

situated on the site of St. Paul's Rectory, but all trace of it has long since disappeared.

The following names and dates are taken from the minutes of the Presbyterian Fund Board¹⁸ which throughout the period, from 1718 to 1802, made grants of £5 yearly to the meeting-house. The last grant was made on November 8th, 1802.

Wokingham Presbyterian Meeting-house.

Ministers.

- 1677 to 1707. James Prince. Died January, 1707.
- 1715 „ 1728. John Meers. Died June, 1728.
- 1728 „ 1729. Robert Mackewin.
- 1729 „ 1756. Joseph Catkutt.
- 1756 „ 1774. John Williams
- 1772 „ 1793. Richard Davies.
- 1793 „ 1802. William Sutton. From Hackney.

¹⁸ The Presbyterian Fund Board Minutes are kept at Dr. William's Library. The Fund Board was founded in 1690, for the assistance of ministers, and the names of the Wokingham ministers appear in its Minutes as they were in receipt of a small yearly grant. The conventicle particulars are printed in Lyon Turner's *Original Records*, vol. i, 125.

Notes and Queries.

NOTES.

BOWSEY HILL, WARGRAVE.

The new broad highway which the Berkshire County Council propose to make from a point near Charvil Lane, Sonning, to the Rest and be Thankful seat in the parish of Wargrave, will bring the traveller a little view of that interesting wooded eminence, shaped like a gigantic molehill, known as 'Bowsey Hill,' geologically a high outlier of the Reading beds with a capping of London clay. An excellent view of it may be obtained from Charvil Lane coming out of the village of Sonning. In these days it is not very well known, owing to its comparative inaccessibility. No roads go over it and it remains a delightful summer retreat, far removed from the noise and dust of the London highway, in whose leafy fastnesses an hour or two may be spent by the seeker after rural quiet. In the winter time

it has quite another story to tell and the occasional geologist is then perhaps the only one to adventure its slippery ascent with the exception of those whose business takes them there. And they are very few. In the long past it had an uncanny reputation—again due possibly to its remoteness—and it was a favourite spot for the country folk to localise traditions of various kinds. Among these one was prevalent in Sonning to the effect that on the other side of the hill was the abode of lost souls. About a hundred years ago a certain old inhabitant, who had an unenviable reputation in the village, died early one summer morning. The same evening a labourer returning from his work at Charvil Farm and hearing of the event, exclaimed, ‘Ah, it is no more than I expected, for I saw him go over the top of Bowsey Hill as I was going to work this morning.’ It can be readily understood that the fear with which this spot was regarded by simple folk had its advantages in lawless days, and many a felon fleeing from the hands of justice is said to have secured temporary immunity in its haunted thickets. But the question remains: At what remote period of time did such a belief spring to the minds of simple folk gazing at this dark tree-topped distant hill?

E.W.D.

ST. MARY'S PRIORY, HURLEY.

The strange experience of an unexpected vision leading to the discovery of an old open fire-place is here related. During the cleaning and repairing of a building known as Paradise, formerly the Priors Lodging, the owner felt that the fire-place and grate in the sitting room was quite unsuited to the rest of the room and had been considering the possibility of removing it and building some form of open hearth to hold a dog-grate. Eventually it was decided regretfully that this work must be postponed on account of the expense. However, on a certain Sunday the brother of the owner came to pay a visit, and related that he had had a strange vision in which he appeared to have been going over the place with a monk. As the two reached the sitting room the monk, with a wave of the arm, told him to ‘clear it all away.’ As he did so the ugly grate appeared to

vanish and in its place appeared a wide open brick fire-place, curved at the back and crossed by a large oak beam. On hearing this tale the owner at once examined the spot, and considered that such a thing might be possible. The following morning the builders were consulted, and all declared that there could not be any such thing. The owner, however, was not convinced, and called upon the plasterer to remove some of the plaster from over the mantel. As soon as this was done it was found that an oak beam ran across the wall just above the grate, and it was then only the work of a few minutes to pull out the ugly grate and disclose the old work, which proved to be exactly as described.

THE CAMLET WAY.

The Roman road known as the Camlet Way, that ran from Camalodunum (Colchester) to Verulamium (St. Albans) and thence to Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester), is not marked on any of the recognised maps of the Roman road system because its course has never been thoroughly investigated and marked out. It is, however, possible to find traces of it in a few places, and it may be of interest to Berkshire people, and perhaps also a useful contribution to general knowledge of Roman roads in this country, to endeavour to trace its course from the point where it crosses the Thames and enters Berkshire to its arrival at the walls of Silchester.

The Camlet Way reaches the Thames near Taplow Mills, and crossing the river enters Berkshire between Boulter's Lock and Maidenhead Bridge. It crosses Maidenhead Moor, and a trace of it has been observed by the brewery in Market Street. From there it runs nearly on and parallel to the thoroughfare known as Back Lane, and then up Castle Hill. On the top of Castle Hill, where the house called 'Etruria' now stands, there was a Roman villa. It was found by the late Mr. Richard Silver when he was preparing the ground for the foundations of 'Etruria.' He made a careful investigation of it, and the objects he discovered there were given by him to the Maidenhead Museum. The road then went in a south-westerly direction to the south of the modern Bath Road, and crossing the fields of Norden Farm and running on the right of Tittle Row, it reaches

