



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.

I HAVE much pleasure in sending you such notes as I am able concerning the Encaustic Bricks in Stanford Dingley Church, together with a photograph of some of them in situ, and some tracings of the designs on three of them, so that you may judge of the exact size.

There are in all 16 bricks let into the angle of the N. pier of the chancel-arch, all with yellow designs on a brown ground. It is believed they were placed in their present position when the existing chancel was built about 1760.

There are no means of ascertaining the thickness of the Agnus Dei brick, which measures 13-ins. by 9-ins., or of the one with the two death's heads and the two triangles, which measures 10-ins. by $5\frac{1}{4}$ -ins.

The chalice on the left hand margin of the photograph is on the *end* of a brick, whose other face measures $10\frac{1}{2}$ -ins. by $5\frac{1}{4}$ -ins., the end shewing in the photograph being $5\frac{1}{4}$ -ins. square. The long face of this brick has on it two similar chalices, side by side. Unfortunately, a wooden bracket for a lamp has been fixed across one of the chalices, but the corner of the chalice visible is just where it would be if the rest of the chalice is covered by the bracket.

The other bricks vary from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ -ins. in thickness. There is one measuring $10\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{4}$ by $1\frac{1}{2}$ -ins., and only one which could be described as a tile, being $5\frac{1}{4}$ -ins. square and $\frac{7}{8}$ -ins. thick.

The fact of these bricks being glazed and having designs on two surfaces, leads me to think that they originally formed steps, leading perhaps to the altar, while the one tile is only one left of the paving. The one with the chalices, on two sides of it, must have been a corner step.

If you would care to have the inscription on the Dynley brass, I will send it you with pleasure. I think it is pretty clear that the Church of Stanford in the Vale (also St. Denis) copied our name for its patron saint, that church being about 1290 and our 1190 A.D.—C. DE LACY LACY.

THE DYNLEY BRASS IN STANFORD DINGLEY CHURCH.—The stone on which the brass is fixed measures 5-ft. by 2-ft. 7-ins. The figure is 20-ins. high. The inscription plate measures $16\frac{1}{2}$ -ins. by $4\frac{1}{2}$ -ins. The inscription is in five lines. There is a shield of brass, bearing three lions rampant fixed to the right lower corner of the stone, and there are marks of similar sized shields having

been once attached to the other three corners, and one on the middle of each side, making six shields in all. The inscription is as follows :—

Subjacet hoc lapide Mergret Dynley tumulata

Quond'm Will'mi Dynley conjux vocitata

Armigeri Regis modo v'mibus esca parata

M. d'm C quater quater X quater I. cadit illa

Romani festo. Jesus ergo sui memor esto.

The curious fact of this inscription is, that as they apparently went out of their way to put the date (1444) in the curious form of M., 4 C's, 4 X's and 4 I's, using the word quater instead of quatuor in order to rhyme to tumulata, parata, etc., they did not make it rhyme after all, but put

C quater quater X quater I.

instead of

C quater X quater I quater.

—C. DE LACY LACY, Garden House, Stanford Dingley.

THE PEDIGREE REGISTER (QUARTERLY).—G. F. T. Sherwood, of 50, Beecroft Road, Brockley, S.E., publishes this useful register, which is intended to provide an obvious and accessible place for faithfully recording the Pedigrees, Family History and Traditions of the Professional and Middle Classes, and to encourage the study of Family traits and the influence of heredity and character. The subscription is half-a-guinea a year. The first number appeared in June, 1907.

LONG WITTENHAM.—You will be pleased to hear I have found another stone axe. I found it on the surface after the field had been steam ploughed, the plough going a little deeper than we usually plough, turned it up. What make it more interesting, I have found skeletons of Prehistoric Man in the same field, buried in a doubled-up manner in small holes not far under the surface; so probably this axe belonged to the same people.—HENRY J. HEWETT, Willington, Long Wittenham.

DONNINGTON CASTLE.—There has recently been placed in the stonegroined and vaulted hall of the Castle a beautiful specimen of Early Perpendicular achitecture, a small but most interesting collection of relics connected with its memorable siege and defence, until "crashing shot and bursting shell" left it a ruin within the humble but unconquered earthworks of the faithful garrison. The various articles have descriptive cards attached, from which we extract the following information :—Numerous cannon balls found within the precincts of the Castle, including a large projectile severed as straight as a right line by the resistance it met with where struck, two 18-pounder culverin balls with many others of graduating calibre, several portions of grenade—or, as they were termed at the time "Grenado"—shells discharged from Dabier's mortar battery in the park during the last days of the siege; one of these represents a shell of at least 13ins. diameter, and a weight of 187lbs., or 1cwt, 2qrs. 19lbs.; other pieces show a diameter of roins.—a large fragment of one of these was dug up in the Castle garden a few days ago. A remarkably interesting rapier—the blade is 3oins. long, the shell and other parts of the hilt are chased with much lightness and delicacy, and bear evidence of having been originally gilt. The ricasso, or part of the blade between the shell and the cross-guard or quillons, is ornamented on either side with a figure of a mounted Cavalier, very like that of the King on the silver coins of Charles I. This is repeated on the pommel. There is another sword of much interest with the mark of the "running wolf."

