

* NOTES ON THE DESCENT OF THE HOPSON, BOSTOCK
AND RICH FAMILIES.

1. The Rev. Charles Bostock was of Shirley, Hants, second and youngest son of above, born 1752 at Windsor, matriculated St. John's College, Oxford, 30th June, 1768. B.C.L. 1776, D.C.L. 1780. Took by Royal License, 23rd December, 1790, the name of Rich. Created a Baronet 28th July, 1791. "It is to be observed that this creation was nearly eight years before the Baronetcy of Rich (1676), which was held by his wife's father, became extinct by the death of her uncle (Sir George Rich), the sixth and last Baronet, 8th Jan., 1799."—Complete Baronetage, iv., 72-74. He married, as in text, Mary Frances, daughter and heiress of Lieut.-General Sir Robert Rich, Bart. (baronetcy created 24th Jan., 1676), of Roos Hall, Suffolk, Claxton Abbey, Norfolk, and Waverley Abbey, Surrey. Her mother Mary, daughter of Peter Ludlow, of Ardsallagh, Co. Meath, Ireland, whose son Peter was created Earl of Ludlow, and the Rev. Chas. Bostock sold Roos Hall and Waverley Abbey in 1812. He died at Shirley, Hants, 12th Sept., 1824, and was buried in South Audley Street Chapel, London. His widow, who was born 31st May, 1755, died 20th May, 1833, in Upper Grosvenor Street, London, and was buried in South Audley Street Chapel.

2. Sir Charles Rich, who sold Beenham (1834), was born 19th April, 1784. Sheriff of Hampshire 1826-27. Married 6th Nov., 1806, Frances Maria, second and youngest daughter of Sir John Lethbridge, Bart. She died at Tunbridge Wells 20th Feb., 1852. He died at Wallington, Surrey, 22nd Oct., 1857.—J. HAUTENVILLE-COPE.

Mapledurham, Oxfordshire.

THE following short description is from notes made many years ago, so may be worthy of appearing in print :—

The house stands low, almost on the river bank, and is surrounded by magnificent trees. Especially noticeable is the grand avenue opposite the house. Mapledurham is the finest old house in Oxfordshire, a County singularly devoid of old houses, that is, houses dating back to the Elizabethan period. True, there are old houses, but these have been restored after a period of neglect, so that the original furniture and fittings do not remain.

What struck me most inside the house were the family portraits, especially the two immense full-length pictures in the dining room. That on the right, a lady in a black velvet dress with a ruff and long

falling black sleeves, is said to have been one of the St. John family, who married many husbands ; one account said three husbands, but another credited her with seven !

The fine drawing room upstairs has a high dado, above which are portraits. That of Martha Blount was pointed out, also the Blount who built Mapledurham House, as well as a portrait of his wife.

In the next room were curious drawings of the house and five portraits—Martha Blount and her sister as tiny girls and again as young girls, and the other of Pope the poet. These pictures are said to be the same mentioned by Jervis in Macaulay's Essays.

The rooms all lead one into the other, as in most old houses. A panelled room called the bedroom (I think down a passage off the main staircase) has in it two closets or cupboards ; in each of these the floor boards lift up, and by a ladder access is gained into hiding places. These are said to be the only hiding places in the house.

On the grand staircase is a very curious full-length portrait of a Nun holding a skull—one of the Blounts who entered a convent at Bruges.

At the top of the house a long gallery runs the whole length under the roof. It was stored with lumber of all kinds, old pictures and broken furniture.

In the attics is a large room with a raised dais at the end. This was the old Chapel, for in "Recusant" houses they were safer upstairs.

Several of the ceilings have beautiful raised plaster work.

In a little sort of buttery downstairs, within glass cases, were some very excellent pieces of china Wedgwood, blue Chinese, Chelsea, etc., and china figures, also a fine full service of old pewter.

The panelling in the house was much moved about and altered in the middle of the 19th century. The old family deeds proved useful when, in the '80's, a question was raised about the fishing rights and riparian ownership, which Major Robert Blount was, through the deeds, able to settle.

E.E.C.

