

Notes and Queries.

ST. MARY'S, READING : AN INTERESTING MS. BOOK.

The Rev. G. P. Crawford, the late Vicar of Sonning, and at one time Curate of St. Mary's, has given to the Reading Public Library an old MS. book, written up in 1832, which contains extracts from the book of churchwardens' accounts, which was published some years ago by Mr. F. N. A. Garry, with remarks by the writer upon the extracts and other matters connected with St. Mary's Church. The writer appears to have been present at the opening of the Kendrick vault in 1820, and gives drawings of the coffins as they were found at that date, and copies of the inscriptions upon them. He remarks also upon the history of the Vachel or Coley aisle and the vault beneath it, containing seventeen coffins of this family. The book contains the translation of an old deed, dated March 10th, 1449, in which the Abbot and Monks of Reading Abbey convey some property to Henry Webb and John Wyke, churchwardens of the parish church of the Blessed Mary of Reading.

RELICS OF WILLIAM PENN AT LITTLEWICK.

When the main line of the Great Western Railway was made, the house at Ruscombe in which William Penn died had to be pulled down. The materials of which the house was composed were sold. Mr. Thomas Arrowsmith purchased a number of square black and white paving stones. He used some to make a path to the front door of Littlewick Lodge, his residence, and others he placed in the kitchen there. The stones are there to this day. They have a certain historic interest, as they are almost certainly the stones which echoed to the last footsteps of the great Quaker and founder of the State of Pennsylvania.

H.E.B.

FIND OF ROMAN REMAINS AT WALTHAM ST. LAWRENCE.

Waycock Field, in the Parish of Waltham St. Lawrence, is a site at which Roman remains have been found from time to time in some quantity. There is a record of early finds at Waycock Field in the Victoria History of Berkshire, but there were further finds about 1910. It would seem that systematic

excavations might be rewarded there. The Camlet Way from Camulodunum (Colchester) and Verulamum (St. Albans) to Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester) passes through Waycock Field, and it seems likely that the remains there found are part of a mansion similar to that discovered on this ancient road at "Etruria," Castle Hill, Maidenhead, and one which appears to be indicated at Black Vere, Littlewick. Wegcoce (Waycock) was assigned as one of the boundaries of White Waltham in King Eadmund's charter to Chertsey Abbey in 940. At that time the later parish of Shottesbrook was included in that of White Waltham.

H.E.B.

ROMAN REMAINS NEAR LITTLEWICK.

In a field of Feens Farm, close to the footpath from Littlewick Green to White Waltham and about halfway between Littlewick Green and the Great Western Railway, have been found from time to time pieces of Roman brick and pottery. Whenever the field is ploughed up a great number of these fragments are turned up. It seems likely that if a scientific excavation were made here the remains of a Roman villa would be found. The site is close to the line of the Camlet Way, and it is remarkable that it is about equidistant from two sites where such remains have been found, one at Castle Hill, Maidenhead, and the other at Waycock Field, Waltham St. Lawrence, both of these also being close to the Camlet Way.

G.M.A.

ROMAN CAMP ON MAIDENHEAD THICKET.

This rectangular camp is situated ten yards west of the private road to Stubbings House, and thirty yards south of the grass track leading from the Coach and Horses to the Henley Road at its point of junction with the road to Pinkneys Green. The camp has a well-marked fosse and vallum. The measurements of the fosse are north side sixty yards, east eighty yards, south sixty yards, west eighty yards. The camp has long been called "Robin Hood's Arbor" for no assignable reason, as there is no evidence whatever, or even a tradition apart from the inference to be drawn from the name, that Robin Hood ever had any connection with the place. The approximate date 43 A.D. has

been suggested, as that was the year of the campaign of Aulus Plautius, who may well have formed a camp here in the course of his progress up the Thames Valley. The camp was dug and examined in several places by the late Mr. H. Arrowsmith and the late Mr. J. Rutland, F.G.S., about 1894, but nothing of importance was found.

G.M.A.

SIR JOHN POPHAM.

Those who possess "Berkshire Memorial Brasses" by H. Morley, should turn to page 167, where they will find the Palimpsest brass illustrated, which is in St. Lawrence's Church, Reading: The Brass of Walter Barton, 1538, shewing on the back the arms of Popham. It has been described by Mr. Mill Stephenson in an article (where the article was printed is not mentioned) and it says the arms are those of Popham and a portion remaining of Zouche.

Now the question is that the illustration above mentioned *does not* shew Popham impaling Zouche for Zouche appears on the dexter side of the shield, which means, if correct, that a Zouche married a Popham, and if this is correct, the Palimpsest is not that of Sir John Popham as one writer after another has repeated.

The Palimpsest is said to record the death of Sir John Popham, who died in 1463, whom Stowe says was buried at Charterhouse, London. Of course, in printing the illustration, it may have been reversed, but in Heraldry this would make a serious difference.

Heraldry is a more "exact science" than is generally supposed. In my work as Heraldic expert, it is surprising how little is known of Heraldry and how many points are wrongly attributed through ignorance of Heraldry. I could quote several notable examples at the present moment.

E. E. COPE.

EXPORT OF HISTORICAL OBJECTS.

At the 34th Annual Congress of Archæological Societies recently, held at Burlington House, there was a discussion on the exportation of objects of archæological, architectural, and historical interest.

Mr. Rushforth said there was a feeling partly of uneasiness and partly of annoyance at the drain from England of its artistic patrimony. The drain was most marked in regard to works of art, especially pictures, but this Society was concerned rather with the exportation of old buildings and their decorative fittings, which were accompanied by documentary records such as title deeds and family papers. Whereas formerly the great collectors were English, the supremacy had now passed to America, where the museums with large endowments, or millionaires with almost unlimited purses, provided a market for the possessions of English owners suffering financial straits owing to the burden of taxation and increased cost of living. In these circumstances there was a growth of the dealer's business, and that gentleman not only bought up the fittings of a demolished house, but also had no compunction in stripping an existing house. It was not easy to find definite cases, and the result of the speaker's inquiries was that he did not consider that much harm had been done so far. The futility of structural removals—the result not being proportionate to the expense—made it unlikely that they would be common. As to the attitude and policy to be adopted, he suggested that they might get rid of the present restriction to uninhabited buildings, and that a schedule might be made of domestic buildings or interiors of national importance. They might also consider the advisability of leaving certain scheduled houses in private possession and occupation, but relieving the owner of at least part of the burden of taxation. Relief was already given in cases of works of art. By this means they would have a class of privileged buildings, with, possibly, an arrangement which would include a right of inspection by authorities, control of repairs, and a right of public view.

Lord Crawford, who presided, in summing up the discussion, said that in the absence of purchase a preservation order in nine cases out of ten would not work, and purchase by the State was not practical. He saw very real objection to the occupant of a beautiful house being relieved of rates at the expense of the occupants of more humble abodes. The discussion had revealed that the exportation threat was not of any grave moment.