



The Victorian County History of Berkshire.

ANGLO-SAXON REMAINS.

In his article on Anglo-Saxon remains Mr. Reginald T. Smith seems to have left nothing unnoticed which may be ascribed to this period, though we miss the Topographical list given in the other articles, which is very useful as a means of reference. It seems a pity, however, that this article is confined to antiquities only, for during this period we have a number of historical references to the County, which might well have been brought together at this place. Berkshire is also extremely rich in Charters of this date, most of which contain lists of the boundaries of the lands referred to. Some, no doubt, are forgeries, but many are unquestionably genuine ; and even in the case of those reckoned spurious, it is probable that the bounds have been correctly copied. These bounds are of very great interest, giving us much information as to earth-works and roads no longer existing, and as to the form and extent of the Saxon *vill*. The bounds of many have been identified with more or less precision by various local antiquaries, and the results in some cases published in these pages. A complete account of these documents would be of the greatest value to Archæologists dealing either with earlier or later periods.

ANCIENT EARTHWORKS.

To review one's own work seems out of place, and I must leave minute criticism to others. The part relating to the eastern half of the county is, I am fully aware, far from complete, and I believe there is another camp in Winkfield parish besides those that I have mentioned. The boundary dykes and other lesser earthworks are very numerous, and so far only the more important have been mentioned ; I am constantly adding to the list, and give below some few that I have noted during the last few months.

UNCLASSIFIED EARTHWORKS.

WEST ILLESLEY :—There is a small oval earthwork on Hodcott

Down, just south of the Ridgeway, consisting of a shallow ditch and bank ; a prolongation of the ditch crosses the crest of the hill.

There are numerous ditches at the north-west corner of the parish, Cwicelmes Hlæw, which seems to have formed part of a fortification.

LAMBOURNE :—Not far from Membury fort in a field called "Cheynes" there is a curious series of ditches and banks of very irregular form ; they appear to have extended at one time beyond the limits of this field, but have been destroyed by ploughing.

LONG BARROWS.

EAST ILLESLEY :—On Sheep Down, not far from the village and to the east of the Oxford road, there is an irregular raised lump which may be a long barrow.

ROUND BARROWS.

ASTON UPTHORPE :—There is a small and very flat barrow on the north slope of Lowbury Hill.

CHARLTON :—There is a fine barrow at the south boundary of this parish, on the north side of the Ridgeway.

CHILTON :—The tumulus described as on Chilton down is in the parish of East Hendred, and is described under that heading. There is, however, a barrow in this parish on Hagbourne Hill, which has been almost destroyed by constant ploughing.

COOKHAM :—I have been informed that the traditional battle on Batlynge mead is a myth, and that the name has a different origin.

EAST ILLESLEY :—There are two very small barrows on Sheep Down on the south side of the Ridgeway.

WEST ILLESLEY :—There are several barrows on Hodcott Downs ; a small one on the Ridgeway to the west of the Oxford Road, one near the summit of the hill, and two lower down the hill towards the village.

DOMESDAY SURVEY.

The Domesday survey is discussed at considerable length by Mr. J. Horace Round, who has made this subject his own. His analysis of the record is extremely valuable, and I have no intention of endeavouring to criticise the work of such a well-known expert. One point I must, however, refer to at the risk of being presumptuous, and that is the origin of Hungerford, for on this question a detailed knowledge of the locality, geographically and historically, may count for something.

If I understand the writer correctly he considers that Hungerford grew up in the vill of Eddington, and he bases his view on the fact that the two are contiguous, and that both belonged to the predecessors of the Earls of Leicester. This argument, however, might apply equally to Kintbury which joins Hungerford, as I will show, on the other side, and which was also granted to the Earls of Mellent, presumably at the same time. But that the reader may understand the problem more clearly, I must first describe the upper valley of the Kennet, and the arrangement of the vills therein.

On the north side of the Kennet, from Hoe Benham to Leverton inclusive, there are a succession of vills or tythings,—for in this case at least they are the same,—extending from the river to the top of the hill, and each as nearly as possible seven furlongs wide. On the south side opposite to these are the vills of Kintbury and Hungerford only. It may be objected that there are also Tidcombe and Inglewood, but a careful examination of the local records shows that these have never been vills, but that their owners held lands in the common fields of Kintbury, from which, amongst other things, I conclude that these were Sergeanties held of the manor of Kintbury, which was ancient demesne of the Crown.

