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SOME  
Stray Notes  
UPON  
Slough and Upton  
COLLECTED  
FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

by  
R. Bentley



*Silver Penny of Edward the Second, dug up in Mr. Bentley's  
garden at Upton, in 1887*

Privately Printed  
1892

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NOTE.

*So many works have reference to this locality that it would occupy much space even to give a partial list of them. Anyone wishing, however, for a rapid survey of the salient features of interest in the locality, cannot do better than to turn over the pages of Tighe's and Davis's 'Annals of Windsor,' Lipscomb's 'History of Buckinghamshire,' Sheahan's 'History of Bucks,' or Jesse's 'Favourite Haunts and Rural Studies.'*

*These casual notes arose from the circumstance of many allusions to the locality appearing in recent years in various books and newspapers, and, owing to their modern date not being collected or included in the standard works of reference already published on this district.*

*The original scope of these memoranda was intended to be confined to Upton and Slough alone. For the convenience of visitors, however, a passing allusion has been made to several places of interest in the immediate neighbourhood within walking distance.*

*Had time permitted it might have been interesting to have attached a map with the names of places formerly of importance in black ink, and those of to-day superseding them shown in red ink. The changes which have occurred are very curious and significant.*



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## CONTENTS.

### PRELIMINARY.

	PAGE
Disraeli's remark on Buckinghamshire—The associations of the neighbourhood of Slough—Position—'Top-boots or Exeter Hall'—Geological features—Magnetic variation—Water supply—Subterranean reservoirs—Population . . . . .	7-13

### PART I.

<p>Arago on the name of Slough—'Les Sciences le transmettront religieusement à nos derniers neveux'—Sir William Herschel and his sister at the Observatory House—Their distinguished visitors—Anecdote of George III.—Curious letter of the Prince of Orange—The first working telegraph—An advertisement of it in 1844—Illustrations of its rapidity—Heavy snowstorms—The Empress of Austria belated—Cold beef and the 'Ingoldsby Legends'—The opening of the Great Western Railway—No station permitted at Slough—Instances of quick travelling—The mail-trains—Number of passengers—The accidents at Langley and West Drayton—Extension of the Canal—Dangers of the Road—Thirteen travellers murdered at Colnbrook—The mysterious poisoning at Salt Hill—The Eton Montem 'Salt'—The cost of letters in 1821—Old coaching days, and present ones—Snowed up—Churches within five miles—Old Upton parish church—Reputed scene of Gray's Elegy—Tomb of Herschel—Sarah Bramston, who 'dared to be just'—St. Mary's new church—Marriages illegal—Chapels—Literary visitors to the old church at Upton—Upton Court—Its secret chamber and old-established ghost—George Augustus Sala and Sir Douglas Forsyth the explorer residents there—Upton Village—Slough—Its productions—House Charles Dickens resided in—Cattle Market . . . . .</p>	13-42
---	-------



## PART II.

PAGE

Prince Lucien Bonaparte at Slough—Bayliss House—Stoke Park—Occupied by Sir Christopher Hatton, Sir Edward Coke, and Thomas Penn—Story of Sir Robert Gayer—The Running Deer target—Talleyrand at Stoke Park—Gray at Stoke Poges—Grote the historian ; also Richard Brinsley Sheridan, there—Burnham Beeches—Lord Jeffreys at Bulstrode—Mrs. Delany and Mrs. Montagu there—Waller and Burke at Beaconsfield—The Quaker's burial-ground at Jordans—Milton at Chalfont—Queen Anne's Well at Chalvey—Ancient Royal Palace at Cippenham—Jacob Bryant at Cippenham—Burnham Abbey—Cole, the Antiquarian, vicar of Burnham—Ockwells manor-house—Moated houses in the vicinity—Lady Place and the conspiracy—Conventual Buildings—Cliefden—Antiquities at Taplow—Marlow—The old church and ancient library at Langley—Its Huguenot vicar—Richings Park and its literary history—Parlem Park—Ditton Park—Fires in the neighbourhood—Milton at Horton—The Princess Elizabeth at Colnbrook—Oliver Cromwell at West Drayton—Charles I. at Uxbridge—The author of 'Oceana'—Charles II. hidden at Denham Court—Denham visited by Dryden, Sir Humphrey Davy, and Captain Cook—Windsor Castle—Chaucer and Shakespeare there—Swift, Pepys, Evelyn, Burke, and Fitzgerald on the view therefrom—The news of the battle of Blenheim—A horrible experience of De Quincey—Walpole and Gray—Eton College—The eccentric Sir John Dinely—Residents in the neighbourhood of Windsor—Warren Hastings, Clive, the Earl of Chatham, Nell Gwynne, etc.—Literary men—The Thames—Principal floods in the last hundred years—Rainfall—Storms—Bridges over the Thames—Datchet—Henry VIII. there—The races—Salmon in the Thames—Pope on Charles II. at Datchet—Sir John Falstaff—Magna Charta . . . . .	42-69
---	-------

## LIST OF WOODCUTS OR MAPS.

	PAGE
i. <i>Silver Penny of Edward II. dug up at Upton</i> . . . . .	<i>title-page</i>
ii. <i>The Telegraph Cottage at Slough</i> . . . . .	18
iii. <i>The Night Coach</i> . . . . .	27
iv. <i>Upton Old Church and Upton Court</i> . . . . .	35
v. <i>Sketch Plan of Slough and Upton in 1891</i> . . . . .	39
vi. <i>Sketch map of the environs of Slough</i> . . . . .	43
vii. <i>Milton's Cottage at Chalfont</i> . . . . .	49



SOME  
**Stray Notes**  
UPON  
**Apton and Slough,**  
WITH PASSING REFERENCE TO  
Some Places of Interest in the Vicinity.

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PRELIMINARY.

AT almost the southern extremity of Buckinghamshire, 'whose inspiring air,' Mr. Disraeli observed, 'when one passed the Colne, dispelled the fogs of London,' lies the increasing town of Slough. This town has several claims to interest: on scientific grounds, from the peculiarities of its geology, the astronomical discoveries of Herschel, and being the scene of the earliest telegraphs and railways; on literary grounds, from the residence of Chaucer, Milton, Pope, and Gray, and others in the neighbourhood; and on historical grounds, from the close environment of many important buildings and places, and Roman, Saxon, and Danish remains; while there are also many spots of artistic attraction in the vicinity.

Slough is a very healthy place, and has never been visited by any epidemic, though it is said that the public health is endangered by the jarring discords of its untuned bells,\* and the idle screeching of steam-whistles on the river, on Sundays—which last noise, serving no purpose either of utility or amusement, should be prohibited. The majority of the inhabitants, however, are very tolerant, and have been known to permit the nuisance of a steam-organ for more than a week without lodging any complaint before the magistrates!

Slough (sometimes spelt in former times 'Slowe') is situated chiefly in the parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey.† Originally in the Saxon kingdom of Mercia, it is now in the hundred of Stoke (one of the Chiltern Hundreds). Until 1845 it was ecclesiastically in the diocese of Lincoln, when a transfer to Oxford took place. Anent this change, Dr. Osborn relates that when the Bishop of Oxford asked what sort of individuals the clergy of Buckinghamshire were, he obtained the brief but expressive reply: 'Well, either top-boots or Exeter Hall.' Slough is in the archdeaconry of Buckingham. It is in the Roman Catholic diocese of Northampton. For law purposes it was at one time in the Norfolk Circuit, but in modern times it has been included in the Midland Circuit. The assizes and meetings of the County Council are held at Aylesbury. For Excise purposes it is under Maidenhead, but postally it is an

\* It has never accurately been determined whether either of the three churches or the town-hall has the least melodious bell.

† Outlying portions are included in the parishes of Langley Marish and Stoke Poges.

important centre\* collecting from an area of nearly two hundred square miles. For military purposes it falls into the Home command.

The position of Slough may be taken as latitude  $51^{\circ} 31'$  and longitude  $0^{\circ} 35'$  west of Greenwich.† The local time is 2 min. 21 secs. slow of the national standard time. The height above sea-level varies but little: the lowest part may be taken as 70 feet and the highest as 110 feet. The highest buildings are the new church, the water-tower, and the British Orphan Asylum. As the crow flies, the nearest point at which the sea is met is Littlehampton (48 miles distant).

According to the Geological Survey, the principal feature of the district is that it is nearly on the dividing line between the clay of the London Basin and the chalk downs. The surface is a light loam of an average depth of perhaps two feet, followed by gravel of varying depth, sometimes ten or twelve feet, sometimes more, and, after about one hundred feet in the lower tertiary strata, chalk is reached.‡

It has been suggested that large volumes of chalk water, deemed equivalent to an average daily supply of

\* In 1888 in the Post Office Savings Bank also there were no less than 2,298 depositors at Slough (with £35,759 standing to their credit), and at Chalvey 46 depositors (owning £414).—(*From Official Return.*)

† The magnetic variation of the compass, owing to local geological influences, between London and Slough, is considerably above the mean, but between Slough and Reading below the mean. See Rücker and Thorpe, 'Relation between the Geological Constitution and the Magnetic State of the United Kingdom.'

