

EUSTACE MASCOLL.

BRASS IN FARNHAM ROYAL CHURCH.

It is now affixed to the East wall of the S. aisle. It was discovered under the pavement when the Church, with the exception of the chancel, was rebuilt in 1868; and from its size and style appears to have been intended to be affixed to the wall, and not to the floor.

The inscription reads thus:—

“ Here lyeth buried Eustas Mascoll, *gent*, sometime Clarke of the workes of *frisewide** in Oxford for Cardinal Woolsey, and after wese Clarke of accomps. for xvii. yeares for all the buldings of King Henry y^e VIII. his plasis wiñ xx myles of Londō, and deputed this life pistellreder in Winsor Castell, the xxxi day of Januarii A^o M.D. lxjiii.”

Frisewide is, of course, Christ Church, Oxford, which College Cardinal Wolsey founded in 1525, with the united aid of Pope Clement VII. and King Henry VIII. It was originally known as Cardinal's College, though dedicated to the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin, S. Frideswide, and All Saints.

The pistell reder is clearly not, as might at first appear, an “epistoler” or a “gospeller,” *i.e.* one of the lay or clerical readers in St. George's Chapel, but is evidently what we should call correspondence clerk, or, in Dr. Johnson's definition of the word epistoler, “a scribbler of letters.”

A very interesting question has arisen as to whether this Eustace Mascoll was not merely clerk of the works, but actually the architect of Hampton Court and Christ Church, Oxford. Mr. Ernest Law, in his most exhaustive work on the History of Hampton Court Palace (Vol. I., p. 154), discusses the point.

Britton, in his work on “Architectural Antiquities,” makes mention of Eustace Mascoll in his list of

*The letters in italic are supplied where a fracture has left^a blank in the inscription.

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Clarke of the workes of Arsew' in Oxford
for Cardinall Woolley, and after was Clarke
of Arcomps. for xlvij years, for all the buildinge
of Kinge Henry v' in his places in xx wyles
of London. said departed this his mikellfever in Winton
Castell, the xxxi day of January A. d. 14. lviij.

FARNHAM ROYAL CHURCH.
MEMORIAL BRASS TO EUSTACE MASCOLL.

mediæval architects. Mascoll certainly appears in nearly all the Hampton Court Bills as acting in that capacity for the King, and the inference that he probably prepared the designs for Henry VIII.'s works, if not also for Wolsey's, might seem to derive considerable colour from the fact that the style and details of Hampton Court bear in many particulars a very close resemblance to Christ Church—the halls, indeed, being almost exact counterparts and palpably by the same architect—the dimensions are similar, and the roofs and windows are almost exactly alike. On the other hand, in the first place, there is nothing to show that at any time the duties of a clerk of the works included the drafting of designs, or the getting out of plans. Chaucer, *e.g.* who was appointed clerk of the works of all the Royal Palaces in the reign of Richard II., with a salary of two shillings a day, was only paymaster and director of the workmen, and did not furnish designs. And in the second place, that Mascoll at any rate merely discharged ordinary clerical functions would seem clear from his duty being the "makyng and engrossing as well the By Books as the Jornal Boks of all the works." Nor does the smallness of his salary, which was only at the rate of 1s. a day—the wages, in fact, of the master carpenters, carvers, and painters—admit of our supposing him to have been responsible for any artistic work.

By itself the work of the "clerk of the works" for all King Henry's Palaces within 20 miles of London must have been stupendous, and must have fully taxed the ability and experience of one man, trained though he had been in controlling the lavish and almost regal expenditure of the princely Cardinal. In Hampton Court alone the building and decoration accounts, of which the original MS. bills are still preserved in the Record Office, occupy 12 large folio volumes of some 800 to 1,000 pages each. They were written with exquisite care and neatness, and are beautiful specimens of penmanship. They are replete with curious matter as to the cost of material and price of labour, and the state of trade and the handicrafts generally, and afford a complete picture of the decorations and furniture,

and even of the inner life, in the Palaces of Henry VIII. So elaborately and minutely were these accounts kept by the clerk of the works that the name of every daily labourer, and of every mason, bricklayer, carpenter, joiner, painter, carver, glazier, gilder, and tiler employed is set out in full from fortnight to fortnight, with the sum paid to them; while every portion of the work is so particularized that one can identify every carving, every moulding, every piece of colouring and gilding, and find by whom it was executed and what it cost.

Such was the arduous work of him who lies interred here, and it seems enough without crediting him also with the duties of a designer.

With regard to the decorative detail, there is extant in the Record Office a letter from Sir John Godsolve to Eustace Mascoll, clerk of the works at Hampton Court: "Send me as many golden balls as you can conveniently procure, and such vanes and other things at your pleasure. Help the bearer into the spicery to have an antique which I left there. Send me also the head under the stair."—(Letters and papers, Henry VIII., Vol. 6, No. 576).

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