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“WORTHIES OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.”

DURING the present year, Mr. Robert Gibbs, F.S.A., has completed, in nine parts, his “Worthies of Buckinghamshire.” The present number of *THE RECORDS* does not afford space to give more than a short notice of Mr. Gibbs’ undertaking; suffice it, however, to say that it will be found to be a very useful contribution to the history of the county. On examining its pages, this new

volume, it will be seen, contains a vast amount of biographical information. From the early period of our history down to the present time, the author has, after considerable research and methodical arrangement, assigned a space for all who have come within his observation in any way connected with Buckinghamshire, and who have distinguished themselves or have proved themselves men or women of merit in their different spheres of life. As we scan the list of prominent names before us we are reminded of the conspicuous part this county has taken in the history of our country, and what a field of historical research it opens to us. We go back to the reign of King John, and find the King bestowing the royal Manor of Aylesbury on that great nobleman, Geoffrey Fitz-Piers, Lord-Justiciary of England. Another of his Barons, Alan Basset, we also find owning the Manor of Bassetsbury, at Wycombe. The history of the county families—too, some of whose names are familiar to our country's annals, and who for centuries have been connected with Buckinghamshire, is replete with interest and instruction. Names such as these, among others, will readily occur to us: the Hampdens, the Temples of Stowe, the Pakingtons, for centuries the Lords of the Manor of Aylesbury, the Verneys, and the Lees of Quarrendon. Among statesmen, we are reminded of Lord Grenville at Dropmore, of Burke at the Gregories, Beaconsfield, and of Lord Beaconsfield at Hughenden. Of lawyers, Sir John Baldwin, Lord Chief Justice in 1535, was Lord of the Manor of Aylesbury; and Sir Edward Coke was Lord of the Manor of Stoke Poges, and resided there till his death. The county has been singularly favoured as the home of distinguished men of letters—Wickliffe, Rector of Ludgershall; Milton, at Horton and Chalfont St. Giles; Browne Willis, at Whaddon Hall; Gibbon, the historian, at Lenborough; Cowper, at Olney; Shelley, at Marlow; Herschel, at Slough; the two Disraelis, father and son—the one at Bradenham and the other at Hughenden. These are names which may well give renown to any single shire. Enough has been said to point out the materials of which this volume is composed, and the useful information it contains. It is a book that should find its place on the shelves of Buckinghamshire libraries.—ED.