



NOTES AND QUERIES

FOR

Somerset and Dorset.

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TO THE READER.
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The Editors of "NOTES AND QUERIES FOR SOMERSET AND DORSET," in issuing the first number of their periodical, though fully conscious of their own shortcomings and inexperience, (for which they beg the indulgence of their readers), feel that no apology is needed for the appearance of a journal of the scope and character indicated by the title above-named.

It has been widely felt that the Counties in question should not be the last to possess a Repository for the preservation of facts relating to the present or past history of the district, and a medium of intercommunication among those who are connected with it by ties of birth or interest, and it is in obedience to repeated calls, which it was felt could no longer be disregarded, that this periodical is now placed in the hands of the subscribers.

The success which has attended the appearance of "Notes and Queries" in other quarters encourages the Editors in the belief that earnest supporters will not be wanting for this youngest candidate for popular favour.

They trust that this favour will be shown them, not only by that material support which will be needed to enable them to meet the cost of production, but also by ready contributions from those stores of historical and antiquarian lore, which they fully believe abound in the two counties. With this reliance they venture to direct the attention of their subscribers to the goodly list of names, many of them of world-wide celebrity, which they have been kindly permitted to publish as those of their active supporters and co-operators.

Whilst strenuously devoted to the success of "Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset," they desire to add that, far from wishing to interfere with the County societies, in regard to their "Transactions" now so happily issuing from the press, they hope that the present undertaking will inspire, if necessary, the local Associations with renewed energy in prosecuting the excellent work on which they are engaged.

In promising that they will do their utmost to justify the generous confidence already reposed in them by their friends and supporters, they take the liberty of respectfully asking those who may be possessed of a thirst for knowledge, to refrain from putting queries, the solution of which may be found in readily accessible books of reference, but to confine their contributions to such questions, more or less connected with the Counties, as they have not, after a reasonable amount of research, been able themselves to answer.

The Editors would also seek to impress upon their friends, the extreme desirability, when giving extracts from authorities of any kind, whether in MS. or otherwise, of being scrupulously accurate both as regards matter and reference, always remembering the advice of old Dan Chaucer,

"Who so shall telle a tale after a man,
He moste reherse as neighe as ever he can
Everich word, if it be in his charge,
All speke he never so rudely and so large;
Or elles he moste tellen his tale untrewé,
Or feinen thinges, or finden wordes newe."

I. THE BOUNDARIES OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET.—The attempt to pull to pieces and put together again our local divisions of self government and administration, for which the Local Government Bill is said to be the reason, has drawn attention generally to the County Boundaries, which the London Bureaucrats would alter everywhere, to make up what they are pleased to call Union Counties, and it may be well to look at the boundaries of Somerset and see what we can find out of their probable age and the reasons for them.

I feel unfit for the work, but it presses, and something should be done at once; some one must begin, and others may add and correct. It is of permanent interest also, and well deserving of continued care and attention.

Our boundaries are the same now as given in Domesday, except that Holwell has been added to Dorset, in which it was enclosed, and that some small changes have probably been made near Bristol. Eyton, Pp. 17-19, discusses some questions, but leaves, I think, this statement untouched.

This is no mean antiquity. When we go carefully into the reasons for the boundaries of our Counties, we find that either conquest or possession of property was the guide ; this is so plain that it has been generally assumed.

Our authority for the English conquest is Dr. Guest, whom the older antiquaries among us remember with affection. Fellow and Master of Caius, well acquainted with English and Celtic literature, kindly, courteous and loveable, no mere scholar or recluse, but a country gentleman and man of the world, who in the same year was Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge, and High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, he was specially fitted by his habits for local explorations. He visited and walked over the country carefully, saw and studied the nature of the soil, and from its present appearance formed a sound judgment of what it must have been when less cared for than now, whether swamp, or woodland, or cultivated land.

The earliest portion of our boundaries, if I understand him aright, lies between Longleat and Stourhead. The invading English were severely defeated in 520, probably by King Arthur, at the Mons Badonicus, which Dr. Guest fixes at Badbury Rings, in Dorset, near Wimborne. Peace was made, and a partition of territory, and it would seem that the high lands of Wilts, chalk and greensand, belonged to the invaders, and the Oxford clay below on the west, Witham and Selwood Forest, remained with the Welsh, along with a tract of impenetrable woodland, of small value, northwards and southwards, extending in the one direction to Malmesbury and Bradon, and in the other passing by Wincaunton and around Sherborne, where it joined the forest of Blackmore, to Chetnole, and still further westward, along the border between Somerset and Dorset, to near Crewkerne. The present boundary for a short distance is that of the greensand and Oxford clay, near Gear Hill, down which passed the Roman Road from Salisbury to Uphill, which is indicated in the new Ordnance Map, and which was doubtless destroyed by the Welsh at this time, 100 years after the departure of the Romans. The boundary here for a few miles north and south is irregular and unaccountable, and it does not now so accurately follow the geological lines as I should expect. That it is extremely old is plain, because it is older than our Parochial divisions; Yarnfield and Gasper being in Somerset, while they are parts of the Parishes of Maiden Bradley and Mere, in Wilts.

In 676 Osric, King of the Hwiccas, founded Bath Nunnery, and gave it a territory of 100 hides or *manentes* in a deed which Kemble does not mark as doubtful.

The boundary here north of the Avon, from Swinford in North Stoke to Midford, is the same for the county and for the hundred of Bath Forum or Forinsecum, the territory of Bath Abbey and its

outer jurisdiction, the out Hundred, like the out Parish of St. Cuthbert's at Wells.

It is plain that Bath was then no part of Somerset. Mr. Freeman (Vol. I. p. 26) says that the Hwiccas territory was the old Diocese of Worcester, (the Counties of Worcester, Gloucester, and part of Warwick). It seems likely that Bath was its south eastern outpost.

Collinson and Eyton, according to the Gheld accounts in Exon Domesday, give 95 hides to the Bath Hundred, and 20 to the Town; 115 in all. The frontier on the South and East is awkward, and cannot have been the original boundary; South Stoke lies beyond Wansdike, as does also Freshford, with a valley between, and Bathford is on the East of the Foss and the Avon.

If we leave out these manors and take Eyton's calculations, for Freshford $3\frac{1}{2}$ hides, and for Bathford 10, and add 5 for South Stoke (which is Tottan Stoke of Kemble, 486), we get $96\frac{1}{2}$ hides to represent Osric's 100, and the Hwiccas would have had an excellent frontier, on the South Wansdike, Horscombe, and the Camerton brook; on the East the river Avon and the Foss.

When this territory was added to Somerset we cannot tell. The boundary of the County at Freshford and Limpley Stoke is very remarkable. It may be well to mention here that the ordnance map seems to shew that Eyton follows Collinson wrongly in making the Avon the boundary of Freshford.

In 705 the conquest of these parts had proceeded so far that it was thought necessary to separate off from the Diocese of Winchester, the territory west of Selwood, and St. Aldhelm was made Bishop, an old man, a near relation of Ine, of great repute and influence, and of good scholarship for those times.

History does not record the progress of conquest westward. It must have been a matter of detail. The invaders would have no difficulty with the country west of Selwood when once they had possession of the land between Castle Cary and Sherborne, and of the Mendips, which Dr. Guest supposes to have been conquered as early as 577. Shepton, Wells, Somerton, Polden hill, would be reduced one after another, and Glastonbury was probably the intermediary for peace, or for a succession of useless paces.

In 658 the Walas were driven to Pedrida, which is Parret or South Petherton. This implies that Sherborne and Yeovil, Martock and the country of Ham Hill and Montacute, were occupied. The Parret would soon be forced at the ford of the Foss; Wigborough close by seems to record the fight; and the rich country from Merriott to Ilford Bridges would be occupied, and from Kingsbury to Windwhistle Hill.

From Somerton the Parret would be crossed at Langport, and the hills leading to Ashhill forest occupied.

But it seems to me that the foundation of a Bishopric west

of Selwood, so early as 705, points to a still greater extension westward of the English power.

It is very remarkable that the vale of Taunton-Dean and the country beyond, which we have supposed to have been annexed when Ine defeated Geraint in 710, was very largely devoted to ecclesiastical purposes, Taunton and its appurtenances and Pitminster belonging to the Bishop of Winchester; Wellington, Lydeard, and Wiveliscombe, to the local Bishop, and all together nearly filling up a huge rectangle of territory, mostly very good land, whose boundary on two sides is that of the County for nearly 20 miles from Keatsmill in Buckland St. Mary, to Raddington. The hundreds of Taunton and Kingsbury west, which represent these estates, are intermixed in a remarkable manner, which seems to show that they had been originally one estate and were divided; their population is now more than half that of Westmoreland, and half as much again as that of Rutland. One does not see why after 705 the Bishop of Winchester should have any place here at all. But on the other hand, if the conquest had been made before the division of the Bishopric, one may suppose that St. Aldhelm might be reluctant to deprive the other Bishop of all his possessions, and be content to leave Taunton the nearest part to him, himself possessing the frontier.

