

REVIEWS.

AN INVENTORY OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, Vol. 1, 1912.

SOUTH BUCKS.

Having gone carefully through every page of the book, with its fine illustrations and plans, I have come to the conclusion that, if we only possessed Eton and Chenies, we should still have reason to be thankful: how much the more should we be so with such a record as this, with so many interesting churches, mansions, houses, cottages, and ruins, to say nothing of prehistoric remains? The wealth of our beautiful chimneys is well shown, and even the humble weather-vane has not been forgotten. The ample index, and glossary, make the finding of anything easy and simple, and the Heraldry has been specially well done. Of the Churches in South Bucks, I find that no less than 29 are dedicated to St. Mary, 8 to St. Nicholas, 7 to All Saints, 6 each to St. Michael and St. Peter, 5 to SS. Peter and Paul, 4 each to SS. John Baptist and James, 3 each to SS. Mary Magdalene and Lawrence, 2 each to SS. Michael and All Angels, and Giles, and 1 each to the Holy Trinity, St. Mary and All Saints, SS. Mary and Nicholas, St. John, St. Andrew, St. Bartholomew, St. Paul, St. Catherine, St. Leonard, St. Botolph, and St. Dunstan. I can well endorse all so well said in the "Architect" of October 11 in favour of this book, in which no department seems to have escaped notice. The Church Plate is recorded, and we notice that furniture, when of interest, is, very properly, included. The value far exceeds the cost of the book, and embraces much of which few know anything, and those who peruse it carefully, and with local interest, can but testify to the zeal and care of its compilers, who have sought out and copied for themselves, taking no man's word for granted till

after their own verification. If the history of our County, of which any Bucks man may be proud, is worth remembering, either inside or outside of it, this record should prove a stimulus to either. As has well been said, few Counties so near London are so little known to the Londoner, who goes far away in the pursuit of antiquarian knowledge, and leaves alone much that lies at his own door; nor is this habit peculiar, as students of other subjects well know. The absence of any great town in our County will show that, in spite of this, we have a vast store of interest in the smaller, but none the less valuable, monuments of the past, the delight in which, like that of sculpture, is not likely to be gauged by mere size. The thoughtful folk of our County may, and it is hoped will, take no small interest and pleasure in the appearance of this first volume of such a valuable addition to our Records, the compilers of which would seem to have grasped the fact that historical accounts are often very like slander: the original word, when distorted, leads in turn to such variation, which may so warp the point at issue as well-nigh to support its disappearance altogether. The removal of tombs, brasses, and the like, evince but little reverence for the dead, either famous or otherwise: the usefulness, therefore of these records is, *inter alia*, of a distinct value, as forming a clue to the perpetrator of any such act of sacrilege.

Let us hope that, as these volumes come out, they may be the means of fostering the interest and delight in antiquities of other Counties, and that the merits of this volume may be interchangeable.

Soil-hunger, or poverty, may, it is true, drive away from us many an ancient family, and from properties long owned or inhabited by them, but these records of ancient works, deeds, and worth will prove no small means for keeping their memory green, and of cataloguing their history in a permanent form. As has been well and wisely said, "Ancient dignity was territorial rather than personal; the whole system was rooted in the land, and even in the present day, though the land may have changed hands often, it has carried along with it some of that sentiment of regard attached to the lordship of it, as surely as

"its earth has the fresh smell which it gives when
"upturned by the husbandman."

In conclusion, if it be true that our best friends are they who tell us of our faults, it follows that the reviewer in this case can but prove himself a poor one, it being so hard to discover any.

E. SWINFEN HARRIS, F.R.I.B.A.

STONY STRATFORD,
October 28, 1912.

TWO BUCKS SCHOOL BOOKS.

CAMBRIDGE COUNTY GEOGRAPHIES, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

[BY A. MORLEY DAVIES, D.Sc., &c. 1s. 6d.
Cambridge University Press, 1912.]

This admirable series already covers nearly all the English counties. They are models of cheapness combined with excellence, and should have a large sale. This volume contains upwards of 90 illustrations, photo-prints, maps, and diagrams.

On subjects which Mr. Morley has made his own, some instructive chapters will be found illustrated by useful diagrams. Section X. treats of place-names in this county, with diagrams of the prevalence of the terminations *Ton*, *Ham*, *Don*, *Den*, *Borough*, and *Bury*, *Ford*. "The great majority of the village names were given by English-speaking people, and are therefore not older than the last quarter of the sixth century, when the Saxons seem to have first settled in this district." *Ham* (home) is found chiefly in the Chiltern district, while *ton* (hedge) is scarce there. "The terminations *don* and *den* show a similar oppositeness of distribution. *Den* or *dene* means a wood, while *don* is a down or bare hill, or sometimes an artificial mound. In the plain the settlers chose rising ground to live upon; in the dry Chilterns they were usually settled in the wooded valleys. It seems reasonable to suppose that the villages whose names end in *don* and *den* are younger than those ending in *ton* and *ham*, because if the downs and denes had not

already had names given them by earlier English settlers the new settlements might have been named *ham* or *ton*." Compulsory elementary education has been the means of altering the local and more correct way of pronouncing place-names, of which Hughenden and Beaconsfield are examples; but Mr. Davies notes that "we may still have Chalfont pronounced *Charfunt*, Coleshill, Cōsul, and Chesham—as it should be—Ches-ham (*Chessam*)."

