

“Notes and Queries”

RELATING TO BERKSHIRE.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the County. All Literary Communications should be sent to the EDITOR, Barkham Rectory, near Wokingham, written on one side only of the paper.

OUR first Query is the one suggested by the Lord Chief Justice at Reading on February 11th. Although Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Lowe, and Mr. Goschen have failed to find a solution, it is possible that some of our readers may succeed :—

“What is the origin of the proverb quoted by Sir Walter Scott in ‘Kenilworth’—‘Quid hoc ad Iphicli boves’?”

JOHN DODD.—“Can any one tell me who was the father of John Dodd, Esq., M.P. for Reading in 1740, and after? He was born in 1717, and died in 1782, having been twice married—firstly, in 1739, to ‘Mrs.’ Joan St. Leger of Shinfield, and secondly, in 1753, to Miss Juliana Jennings of the parish of Stratfieldsaye.”—CONSTANCE RUSSELL, Swallowfield, Reading.

LITTERFORD.—“In Swallowfield Church we have a very good Brass in the chancel, on which appears the figure of a woman with the following inscription :—‘Hic jacet Margeria, quondam uxor Thome Litterford, arm. que obit Die . . . An. Dni. MCCCC. Cujus anime propicietur Deus. Amen!’ Can any one tell me who this Thomas Litterford was, or where I can find any mention of the name?”—CONSTANCE RUSSELL, Swallowfield, Reading.

CHARADE.—“Miss Mitford, in her ‘Recollections,’ quotes the following Charade :—

‘Sir Hilary charged at Agincourt,—
Sooth t’was an awful day!
And though in that old age of sport,
The rufflers of the camp and court
Had little time to pray,
’Tis said Sir Hilary muttered there
Two syllables by way of prayer.
‘My *first* to all the brave and proud
Who see to-morrow’s sun ;
My *next* with her cold and quiet cloud
To those who find their dewy shroud
Before to-day’s be done ;
And *both together* to all blue eyes
That weep when a warrior nobly dies.’

Miss Mitford adds, ‘This charade is still a mystery to me. Solve it, fair readers!’ What is the solution?”—CONSTANCE RUSSELL, Swallowfield, Reading.

BLACK RAM OF EAST ENBORNE, BERKS.—“Can any of your readers explain the following allusion which I find in a letter of Mr. C. Kirkpatrick Sharpe to James Maconochie, Esq., dated September 29th, 1812 :—‘ . . . but the truth is, the rheumatisms in my head have been for some time so violent, that I exist enveloped in flannel *mitches*, and carry about an entire sheep’s fleece (I should say, a sheep’s entire fleece) stuff’d into the orifices of my noddle. . . . Judge then if in such a condition I can appear in the polite circle of Dumfries ! I should be mistaken for the great Bubo of the desert mentioned by the prophet Ezekiel (or some other prophet), or the black ram of East Enborne, in the county of Berks.” (*Letters from and to Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, Esq.*, vol. ii., p. 21 ; W. Blackwood and Sons).—C. W. PENNY, Wellington College.

UFTON.—“Can any of your readers give me any information with regard to the plot of land in the parish of Ufton, called ‘Ufton Greys Hall,’ where there are some ruins of a Church, which is said by some to have belonged to a religious house in Reading, by others to the Knight Templars ?”—ENQUIRER.

Correspondence.

SIR WALTER SCOTT AND “KENILWORTH.”

MR. J. A. BRAIN has forwarded to us an interesting Letter from Mr. T. HUGHES upon Sir Walter Scott’s acquaintance with Berkshire :—

“Uffington House, Chester, 24th February, 1889.

“DEAR SIR,—Sir Walter got the legend of Wayland Smith and all his Berkshire folk-lore from my grandmother, though he may have spoken on the subject to my father, when he was visiting at Abbotsford.

“Sir Walter was several times at my grandfather’s house in Amen Corner during his (my grandfather’s) residences as Canon of St. Paul’s. I don’t remember that he ever was at Uffington, and am pretty sure I should have remembered or heard of it if he had been.

“A younger brother of mine, who was afterwards in the Artillery and died in Berbice, British Guiana, was Sir Walter’s god-son, and christened ‘Walter Scott’ after him.

“My father visited Abbotsford more than once, and met there Lockhart and Professor Wilson. In consequence of this acquaintance he became an occasional contributor to *Blackwood’s Magazine*, and figures as ‘Mr. Bullar, of Brazenose,’ one of the *dramatis personæ* in Christopher North’s once celebrated ‘*Noctes Ambrosianæ*.’

“We are all well, thanks.

“Ever yours very truly,

“THOS. HUGHES.

“P.S.—My grandfather and grandmother were often at Abbotsford ; this, I think, answers all your questions.

“JOHN A. BRAIN, Esq.”