It may be well to discuss, at this stage, these small manors or sergeanties, for my views on them differ somewhat from those expressed by Mr. Round in a footnote to page 359. At the end of the survey, where the sergeanties are expected, we find that Robert holds 3 hides at Ingheflot, and that four other tenants hold other portions amounting in all to 6 hides, $2\frac{1}{2}$ of which belong to Inkpen. The first of these seems to be what was afterwards known as Ingleflood Belet or Inglewood; while the remainder would appear to be Godingeflod, later known as Anvilles, and the portion of it in Inkpen accounts in all probability for the fact that in Inkpen there is still a manor of Anvilles, and that part of the Anvilles estate is in that parish.

Besides these there was the manor, or perhaps sergeanty of Inglefol, held by Robert son of Girold, which Mr. Round identifies with Inglewood. I cannot help thinking that he is mistaken, for this manor would in the ordinary course of events have passed to William de Roumare, the founder of Clyve Abbey, which in 1536 held rents, tenements and land in "Hungreforde" to the value of £2 1s. 4d., which were granted in the following year to Robert, Earl of Sussex. (*Dugdale. Monast. New. Ed. V. 731 734*). It seems likely then that Inglefol was in Hungerford, though from its extent

it can scarcely have been the whole of it. If the property of the Earl of Sussex could be identified, it would solve the difficulty. Failing that, I would suggest that it was Hungerford Park with some adjoining land, which, though in the tything of Hungerford, has always been considered in some respects distinct as to certain details of jurisdiction. It seems, moreover, unlikely on other grounds that Inglefol was part of Inglewood. The word Ingleflot or Ingheflot seems to signify the "Inghe" brook, and a stream runs between the two manors so-called. Inglefol, if my suggestion is correct, is bordered by the same stream, which takes its rise in Inghepen or Inkpen. But the subject is full of points of interest which must not detain us here.

My suggestion is that south of the Kennet lay the great vill of Kintbury, an ancient demesne of the Crown stretching from Hampstead Marshall to Standen; and parts of this had at an early date been granted as sergeancies, to wit: Tidcombe, Inglewood, Anvilles and Inglefol, while the Nuns of Amesbury, either in right of their two vills across the river, or more probably in right of their advowson of the Church, held also certain lands in the common fields. North of its western extremity was the vill of Eddington, a narrow strip as were all the vills north of the river, likewise ancient demesne of the crown. Both these vills, subject to existing sergeancies, were granted before the reign of Henry I. to Roger de Beaumont, Earl of Mellent *jur ux.*,—who in turn granted land in the western part of Kintbury to the Knights Templars, (*Dugd. Monast. VI. 823*),—and from him descended to the Earls of Leicester. It would seem that about this time the advantageous position of the site of Hungerford became apparent, a town grew up under the fostering care of the Earls of Mellent, and the part of the vill of Kintbury beyond and almost detached from the main portion became the land of the new town, and formed the new vill of Hungerford. This seems to be supported by the fact that the common fields of Kintbury and Hungerford were contiguous.

I admit that this theory is not conclusively proved, nevertheless in support of the Kintbury thesis I have adduced precisely the same arguments as have been brought forward by Mr. Round in favour of Eddington, and in addition the plea that the Kennet divides all the vills above Newbury, and that the common fields of Kintbury and Hungerford were contiguous.

THE HOLDERS OF LAND.

The translation of the Survey by the Rev. F. W. Ragg is careful, and the notes on the whole instructive. I have only a few comments to make.

Calcot is described as near Leverton. Strictly speaking it is part of the tything of Leverton, which is known officially as the tything of Leverton and Calcot. Its exact position appears to be unknown.

Deritone would appear to be Donnington. As Mr. Round has shown in a footnote, Phillip de Sandreville held of the Earl of Albemarle the other manors formerly held by William Lovet, and in the Pipe roll 13 Hen. II. we find Gerard de Salneville paying for Duninton.

Humphrey Vis de Lew's manor of Benham is vaguely described as being near Newbury; it was the tything of Benham or Marsh Benham in the parish of Speen.

Wigar's Manor of Benham seems unquestionably to have been part of Hoe Benham,—which Mr. Round always writes Hole Benham, though this form of the name has long been obsolete,—for one of the sons of Wigar gave his land to the Abbey of Abingdon while the other granted his tithe to the same house, which gifts would have brought both portions into the Abbey's parish of Welford.

Lierecote seems very probably to have been Lyford near Charney Basset, which is written Liver in Rocque's map of Berks 1761.

INDUSTRIES.

Just a word before concluding on the article dealing with the Industries of the County by the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield. This section seems to be very thoroughly done, and there are few if any omissions which occur to me. Of minor industries I note only the absence of the potteries at Inkpen, which have been worked by the Buckeridge family for four or five generations; the bell foundry of Messrs. White and Sons of Appleton, formerly of Bessilsleigh; and the much more recent school of ornamental metal work at Yattendon.

HAROLD PEAKE.

