

C. R. Sherbourne's Berkshire Views.

By ERNEST AXON, F.S.A.

In the Reference Library of the Manchester Public Libraries there is a collection of over 600 water colour drawings done at the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th centuries by Mr. Charles Robert Sherbourne. In volume VII. there are eleven drawings and three unfinished sketches relating to Berkshire.

The artist was an illegitimate son of Admiral the Hon. Robert Digby, who, after a distinguished career in the Navy, died in 1815. The drawings give evidence that Sherbourne was recognized by the Digby family and its connections, and that he mixed freely in many good families. In 1796 Sherbourne married Sophia Cater, one of the co-heiresses of the family of Cater who owned the manor of Kempston Hastingsbury, in Bedfordshire, for several centuries. In 1801 the co-heiresses sold this manor. About this time Sherbourne adopted or had granted a coat of arms quite unlike any other Sherbourne or Sherborne coat, namely, *Azure an ostrich head and neck, proper, holding a horse shoe in his beak, proper.* This coat is merely half of the crest of the Digbys placed on a shield. It is engraved, with the Cater arms on an escutcheon of pretence, in Gregson's "Portfolio of Fragments" (3rd edition, p. 181) which states that Robert Sherbourne was manager of the Plate Glass Works at St. Helen's, Lancashire. How long he held this position is not known, but it is evident that his duties did not prevent his having a long holiday each year, during which he made the drawings now in the Reference Library. Late in life Sherbourne married a Miss Willis of the Halsnead family. He resided at Hirst House, Prescot, and died at the age of 80 in 1836.

Sherbourne was evidently more interested in scenery than in architecture, though occasionally he gives careful drawings of buildings, and he had a fondness for distant views. At the back of each drawing is an inscription giving date, subject and occasional historical notes. Sherbourne's visits to Berkshire were in 1802, 1806 and 1812.

The following is a list of Sherbourne's Berkshire drawings, the descriptions being his own :—

Volume 7—Miscellaneous.

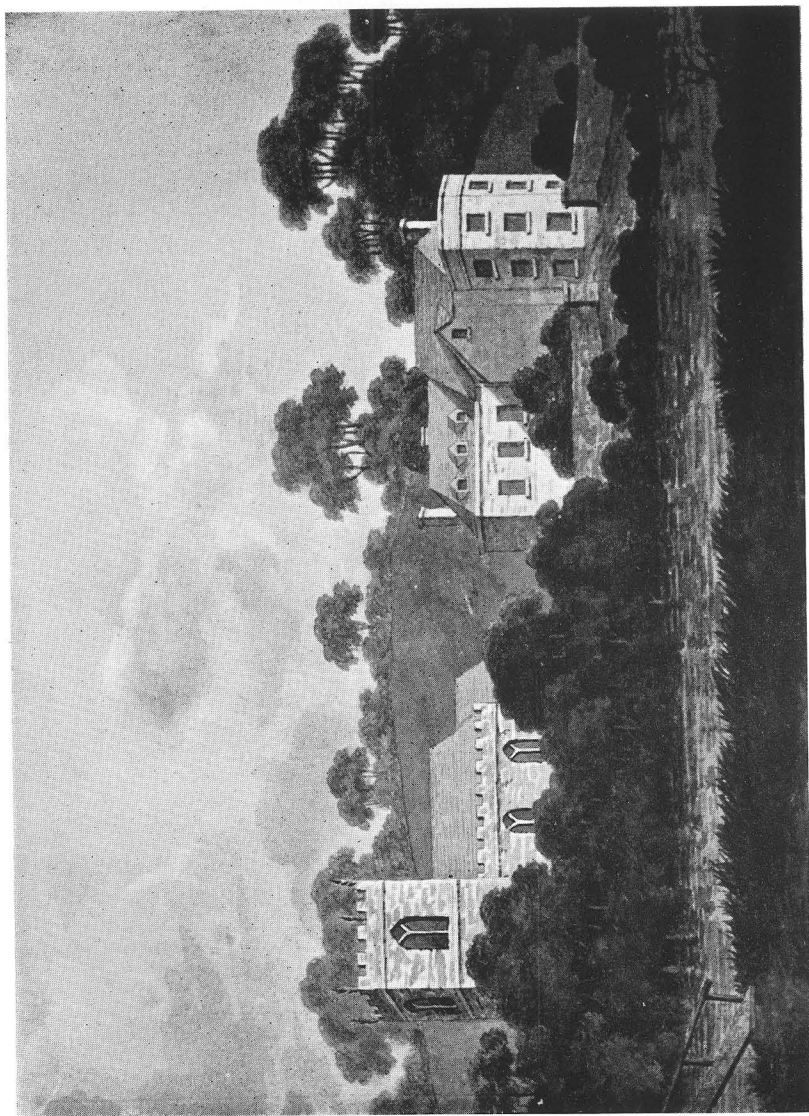
1. Forest Farm, the seat of Mrs. and Miss Squire, in Windsor Forest, four miles from Windsor. (Water colour).
17 July, 1802.
2. Windsor Forest looking on Winkfield Plain from Miss Squire's dining room, the trees and hedge on the foreground form her boundary. (Water colour). 17 June, 1812.
3. Windsor Castle from Cranbourn Lodge, Windsor Forest. (Water colour). 14 June, 1812.
4. St. Leonards, a seat of Lord Harcourt's from Cranbourn Lodge, Windsor Forest. (Water colour). 14 June, 1812.
5. From the Sandpit Gate, Windsor Park; High Wycombe, Harrow, Snow Hill in the distance. (Water colour).
14 June, 1812.
6. Windsor Forest, near the Sandpit Gate. (Water colour).
17 June, 1812.
7. Sandpit Gate Lodge, Windsor Park. (Pen and Ink).
16 June, 1812.
8. Four oak trees near the Sandpit Gate, Windsor Forest. (Water colour). 17 June, 1812.
9. Windsor Forest not far from the Sandpit Gate. (Water colour). 16 June, 1812.
10. Windsor Forest near the Sandpit Gate. (Water colour).
17 June, 1812.
11. Chilton, the Rev. Dr. Popham's two miles from Hungerford on the River Kennet. (Water colour). 17 June, 1806.

In addition there are three unfinished pencil sketches, all of Windsor Great Park and dated 1812.

Nos. 2, 5, 6, 9 and 10 are landscapes with trees only, the other drawings show the buildings named in the list.

[NOTE.—The illustration of Chilton which accompanies these notes is reproduced by kind permission of the Manchester Libraries Committee.
—ED.].

C. R. SHERBOURNE'S BERKSHIRE VIEWS.



Chilton.