‡ The following description of the larger wells in the immediate

408,000,000 gallons, at present escape into the sea, but Mr. Harrison,\* affirms that in consequence of the existence of the great fault across the London Basin, south of the Thames, this egress is barred. From a geological consideration of the London Basin, he concludes that the only escape for this water seawards is over the surface of the London clay at Datchet, near Windsor, where that clay is at an elevation of about 47 feet above Ordnance datum, being there covered with a bed of gravel 12 feet in thickness and one mile in width, the clay stratum constituting a species of weir. This gravel bed is a great reservoir extending from

vicinity may be useful in case of reference, though in one instance the figures appear to be wrongly given. The depth is in feet.

DEPTH OF SHAFT.	DEPTH OF BORE.	WELL AT	DEPTH IN TERTIARY STRATA.	DEPTH IN CHALK.	DEPTH TO WATER FROM SURFACE.	REMARKS.
—	—	Upton Park ... ..	102 $\frac{1}{4}$	170 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	
28	103	Eton Union (Upton)...	107	24	—	
—	—	Royal Nursery (Slough)	94	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	
..	..	Great Western Railway	..	..	..	
107	485	Waterworks (Slough)...	89	503	7	Heading into chalk.
164	201	„ (Datchet)	119	246	3	
72	—	Royal Brewery, Windsor	72	—	—	
40	175	Clewer Lodge, „	175	40	—	

The above table is partly taken from 'The Present Practice of Sinking and Boring Wells,' by Ernest Spon, London, 1885, pp. 247-250. For particulars of floods, snowfall, or rainfall, see further on, especially pp. 65, 66.

\* At the meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers, held on March 3rd, 1891, a paper was read 'On the Subterranean Water in the Chalk Formation of the Upper Thames, and its Relation to the Supply of London,' by Mr. J. Thornhill Harrison, M. Inst. C.E., from which source this information is mainly derived.

Datchet westward to Maidenhead, overlying the lower tertiary beds and the chalk, and attaining in places a thickness of 30 feet. The water in this bed does not depend for its supply upon the Thames, but, on the contrary, it adds to the volume of the river as it passes by. The amount it contributes to the Thames is shown, by gaugings, to vary from 137,000,000 gallons to 17,000,000 gallons per diem, and these fluctuations are probably due to the regulation of the water-level in the river by the weirs. After entering this vast gravel bed, with an area of some forty square miles, over the unalterable weir at Datchet, the water from the chalk, it is supposed, finds its way, by hidden springs, into the Thames between Maidenhead and Thames Ditton, causing an increase in the volume of the river, which varied, according to gaugings at different dates, from 249,500,000 gallons per diem in April, 1884, to 45,000,000 gallons daily in November, 1890.

A second gravel bed lies to the north of the London clay barrier between Slough and Kingston, and covers an area of about fifty square miles between Burnham on the west and the eastern part of London. This bed also forms an extensive reservoir and an underground river, by which a large volume of water is carried to the Thames. It is crossed by the river nearly at right angles between Kingston and Brentford, where it is for the greater part of the distance an open tidal stream without locks, and the water can thus pass from the gravel into the river at all times, except when the tide is up. Between Teddington and Kew the volume of the

Thames is largely increased ; [the increment amounted to little short of 440,000,000 gallons daily in a dry season,] and it is believed that from this source alone a daily volume of 100,000,000 gallons might be withdrawn for the supply of London and its suburbs for many years, without much interfering with the volume of water collected and carried by the Thames between Maidenhead and Teddington.

By observation of the level of springs in the chalk about Marlborough, it was shown that at Christmas, 1890, the level of the water in the chalk downs was upwards of 400 feet above the outlet over the London clay at Datchet. The estimated area of the collecting ground for the Windsor reservoir is 630 square miles, and that of the Slough reservoir is 570 square miles. Various methods are available for intercepting these underground waters before they pass into the river. The choice of the Slough or the Windsor gravel-beds for the source of the London supply would depend upon which proved to be better in quality. If the water from the Windsor reservoir were preferred, the water abstracted near Dorney would have to be replaced by an equal quantity taken from the Slough reservoir and discharged into the Thames above Windsor.\*

\* Three schemes were proposed for the interception of the water forming the underground river in the Slough gravel ; of these the cheapest would be the construction of a culvert, in the nature of a dam, in a northerly direction from Hampton to Cranford. To this culvert the water would be admitted under control, but the surplus water would be allowed to flow over it at a lower level than that at which it at present stands in the gravel. The other methods were also in the nature of collecting culverts, passing either from Salt Hill

## POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT.

(Year.)	Upton-cum-Chalvey.	Stoke Poges.	Langley Marish.	Datchet.
1800.	1,018	288	1,215	357
1811.	1,083	838	1,571	710
1821.	1,268	1,073	1,616	839
1831.	1,502	1,252	1,797	1,169
1841.	2,405	1,319	1,844	1,264
1851.	3,573	1,413	1,874	898
1861.	4,688	1,505	1,874	982
1871.	5,940	1,850	1,964	990
1881.	7,030	2,150	2,162	1,202

## PART I.

*Slough and Upton.*

It was in reference to Slough that the great French astronomer, M. Arago, said :

‘ C’EST LE LIEU DU MONDE OU IL A ÉTÉ FAIT LE PLUS DE DÉCOUVERTES. LE NOM DE CE VILLAGE NE PÉRIRA PAS. LES SCIENCES LE TRANSMETTRONT RELIGIEUSEMENT À NOS DERNIERS NEVEUX.’

This remark is almost prophetic in view of the attempt foolishly made many years afterwards to alter the name of the place to Upton Royal.

Sir William Herschel came to Slough from the

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to Farnham Royal or from Uxbridge to Langley Marish. It is impossible, however, to think that any extensive daily abstraction of water can be made from the district without causing very serious injury.



Cedars at Datchet, in April, 1786,\* and his remains rest beneath the ivy-clad tower of Upton. His sister and joint observer, Caroline (whose biography appeared in 1876), is buried in Hanover. The Observatory house—the front of which, overlooking the road to Windsor, is a modern addition—is occupied at the present time by the children of Sir John Herschel. A small portion of his telescope remains, and the circles in the lawn still indicate its position.

‘One day,’ says Gouverneur Morris (Diary i., 151), ‘was delightfully employed in visiting Herschel (September 6, 1789). He receives us in a manner which is, I think, peculiar to men of his kind of greatness—with simplicity, modesty, and mildness. He shows and explains his great telescope; a speculum now polishing for it weighs 1,400 lb., that in present use, 2,500 lb. The polishing is now performed by a machine, but formerly was done by hand, twenty-two men being engaged in the work for twenty weeks. The diameter is about three feet.’

\* ‘Dr. Herschel took possession of the house at Slough at Lady-Day, 1786. His first step—to the grief of everyone who knew the sweet spot—was to cut down every tree, so that there should be no impediment to his observations of the heavenly bodies’ (*Mrs. Papendiek’s Journals*, vol. i., p. 251. (More trees were taken down in 1834, to make way for the new church.) Mrs. Papendiek, whose father occupied the house immediately before Dr. Herschel came to it, describes it (vol. i., p. 191) as then standing in a ‘very pretty garden of one acre, at the end of which was a gravel walk, with a row of high elms on each side. On the side next to Windsor (from whence there was an imposing view of the north side of the Castle) was a raised terrace, with a few trees, just enough to break the scorching rays of the sun, without impeding the view.’

An unpublished letter of Sir William Herschel's is extant, dated Slough, October 21, 1789, to Sir Joseph Banks :

‘ Perhaps I ought to make an apology for troubling you again with a letter on the same subject as my former one, but if satellites will come in the way of my 40-feet reflector it is a little hard to resist discovering them. Now, as a seventh satellite of Saturn has drawn me into this scrape, I must trust to your good nature to forgive me when I acquaint you with it. The truth is that I have detected the younger brother of the Sixth Satellite. It is still nearer to the Ring than the latter, and I am writing a short paper to give you for the Roy. Soc., which will be ready by the time of your return to town.’

Many distinguished visitors came to Slough when Sir William and Caroline Herschel were ‘ minding the heavens ’ at the Observatory House, among them the crowned heads of England, France, Russia, Austria, etc. ; royal dukes of Kent, Sussex, and Cambridge ; princesses, archdukes, politicians, including Lord Palmerston, Prince Galitzin, Lord Mulgrave ; and other eminent visitors, such as the Primate,\* and the President of the Royal Society, etc. On one occasion his sister writes † (in October, 1806), ‘ he had hardly dismissed his troop of workmen engaged on the forty-foot mirror, when visitors assembled, and from the time it was dark until past midnight, he was on the grass plot surrounded by between fifty and sixty persons, without having had time for putting on proper clothing or for the least

\* George III. on one occasion, when passing through the interior of the big telescope, saw below him Dr. Manners-Sutton ; ‘ My lord archbishop,’ he playfully called out, ‘ let me show you the way to heaven !’

† ‘ Life of Caroline Herschel,’ p. 114.

nourishment passing his lips. Amongst the company, I remember, were the Duke of Sussex, Prince Galitzin, Lord Darnley, Admiral Boston, and some ladies.\*

The Prince of Orange on a previous occasion, not finding anyone at home, left the following curiously worded note at the Observatory House :

‘The Prince of Orange has been at Slough to call at Mr. Herschel’s and to ask him, or if he was not at home to Miss Herschel, if it is true that Mr. Herschel has discovered a new star, whose light was not as that of the common stars, but with swallow-tails, as stars in embroidery. He has seen this reported in the newspapers, and wishes to know if there is any foundation to that report. Slough the 8th of August, 1798. W PRINCE OF ORANGE.†

An engraving of the great telescope at Slough is to be found at p. 29, in the ‘Life of Caroline Herschel,’ which also contains portraits of both brother and sister.

