



## “Notes and Queries”

RELATING TO BERKSHIRE.

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### 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.*

*It is requested that all MSS intended for printing should be written on foolscap paper, in an orderly manner, with REPLIES, QUERIES, and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name or initials of the writer appended to each communication.*

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### Notes.

The Brass at Sulhampstead, mentioned by Mr. Field in his Paper, is to the memory of Rodolph Flyer, not Eyer, as so stated. The Pennebryggs, or Pembridges, were a well-known Herefordshire family.—E.E.T.

As to the carved masonry at Shiplake House, specimens of which are now in the Henley Grammar School Museum, it may be noted that these stones were formerly embedded in an old wall close to the stream known as St. Patrick's stream, from which they were taken to Shiplake House more than half-a-century ago. The Ordnance Survey, Parish of Sonning, on Field No. 10, has the remark “Several beautifully carved stones found here,” the spot being about half way between Borough Marsh Farm and the River Loddon. The carving is undoubtedly *Norman*, and a reasonable conjecture is that the stones formed part of a religious establishment or church possibly dedicated to St. Patrick.

The arch over the “Church path” to Shiplake Church is formed of these stones and the carving in some of them is very fine and remarkably well preserved. It must, however, be remembered that they are placed together promiscuously and that the arch does not represent the original arrangement of the Norman work.

W.W.

Sir Walter Phillimore kindly invited the Librarian and Secretary to inspect these stones, which are described above, and he has presented two of the remaining ones to the Society.

P.H.D.

### **Queries.**

**HUNDRED OF THEALE.**—Can anyone tell me anything about the formation of the Hundred of Theale, Berks? It is not mentioned in Doomsday, and Theale itself is in the Parish of Tylehurst, which is in the Hundred of Reading.—F.N.D. (from "Notes and Queries.")

Why was part of Wiltshire separated from the rest of its county; The same thing occurs with Flintshire.—E.E.T.

When were stones first set up in English graveyards, such as we see now?—E.E.T.

**DOLES.**—What is the meaning of "Doles" as a field name? Here I know of two instances, "The Four Doles" in Sulhampstead Lot Meadow, and "The Three Doles" in Langley mead, the Theale Common Field. "The Doles" also is the name of a meadow in Worthenbury Parish, Flintshire. Was it a portion of Abbey land set aside specially for charity?—E.E.T.

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### **Replies.**

**HAUNTED PLACES.**—Brazenhead Cottage, Sulhampstead, once an old Manor House, was said to be haunted, and also Meate's Farm. The ghost was said to walk from one house to the other. The Grotto, Basildon, is said to be haunted; can anyone acquaint me with the story? At De la Bere there are vague stories of a gray lady whom no one has ever seen.—E.E.T.

**HAUNTED PLACES.**—There is a cottage at South Fawley where a mysterious knocking is heard at times. It is situate at the end of a row and is therefore semi-detached. An old man who has lived for some time alone in the cottage speaks of the sound as having been heard for at least 17 years. He tells me he has never heard it before 5 in the afternoon or later than 12 at night. I have myself heard it twice, otherwise I should be very sceptical about the truth of the tale. The sound is like that of a heavy body falling down in the room above or in the outside wall, but it is difficult to "locate" it. It is sometimes so loud as to be heard at the end of a garden some 40 yards away. I am quite unable to assign any rational cause for the sound. There are vague stories connected with it, but none that seem worthy of credence. The cottage is some 200 yards from South Fawley Manor House, about which there are also vague stories current of unearthly sights having been seen.—EDWARD R. GARDINER, Fawley, Wantage.

**ROMAN REMAINS.**—The Romans occupied and never colonized their conquered possessions. Consequently they did not wander far from their roads, cities and camps. There was no camp at Reading and no road ran along the Kennet valley; hence there are no traces of their presence, which abound so plentifully at Silchester and the neighbourhood.—P.H.D.

**SUPERSTITIONS.**—There is a strong superstition in this parish that a person cannot die comfortably upon a pillow in which there are any pigeons' feathers. A few months ago a case occurred of an old woman who was dying "very hard," as the saying is, when a neighbour suggested that probably there were pigeons'

feathers in the pillow. It was immediately changed for one that was known to contain none, and the patient became quiet at once, and did not long survive. It may be worth while mentioning that twice during the last three months a corpse has been kept over a Sunday in this parish, and no fresh death occurred before the week was out.—EDWARD R. GARDINER, Fawley, Wantage.

## List of Books relating to the History of Berks.

Miss Thoyts has sent the following List of Books which she has found useful in giving information as to Local County History :—

**Oxfordshire.**—Vol. 5, Visitations of Oxfordshire in 1566 by W. Harvey, 1574 by R. Lee, and 1634 by J. Philpott and W. Ryley, with the Gatherings in Oxfordshire, collected by R. Lee in 1574, edited and annotated by W. H. Turner, 1871. A valuable book.

**Oxfordshire.**—Lords Lieutenant and High Sheriffs of Oxfordshire, 1086-1868, thin royal 8vo., cloth, gilt edges, 1868, full of pedigrees, as Berks and Oxon were under one High Sheriff until Queen Elizabeth's reign. This interesting work is augmented by Genealogical Notices of the various persons mentioned, rendering it in consequence of much value to the Genealogist.

**Berkshire.**—The Visitation of Berkshire, 1664-6, by Elias Ashmole, *Windsor Herald*, for Sir Edward Bysshe, *Clarenceux*, edited by W. C. Metcalfe, F.S.A., imperial 8vo. cloth, 1882.

**Reading Corporation MSS.**—An index published by the Historical MSS. Commission, 1888, eleventh report, appendix part VII., price 2s.

**History of Wallingford.**—1882, John Kirby Hedges, a very interesting book containing a *resumé* of English History.

**Genealogist.**—Vol. 4, Berks.

**History of St. Lawrence's Church.**—1883, Rev. C. Kerry.

**Parochial History of Berks.**

**Non-Jurors of 1715.**—Payne and Estcourt.

**Berkshire (Description of).**—De Foe.

**Charities of Berks.**—Parry.

**History of Reading.**—1802, Coates.

**Berry's Genealogy of Berkshire.**

**Ashmole's Berkshire.**

**Executions at Reading.**—MSS. book in Reference Library.

**Ashmole.**—Visitation of Berks.

**Worthies of Berks.**—Holme.

**Hundred of Compton.**—Hewett.

**History of Newbury.**—W. Money.

**Battles of Newbury.**—W. Money.

**Hundred of Bray.**—Kerry.

**Verrim Exemplar** at the Bodleian Library is the MSS. of Ashmole's History of Berkshire, and contains much imprinted matter.

**Hundred of Wanting.**—Clarke.