AN ALLEGED NOTEBOOK OF JOHN PYM.

IN the 'Tenth Report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission,' Appendix, part vi. p. 82, Mr. Maxwell Lyte, in giving an account of the manuscripts in the possession of Mr. Pleydell Bouverie at Brymore, the house in which Pym formerly lived, prints extracts from a notebook containing, as he says, brief biographical and historical notes by John Pym. On examining these I was at once struck with the statement that the mother of the author of the notes died in 1596, whereas the funeral sermon of Pym's mother was published in 1620, and it is there stated by the preacher, Pym's friend Fitzgeffrey, that she had lived with her second husband, Sir Anthony Rous, more than thirty years. On applying for a solution of my difficulty to Mr. Lyte, he gave me an introduction to Mr. Pleydell Bouverie, who kindly brought the manuscript to London for my inspection. A glance at it was sufficient to show that its handwriting was very different from that of Pym. As the notebook has already been used to eke out the scanty facts of Pym's early life hitherto known, and as it is certain that, unless warning is given, more of its piquant details will find their way sooner or later into his biography, it is worth while to record even this negative result. Further investigation, however, has revealed the very strong probability that the author of the notebook was William Ayshcombe, of Alvescott, in Oxfordshire. The author of the notes had an uncle William Ayshcombe, and another uncle Oliver Aysham (a name which may have been written for Ayshcombe). He had also three sisters, or what in those days counted as sisters, a Temple, a Peniston, and a Rous, his sister Temple being the wife of Sir John Temple, and dying on 28 Jan. 1624. He was also admitted into the Middle Temple in 1607.

Let us now see how William Ayshcombe stands. He had an uncle Oliver, and as his father had eight sons, whose names are unknown,¹ he may very well have had an uncle William. Moreover in the pedigree of the Temples of Stowe, in Lipscombe's 'History of Buckinghamshire,' iii. 86, we find that a William Ayscough of . . . married Catharine Temple. If we suppose that Ayscough is here a mistake for Ayshcombe, we have William Ayshcombe's wife's sister Hester, married to Sir John Rous, and Martha, another of his wife's sisters, married to Sir Thomas Peniston, whilst his wife's brother Sir John Temple, of Stanton Barry, is married to Dorothy Lee, who, according to the inscription on her monument, given by Lipscombe, iv. 350, died in 1625—possibly 1624. After this the identification of Ayscough with the Ayshcombe of the Berkshire 'Visitation,' and of the latter with the author of the notebook, can hardly be questioned. As for the admission to the Middle

¹ Sir T. Phillips's *Berkshire Visitations*, under Ayshcombe of Lytford

Temple in 1607, I have been unsuccessful in an attempt to obtain from the benchers permission to inspect their records of that period; but Mr. Joseph Foster, who has been more fortunate than myself, tells me that William Ayshcombe's admission took place on 26 Jan. 1607, and that he is described as the second son of Thomas A. of St. Giles's, Oxford. There is here, therefore, a slight error, according to the mode of calculating the date prevailing at the time.

It may be added that the notebook is full of indications that the writer was an Oxfordshire man. His father died at Oxford, his mother at 'Morton in Marsh.' Events taking place at Oxford are frequently referred to, and the one entry about Somerset is as follows: 'I went into Somersetshire, where, having a dangerous illness, I lived about half a year.' These are the words of a visitor, not of a resident.

SAMUEL R. GARDINER.

A LETTER FROM LORD SAYE AND SELE TO LORD WHARTON,
29 DEC. 1657.

LORD SAYE and Lord Wharton both received a summons to sit in the house of lords, or 'other house' established by Cromwell, in accordance with the provisions of the Petition and Advice. Wharton was inclined to accept the seat in that chamber which the Protector offered him, and Lord Saye wrote the following letter to dissuade him. The original of the letter is contained in a volume of Wharton's papers amongst the Carte MSS. in the Bodleian library, vol. 80, f. 749. An extract from the letter is printed in an article on 'Cromwell and the House of Lords' in *Macmillan's Magazine* for January 1895.

C. H. FIRTH.

My Lord,—I have receaved your letter, and am obliged unto you for the many expressions of your love and respects to me, which I shall be glad to answere uppon any occasion whearin I may serve you; and for this which I take to be the cause of your writinge att this tyme I shall clearly and sincerely declare unto you my judgement thearin, and what my practise will be accordinge thearunto. For the Government of this Kingdome accordinge to the right constitution thearof and execution agreable thearunto, I think it to be the best in the worlde; beinge a mixture of the 3 lawfull governments in that manner that it hath the qintessence of them all, and thearby alsoe the one is a boundary unto the other, whearby they are kept from fallinge into the extreames which eather apart are apt to slippe into, Monarchy into Tyranny, and Aristocracy into Oligarchy, Democracy into Anarchy; now the cheefest remedie and prope to opholde this frame and building and keape it standinge and steady is, and experience hath shewed it to be, the Peeres of England, and theyr power and priviledges in the House of Lords, they have bin as the beame keepinge both scales, Kinge and people, in an even posture, without incroachments one uppon another to the hurt and dammage of both. Longe experience hath made it manyfest that they