

in the undertaking, and with other able assistants the inventory might easily be accomplished. But we think it would be well that the work should be undertaken on some regularly organized plan, in order that no omissions may be made, or two or three applications sent to the same incumbent. The Secretary of our Society would be glad to call a Meeting, at the offices of the Society, of all those who may be willing to help in this undertaking, if those who are chiefly interested in the matter will communicate with him.

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WE should be glad to hear from our correspondents throughout the county, and from others intimately acquainted with the Archæology of Berks, their answers to the following questions :—

1. What tumuli, or other stone monuments, have been recently removed or destroyed ?
2. What Churches have been “restored” ?
3. What Historic Monuments are being left exposed to the weather without protection ?
4. What Records, County and Parish, are being left uncared for ?

Meetings and Excursions of the Society.

AN Afternoon Meeting of the Society was held (by the kind permission of the Mayor of Reading) in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, on April 11th. The portrait of King Charles I. alleged to have been painted by Velasquez, in 1623 (and now in possession of the family of the late Mr. Snare, of Reading), was submitted to the inspection of the Society. Mr. S. S. STALLWOOD presided, and the Rev. J. M. GUILDING, Vicar of St. Lawrence, opened the discussion, giving an able *resumé* of the history of the picture, and tracing it to the gallery of the Duke of Buckingham. Mr. HAVELL, Mr. WING, and the SECRETARY took part in the discussion. The Mayor and Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. G. W. PALMER) very kindly entertained the Members of the Society to tea at the close of the meeting.

THE first Summer Excursion of the Society was made on May 25th to the historic neighbourhood of Cholsey. The party consisted of about thirty, who travelled by rail to Moulsoford, where they were met by carriages which conveyed them to Cholsey. The Rev. A. D. CRAKE joined the party, pointed out the situation of an ancient Saxon monastery destroyed by the Danes, and described the interesting features of Cholsey Church and its history. The party then proceeded to the Church of North Moreton, which was described by the Vicar (the Rev. W. H. YOUNG), and then to Blewbury Church, which the Rev. J. H. BURGESS described. After tea at village inn, the party walked to Churn Knob, upon the summit of which Mr. CRAKE gave a graphic description of the history of the district. The return journey was accomplished without adventure, and Reading reached about 9 p.m.

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ON Whit-Monday the Society visited "the fields" district of the old Windsor Forest. The President of the Society (Sir GEORGE RUSSELL, Bart., M.P.) and Lady RUSSELL had most kindly invited the Members of the Society to visit them, and, *en route* to Swallowfield Park, they stayed at Shinfield Church—a fourteenth-century building—the principal features of which were pointed out by the Rev. J. M. GUILDING, and at the old Church at Arborfield, which was described by the Rev. P. H. DITCHFIELD. The party received a most cordial welcome from Sir GEORGE and Lady RUSSELL at Swallowfield, and were most hospitably entertained by them. Lady RUSSELL read a most interesting, learned, and exhaustive lecture upon the history of Swallowfield and its owners, which we hope to publish in the transactions of our Society. In spite of the rain, our excursion to Swallowfield will long be remembered as one of the most enjoyable the Society has made.

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AFFILIATED SOCIETIES.—At the Annual Meeting of the Newbury Field Club a proposal was brought forward by Mr. WALTER MONEY, F.S.A., for the amalgamation of that Society with the Berks Archæological Society. A committee was appointed to meet a committee of our Society, but we regret that the two committees have been unable as yet to arrange a meeting. There seems to be some opposition to the idea of amalgamation; but a closer association of the Societies, and the extension of the work of a repre-

sentative Society throughout the whole County of Berks, appear desirable.

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THE Newbury Club organized an excursion to Penshurst on June 18th, and published an attractive programme, with an admirable description of Penshurst Place.

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THE proposed excursion to Coventry and Kenilworth has been abandoned for the present, the Committee being of opinion that it would be better to confine the work of the Society to historical research in the County of Berks than to visit remote places unconnected with it.

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MR. F. WILDER has most kindly invited the Members of the Society to visit Purley Hall, to which we hope to make an excursion in September.—The July excursion has not yet been decided upon.