Besides the discoveries of Herschel, Slough has another claim to scientific interest, in having been the terminus of the first public telegraph in the world in daily work.‡ Commenced in 1838, ‘the electro-magnetic telegraph’ was opened a year or two later to Slough. The (six?) wires were carried into a wooden building known as Telegraph Cottage, erected on the summit of a small hill, since removed when rebuilding

\* Dr. Burney heads one of his letters : ‘Slough, Monday morning, July 22, 1799, in bed at Dr. Herschel’s, half-past five, where I can neither sleep nor be idle.’

† ‘Life of Caroline Herschel,’ p. 99. The punctuation is the Prince’s.

‡ The telegraph was first tried, for railway purposes only, between Euston Square and Camden, but Osborn’s ‘History of the London and Birmingham Railway’ says curiously (p. 75) : ‘Electricity was thought of as a quicker signal agent, and some successful

the railway station and the adjacent bridges over the lines in 1881.

An advertisement appeared in 1844 as follows :

*Under the especial patronage of Royalty.*

INSTANTANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Between Paddington and Slough, a distance of nearly twenty miles,  
by means of the

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH,

which may be seen in operation daily, from nine in the morning  
till eight in the evening, at the

G R E A T W E S T E R N R A I L W A Y ,

Paddington Station, and the

T E L E G R A P H C O T T A G E ,

close to Slough Station.

*Admission, One Shilling; Children and Schools, half price.*

To-day about two hundred wires converge upon Slough alone. Many of these wires take by means of special instruments several messages in either direction at the same moment.

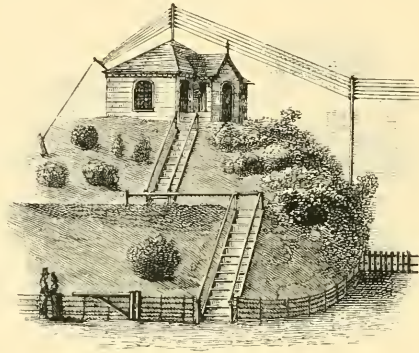
Mr. C. E. Spagnoletti, the inventor of the un-demagnetizable needle, etc., resided for many years on the east side of Slough.

On the occasion of the birth of the Duke of Edinburgh, the intelligence of the event was transmitted from Windsor to London in eleven minutes by aid of

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experiments were tried with it, but experience has proved that the whistle is more advantageous and suitable in every respect.' [This no doubt had reference to the tunnel leading out of the Euston Square terminus.] So, too, in regard to railways. The *Philadelphia Courier* gave notice fifty years ago that 'The locomotive engine will depart daily when the weather is fair with a train of passenger cars; on rainy days horses will be attached.'

the new electro-magnetic telegraph. A servant left the castle on one of the swiftest horses in the royal stables at two minutes past six in the morning (August 6, 1844), reached Slough telegraph-station at ten minutes



THE ORIGINAL TELEGRAPH COTTAGE AT SLOUGH.

(From the 'Illustrated London News,' August 10, 1844.)

past six, and at thirteen minutes past six an acknowledging beat was flashed from Paddington.\*

In Lardner's 'History of the Electric Telegraph,'† a number of instances are given in which the new means of communication to Slough were employed for salutary purposes, and the astonishment of thieves on being captured at a distance from the scene of operations by the police of another place is graphically described. The capture of the Quaker Tawell in London immediately after the murder committed by him at Slough was also due to the agency of these wires, a description of his appearance being telegraphed while

\* *Illustrated London News*, August 10, 1844.

† Edition of 1867, p. 235.

he was still in the train, and a detective was consequently in readiness to follow his movements on arriving at Paddington.

The telegraph lines were not *always* of assistance. In the sudden snowstorm of March 12, 1876, by which time they had greatly increased in number, the wires and poles were snapped and hurled across the railway, stopping for a time the passage of trains. This occurred on a Sunday afternoon, and the Empress of Austria, who was returning to the Metropolis from Windsor, was detained for some hours at Slough Junction, being provided by the station-master, Mr. Hart, with some cold beef and the 'Ingoldsby Legends,' to wile away the time of her enforced detention.

A few years later, on December 26, 1886, a more serious mishap befell the telegraph system. By the sheer weight of accumulated and frozen snow, each wire became enlarged almost to the size of a man's arm, until at length the weight could not be sustained, and the whole system was wrecked for miles. Indeed, only *two* wires from any direction were working into London the next day. For many weeks after this the block system had to be suspended, and trains of all classes ran without the assistance of the telegraph. A detachment of the Royal Engineers was sent to Slough to assist the railway telegraph-men in planting fresh poles and reconnecting and hoisting fresh wires, and both were employed for many weeks in the air during the freezing winds of January and rains of February in restoring the communications.

The Great Western Railway was opened, from the



original station under Bishop's Road Bridge at Paddington as far as Slough, by Brunel in 1838, the nearest stations then being West Drayton (on the east), and (the original) Maidenhead (on the west).

The railway-tickets were sold for a time out of the windows of the North Star Inn.\*

In the first number of 'Bradshaw' eleven trains in each direction (all passenger) are recorded as passing daily, a number which was increased in the summer of 1843 to fourteen, and two goods-trains daily either way. These latter then conveyed the third-class passengers.

In 1844 some wonderfully fast travelling took place. On the 6th of August 'the journey from Slough to the Paddington terminus was accomplished in less time than the distance had ever previously been traversed by a passenger-train on the Great Western line. The eighteen miles and a quarter only occupied fifteen

\* The *Quarterly Review* remarks, in 1844: 'Oxford and Eton would not permit the Great Western Bill to pass without special clauses to prohibit a branch to Oxford and a station at Slough—nay, when the directors attempted to infringe the latter prohibition by only stopping to take up and set down at Slough, they were attacked by proceedings in Chancery, and interdicted from making a pause even, where there is now the finest and best frequented station in England.' [The 'proceedings in Chancery' were for an injunction to restrain the G.W.R. from selling tickets at the North Star Inn, the successful opposition of Eton College having led to the insertion in the Great Western Railway Act of a section precluding the Company from having a station within three miles of the College. Langley Station was therefore built, as being just outside that radius. The injunction was refused, and the College thereupon withdrew from further opposition, and Slough Station was erected.—*Note by a Legal Friend.*]



minutes and ten seconds.\* Two other trains on the same day reached Slough from London in eighteen, and seventeen and a half minutes respectively, a very high rate of movement if regard is had to the proportion of time occupied in getting up and reducing speed in so short a journey, and with the hand-brakes then only in use.

All trains stopped at Slough (after the double station—both up and down on the south side of the line—was built) until the fast expresses to Exeter were started by Brunel in 1845.†

The mail-trains, as is usually the case, were less rapid than the expresses. The Western down night-mail stopped at Slough Junction every night until 1855, but a year or two later it slipped for several years a coach at Slough. The limited night-mail was started in 1870.‡ The up night-mail partially ceased stopping at Slough in 1862, and entirely, eight years later, on the establishment of the limited mail.

The narrow-gauge was introduced (in conjunction with the broad-gauge) on the main line to London in 1864, and the broad-gauge was discontinued in 1892.§

\* The *Illustrated London News* for August 10, 1844. Another interesting experience of the early days of the Great Western Railway will be found in the 'Life of Babbage,' p. 324.

† Only a quarter of an hour has been gained upon these trains during the next forty-six years, and Brunel's evening five o'clock express to Exeter, in 1846, actually got there in forty-five minutes less time than the five o'clock express of 1892.

‡ This is no longer restricted to first-class passengers only.

§ 'The result of my experiments,' says the philosopher Babbage, 'convinced me that the broad gauge was the most convenient and safest for the public.'—'Life,' p. 321. Half a century's experience has amply confirmed this opinion.

The number of passengers *stopping only at Slough Junction* during the year ending March 31, 1884, was found, by the enumeration of the tickets of those arriving and departing, to be 468,007.

In 1890 (besides branch trains, and duplicate or special trains) no less than 60 passenger and 47 goods up, and 66 passenger and 47 goods down, trains passed through on every week-day. Not including branch trains, there is now on the average a train passing on the main line every five minutes during the twenty-four hours in one direction or the other.

The present railway-station (the fifth) was built in 1882, in consequence of the quadrupling of the lines, and the present staff there, including the locomotive department, is over three hundred men.

In August, 1848, the London and South-Western branch line was open as far as Datchet, and at the close of 1849 both Great Western and London and South-Western Railways reached Windsor.\* In 1847 the London and South-Western promoted a Bill for an extension to Slough.

Mortimer Collins seems to have been especially struck by the railway phase of Slough life, for he says on one occasion :†

‘Of Slough, through which we pass towards Eton, there is nothing to be said. Once, possibly, it may have been a place with a distinctive character ; now it

\* The earlier Great Western scheme to reach Windsor was by way of West Drayton and Staines. It was proposed in the Act applied for to work the line on the atmospheric system.

† ‘Pen Sketches by a Vanished Hand,’ vol. i., p. 113.

is a mere railway junction, the home of dust and noise, of steam-whistles and coal odour; a town in the same category with Wolverton, and Swindon, and Crewe.'

The very heavy pressure of traffic daily on the western road out of London has unavoidably caused very numerous accidents in this neighbourhood. The two most historical ones have been that to the down morning Exeter express at Langley in June, 1845,\* and that to the up Exeter express at West Drayton on the 6th of February, 1874.

