

Obituary.

WALTER MONEY, F.S.A.

It was with very deep regret that his many friends received the news of the passing away from earth of Walter Money, the *doyen* of Berkshire archæologists. During recent years he has lived the life of a recluse, and has taken little part in public affairs or in the work of antiquarian societies. He lived to a great age, but 'his eye was not dimmed nor his natural force abated,' and he frequently walked from his residence into his beloved Newbury, which owes so much to him in many ways. He was much devoted to his garden and, in spite of his great age, loved to tend his flowers and plants as long as health lasted and the increasing infirmities of age spared him to do so.

Mr. Walter Money's name will long be associated with Newbury as the historian of the town. His book on 'The History of Newbury' was published in 1887, and was the result of many years spent in collecting material and comprehensively covering the period from Roman and Saxon days to the end of the nineteenth century. In 1905 he published a 'Popular History of Newbury,' which summarised the previous volume and added much further information which had been subsequently gleaned by continual research. Another publication of great historical value, nationally as well as locally, was 'The Battles of Newbury.' It was a congenial subject, for the author was familiar with every foot of the ground on which the two great struggles took place between King and Parliament, and he had diligently studied contemporary work and literature. This book received favourable commendation from the eminent historian of the period, Professor Rawson Gardiner, and a copy was graciously accepted by Queen Victoria.

Mr. Money had a prolific pen and wrote many smaller histories dealing with Hungerford, Speen, Donnington Priory, a guide to Donnington Castle, the Maison Dieu at Donnington, a history

of Newbury Parish Church and of many other places. For many years he was Hon. Secretary of the Newbury District Field Club, of which he was one of the founders, and edited its Transactions, contributing much interesting and informative matter to the pages. He was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and Secretary for Berkshire, and local Secretary to the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty. Owing to his exertions the handsome monument on Wash Common was erected to commemorate Lord Falkland and the Royalist officers who fell at the First Battle of Newbury. He assisted Canon Greenwell in excavating some tumuli in the neighbourhood of Newbury, and did much of the work while his partner gained all the glory.

He did not confine himself to the activities of the library and study, but took a prominent part in the public life of the town and County. He helped to promote the Lambourn Valley Railway and the Newbury, Didcot and Southampton Railway. He took his part in both municipal and county affairs, and also in the work of the Church of which he served as Churchwarden and was an active supporter of several rectors of Newbury.

Mr. Money came of an old Newbury family, who have been connected with Shaw-cum-Donnington for over 300 years. One of his ancestors, born in 1624, was Churchwarden of Shaw at the Restoration, and presented the petition to Parliament from parishioners seeking redress for damage done to the village when houses and other property were burnt during the siege of 1643.

Mr. Walter Money was much respected by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and was a true friend. In controversy he maintained his own views with strong arguments and determination, and sometimes expressed himself forcibly, especially when brought into conflict with a conceited opponent ; but he earned the affection and respect of all who knew him, and can ill be spared.

P.H.D.

MISS FRANCES KNOWLES-FOSTER.

The tragic death of Miss Frances Knowles-Foster was a great shock to the many friends of the brave and heroic lady. It was caused by the hardships she endured when sailing back to England from Sweden in her motor-yacht, the *Enchantress*. Her home was named Tapestry House, which recalls the gallant effort that was made to establish under Royal patronage the art of weaving tapestry in England. It is just half a century ago that the works were established at Old Windsor, where a fine hall and workmen's cottages were built. Mr. Henry was the inaugurator and director of the scheme, and Mr. Brignolles was appointed the chief weaver. The Duke of Albany, the Princesses Christian and Louise were the royal patrons, and also Queen Victoria, who authorised the title to the buildings, 'The Royal Windsor Tapestry Works.' The Duke of Westminster, the Marquis of Bute, and other distinguished persons consented to act on the committee. Some very excellent work was produced, the earliest being a set of panels, 'The Merry Wives of Windsor,' woven from cartoons by Mr. E. W. Ward, R.A., which obtained the highest honours in the Paris Exhibition of 1878. Queen Victoria bought several specimens of this Windsor art, which are exhibited at Windsor Castle. Four panels are at the Mansion House, and some went to America. The artists tried to combine the broad effects of the Arras tapestry with the fine detail of the Gobelins. In spite of the interest and patronage of King Edward VII, when Prince of Wales, and the efforts of Sir Robert Collins, the effort failed. The work was very costly, and the industry had to be abandoned. It is rather a pity that this praiseworthy effort to revive the production of English tapestry, which was in existence in the time of Chaucer, and found a home at Barchetson, Warwickshire, in the reign of Henry VIII, and flourished at Mortlake in the days of the Stuarts, should have to be given up through lack of public support. Miss Knowles-Foster purchased the whole property, and made it into a charming dwelling house.

P.H.D.