Maidenhead Thicket, where it passes close to the site of a Roman camp, traces of which are now almost obliterated. This is not to be confused with the very clearly marked Roman camp (Robin Hood's Arbour) in the Thicket on the north side of the Bath Road. Leaving the Thicket, the road passes, still in a south-westerly direction, across the Woolley Farm fields to Cherry Garden Lane, which it crosses probably just south of Woolley Firs, and follows a line through what are now the gardens of Woolley Hall to the large field on Feens Farm, known as Black Vere. In this field, about midway between Littlewick Green and the main line of the Great Western Railway, there are evidences of the existence of a Roman villa, for whenever the land is ploughed quantities of Roman bricks are always turned up. From here the road goes on by Cold Harbour, and keeping on the north side of the Great Western Railway, reaches Waycock Field, in the parish of Waltham St. Lawrence, where there have also been found various remains of a Roman building. It is noteworthy that the remains at Black Vere, Littlewick, are midway between the Roman villa at 'Etruria,' Castle Hill, Maidenhead, and the site where Roman remains have been discovered at Waycock Field. This circumstance suggests that there may have been a Roman villa or some kind of Roman building at regular intervals along the road, and it would be interesting to search for Roman sites at similar distances from a known Roman building as are those of Maidenhead and of Waycock Field respectively from Littlewick.

Leaving Waycock Field, the Camlet Way enters Milley Field, and going to the south of the railway, passes between Stanlake Park and Haines Hill, probably traversing the southern face of the hill on which the former stands. It crosses the Twyford road and goes across the hill to Hurst, and probably follows the track of the present road through Davis Street and King Street; the term street in this connection in itself suggesting a Roman road. It then appears to run to the west of Sindlesham and Bear Wood, passing below Arborfield Church and pointing for Swallowfield Park, where it crosses the river Loddon and points direct for Mortimer, and passing probably

immediately south of the present village of Mortimer, runs on the hill to either the eastern entry or the northern entry of Silchester.

H.E.B.

EVOLUTION OF THE NAME OF LITTLEWICK GREEN.

In A.D. 940 King Eadmund gave a charter to Chertsey Abbey granting it certain lands and among others the bulk of the parish of White Waltham. This charter (No. 1134 in Kemble's *Codex Diplomaticus Aevi Saxonici*) records the boundaries of White Waltham parish at that date and among the names of places marking the boundary is Hildleage, which the late Professor Skeat informed the writer means 'The Battle Mead,' and confirmatory charter of Henry III described the same boundary as Lidlege, and a later charter of the same century, the thirteenth speaks of the 'boscos de Lidlegewyk.' In a Royal Forest Return of the reign of Henry VII, one William Mattyngle, one of Chertsey Abbey's woodwards, is said to be in charge of Lytell Wykwood. In Hearne's eighteenth century account of the beating of the bounds of White Waltham parish, this place is called Little-Wick, and in the Enclosure Act for White Waltham at the beginning of the nineteenth century (1810) it becomes Littlewick Green.

H.E.B.

DISCOVERY OF A ROMAN BRICKFIELD NEAR SILCHESTER.

Lieut.-Colonel Karslake, F.S.A., the local Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries for Hampshire, reports that as the result of deep ploughing in the autumn in a field at Little London, about two miles S.S.W. of the Roman walls at Silchester, he noticed that numerous fragments of Roman bricks and tiles had been brought to the surface. Further examination showed that many of the fragments were highly vitrified, clearly indicating over-fired wasters from a brick kiln. He consequently made some trenches on the site to ascertain what was below the level reached by the plough. These trenches disclosed a number of Roman brick and tile fragments covering a considerable area, the precise limits of which, however, could not be determined. But it was possible to conclude that in the area examined

a brick-clamp had been in use at a very early date in the period of the Roman occupation of Calleva. A deposit of broken bricks and of all the usual forms of roofing and box tiles covered the ground about 8 feet 10 inches below the present surface. The great majority of the fragments were clearly broken-up wasters, the result both of under-firing—many of the fragments being soft and friable and light yellow in colour—and of over-firing, shown by pieces distorted in shape and covered with a vitreous glaze. Among the fragments was a part of a tile of which sufficient remained to preserve a round stamp in the centre, with the legend NER.CL.CAE.AUG.GR., of much the same form but not identical with the stamp with the same legend which was discovered in 1903 in a deep pit in the baths of Calleva.

The occurrence of this brickfield and the evidence of date afforded by the stamp clearly establish the fact that there was considerable building activity under Imperial direction at Calleva during the reign of Nero, A.D. 54-68, which does not bear out, at least as far as this city is concerned, Professor Haverfield's contention that Nero did nothing to encourage Roman town-building in Britain ("Roman Occupation of Britain," p. 197). The first establishment of baths, where a similar tile was found, can now be unquestionably dated in this period, and probably other buildings in the Roman style also. The need of the baths obviously presupposes many inhabitants of the site living under conditions of Roman civilisation.

Another point of interest may be referred to in connection with this brickfield at Little London. Adjoining the site where the wasters were found was an extensive depression about 1,000 feet long by 100 feet broad and 4 feet to 5 feet deep, from which brick-earth was obtained, showing continued use over a considerable period, possibly throughout the whole period of the existence of Calleva. This explains the meaning of the raised bank—marked on the O.S. map as "Intrenchment"—which can be traced from the south gate up to a short distance from the brickfields. It was clearly the road by which bricks were delivered to the city—and this again is evidence of the extensive use of these brickfields over a long period.