



Wanderings in Buckinghamshire.

By Rev. A. J. Foster.

LEAVING Bletchley Junction, on the N. one mile is the village of Bletchley, and two miles further south is NEWTON LONGUEVILLE, sometime called Newenton, which takes its second name from an alien priory of Cluniac Monks founded in the time of Henry I., and dependent on the Monastery of Longueville in Normandy.

There are no remains of the Priory, which was suppressed 1415, but the Church (St. Faith, register 1560) is said to be copied in the Architecture of the Chancel Arch and N. Arcade from the Mother Church in Normandy. The piers have carved figures on the capitals. The font is Early English with a Jacobean cover with royal arms on it. The Church was probably built about 1450.

Outside the Church is a figure of St. Faith.

In the centre of the village stands a smithy of very early date.

There is also an early dovecot at the Manor house.

N. of the railway extends for some distance *Whaddon Chase*. This occupies a high upland which overlooks the valley of the Ouse on the S. side. The old trees in the Chase have been for the most part cut down, though in a few places ancient blackened oaks may be found surrounded by bracken. The whole forest has been enclosed and divided by hedges into small fields of pasture or arable land. The Chase is a safe draw for a fox.

There are four villages on the outskirts of the Chase. On the E. side, three miles from Bletchley, is TATTENHOE or TOTTEHOE.

The Church (St. Giles, register 1733) stands in the moated site of the Manor house. It was re-built in 1540, and was for some time desecrated and disused, but reconsecrated in 1636. It is said to have been built from the remains of the Benedictine Priory of St. Leonard at Snelshall, two miles W., which had been founded by Ralph Martel about 1218. Snelshall had in the time of the Priory a weekly market.

The Manor house was occupied for many generations ; until the end of the xvii. century, by the Stafford family.

On the N. side of the Chase, on high ground, stands WHADDON.

This was the property of the Grey family, and in 1568 Arthur Lord Grey, a distinguished soldier of the time of Elizabeth, and also Lord Deputy of Ireland, entertained the Queen at Whaddon Hall during one of her royal progresses. Edmund Spenser, the poet, who was secretary to Lord Arthur in Ireland, is said to have occasionally resided at the Hall.

After the attainder of William Lord Grey for complicity in Raleigh's plots, the property was given to Sir George Villiers, afterwards Duke of Buckingham, who took the title of Baron Whaddon. James Selby and Dr. Willis, the celebrated Physician of the time of Charles II., bought the property from the second Duke of Buckingham in 1698. Dr. Willis, whose wife was a daughter of the famous Dr. Fell, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, did not himself reside at Whaddon Hall, nor probably did his son Thomas, whose wife was the daughter of Robert Browne, of Frampton in Dorsetshire, but his grandson Browne-Willis, the antiquary, lived at the Hall for many years, and died there 3rd February, 1760.

Browne-Willis, who was borne in 1682, was emphatically a Buckinghamshire man. He received his first education at the endowed school at Beachampton, the next village to Whaddon and after a few terms at Christ Church, Oxford, became a pupil of Dr. William Wooton at Milton Keynes Rectory.

Not long afterwards he was returned as one of the members for Buckingham, and always interested himself much in that town. He endeavoured to get a new charter for the Corporation, made efforts to have the Assizes and the visitations of the Bishop and Archdeacon held there, and collected money for the re-building of the gaol, and of the Church spire which had fallen down in 1699. He also gave a brass chandelier to the Church.

He left about 100 M.S. volumes on various antiquarian subjects, which he bequeathed to the University of Oxford. He tinkered many of the Churches in his own neighbourhood, e.g., Bletchley and Little Brickhill, and built St. Martin's Chapel at Fenny Stratford. He became a Fellow of the Society of Antiquarians on its revival in 1718, and was LL.D. of Oxford in 1740. He made, however, but little by his books.