St. Aldhelm had had instruction at Malmesbury from Meildulf an Irishman, and it may be that the influence of the Church, under his guidance, who in a way stood between the two nations, was that which made peace between them, and that these immense possessions, unintelligible to us, were a consequence of its power, and of his, for he had long had much influence with Ine before he was made Bishop.

If the view taken here is correct, the victory over Geraint in 710 must have been a defeat of his in attempting to reconquer territory, rather than the original conquest, followed probably by a peace more durable than those before.

I am aware that the view I am taking does not seem to be borne out by the charters, which all give later dates. But all those I can find that are before 900 are doubtful, and if they were not, it is not clear to me that a later grant shuts out the possibility of an earlier one.

Previous to the conquest of Taunton, it seems reasonable to suppose that the coast had been occupied; Cannington from the sea or Polden Hill, and Watchet and Porlock, and the narrow strip of territory annexed between the sea and Quantock and Brendon. Willsneck on Quantock has led many before me to the same conclusion.

The high and difficult and uninviting ground of Brendon Hills and Exmoor may well have been a later conquest, even after that of North Devon; so also perhaps Castle Neroche and its neighbourhood.

One may be allowed to suppose that the sea coast of Dorset and Devon was ravaged and colonized by degrees, at least as far as the chalk extends, the rivers being occupied where desirable, while the land north of the Stour, between Dorset and Wilts, and on the west adjoining Devon, was left late in the hands of the Aborigines.

The Somerset border from Yeovil Junction towards Crewkerne looks like a border of defence, and bad land of the Oxford clay is included in Somerset, as at Pendummer, "where the devil were stodged in the middle of summer."

Near Chard, where Somerset, Dorset, and Devon are in confusion, nothing can at present be said, but it may be pointed out that for a mile west of Chard an ancient road is the County boundary.

From Calebridge, between Henstridge and Fivehead Magdalen, at the south-east corner of Somerset, to near Yeovil Junction, a distance of about 13 miles as the crow flies, the boundary of Dorset and Somerset is that of the possessions of the Bishop of Sherborne, dating probably from the foundation of the See, whatever may have happened before.

Between Calebridge and Penselwood where there seems again to have been a border of defence, we are once more in the bad, poor country, of which we can give but little account. So also north of Gear Hill, until we reach the river Frome at Road; and from thence to the sea, the Frome and the Avon are the boundary, except at Bath, as has been said, and for a couple of miles at Freshford and Limpley Stoke.

It seems possible, in this first attempt, to account for a large part of our boundaries; and as to the rest, which have been the latest settled, we have a limit in the Conquest, and know pretty well that Somerset was very nearly what it is now, for some time before the great change.

F. H. DICKINSON, Kingweston.

2. PORTLAND REEVE-STAFF.—I recently presented to the *Dorset County Museum* a Reeve-Staff or Pole, formerly used in the Manor Court of the Isle of Portland, which some little time ago I was fortunate enough to be able to secure from the descendant of one of the old quarry-owners of the island; and I am now anxious to obtain, if possible, a little more information about it than at present I am in possession of. The history of the staff, so far as I have been able to gather it, is as follows:

The reeve-staff or pole was formerly used for keeping the accounts of the quarry-lands, &c., in the manor, and the one I had was apparently made of old Spanish mahogany; and was about 8 feet 6 inches in length and nearly an inch and a half square, and covered with a variety of cuts and notches, like a huge Exchequer tally, of which more anon. It had been in the possession

of the family of the gentleman from whom I purchased it for many years, whose ancestors had formerly been quarry-owners in the island. Through the kindness of this gentleman I have been furnished with the following extracts from the rules of the Court of the Island and Manor of Portland (of which Her Majesty the Queen is the Lady), when the Court was closed on the 7th July 1846, the last occasion of its being held.

"We present our Manor to be ancient demesne, and land of inheritance, descendable as lands in gavel-kind, with appurtenances, paying a certain yearly rental of £141 4s. 3d., which is collected by a Reeve, taken in course by the Jury from the Rent Roll at each annual Michaelmas Court, which rent is paid at such Court to the Steward for the use of Her Majesty, being Lady in Chief.

"We also present that all tenants in our Manor are Freeholders, and our rent is certain and collected in the manner before mentioned, according to a staff called the *Reeve-staff*, which is annually cut from the Rent Roll as will appear by such staff."

The marks on the staff represent every acre of land, for which 3d. has to be paid; half an acre, 1½d.; and for every house a ¼d. had to be paid. If 24 houses were built on an acre, 6d. would be the Court rent. A person could only be *reeved* once; that is, a different person every year would have to collect the rents and pay them over to the steward; he would be what they called *reeved*, or *reeve-man*.

The divisions are made thus: (see staff).

☒	represents	Weston (one of the villages)
⊕	"	Wakeham
W	"	Easton
V	"	Chesil
O or —	"	Southwell*

The following allusion to the Reeve-Staff occurs in Commins' *Improved Weymouth Guide* (published about 1836) at p. 55. "At the *Portland Arms* (where George the Third generally dined when on a visit to the Island) Mrs. Winter will shew the *Reeve-Pole*, which exhibits the ancient mode of keeping accounts; it is said to be of Saxon origin, by which the bailiff of the Island collects the manor dues, as on the pole is described every acre of land the place contains."

And now may I ask, was there only *one* such staff in use by the steward of the Manor Court; or was a new one furnished at every Court, for it would appear from the extract I have given from the Court rules that "it was *annually* cut from the Rent Roll"? I presume that this can hardly mean a new *staff*; for if so, where

*I have failed to find the mark representing Southwell on the staff; the other four are there.

are the others? My informant told me he knew of the existence of no other staff, but I fancy I have heard of one being in the possession of a gentleman at Weymouth. Could mine have been the staff that Mrs. Winter (according to the Guide-book) had been in the habit of exhibiting to curious visitors to Portland fifty years ago? Not long ago I was mentioning the fact of my purchase to the Hon. Sec. of the *Folk-Lore Society*, when to my amusement he confided to me that he had long been on the look out for a *reeve-staff*, and had been making enquiries at Portland for that purpose, but without success. I then referred him to the County Museum at Dorchester.

I shall be glad of any information relative to the *reeve-staff*, or to the old Manor Court of the Isle of Portland, and to its present representative or successor.

J. S. UDAL, Inner Temple.

3. SEALS OF THE BISHOPS OF SALISBURY.—The Bishop of Salisbury (*Palace, Salisbury*) would be very much obliged to any persons who could lend him specimens of the Seals of the following of his predecessors, which are wanted to complete the series of Bishops' Seals of the Diocese of Salisbury.

Herman	1075	John Blythe	1493
Osmund	1078	Henry Dean	1500
Roger	1107	Edmund Audley ..	1502
Jocelyn	1142	Nicholas Shaxton ..	1535
Giles de Bridport ..	1256	Edmund Guest ..	1571
Walter Scammel ..	1284	Henry Cotton ..	1598
Henry Braundeston ..	1287	Martin Fotherby ..	1618.
Nicholas Bubwith ..	1407	Robert Townson ..	1620
John Chandler ..	1417	John Earle	1663
Thomas Langton ..	1485	Alexander Hyde ..	1665

He also desires to have examples of the Seals of dignity of all Bishops from Sherlock (1734) to Denison (1837) inclusive, with the exception of that of Bishop Douglas.

4. VISITATION HELD AT TAUNTON BY ARCHBISHOP LAUD IN 1634.—The accompanying extracts from the Churchwardens' Account Book for the Parish of Charlynch 1623 to 1659, may be of some interest as affording evidence of a visitation of his former Diocese by Archbishop Laud, and of his interest in the same. I do not know if this, or any other visitation by him, is taken notice of, or if it is recorded in his "Diary." Perhaps this entry may draw forth others of a confirmatory nature.

The other entries testify to the thoroughness of the Archbishop's labours in restoring the Church of England to Catholic and primitive doctrine and practices. It is interesting to note the entry of the purchase of "The Booke concerning lawfull

Sports," and its price 6d., and the purchase of "a Carpett for the Comunion Table and Pulpitt Cloth of velvett with silke and gold fringe" of so expensive a nature for a small village Church like this. The "Raylings for the comunion" I may state are still in existence in the Church, and so is the canopy for the font. Probably the following extracts may be deemed of sufficient interest to be inserted in "Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset."

W. A. BELL, Rector of Charlynch.

Extracts from the Church Wardens' Account Book for the Parish of Charlynch.

1633. The accounts of the said William Webber and James Hurford for their Disbursments for the said year as aforesaid 1633

For a Box for Almes	ijs.	vid.
For the booke concerning lawfull sports		vid.
Paid for a Carpett for the Comunion Table, and a Pullpett cloth of Velvett with Silke and Gold Fringe	xli.	vis. iiijd.

1634. The Account of the said Church Wardens for the aforesaid year 1634 for their Disbursements.

Paid for a booke of Articles at Taunton at the Arch Bishop's Visitation		ijd.
Laid out when we were at Wells at St. James tide according to my Lord Bishops command	ixs.	ixd.
Laid out at Bridgwater when we gave in our present- ment at ye Arch Bishop's Court	ii ijs.	vid.
Paid for raylinge in the Comunion Table	iiij <i>l</i> .	xiiis.
Laid out at Taunton at the Reformation Court for dismissing the Presentment	xs.	iijd.
Paid for setting upp the Almes box and for mending the locks of the same		js.
Laid out for Bread and Wine the Sunday after All Hallow day	ijs.	id.
For Bread and Wine against Christmas Day	ijs.	id.

