

A PALIMPSEST BRASS AT MIDDLE CLAYDON.

DURING some recent repairs at Middle Claydon Church, the large brass to the memory of "Roger Gyffard, Esq'er, and Mary his wyffe" (the former of whom died 1542, the date of the lady's death being imperfect), was temporarily removed for its better preservation. It, fortunately, then came under the notice of our indefatigable honorary member, Mr. Arthur Clear, who found that the inscription plate below the figures is a palimpsest. He has very kindly sent me a rubbing of the original inscription, with the remark, "I was not able to get a good rubbing of the reverse side, as the engraver in cutting the more modern inscription cut through the brass in several places which he filled up with solder, and so obliterated some of the words, but if you can decipher it so as to get the sense of it, and can in any way make use of it for a short paragraph in the RECORDS OF BUCKS, so as to preserve it, I shall be very pleased."

The plate measures 2 feet $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches long by 5 inches high. In the first line, the middle of the name Bellingham is a blank, bounded by fragments of the letters l or ll, and g. The former fragment more nearly resembles the remains of a k, and as such I read it, until (after this was in type) I received the current number of the "Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries" (Vol. XVI., No. III.), where (p. 344) is given the text of a grant by Walter Bellingham, Ireland King of Arms, dated 1476-7. At the end of the same line there is a space of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches after the abbreviated form of Hybernia, so it is possible something else was originally there. At the end of the second line, the context, and the space, suggest the disappearance of the abbreviated form of Domini; similarly at the end of the third line a small portion of a capital A suggests that the ensuing space contained the word

Anno; and at the end of the last line the termination of the ornament is missing, and the word misericordiam is slightly imperfect.

I regret that I know nothing more about Walter Bellingham, Ireland King of Arms.

I read the inscription as :—

Orate pro animabus Walteri Bellingham. Alias dicti Walteri Irelande Regis Amorum in hybernia
Et Elizabethæ uxoris eius qui quidem Walterus obiit tercio die mensis Maij Anno [domini]
Millesimo CCC^o lxxxvij. Obijtque dicta Elizabetha xij^o die Mensis Maij eodem Anno
quorum Animæ per dei misericordiam In eterna pace requiescant Amen.

Or with abbreviations extended :—

Orate pro animabus Walteri Bellingham. Alias dicti Walteri
Irelande Regis Amorum in hybernia
Et Elizabethæ uxoris eius qui quidem Walterus obiit tercio
die mensis Maij Anno [domini]
Millesimo CCC^o lxxxvij. Obijtque dicta Elizabetha xij^o die
Mensis Maij eodem A[nno].
quorum Animæ per dei misericordiam In eterna pace
requiescant. Amen.

ALFRED HENEAGE COCKS.