"I am £100 out of pocket," he writes to a friend in 1756, "by what I have printed, except my octavo copy of Parliaments, which

brought me £15 profit, though I gave it all away, and above £20 more to build Buckingham tower steeple ; and now, as I hoped for subscriptions to this book (his last work, 'The History of the Town and Hundred of Buckingham'), I am like to have half the impressions on my hands. Sold only 69 copies, of which to the gentlemen of Buckinghamshire, only 28."

William Cole, who was presented to the living of Bletchley by Willis, has given a not very kind description of his patron—"When I knew him first, about five and thirty years ago, he had more the appearance of a mumping beggar than a gentleman, and the most like resemblance of his figure that I can recollect among old prints is that of old Hobson, the Cambridge carrier. He then, as always, was dressed in an old slouch hat, more brown than black, a weather-beaten, large wig, three or four old-fashioned coats, all tied round with a leather belt, and over all an old blue coat, lined with black fustian, which he told me he had new when he was elected member for the town of Buckingham. He wrote the worst hand of any man in England, such as he could with difficulty read himself, and what no one but his old correspondents could decipher. His boots, which he almost always appeared in, were not the least singular part of his dress. I suppose it will not be falsity to say they were forty years old ; patched and vamped up at various times, they were all in wrinkles and did not come half up his legs. His chariot was so singular that from it he was himself called 'The Old Chariot.' It was his wedding chariot, and had his arms on brass plates about it, not unlike a coffin, and it was painted black. He was as remarkable probably for his love to the walls and structure of churches as for his variance with the clergy of his neighbourhood. He was not well pleased with anyone who, in talking of or with him, did not call him Squire."

Thomas Willis and James Selby partially pulled down the old house of the Greys after 1698. The present mansion is a large and handsome stone building with extensive gardens. The park represents almost all that is left of the old Chase, in which the deer used to roam at large until 1840.

The Church (St. Mary), which stands high, is chiefly Decorated in style, except the Nave Arcade, which is Transition Norman. In a chapel on the N. side of the chancel is the handsome monument to Arthur Lord Grey de Wilton, Lord Deputy of Ireland, and one of the commissioners who tried Mary Queen of Scots. There is a

brass which commemorates the gift of a desk to the Church by the wife of Joseph Emerton, Vicar, in 1613.

Richard Cox, Bishop of Ely, who played a distinguished part at Oxford and elsewhere during the Reformation period, and narrowly escaped burning in the time of Mary, was born at Whaddon 1499. He was one of the revisors of the Liturgy.

On the W. side of the Chase are GREAT HORWOOD and LITTLE HORWOOD sometimes written *Harwood*.

Great Horwood once had a market. The Church (St. James register 1600) has good Decorated windows in the Chancel. There is a brass to H. Virgine, Rector, 1487.

Little Horwood formed part of the estates of the Villiers family, and was sold at the same time as those at Whaddon. Sir Stephen Langston, Alderman of London, bought them at the end of the last century from the Adams family. There is a monument to him in the Church (St. Nicholas register 1568) the tower of which has a gable roof.

S. of the railway, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles past Swanborne Station, is MURSLEY. This place also once had a market.

In the Church (St. Mary register 1578), which is Decorated, are two good Jacobean Monuments of the Fortescue family in the Chancel. The mansion of this family, Salden House, which had been built by Sir John Fortescue, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and in which he entertained James I., stands one and a half miles E. of the village. It has mullioned windows and thick walls, but has been much pulled about. It is now a farmhouse.

SWANBOURNE is two miles W. of Mursley. The Church (St. Swithin register 1565) has an Early Dec. Chancel.

Two miles beyond Swanbourne station the railway reaches WINSLOW.

This is a small market town.

In the market square are the "Bull Inn" a curious low windowed building, and some other old houses, two of which have remarkable iron-work on their outside galleries which resembles that on the stair-case at Claydon Hall, and is said to have been brought here from that Mansion, when a portion of it was taken down.

