CHURCH NOTES OF HAMPSHIRE.

To the Editor of the Topographer.

SIR,

THE accompanying rough notes relate to the monumental records of two churches in Hampshire. It is much to be regretted that this, and other counties, which have, as yet, found no historian, are daily exposed, by the neglect of the indifferent, and the "repairs" of the ignorant (though by no means so in the present case), to a fate from which nothing but the printing press can save them.[a]

FYFIELD.

This church, which is very small, consists of a nave and chancel. It has a bell turret at the west end, and a plain south porch. The east window has three cinquefoiled lights with a perpendicular heading, and the west window is somewhat similar. The other windows are not remarkable. The roof is raftered, and the whole church has been recently rebuilt.

There are but few monumental inscriptions, and none of any note.

In the chancel are mural slabs commemorating,

1. The Rev. HENRY WHITE, 26 years Rector, who died December 27, 1788, in his 55th year, leaving a widow and ten children. ELIZABETH, the widow, died Dec. 9th, 1815, in her 81st year.

2. The Rev. PHILIP POORE, Rector from 1829 to 1837; born Oct. 13. 1803; died July 28, 1837.

3. CHRISTIAN, wife of the Rev. CHARLES HENRY WHITE, Rector of Shalden, daughter of Alexander St. Barbe; born Aug. 21, 1784; died July 3, 1806.

On the floor is a slab covering the grave of Christian White.

[a] Church Notes of the following parishes in the same county, by the same Contributor, will be found in the VIIth and VIIIth volumes of the Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica, viz. Aldershot, Basing, Bentley, Binsted, Cliddesden, Crondall, Dogmersfield, Elvetham, Eversley, Farley Wallop, Froyle, Sherbourne St. John, Long Sutton, South Warnborough, Winchfield, and Yately.—EDIT.

The seats are open. The font, described as plain, has not yet been replaced, and the pulpit and reading desk are, apparently, unfinished.

Against the north wall of the nave is a marble monument to JOHN HAYWARD, gent. and ANNE his wife, daughter of John Winckworth, of Fyfield. He died May 1, 1709, aged 43. She died Oct. 3, 1728, aged 63. They left issue John, Thomas, James, and Anne.

THRUXTON.

This church consists of a nave and chancel. The tower, which is at the west end, has been thrown open to the body of the nave, apparently for the purpose of accommodating the school children, and a sort of north chapel has been added to the chancel as a substitute for a vestry.

The east window consists of three trefoiled lights; that in the centre being the longest. The stained glass is entirely new. The centre light has a representation of the Crucifixion. That on the right has the taking down from the Cross. That on the left the bearing the Cross. Underneath is inscribed:—

"Per crucem et passionem tuam libera nos D'ne."

The communion table is of stone, and therefore not strictly in accordance with law, but rendered less heterodox by a crimson cloth covering. There is a gilt alms' dish with the figures of Adam and Eve in Paradise. This again is flanked by a couple of candlesticks duly provided with candles, and handsome brazen-clasped books for the use of the officiating ministers. If the candles are to give light, well and good; if not, their meaning must be superstitious, and ought not to be tolerated. It is one thing to allow candlesticks, as in our cathedrals, to stand where they have always stood, by prescription as it were, and another to re-introduce an obsolete appendage. Upon the same principle we might clothe our priests in vestments, cut off the crown of their hair, and enjoin them to celibacy. We have already, in other places, slid into sedilia, and begun to mumble our prayers in plain chaunting. It may here be observed that the door of the church was open, conveniently for the antiquary, though evidently to assimilate it, as far as is possible, to the usages of the Roman Catholic churches.

In the south wall, near the communion table, is an ancient pis-

cina; and near it, and under a canopied arch, with figures of angels holding blank shields, is an altar-tomb with paneled sides, and plain shields in the paneling. Part of the arch has been bricked up, and a portion of the sculpture may still be seen on the outside. A monumental slab, bearing an effigy in mail, and with a square helmet, the whole much mutilated, and the legs gone, but with the appearance of a shield on the left arm, and held in front of the body, has been placed on this tomb. It is stated to have been removed from the outside of the church near the south wall. This effigy is obviously of a date anterior to the monument on which it rests; and the will of Sir Nicholas Lisle, dated 1496, and proved in 1506, in which he desires to be buried on the south side of the high altar, seems to establish the fact of its being the place of his sepulture and monument.

On the north side of the chancel, and exactly opposite the above-mentioned altar-tomb, is another altar-tomb with three rich panelings on the south side, and in the centre of each of which was originally a shield of arms in brass. The west side also exhibits traces of a shield in brass. Round the ledge was a brass band, with the inscription, now entirely gone. The north side, no doubt, corresponded, but the whole appears to have been altered, and the style is different.

On the north side are two panelings with shields. The left bears, Quarterly, 1 and 4, on a chief three lions rampant (Lisle); 2 and 3, a fess between three choughs. The panel on the right has a lozenge-shaped shield bearing the coat of Courtenay, with a label charged with roundels. Under the canopied arch, which is immediately over this monument, are the effigies of a man and his wife, of stone, and lying on a slab, now placed on the original tomb. The head of the male rests on his shield. He is in plate armour, and his surcoat bears the arms of Lisle, quarterly, with the coat above-mentioned. He has a collar of SS., and his feet rest on his gauntlets. The hands of both are in the attitude of prayer. This monument has been restored, and is in excellent preservation. In the centre of the cornice on the south side, as also on the north, is a shield surmounted by a helmet, and charged with the two quarterly coats before-mentioned.

This must be the monument of Sir John Lisle, son of Sir Nicholas before-mentioned, whose will is dated 1520, and was

proved in 1524. He desires an ambulator chapel to be erected on the north side of the church, near which he directs to be buried. The will of his wife, Mary Lady Lisle, proved also in 1524, contains a similar notice of this chapel.

