

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE QUANTON THORN.—On Christmas eve, 1753, at Quanton, in Buckinghamshire, above two thousand people went with lanterns and candles, to view a blackthorn in that neighbourhood, which was remembered to be a slip from the famous Glastonbury thorn, and reported always to have budded on the 24th, to have been full blown the next day, and to have gone off at night. The people finding no appearance of a bud, it was agreed by all, that December 25 (new style) could not be the right Christmas-day, and accordingly refused going to Church, and treating their friends on that day as usual: at length

the affair became so serious, that the ministers of the neighbouring villages, in order to appease them, thought it prudent to give notice, that old Christmas-day should be kept holy as before.—*From the Gentleman's Magazine.*— [We cannot find any record or tradition of this circumstance at the place. There is, we believe, a Glastonbury thorn now in the Rector's garden.—ED.]

HAWRIDGE CHURCH is a small Early English building of flint and stone, rough-cast. The most interesting features are the Norman Font, and small single-light side windows, one of which in the Chancel is filled with stained glass, in memory of a former Rector, and a very early Perpendicular West Window. The proportions of the Chancel are marred by a modern wall, which cuts off the Eastern extremity. The walls being in an unsafe condition, it is found necessary to rebuild the Church, and plans have been prepared by Mr. White, the architect, of the most simple character, but yet effective and artistic. The small Nave and Chancel are to be of the original dimensions, and under one roof, with a South Porch and Bell Turret, both of wood. The material of the walls is to be flint, intersected with layers of brick and stone quoins: the splays of the windows and the lower internal portion of the walls are to be of red brick. The judicious introduction of this material appears most consistent with the elastic spirit of Gothic Architecture, which ever adapts itself to the occasion, and employs to the best advantage whatever material will most readily effect the object in view. Care will doubtless be taken to replace in similar positions every piece of the original work that can be so employed, and to make any new tracery or moulding an exact copy of the old. The Rector having kindly offered a drawing, the Society may preserve a memorial of the old Church, long after it has passed away. We only hope that contributions from other sources may be obtained, sufficient to compensate for the poverty of the parish, and to carry out this good work.