The large square Manor-house E. of the market-place was built by William Lowndes, Secretary to the Treasury, from designs by Sir Christopher Wren in 1700. William Lowndes had purchased the Winslow estate two years before from the Villiers family.

The Church (St. Lawrence register 1560) is chiefly perpendicular.

It has been restored, and a new N. aisle to the Chancel has been added.

Two miles W. of Winslow is Verney Junction. From this station there are branches to Aylesbury and to Buckingham.

Half a mile N. of Verney Junction is ADDINGTON.

Addington Manor built in 1857 by Lord Addington from designs by Mr. P. Hardwick is a modification of a French Chateau. It has replaced a former house, the seat of the Busbys.

The Church (St. Cecilia register 1558) is Dec. It has a tower *embraced* by the aisles. In the windows there is amongst modern glass some curious Dutch work. There are monuments of the Busby and Powlett families.

Two miles further is Claydon station. There are three villages of Claydon, Steeple Claydon N. of the railway, and Middle Claydon and East Claydon to the S. There is a hamlet Botolph Claydon without a church.

MIDDLE CLAYDON is one mile S. Here is the mansion of the Verney family which stands in a large park. An ancient seat was here before Tudor days, which belonged to the De la Zouchs and Cantelupes. The property was purchased by Sir Ralph Verney, a prosperous merchant of London, who was Lord Mayor in 1465, and also purchased family property at Fleet Marston. The house which he built may be traced in the core of the present mansion. It was an H. house in honour of the Henries and afterwards formed into an E. house in honour of Elizabeth. There were two rows of rooms back to back. There was a secret chamber discovered against the central chimney when the house was remodelled about thirty years ago. The buildings to the east, now offices opening into the stable yard, have been much altered, and so indeed has been the central, the oldest, portion. The present servants' hall was used as a spinning room by the old people when the parish administered its own poor law.

The magnificent block of buildings to the west was built by Ralph E. Verney soon after he succeeded to the property in 1752. His architect was Adams, and it exhibits some of the finest decorative work of that artist. This wing once extended farther to the north than it does at present, but a portion was pulled down by Lady Fermanagh who succeeded her uncle, the builder, was created a peeress in her own right, and died, the last of the Verneys, in 1810. She bequeathed the estates to her half sister Katharine Cal-

vert, wife of the Rev. Robert Wright, who took the name of Calvert. The Calvert family of Claydon took the name of Verney in 1837.

The existing buildings, erected by Earl Verney, comprise the north entrance hall, the pink parlour or summer dining-room, the saloon, and the library. The chimney pieces, mahogany doors and plaster ceilings of these apartments are particularly worth notice. In the hall are stands of arms, and most of the valuable portraits are in these rooms.

In a large square central well behind the state rooms is the principal staircase. The balustrade is a beautiful piece of metal work with stalks and ears of corn in wrought iron which actually shake with any breath of air. The upper rooms are splendid specimens of the work of Adams, especially the inlaid doors, and the Chinese-room and the Indian-room, both of them ornamented in a fantastic style. The rooms at the south end of Lord Verney's wing were for many years occupied in the summer by Miss Florence Nightingale, the nurse-heroine of the Crimean war. She was the sister of the wife of Sir Harry Verney.

(To be continued).

Some Buckinghamshire Parishes formerly included in the old Archdeaconry of St. Albans.

(Continued from page 93, Vol. 13.)

IN 1604-5 special order was taken to find out exactly the Recusants in the Archdeaconry. Under date 16 June 1605, James Rolfe, the Archdeacon's Official, reports that there were only six Recusants in the Archdeaconry, and these were in St. Albans. The answers given at the Visitation appear in the Records.

WINSLOW.—We have no manner of recusants of any sort within our parish. Rortus Maynwaring, vicar, Henry Wendover, Richard Snow, Nicolas Owing, [?], Thomos Adames.