

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.

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## Correspondence.

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### 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.”

The Rev. R. HOOPER writes that the tenant of the farm on which Wayland Smith's Cave stands told him that his father, who went into the farm in 1815, used to say that Sir W. Scott had visited the Hughes' at Uffington, and that he remembered the ground all round the cromlech being cleared for a second visit which Sir Walter meditated, but never accomplished.

Mr. W. BROWN BAKER, a gentleman in his 91st year, writes :—

"I have met Sir Walter Scott in Berkshire. I well remember his paying my uncle (the late Mr. William Brown, of Kingston, close to 'Wayland Smith's Cave') a visit for the purpose of gaining information. He (Sir W. S.) had been staying with the Rev. — Hughes, Rector [Vicar] of Uffington, and had visited Dr. Slater, Rector of Cumnor."

The Rev. William Slatter, Rector of Cumnor and Chaplain of Christ Church, Oxford, referred to, was the gentleman who supplied the late Mr. Bartlett, of Abingdon, with the description of Cumnor Place, who was well acquainted with the building long before any part of it was taken down; and no doubt it was to Mr. Slatter that Sir Walter Scott was also indebted for many local details.

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The following correspondence upon Mr. REID's Lecture has appeared in the Reading newspapers, and some of the Letters have been sent to us for insertion :—

"SIR,—Permit me to point out a few erroneous impressions in the short summary you have given of Mr. Reid's lecture on the 11th inst., in connection with the Berkshire Archaeological and Architectural Society.

"Cumnor Place was designed for the Rectory and Manor-house, and intended as a country-seat of the Abbots of Abingdon for the time being. The suggestion that it was a lazaretto, or 'sanatorium,' cannot be maintained.

'Rowland, the last Abbot, who had a grant of the manor of Cumnor (not of Cumnor Place only), did not die in 1539, but lived till the reign of Edward VI. (see *Dugd. Mon.*, vol. 1, p. 510). In 1546 King Henry VIII., by letters patent, granted the estate and manor to George Owen, M.D., his physician, in which office he served Edward VI. and Queen Mary.

"The misrepresentation of Forster's having occupied Cumnor Place as Dudley's tenant at the time of Lady Dudley's death, and the exaggerations in the manuscript of Wood, and the publications of Aubrey and Ashmole, exemplify the fallacy of relying on hearsay statements. Forster bought the estate of Dr. Owen's son, William Owen, in 1561, a year after Lady Dudley's death, which occurred 8th September, 1560, at the time communications were sent from France about the Queen's marriage with Dudley. 'Tony Forster,' so notorious for his association with the tragedy, was in no way connected with the Forsters of Aldermaston, referred to by Mr. Guilding. His monument, with the eulogistic inscription, no doubt composed by 'Tony' himself, was evidently erected some time before his death, and appears to have been constructed early in the reign

of Elizabeth. It contains no date. In the Church register of deaths, after the name of Anthony Forster, the word 'Gentleman' has been written over an erasure, so that this leaves the question still in obscurity.

"It is difficult to clear Leicester of complicity in the tragedy, although he made great effort to prove his innocence. Surely, if his grief were but half as poignant as he sought to represent it, he would have gone to see his wife after her death, as the distance from Windsor (where he was waiting on the Queen) to Cumnor was not great. And, even if we may relieve his memory of the heavy charge of being a participator in the murder of his first wife, one thing is certain, he was an execrable character; notorious as a heartless, cruel, as well as an unfaithful husband, who found means, by poison or otherwise, to remove those who stood in his way. The notion that the fact of Leicester being afterwards 'elected Steward of Abingdon, Wallingford, and Reading,' proves 'his innocence' is simply absurd. The Corporate Bodies at this period invariably selected some person of rank, who, at the time of his appointment, was either a favourite of the reigning Sovereign (as Leicester was), or a Minister of the Crown, who, by his influence at Court, might, as their High Steward, look after their interests. And they knew no one could do this better than Leicester, upon whom Elizabeth showered almost every favour and honour it was in her power to bestow.

"In displaying 'some of Scott's most glaring inaccuracies and anachronisms,' Mr. Reid seems to have forgotten that 'Kenilworth' was not put forward as an historical narrative, and therefore it is hypercritical to expect a writer of fiction to substantiate every date and incident used by him in the construction of such a work.

"The carved bench-ends and corbels referred to as being in Cumnor Church, are engraved in vol. xvi. of the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, with descriptive text.

"Yours faithfully,

"VERITAS.

"February 19th, 1889.

"P.S.—I think Mr. Brain is wrong in saying it was 'Mrs. Hughes, widow of the Rector [Vicar] of Uffington—(I remember the old lady very well—she was always called 'Madame Hughes')—who communicated to Sir Walter Scott many of the local incidents introduced in 'Kenilworth.' It was her son, 'Pater Hughes,' of Oriel, father of 'Tom Brown,' whom I have heard speak of his acquaintance with Sir Walter Scott, and, if I remember rightly, of a visit he paid to the great novelist at Abbotsford. Mr. Hughes was intimately acquainted with most of the leading literary celebrities of the day, including Scott, Lockhart, Southey, Miss Edgeworth, Miss Mitford, and others. In the preface to 'Quentin Durward,' Sir Walter speaks of Hughes as 'a young Oxonian friend of mine, a poet, a draughtsman, and a scholar.'

"I must also join issue with Mr. Brain as regards its being 'generally admitted that Sir Walter Scott never visited Berkshire.' I have always understood, and it is stated in 'The History and Antiquities of Stanford-in-the-Vale,' by the Rev. Lewin G. Maine, that he is said to have been a frequent visitor at the house of the Rev. Dr. Hughes, Vicar of Uffington, and that it was here that he met with many of the names we find in 'Kenilworth.' The Goslings, Lambournes, and Varneys have flourished in the Vale for centuries. Cumnor Hurst can be seen from the high ground near Uffington."