In the first accident the lives of one hundred and ninety passengers were in jeopardy, including that of the great engineer, Brunel himself. The train ran off the line and down an embankment into Mr. John Nash's fields. No one was actually killed, owing to the strength of the railway carriages then constructed, though upwards of forty injured persons had to be conveyed to the Royal Hotel at Slough,† kept by Monsieur and Madame Dotesio, whose humane exertions on this occasion were the subject of especial remark. The train was running at the time of the accident fifty-two seconds to the mile, and both lines were blocked for three hours. The new 'galvanic telegraph' was also thrown down and cut through.

In the second accident a broad-gauge express ran at its highest speed in a very dense fog into a broad-gauge goods train slowly backing to meet it, a little on the

\* A very graphic account of this accident, and of the terrible position of the passengers, will be found in the *Illustrated London News* of June 21, 1845.

† Now enlarged and converted into the British Orphan Asylum.

east side of West Drayton Station, in the afternoon. The guard of the goods train had given a wrong number of beats on an electric bell, and signified that the line was clear for the express instead of the reverse. Owing to the great solidity of broad-gauge trains, only one person was killed (the first van, containing the unfortunate guard, being reduced to powder and splinters), and the train kept on the line. A *narrow-gauge* train proceeding slowly in the opposite direction ran almost immediately afterwards into the débris of the first accident and was *overturned*. The work of clearing the line was most difficult, the writer remembers, owing to the choking thickness of the fog, which increased with the darkness of nightfall.\*

At Slough Junction itself a good many accidents and collisions have taken place, particularly in the days when the up and down stations, though distinct, were both on the same side.

A branch of the Grand Junction Canal was opened to Slough (on the north side of the railway) in 188 . The width is 36 feet, and the depth of water 6 feet. There are no locks on the branch, which runs for a distance of about five and a half miles, and joins the main canal near West Drayton.

Before railway or canal, the only means of communi-

\* 'The West Drayton accident is, in one sense, the most serious that has ever occurred. No train has previously, while travelling at so high a speed, been brought so suddenly to a stand as on this occasion. The escape of the passengers without loss of life was extraordinary, and was very much due, no doubt, to the circumstance of their having been in a *broad-gauge* train with a heavy engine in front of it.'—Government Report (Board of Trade), p. 28.

cation was the road, the adjacent river being little employed. From the volume of traffic on the westward side of London, and the valuable nature of its appurtenances, this was open to many attacks.

As far back as 1255, in the time of Henry III., orders were given to clear both sides of the road approaching Maidenhead from trees, the tract being infested with thieves and highwaymen;\* and years afterwards the Vicar of Hurley drew an addition to his salary on account of the risks he ran from these gentry.† In Edward I.'s time, no less than thirteen bodies of murdered travellers were discovered at the Ostrich Inn at Colnbrook.‡ Leland also speaks of the road beyond Maidenhead, in the time of Henry VIII., as 'for two miles narrow and woody, dangerous enough; then came the great frith§ three miles long, altogether a wood infested with robbers, five miles in extent.'

It is unnecessary to refer to the notoriety of Hounslow or Bagshot Heaths in later times.

Other dangers of the road also occurred, and a curiously incomplete entry is to be found in the parochial register at Burnham of the interment of a Mr. Eyre in 1773, 'one of the unfortunate gentlemen who dined at ye Castle Inn at Salt Hill, 29th of March.' The key to the mystery is to be found in

\* Kerry's 'Antiquities of the Hundred of Bray,' p. 146.

† *Quarterly Review*, No. 211.

‡ Gyll's 'History of Wraysbury and Colnbrook,' p. 271.

§ Frith here may be derived from the Celtic Ffrydd, 'a clearing for pasture or cultivation, surrounded by woodland,' and not from the more usual Latin origin.

the pages of the *Gentleman's Magazine* and in Mrs. Papendiek's 'Memoirs of the Court of Queen Charlotte' (vol. i., p. 321). Nineteen deaths took place from poisoning by verdigris on the copper dish in which the turtle soup was cooked. [Part of the Castle Hotel, Salt Hill, still remains, and is now occupied, as a private house, by Mr. Reid.]

Every three years, too, travellers were bidden, by the scholars of Eton College, to 'stand and deliver' at Salt Hill on Whit-Tuesday, at a barrow on the Bath Road, known as the Montem, until they made some contribution for the captain of the school. The custom ceased after 1844, but the amounts collected before the opening of the railway must have been considerable.

In 1821 letters reached Slough from London about 11 p.m., and left Slough for London at 4 a.m. The charge to and from the metropolis for a light letter was then fivepence.

In 1830 there was a receiving-house for letters at Mr. Charles Luff's, at the White Hart. They arrived from Colnbrook at eight in the morning, and left for Colnbrook at half-past seven in the evening.

Among the coaches passing through Slough in 1830 on the great Bath Road were the 'Royal Mail,' for Gloucester; the 'Royal Mail,' for Stroud; the 'Monarch,' 'Triumph,' and 'White Hart,' for Bath and Bristol; the 'Defiance,' for Oxford; Clark's, Marlow; Wyatt's, Marlow; Tollett's, Burnham; Bishop's, Wantage; Herne's, Stroud; Kent's, Abingdon; Dixon's, Henley; and many others.\*

\* 'Mails and post-coaches pass to and from London nearly every



The more fashionable day-coaches were the York House, Bristol Mail, and Beaufort Hunt.

From sixty to eighty coaches a day are said to have passed through in William IV.'s time, and the size of



the hostelries formerly existing at Salt Hill and Slough appear to confirm this. Among the more important mail coaches\* passing through were those to Bath (*viâ*

half hour daily, from four in the morning until six o'clock at night.'—Pigot's 'Directory,' 1830, Maidenhead.

\* 'If the mail, with only four outside and coachman and guard, was a good load, what was the night-coach with twelve out, four in, coachman, guard, large fore and hind boots full, about five feet of luggage on the roof, and a net slung behind with fish and game? Such a load might often come down of a night, but worse than this were 'magazine nights,' as they were termed. These were the last night of every month, when all the 'Fraser's,' 'Bentley's,' and other monthly periodicals, were sent out of London into the country. The day coaches would not take them. Huge bundles of damp paper, compressed together as tightly as possible, are not the lightest packages in the world, and as many of these as could possibly be loaded on to the coach had to be carried. The work on these nights, especially with heavy roads in winter, was awful.'—Harris's 'Old Coaching Days,' p. 78.



Devizes), Bristol (*viâ* Chippenham), Gloucester (*viâ* Oxford), Stroud (*viâ* Abingdon—sharing with the unlucky Worcester coach the slowest place), and South Wales (*viâ* Bristol and Gloucester). (The Bath and Bristol coaches did not stop for meals.)\*

The Devonport Mail (*viâ* Bath and Exeter) used to pass Slough (in 1837) on the down journey at 10 p.m.† (leaving Hounslow 9.12, Maidenhead 10.40), and on the up journey at 4.30 a.m. (reaching Maidenhead 3.44 and Hounslow 5.26). Most of these coaches were snowed up in 1806, and again in the memorable snow-storm which swept across England at Christmas, 1836.

A night Post-Office parcels coach (established in 1890) now runs between Coldbath Fields (London) and Oxford, both up and down coaches passing through Slough about 2 a.m.‡

CHURCHES.§—Within a five-mile radius of Upton are upwards of forty churches, exclusive of those places

\* When the railway was first opened as far as Maidenhead, the celebrated Bath passenger coach, 'Beaufort Hunt,' used to travel up and down from London to Maidenhead on a truck.

† It left London an hour earlier on Sundays.

‡ An illustration of this coach and an account of its performances and accidents—two near Slough—will be found in the pages of the *Weekly Graphic* for February 6, 1892. Three coaches and forty horses are employed in this service.

§ The churches indicated opposite in heavier type existed before 1700. Denham and Shottesbrooke churches, both of considerable interest, are beyond the five-mile radius. Wexham, though the smallest church in the neighbourhood, has paved the way for its rectors to two bishoprics. The more important churches existing in the neighbourhood in 1579 will be found indicated in Christopher Saxton's Atlas.

of worship which do not belong to the Church of England, viz. :

Taplow (rebuilt 1828)	...	...	St. Nicholas
<b>Hitcham</b>	...	...	St. Mary
<b>Burnham</b>	...	...	St. Peter
Farnham Royal	...	...	St. Mary
<b>Stoke Poges</b>	...	...	St. Giles
<b>Wexham</b>	...	...	St. Mary
Dropmore	...	...	St. Anne
Hedgerley (rebuilt 1852)	...	...	St. Mary
<b>Fulmer</b> ...	...	...	St. James
Iver Heath	...	...	St. Margaret
<b>Iver</b> (restored 1848)	...	...	St. Peter
Yiewsley ...	...	...	St. Matthew
<b>West Drayton</b>	...	...	St. Mary
<b>Colnbrook</b> (1344—rebuilt 1849)	...	...	St. Thomas
<b>Horton</b> ...	...	...	St. Michael
Harmondsworth	...	...	St. Mary
<b>Wraysbury</b>	...	...	St. Andrew
<b>Datchet</b> (rebuilt 1858)	...	...	St. Mary
Old Windsor	...	...	St. Peter
New Windsor	...	...	St. John
„	...	...	Holy Trinity
„	...	...	All Saints
„	...	...	The Saviour
„	...	...	St. Stephen

In the case of Windsor only the more accessible churches or chapels have been named. There are, too, the Queen's Private Chapel and Memorial Chapel; also several licensed but unconsecrated buildings, the Church at Old Windsor Green, the chapel of St. Mark's School, etc.

