

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A note relating to Brightwell Church, probably hitherto unpublished, may be worth adding here, from a letter addressed by the rector of Brightwell to Dr.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.

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## Reviews.

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"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.