5. TOPOGRAPHICAL INDICES OF LOCAL NAMES.—The great value which frequently attaches to the obscure or little known names which are borne in rustic lips by the fields, farms, hamlets, and the physical features of the country, is now fully recognized by the topographer. Will it be asking too much of the readers of "Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset," to contribute each for his own parish, if situated within the Counties in question, a list of local names so far as they present any points of interest, in order that materials may be gathered for a complete topographical index of place-names existing in Dorset and Somerset? I have already collected a store of them from my own neighbourhood, which I propose to print from time to time in the pages of this journal, and if other helpers will give their aid in what is a very simple matter, a valuable work will rapidly be carried to a successful conclusion.

I may perhaps venture to point out some of the interesting features an index of this description will present. Many of the

fields around us retain the names, otherwise lost or forgotten, given by the early settlers to the streams, hills, and valleys of the country; others preserve the names or indicate the positions of entrenchments, hill-forts, and Roman stations, or mark the sites of castles, religious houses, and battlefields; others the names of districts or manors, now so shrunken as to have become the designation of a trifling patch of soil. In many cases the names of former owners or occupiers are still attached to the fields and farms which formed a part of their possessions, or a memorial survives of the tenures upon which the lands were held, or of their ancient mode of cultivation, while in others are preserved dialectal words not known in common English, or instances are afforded of phonetic assimilation or corruption. Nor should the facetious names which rustic wit has given to many a field or lane or holding be forgotten,—or the allusions to ancient customs and superstitions which still linger in local nomenclature.

It is obvious that a topographical index of the character indicated will be of value in many directions, and in particular it will be of great service in the identification of obscure localities, mentioned in ancient documents, and in many cases will supply material upon which the philologist may exercise his skill.

In constructing a list of local names in any parish, the source to be consulted in the first instance will be the Schedule of lands, contained in the Tithe Apportionment, in which each field, with its name, acreage, and state of cultivation, is commonly given.

If this document happens to be what is called, a "Farm Apportionment," in which the farms or entire holdings alone are mentioned without reference to the smaller portions of land of which they are constituted, then in the place of it may be consulted the survey of the Parish, used in determining the incidence of the Poor Rate.

This will form the basis, to which additions may be made from the lips of aged inhabitants who frequently retain traditional memories of names which do not commonly appear in writing. Other sources will be found in Inquisitions "post mortem," Terriers, Court Rolls, Conveyances of land, Inclosure Acts, Auctioneers' Particulars of Sale, and old Estate maps and Rate Books, as they may happen to be available. The Ordnance maps, old and new, will be of service, but too much reliance should not be placed upon the accuracy of the former of these surveys.

In addition to the names of fields, taken from the above-mentioned sources, should be recorded the names of Farms or Homesteads, of Roads and Lanes, and of the Physical Features of the Country, such as hills and streams,—and in towns, the old names of Streets. In all cases variations in spelling should be carefully noted, as well as the local pronunciation, which often markedly differs from the written form.

The great variety of descriptive terms which are found employed in such a simple matter as the names of fields may be seen in the following classification of such examples as have come under my observation in my own part of Dorset.

- A. Names which have reference to the condition of the field itself.
 - 1. Extent. 2. Form. 3. Situation.
 - 4. Purpose to which applied, which may relate either to the past or present use or mode of cultivation.
 - 5. Quality or condition of the soil.
 - 6. Some prominent object in the field.
 - 7. Haunts of wild animals.
- B. Names which are descriptive of the physical features of the spot.
 - 1. Hills. 2. Valleys. 3. Streams.
 - 4. Fords. 5. Wells. 6. Woods.
- C. Names attached to sites, (*a*) prehistoric, (*b*) historic, such as sites of earthworks, camps, religious houses, battlefields.
- D. Names relating to former ownership.
 - 1. Tenures. 2. Endowments.
 - 3. Personal Names. 4. Trade Names.
- E. Names which have or had a meaning locally understood.
 - 1. Customs. 2. Legends. 3. Dialect.
 - 4. Native wit and humour.

Some of the foregoing classes may appear trivial, and are only mentioned to shew the variety which exists, and in constructing a topographical index, it will be sufficient to note as a rule those names which are comprised in sections B, C, D, and E, together with instances which may be classed under the head of *curious*, or the meaning of which may be obscure, for it will be found that there is a large proportion of names, which cannot readily be assigned to any class. I called attention in NOTES AND QUERIES (6th S. x, 45) to a peculiar example of the change of field-names brought about to perpetuate the political opinions of the owner, in the case of a farm at Halstock, called Sydney Farm, which was offered for sale, 6th June, 1884.

In connection with local names there is a very useful work which can only be suggested here, but which might appropriately be taken up by the County Societies. I refer to the purchase of the new large-scale Ordnance Maps, now in course of publication, in which might be carefully inserted, by a Committee specially appointed for that purpose, such local names in their proper positions as have not already been recorded by the Surveyors. I sincerely hope that this suggestion will be received with approval in the proper quarters.

In the next issue of this Magazine reference will be made to the store of field and other local names comprised within the

parish of Buckland Newton, to be followed, in subsequent numbers, by other parishes.

EDITOR FOR DORSET.

6. CAMPS AND HUNDREDS.—The earthen forts which crown so many hills have often occupied the attention of archæologists and historians. But they have been considered almost entirely from one point of view, namely the strategical. It has occurred to me that there might be another aspect;—that possibly they may have been used throughout the Saxon period as centres of the regular military organization. It is well known that every hide of land was bound to send its man to the Fierd, that is, the military muster by which yeomen were kept in exercise and fighting order, and by which at the same time bridges and forts were kept in repair. That this was so, we know from the oft-repeated formula in every grant of book-land. Where then did the Fierd meet, and encamp, if not in these old forts? And what were the fortifications which they were bound to repair, if not these same? But if this was so, it seems reasonable to look for some relation between these forts and the Hundreds, inasmuch as the latter were the primary units of administration. Not that we should suppose a Camp to every Hundred, but possibly to every two or three Hundreds, as it is likely that for military administration the Hundreds united in small groups. My query then is, whether in the distribution of such of these forts as still remain there is any appearance of a geographical relation to the area of the Hundreds?

Oxford, 1st February, 1888.

J. EARLE.

7. CHURCHWARDEN'S ACCOUNTS IN THE PARISH OF PILTON.—There is an old book of accounts belonging to the Churchwardens of Pilton, containing statements of account and inventories of Church goods between 1497 and 1531. It contains two sheets of parchment doubled into four leaves and seventeen sheets of coarse paper, making altogether thirty-eight leaves. It is however not quite perfect, as five leaves have been cut out at the end, and three in the centre of the book. The book was given into the custody of the Vicar and Churchwardens in 1830 by a Mr. William Baker. The accounts are complete from 1507—1512 and from 1514—1525. There are in addition, accounts for 1497 and 1498 and 1530, and an Inventory of Church goods, ornaments, Altar vessels, books, vestments, rings, and cows, which are more or less complete and full of most interesting information for the years 1503, 1507, and 1509. The latter is the most complete, and was begun just before the news of Henry the VIIth's death was known in the parish.

Among the many items of local news that we learn from them are the following. In 1497 a deal of new glass was put into the windows of the North Aisle, and this Aisle was dedicated to the

Virgin Mary. In 1508 the new Rood loft and screen were made and painted by a Dr. Jonys. This probably is part of the screen that still exists in the Church. In 1509 the Church tower was finished; it is pointed, and the scaffold poles are taken down and sold while the holes made for them in the tower are filled up. In 1512 a house called Saynte Mary House, which seems to stand to the Church in the relation of a Church House, was repaired and a new thatch roof was put on it.

The system of endowment for Church expenses by means of church Cows was then in full vogue, and the names of the hirers and those who were surety for them is given on several occasions.

These accounts have been transcribed by the Vicar of Wookey, and are about to form a portion of a forthcoming volume of the Somerset Record Society.

T. S. HOLMES, Wookey Vicarage.

8. "PETER'S FINGER" INN, LYTCHETT MINSTER, DORSET.—Readers of "Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries" may be willing to give their opinions as to the probable origin of the sign of the "Peter's Finger." The opinion commonly put forward is that the name of the sign is a corruption of "St Peter ad Vincula," the dedication of the Chapel in the Tower of London, a dedication known also elsewhere. The late Canon W. H. Rich-Jones, of Bradford-on-Avon, the author of the S.P.C.K. Diocesan History of Salisbury, wrote to me in 1885:—

"The name Peter's Finger is by no means uncommon. There is a place of that name in Alderbury parish some three miles from Salisbury. There is no doubt but that the origin of the name is 'from the festival of 'St. Peter ad Vincula' (August 1st). The fact is proved by the same lands being also called 'Lammas lands.' The term is applied to lands on which from August till a certain period there was a common right of feeding sheep, cattle, &c. I have in some papers memoranda of a number of places of a similar designation."

I can find no traces of any Lammas customs in Lytchett Minster.

