Notes and Queries

RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

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.*

Notes.

SHINFIELD CHURCH.—An appeal is being made to enable the Vicar and Churchwardens of this Parish to strengthen the tower, which has fallen into such decay that it is no longer safe to ring the bells. The architect has advised the overhauling of the gear of the bells and the repair of the tower. The cost will be about £120. Mr. C. F. Millett, The Crofts, Three-Mile-Cross, Reading, will be glad to receive subscriptions for this excellent object.

LISTS OF VICARS.—The list of Vicars of the Church of St. Lawrence, Reading, from 1299, has recently been placed in the church. I understand the list of Vicars from 1326 is shortly to be placed in St. Giles' Church, Reading. The list of Incumbents for St. Mary's was set up by Canon Garry some years ago. It begins with

<div style="text-align:center">

1173 William de Lincoln ;
1180 Benedictus de Eboraco.

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The name of William c. 1250, has been recently added, having been authenticated by Mr. Baijent, a well-known and learned antiquary of Winchester.—W. T. BILSON, Reading, Oct. 20th, 1904.

ST. MARY'S, READING.—It is often stated that the tower was formerly surmounted with a spire, which was blown down in 1594. The above could not have been a spire as only about £3 were spent in repairs, to the plumber, for lead, labour, etc. Probably one of the pinnacles was blown down, and in falling damaged the roof of the tower.—W. BILSON.

NOBES TOMB (UPPER BASILDON).—I saw this during the present summer, 1904. See engraving in "Robertson's Tour Round Reading," or what is called "Environs of Reading," p. 53. Col. Cooper King says "there *was* a curious relic which stood near Basildon," as if it did not now exist. The date on one of the stones was still legible [1692] when I saw it, but the roof was broken in. —W. BILSON.

BERKSHIRE BOOKS.—An excellent opportunity for acquiring some rare Berkshire books occurred recently in the dispersal of the remaining portion of the library formed by the late Mr. Job Lousley, who was the doyen of Berkshire agriculturists, some 70 years ago. He was an omniverous collector of books and many rare works were included in the catalogue.

BRIHTRIC'S CHARTER.—In the very excellent paper on the Domesday Survey of Berkshire by the Rev. J. E. Field, which appeared in your last issue, I notice certain references to Saxon charters of Estun, wherein he perpetuates some antient errors. As these re-appear from time to time, it would perhaps be as well to correct them at once, lest they be copied again in the future.

The passage in question appears on page 82, and runs as follows:—"Lulla, to whom in 801 Brihtric King of Wessex gave a manor in Aston (villam de Estun cuidam principi suo Lullam nomine, *Chron. Abingdon*, I. 15), which Lulla gave to Abingdon Abbey, and which afterwards seems to have left the Abbey, and was granted to Ælfrith the queen of Edgar in 964, reverting to the King after her death. This, however, is believed to be the hamlet of Easton in the parish of Welford and Hundred of Faircross (*Chron. Abingdon*, I. 286; II. 500), and it must not be confused with either of the Astons near Cholsey."

In the first place it seems clear from a comparison of the bounds of the manors mentioned in the two charters that the two are not identical, for the boundaries do not in the least resemble one another. The latter, it is true, was considered by Mr. Godwin (*Trans. Newbury Dist. F.C.* II. 81) to be Easton in Welford, but this has, I believe, already been pointed out to be an error. In any case, since *Bleobyrig doun* (Blewbury down) is mentioned as one of the bounds, there can be no doubt that Aston Upthorpe is referred to.

The identity of the manor granted by Brihtric is not so clear, but it seems to be the same as that granted, as part of *Hysseburna*, by Edgar to the Abbey of Abingdon in 961 (*Chron. Abingdon*, I. 318-9), for there is a considerable resemblance between many of the points mentioned in the bounds of both manors. A careful comparison of the two will, I think, convince any one that the two charters refer to the same manor, as we find the following places appearing in the same order in both:—*Hythwaldanhlau* and *hyldanhlæw, via publica* and *streates, ceabbansolo* and *ceapmanna del, bradanleah* and *bradanlea, horsan leah* and *hors leaga.*

If this be accepted, it will be well to endeavour, by means of the later charter, to identify the spot, as the Anglo-saxon bounds therein given are clearer than the somewhat inflated Latin of the earlier instrument. If we compare these bounds with those given in other charters to be found in Kemble's Codex Diplomaticus, we shall find that some agree with those of a manor of *Clere* (MVI., MXCV., MCLXX., MCCXXV.), while other points are to be found in the bounds of Stoce be Hysseburnam (MLXXVII.).

Clere again is bounded on one side by the *aleburnan* (enbourne), on another its bounds agree with those of *Œscmere* (MXCI.), on the third they agree with those of *Estun*, and on the fourth with those of another manor of *Clere* (MCXLV.) Now the manor of Highclere is situated south of the Enbourne, having East Woodhay on the west and Burghclere on the east, whence I have concluded that *Œscmere* and East Woodhaye are one, and that the *Clere* adjoining *Estun* is Highclere.

Now with regard to *Stoce be Hysseburnam*, which has been dealt with by Dr. Stevens (Hist. St. Marybourne, 81-85) and Mr. F. Seebohm (Eng. Vill. Com., 160), we find that on one side, which I take to be the north, its bounds

agree with those of *Estun*, in the west in part with those of *Hisseburna* (MCCXXXV.), while the *Hysseburne* stream crosses it from west to east. For these reasons I have considered *Hisseburna* as Hurstbourne Tarrant, the *hysseburne* as the Hurstbourne, or as it is commonly called " the Bourne," and *Stoce be Hysseburnam* as St. Mary Bourne. If then *Estun* is bounded on the north by Highclere, and on the south by St. Mary Bourne, it must be Crux Easton, perhaps including Woodcott.

I have been unable to examine carefully the old field and other names on the spot, by which means I feel no doubt the proof could be made more complete, nor have I had space or opportunity to cite the bounds at length, but I trust I have given sufficient details to enable any one who wishes to do so to satisfy himself as to the soundness of my arguments. If a map were constructed it would show more clearly than words could do the value of my contention, but I trust I have given at least strong presumptive reason for believing that the manor given by Brihtric to Lulla was Crux Easton, and perhaps those who possess a copy of Mr. de Grey Birch's book of Saxon Charters will at least put a query to his unqualified statement that this manor is Easton in the parish of Welford.—HAROLD J. E. PEAKE.

Queries.

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, READING.—I should be glad to know the names of any Vicars of this church from 1121 to 1299.—R. P. NEWHOUSE.

LISTS OF VICARS.—Many Incumbents of Churches would like to record the lists of their predecessors in the church. Many of these lists record the names of Rectors and Vicars who lived in early times, and are a proof of the continuity of the English Church, which was not started at the Reformation as many ignorantly suppose. Could you not arrange some scheme by which these lists could be obtained?—J.F.

MOTE PARK.—If any of the subscribers to the "Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal" can tell me where "Mote Park," Berks, was or is, I shall be grateful. One Hugh May died there 1670.—WALTER MAY, Elmley Lodge, Western Elms Avenue, Reading-on-Thames.

Replies.

KING'S EVIL.—In "The Flemings in Oxford," Vol. I. (pub. by Oxford Historical Society) p. 453, n. 3, Mr. Peachey will find a quotation from Grasmere Parish Register of a case of "Touching for the King's Evil."—J. R. MAGRATH, Queen's College, Oxford, 27th Oct., 1904.