



## 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.*

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THE Editors express the earnest hope that a larger number of Correspondents will avail themselves of these pages, and thus help those responsible for the publication of this Journal to extend its usefulness. There are several Queries—inserted in the Journals for 1915—still remaining unanswered. It is hoped that some readers may solve them.

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### Notes.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.—Possibly there was an error in the report of Mr. Macartney's lecture where it is stated that he said that the foundation stone was laid by Thomas Strong. This is probably a misprint, as it is well known that it was laid on June 21st, 1675, by the architect, Sir Christopher Wren, and his Lodge of Freemasons, and that the trowel and mallet then used are preserved in the Lodge of Antiquity, of which he was Master.—W. M.

BEEVOR MONUMENT, WOKINGHAM.—The inscription is printed *in extenso* in my book the "Battles of Newbury, and the battle referred to should be Newbury, not Naseby.—W. M.

BRASSES AT ALDWORTH AND COMPTON, BERKS.—The brass of "Richard Pyggott and Alys his wife" (as the names stand) mentioned in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of 1798, to which Mr. Keyser refers in his Notes on Aldworth Church in this Journal (vol. 21, p. 103), is wrongly attributed to Aldworth. It is in the Church of the adjoining parish of Compton. There is an indifferent sketch of it in Hewett's *Hundred of Compton* (p. 68). In Haines' *Manual of Monumental Brasses* (II. 12) it is dated c.1520; but careful comparison with others suggests a somewhat earlier date, 1500-10. There appears to be little doubt that the lost brass at Aldworth mentioned by Mr. Keyser (vol. 21, p. 102-3), the matrix of which is described in Col. Symonds' notes (*Ibid*, 107), was that of Edmund de la Beche, Archdeacon of Berks, who died in 1364. All persons who have interested themselves in monumental brasses know the value of a stone from which a

brass of the 14th century has been torn away, and it is very unfortunate that the zealous renovators of our Churches in the middle of the last century were not aware of that value and often treated such stones as worthless. Thus at Little Wittenham there is an exceedingly interesting slab showing the outline of a small demi-figure enclosed in the head of a foliated cross; but when the Church was re-built in 1863 this was taken to form a step outside the chancel door; and more recently, when a vestry was added, it was removed again to form part of an outside pavement. It deserves careful preservation. Symonds' Notes of Wantage, cited in Gibbons and Davey, *Wantage Past and Present* (p. 116), describe "the demy picture of a bald-pated priest upon the top of a crosse," with a marginal inscription to a Vicar whose name had gone, but giving the date 1372. This demi-figure has been fixed in an obscure place on the wall of the north aisle, and the slab with its valuable matrix is believed to be under the tiles of the chancel floor. The Aldworth brass may have been a similar cross-brass. We only learn from Symonds that it had a demi-figure, a marginal inscription, and a shield. Perhaps the figure was a counterpart of that on the large and very remarkable brass of Roger Campedene, Rector, 1398, at Stanford-in-the-Vale. Certainly this stone at Aldworth deserves to be brought to light from under the floor, especially as it is the memorial of a man of some note.—J. E. FIELD.

THE FONT AT NUFFIELD, OXON.—Nuffield Church has a plain round font, probably of late Norman date, with an original inscription incised in large letters round the bowl: [*Fo*]nte sacro lotum vel mundat gra totu v'l n̄ est sacri mundacio plena—or, with the abbreviations extended:—

*Fonte sacro lotum vel mundat gracia totum*

*Vel non est sacri mundacio plena.*

Two syllables are wanting to complete the rhythm of the second line, and Mr. Parker, in the Oxfordshire volume of *Ecclesiastical and Architectural Topography*, supplied them by reading *sacri* as an abbreviation of *sacramenti*. But obviously it should be a rhymed line, like the first, and what is missing is doubtless the final word *lavacri*. In fact the feet of some additional letters are discernible, though the word is obliterated, as are also the first two letters of the former line. If this has been suggested before, I am not aware of it. I offer an English rendering:—

Him who in sacred font is washed grace maketh wholly clean,

Or else the sacred laver's cleansing unfulfilled hath been.

I suppose it means that the grace always operates if the rite is fully performed.  
—J. E. FIELD.

## Queries.

ANCIENT CHAPEL ON APPLEFORD BRIDGE.—There are not many authentic instances of the existence of these chapels in Berks. In the Victoria County History, II., p. 26, it is stated that there was a chapel on the bridge at Appleford, which had an endowment of 30/-. The date referred to is about 1548. There is no record of any bridge over the Thames at Appleford either at the date mentioned or since, and it is accordingly difficult to understand how such a chapel could have existed. If any of your readers should happen to know of confirmatory evidence (beyond what appears in chantry cert. No. 51 at P.R.O.) I should be glad to have a reference to it. The subject is of some interest and importance.—A.E.P., Abingdon.