A gentleman in this County, well known as an antiquary, does not countenance this opinion. These were his words to me:—

"If your Church was dedicated to 'St. Peter ad Vincula,' the explanation would be more than plausible, but no one knows who was your patron saint. I am not aware that 'St. Peter ad Vincula' was much known in these parts."

Hotten's "History of Sign Boards" thus mentions the sign:—

"At Dawdley, and on the road between Warminster and Salisbury, there is a very curious sign called 'Peter's Finger,' which is believed to occur nowhere else. In all probability this refers to the benediction of the Pope, the finger of His Holiness

“being raised whilst bestowing a blessing. St. Peter, being the “first of the Papal line, was doubtless often represented with his “finger raised in old pictures and carvings. The following passage “from Bishop Hall’s ‘Satires’ alludes to the finger:—

‘But walk on cheerly, till thou have espied
‘*St. Peter’s finger*, at the churchyard side.’

Book V. Sat. 2.

Some years ago there appeared, I think, a letter about this sign in the Salisbury and Winchester Journal, making mention of a bleeding hand.

It has been suggested that the origin of the sign might have been connected with the supposed possession, in the neighbourhood, of St. Peter’s finger as a relic. In connection with this theory, I may say that the gentleman, who did not think Mr. Rich-Jones’ explanation tenable, informed me that he was not aware of there being any evidence of the existence of a monastic institution at Lytchett Minster. There was formerly a St. Clement’s inn not very far from the Peter’s Finger which was kept by a blacksmith, according to my informant, an old parishioner, who said that “St. Clement was the first blacksmith” as if to account for its sign.

Once it was suggested to me that the name “Peter’s Finger” might have arisen from the possible existence of a finger-post near the inn. My friend, who made this suggestion, took great interest in the subject, and thought the relic theory worthy of consideration, saying that pilgrims visiting a relic would need a hostelry.

St. Peter, with keys and a cock, figured on the old sign-board (not, I believe, of many years’ standing) as they do now on the present one.

Lytchett Minster, POOLE.

H. FARLEY.

9. TEXTS ON CHURCH WALLS.—When I undertook the reconstruction and enlargement of the Church at Allerton in 1859-60, I discovered many texts on the walls beneath the various coats of whitewash. It was impossible to preserve them on the north wall of the nave, as a north aisle was added, and the wall itself was pulled down. I copied them carefully at the time; and as they have only been previously noticed in an ephemeral local magazine, twenty years ago, a permanent record of them may perhaps be provided in *S. & D. N. & Q.*

Over the entrance door, in red and black letters, was this:—

“*Keep thy foote when thou goest to the House of God and be more ready to hear than to give the sacrifice of fooles, for they consider not that they do evil.*”

On the west side were the words, “*Jesus said Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me, for of such is the Kingdom of heaven.*”—S. Matt. xix. 14.

Opposite the entrance door was this on the north wall:—

"A man that useth much swearing shall be filled with iniquity, and the plague shall never depart from his house; if he shall offend, his sins shall be upon him, and if he acknowledge not his sin he maketh a double offence, and if he swear in vain he shall not be innocent, but his house shall be full of calamities."—Ecclus. xi. 23.

Also on the north wall of the nave but more eastward was this:

"Curse not the King, no, not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bed chamber; for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter."—Eccles. x. 20.

These texts, and the Apostles' Creed, which was inscribed on the south wall, east of the entrance door, I assign to the year 1638, the date carved on the free-stone of the large window facing South.

On either side of the west window but in letters of a much later date were two of the offertory sentences, viz., "*Blessed be the Man that provideth for the sick and needy, the Lord shall deliver him in the time of trouble;*" and "*Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do unto them for this is the law and the prophets.*"

J. COLEMAN, Cheddar Vicarage.

10. ACRE. HOGSHEAD.—There is a puzzle in my mind as to the double use of two measures, the acre and the hogshead.

The first, now only a superficial, has been a lineal measure also. *N. & Q.*, 5th Series, viii, August 11, 1877, hath it that,— ".....the use of 'acre' as a measure of length is not so clear. The only passage giving countenance to this is *Isidor: Orig: Bk. xv. Ch. 15. 'Ager habet [sic] passus cxxv vel pedes dcxxv, cujus mensura octies computata milliare facit, quod constat quinque millibus pedum.'*" This is plain. An acre, long measure, is a furlong; a name which, thus connected, almost looks as if it equals furrow-long.* I have seen somewhere, but cannot quote the authority, that 132 furrows, each a furlong in length, make a reputed acre superficial. But this is by the way. My difficulty is that Eyton, on the Dorset Domesday, p. 25, gives a table of long measure, as therein used, and he makes an acre (acra) only 4 perches, or 22 yards. And this is also the dictum of Mr. Ellis in *N. & Q.*, 6th Series, vi, Sept. 16, 1882.

It is to be observed that Isidore speaks of 'ager,' the Domesday commissioners of 'acra.' 'Acra' too, is used as a long measure, but of unspecified extent, in the earliest Weymouth Borough-charter, of A.D. 1252. Now my query is, as to its being right to make 'ager' always a synonym of 'acra,' although

*This suggested with all diffidence as Eyton makes it mean forty-long, i.e. forty perches.

authorized by Du Cange.* I need hardly say that in Classical Latin it has no such meaning, in either sense; and that, as to 'acra,' the word is not in Riddle.

In *Migne's Du Cange* I failed to find any indication of the use of 'acra,' or even 'perca,' as long measures. Jugerum on the other hand is used by Pliny (Riddle says) as = $\pi\lambda\acute{\epsilon}\theta\rho\nu$ = 100 Greek feet.

Again, as to hogshead, I ask if its use as a timber measure was ever common. A ton of timber is 40 cubic feet. Two hundred years ago, I suppose, the transition from ton to 'tun' was simple, and a corresponding use of other liquid measure terms for cubic measure. At all events (if I may quote myself) in my Catalogue of Weymouth Charters, &c., p. 143, there is mention of "29 Koomes, 3 hodghedes and 03 foott," and of "2 tun, 2 hogs. and 3 foot" of timber. The price of the latter lot was 33s. per 'tun.' The timber was sold by the Corporation, apparently; and therefore presumably consisted of old beams, &c., from a demolished municipal building. If so, 33s. seems too much for a ton, of forty-feet, in 1653.

H. J. MOULE, Dorchester.

II. THE GREAT STORM OF 1703.—Much has been written from time to time, since the days of De Foe, on the devastation wrought by the awful storm of November 27 (O.S.), 1703.

The County of Somerset has the remembrance of it indelibly imprinted on its history, owing to Bishop Kidder and his wife being killed in bed by the falling of a chimney stack upon them. In connection with the event the following original records will be of interest.

The first is from an Overseer's Book belonging to the Parish of Mark.

"The 26 of November, at night 1703 a very Tempestuous wind which did strip, and blow downe houses and mills; and Churches received hurt, and in the morning being Satturday the sea broak in and drowned the Parishes Paulett Huntspill, Burnham Brean; Lympsham grounds, and both Brents very much hurt by loss of goods."

The second is from a Churchwarden's Book belonging to the parish of Badgworth, and is in the handwriting of John Gill the Churchwarden of that year.

"This to repair the breeches of the dredfull Tempest done to our Church and Tower, which apered with Wonderfull violence both by sea and land on the 27th of November, 1703. To our

*Ager. Terræ seu agri portio, certis limitibus et mensuris definita, quam alii *ageram* vocant; *portion de terre d'une étendue bien déterminée, acre*..... *Migne's Du Cange*, p. 112.

Tower was blown down all the west Batelment, and the to west Penicels and half ye Batelments South Side ye Belfery Window to peices. The Church tile blown al of, and all new lafted and laid; much of the Roucast Beat down all new laid, and a greadeal of ye Plaistering and all of it new done. This was Amazing, and God grant that there may never be the like while the world lasteth."

Mr. Holmes has given us in his 'History of the Parish and Manor of Wookey' an entry in one of his Parish books, which describes the many ships that were driven out of the sea into the meadows (meades) 'by reason of that very great Tempest,' but he has not inserted the subjoined memorandum, and so I take leave to give it.

"Paid to a man of Huntspill, on request that had lost his goods by the breaking in of the sea."

So deeply had the storm impressed men, that in one instance at least, its occurrence is recorded on a memorial to the dead. It is in Limington Church.

"Elizabeth younger daughter of Mr. Edward Beaton Gent, who departed this life in the 16th year of her age, about 14 days before the great hurricane, in the year of our Lord 1703."

"LUXFIELD."

12. KNOWLTON CHURCH.—On the left hand side of the high road from Wimborne to Cranborne, and three miles from the latter, stand the ruins of a small, but singularly massive dismantled old church. Even that zealous local antiquary, Dr. Wake Smart, of Cranborne, can tell me little about it, nor did the late Lord Shaftesbury seem much better informed. The walls are of great thickness, and the architecture evidently of Norman character. It does not however follow that its antiquity is very great and though I have heard a Saxon origin claimed for it, that seems to me improbable to a degree.