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New Windsor	...	St. Agnes
<b>Windsor Castle</b>		St. George
Clewer	... ..	St. Andrew
Windsor Forest	...	All Saints
Dedworth	... ..	All Saints
<b>Eton</b>	... ..	College
„	... ..	College (lower forms)
„ (built 1853)		St. John the Evangelist
Eton Wick	...	St. John the Baptist
<b>Boveney</b>	...	St. Mary Magdalen
<b>Dorney</b>	... ..	St. James
<b>Bray</b>	... ..	St. Michael
Egham	... ..	St. John the Baptist
<b>Langley</b>	...	St. Mary
Langley, George		
Green	... ..	Chapel of Ease
Langley, New Town		(not affixed) ? St. John

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St. Laurence's, **Upton**, built circa 1058 in stone and flint; christened after one of the patron saints of Windsor Forest; enlarged, 1250; tower raised, 1400; scene of Gray's 'Elegy'; Sir William Herschel buried below the tower, 1822; disused and spoliated, 1835; remains then rescued from the limekiln by the proper feeling of — Pocock; tower lowered in 1850; church restored, south aisle added, and building reopened 1851. At that time Mr. John Myers\* states 'a beautiful rood screen was found in the alterations to the

\* A detailed account of this church (and also of the old church at Langley) will be found in the report of the meeting

tower, fragments of which had since been made into a frame for the Commandments in the new church. He thought if the screen had been entire it would have been one of the finest in the county. Its date was about the fourteenth century. The register runs from 30th year of Henry VIII. (from the first day directed by the Act of Parliament, viz., October 23rd, 1538).

St. Mary's, too often miscalled 'the Parish Church,' built of brick, with considerable claims to ugliness, in 1835. St. Laurence's Parish Church was deprived of its name, plate, registers, bells, and many of its carved fittings, for the benefit of 'this barn-like edifice,' as it was termed by Bishop Wilberforce. Confusingly christened for a time St. Laurence's; and by inadvertence for many years all marriages solemnized in it were illegal, until a subsequent Act of Parliament was obtained. Enlarged in 1878 by an eastern half in a more perpendicular and ornate style, also in brick. Held 700 originally; the two dissimilar halves now hold nearly 1,000.

of the Bucks Archæological Society at Upton in 1891, given in the *Slough Observer* of August 8, 1891. Upton church was described by Iffley before its restoration in 1851, and at a later date by the Rev. P. W. Phipps in his valuable and interesting *Records of the Parish*.

A curious tombstone exists in Upton Churchyard (which, by the way, contains the ancient yew-tree under which Gray is believed to have written his 'Elegy'), near the north door, inscribed 'To the memory of Sarah Bramston, spinster, a woman who dared to be just in the reign of George the Second.' Ward, the Academician, for some years a resident in Upton Park, is also buried in this churchyard.

- St. Peter's, Chalvey, built in flint, 1861 ; holds 300.  
 St. Andrew's (Chapel of Union), built in brick, 1867 ;  
 holds 100.  
 Joint (Mission) Church, Salt Hill, built in brick, about  
 1889 ;  
 Auxiliary Church, Langley New Town, built in brick,  
 about 1888 ;  
 Iron Church (Stoke Gardens).

These last are out of the parish of Upton.

The original vicarage was in Sussex Lane.

The present vicarage (made into a rectory in 1885) was built in 1870.

CHAPELS are St. Joseph's, Bayliss, Congregational, Trinity Hall, Wesleyan, Primitive Methodists, Plymouth Brethren, Roman Catholic (St. Ethelbert), Iron Chapel.

Mary Russell Mitford made a pilgrimage to Upton Parish Church during the time of its neglect, and speaks of it in the following words :\* ' We visited the old church at Upton, whose ivy-mantled tower claims to be the veritable tower of the "Elegy." A very curious scene did that old church exhibit—that of an edifice not yet decayed, but abandoned to decay, an incipient ruin, such as probably might have been paralleled in the monasteries of England after the Reformation, or in the churches of France after the first Revolution. The walls were still standing, still full of monuments and monumental inscriptions: in some

\* A very similar picture of neglect is given also in Mr. Jesse's ' Favourite Haunts ' in 1846.

the gilding was yet fresh ; and one tablet, especially, had been placed there very recently, commemorating the talent and virtues of the celebrated astronomer, Sir John Herschel. But the windows were denuded of their glass, the font broken, the pews dismantled ; whilst on the tottering reading-desk one of the great prayer-books, all mouldy and damp, still lay open—last vestige of the holy services with which it once resounded. Another church has been erected, but it looked new and naked, and everybody seemed to regret the old place of worship, the roof of which was remarkable for the purity of its design.'

Mr. and Mrs. Carter Hall, in their 'Book of the Thames,' write: 'Near Windsor is the ivy-covered tower of Upton, which is very ancient, and bears traces of Norman workmanship. It is believed by many to have been the one the poet Gray had in mind while writing. It certainly accords better than that at Stoke Poges with his description ; it is—and has been for centuries—ivy mantled.'

Mr. George Measom says (in his 'History of the Great Western Railway'), 'Upton was one of Gray's early haunts. The gloomy character of the church and neighbourhood in twilight must have been well suited to the thoughts of the poet of the 'Elegy.' In the distance are the hills and woods that shadow the cottage in which Milton wrote ; the mansion in which Edmund Waller and Edmund Burke lived and died, and the little grave-yard of "the Friends," where William Penn is at rest.'

Mrs. Papendiek, in her 'Recollections of the Court

of Queen Charlotte' (vol. i., p. 300), gives an account of her visit to Dr. Herschel after his marriage :

'Not feeling inclined to take a carriage, I walked over (from Windsor) one fine afternoon in May, resting for a few minutes under the yew tree in the Upton Churchyard,\* where I put on my white gloves before going on to the house at Upton. Dr. Herschel and his bride received me warmly, and I was ushered into the well-known tent, where cake and wine were presented.'

The early history of UPTON COURT† is closely connected with that of the church. At the dissolution of the monasteries the monks of Merton were deprived of their property. The building (which possesses a notable thirteenth-century roof, with numerous windows projecting unexpectedly at different heights) has since passed through various ownerships—the families of Hungerford, Eaton, Lane, and Lascelles—and is now the property of the Earl of Harewood. Amongst the tenants of the Court have been the Nash family (for upwards of one hundred years), Mr. More, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Sala, Mr. Nelson, Sir Douglas Forsyth, the celebrated traveller in Central Asia and Administrator in India, Mrs. Drummond, and Mrs. Burton.

Mr. Myers, in describing this house,‡ says that 'formerly two of the outer doors opened upon a sort of half quadrangle. The fabric is pretty nearly full timber frame, and inside it contains some very sturdy

\* This tree is reputed to be seven hundred years old.

† Not to be confounded with that of Ufton Court, near Newbury, also a gabled house of considerable antiquity, with secret chambers, and some literary associations.

‡ See an account given in the *Slough Observer*, August 8, 1891, of the meeting of the Bucks Archæological Society at Upton.



beams. One in particular passes through two floors, and then forms a roof beam. There is one very large room, which was possibly the refectory, where the monks took their meals. In this room is a large chimney, and connected with it there is a secret room, the existence of which can be plainly discovered



by tapping the walls. In the room now used as a drawing-room are two (considerable) recesses, which no doubt were formerly cells of the monks. One pond still existed in the garden, and there was evidence of another carp pond. There were several interesting and valuable examples of foreign glass in the building, principally Dutch.

In the course of some casual reminiscences in one of the weekly journals, Mr. George Augustus Sala gives incidentally a picture of the building :

‘I resided five-and-twenty years ago in a dear old house called Upton Court—a weird and ancient mansion, with high-pitched thatched roof and dormer windows, a very antique manor-house of the Tudor period,\* I should say, with a lake in front,† and a garden all run to exquisitely picturesque wildness, and a rosery with eighteen varieties of roses, and a Ghost, who, in consequence of her services in frightening servant-maids out of their wits, had been retained on the establishment for upwards of three hundred years. This apparition—I forget whether she carried her head under one arm or not, but the servants were very particular in declaring that she wore a white night-gown richly frilled, with a large stain of blood on the left breast—always walked on Friday night. They could hear her, the domestics declared, crunching the gravel of the carriage-drive as she paced round the house ; but do such impalpable entities as ghosts wear boots? and if they are bootless, how can they crunch the gravel? My inward belief has always been that the ghost of Upton Court was really the gipsies, who were very fond of the neighbourhood of Slough, and who were partial to stealing the fire-wood which was stored in my backyard.’‡

\* The date over the entrance door is 1383.

† This lake was filled up by Sir Douglas Forsyth, about 1880, and replaced by a lawn.

‡ In the *Illustrated London News*, about 1886.

Writing about 1862, Sala also says :\*

‘How often on calm summer evenings, from the garden of my old house at Upton, have I looked between the two tall elms, across the busy farmyard, athwart the fat meadows with their solemn cows, along the steaming meads of Datchet, across the bright white Thames, and watched the distant vision of Windsor’s castled steep—its shadows bluer than David Roberts ever painted the dome of St. Peter’s towering in the far-off Campagna!—and I have seen the Round Tower all at once turn fiery red with the last rays of the expiring sun. Then the shadows of night have come down upon it, down, down, down, and then in tower after tower, and along the façade of the terrace, the windows have been lit up, and from the number of the illumined casements I have speculated upon the brave doings and grand company in the Castle.’

