



Idbury in Ancient Times.

By the Rev. E. Marshall, F.S.A.

AN interesting notice of a village in Oxfordshire, in reference to its past history, has lately appeared ; and it is entirely distinct from the objects of interest with which the name of Idbury has hitherto been connected. It comes also from a source which entitles anything that originates from it to attention. There has lately appeared in the "Numismatic Chronicle"* a paper with the name of Sir John Evans, which has also been re-printed in a separate form, on the "Mint of Gothabyrig." At first there is no intimation of its connection with any parish in the County. But it is the object of the writer to identify the name with that of Idbury. Reference must be made to the paper itself, for the several steps by which it is attempted to trace the coincidence. But no one, who remembers the name of Iffley, with its more than fifty transformations, of which some begin with G, will be surprised at the loss of this letter in the formation of the present state of the name of Idbury. However, this primary foundation of the conjecture of Sir John Evans can only be considered as probable at the most, for it wants the corroboration of an Anglo-Saxon Charter, in which the name can be traced. And etymology which is not confirmed by history is destitute of the strongest proof. But in this case the suggestion is not to be characterised as unfounded conjecture. Subject to this there is the attempt to make out that the coins of Æthelred II. Cnut and Harold I., which are recorded to have been struck at the Mint of Gothabyrig, with certain varieties of spelling, a name which is "enveloped in mystery," were the production of a Mint at Idbury.

Idbury is but a small parish now, with its 219 inhabitants. But it has memorials of a former greatness. There is the Church with

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its Norman porch, and the remains of a large military camp near the road from Stow to Burford. And it is not without the legendary account of a great battle in Saxon times. So that it is not so incongruous, as it might appear at first, to fix upon a small village as the site of a royal mint.

But Sir John Evans would do more than restore to it the possession of a Mint. He would make it the site of an Episcopal imprisonment. For he further supposes, that the name of Juthanbyrig is the same with Idbury. And it was at this place that Wulfstan, Archbishop of York, was kept in imprisonment by King Eadred, whom he had offended, for two years, upon the close of which in A.D. 954, he was restored to the enjoyment of his episcopal rank at Dorchester in this County, which is less than thirty miles distant, a proximity, which is supposed to favour the suggestion that is made in the paper. Accordingly, the little village of Idbury has its name placed in association with historic memories, which must confer upon it an accession of dignity and of interest. For even on the supposition that the theory which is put forth cannot be established, yet it is especially true that in a country village whatever makes the past predominate over the present in the daily thoughts of life is a cause of elevation to thinking beings, no less now than in Dr. Johnson's time, to whom the authorship of the well-known sentiment belongs.

Memorials of the Danvers Family.

By F. A. Macnamara, M.D.



IN this admirable work the genealogist will find a mine of wealth and a feast which will long delight him. Pedigree hunting is always an exciting and exhilarating exercise, and few followers of the chase have obtained such amazing results from all their labours as the learned author of this excellent and interest-