At the west end of this monument is another and larger arch, the paneling in the soffit of which is good, and in the spandrils are shields, one of which bears the coat of Lisle. This arch now incloses the pew of Sir John Pollen, Bart. the lord of the manor.[a]

On the floor of the chancel is a very fine brass, representing a man in plate armour, under a rich triple-arched canopy, with four shields at the angles of the stone, and a band, with the inscription. On the shields are the following arms:—

1. Lisle.
2. The brass gone; but a chevron between three martlets.
3. Lisle, impaling three roundels.
4. Lisle, impaling, apparently (the brass being lost), a chevron between three roundels.

The inscription is as follows;—

"Sub lapide isto jacent pie memorie dominus Johannes Lysle miles, dominus de Wodynton in Insula Vecta, et domina Elisabeth Lysle uxor ejus. Idem dominus Johannes obiit ultimo die mensis Januarii Anno Domini Millesimo cccc° vii°. Eorum anime pace fruantur eterna. Amen."

Respecting this monument there can be no doubt. This Sir John Lisle was the father of another Sir John, and the grandfather of Sir Nicholas. His will is dated in 1407, and was proved in 1409. He desires to be buried in the church at Thruxton. The will of his son Sir John is dated 1468, and was proved in the same year. He also desires to be buried in the church at Thruxton. The effigy in mail, now on the south monument, in all probability represents one of the earlier members of the family then bearing the name of de Insula. They had large possessions in the Isle of Wight; but Thruxton was their burial place, and the manor of Chute, in that neighbourhood, was held by them in the beginning of the 13th century. The estate of Thruxton, where they had a residence, passed, on the extinction of the issue of Sir Nicholas Lisle, to the heirs of his sister

[a] There was originally what was called a north aisle here, and it was, in all probability, the ambulator chapel beforementioned.

Elizabeth Phillpot, and remained in that family for many generations. It is stated, in Berry's Hampshire Genealogies, that this (the Phillpot) line "has failed." Such, however, can by no means be the fact, as an inspection of the pedigrees in the Visitations at the College of Arms will prove.

A short notice of an ill-fated member of this family, Mrs. Alice Lisle, who, by the tender mercies of James the Second and Judge Jefferies, was permitted to exchange the faggot for the axe, may not be irrelevant.

She was five years of age in 1622, and was the daughter of Sir Thomas Beconsawe, her mother being one of the family of Bond of Dorsetshire. Her husband was descended from an uncle of Sir Nicholas Lisle. In Berry's Hampshire Genealogies, they are stated to have left an only son John, who died in 1709, leaving a son Charles, who died in 1721, and with whom the blood of Alice Lisle is said to have become extinct. This does not appear to be the fact. The Petitioners for the reversal of the attainder of Mrs. Lisle were her daughters Tryphena Lloyd and Bridget Usher, and their petition was acceded to in the first of William and Mary. Bridget Usher was, as I am informed, first married to —— Hoare, President of Cambridge University in New England. Their daughter, Bridget Hoare, married Thomas Cotton, a non-conforming minister, who died in 1730; and the late Bayes Cotton, Esq. of Kenilworth, in Warwickshire, was their grandson. The grandson of Mrs. Lisle, Charles Crooke Lisle, of Moyles Court, entailed his estates on his distant cousin Edward Lisle, of Crux Easton, and his issue, and made no mention of his aunts or their descendants, which may have given rise to the idea that all issue of that line was extinct.

Against the north wall is a slab commemorative of the Rev. Lancelot Greenthwaite Halton, 31 years Rector. He died March 29, 1832, aged 69. Also Mrs. Frances Halton, who died April 9, 1811, aged 85.

The north window has two cinquefoiled lights filled with modern stained glass. This is, in fact, the case with every window, and the consequence is that the whole of the church is inconveniently darkened. The seats are open, and there is a carved desk of oak for the reading of the lessons. The font is of stone, octagonal, with a richly painted and gilt cover of wood. The panels are also enriched with coloured and gilt shields, bearing

crosses, &c. and there is a drain for the water to be drawn off, according to the practice of remote times.

The west window, which is in the tower, contains some very inferior stained glass, representing the royal arms, and the arms of the see of Winchester.

The small north chapel, or vestry, near the chancel, has a modern altar-tomb, on which are carved, in bold relief, a pastoral staff and an open Bible. On its leaves are "Nanny Baynes, Dec. 5, 1842." "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord." The ledge is inscribed, "I believe in the communion of saints."

On the floor is the grave-stone of Lady BAYNES, who died Dec. 5, 1842, aged 78, being the widow of Sir CHRISTOPHER BAYNES, Bart. of Harefield Place, Middlesex, who died March 16, 1837, aged 82, and was buried in the Abbey Church, at Bath. Their children are stated to have raised the adjoining tomb as a memorial of their affection.

In the churchyard, on the north side, is a coffin-shaped stone slab, ornamented with a cross, and which is said to have been removed from the nave.

The tower of this church is embattled, and it has four small turrets with pinnacles. Below is a cornice in an arabesque style, and some shields with arms. One bearing the coat of Lisle; another that of the fess between three choughs. There is a cross of stone on the east end of the chancel.

The graves in the churchyard are, here and there, ornamented with flowers, and the whole has an air of much neatness. The only thing to be regretted is that the zealous and praiseworthy desire of incumbents to improve and restore their churches should be accompanied, as is now too often the case, by many puerile and, I must add, reprehensible endeavours, to run in as near to the Roman ritual, and Romish ceremonies, and Romish paraphernalia, as can be done with due regard to the retention of posts to which the parties have been preferred by a Protesting Church.

Your obedient servant,

C. E. L.