The chapter on the history and antiquities of the county, though necessarily brief, is excellent. Our Museum at Aylesbury supplies the subject for several photo-plates of antiquities. Under the heading Architecture—Ecclesiastical, which is adequately treated, a view is given of Medmenham Abbey from the river. Although mediæval arches and windows have been placed there, this building, if mentioned, should have been pointed to as showing the folly of a club which had a short life here in the 18th century. One pier of the church, however, remains *in situ* in the garden, a clustered column of the 13th century, showing that this monastery was built on a noble scale.

The remarkable absence of remains of military architecture in the county is duly noted. It is doubtful if the Court-house, Long Crendon, is of so early a date as the fourteenth century, as stated. A better and undoubted example of a house of that century still exists in the "Old Parsonage" at Marlow, which, though mainly a timber building, has handsome stone two-light transomed windows, one on each side of the hall, rising above the eaves, and with reticulated tracery. Complete measured drawings of this house are greatly to be desired. The great ten-light window of the King's Head Inn at Aylesbury, another timber construction, is illustrated. Of later time, Gayhurst is given as an instance of the growing taste for spaciousness and stateliness in the country house in the time of Elizabeth and the first of the Stuarts.

The history of road communication is well traced from the British track to the duplicated railroad of the London and North-Western main line which passes through a portion of the county; also of the

Hundreds, political Divisions, and local administration. Worthies, poets, and statesmen are not overlooked, and this most useful educational book concludes with, instead of an index, a useful alphabetical list of the towns and villages.

BUCKS BIOGRAPHIES.

[By MARGARET M. VERNEY: OXFORD, 1912. 2s. 6d.].

Though this is called "a School Book," those who are interested in Buckinghamshire and all who have read Lady Verney's admirable "Verney Memoirs" will not give this description a narrow meaning. It may safely be said that no one could have performed this task better. Many who have lived their lives in this county will be surprised at the long list of distinguished men and women who have been more or less connected with it—John Hampden, Sir A. Denton, John Milton, the noble Sir Ralph Verney, the Russells, Bishop Atterbury, Thomas Gray, William Cooper, Shelley, Edmund Burke, John Wilkes, the exiled Louis XVIII., Scott the commentator, who worked in the fields, and his grandson, Scott, the Architect (whose two sons and grandson have followed in the same profession), Benj. Disraeli, distinguished soldiers and sailors who are still with us, famous doctors, and Florence Nightingale, all find a place here. The book is illustrated with many portraits, and at its very modest price should be a favourite Christmas present for all Bucks boys and girls.

We are reminded (p. 73) that Catherine of Aragon was the founder, or at least the patron, of the art of pillow lace-making which was stated in the 18th century to be "the general employment of the female population of the whole county." Her name is preserved in Queen Catherine Road, Steeple Claydon. Jane Seymour is claimed as a Bucks lady, but her birth at Seymour Court, Marlow, has hardly been proved. Another of Henry's Queens, Katherine Parr, is supposed to have lived at Beachampton House, upon the Ouse, of which the staircase is illustrated in this

issue. "The stone gate-posts mark the entrance to what was once a house of considerable extent; a panelled drawing-room and a small richly-carved staircase with the Tudor badges," etc. Lady Verney records that "the managers of a village school recently objected to the hanging there of Henry VIIIth's portrait on the ground that he had had too many wives."

In the days of Queen Bess, Chancellors of the Exchequer grew rich if they did not neglect their opportunities, and Sir John Fortescue built a great house at Salden, Mursley, with a household of sixty servants, one of whom had enough to do in opening and closing the many windows and shutters daily. "It was perhaps not finished in time to receive Elizabeth, but James I. and Anne, his Queen, stayed here with their children Henry and Elizabeth, and Anne restored a decayed hospital at Newport Pagnell." Queen Elizabeth is said by Nichols* to have been received by Edward Lord Windsor at Bradenham, Francis Russell, Earl of Bedford, at Chenies, William Tothill at Shardeloes, Sir Henry Lee, her champion, at Quarrendon, and visited also Yewden, Hambleton, and Marlow. "A narrow green track out of the Hambleton valley is still called Dudley's Lane" from her favourite. Towards the close of her reign she was splendidly entertained at Stoke Park. An ancient family which has forsaken this county is that of Throckmorton, formerly of Weston Underwood. † By the way, this family do not spell their name with a *g* (p. 96). They leave that to the street of untold wealth in the "City." Claydon House supplies some of the best portraits here re-produced—Sir Edmund Verney, Anne Lee, Dr. William Denton, physician to Charles I.

* Progresses of Q. Eliz.

† The manor-house of Weston Underwood was on the north bank of the Ouse, half a mile from it and about a mile from Olney. It was nearly re-built by Sir Robert Throckmorton about A.D. 1578. Over the entrance was an escutcheon, Throckmorton impaling Yate, says Lipscomb. This connection, however, took place rather later. The Yate heiress brought Buckland, Berks, to this family, but it also has now passed by sale. "Numerous family portraits and coats of arms in painted glass were removed to Coughton" (Warwickshire). The house stood round a quadrangle, and was demolished in 1827.

That neglected subject, the history of the navigation of the Thames, has found an exponent, and a capable one, in Mr. Frederick S. Thacker, author of the delightful "Stripling Thames" (the river above Oxford); who is now at work on her more navigable course, including that which forms the southern boundary of this county. The Thames has been exploited a good deal by the maker of books of the drawing-room table kind, but the serious history of its navigation has hitherto not been attempted. In "The Stripling Thames (1909)" Mr. Thacker showed himself an enthusiastic lover of its more remote solitudes, and we may look forward with confidence to his treatment of the more developed river, different, better known, with more written history, and, it must be acknowledged, more vulgarised.

W. N.