Portion of the building of Upton Court, a wing on the east side, was pulled down about 1800. There is (as already mentioned) a secret chamber, or priest’s hiding-place, in connection with one of the fireplaces, and ventilated by a false flue upwards. A finely carved oak entrance-gate (on the Datchet Road) of considerable antiquity, and modelled on very beautiful lines, remained until 1889.

Merton Grange, adjacent to the churchyard, was

\* In the *Temple Bar Magazine*, vol. xi., p. 194. It is curious that three editors of *Temple Bar* in succession, including the present one, should have resided at Slough, or in its immediate neighbourhood—Mr. Edmund Yates, one of the earlier editors, also occupying a house in the vicinity.

also an ancient building, but has been so modernized as to have lost its historic interest.

Springfield House was built on the site of the Old Vicarage.

The Upton Park Estate, which contains twenty-nine houses and two lodges, was laid out and built in 1842. The grounds were laid out by Sir Joseph Paxton.\* A portion of the Central (Victoria) Terrace was burnt down in ? 1854. The estate was for many years in Chancery, and has undergone of late many changes in ownership.

One of the oldest buildings in Upton is the Red Cow public-house, † and nearly opposite is a house of some age.

The pound at Upton was situated at the end of Sussex Lane, nearest Upton Old Church, on the east side of the road.

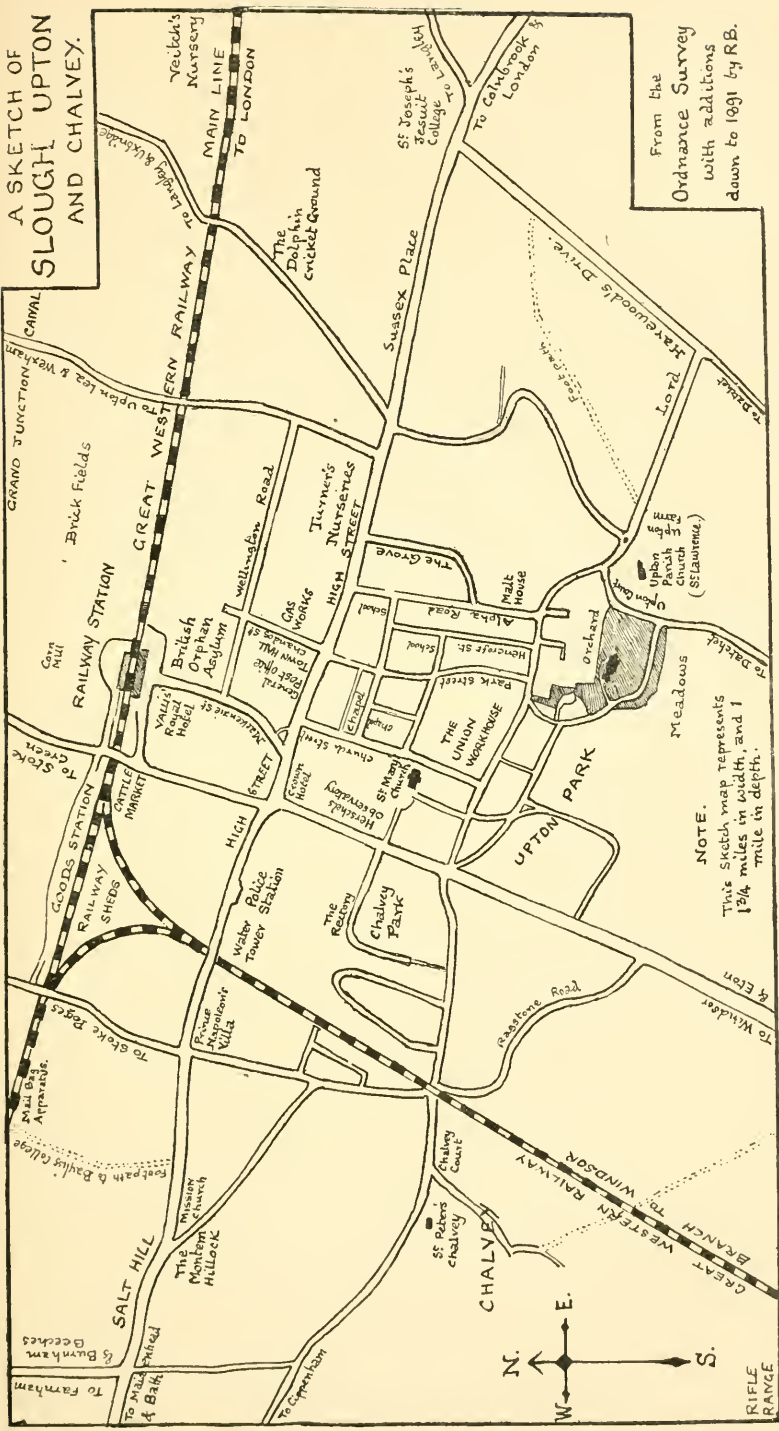
The workhouse (the 'union' of 19 parishes) was built in 1835-36, being one of the first erected under the 'New Poor Law Act.' It has accommodation for about 450 persons. The chapel was added thirty-one years later. A curfew bell is rung every evening at eight.

Not much is known of the early days of SLOUGH. In the eighteenth century an attempt was made to cultivate mulberries for silk, and being also within three or four hours' journey from the metropolis, many

\* In Menzies' 'Forest Trees and Woodland Scenery,' at page 22, there is a reproduction in chromolithography of a fine 'Poplar at Upton, near Windsor,' one of the trees in the ornamental grounds of Upton Park.

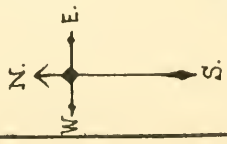
† The Purser family, who formerly inhabited it, possess ancient title-deeds extending back to the period of Queen Elizabeth.

A SKETCH OF  
SLOUGH UPTON  
AND CHALVEY.



From the  
Ordnance Survey  
with additions  
down to 1891 by R.B.

NOTE.  
This sketch map represents  
1/4 miles in width, and 1  
mile in depth.



RIFLE  
RANGE





patients were sent there in preference to the more fatiguing distances of Tunbridge and Bath. In the nineteenth century the principal products of Slough have been Bricks, Nursery plants and shrubs, Embrocation, Railway carriage-lamps, and Watercresses.

Gas was introduced into use in Slough in 1847.

The main street originally (near the Crown Hotel) had trees down the middle, which gave it a picturesque appearance.\*

The town hall was erected in 1887.

The Volunteer Fire Brigade was initiated by the late Mr. L. Æ. Shadwell in 1873.

The First Bucks Rifle Volunteers have their headquarters at Slough.

In a fire in the High Street in May, 1889, Elizabeth Cottage, in which Charles Dickens lodged for a time, and an adjoining building, occupied at the early part of the century by the great astronomer, Miss Herschel, were burnt down.

A large body of Jesuits† arrived at Slough on their expulsion from France, and remained at Aldin House (and chapel, first occupied for the purposes of

\* Some allusions to Slough will be found in Montagu Williams's 'Reminiscences'; in Dr. Gretton's 'Memory's Harkback'; in Mr. Hissey's 'A Drive through England,' and 'Across England in a Dog-Cart'; and in the autobiographies of Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft (one volume edition, p. 178).

† The Jesuits (a neighbour writes) are called by our villagers at George Green 'the *Jebusites*.' I remember John Pond, a well-known character at Aldin House in John Hawtrey's time, saying, in reply to my enquiry who had taken the house: 'They do tell me, sir, as how they be them 'ere French-Jew-Puseyites!'—a delightful combination.

Rev. John Hawtrey's School), christened for the nonce 'St. Joseph's,' until 1890.

Slough Cattle Market was re-established in 1850. During the first year the average amount of weekly sales was only £270. In ten years' time it was nearly double, about £520 a week. In another decade it rose to about £1,000 a week. In another ten years (1882) it rose to over £2,000 a week, or say £100,000 a year; and a year or two ago a corn-market was commenced on the same spot.

## PART II.

### The Immediate Neighbourhood.

AT the west end of Slough\* is a detached villa, recently considerably enlarged by its present occupier, Mrs. Venables, in which Prince Lucien Buonaparte resided for a time,† and rather more than a quarter of a mile northward up the Stoke Road lies Bayliss House,‡ once the residence of Lords Godolphin and Chesterfield, and now for over sixty years St. James's Catholic Academy. A fine avenue leads up to the square red-brick building, which has on two sides of it carp and other ponds.