Country churches were probably often strongly built in Norman fashion after Norman architecture had ceased to be the rule. The curious feature of Knowlton Church is, however, that it stands in the midst of *seven*—Dr. Smart says—concentric circumvallations, though it requires the eye of an antiquary to trace the outer rings: the inner ones are distinct and interesting. Can anyone throw light on the history of Knowlton Church and fix the date of its downfall?

A. J. H. CRESPI, Wimborne.

13. ROAD FROM PRESTON OR BINCOMBE TO ABBOTSBURY.—Will those who have old maps of Dorset tell us if there is marked a direct road along the valley from Preston, or Bincombe to Abbotsbury? Short pieces of road occur at intervals tending that way, which used to be more frequent and more united than they

are now, having been gradually destroyed during the last 40 years.

Were many of the many Roman "Ways" running so?

Is there any record of their use or of their being stopped?

E. A. SAMSON, Upwey.

[No trace of this road appears in Isaac Taylor's map of Dorset, of the date of 1765.—EDITOR FOR DORSET.]

14. "ALL IN THE WRONG."—I wish to discover who was the author of "A New Ballad" called "All in the Wrong, or the Parson-hunters at Fault," near Axbridge, Somerset, and what were the circumstances which gave rise to it. It consists of eleven stanzas, the first of which runs thus:

"Ye sturdy fat Graziers and dairymen blunt,
Who make it your sport a poor Parson to hunt,
Pull in for a moment, attend to my song,
And I quickly will prove you are all in the wrong.
Sing Tantararara, wrong all, wrong all,
Sing Tantararara, all wrong."

It is a skit on proceedings that took place in the neighbourhood of Banwell, Badgworth, Biddisham, and Weare, and is dated Bath, June 3, 1791.

Can any one throw any light on it?

"LUXFIELD."

15. ARMORIAL BEARINGS.—"On a bend, three martlets."—I shall be glad if any one can tell me to what family belong the above armorial bearings engraved on a piece of plate that has lately come into my possession. They probably belong to some old Cheshire family. The engraver has not made it possible for me to give a more detailed description.

H. FARLEY.

16. NAMES OF CUPS.—In the will of Sir John Trevelyan of Nettlecombe (1522) is this: "To Jane my wife a Cup covered called 'The Myghell.'" "Robert Hill, of Taunton (1581), leaves one piece of silver called 'The Nutt,' and a pott of silver called 'The Skynkinge pott.'" Robert Cuffe, of Rowlands (1572), speaks of 'my Cup called The Berall Cuppe.' What is the Myghell? Is it the metheglin cup? Is there any piece of silver known as the Nut? The Skynkinge pott is merely the drinking cup placed on the table, and the Berall Cuppe, I conjecture, is the Burial Cup, used on the occasion of funerals.

L.

17. "CATTY LANE."—Is "Catty" an abbreviation of "Catherine?" A thoroughfare in Cheddar which is thus designated is called 'Catherine Lane' in an old map, and I therefore conclude that it was once known by this title. But I am inclined to regard 'Cathay' as the original word. Is "Catty" often found in Somerset or Dorset, as applied to places?

L.

18. STRAY CANNON BALLS.—I have picked up 3 cannon balls in my life, about the same size, about 1½ lb. weight, and 6 or 7 inches round: these most likely are from Fairfax's culverins: one was found in the rick-yard at Kingston Russell and two at Upwey. Another was recently found at Osmington Mills, weighing 30 lbs. 1 oz., and being 20 inches in circumference.

Can any one suggest a date for that?

E. A. SAMSON, Upwey.

19. FIFTH OF NOVEMBER RHYMES.—Some few years ago I heard the boys at Pill near Bristol, commemorating Guy Fawkes' day in the following lines:—

"Remember, remember the fifth of November,
The gunpowder treason and plot,
For I see no reason why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot.
Holloa! boys: holloa! boys: let the bells ring,
Holloa! boys: holloa! boys: God save the Queen.
Ladies and gentlemen who sit by the fire,
Put your hands in your pockets to help the brand-fire.
And whenever this Popery shall return,
Into the brand-fire he shall burn!
A rope, a rope to hang the Pope! Hip, Hip, Hurrah!
Give us another to hang his brother! Hip, Hip, Hurrah!"

Are the last eight lines local; or are they common to denunciations of Guy Fawkes?

"LUXFIELD."

20. HELIX POMATIA IN DORSET.—Have any *N.* & *Q.* correspondents thoroughly searched in Dorset for *Helix Pomatia*? It is included in the list of Dorset Land Shells on Da Costa's authority. But neither Mr. Mansel-Pleydell nor Mr. Dämon, two of our chief conchologists, have ever found it there, I believe; nor had Pulteney in his day. From the very remarkable fact that this snail abounds at, and, as regards that district, not more than a quarter of a mile from the remains of a Roman villa at North Leigh, Oxfordshire, it may be that Roman sites are the likeliest places to be searched. Here, however, at Durnovaria, this deponent knoweth it not. By the way, *Unde derivatur Pomatia*? Is it from a man's name? I can see no likely clue in Liddell or Riddle.

H. J. MOULE, Dorchester.

21. ST. ERASMUS.—There were altars dedicated to this Saint in the Church of S. Cuthbert at Wells, of S. Andrew at Cheddar, and in the parish Church of Nettlecombe. What other examples are there in Somerset? St. Erasmus is more commonly known now as St. Elmo.

J.C.

22. BADDANBYRIG. BADBURY.—Can any of your readers inform me what is the origin and meaning of the Saxon name, Baddanbyrig, of the encampment and hill overlooking the Stour Valley, now known as 'Badbury Rings' and where the name occurs in Saxon Literature?

W.E.P.

23. FAMILY OF HAYDON OF NORTH WIDCOMBE.—Can any of your correspondents give me any information regarding the Haydons who were at North Widcombe (a hamlet of Chewton Mendip), in the 16th and 17th centuries? Did they come from Norfolk, Hertfordshire, or Devon? and when did they settle at Widcombe? They appear to have died out or left Widcombe about 200 years ago. I have information that some of the Haydons, either the Somerset or the Devon branch, settled in the United States of America, sailing from Plymouth in 1630, and that many of their fellow passengers came from Somerset.

A Farm House said to have belonged to the family is still standing at Widcombe, but there are no traces now of the Manor House which also belonged to them. Part of the Haydon property is now held by the Duchy of Cornwall, but I cannot say whether the Haydons held in their own right, or on leases from the Duchy. Can anybody tell me from what part of Somerset there was a migration to America in 1630, or throw any light upon the disappearance of the Haydon family from Widcombe in Charles II's reign? Any information on these points will be thankfully received.

R. C. W. RABAN, Paulton Vicarage.

24. ST. MARGARET'S LEPER HOSPITAL, WIMBORNE.—Much attention has of late been directed to the spread of Leprosy, and Archdeacon Wright, Rector of Greatham, Hants. has been writing some interesting letters to the *Times* on the subject. The frequency of leper hospitals in the older towns of England, I need hardly dwell upon here, but it proves that at one time leprosy, as indeed is well known, was common enough, and that special provision was made for the reception and isolation of unhappy sufferers from perhaps the most terrible disease to which humanity is subject. Can any of your readers throw light on the time when St. Margaret's, Wimborne, was last used for this purpose?

A. J. H. CRESPI, Wimborne.

25. ETYMOLOGY OF UBLEY, the name of a parish in the Deanery of Chew. Is it in any way connected with the word "ubbley" (oblation) used for the sacramental wafer or bread in Sir Thomas Malory's "*Morte D'Arthur*" vid. Book xvii, Chap. 20. "And then the Bishop made semblant as though he would have gone to the sacring of the Mass. And then he took an *ubblly* which was made in likeness of bread," &c.?"

T. H. F. HICKES, Axbridge.

26. WHO WAS AXYLUS?—In Rodney Stoke Churchyard is an upright tombstone about 100 years old, on which after name, &c., occur these words

“Like Axylus of old
He was hospitable rich and good.”

Is this a quotation, and who was Axylus?

In the “Fortunes of Nigel” Chap. xvii, I find (à propos of Duke Hildebrod) “Let us enter the ever-open gate of this second Axylus.”

T. H. F. HICKES, Axbridge.

27. JOHN GALLOP OR GOLLOP.—Information is sought regarding John Gollop (or Gallop) and Christobel his wife who went to America, it is believed from the County of Dorset, in the early part of the 17th century.

John Gallop is known to have sailed in the ship *Mary and John*, which arrived at Natascot (the name of which was changed to Hull in 1646) the 30th of May, 1630. He joined the First Church, 5th January, 1634 (Memorial Hist., Boston, p. 568), was made a Freeman, 1st April, 1634 (Mass. Rec. Miscellaneous, p. 368), and died in Boston, 11th January, 1650, (Rec. Com., p. 29.) His will is one of the earliest on record. Christobel his wife followed him at a later date, undoubtedly in the ship *Griffin*, arriving at Boston, 4th Sept., 1633. They had four children, John, Samuel, Nathaniel, and Joan, who were all probably born in England, and accompanied their mother to America.

