

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.

ST. EDMUND OF ABINGDON.—The following three references may be useful for future biographers of St. Edmund :—

- (1) Record Office, Exch. Q.R. Misc. Books 57, No. 219, an agreement with Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, as to a chapel founded by him in a "locus" or area measuring 88 feet by 60, where the blessed confessor Edmund is known to have been born (*originem traxisse*). June, 1288.

It is well known that there was a chapel of St. Edmund at Abingdon, founded by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall; this deed gives us the dimensions of the site.

- (2) In the Oxford Book of Wills, which will be printed in a few months, one of the testators of the fourteenth century appears as possessed of the girdle of Mabel, mother of St. Edmund.
- (3) The lives of St. Edmund tell us that his sisters became nuns at Catesby, and that this house was selected because nuns were admitted there without payment. At the Record Office are two deeds (Ancient Deeds B. 4 and B. 5) by which Edmund de Abendon grants to Catesby a house in Abingdon, while William, son of Reginald, of Abingdon grants a rent. Although the catalogue of these deeds has been in print for many years, the biographers of St. Edmund have failed to notice these deeds, because they are assigned in the Catalogue to Abington, Northants, instead of Abingdon, Berks; but the names of the witnesses prove that the deeds are of Abingdon, and B. 4 is endorsed in a hand of the thirteenth century "Sci. Edmundi."

—H. SALTER.

SULHAMSTEAD BANNISTER.—A little narrow strip of a parish stretching from the low range of hills which flanks the River Kennet on the north of that place known as Mearidge; of Saxon origin traceable to the same derivation as the word "Mear" or "Marebank" used to describe the low banks which separate the meadows and which aptly describes the rising ground to the east of Englefield. From Mearidge the parish of Sulhamstead Bannister stretches in a narrow strip till it touches Stratfield now known by its affix of Mortimer. The Bannisters and the Mortimers were former landowners in early times.

Sulhamstead Bannister had the local name of Migheals or Meales or Miles, otherwise St. Michael's, from its tiny church. The Manorial Courts were kept up till the 18th century, and before me lies the roll dating from the time of Henry VIII till Charles II was King of England. During those centuries the Manor had often changed hands. The house, now Meales Farm, was apparently the Manor House, and when it was sold the manorial rights were especially

excepted by the then Lord of the Manor, Edward Brackiston. The manorial rights still exist but have not been put into force since my ancestors obtained the property, but they do exist and could be put into force by the Lord of the Manor if he wished. From Court Rolls or deeds we see what the rights of a Lord of the Manor were. He held his Court yearly or half-yearly, and to it summoned the residents of whom a dozen or more had to act as jury. These, after being sworn, then judged the cases brought before them and assessed a fine unless the man who was presented to the Court as a transgressor remedied his offence within a certain stated time. Thus, in 1661, Edward Pilgrim had to clean out a water course or to pay a fine of 11s. and 111d. at the feast of Pentecost. John Hildesley had encroached on the heath and was fined 2d. Widow Brooke had died and a fine of 7s. 2d. was due to the Lord of the Manor from her successor. The Lord of the Manor could claim fees or a heriot on the death or departure of a tenant. He could claim the goods of any felon; to him belonged any waifs and strays. He had to appoint a constable and a tax collector, a hayward and a turf-cutter for the Manor. His seneschall or steward was responsible for what went on in the Manor. The common fields could not be fenced in illegally, nor ploughed at improper times. Paths could not be made nor old rights of way stopped up—ditches and bridges had to be kept in proper order. In fact, the local affairs were managed locally by those who knew and cared for the village and its rights under the authority of the chief lord. It was a primitive system but a commonsense one, which in these days of County Councils and municipal management we can appreciate. How much better it was to be able to settle matters locally under a recognised authority than to have to appeal to a county committee with an indefinite head. The Parish Council fails where the Court Baron succeeded, because the Parish Council is a committee, and the Court Baron was ruled by the customs of the manor carried on from generation to generation. There is one very curious fact about Sulhamstead Bannister. The Abbot of Reading held the Manor of Bere, now De la Bere, in Pangbourne, as part of the Manor of Sulhamstead Bannister, and paid as yearly rent to the Lord of the Manor, a rent of 3d. and the best cheeses, or if he did not send the cheeses, he had to give 2d. at the feast of St. Peter. This land was in the meadows by the Kennet, and later was known as the "Abbas of Bere's lands." Of the tenants named in these Court Rolls, none of the old names are now to be found in our parish. They sold their little farms and went elsewhere, and the only remembrance of their connection with the parish are its old records, and the various items of pedigrees I have carefully tried to collect and preserve.—
MRS. HAUTENVILLE COPE.

