

OBITUARY NOTICES.

THE LATE REVD. RANDOLPH HENRY PIGOTT.

IN the death of Mr. Pigott we have to lament the loss of one who took a very real interest in the welfare of our Society, and it will be only fitting that what he did in the cause of archæology should be recorded. This memorial will be confined to Mr. Pigott's connection with the Society and archæology, since other reminiscences of his life have already appeared. It was very suitable that his tastes should have led him to encourage the study of the history of his county, because he sprang from one of the oldest families in Buckinghamshire. Lipscomb in his history has copied the pedigree of the family of the Pigotts of Doddershall in the chapter devoted to the parish of Quainton. This is taken from an emblazoned pedigree on vellum dated 1585, compiled under the direction of Sir Edward Phillips, Master of the Rolls during the reign of James I, in the possession, it is believed, of the present owner of Doddershall. From it we learn that one branch of the Pigott family came from Melmonby, in Yorkshire. It is believed that the family settled in that county shortly after the Conquest. In the Wars of the Roses they espoused the Lancastrian cause, and this, it appears, occasioned their migration into Buckinghamshire; and their settling at Whaddon. In or about 1503 the Doddershall Estate passed to Thomas Pigott, Esqre., of Whaddon, Sergeant-at-law, and continued in this branch of the family till the death in 1735 of Lettice, the widow of Thomas Pigott, Esqre., a liberal benefactor of the parishes of Quainton and Grendon Underwood, when the Estate passed to John Pigott, Esqre., of Chetwynd, in the County of Salop, the children of Thomas Pigott having died in infancy. A copy of the ancient pedigree on vellum of this branch of the family is also to be found in Lipscomb's History. This branch was descended from Howell Pigott, Lord of Willaston, in

the County of Salop, in the reign of Henry III., by a Welsh heiress, Tanglish, the daughter of the Lord of Brinscopell. John Pigott married Christobella, the daughter and co-heiress of Sir Thomas Tyrrell, Bart., of Castlethorpe, who survived him. This lady's second husband was John Knap, of Cumner, and her third husband was Richard Finnes, 6th Viscount Saye and Sele. She lived to a great age, and held the Manor of Doddershall till 1789. Lady Saye and Sele was a celebrated beauty in her day, and is spoken of as "eminently distinguished for her wit and vivacity through life." She was buried at the church of Grendon Underwood, where the tablet to her memory may be seen. The estates then passed to William Pigott, Esqre., from whom the subject of this obituary notice was descended. Mr. Randolph Henry Pigott was the eldest son of the Rev. John Robert Pigott, the great grandson of the William Pigott before referred to, and his mother was a granddaughter of Henry, the fifth Lord Berners. Of Doddershall an account is given in Lipscomb by one who must have gained his information from intimate acquaintance with this ancient seat of the Pigotts, but the history of the oldest part of the building, we should imagine from allusions to it, still remains in obscurity, and would well repay a fuller investigation. It is felt that it will be deemed pardonable to have made this digression in thus referring briefly to the Pigott family and its intimate associations with this County.

Mr. Pigott became Rector of Grendon Underwood in early life. This family living he held for thirty-eight years and to the time of his death.

The Society will preserve a grateful recollection of Mr. Pigott for having undertaken the duties of senior honorary secretary at a critical time in its history. Mr. Lowndes, who had so long literally kept the Society together, through an accident and advancing years, felt unable to continue to carry on his useful and laborious work, unaided, as he had been, for a length of time, and it was at a meeting held on the 7th April, 1884, that Mr. Pigott offered to relieve Mr. Lowndes, and he was elected senior honorary secretary, and continued in that office till his election as a vice-

president at the annual meeting held in 1896. Mr. Pigott wrote a very interesting paper on "The Dukes of Wharton and Earl of Chesterfield," read before the members at their annual meeting held on the 2nd August, 1894, at Waddesdon Manor, at the time the Society was entertained by the late Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, and which subsequently appeared in "The Records" (vol. vii., p. 247). It was a paper which vividly brought attention to the number of stirring events that had taken place in sight of Waddesdon Manor from the very earliest period of our history, of the Mansions that, years gone by, stood at Winchendon and Eythrope, of the family of Wharton that once owned Winchendon, and of the Dynhams, Dormers, and Stanhopes, the former possessors of Eythrope. In it a sketch is given of Philip Lord Wharton, of his son, Thomas Marques of Wharton, and his grandson, Philip Duke of Wharton, each in different ways remarkable men. A romantic story is told of the discovery of the remains of Sir Roger Dynham on the site of his chauntry, now enclosed in the gardens of Miss Rothschild. A curious account is preserved in this paper of the mode of conducting elections of Knights of the Shire in the times of the Stuarts, and the bitterness which characterised Buckinghamshire elections down to a recent period is exemplified strikingly in incidents that occurred at Aylesbury.

It is not proposed to refer in detail to the proofs Mr. Pigott gave of his interest in the welfare of the Society and to the part he took in its proceedings, but it may be truly said that he never appeared to greater advantage than in representing it as its spokesman in returning thanks for hospitality shown to its members on the occasion of memorable gatherings, such as those at Stowe, Claydon House, Wilton Park, Hall Barn, or Waddesdon Manor. That Mr. Pigott possessed a real taste for archæology and the antique is evidenced in the building of Grendon Hall, on a spot in his parish possessing one of the most commanding views in the north part of the County, where he resided till a short time before his death. Here he was to a great degree his own architect, the bricks were made on his own ground, and to embellish his home he had, with great

care and trouble, collected a number of objects of historic value, which were incorporated with the building itself. As examples, the fine staircase, with its massive newels, originally came from the ancient episcopal palace at Norwich, the doors of the hall from Winchester House, and the beautiful perpendicular doorways at the north of the house leading into the private chapel from the demolished Church of St. Mary's, Aldermansbury. Flemish glass, oak carvings, armour, specimens of china, and other objects of art adorned the interior, and afford evident proof of Mr. Pigott's love for the antique, and of his special aptitude as a collector.

It only remains to say that Mr. Pigott was highly esteemed as a clergyman, a country gentleman, and a magistrate of his county, and by those who had the advantage of an intimate acquaintance with him he will be remembered as a kind and true friend, to whom his unexpected death has occasioned sincere sorrow.—ED.

THE REVD. J. R. PRETYMAN.

DURING the close of the last year there passed away one of the oldest members of the Society, the Rev. J. R. Pretyman, a former Vicar of Aylesbury. It is believed that he was one of the original members. Mr. Pretyman was at one time the treasurer of the Society, and gave up the office on his leaving this neighbourhood in the year 1853. Mr. Pretyman contributed six papers to The Records under the title of *Illustrations of English History*, to be found in the fourth volume. The subject of the first paper is *England under the Anglo-Saxon Monarchy*, and the series close with *Notes From the peace of Utrecht to the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle*. The papers are written clearly, and give valuable information on important facts connected with the history of our country. Mr. Pretyman was engaged in other literary work during his life. He always showed a warm interest in the welfare of this Society, and would no doubt have continued to take a prominent part in furthering its objects had he not removed from Buckinghamshire.—ED.