



A Brass Formerly at South Moreton, Berks.

IN Ashmole's Berks we read under the heading of SOUTH MORTON:—

“In the south aisle is another gravestone where on a brass plate is this inscription:—

Sub jacet ecce pede Ricardus Morus in ede
Kene qui discretus fuit ampla pace quietus.
C quater & mille quater & bis sex obit ille.
Luceque sexta ter Junii fit huius sibi mater.
Fecit plura loco bona sunt suffragia pro quo.
Post Christiana sua vita subit ad relevamen
Quos manus alma tua salvet precor o deus Amen.”

No successful attempt appears to have been made to interpret the name of the person whom this brass commemorates. “Richard More of Kene Hall” has (I believe) been suggested; but if this were accepted, “Kene Hall” would still be a puzzle.

It is obvious that in line 4 *huius* is a mistake for *humus*, which both the metre and the sense require: “On the 18th day of June earth becomes his mother”; that is, he returns to mother earth. Also in line 5 *sunt* should probably be *sint*. It seems likely also that there are mistakes in line 6. I suggest, then, that there is a mistake in *Morus* in line 1. South Moreton, or rather one of its three manors (Adresham), appears occasionally in ancient documents as “Moore” or “Mores.” It was held for a considerable period by the Norris family, and in an inquisition of 1466 (*Calendar of Inquisitions post mortem*, 6 Edw. IV., No. 45) John Noreys, Esq., held the manor of “Moore”; also in a Recovery Roll of 1587 (Trin. 29 Eliz. ro. 735) Sir Henry Norrys held the manor of “Mores.”

The date of the brass in line 3—quaintly expressed to make a hexameter line in a way which is frequently found in the fifteenth century—can only be 1436. Now in 1428 an inquisition was held at East Ilsley before John Smyth of Newbury and Thomas Swayne and others, who were appointed to collect for the King a subsidy of

6s. 8d. charged upon every Knight's fee ; and among the jury of twelve men who gave evidence regarding the manors in South Moreton we find Richard Kene (*Feudal Aids*, I. 65). From all these facts I infer that this is his memorial ; that *Morus* is an error for *Moris* ; and that *Moris in ede* means "In Mores [South Moreton] Church." Ashmole, reading inaccurately and unable to interpret the words, may well have been misled by the name *Ricardus* to take the next word as *Morus*.

The south aisle of the Church, where the brass lay, is known as the Fulscot aisle ; and at this period the two manors of Adresham and Fulscot in this parish, before they came to the Norris family, were held together by a family named Brown, who lived at Adresham. Hence it may well have happened that Richard Kene was their tenant at Fulscot.

I therefore read the epitaph thus :—

Lo, under foot in Mores Church lies Richard
Kene, who was a discreet man, resting in full peace.
Four hundred and a thousand, four times six and twice six, he dies,
And on the thrice-sixth day of June earth becomes his mother.
Many good things to the place did he, for whom let there be prayers.
Afterwards his [wife] Christian goes down for life to repose ;
Whom may Thy kindly hand save, I pray, O God. Amen.

The brass remained in the Church within living memory. In 1849 the four bells and the lead of the roof were sold to provide funds for repairing the Church, and it is believed that the brass, which had a large effigy, was sold with them.

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Warfield and Hurley, Berks.

WE learn from the Domesday Survey that at the time it was made (1086) the King held Warwelt [Warfield] in demesne. Warwelt was then in Riplesmere hundred, whereas now it is in the hundred of Wargrave. Formerly it had been held by Queen Edith, wife of Edward the Confessor. "In the time of King Edward [the Confessor] it was worth 12 pounds ; now 6 pounds.