
SWAN UPPING OR HOPPING.

By aid of the Losley MSS. we learn that the above custom was the taking up of swans upon rivers for the purpose of affixing marks to their beaks. Its superintendence was intrusted to a person officially appointed Master of the Swans, who in the reign of Queen Elizabeth was Sir William More, then owner of Losley. Among the MSS. there has been found "An original roll of swan marks," showing the beaks of the swans to have been notched with stars, chevrons, crosses, the initials of the owner's names, or other devices. Thus in the roll are given the marks used for the swans of Lord William Howard, Lord Buckhurst, Sir Henry Weston, Francis Carew, William More, and other principal residents in Surrey; likewise the marks of the Dyers' and Vintners' Companies, who to this day keep swans upon the Thames.*

CITY PRESS.

* The above note illustrates what has already been given on the same subject in the Records, Vol. I. 245.