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Dea Roma

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Never kill a pig when the moon is on the wane, as the bacon will not take the salt properly. Also when the bacon is cooked, it will waste away very much in the cooking. *Many places*

'When you cut yourself always lay some 'bacca on the wound. It will draw the venomy out'. *Dymock*

If the sun shines before midday on old Christmas Day there will be a good crop of fruit. *Churcham*

If a person lies dead over the Sunday another death will occur in the parish before the following Sunday. *Churcham and Welford*

A certain cure for the Shingles.

'Go up into the belfry at Church, and get some of the grease from the largest bell and smear this on the parts affected—this is a certain cure'. *Welford, 1917*

If a dead person is carried to the grave across private ground, it creates a right of way. *Maisemore*

It is considered very unlucky for a cat to kitten in the house the same day as a baby is born; baby or kitten will die. *Churcham*

An old woman in the Leddington, for many years on Holy Thursday, when it rained, caught the rain in a bottle, as it fell. The rainwater thus collected is a certain cure for bad legs and sores. But it must fall direct into the bottle, held in the hand, or it is of no effect.

Dymock, 1900

DEA ROMA

The worship of Rome as a Goddess with a Temple grew steadily during the 1st and 2nd centuries, and she is found both seated and standing with or without helmet and her 'hasta' or lance, like Minerva, upon coins. Here her right hand touches an altar, and her image with

ragged hair appears on a diminutive altar of a portable size, which was found at Lemington near Moreton-in-Marsh in 1906. By the kindness of Lord Dulverton the altar has been placed (at the writer's suggestion) in the museum at Chedworth Villa, where there are two others which may be compared with this one.

Another of these household altars is illustrated in the report (p. 17) of the Colchester Corporation museum for 1924.

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A BRISTOL ALCHEMIST

In a letter addressed to Henkel,¹ dated from Prague, 17 October 1739, de Bournet writes to say that at Amsterdam in 1712 the alchemist Peter of Leyden transmuted in his presence 177 pounds of mercury into pure gold, which de Bournet sold to a merchant called Grill through the agency of the bank at Amsterdam. He goes on to say that the alchemist in question was an Englishman, a native of Bristol, and that his true name was Abraham Kington.

There is nothing remarkable in the adoption of the professional name Peter by Abraham Kington. There have been many alchemists who figured under this name, held in high esteem since the days of Peter of Apono, contemporary and friend of Arnold of Villanova. Although, however, it is easy to trace such names as Peter of Arlen, Ferrara, Lombardy and Toledo, no reference whatever can be found in alchemical literature to Peter of Leyden. Similarly, no mention is made of Abraham Kington in the books of the freemen of Bristol, or in any of the historical works on Bristol we have examined.

The only suggestive reference is in a will preserved in the Probate Registry at Bristol, dated 17 June 1706,

¹ *Mineralogische, Chemische und Alchemische Briefe . . .* vol. 1, p. 79, Dresden, 1794.