But perhaps the object that will especially attract attention is a fine specimen of the brown-bill, a formidable weapon, and kind of battle-axe, which did great execution when wielded by the strong arm it required—the first we remember to have been found on either battlefield. It was dug up not long since on the west side of the Castle. Going back to an earlier day of the little stronghold, there is a brass button found there more than a century ago, engraved with the Tudor rose, and corresponding to those worn by the retainers of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, who had a grant out of the Castle and Manor in 1514. There is an ancient key found under the floor of the Castle, tobacco pipes of the Civil War period turned up in lowering the mounds many years ago, a spur, a string of bullets cast at the Castle during the siege, part of a saddle-tree, and last though not least, a portrait of Sir John Boys, the hero and chivalrous Royalist who held and bravely defended the old fortress “For the King.” To add to the interest of these little momentoes of a romantic period in our national and local history, the design for the table and case is drawn from the fine Elizabethan table in the hall, and is made of old English heart of oak, taken out of the premises in Newbury formerly the far-famed “Old Globe,” which by an interesting coincidence formed part of the property granted with the Castle to Charles, Earl of Nottingham, Baron Howard of Effingham, by Queen Elizabeth in 1600, for his glorious victory over the Spanish Armada. It is to the good taste and happy inspiration on the part of Mr. Hitchman, of Messrs. Houghton and Co., who executed the work for the Countess de Palatiano, the owner of the Castle, that we are indebted for the association of this little addition to the familiar old landmark with the name of an illustrious owner in the proudest period of its annals.—W. MONEY.

RECENT DISCOVERIES AT SILCHESTER.—Mr. W. H. St. John Hope writes to “The Times” from Burlington House, reporting the progress of the work of systematic excavation on the site of the Romano-British town at Silchester, including a recent important discovery. During the exploration in the last season of one of the *insulae* near the middle of the town, there has been uncovered the remains of a small square Temple. The ground plan is quite perfect, and shows a *podium* about 18ins. high and about 36ft. square outside, with a wide entrance on the east, and a *cella* measuring internally 12ft. by 14ft. The *podium* is paved with red mosaic, but the floor of the *cella* has been destroyed; it was perhaps of fine mosaic laid on a bed of *opus Signinum*. Against the west wall of the *cella* is the base of a platform about 3ft. broad for the image of the deity. On and about this were found some of the shattered fragments of the image itself, which was about life-size and of stone. All that can at present be said about it is that the figure was bearded and wore apparently a long cloak, and had the legs protected by greaves ornamented with lions’ heads. A large piece of one of the hands grasps what seems to be the lower end of a cornucopia. In addition, there have turned up considerable fragments of at least three inscriptions, finely cut on thin slabs of Purbeck marble. One of them has about the beginning of the word *Marti*, which is suggestive of the dedication of the temple to Mars, of whose image the fragments found probably formed part. Another of the inscriptions is perhaps even more important, since it contains the significant word *Callevæ*, and so places beyond all doubt the identity (which some of us have long ago insisted on) of the Roman town at Silchester with the Calleva or Calleva Atrebatum of the 7th, 13th, 14th, and 15th, of the Antonine Itineraries. At present only the area of the Temple itself has been cleared; it is therefore quite possible that further fragments of the image and the inscription may be recovered

from the immediate surroundings, which have still to be explored. Several important architectural fragments have also come to light, but more of these are likewise wanted to enable us to reconstruct the Temple.

MEDIÆVAL COOKING PIT AT WATERLOO PIT, KATESGROVE, READING.
—An interesting discovery has recently been made at Messrs. S. & E. Collier's Clay Pit, Katesgrove, Reading, where a mediæval fire-place or cooking pit was exposed in the section of the gravel and clay bed. At the time of finding, one half had already been destroyed by the workmen, and thrown down into a deep hole 30 feet beneath. The remaining half was carefully examined with interesting results. The pit, which was basin-shaped, was 5ft. in diameter and 4ft. in depth, with a layer of about one foot of carbonaceous matter at the bottom. The upper part of the pit yielded miscellaneous things, such as tiles, pottery, etc., of the 17th and 18th century, which had evidently been thrown in from time to time to fill in the pit. At a lower level fragments of pottery of the 14th century appeared. These were found immediately above the carbonaceous matter. Here was also unearthed an iron knife. Fragments of pottery continued to be found throughout the bed of ashes, and at 6ins. beneath remains of three large pots were discovered, evidently pots that had served for cooking purposes. The largest of these is of red ware with a grey wash inside, and stood 11½ins. high and 15½ins. in diameter. It is saucepan-shaped, with a slightly convex bottom, and is ornamented round the body with slanting lines combed downwards. This pot has been restored by Messrs. S. & E. Collier, likewise another, which in shape is very similar to No. 1, but of smaller size, being 7½ins. high and 10½ins. diameter, of black-grey ware with a grey wash inside. The third vessel differs somewhat from the other two, standing higher in proportion to its diameter. The mouth is also more contracted, giving it an urn like appearance. It is of grey ware, and like the other two has similar ornamentation round the body. In all, the remains of eighteen vessels have been discovered in the lower layers—the ware varying from coarse thick unglazed to fine ware with a glaze, the latter being found in the higher layers. Bones of sheep, ox, etc., sandstone hone, part of an upper stone of quern, a small bronze ornament, and fragments of iron were also found. The age of the pit is most likely Norman, as a similar find was made at Cæsar's Camp, Folkestone, by the late General Pitt-Rivers, where pots of the same identical character were found associated with a number of things which Gen. Pitt-Rivers described as undoubtedly Norman. To Mr. D. F. Cooksey, of Messrs. S. & E. Collier, Ltd., best thanks are due for co-operation in the examination of the pit, and for presenting the "finds" to the Reading Museum; also to the Rev. Alan Cheales who visited the site and gave advice.—
T. W. COLYER.

Queries.

THE FAMILY OF WESTON.—I should be glad for any information with regard to this family. About the beginning of the 18th century they existed at Oxford, Yarnton, Witney, Fifield, Pusey, Anyho, Deddington, Brackley, etc. Perhaps some of your readers will be able to give information.—F. H. WESTON, Lasingham Vicarage, Sinnington, R.S.O., Yorks.