the year 1678 there were printed, under the *imprimatur* of (amongst others) the notorious Scroggs, the reports of Sir Edward Palmer, His Majesty's Attorney-General. The type is black-letter, and the language is the barbarous jargon of the 17th century lawyers'