



The Quarterly Journal

OF THE

Berks Archæological and Architectural Society.



WITH this number the fourth year of our publication closes, and we trust that the Berks Archæological Journal has been the means of preserving some important results of the researches and investigations of Antiquaries into the history of the Royal County. Many valuable records of the annals of our towns and villages have been published in these pages; many notes of archæological discoveries, traditions, legends, historical information and popular superstitions, have here found a permanent and enduring resting-place, and will ultimately prove to be of considerable use when a complete history of the County is contemplated. In concluding this portion of our work we desire to express our gratitude to those who have so kindly assisted us in this undertaking by contributing articles and notes to this Journal, and for their interest and co-operation, without which our task could scarcely be accomplished.

* * *

A Meeting of the Society was held in the Town Hall, Wokingham, on October 27th, when a paper was read by the Rev. C. W. Penny, on "The importance of the careful preservation of Parochial Records, Muniments and Antiquities." In the unavoidable absence of the President, Sir George Russell, Bart., the chair was taken by the Rev. J. M. Guilding, and there were present Lady and Miss

Russell, Mrs. and Miss Murdoch, the Rev. H. Salwey, the Rev. R. Tomlinson, General Bunbury-Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Melville, the Mayor of Wokingham and Mrs. Tyndale Heelas, Mrs. F. Goolden, Mrs. and Misses Gregorie, Mr. F. N. A. Garry, &c. The Rev. C. W. Penny read a very valuable and interesting paper which we hope to publish in a subsequent number of our Journal. A discussion followed in which the Rev. J. T. Brown, the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, Mr. F. Garry, the Rev. H. Selwey and the Chairman took part. The municipal documents were exhibited by the Mayor; and at the close of the meeting the members of the Society were entertained at tea.

SCOURING OF THE WHITE HORSE.—The historic "White Horse," near Uffington, has recently undergone another scouring, by order of Lady Craven. The lover of ancient customs would have been glad to see the revival of the ancient rural festival which formerly accompanied the scouring, but in these days of enlightenment such a revival would probably be impossible. The thanks of the Society are due to Lady Craven for her careful preservation of this ancient and historical monument.

MUNICIPAL RECORDS OF READING.—Mr. N. T. Hone has published an interesting article in the "Reading Mercury" on this subject. We are glad to hear that Mr. Guilding has nearly accomplished his labours of editing these documents.

ROMAN ROADS.—Mr. H. F. Napper has written to the "Reading Mercury" on this subject a long letter, which evinces much careful thought and investigation. But surely he is in error in supposing that the derivation of Reading is from Rhyd, meaning a ford over the Thames. The name can only come from Redingas, a Saxon tribe; and we thought that it was now a settled question among antiquaries that Silchester was the *Calleva Atrebatum*.

OUR contributor Mr. Geo. F. Tudor Sherwood is compiling a genealogy of the Sherwood family in its various branches. He will be glad to receive any Sherwood notes from Parish Registers, Wills, &c. He also asks for odd numbers, and especially indexes, of genealogical works, MS. notes, and pedigrees of Berkshire people, and will gladly pay carriage on any such addressed to Petersham House, Walham Green, S.W.