

BUCKS CHURCHES.

Marstowth.

Mr. Mill Stephenson, F.S.A., promises us a note on the palimpsest brass here, and will very kindly lend us the blocks prepared by the Monumental Brass Society. Some notes by the Rev. F. W. Ragg, formerly vicar, descriptive of the alterations made under his direction, will probably appear in the same issue.

Quarrendon.

Mr. Hollis sends me the following notes:—A few weeks ago Mrs. Lee, of Hartwell, had fragments of two monumental effigies lying in the garden of Church Farm, Quarrendon, which probably came from the ruined chapel, removed to Hartwell Church for preservation. They are the trunk of a knight in armour and the skirt of a lady from the waist downwards. I think, from the style of the armour and the lady's dress, that they are parts of the figures of Sir Arthur Lee and his wife (father and mother of the well-known Sir Henry). . . .

Mrs. Lee told me she understood that in the cellar of the farm there were stones bearing the indents of brasses. Mr. Arthur Terry, the tenant, kindly took me all over the ground floor of the house. I found the upper half of one slab bearing the impression of a lady (c. 1500—1520), with impressions of two shields above, also another odd fragment with impression of a shield, probably from the bottom corner of the same slab. These indents have been missed by the investigators of the R. Commission. There are also several fine moulded oak beams, one in the kitchen, others in the outbuildings. I believe these are part of the timber structure shown at the west end of the church in the figure given in "Addenda to Aedes Hartwellianæ," p. 130. These do not seem to be mentioned in the R. Com. Report.

I told Mr. Mill Stephenson of these indents, and he proposes to record them in his account of Bucks brasses upon which he is now engaged. He has called our attention to the last issue of the "Oxford Journal of Monumental Brasses," Vol. II., No. 3, containing a note by Percy Manning, F.S.A., on "Palimpsest Brasses from Quarrendon, Bucks," with an illustration

showing "a group of three daughters, of c. 1535, engraved on the reverse of a (fragment of a) canopied brass of English workmanship of c. 1450. The group measures 6 in. \times 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.; all wear the 'Paris' head dress." The chapel of Quarrendon, from which the brass seems to have come, was a chapelry of the church of Aylesbury, and served by a chaplain from Bierton.* "It is now a complete ruin, and has evidently served as a stone quarry for the neighbouring farm buildings. Lipscomb (II. 407, 1847) noted 'in a cottage near the site of the chapel is a hearthstone evidently formed out of an old sepulchral slab from which brasses have been torn.'" "It was from this slab that the group of daughters must have come, for the late Rev. Dr. F. G. Lee, in a note to a poem on Quarrendon Chapel, written in 1874, says that he has in his possession 'a group of three children taken from a Purbeck marble slab now used as a cottage hearth-stone.' I was shown the site of this cottage in July, 1899, about fifty yards west from the chapel, and was told that it had been pulled down some twenty years previously; but of the hearth-stone I could hear nothing." Mr. Manning believes that the brassless slab attributed by Browne-Willis† to John Farnham, the benefactor of 1377, is that in the cellar of the farmhouse occupied by Mr. Terry, "a Purbeck stone with the indents of a lady in a 'pedimental' head-dress of c. 1500, a foot inscription, and four shields. The other may be identified with the hearthstone above mentioned. 'In the south isle is a larger tombstone, on which were sundry brasses and brass round the verge, on which, may be conjectured, was the inscription, likewise lost.' Browne Willis suggested that this was the tombstone of Richard Lee, who died in 1499. But the brass is too late for this date, and if it commemorates any member of the Lee family it might be Sir Robert Lee, who died 1538-9, and had by his second wife, Lettice, daughter of Sir Thomas Penstone, of Hawridge, Bucks, three daughters—Jane, Margaret, and Elizabeth.

* RECORDS II., 24.

† B.W., MSS. XX., 84 (Bodleian Lib.).

Contributions suitable for printing under the above heading are invited.