THE CLARENDON TERCENTENARY.—Oxford and Clarendon—the names are interwoven for time and eternity. Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon, was born in February, 1609, and his memory is preserved thrice over in the Clarendon Press, in the Clarendon Building, and in the Clarendon Laboratory. It is unnecessary to dwell on the great statesman's connexion with Oxford during his lifetime, nor to attempt an appreciation of his character or career: the reader may be referred to the commemorative lecture by Mr. Firth, the Regius Professor of Modern History. Clarendon died in 1674, and the publication of his famous history of the Rebellion was not begun by the Oxford University Press until 1702, when the first of the three fine folio volumes appeared, with an introduc-

tion by the historian's second son, Laurence Hyde, Earl of Rochester, quoted on page 301.

Clarendon recognized that his history could not be published in his lifetime lest contemporary susceptibilities should be wounded, but he had no doubt that the work would be prized by posterity if it fell into good hands. This is clear from the letter written by him from Jersey in August, 1647, to Sir John Berkeley, which was first published in Mr. Macray's well-known edition of the *History*. The passage is as follows :—

"I ought to give you an account of my own time, that you may not believe I am only in love with sleep. As soon as I came to Silley, I began (as well as I could without any papers, upon the stock of my own memory) to set down a narrative of this prosperous Rebellion, and have since I came hither continued it, to the waste of very much paper, so that I am now come to the King's leaving London, in which, though for want of information and assistants I shall leave many truths unmentioned, upon my word there shall not be any untruth, nor partiality towards persons or sides, which, though it will make the work unfit in this age for communication, yet may be fit for the perusal and comfort of some men ; and, being transmitted through good hands, may tell posterity that the whole nation was not so bad as it will be then thought to have been."

If Clarendon was happy in his masterpiece falling into the "good hands" of the University Press, the Press itself was not less fortunate in obtaining large profits from the publication. It was, as most persons are aware, however little they know of Clarendon himself or of his history, largely out of the profits from the sale of the work that the Old Clarendon Building was erected in 1713 to house the University printers ; and the name of the Clarendon Press was derived from this fact. The Press had long outgrown the Sheldonian Theatre. Thomas Hearne, the antiquary, approved neither the change nor the compliment to Clarendon's memory ; writing in his *Diary* on Oct. 28th, 1713 :—

"This morning the Printers began to remove from the Theater to the New Printing House just erected, which is (it seems, out of a whim) to be called *Typographæum Clarendonianum*, and Archbp. Sheldon is to be forgotten as a Benefactor to the Oxford Printing, if People will comply with this whim, purely owing to some vain ignorant Heads of Houses, such as old Lancaster [Provost of Queen's]."

In September, 1721, a statue of Clarendon was placed in the south side of the building, and this also exasperated Hearne, who objected to such an honour being paid to Clarendon, "as if he were Founder, whereas he never thought of it, and 'tis only upon account of the money they have pretended to lay out upon this House, arising from the Copy of his *History*."

The Clarendon Building has still some connexion with the Press, inasmuch as the delegates of the Press hold their meetings in the room originally designed for that purpose—"an extravagance which disquieted the economical conscience of Thomas Hearne." The rest of the building is now occupied by the offices of the Registrar, the Curators of the Chest, &c., and the Association for the Education of Women has been given accommodation within it.

