

Note 3. Chancel Roof underdrawn. The roof is plastered over (or rather under) beams. So was that of the Nave, till in 1912 we stripped off the plaster and renewed some $\frac{3}{4}$ of the beams and rafters.

Additional note on the alterations and additions completed in 1912. Owing to subsidence in N.W. corner of Nave necessary to underpin. Advantage taken (1) to build a new vestry, with foundations gins. deep resting on rock, which should also form an efficient buttress; (2) to convert old Vestry (at N.E. corner) into Organ-Chamber, and (3) to open up roof as described in Note 3.

N.B.—The glass in E. window is by Kempe.

ALDERMASTON COURT,
NEAR READING,
December 3rd, 1917.

DEAR SIR,

May I ask you kindly to insert the accompanying letter in your next number of the Journal. I am always pleased to receive any corrections to my papers, especially with regard to the historical allusions, which, as a rule, are only of a superficial character.

I have found a note of another cadaver effigy of rather early date, at North Curry Church, Somersetshire.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES E. KEYSER.

The Editor.

WHITEFIELD,
ABINGDON,
October 26th, 1917.

DEAR MR. KEYSER,

I read with much interest your Notes on Fyfield Church in the April number of the "Archæological Journal" immediately on its issue. You may remember that I mentioned at the Club one day certain little inaccuracies which you said you might like to put right in the next article.

In the name of Golafre (p. 2) I have not previously seen an accent on the *ε*. The contemporary pronunciation is perhaps indi-

cated by the fact that by Swift's time it had become "Gulliver."

As regards the story of Lady Gordon (p. 6), she is usually described as the daughter of George second Earl of Huntley, and not of Alexander the third Earl. According to the testimony of certain of the foreign ambassadors at the time she is said to have had two children by Warbeck, one of whom (a daughter) became the ancestress of the Pembroke family. (England under the Tudors, Busch). This does not quite square with your notes where you consider that both the indents represent boys. It is a little singular that in her will—full of human interests as it is—Katherine makes no reference to these children or to Warbeck. She is said never to have seen him again after the parting at Exeter in October, 1497, and it is possible that on realising he was an impostor (if he were) she disowned and abandoned both him and the children. The latter is rather hard to believe; but having no option but to remain at Court she might not have been quite a free agent. It may be that after her death these children erected the monument at Fyfield to her memory. From what we know of her last husband Christopher Assheton (not Ashfield) it is unlikely that he incurred any such expense himself.

A young man about the Court, he married Katherine as her fourth husband in 1535, when she must have been nearly or quite sixty; the only object of such a marriage could have been her property. Katherine died about October, 1537, not 1527 as stated by Lysons and followed by you.

The manor of Fyfield "which he now holds in right of his wife Katherine" with other properties was granted to Christopher Assheton 20 January, 1537⁶, for 30 years after her death. (L. & P Hen. 8. vol. 13). There is evidence that Assheton was living at Fyfield in January, 1556⁶, being implicated in certain of the intrigues against Mary; he fled the country soon after then and with others was proclaimed a traitor. In August, 1556, commissioners were appointed by the Privy Council to inquire into and report on his property.

Assheton only had an estate for years in Fyfield manor (about 11 years to run in 1556), so that it is clear neither he nor the representatives of his widow (as stated by Lysons) could have sold the freehold to White; they did not possess it. The chances are that the residue of the lease was forfeited to the Crown some time in 1556, whereupon the freehold was acquired by White. This would fit in all right with the generally accepted date of the foundation of

St. John's College in 1557. Lysons quotes no authority for dating the purchase in 1555 and may have been mistaken.

It was not till about 1510—12 that Katherine was provided with an English husband (James Strangeways). She was then over thirty. In 1510 she received the grant of Fyfield and other Berkshire manors (for life?). Her supposed relations with Henry VII. whilst an attractive young widow, were the subject of gossip by the chroniclers of the time—Hall of Gray's Inn, and Lesley of Edinburgh.

The photographs you are contributing to the Journal are such a valuable feature that I hope you may long be able to continue them. If to your other services to the archæology of the County you could add a comprehensive index to date of the contents of the Journal, it would be a great boon.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

ARNOLD E. PRESTON.

Note.

AN ANCIENT ROMAN VILLA.—A Roman villa of the first half of the second century before Christ has been discovered on the Via Tiburtina, a few miles from Rome. Numerous statues and several inscriptions have been found and removed to the National Museum.

