



Swallowfield and Its Owners.

By Lady Russell (Longman & Co.).

OUR readers will remember the delightful chapters which Lady Russell contributed to the *Berks Archæological Journal* some years ago. The authoress has continued her researches, and has now written a volume which, on account of its literary style is extremely pleasant to read, and on account of its learning most valuable as a book for reference. The skittish nature of Berkshire lands, which Fuller remarks on, has in the hands of Lady Russell added much to the interest of the history of Swallowfield and has brought about its connection with a singular variety of eminent persons. For those who remember the story which the authoress told so pleasantly in our Journal it is unnecessary to record the numerous owners of Swallowfield, of the St. Johns and Dispensers, and of the royal possessors of this ancient manor ; but we may add that only a tithe of the information contained in this volume appeared in our pages, and that it contributes a most valuable storehouse of Berkshire history. Not the least valuable portion of this book is the account given of recent owners and of the Russell family who purchased the estate in 1820 and added lustre to its ancient glories. Sir Henry Russell's visit to St. Helena and his reminiscences of Napoleon are full of interest. Sir Charles Russell's distinguished military career is here recorded ; and many of his old friends will love to read the life of the late Sir George Russell, while they mourn the loss which his death has caused and regret that he did not live to see the completion of this book in which he took so keen an interest. The plates in this volume, which are upwards of fifty in number, are excellent copies of original portraits. They reflect much credit on all concerned in their reproduction.