The architecture of the Clarendon Building the *Times* states, in a special article, 'has been variously attributed to Vanbrugh, to Hawksmoor (who built the south quadrangle of Queen's and the north quadrangle of All Souls) and to "that ingenious artist of a mason, Mr. Townsend, of Oxford." The fact seems to be that it was built by a local mason from the design and under the superintendence of Hawksmoor. The Vice-Chancellor in whose reign the building was begun was Dr. Lancaster, Provost of Queen's, whom Ayliffe, differing on this as on many other points from Hearne, described as a worthy patron of learning. The Clarendon Building has just undergone an elaborate series of repairs, and at the present date its refaced walls give something like the impression they must have made in 1713.'

We can dispose of any doubts as to the architect by the following extract from the minutes of "ye Delegates of ye Press," dated Oct. 3, 1715:—"The Vice-Chancellor proposed to gratify Mr. Hawkmore for his care in drawing and supervising ye whole worke of ye New Printing-house, agreed to give him £100."—*The Periodical*.

READING MUSEUM.—This Museum has recently been enriched by some important additions:—80 archæological specimens from the collection of the late Mr. James Rutland, of Taplow, for the sum of £10 10s., and a suit of chain armour of the XIV or XV century, found under a floor of a barn at Farnborough, for a sum not exceeding £2 5s. Also that the following articles be purchased for the Museum:—A series of 48 objects illustrating the life of the Lake Dwellers of Switzerland in the Neolithic stage of culture, for £5 5s.; a collection of 18 Neolithic flint implements from Spiennes, in Belgium, for £1 1s.; and an antique cooking pot, for 10s.

The following donations were accepted with the best thanks of the Committee:—An antique spoon, found at Windsor, and presented by the Mayor; a key and a stiletto blade, found on the site of Reading Abbey, and presented by Mr. C. J. Morris, of Prince of Wales Avenue, Reading.

The offer of Mr. G. A. Perry, of South Stoke, Oxon, to lend, for one year, for exhibition in the Museums, a collection of Chinese, Japanese and other curios, was accepted with the thanks of the Committee.

To the Silchester collection a large number of relics has been added. They are the result of the excavations carried out in the previous year in the central parts of the old Romano-British city, where a pagan temple was found, which apparently was dedicated to the god Mars, for within the temple walls part of a statue of that god was found, and a slab of Purbeck marble bearing his name. Another slab, with an inscription, was found at the same place. This is perhaps even more important, since it contains the significant word *Callevæ*, and so places beyond doubt the identity of the Roman town of Silchester with the *Calleva* or *Calleva Atrebatum* of the Antonine Itineraries. These relics have been received at the Museum together with the others found during the excavations, which include architectural objects, various kinds of pottery, bronze ornaments and implements, articles in bone, iron and kimmeridge shale, also a large number of coins including a few British types.

To the general Museum fossils and minerals have been added by Mr. O. A. Shrubsole, Mr. H. W. Monckton, and others. Mr. Shrubsole has also added considerably to his fine collection of implements of the stone age. A number of implements of the early stone age from the gravels of Farnham, etc., have been acquired by purchase.

To the Egyptian collection the Rev. Alan Cheales added a number of Deities which he collected many years ago when travelling in Egypt. From Miss Helen de Lacy Lacy a bas-relief of Roman age has been received. It is of white marble and represents a heroic figure with a dog, and was found at Stanford Dingley, Berkshire. Parts of two British pots have been discovered at Whitley and presented by Mr. D. F. Cooksey, who has also prepared and presented to the Museum an excellent map of Britain showing the positions of the various Roman roads. Roman remains have also been given by Mr. H. J. Hewitt, which were found on his farm at Wittenham, Berks. Messrs. S. & E. Collier have been the donors of a Saxon battle-axe, an excellent example, which was found three feet from the surface at Waterloo Pit, Reading. A collection of encaustic paving tiles of the fourteenth century from Reading Abbey, and a finely-carved stone corbel from the same place, have been added by Dr. Hurry. Silver Pennies of Edward III, struck at Reading Abbey, have been acquired by purchase. These latter are extremely rare, for less than a dozen specimens of the type are known—six of these coins are now in Reading Museum. The above relics from our local Abbey are very welcome, as the Museum possesses but few relics from the Abbey.