John Gallop is *supposed* to be identical with “Johannes Gallop de Mastern æt. 33 = . . .” who occurs in the Gallop pedigree in the Visitation of Dorset, 1623,—son of John G., by his wife . . . daughter of Crab, third son of Thomas Gallop, of North Bowood, who died 7th April, 8 Jac. (1610).” This supposition however requires confirmation. Will some reader of “Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries” endeavour to place it beyond the possibility of doubt, and also supply the parentage of his wife, and the birth-place of his children?

The following letter from Governor Winthrop to the Rev. John White, Rector of Holy Trinity and S. Peter's Dorchester, Dorset, which is printed at pp. 126 and 127 of the Proceedings of the Mass. Hist. Soc., 1860-2, will shew that John Gallop was well known both to the writer and the receiver of it.

“Reverend and Worthye Sir,

I salute you in the Lorde, beinge much comforted to heare of your healthe and in hope at lengthe to see and enjoye you heere that you may reape some fruite of all your labours care and coste bestowed upon this worke of the Lorde.

I wrote to you by the last return, how I had undertaken to paye them of Dorchester for Jo. Gallop and Dutche their wages which Mr. Ludlowe did accompt to receive part heere and part in

England so as I marvayle you should have any further trouble about it. I have also payed Jo. Elford the remainder of his wages being xli. and other accounts heere, so as I thinke there is now nothing to be demanded for suche reckoning. I have disbursed above 300*l.* for the Companyes engagements heere but I have some cattle and olde Kettles, &c., for it, and I hope more than enough to satisfie me.

I have much difficultye to Keepe John Galloppe heere by reason his wife will not come, I marvayle at her womans weaknesse, that she will live myserably with her children there, when she might live comfortably with her husband heere. I praye perswade and further her coming by all meanes, if she will come let her have the remainder of his wages, if not let it be bestowed to bring over his children, for so he desires. It would be about 40*l.* losse to him to come for her.

John Gallop hath written to some of your neighbours for 12 Dozen of Cod lines. If he provide them and bring them to you I praye deliver him this bill inclosed, if not I desire you to furnish us so farre as this bill will goe and some Cod Hooks also. Thus earnestly desiring your prayers and longing for your presence I commend you to the Lorde and rest

Your assured in the Lordes Work

Jo: Winthrop.

Masschusetts July 4 1632 "

This letter is addressed "To his Reverend and verie loving Friende Mr. John White, minister of the Gospell these delyver." The Bill enclosed runs "Brother Dowinge, I praye paye unto this bearer by the allowance of Mr. John White of Dorchester twelve pounds. It is for fishing lines to be sent me into Newe England.

So I rest Your loving brother Jo: Winthrop.
Masschusetts in New England, July 4, 1632."

AUGUSTUS A. GALLOUPE, Beverly, Mass., U.S.A.

28. DEFEAT OF THE SPANISH ARMADA.—By the time the second part of *S. & D. N. & Q.* is due, England will be preparing to celebrate the Tercentenary of the above event. It is quite possible that some contemporary reference to it may exist in the older Parish registers, Churchwardens' account books, or other public records, or in the archives of the County families in the district appropriated by this Magazine. Should such be discovered to be the case, the Editors will thankfully receive any communications bearing on the subject; and the earlier the better. The Plymouth Committee, which has been formed for promoting the Armada Commemoration, has named the 19th July, the day on which the Spanish Armada was first sighted off the English Coast, as the first day of a national and patriotic demonstration. The programme will probably include historical processions and tableaux, marine pageants, and exhibition of Armada relics and pictures, with other

objects of interest, &c. Further information may be obtained from the Hon. Organizing Secretary, Mr. W. H. K. Wright, whose official address is "Drake's Chamber, Plymouth."

29. DRUITT FAMILY.—Can any readers of "Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset" give me instances of the occurrence of the name Druitt in Parish Registers, &c., &c., or on monuments or grave-stones? I shall be glad of any information concerning the various French and English families bearing the name, as I am trying to put together an account of them. The name is spelt in many ways, Druitt, Druit, Drewett, Drouet, Druett, Drouot, being some of the most common. Is anything known of the Druetts of Exeter, with whom Hooker was connected? See Life of Hooker in vol. I. of Keble's edition of his works.

G. E. DRUITT, 8, Strathmore Gardens, Kensington, W.

30. OLD NONCONFORMIST COMMUNION PLATE AT SOUTH PETHERTON.—Mr. James Patten Daniel has in his custody as the senior surviving trustee of the Society called "The Old Meeting" in Palmer Street, in the above town, two silver beakers each containing precisely eight ounces. The Hall-mark would indicate that they were manufactured in 1693-4. They are of beaten silver, and are ornamented with rude *repoussé* work; one displaying a pattern of acanthus leaf rising from the foot, the other a kind of floral scroll surrounding its body nearer the lip.

These beakers were formerly used in celebrating the "Ordinance," or Holy Communion, in the old meeting above referred to, presumably from the establishment of the connexion until its collapse in first half of the present century.

The date of its foundation was A.D. 1688, just after the celebrated "Declaration of Indulgence" in James the second's time, when what was called the "Cause" here commenced.

The services were at first probably held in some convenient place, or private house suited to the occasion, since it was not until the year 1705 that the Old Meeting House was built on a site given by one Edmond Anstice, an influential resident land-owner.

It was maintained at first by a Presbyterian Congregation, which however, as in many similar cases, lapsed at length into Unitarianism. The first Unitarian Minister is believed to have been a Mr. Henry Rutter, whose connexion with the Society presumably commenced in 1726 and ended with his death in 1736. There is no record of any baptisms having taken place in the chapel between December 13th, 1725 and November 17th. 1747, when a Mr. James Kirkup having been appointed Minister the register was resumed.

That gentleman dying in 1781, was succeeded by the Rev David Richards, (Mr. Daniel's father-in-law) who continued the

nominal ministry until 1846 when he died, but no regular service was held after about 1843. The last baptism took place in 1844.

Since the death of Mr. Richards the beakers have been in the possession of their present custodian.

The above details are given, as tracing the probable history of these pieces of plate, from the date of their first use.

It would be interesting to discover what other plate, if any, of a similar character and origin, is still existing in the Western Counties.

H. NORRIS.

31. MANIFOLD.—This word almost out of use in ordinary conversation or composition occurs not unfrequently in the Church services, and is always I believe pronounced as if written "mannefold." We have of course heard of Horace's dictum as to use being the arbiter in such cases, but is it not likely that here an error has crept in? Manifold has nothing obviously to do with "manifest." It is connected with such words as two-fold, four-fold, and so on, "Manifold" meaning a large but indefinite number. It ought then I contend to be pronounced as if spelt "mennyfold."

T. B. G.

32. A PIECE OF DELFT WARE WITH A WEST-COUNTRY HISTORY.—It may possibly interest Somerset readers, to be informed that the contemporary Delft plate commemorating the fate of the double child born at Ile Brewers in A.D., 1680, (vide, Roberts's *"Life &c., of James, Duke of Monmouth,"* Vol. 1, pa. 217, and Whiting's *"Persecution expos'd,"* pa. 99), the sale of which at Langport, in August last, was noticed under the above heading in the *"Western Antiquary"* for October, 1887, has recently found a place in the very valuable collection of Mr. J. Eliot Hodgkin of Childwall, Richmond, Surrey.

Σ.

33. HERALDIC GLASS IN EAST COKER CHURCH.—In the South Transept window are the following arms:—

1st. and 4th. argent, 3 greyhounds statant, sable.

2nd. and 3rd. argent, a saltire gules, within a bordure bezantee, sable.

Query.—Whose arms are they?

G. TROYTE-BULLOCK, N. Coker House.

34. STURMINSTER MARSHALL.—The Rev. J. CROSS, Baillie House, Wimborne, has forwarded a document relating to the Church of Sturminster Marshall, extracted from the archives of the *"Hospice de Pont Audemer,"* Normandy, and recently (January, 1885,) sent him by M. Fouquez the Curé there.

The church of Sturminster Marshall was a portion of the possessions of the Hospital of St Giles in that town, and the document appears to be a grant of the Church, *i.e.*, of the Rectory, with certain lands and tenements in Charleton belonging to the Hospital, and now in the King's hands by reason of a war with France,—to John Wrothe, John Newman, clerk, and Brother Richard Ruccole, Procurator of the said House, upon payment to the King of a yearly rent of 54 marks,—so that there be allowed to the said procurator for his support £9 6s. 8d., out of the sum of 54 marks aforesaid.

The copy of the document which here follows is without date, and appears to be an abstract from the original, rather than a complete transcript. It may be useful to preserve it in the pages of *S. & D. N. & Q.*, as it supplies some names which do not occur in Hutchins. (Vol. iii., p. 365, 3rd Edition).

