



The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archæological Journal.

Gossip of an Antiquary.

I HAVE just been studying the new translation of the Domesday Survey, which has been prepared by a learned Antiquary for the Victoria County History of Berks. It is a work which must have entailed much expenditure of midnight oil and severe labour and industry, and will not be the least important chapter in the new Berkshire history. There are however certain difficulties which the translator with all his learning has not solved. He is not a native of the Royal County, and needs the help of local antiquarians to enable him to identify some of the places mentioned in that famous record.

* *

Some Oxfordshire names occur. Is Neweham, Newnham Murren? Herselie is probably Great Hazeley. What is Estoche? Perhaps it is meant for Estcote, and that would be Ascot. What Perie? Celgrave is doubtless Chalgrove. Braio is probably Bray, but why is it said to be in Oxon? Eldeslee and Crem are puzzles, both said to be in Oxon. Perie may be Perry Bar in Staffordshire. Are the following correct?—Estone—Aston Tirrold; Soanesfelt—Shinfield; Nachededorne—W. Ilsley; Ordia—Littleworth; Solafel—Swallowfield; Olvriceeton—Woolstone; Chenitun—Kennington; Leie—Besselsleigh; Wareford—Garford; Ordam—Langworth; Ceveslane—Challow; Burlei (Hundred of Reading)—Purley. What are Crochestrope (Thatcham Hundred); Assedone (near Heaton

Norris); Wibalditone (Blewbury Hundred); Ortone, Losfelle, both in Riplesmere Hundred?

* *

Is Loncheles the same place as Langley, near Wokingham, in the Hundred of Reading; and is Lolindon the same as Lovingdon, in Hundred Eletsford, now in Hundred of Reading, or Moreton? Is Acenge in Hundred of Thatcham, the same as Wasing; and Elrige in Kintbury Hundred the same as Irish Hill or Airish Hill? These are some of the problems which present themselves. Perhaps some of my readers may help me to solve them.

* *

Berkshire scribes have had many chroniclers. The latest is Mr. E. M. Tull, who has recently published his "Literary Associations of Berkshire." He has cast his net widely, and drawn into it some remarkably big fish, which have not been caught by other writers. Beginning with Alfred he enumerates the writing Monks of Reading Abbey, Chaucer, Leland, Spencer, Shakespeare, Milton, the Blagraves, Laud, Bunyan, Cromwell, Penn, Pepys and a host of others who have been more or less closely connected with the County. The ground which Mr. Tull traverses has been trod before, but he has evidently much genuine enthusiasm of letters, and writes easily and gracefully, and his interesting sketch will not lack readers.

* *

The pleasures of "flinting" are peculiarly fascinating. When once the taste has been acquired, the victim is doomed. The word when uttered arouses him just as keenly as the terrier is excited by the cry of "rats." Henceforth the search for the relics of primitive man becomes his absorbing study. He has much to content him, this eager flint-hunter. The cycle spin to a favourite downland farm, the leafy lanes of elm and lime, the wealth of hedgerow or cornfield, the chorus of birds, the infinity of colours, are pleasant. Nature in all her moods attracts the hunter, and perhaps lures him from his quest. But he will not be content until his eye rests on some scrapers or arrow-heads, or knives which the earth has preserved for him through countless centuries.

* *

One of the best works on flint-hunting is *Neolithic Man in North-East Surrey*, by Walter Johnson and William Wright (Elliot Stock). It is the result of many years' observation and research, and is an extremely valuable resumé of our present knowledge of

Early Man. The authors depict with intimate knowledge the pre-historic races who dwelt in this country, describing their modes of life, their tools, their food and cooking, their homesteads, camp and pit dwellings, their burials, and the animals which lived in their time whether as the prey of hunters or domestic pets.

* * *

In the excellent company of Messrs. Wright and Johnson, we traverse the pre-historic trackways of North-East Surrey. We read much of the Roman conquerors of Britain as experts in road-making, but it is evident that in many cases they merely straightened and improved the old Celtic and Neolithic trackways. The book has some good illustrations of flint implements, and not the least valuable portion is the list of authorities which forms a bibliography of works relating to Early Man, and will prove of immense service to anyone who intends to study the subject and is already fascinated by "flinting."

* * *

Amongst Berkshire poets of the present time must be reckoned the Rev. W. Moore, Vicar of Appleton. His latest volume entitled "New Poems" (Kegan Paul Trench, Trübner and Co.) possesses the same ripe scholarship, the same dignity of expression and true poetic feeling, which abundantly characterised his earlier verse. His poems appeal not to the populace. His is the muse of the meditative scholar and recluse. He is at his best when he communes with nature in her many moods, as in his poem on "Watered Gardens" laved by the "Constant Tamise," or in his sweet melody of "The Sanctuary." I must confess to failing to admire "Plain Greenery" rhyming with "Sanctuary" in the earlier poem, and the *Væ victis* of the Boer cannot compare with the stately roll of the Latin Verse of the Samnite. It is however a volume of goodly verse which will especially delight true nature lovers.

* * *

The New Edition of the Book-lover's Library thrives apace, and the most recent volume is *Studies in Jocular Literature*, by W. Carew Hazlitt (Elliot Stock). A "Merry Jest" delights your antiquary, and it is none the worse for having an old-fashioned flavour. The writer of this Book has made a careful study of the old jest books which delighted our forefathers and are sufficiently ludicrous and grotesque to amuse us to-day, though their coarseness is often repellent. The joke has proved in all ages a factor of

manifold power and use. It has ridiculed and exposed corruptions in the body politic and in the social machinery. It has laughed at some things because they were new, and at others because they were old. It has preserved records of persons and ideas and traits of ancient bygone manners, which must otherwise have perished; and it often stands before us with its esoteric moral hidden not much below its ostensible purport. Mr. Hazlitt recounts the jests of ancient Greece and Rome, facetiæ of all sorts and kinds and of many ages. "Jack the Giant Killer" is an allegory of the protest of the people against the oppression of their feudal lords. The book is excellent reading, and is certainly authoritative.

Proceedings of Societies.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—We have been especially favoured during the winter session by brilliant lectures delivered by expert and learned antiquaries. Illustrations by magic lantern slides have been invariably used, and these add much to the value and interest of the lectures. The able lectures of Miss Murray on Egyptian Exploration, and of Mr. Nigel Bond on the Natural Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty, have already been recorded. On Feb. 18th, Mr. W. C. F. Anderson lectured on Recent Excavations in the Roman Forum, and showed a thorough mastery of the subject. His ability as a lecturer is only equalled by his zeal in the regulation of the Educational affairs of the County. Captain Henderson, whose fame as a lecturer is great, kindly gave a lecture on March 24th, on a Tour in Normandy, showing the application of photography to architectural study. Mr. St. John Hope, the Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, will lecture on the Silchester Excavations, on April 30th, when a large audience may be expected. The lecture will be followed by a demonstration at the Museum, and the Mayor of Reading will kindly entertain the Members of the Society and their friends to Tea in the Council Chamber. In May on the occasion of the Annual Meeting, Mr. Treacher will lecture on Ruscombe. So we have a goodly programme, and hope that the Members will come in large numbers during the remainder of the session.