The death of Mr. George F. Fox, Hon. Curator of the Silchester collection, is much regretted by all who knew him, and it would be difficult to find a gentleman to adequately fill his place. The authorities have been fortunate to secure the services of Mr. Mill Stephenson, F.S.A., who has devoted many years to

the Excavations at Silchester, and is a learned and skilled antiquary. Mr. Shrubsole has undertaken the hon. curatorship of the History Department vacant by the retirement of the Rev. Alan Cheales.

Queries.

WINKFIELD REGISTERS.—I shall be glad to know if any of your readers have heard what became of the earlier Parish Registers of Winkfield, Berks—i.e., those previous to 1720. The late Vicar informed me that they were missing when he came to the parish 28 years ago. Is it possible that they are now in some museum or in some other parish?—E. POLAND, Pilgrim's Way, Reigate.

CUMNOR.—I should like to know if there are now any representatives or descendants of a very old and respectable family named Peacock, formerly seated at Chawley, in the parish of Cumnor, Berks. Many of the family had very large families—fifteen being quite common—and it is reasonable to think that some still exist. Some of them inter-married with people of great respectability, such as Helyn, Holt, Droope, Maund, Broome, and Weston. As this is only in connection with private family history, no one need mind adding to the general family history by lending such pedigrees as are not printed for the elucidation of this interesting old family. One of the family married the Rev. Mr. Cuthbert, at one time of East Hendred.—SPHINX.

IN 1663 there came to the Province of Maryland one Richard Hall, his wife Elizabeth, and thirteen servants. He took up several thousand acres of land giving to the several tracts the names of Newington, Aldermaston, Thatcham, Marcham and The Spittle, and built a large, and for the times and place, a stately home, still standing. He was at once returned to the House of Burgesses of the Province and from the committees he was member of it would appear that he was learned in the law. He died in 1688, and four years before his death seems to have become a Quaker. His eldest son was sent to Oxford and the second son to St. Omer in France, so that it would seem that his Quakerism was an afterthought. From the names given to the lands it would seem probable that he came from Berkshire. My object in addressing you is to ask if you know of any family of the name in, or near, these places in Berks, to whom such a man would be likely to belong. I would very much appreciate any assistance or suggestion you would give me in locating him, especially any suggestion as to the parishes having records that would cover the district in which these places named above are situated.—WM. COLEMAN HALL, 5137 Pulaski Avenue, Philadelphia, U.S.A., March 3rd, 1909.

Replies.

STOCKS.—In reply to query in No. 3 Journal, Vol. 14, I do not think a case remains where the Stocks still exist in the West part of Berks. The last pair of Stocks I remember was at Wantage. They stood at the entrance to the town in Wallingford Street. They have only disappeared within the last few years. The Whipping Post still exists on the old Town Hall at Faringdon, the staple being affixed to the side of the ancient "lock-up" known as the black hole.—W. H. HALLAM.

VANDALISM IN CHURCHES.—With regard to Vandalism in Churches, the following case came under my notice last autumn at Shrevenham churchyard, one day when I was copying down the monumental inscriptions there. In the churchyard at the chancel end is an ancient effigy full size, and two village urchins were amusing themselves, till I sent them off, in sliding the whole length of the figure. This must be a practice as the effigy is worn almost to an inclined plane. A tradition, with what may be a foundation of fact, is attached to this effigy. The legend is that it represents a man who was building the tower and fell and killed himself. Both tower and effigy are the same period—Early English—and I think it is quite possible that the figure may be that of the founder of the tower, but from what I can make out of the head-dress of the figure, it represents a lady.—W. H. H.