



## Notes and Queries

RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

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*Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the three counties. Correspondents are requested to write as plainly as possible, on one side of the paper only, with REPLIES, QUERIES and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name of the writer appended to each communication.*

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### Notes.

HURLEY PRIORY.—Immediately at the back of S. Mary's Church, *i.e.*, on its Northern side, is a Quadrangle, the four sides of which are bounded as follows, *viz.*:—On the South side wholly by the Church itself; on the North side by the Refectory of the Monastery, in which are distinct traces of frescoes on the sides of the large and splendidly proportioned Gothic arches (chalk), and another building; on the West side by the Parish School and another building; and on the East side by a cottage and another building. This Quadrangle is known as "Paradise," and belongs to Mr. Cecil William Boyle, of Lady Place. During the earlier part of 1897 a trench was opened right across it from West to East, in connection with extensive drainage works which Mr. Boyle has lately carried out on the Lady Place property; and this excavation laid bare the sections of no less than five distinct sets of the foundations of the Benedictine Monastery, originally founded by Geoffrey de Mandeville in 1086 or 1087. These recently discovered foundations are all in parallel lines running north and south across the Quadrangle at varying distances from each other. The subsoil of the Quadrangle, to a depth of two feet and a half, measuring from eight inches below the present surface, was discovered to consist of made earth (gravel), the ground having evidently been raised when the Monastery was founded to elevate it as much as possible above the level of the neighbouring river Thames. One of these foundations is four feet and a-half and another three feet and a-half in thickness. In the Eastern end of the trench a large number of broken tiles were found. These were *sun-baked*, proving the extremely ancient date of their make. I took care to have a plan drawn of these subterranean sections, which indicates their thickness and relative positions to the Church and Refectory. I only wish that it had been possible to photograph them, but the width of the trench was too small to allow of this.

One result of these recent discoveries is to convince me more than ever that a deep Norman window in the North wall of S. Mary's Church, opposite the font, was originally a doorway from the upper storey of the Monastery into a gallery in the Church.

F. T. WETHERED.

June, 1897.

**AN ARMORIAL CLUB.**—It appears that Mr. Gifford's design of an Armorial Club, to be composed of only those who are entitled to use arms, is about to be carried out, and the Camden Club is in progress of formation. The published objects of the Club are excellent. The energetic Secretary is Mr. J. Foster, who will be glad to communicate with those who desire to become members, and who possess the necessary qualification.

**SILCHESTER.**—The excavations are now in progress, and some houses have been unearthed with good hypercausts. The site for exploration this season is from the corner of the Old Forum to the South gate of the city, and it is hoped that the operations will lead to interesting discoveries in this Jubilee year. The need of subscriptions is urgent, and as Reading benefits so largely from the excavations it is hoped that many will contribute to this great undertaking.

**READE FAMILY.**—The Rev. Compton Reade, of Kenchester Rectory, Hereford, is about to publish a verified record of the Reades of Berks, Oxon and Herts, from 1400 A.D. The work is based on the researches of the late Edward A. Reade, C.B., and of General J. Meridith Read. The work has been written with much care, and will be a valuable contribution to the histories of the three counties, as well as to the memories of an ancient family.

**HURLEY CHURCH PLATE.**—The Communion Plate belonging to St. Mary's Church, Hurley, is extremely chaste and handsome. It consists of a large Flagon, a full-sized Paten and a large Chalice with its accompanying paten-cover, each of these articles being made of massive silver. The Flagon, Chalice and Paten were all given to the Church by Sir Henry Johnson, son-in-law of John, 3rd Lord Lovelace, of Hurley, two years after his Lordship's death (this Lord Lovelace was buried at Hurley on October 6th, in 1693); and, although neither Sir Henry's name, nor initials, nor any arms or crest appear on the paten-cover belonging to the Chalice, there is little doubt but that it also was given by him, in 1695, along with the rest of the Plate. It was under cover of the hospitality of the above-named Lord Lovelace that secret meetings were held in the vaults of Lady Place, Hurley, which are still in existence, resulting in the Revolution of 1688, the dethronement of James II., and the bringing over of William of Orange, afterwards William III. of England.

The Flagon, which weighs 2lbs. 8oz. 17dwts. 6grs. (troy), bears the London date letter for 1695, *i.e.*, it was made in that year. The maker seems to have been one "I.S.," an unknown man. Underneath an elaborately wrought coat-of-arms and crest are the words "The Gift of ye Hon: Sr Henry Johnson, Knt., to ye Parish Church of Hurly, 1695."

The Chalice, which weighs 1lb. 8oz., 11dwt. 3grs. (troy), was probably made in 1655, and the initials of the maker are given on it as "G.B." The same coat-of-arms is on one side of this vessel, and the same crest on another side of it as those which are engraved on the Flagon, whilst the date of the presentation of the Chalice to the Church and the name of the donor are carefully recorded on it. It is not common to find Communion Plate made during the Commonwealth, as this Chalice was probably made, although there are other instances in Berkshire. The Chalice paten-cover weighs 8oz. 4dwt. 1gr. (troy), and was made in (or about) the year 1635. It bears the initials "B.F."

The Paten, which weighs 10 oz., 0dwt. 12gr. (troy), appears to have been made in 1693. It bears a finely executed coat-of-arms and crest upon it, together with the date of its presentation to the Church, and the name of the donor. The coat-of-arms and the crest in each case are identical, and are, of course, those of Sir Henry Johnson. The engraving on all these articles of Plate is extremely good. The Vicar of Hurley in 1695 was the Rev. Daniel Ayshford.

F. T. WETHERED, Vicar, 1897.

Dr. Routh, President of Magdalen College, Oxford, used to tell that a gentleman of his acquaintance informed him that his father when a lad in Newbury saw Lord Falkland ride out to battle. He had mounted in the inn-yard and had drawn his sword before he rode out through the archway which was narrow: and as he went through he hastily measured with his sword first on the right hand and then on the left evidently being struck with the narrowness. As he was still loitering about in something like an hour after he witnessed Faulkland's body borne dead through the same archway by four men.

Martin Joseph Routh died 22nd December, 1854, in his 100th year. Say that A. was born in 1630 and was 13 years old in 1643 and had a son born in 1690 when he was 60 years old. This son B. would be 64 in 1754 and might easily have lived to tell it to M.J.R. if he only lived to be 80. Or to put it more strikingly, A. alive in 1643 and M.J.R. in 1854 required only one link between them to span 210 years.

Whitchurch.

JOHN SLATTER.

ACOUSTIC JARS.—The President of the Oxfordshire Archæological Society adds a learned note in the Report of that Society on a curious recess in the north wall of the chancel of Great Milton Church, Oxfordshire. It is a pot of coarse grey pottery, and has been supposed to be an oven for baking consecrated bread, or a safe depository for valuable documents. Sir Henry Dryden, however, thinks that it is an acoustic jar, which were placed in the walls of churches with their mouths open to the interior of the buildings for the purpose of increasing the resonance. They are more common abroad than in England. Sometimes they are placed out of sight under the floors; in other places they appear near the eaves. At the ruined Chapel of St. Lucien at Reze, near Nantes, there are several in a row, and also in the Museum at Nantes, taken from the destroyed church of the Jacobins at that place. There are about 100 in England, and belong principally to the 15th and 16th centuries. As it was soon found that they had no effect in increasing the sound, the placing of them ceased. Sir Henry Dryden concludes his note by remarking that a not less vain idea has been held in recent days that a wire or two stretched across a great building stops too much resonance.