



“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.

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.

Notes.

A HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF S. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, CHIPPING LAMBOURN, BY JOHN FOOTMAN, M.A., will shortly be published. The book has been compiled from the original sources, and the author has endeavoured to render it as complete as possible. It will contain many illustrations, and the value of the book will be materially increased by an appendix of original documents; including a hitherto unprinted charter of Canute, with a translation and notes by Mr. Walter de Gray Birch, F.S.A., of the British Museum, who writes that it is “one of the earliest documents relating to tithe in England,” a charter of Henry VI. granting a market and two fairs at Lambourn to the Dean of S. Paul’s, etc.

HURLEY PRIORY.—With reference to the date of foundation of Priory which Mr. Wethered has fixed by its omission from Domesday, may I be allowed to point out that, as the *Athenaeum* in a recent issue very aptly put it, the Norman survey was not “a guide for mediæval tourists,” and the mention of many castles and religious houses which are known to have existed was unnecessary, as being in no way contributory to the revenues of the Crown.—NATHANIEL HONE.

HURLEY PRIORY.—May I be allowed to comment on two statements in Mr. Wethered’s paper on Hurley in your last number (vol. ii., No. 5)

1. It is stated that the date “1040” was discovered on a wooden cross, and Mr. Wethered assumes that this is “very clear evidence indeed of the *Saxon* origin of Hurley church,” since “Harold (Harefoot) and Hardecanute, sons of Canute, were the reigning kings of England in 1040.”

Unfortunately, it is a fact that Arabic numerals were not used at all in this country until, at the earliest, the thirteenth century, and did not begin to be common before the middle of the fourteenth. It is difficult, therefore, to see how

the date "1040" can have been cut on the cross. The date is in all probability "1640."

2. It is said to be "unusual for a Prior to carry a crosier." This is not quite accurate. When, as in the case of the Hurley Priory, the prior was head of the house, he *always* carried a crosier, and so did a prioress who ruled over a house of nuns. When a prior was only second in command, as at Reading, (or a prioress, as at Shaftesbury), he had no right, and did not use a staff, unless by special licence granted to him, as in the case of the prior of Worcester, who bore a staff with a head of a peculiar form, as may be seen in the "overthwart" effigy behind the high altar at Worcester.

W. H. ST. JOHN HOPE.

26th April, 1892.

HURLEY.—Referring to Miss Thoyts' note concerning the first volume of our Hurley Registers, it is quite clear that the same handwriting prevails from 1560, the first year, to March, 1626. At the head of the first page of the volume is the following: "A Register of all that were Baptized, Maryed and Buryed within the parish of Hurley in the count of Berks sithence the ffirst (?) yeare of the raigne of Queene Elizabeth of ffamous memory accordinge to the ordinary (?) computance set doune in the ould Register." Parish Registers were established by Cromwell, Lord Essex, in 1536. With regard to Miss Thoyts' remarks about the Moores, there must be some mistake in referring to their pedigree in a note connected with Hurley.

F. T. WETHERED.

MURAL PAINTINGS IN BERKS.—An article on this subject, giving a description of most of the wall paintings in the county, appears in the "Reliquary" for this month. It is written by the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, and contains some admirable illustrations by Miss Blanche C. Wroughton. Mr. Ditchfield has recently edited for Mr. Edward Stanford a second edition of his "Guide to Berkshire."

UFTON COURT.—The history of Ufton Court and Parish has been written by Miss A. M. Sharp, and is about to be published by Mr. Elliot Stock. The author has with much trouble and research brought together a large amount of interesting information concerning the past history of Ufton and its owners. The book is a handsome 4to. volume replete with illustrations, and will be a valuable addition to every library.

SILCHESTER.—The excavations at Silchester have yielded some important discoveries; the foundations of what is probably the earliest church in Britain have been unearthed. Mr. St. John Hope's letter to the "Times" and other newspapers contains a description of this important find, which will attract many visitors to the ancient Roman city.

On account of want of space we have been obliged to postpone until our next number the first part of a valuable paper on *Berkshire Wills*, by Mr. Tudor Sherwood, and the second part of Mr. De Vitre's *Berkshire Crosses*.