

Notes and Queries.

THE MONEY COLLECTION.

TO all interested in Berkshire History a visit to the Money collection in the local room at the Reading Central Public Library would be the source of both pleasure and profit. This collection of the works of the late Walter Money, F.S.A., was presented by his son, Mr. G. C. T. Money, some months ago, and now forms a valuable and most important addition to the extensive Berkshire local collection, which is not, perhaps, as well known as it might be.

Walter Money was the author of the standard "History of Newbury," and he also wrote a number of other local works, such as the "History of the Two Battles of Newbury," and standard histories of Speen and of Hungerford, besides a large number of pamphlets. In addition to this he was the editor of the "Newbury District Field Club Proceedings," to which he contributed many papers of very great interest. The Money collection contains the author's copies of Mr. Walter Money's works, and these are of enormous interest to readers interested in Berkshire history, by reason of the wealth of manuscript, annotations, cuttings, letters and illustrations which the author added to them throughout the many years of his long and useful life. The collection also contains a number of local scrap books dealing with Berkshire topics, mainly archæological and antiquarian. Not the least interesting feature of this collection is the large number of letters from interesting people which Mr. Walter Money received in connection with his writings over a period of at least fifty years, and which are included in his MSS. and scrap books. The librarian and his staff are always pleased to welcome visitors interested in the history of Berkshire, and to show them the local collection. It is proposed to contribute, from time to time, material for other notes in this column relating to important items contained in the very extensive local collection possessed by the Reading Public Libraries.

FRANCIS M. BUNCE, *Librarian.*

Public Library, Reading.

PENN RELICS AT WINDSOR.

An interesting discovery of a number of documents belonging to the Penn family and some oil and water-colour paintings has been made in an old iron chest which has just come into the possession of Mr. E. Winkup, an art dealer, of Sheet Street, Windsor.

On the back of a miniature is written :—" This portrait of the Hon. Lady Juliana Penn, by George Romney, third daughter of Thomas, third Earl of Pomfret." Romney, the inscription says, was paid £1 to paint it. The back of a water-colour is inscribed :—" An old cottage at Stoke Poges. A gift to Lady Penn, from Henry Raeburn on his visit to Stoke Court, 1785." There are also one or two sketches bearing the signature, " David Cox, 1827."

There are a number of locks of hair of William Penn and his wife. Some of the hair is wrapped in Penn's invitation to the Coronation of William III. in Westminster Abbey. This gives the number of his seat.

On a sheet of paper is written the following :—" Received of Samuel Simmons, five pounds. April 6, 1669, John Milton."

A Book of Devotions, dated 1639, contains the name of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, and of other members of his family. There are a number of wills, with seals attached, bearing names of the Penn family ; also private letters.

From " The Times," 24th October, 1927.

THE BEDFORD MISSAL.

Some time ago the present writer made reference to the sale at Whiteknights in 1819 of the cellar of wines belonging to the fifth Dukes of Marlborough, and commented on the fact that in consequence of financial embarrassment it had become necessary in the same year for his Grace to dispose of other treasures which were housed in his mansion at Earley. In addition to the world-wide celebrity of the gardens at Whiteknights—the King of Prussia once sent his gardener to see them—the Duke had treasures within the house which were hardly less renowned. In the magnificent library reposed in a sandalwood box, secured by

a heavy gold chain, two rare books which had cost a small fortune to acquire. One a Boccaccio il Decamerone, Valdarfer, 1471, had been purchased for £2,260 at the Duke of Roxburgh's sale, where the principal under-bidders were Earl Spencer and the Emperor Buonaparte. The other, called the "Regent's Missal," was secured for £687. 15s. (one account says £698). It is of the latter volume that a few notes may be interesting to the readers of this column, as apart from its local associations it may still be seen in the British Museum, where it ranks as one of the most important of our national treasures.

The "Bedford" Book of Hours (as the "Regent's Missal" is called) is in Latin, of the Paris use, and comprises a calendar with the Sequences of the Gospels, the Hours of the Virgin with the days of the week, the Vigils of the Dead, the Fifteen Joys, the Hours of the Passion, *Memoriæ* of the Saints, and various prayers in French. It consists of 289 leaves of vellum, 10 3-8ths ins. in height by 7¼ ins. in width, with ten short lines, leaving wide margins for illuminated borders, in a page. From the richness and beauty of its decoration it ranks with the very finest examples of French art of the earlier half of the 15th century, and in addition it possesses special interest as a memorial of English domination in France at the same period. Among the miniatures are portraits of John, Duke of Bedford, Regent of France (1422-1435) and his first wife, Anne, daughter of John, Duke of Burgundy, and their arms and mottoes, "*A vous entier*" and "*J'en suis contente*," together with the devices of a root and a fruit tree, are repeatedly introduced in the borders and elsewhere in the scheme of decoration. The marriage, which was designed to cement the English alliance with Anne's brother, Phillip, Duke of Burgundy, took place in 1423, and the volume was no doubt presented to her by her husband soon after. It was certainly completed before Christmas Eve, 1430, when she gave it, with the Duke's consent, to the young King Henry VI, who was then at Rouen, the gift being formally recorded in a Latin note written on the blank page at the back of the Duke's portrait, by John Somerset, the King's physician, who was present at the time. The subsequent history of the MS. for

more than a century is obscure. It has been suggested that Henry left it at Rouen when he finally returned to England at the end of 1431 after his coronation at Paris on December 16th, and that it fell into the hands of Charles VII. on recovery of the city from the English in 1449. He may, however, equally well have taken it with him on his visit to Paris and left it there. However, when light is next thrown upon it, the volume had passed from the royal house of England to that of France. This is evident from shields of the arms of the French King Henry II. (1547-59) and his Queen Catherine de Medicis, which are painted, together with Henry's motto, "*Dum Totum compleat orbem*," and his well-known device of a crescent, on the back of one of the miniatures following the calendar. As these shields are suspended from a fruit tree and the background is covered with golden roots, no doubt they originally bore the arms of Bedford and his wife, exactly as they were found in another part of the MS.

After this the volume again disappears from sight until it is purchased by Edward Harley, second Earl of Oxford, apparently between 1713 and 1724, while he was still styled Lord Harley. (The Harleian MSS. were purchased from his widow at his death by the nation for the nominal sum of £10,000). Harley purchased the Missal from Frances, wife of Sir Robert Worsley, Bart., of Appuldurcombe. How it came into the possession of this lady is not known, but it has been surmised that it was brought to England by Queen Henrietta Maria, to whose son, afterwards Charles II., Lady Worsley's great-grandfather, William Seymour, Marquis of Hertford, was Governor. On the Earl of Oxford's death in 1741, the MS. descended to his daughter, Margaret, Duchess of Portland, and although it was specially reserved when she and her husband sold the rest of the Harley MSS. to the nation in 1753, it was included in the public sale of the "Portland Museum" in 1786 and was purchased by James Edwards, a bookseller, for the trifling sum of £213 3s. Subsequently it belonged to the fifth Duke of Marlborough and was housed in state at Whiteknights, as we have seen. John Milner is next possessed of it, and appears to have given £800 for it ;

then it was sold to Sir John Tobin, of Liverpool, for £1,250, and in January, 1852, it was sold by the Rev. John Tobin, son of the last-named, with five other MSS. to a bookseller named William Boone, who immediately afterwards transferred all six MSS. to the British Museum for £3,000. The binding of red velvet, with silver-gilt clasps bearing the Harley and Cavendish arms, is of the Earl of Oxford's time.

ERNEST W. DORMER.