

UP the taste and beauty of Reading. Waterhouse did what he could with stinted funds at Reading School and the Municipal Buildings, and Stallwood, and also Charles Smith and Son, did something towards it in their designs for Board Schools. The arrangement of the interior of the proposed new County Offices may be made just what is most suitable, but surely the front and visible sides might partake of a Gothic character. Look at the west fronts of cathedrals and churches and the great pains the builders took to make them attractive. In the forties, with other revivals, was the study of Gothic architecture, and "Parker's Glossary" of that day has given me great interest ever since in seeing Gothic cathedrals and churches at home and abroad. All lovers of that beautiful style are grateful to Lord John Manners for getting the Houses of Parliament built in that style against Lord Palmerston's powerful influence in favour of the Grecian—and Ancient British—three-stone principle of two uprights and one horizontal; and I am sure that our Architectural Society would be grateful to the County Council if they would follow Lord John Manners's example. Can you help?—Yours sincerely, W. F. BLANDY, Downshire Square, Reading, Sept. 20th, 1909.

BOXFORD CHURCH has been restored lately. It dates from the early part of the 13th century and was much decayed. The whole of the building has been thoroughly repaired. The ceiling of the nave has been removed, revealing the ancient oak rafters, a deal gallery taken down, the tower arch opened out, and an oak screen placed before the entrance. The old high pews have been superseded by oak benches, and the floor relaid with wood blocks. The roof of the aisle, dating from 1841, has been preserved and improved, and the tower and porch repaired, while the bell-frame has been strengthened. A new hot-water apparatus, with radiators, takes the place of a stove, and a new stone font provided. In addition to structural improvements, a new organ, costing £205, and towards which Mr. Andrew Carnegie made a donation of £64, has been provided and entirely paid for. The restoration of the chancel was generously undertaken by the Rector, and has been carried out in a most satisfactory manner. The total cost of the scheme is about £1,000, and the amount received at the date of the re-opening was £782.

NORTH MORETON AND BRIGHTWELL.—In Mr. Keyser's very interesting notes of North Moreton Church in this Journal, p. 36, he describes the fragments of a canopied tomb now lying outside the south wall of the tower, as shown in Fig. 16; and he states that they are said by some persons to have come from Cholsey Church, and by others from South Moreton. In Mr. Parker's *Ecclesiastical and Architectural Topography, Berks*, No. 52 (1849), it is stated that the south wall of South Moreton Church "has a string-course running under the windows both inside and outside, which in one place has been cut away for the insertion of a P. tomb." No such tomb is now to be seen there. I was not at the time familiar with South Moreton Church, nor with Parker's description of it; but I perfectly well remember being told, in or about 1862, that these fragments had been brought from South Moreton where they had been discarded at the "restoration" of that church. If I recollect rightly, the Rev. Albert Barff, then vicar of North Moreton, who had placed the fragments where they now are, was himself my informant. I do not think there is any record, or any recollection, of the existence of a similar tomb at Cholsey.

The lower portion of a seated effigy, with traces of colour, which has been placed among these fragments and is supposed by Mr. Keyser to be part of a

finial of the tomb, has really no connection with it, but was found quite recently in a wall near Chantry House in North Moreton.

It may be interesting to add that the Perpendicular doorway forming an entrance to the vicarage garden close to the churchyard, is said to have been brought by Mr. Barff in 1858 from Little Wittenham. It doubtless belonged to domestic buildings there, and not to the church which was pulled down and rebuilt in 1862-3.

Brightwell Castle is mentioned by Matthew Paris in his *Chronica Majora* (II. 191), written in the middle of the 13th century. He tells us that this castle with that of Reading (*castella de Radingis et de Bretevelle*) were taken by Duke Henry into his own hands after Stephen's siege of Wallingford was concluded. Lysons say that it "probably was then demolished"; and they are no doubt right in inferring that it occupied the site of the present manor house close to the church. Three sides of the moat still remaining are sufficient evidence of this. It cannot have been, as Mr. Keyser suggests (p. 37) where Small's house now stands, for this is at Mackney, and the two villages, though forming parts of one parish from early times, are always distinguished; so that the castle, if it had stood here, would certainly have been called Mackney Castle. Small's house was built by a Burgess of Wallingford of that name in the reign of Elizabeth; and the old manor house, Mackney Court, retaining some of its ancient features and a portion of its moat, stands on lower ground north of this. The latter house was the home of Robert Court, auditor of Prince Arthur, whose brass in Brightwell Church is described by Mr. Keyser (p. 38), and the indent of a child upon it is doubtless that of his daughter and heiress, who married Sir Adrian Molins of Clapcot (Lysons, *Mag. Brit.* I. 250, 402), through whom Mackney passed to his brother.

A note relating to Brightwell Church, probably hitherto unpublished, may be worth adding here, from a letter addressed by the rector of Brightwell to Dr. Rawlinson in 1730 and preserved in his copy of Ashmole's Berks in the Bodleian, stating that in the Churchwardens' accounts of 1648 6d. was charged for an hour-glass. These accounts appear to have been destroyed.—J. E. FIELD.

## Reviews.

"A MANNOR AND COURT BARON," edited by N. J. Hone, with a preface by J. Samuel Green. This is the third publication of the Manorial Society, which is doing so much to stimulate an interest in that fascinating relic of a by-gone age, the Manor. The manuscript has been discovered in the Harleian Collection of MSS. (No. 6714) in the British Museum. It is extremely valuable in throwing light upon the history and development of the manor, of the curious customs of tenure, the payment of heriots and other manorial rights. Every student of English Manors should possess this little book, and, moreover, seek to become a member of this Manorial Society, which is doing such good service in investigating the history of the manor, and in preserving the Court Rolls. The Secretary's address is 17, Hartwood Road, Wendell Park, London, W.