Archivea de l'hospice de Pont Audemer. Sèrie B., Portefeuille 29. No. 8. "Johanni Wrothe, Johanni Neweman clerico, et fratri Ricardo Ruccole procuratori domus leprosororum Sancti Egidii de Ponte Adomari in Normanniâ, . . Ecclesiæ de Sturmynstre Mareschal in Comitatu Orcestriæ quæ est ejusdem domus, ac quarumdam terrarum et tenementorum cum pertinentiis in Charletonn in dicto comitatu ad eandem domum spectantium, in manu regis occasione guerræ Franciæ existentium, habendo a festo Purificationis Beata Mariæ hoc anno . . et quantumdiu dicta guerra duraverit ; reddendo inde Regi quinquaginta et quatuor marcās per annum ad Scalaria Paschæ et Sancti Michaelis per æquales portiones, vel infra mensem postea sub pænâ solutionis dupli. Ita quod allocentur dicto procuratori ad Scalaria prædicta annuatim pro sustentatione sua novem libri sex solidi et octo denarii de quinquaginta et quatuor marcis prædictis. Et si contingat dictum fratrem Ricardum obire vel mare transire quod tunc prædicti Johannes et Johannes reddant Regi pro custodia prædictam integram summam quinquaginta et quatuor marcarum absque allocatione dictarum novem librarum sex solidorum et octo denariorum habenda ; ac solvendo decimas et alias quotas cum clero quoties et quando, etc., nec non sustentando domos et ædificia prædictis Ecclesiæ terris et tenementis pertinentia necnon supportando omnino onera eisdem Ecclesiæ terris et tenementis incumbentia sive spectantia. Per sufficientem manucaptionem in Cancellario conveniendo ac duplo . . a Domino Cancellario pro thesaurario Angliæ."

This document is described in the following general terms :

"8^o charte par laquelle un évêque d'Angleterre donne a 3 religieux Anglais du prieuré de St Guilles subvenir à leurs besoins pendant les grandes luttes de France et d'Angleterre sans date (13—4) titre original en parchemin et 3 copies sur papier (4 pieces).

A cette époque le procureur de St Gilles était Richard de Ruccole. Les deux autres Anglais avaient nom Jean Wrothe et Jean Neweman."

35. **DISCOVERY OF TESSELATED PAVEMENT AT ILCHESTER.**—On the 24th of December last, as some men were levelling the ground in the garden of Ivel House at Northover, they came upon some tessellated pavement about eighteen inches below the surface. This they at once proceeded to destroy, and they unfortunately succeeded in exhuming about a bushel of tesserae before the mischief could be averted.

Those I have seen are of three colours, viz., white, pale brown, and blue, from an inch square, to $1 \times \frac{3}{4}$ in. and $1 \times \frac{1}{2}$ in.: and fairly well polished.

Unfortunately the occupier "cares for none of these things," so that nothing at present can be done beyond chronicling the discovery.

SOMERSET EDITOR.

36. **GLTON MESSE.**—In A.D. 1417, Bishop Repingdon of Lincoln, through his Commissary, Thomas Brown, issues a *Monitio* against certain persons in the Archdeaconry of Leicester' accused of celebrating "Glton Messe" on the five festivals of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It appears that great feasting took place on those days, and probably there was much drunkenness, but I do not understand exactly what the offence was which they said in the churches, and which brought down the commissary's threat. I should be glad of some further information on the subject.

T.S.H., Wookey Vicarage.

37. **NATURAL HISTORY ANECDOTE.**—The disadvantages of a Hollow Tree as a Residence in stormy weather. A caution to parents. Some years ago an old ash fell during an autumn storm near the entrance gate at Stafford House, near Dorchester. It was on a Saturday night, the tree was left lying during Sunday, and a stock-dove was seen hovering anxiously in its neighbourhood. On the Monday the workmen came to remove the tree. They turned it over, and out of a hollow fell some young stock-doves, weak from exhaustion and want of food. They perished very soon after the men had taken them with a view to their resuscitation. Curiously enough, the tree must have fallen so that the hollow lay flat towards the earth, and so the parent bird was unable to get to them with food, and the unfortunate little ones were imprisoned, and experienced all the horrors of a siege and death from starvation.

G. W. FLOYER, Stafford.

38. **TEMPLECOMBE.**—Is there any record of the Knights Templars in Somerset, at Temple or Abbas Combe? What is the best book to consult on the history of the Knights Templars in England?

CHARLOTTE G. BOGER, St. Saviour's, Southwark.

39. **JAN RIDD.**—Is anything known of John Ridd the hero of Blackmore's Novel "Lorna Doone?" Was he a real character?

CHARLOTTE G. BOGER, St. Saviour's, Southwark.

40. "IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD."—Old legal documents generally introduce the date of the year with these words, and sometimes with the form "In the year of our Lord Jesus Christ." I have not a large acquaintance with ancient deeds, but the variation from the common form, which occurs in the following extract from a Dorset Deed, strikes me as unusual:—

"This Indenture made the fourteenth day of December, In the ninth yeare of the Reigne of our soveraigne Lord King William the Third of England etc., And in the yeare of our Lord God one thousand six hundred and ninety seven, Between Edmund Iles of Duntish within the parish of Buckland Newton in the County of Dorsett yeoman, of the one part, and Stephen Iles of Buckland Newton aforesaid yeoman, of the other part, witnesseth that the said Edmund Iles in consideration, etc."

The spelling is as in the deed.

E. R. PEARCE EDGCUMBE, Somerleigh, Dorchester.

41. FAMILY OF MUSGRAVE.—Can any one give information as to the family of Musgrave, resident in Kingston, near Taunton, in the 17th century? Was Dr. William Musgrave who was Secretary to the Royal Society in 1684, a native of Kingston?

F.M., Chard.

42. MANOR OF HALSWELL.—Can any of your correspondents enlighten me as to who was Wido, who held the Manor of Halswell, Somerset, of Roger Arundel in A.D. 1086? (See Collinson's "Somerset," Vol. i, p. 80).

D.K.T., Torquay.

43. POMPARLES Zeland, Vol. 2, 73.—44. (one is the page, the other the folio) mentions after Glastonbury "Pont perlus, 4 arches, where Arthur cast in his sword."

This bridge is now called "Pomparles"; "Pons Perilis" in the list of County bridges, and "Pons Perillous" in that of the Sessions roll of 1765. It was repaired at various times by the county after 1709.

It is called "Strete Bridge" in the perambulation of Glaston Twelve Hides of 1502, which begin at Brutash, near the bridge on the way to Street, East side, where there were then three ash trees.

I do not see any mention of the bridge in Collinson.

In a roll (kept at Longleat) of a Glastonbury Hundred Court of about 1418, an order is given to scour the Brue from "Pons periculosus" to Prior's wear. Is there any earlier mention of the bridge, and can any one give a reason for the name?

F. H. DICKINSON, Kingweston.

44. CONTEMPORARY NOTICE OF THE DISCOVERY OF BURRENTON BONE CAVES.—"January 9, 1797, as two young men were pursuing a rabbit in Burrenton Coomb, they observed it take

shelter in a small crevice of the rock. Desirous of obtaining the little animal, they with a pickaxe enlarged the aperture, and in a few minutes were surprised with the appearance of a subterraneous passage, leading to a large and lofty cavern, the roof and sides of which are most curiously fretted and embossed with whimsical concreted forms. On the left side of the cavern are a number of human skeletons, laying promiscuously, almost converted into stone. Burrington is 12 miles from Bristol, and the cavern about three parts of a mile from Langford, Somersetshire." *Sporting Magazine*, Feb., 1797, Vol. 9, p. 283.

45. THE CHURCH'S AID IN THE HUNDRED YEARS' WAR.—In 1415, the whole of England was excited with the prospects of a new war with France, and great preparations were made by the young King, Henry V., and his advisers, to make sure of victory over our adversary of France; and it was on October 25 that the memorable victory was won at Agincourt. Archbishop Chicheley is said to have brought on the war as a means of postponing the question of the confiscation of Church property, a subject the House of Commons was then rather given to discuss. Whether this is true or not, at any rate the Church of England did its best to supply Henry with men and money. In July 1415, while the preparations were being made, the clergy of the diocese of Bath and Wells were ordered to provide sixty men sufficiently armed, eight hundred and thirty archers, and a certain number of men called "hoblarii." And in 1417, as the war still lingered on, the demand on the diocese of Bath and Wells for men was fifty-seven fully armed men; seven hundred and seventy archers, and twelve "hoblarii." As there were seventeen dioceses in England, and as this diocese was by no means one of the large ones, if they all provided a proportional contingent, whatever may have been the motives of Archbishop Chicheley, it cannot be said that in that year the Church of England was deficient in patriotism. But in addition to this supply of men, we must remember that money as well was voted. Two tenths were voted by Convocation, and the account of the Abbot of Cleve still exists. He had been made the collector in the diocese of Bath and Wells of the first of the two tenths, and his account for the first tenth from the spiritualities and temporalities of the clergy of Somerset amounts to £246 8s. 9½d., allowance being made for a certain alien priory at Norton, in the Deanery of Ivelchester, and the Archdeacons of Wells, which being now vested in the Crown could not be charged with the taxes raised by Convocation. If we consider that this was only one half of the grant, and that during the early years of the fifteenth century, the grants from Convocation were made almost yearly, we will obtain some idea of the assistance which the Church gave to Henry the Vth. during the Hundred Years' War.

T. S. HOLMES, Wookey Vicarage.

46.—SHROVE-TIDE CUSTOMS. "SHACKLE-EGG" DAY, &c.,—In some of the parishes in South Somerset, two or three Shrove Tuesday observances that had survived until within the memory of people still living have since become obsolete.

