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Ancient Church Embroidery in Gloucestershire (addendum)

by M. E. Bagnall-Oakeley
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ANCIENT
CHURCH EMBROIDERY IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

By MARY ELLEN BAGNALL-OAKELEY.

SINCE Mrs. Bagnall-Oakeley's Memoir on the "Ancient Church Embroidery in Gloucestershire" has been "worked off" (ante page 246), we have received from her the following Addendum thereto. Perhaps, strictly speaking, it should be printed in the Transactions of the Society at Stratford-upon-Avon, but it will, we think, be more convenient, though late, to print it in the same volume as the Memoir to which it relates.—Ed.

SINCE the foregoing pages were written the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society has visited the church of Clifford Chambers, and on looking at the covering of the altar in that church I found it so curious that I desire to add a few lines of description as an addendum to my former paper. This Communion Cloth is square, and is composed of fine red cut velvet, now much faded, and surrounding it is sewn a border of gold and silver "passementerie" about 4 ins. wide. This is of an elegant and elaborate design, and almost as bright as the day it was worked. It is of foreign make, and was, probably, taken from some ancient vestment brought from the continent.

On the ends of the altar are two cushions, each covered with the same kind of velvet as the cloth, but on one of them is placed, without any regard to design, some pieces of very fine guipure lace made of silver thread, which, though sadly mutilated, retains much of its ancient beauty. The design is composed of pomegranates and their leaves, and most likely it was part of the decoration of a cope and chasuble. One of the pomegranates, which was part of the powdering of the ground, is sewn on the cushion. If English, this would be probably of the early part of the reign of Henry VIII., but it is more likely to be of Flenish manufacture, in which country the pomegranate decoration was used for a long period.