

**General Notes and Correspondence.**

---

**ROCHESTER BRIDGE.**

Fairseat House,  
Wrotham, Kent.

*March 3rd, 1922.*

DEAR SIR,

May I point out an error in the interesting paper on Rochester Bridge by Mr. John J. Robson in Vol. XXXV. of *Archæologia Cantiana*? On page 140 he says the Roman occupation of Britain extended over about 458 years, prior to 406 A.D. Mr. Robson evidently has reckoned from the date of the invasion of Julius Cæsar to the departure of the Romans. The first invasion took place in August 55 B.C. and the Romans left England in the following month. Julius Cæsar made his second invasion in July 54 B.C. and remained about two months. Occupation by the Romans dates from the invasion of Claudius in 43 A.D., when they came to stay, and the final evacuation took place between 406 and 410 A.D. Consequently the period of occupation was at most only about 367 years.

As regards the question whether the Roman bridge at Rochester was a timber structure, or of stone arches, or with stone piers and a wooden super-structure, I think it most probable that it was a stone arched bridge. The Roman engineers were perfectly competent to build such a structure, and did so in many places on the Continent. This particular crossing must have been one of the most important in England.

Yours faithfully,

WM. PITT.

---

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTION IN MEMORY OF  
RICHARD AUSTEN AND HIS DAUGHTER  
ELIZABETH.

“Ailsa,”

Birchington.

September 3rd, 1921.

DEAR SIR,

In Vol. XIV. of *Archæologia Cantiana*, at the foot of page 120, is given a rendering of the inscription on the flat stone to the memory of Richard Austen and his daughter Elizabeth. The transcript was necessarily incomplete, the original being then partly hidden by a pew. The latter being now (it is hoped permanently) removed, I was enabled about twelve months ago to obtain a full copy of the text of the inscription :—

“Here lieth the body of | RICHARD AUSTEN of the | Baye at  
Ickham in the | County of Kent, Yeoman | who had to wife  
MARY | the second daughter of | Vincent Nethersole | of Wyming-  
wold in the | aforesaid County, Gent. | By whome Hee Had Issue |  
5 Sonnes and 6 Daughters | whereof 1 sonn and 5 | Daughters  
were Lyving | at his death. Hee Departed | This Life the 19<sup>th</sup>  
December 1647 | Aged 62. | Here also in her Father’s | Grave lieth  
buried | Elizabeth eldest Daughter of | Richard Austen. She was  
the wife and | widow of Michaell Terry of Staple | by whom she  
had issue 4 sonnes and | 3 daughters, of which 2 sonnes and 1 |  
daughter were liveing at her death. | She was baptised the 14<sup>th</sup>  
May | 1615 and shee died April y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> | 1686. Oh that they  
weare wise that | they understood this, that they would | consider  
thire latter end.”

Yours truly,

FRANK W. TYLER.

NETTLESTEAD CHURCH.

All who are interested in the antiquities of the county will regret to learn that Nettlestead Church (of which a full account was published in our 28th Volume) badly needs repair, to arrest the present decay and to prevent it from

developing into more serious damage. It is particularly distressing to hear that some of the exquisite mediæval glass, in respect of which the building surpasses any other parish church in Kent, is in danger through the disintegration of the mullions. To save two, at least, of the windows from collapse, the refacing of the dilapidated stonework has become an immediate necessity. The vicar and churchwardens are to be commended for purposing, among other things, to retain the iron saddlebars and stanchions which form the proper protection of the glazing, and constitute an integral part of the external fittings. It is proposed, further, to remove the plaster ceiling of the nave, thus uncovering the rafters, to correspond with those in the chancel. The projected repairs are divided into three several categories of "urgent," "important," and "highly desirable," with a specific estimated sum required for each class. The undertaking being recommended by the Rev. Canon Livett, and Professor Eeles on behalf of the Advisory Committee of the diocese, should be a sufficient guarantee that no unnecessary renovation will be attempted, while the Bishop of Rochester personally promises that "the greatest care will be taken that nothing is done to interfere with the ancient character of this beautiful church."

A. V.

---

#### ADDENDUM TO THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM LONGCHAMP.

(See p. 15.)

Since going to press I have found the name of Longchamp in records of the time of Henry VII. There is a payment of £20 to William Longchamp in 1492 (P.R.O., Auditor's Privy Seal Books, E. 403, 2558, p. 43), and of 13s. 3*d.* in April 1497 (P.R.O., Acc. Exchequer, Q. R., 414/6). (A. E. C.)

Acknowledgments are due to Sir Martin Conway for kindly lending the water-colour drawing of Allington Castle for reproduction. (ED.)