About fifty years ago, it was the practice in most of the smaller village schools, for the children on the morning of the above-mentioned day, to bring each an egg and deliver it into the hands of the master or mistress on arrival, for the following purpose.

At the close of morning school, all the eggs (having been previously marked each with the owner's name in ink), were laid side by side, in a corn sieve (or "range" as it is locally called), which being placed on the ground was briskly "shackled," or agitated to and fro until the shells were cracked. The child whose name appeared on that last broken, or possibly not broken, was awarded a trifling prize, and duly installed as the hero or heroine of the day. I can remember that on such occasions, it was usual, as affording an instance of the depravity of human nature, to revive the legend of some mythical young sinner who, having been convicted of the crime of boiling his egg, was duly held up to the reprobation of his fellows, and thrown out of court accordingly.

Query. Was this custom a common one (as I suspect) in the West of England, in the beginning of the century? And if so what significance, if any, was attached to its observance?

Was it got up simply to afford the teachers a cheap mode of keeping Shrove-tide in the orthodox way, by eating pancakes? Or, was it the survival of an older custom of observing the carnival in a mild manner among the rising generation, by giving up a small modicum of animal food to one, who was in bye-gone days almost as much a spiritual master as the priest himself?

Or, again, had it anything to do with a custom, similar to that which existed so late as the year 1818 in the North of England, of eking out the income of a schoolmaster by a gratuity on the part of the scholars, at Shrove-tide, called the "Cock Penny"? (vide, Brand's "Popular Antiquities." C. Knight's Ed. Vol. I. pa. 39).

The word "shackle" is a local term for the noise made by the attrition of small stones, as marbles, or of bits of metal when shaken together; e.g., the cymbal-like scales in the hoop of a tambourine are called "shackles" in this district, although I cannot find the word in any of our provincial dictionaries. The nearest approach to it, is in J. C. Hotten's "Slang Dictionary," where the word "shackly" is given as "loose, rickety, *Devonshire*."

It survives in the word "ram-shackle" (which is not a dictionary word, by the bye), and evidently has its derivative in the Anglo Saxon "*sceacan*," to shake.

Another custom in this place, (South Petherton), was, for the young of both sexes to assemble in the "dumps" of the evening,

and run through the streets throwing pot-sherds, previously collected for the purpose, against the doors of the principal inhabitants, at the same time singing out lustily some doggerel lines in which the word "pancake" figures with much prominence; having done this they made their escape as fast as possible.

Mention of a similar custom obtaining in Spain, as well as in Cornwall, is made in Brand (op. cit. Vol. I pa. 41). Strutt in his "Sports and Pastimes," (Hone's Ed. 1838, pa. 284), also speaks of similar boisterous sports on Shrove Tuesday.

After thus noisily enjoying themselves the same young parties used to meet in the market-place, join hands, and after "threading the needle," adjourn to the Church-yard close by, and endeavour to encircle the church, still holding hands. This over, whether they succeeded or not, their day was ended, and in the words of my aged informant, "they maäde haäste whoam an tackled inta bed, quite atired out."

Perhaps some of our readers would kindly tell us how much, if any, of the above has existed in other districts; offering moreover any remarks thereon that may point to the origin of similar customs here or elsewhere.

SOMERSET EDITOR.

47. SHIP "CASTLE OF LONDON" 1638.—Can any one tell me if the ship "*Castle of London*" was making voyages from ports in or about the counties of Somerset or Dorset in 1638? In the month of July 1638 she arrived in Boston, (Mass.) harbor, bringing Thomas Rucke, William Hatch, and Joseph Merriam, as "joint undertakers," and also Henry Swan, son-in-law to Rucke.

I am offering a reward for Henry Swan's pedigree.

WM. M. SARGENT, Portland, Maine, U.S.A.

48.—EARLY CHURCH-BUILDERS—NOTE. Somersetshire is famous for its fine village churches.

QUERY. How came they there? Take Winscombe for an example. The present edifice is said to have been built by Bishop Ralph de Salopia, who died 1363, but the architecture is that of a century later, and has puzzled archæologists. Can any of your readers refer to the documentary evidence on which the statement on the Bishop's tomb at Wells is founded? Can anyone go further back, and say when and how the previous building was erected? and whose remains were interred in the stone coffin now lying empty outside Winscombe Church? But a still more interesting Query is, How and when was the first church built? We can suppose it to have been the work of the monks of Glastonbury, or of the "Fraternity of the Blessed Virgin," who dwelt on the site of Winscombe Court; but where can we find any satisfactory evidence? When we think of the difficulty of raising the little modern church at Sandford, (the subscriptions being begun by a liberal dissenter!) we are the more disposed to wonder at the piety of our forefathers, in erecting the grand and

costly churches which are the inheritance and admiration of their successors, and we would like to know the history of those pious sacrifices, and the means by which they were offered.

THEODORE COMPTON, Winscombe.

49. TWO NEW BOOKS.

"MEMORIALS OF THE WEST, Historical and Descriptive, collected on the borderland of SOMERSET, DORSET, and DEVON," by W. H. HAMILTON ROGERS, F.S.A. (Roy. 8vo., Exeter; Commin, 1888).

On opening this somewhat sombre looking volume and finding, within, its beautifully illustrated pages, one is almost unconsciously reminded of the chrysalis and the butterfly.

It is confessedly a labour of love. "Written entirely as a recreation during such intervals as were found available amid the more prosaic employments of a busy life," in leafy Colyton—printed in fair Torquay—published in the Metropolis of the west, we are constrained (after something more than a mere glance at its contents), to confess that in the case of these "Memorials," love's labour has not been lost.

Mr. Rogers is well-known as the author of "Antient Sepulchral Effigies and Monumental and Memorial Sculpture of Devon," a book that has already taken its place as a standard work in the library of many a country gentlemen in the West, and he has, in the volume now before us, amply sustained his well-earned reputation.

In this, his latest publication, he exhibits a rare versatility in research. Indeed he is equally at home when describing the residence and last resting-place of a 17th century bell-founder in the little village of Closworth, and when descanting on the eventful careers and the palatial residences of the Horseys of Clifton-Maybank—the Yonges of Colyton—the Wadhams of Merefield, the founders of the college that bears their name in Oxford—the Courtenays—the Poles—the Daubeneyes of South Petherton and Barrington—the Carews of Ottery—and the Drakes of Ashe, with their immortal descendant the great Duke of Marlborough; of all of whom he writes with the loving regard that appertains to a student familiar with their characters, their times, and the scenes in which they lived and moved.

His wording, though it may not be always of the purest Anglo-Saxon type, never jars upon the senses, whilst many sweet bits of scene painting, and frequent short stanzas of original verse enlivening his pages, proclaim him to be possessed of the poetic fire, and well qualified to regard the fair glades of Eastern Devon with the eye of a true artist.

We can heartily commend this elegant book to the notice of all lovers of the "West Countree," and would direct their early attention to its attractions; since we are given to understand that the issue is a small one, and that it will not in all probability be repeated.

The numerous illustrations, chiefly by Mr. Roscoe Gibbs, are beautiful in design and admirable in execution. The typography leaves little or nothing to be desired, and if the author should prove to be not *quite* correct on some moot points in genealogy, and if it *should* turn out that the great victor of Blenheim was not born actually *within the walls* of 'Ashe Haule,' a fact questioned by Mr. Cornish in the January number of the 'Western Antiquary,' and not, we take leave to submit, quite proved by the somewhat petulant letter of "A Ramillies Wig," in the "Western Chronicle," or if when the reader turns the leaves to look for a fact, he too frequently stumbles over a sentiment, all is condoned when we burrow into the fascinating "Memorials" themselves, and accompany Mr. Rogers to the scenes he so vividly describes therein.

If we may permit ourselves to say aught in disparagement of this book, it would be to express our disappointment that the author has permitted it to go forth to the world without an index or even a pretence of a table *raisonné* of contents, whereby the busy reader may be enabled to seize at once on a fact or point of interest, in a volume so replete with matter that is at once both valuable and entertaining.

Σ.

"NOTES ON BARWICK AND ITS CHURCH."—By JOHN BATTEN, Esq., F.S.A., (Yeovil, 1888, 12mo. pp. 24.) This small parish history, the first number of "The Western Chronicle Historical Series," is one on which we can honestly congratulate all parties connected with its appearance.

Written by a true antiquary, it is an admirable example of what is wanted for every parish, before material for a really valuable county history can be collected. When the reader has reached its 24th page, his first feeling will be one of wonder that so much reliable information has been compressed within so small a compass—, his next will be one of surprise that it can possibly be produced for the small price of three pence.

Its whole subject-matter is so closely interwoven that it would be difficult to give any extract that would be complete in itself. Suffice it to say that every parish has its history, if it could meet with such a historian as Mr. Batten, whose research can only have been equalled by his industry. The little book ought to be in the hands of every one of our subscribers, as well as on the table of all who set a value on any connection with the county of Somerset, the nursery of so much that has made the English nation what it is.

Among much other information the author gives a list of incumbents from the 13th century to the present time; some extracts from the Registers in the 16th century; and a list of inscriptions on the grave-stones in the church-yard.

A well executed vignette of the Church on the cover, adds to the attractions of this very useful booklet.

Σ.