



Addenda of Notes and Evidences.

KING FAMILY.

FOR the early ancestry of the John King who came into Kent between 1730—1735 I am indebted to the tradition handed down by my grandfather John King of Watringbury. He would have been told this by his father Richard, who would have known of it from his mother Mary King, and probably also from information gathered as the result of his journey when 21 into the Shaftesbury neighbourhood. The following extract of a letter from the writer's aunt, Elizabeth Eleanor King of Watringbury, dated 11 April 1879, and in answer to enquiries, elicited the following reply :—

“I shall be happy to answer the enquiries you have made as far as I can. My father never knew one relation of his father's by the name of King. He used sometimes to talk about his departed parents. He said his grandfather King belonged to an Irish family. He married, much to their annoyance, a maid residing in the family ; her name was Sex. She was the daughter of a little farmer residing at Mereworth. He came into these parts, and died either just before or just after the birth of his first child Richard. She married again, and had a large family. When my father's father (Richard) came of age he came into the possession of about 100 acres of very poor land, which he sold, and cut off the entailment.”

In another letter, dated 8 November 1880, the same writer says :—

“With regard to the Sexes, I always heard my dear father speak of his grandmother as having been a servant in the family of her husband's, the Kings. Her relations were not poor people, but farmers at Mereworth. As regards the Kings being Roman Catholic, my father thought they were. Your Aunt Louisa says he had several Roman Catholic books. When she was a child he used to speak of them as belonging to his ancestors, the Kings. What became of them I do not know ; I never remember seeing any of them. My father often spoke of his father's journey when 21 years of age. He walked to Guildford the first day, to Maidenhead (?) the second, and reached his destination the third, which was in Wiltshire, or somewhere in that locality ; his Uncle Sex, his mother's brother, advised him to go. There were 100 acres of land entailed I believe, very poor land, of little or no value. He cut off the entail, for which he received £100. My father had the impression they were an Irish family, highly connected.”

The only Irish Roman Catholic family of the antecedent period here spoken of would seem to be that of the King family of Roscommon, of whom Archbishop King, writing to the Lord Kingston of his day (1700), says that he had heard “many of them were Roman Catholic, and living like the