Another mile along the same road brings to notice Stoke Park,§ once occupied by Sir Christopher Hatton,

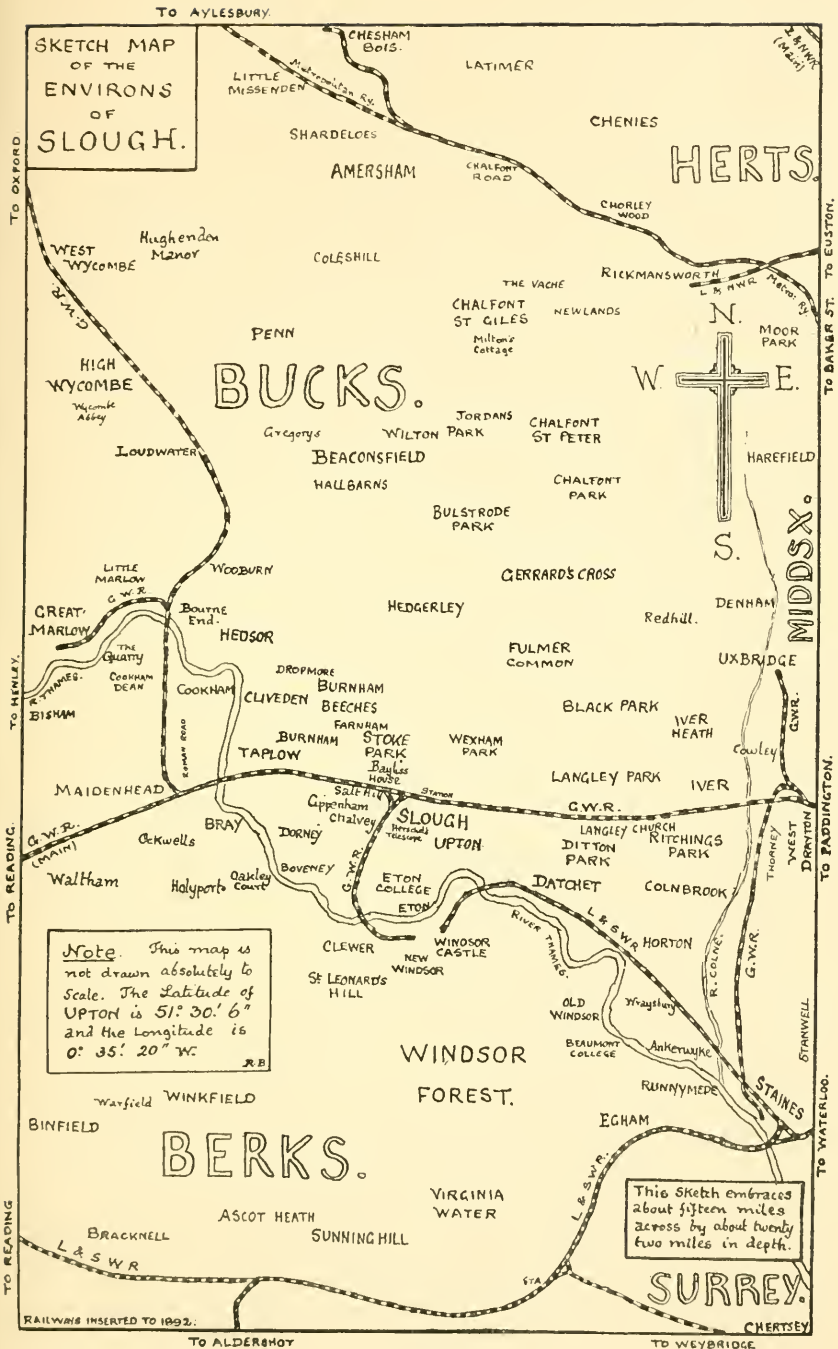
\* And in the Parish of Stoke.

† Lucien Buonaparte also occupied a house in Chalvey Park for some months. (Notice, too, page 60.)

‡ Built in 1695.

§ For some account of Stoke Park and Church, refer to an article in the *Universal Review* for May, 1889. See also Gray's poem 'A Long Story,' published in 1753, with some illustrations by Richard Bentley, son of the celebrated critic.

SKETCH MAP  
OF THE  
ENVIRONS  
OF  
SLOUGH.



Note. This map is not drawn absolutely to scale. The Latitude of UPTON is 51° 30' 6" and the Longitude is 0° 35' 20" W.

This sketch embraces about fifteen miles across by about twenty two miles in depth.

TO OXFORD  
TO HEWLEY.  
TO READING  
TO READING

TO BAKER ST. TO EUSTON.  
TO RADDINGTON.  
TO WATERLOO.

TO AYLESBURY.

TO ALDERSHOT

TO WYBRIDGE

RAILWAYS INSERTED TO 1892.

CHELTSEY



and graced occasionally by the presence of Queen Elizabeth. It then passed to another and celebrated subject of the great Tudor Queen, the learned Sir Edward Coke, whose wife abandoned him. On one occasion, on a false report of his death, she posted down as far as Colnbrook (it is recorded in Disraeli's 'Curiosities of Literature') to take possession of the mansion, and met one of the physicians there who was returning to town with the mortifying news of his recovery. In August, 1647, Charles I. was detained here a prisoner by his subjects.

Nearly the whole house was pulled down by Thomas Penn (son of the founder of Pennsylvania), in 1789, when the present building was erected from the designs of Wyatt. Sir Robert Gayer, who occupied Stoke Park for a time, was an ardent worshipper of the Stuarts, and it is related that Stoke House, having then been lately rebuilt with great magnificence, was an object of much curiosity and attraction. Amongst others, William III. went thither to see it, but his Majesty's arrival threw the gouty old knight into a violent passion, and he swore that he would never permit the monarch to come under his roof. 'He has got possession of another man's house already. He is a usurper. Tell him to go back.' In vain Lady Gayer fell upon her knees and entreated Sir Robert to suffer the King (who was all this time waiting in his coach at the door) to see the house. Sir Robert declared that an Englishman's house was his castle, and he would never permit such a King to come within its walls.\*

\* Lipscomb's 'History of Buckinghamshire,' vol. i., p. 554.

A somewhat similar story is told in recent times of a farmer in the neighbourhood of Slough forbidding the Prince Consort to cross his land while hunting.

Sir Edwin Landseer was frequently at Stoke Park during Mr. Coleman's ownership, and painted there his picture of the 'Running Deer,' which subsequently fetched £5,250, and formed the model from which it is said the Wimbledon (or Bisley) target of the same name is taken.

In Greville's memoirs an account is given of Talleyrand's visit to Stoke, in company with the Lievens, in George IV.'s time, during Lord Taunton's residence there.

In the churchyard of Stoke Poges Thomas Gray the poet, the author of the 'Elegy' written in Upton Churchyard, is buried. One of the most conspicuous evidences of his imaginative power will, however, be found in a letter from him to Horace Walpole (in 1737), in which he describes the neighbourhood of Stoke in terms much at variance with the Ordnance Survey :

'I have at the distance of half a mile through a green lane, a forest (the vulgar call it a common) all my own, for I spy no living thing but myself. It is a little chaos of mountains and precipices—mountains, it is true, that do not ascend much above the clouds, nor are the declivities quite so amazing as Dover Cliff.'

Stoke Place was built by Field-Marshal Howard.

Wexham Park was formerly owned by the Bent family, and then by Mr. Joseph Grote, the banker, a brother of the historian.



Not far from Stoke is 'History Hut,' built by Grote, the historian of Greece, out of the profits of the work. Mrs. Grote writes, 'I caused a small Elizabethan house to be built in Popple's Park, also a range of farm buildings and a labourer's cottage.' The house the Grotes had previously occupied was the East Burnham Cottage to which Richard Brinsley Sheridan brought his charming bride, Miss Linley, after their furtive flight to Paris. The house was enlarged during Mr. Grote's occupation of it.

Passing further onward by Burnham Beeches,\* pollarded, tradition says, by the troops of Cromwell (!), Dropmore is approached, famous for its celebrated gardens and picturesque lodges. Hedsor lies to the left and Bulstrode to the right. Bulstrode Park is an outlying portion of the parish of Upton, and some of the family brasses are inset in the wall of the old parish church there. Bulstrode has nearly always been associated with legal lore. No less than three generations of Bulstrodes in succession contributed to the legal records of this country, and they were succeeded by the Lord Chancellor Jeffreys, who rebuilt the house in *red* brick in 1686—hence from the feeling in which he was held the term was applied to it of 'the blood-

\* Gray, writing to Horace Walpole, in 1737, describes them as being just as venerable as they appear to us now. The remains of a very ancient entrenchment exist here.

'Over many a dell and upland walk,  
Their sylvan beauty reaches.  
Of Birnam Wood let Scotland boast,  
While we've our Burnham Beeches.'

*Luttrell.*

stained bricks of Bulstrode.' William III. frequently visited Bulstrode when it was in the possession of the Earl of Portland, and a glimpse of life there during the latter part of the last century will be found in the Memoirs of Mrs. Delany and of Mrs. Montagu.