"SIR,—Permit me to mention that all the accurate information relative to Cumnor Place, given by 'Veritas' in your last issue, was actually communicated by me to my audience in the Athenæum on February 14th. There are, however, inaccuracies. 'The publications of Aubrey and Ashmole exemplify the fallacy of relying on hearsay statements,' says 'Veritas.' Agreed, as to the fallacy; this is very strongly emphasized by the *omission of Aubrey to say anything on the subject!*

"'Veritas' says it is hypercritical to expect a writer of fiction to substantiate every date and incident. This may be; yet I found it strange in 'Kenilworth' to meet Sir Walter Raleigh, born 1552, Knighted 1584; Edmund Spenser, born 1552; Philip Sidney, born 1554; Christopher Marlowe, born 1563; William Shakspeare, born 1564, all treated of as grown men, and figuring at Court prior to the death of Amye Robsart, which occurred in 1560. I still think it was permissible to comment in passing upon these and many similar striking anachronisms.

"'Veritas' further says:—'The notion that the fact of Leicester being afterwards elected Steward of Abingdon, Wallingford and Reading, proves his innocence, is absurd.' Here is another instance of relying on hearsay statements. What I said was this:—'One could scarcely credit three such important Boroughs, all within short distance of Cumnor, electing a person under strong suspicion of murder as their High Steward, and that each mutual action conveyed to my own mind the impression the Burgesses had held him not guilty.' 'Veritas' seems to think the Burgesses were sufficiently corrupt to specially select for this office one under suspicion of the most terrible of crimes, and who, if guilty, must have had the Queen for an accomplice. This is a reflection the Burgesses of the present day may not entirely appreciate. I trust the inference drawn is not a true one. All things considered, I prefer to hold my own opinion, formed after considerable study of the questions at issue; and I asked to be judged, not by a necessarily brief summary, written by another, but from my own words, addressed to a kindly and appreciative audience. Discussion was at the time invited. I cannot now enter upon it; least of all with an anonymous objector, insufficiently furnished either with particulars of what I did say or of what I omitted, who, by his own showing, relies far too much upon the hearsay statements he, nevertheless, deprecates.

"I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

"HERBERT J. REID, F.S.A.

"Donnington, Newbury,

"25th February, 1889."

In a subsequent Letter "Veritas" supplies some information with regard to Anthony Forster, and some additional sources of information concerning the Amy Robsart controversy:—

"Anthony Forster, who is supposed to have served Dudley in some of his worst ends, was born about the year 1510, and was the fourth and youngest son of Richard Forster, of Evelith, in the parish of Shifnal, Shropshire, by Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Gresley. He married, between the years 1530-1540, Ann, daughter of Reginald Williams, of Burghfield, Berks, eldest son of Sir John Williams, of that place, by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of Richard Moore,

Esq., also of Burghfield. Reginald Williams was brother to Lord Williams of Thame, Lord High Chamberlain in the reign of Philip and Mary, who distinguished himself in the burning of the Bishops at Oxford; and his ardour caused him even to silence the dying Cranmer, when he attempted to speak from the stake, by cries of 'Make short, make short.' Lord Williams and his wife were buried at Thame. The figures of the baron and his lady are richly carved in alabaster, on their tomb, in the costume of the later years of Elizabeth; and it is remarkable that they have their heads, instead of their feet, turned towards the East. Richard Moore of Burghfield was an ancestor of Sir Francis Moore, Knt., of Fawley, near Wantage, where the picturesque old manor-house, occupied by so many generations of the Moores, is still standing, and is the property of Philip Wroughton, Esq., M.P. Sir Francis Moore is known by the 'Reports' which bear his name, and as having obtained a Charter from King James I., granting him the privilege of establishing the celebrated sheep-fair at East Ilsley, which had from early times been held on Cuckhamsley Hill, on the line of the famous 'Ridgeway.' Sir Henry Moore, of Fawley, was created a baronet in 1627; and the title and family became extinct on the death of Sir Thomas Moore, in 1807.

"I would refer those of your readers who may wish for further information on the subject of Leicester and Amy Robsart (Lady Dudley) to 'An Inquiry into the Particulars connected with the Death of Amy Robsart,' by J. T. Pettigrew, F.R.S., F.S.A., London, 1859; 'A Critical Enquiry into the Authenticity of the various Statements in relation to the Death of Amy Robsart,' by George Adlard, 1870; 'An Historical and Descriptive Account of Cumnor Place, &c.,' by A. D. Bartlett, of Abingdon, J. H. Parker, 1850; and 'Amye Robsart,' by the Rev. Canon J. E. Jackson, F.S.A., Wilts Arch. Mag., vol. xvii., pp. 47-93. Also to the recent Calendar of State Papers in the possession of the Marquis of Salisbury, at Hatfield. Among these latter MSS. is a Minute of Secretary Cecil a Meeting of the Privy Council in April, 1566, to consider the question of Leicester's marriage with the Queen. Two of the reasons assigned against it are these:—'He shall study nothing but to enhass his own particular frends to welth, to officees, to lands, and to offend others.' '*He is infamed by deth of his wiff.*'"

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## Reviews.

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*A Parochial History of St. Mary Bourne.* By JOSEPH STEVENS.

We subjoin from the local press a short critique of this scholarly and interesting volume by our learned Vice-President, Dr. STEVENS, who has rendered such signal service to the cause of Archæology in our own and the neighbouring counties:—

"Dr. Stevens, who has rendered many valuable services to the student of antiquarian subjects, deserves the warmest thanks of all those interested in the preservation of the records, history, and traditions of our parishes, for the care