

PAROCHIAL NOTES.

The Members of the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Bucks, it is presumed, will readily admit that the object of a Society like our own consists, not so much in the agreeable intercourse which it promotes among the present residents, as in the accumulation of materials of permanent interest in the County: we have to do with the monuments raised by the piety or industry of preceding-generations ; and it is only fair that we, as a Society, should hand down to posterity an enduring record of things as we find them, with whatever explanation we may be able to give. A thoroughly comprehensive and accurate County history would be a χτήμα ες αεί worthy of our Society; and a series of such histories proceeding from the various Archaeological Societies of the Kingdom would be no mean addition to the literature of our age. There is no time to be lost in amassing information for such a work if it is to be attempted. We live in an age of re-

* See the Report of the Charity Commissioners, Vol. XXVII., p. 83; in the British Museum.

storation and improvement, highly praiseworthy in itself, but far more destructive to the records of the past, than years of neglect and apathy. Modern Norman Architecture, and early English of 1850, are discoverable on all sides: ancient earth works and venerable ruins are rapidly disappearing before the energy of the high-farming system, and the levelling influence of railroads; bills now decorate every barn-door in this neighbourhood stating that the remains of an ancient Royal Palace* are to be sold by auction, to be made probably into mince meat to satisfy the cravings of the hungry shareholders of some new Land Society. Now or never, therefore, must the historical antiquary exert himself. We do not detract from the value of the information which Dr. Lipscombe has collected, when we say that if every member of our Society would look up the antiquities of his own parish, and send an outline of his researches to the Society, it would be the means of collecting a considerable amount of valuable information at present unrecorded, or at least of directing the attention of others to objects of interest unvisited, because unknown.

The parish of Chesham, in which the writer is resident, contains some spots little known, yet rendered interesting by the monuments of former generations and their connection with the history of families once conspicuous in the annals of our County. We have the ancient Parish Church, a venerable cruciform structure on a slight eminence adjoining the town; the chapel of Latimer in the grounds of the Hon. C. C. CAVENDISH., rebuilt a few years ago on the foundations of the former structure; and two desecrated chapels at Hundridge and at Grove. The former measuring externally 44 feet by 20, and built of flint dressed with Totternhoe stone, stands on the south side of the farm yard of the Manor House. It is in a state of considerable preservation, having an east window of the perpendicular period of three lights; and on the south side, two yew trees indicate the ancient burying ground. The chapel at Grove, (if indeed the ancient barn said to be so was really the chapel, which once formed part of the group of buildings which stood there,) is surrounded by a deep moat, and masses of ancient masonry, which indicate the existence in years gone by of edifices of no mean kind.

* The palace of Henry III. at King's Langley.

At no great distance from the latter place is a circular earth work apparently of the Roman era. Adjoining the town is a spot where a martyr was burnt; and at no great distance the supposed site of the second Parsonage, when the two Medieties of Chesham Woburn and Chesham Leicester, now consolidated, were held by separate Vicars. Such spots of interest abound throughout our County, and it is hoped that our Records may be the means of bringing them under notice, so that at no distant time a complete history of the County may be published which may leave no object of interest undescribed.

B. B.