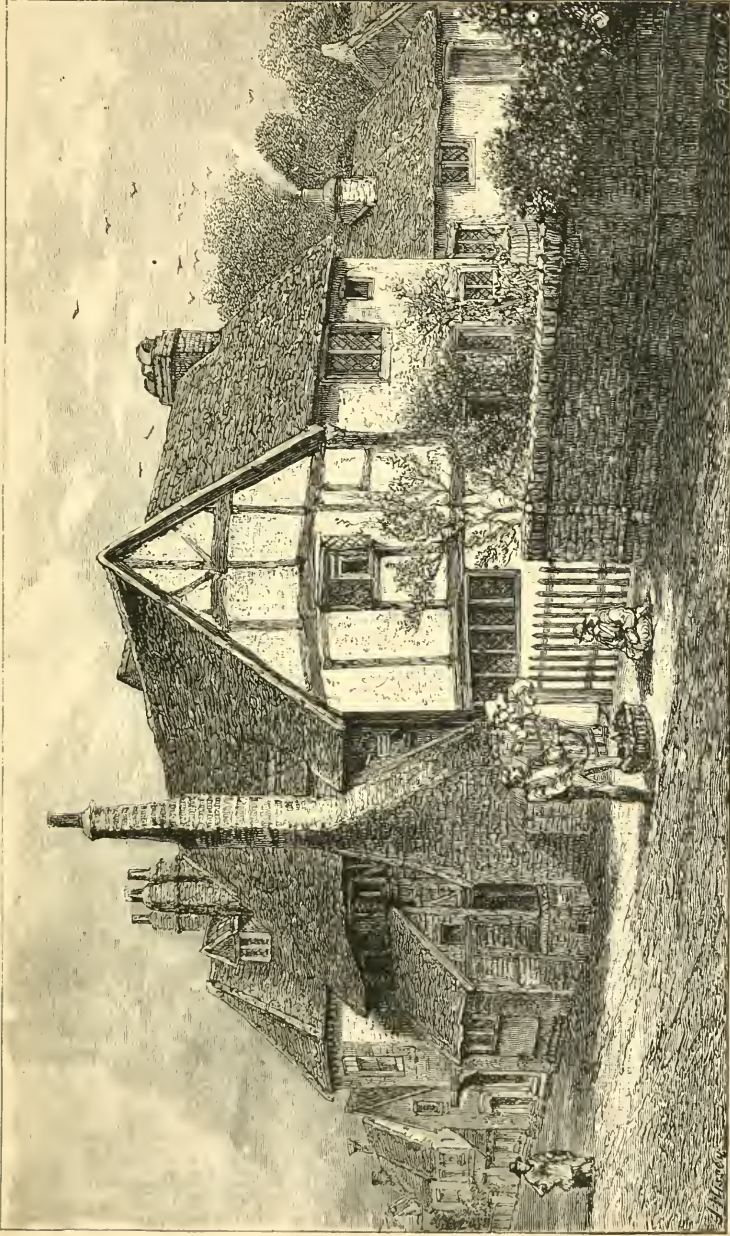
In Hedgerley church is a singularly illustrated table of the Decalogue. A little to the north-west of Hedgerley and Bulstrode is Beaconsfield, the birth and burial-place of Waller. His residence at Hall Barn is still standing. Gregories, the residence of Burke, was accidentally destroyed by fire in 1813. Burke and his family are interred in Beaconsfield churchyard.

Not far distant is the quaint burial-place of the Quakers, standing apart from any town or village, at Jordans, where a meeting is held once a year.

Pursuing this road further, Chalfont St. Giles is reached, much visited by Americans and English to inspect the cottage in which Milton resided when he wrote 'Paradise Lost,' and an account of whose arrival there is given in the 'Life of Thomas Elwood, the Quaker.'\*

Hughenden, the seat of Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield; Latimers, the ancient seat of the Cavendishes, and Chenies, that of the Russells, are almost beyond a convenient drive from Slough, as is also Agmondesham,

\* The writer is indebted to the kindness of Mr. Hissey for the permission to use the sketch of Milton's cottage on the opposite page. It is interesting to observe the variation between the sketch made by Mr. Hissey in 1891 and those which appear in Dr. Lipscomb's History, and in Wm. Howitt's 'Homes of the Poets,' published in 1847. A projecting portion of the Cottage has apparently been removed in later years, and an outbuilding added.



MILTON'S COTTAGE AT CHALFONT.



now Amersham, where many martyrs were cruelly burnt in 1521.\*

On the south-west side of Slough we come first to Chalvey, 'a very dusty and unhappy-looking village, but its brook, which flows to the Thames through the playing-fields, bears the repute of producing excellent eye-water: Queen Anne and Queen Charlotte used to have the water brought up to Windsor in buckets.'†

Cippenham lies a little further on the same road, where are the remains of an ancient Danish camp, discoverable now only by the assistance of the Ordnance map. Jacob Bryant, the antiquarian and mythologist (and a schoolfellow of Gray), resided at Cippenham.‡

Cippenham was in early days a place of considerable importance, and was a royal residence of the Mercian Kings, and of the early monarchs of the Norman line, who frequently came here by river.§ On one occasion

\* 'Now it is no small praise to Buckinghamshire that, being one of the lesser counties of England, it had more martyrs and confessors in it, before the time of Luther, than all the kingdom besides.'—Fuller's 'Church History,' Book V., Section i., p. 1.

† Mortimer Collins's 'Pen Sketches by a Vanished Hand,' vol. i., p. 116. There is a very pretty sketch of this well to be found in Tighe's and Davis's 'Annals of Windsor,' p. 327, folio edition.

‡ 'The King (George III.) and Queen (Charlotte) were both frequent visitors at Cypenham, and rejoiced in him—the King sometimes came alone and passed hours with him.'—Nichols's 'Literary Anecdotes,' vol. viii., p. 531. See also Cole's MSS., November 26, 1774.

§ Traffic in these parts underwent three changes—the River, the Road, and the Rail.



seven watermen were paid a penny apiece for bringing the King (Edward II.) to Cyppenham from Shene.

There is now no remains of the chapel at Cyppenham, which was granted by Edward III. to the Abbess of Burnham.

In later years the stream was diverted, and Cyppenham Park broken up.

Brightwell Court, once the seat of Charles Boyle, Earl of Orrery, was close by.\*

Burnham Abbey is the site of a nunnery, built in 1228 by Richard, brother of Henry III.

The church at Burnham, of which Bishop Davies, one of the translators of the Bible, and the Rev. William Cole, the antiquarian, were vicars, had a curious and picturesque tower, which was removed in December, 1891. Bishop Aldrich, a friend and correspondent of Erasmus, was also born at Burnham (which, by the way, until the opening of the newer bridge at Maidenhead, lay on the old Bath road.) The adjacent village of Farnham Royal† has a roofed well in the centre.

Further west at Thames-side are Bray, ever associated with ecclesiastical constancy, Taplow, and

\* See Sheahan's 'History of Bucks,' p. 817, and Lipscomb's 'History of Buckinghamshire,' vol. iii., pp. 210, 211.

† 'The owner of this manor formerly held it by the service of fitting the king's right hand with a glove on the coronation day, and supporting his left arm while he held the sceptre.'—*Knight*, p. 8. [In Farnham Royal Churchyard is a curious monument (erected by himself) to Dodd, 'The Golden Dustman,' the original, I have heard, from which the character of 'Boffin' was drawn by Dickens.—T. A. N.]



Maidenhead. Near the latter is an historic building, described by Mary Russell Mitford in her 'Recollections':

'Ockwells—a curious and beautiful specimen of domestic architecture in the days before the Tudors. Strange it seems to me that no one has exactly imitated that graceful front, with its steep roof terminated on either side by two projecting gables, the inner one lower than the other, adorned with oak-carving, regular and delicate as that on an ivory fan. The porch has equal elegance. One almost expects to see some baronial hawking-party issue from its recesses. The great hall, although its grand open roof has been barbarously closed up, still retains its fine proportions, its daïs, its music-gallery, and the long range of windows, still adorned with the mottoes and escutcheons of the Norreys [? Marreys], their kindred and allies. It has long been used as a farm-house; and one marvels that the painted windows should have remained uninjured through four centuries of neglect and change.'

'The most striking feature of the exterior is the extraordinarily fine foliated barge-boards, exquisite and practically unique, in the gables. Inside, the trail of the barbarian is over all—the wanton hand of the horny-handed son of toil, who, until comparatively recently, inhabited this ancient palace of kings. The house, with its noble dining-room, with a gigantic chimney-corner, the fine dog-stove and tiled hearth, the carved oak mantel and overmantel, the magnificent oak staircase, with its picturesque screen at the base

(later than the rest of the house, and probably Jacobean), the withdrawing-room, whence through a 'squint' the proceedings in the hall could be watched, and the ancient porch, with its herring-bone brickwork and grotesque carved oak spandrels, has been too often described to need further notice. The beautiful painted glass windows, which once shed their parti-coloured light upon the floor of the fine old banqueting hall, were removed some fifteen years ago. The old open timber roof is now hidden by a flat plaster ceiling.\*

Ockwells, † once Ockholt, was built in 1466-67 by the Marreys family. Portion was destroyed (by the accidental carelessness of a beggar in lighting his pipe) by fire in 1778. The removal of the valuable stained glass by Mr. Grenfell to Taplow Court led to a lawsuit in 1889.

Within a drive of Taplow, says Miss Mitford, is 'Lady Place, ‡ where, in demolishing the house, care had been taken to preserve the vaults in which the great Whig leaders wrote the famous letter to William of Orange, which drove James II. from his throne.

\* *Pall Mall Gazette*, May 7, 1889.

† See Lysons, also Nash's 'Mansions,' and many other works, for a description of this ancient building. There were not many moated houses in this part of Buckinghamshire—perhaps the most noticeable instances near Slough are Bayliss House, and Ditton. Wexham Court also is moated, and has some (or one) very old wooden buildings. Parlaunt Park, too, hard by Richings, is a moated farm of great antiquity.

‡ 'A monastery founded,' says Miss Alice Jones, 'by Queen Emma, the mother of Alfred the Great, and some of the leaden sheets, with the Anglo-Saxon charters inscribed upon them, may be seen on the walls of the inner quadrangle. Here, too, the "Rye

A sort of underground ruin, and gloomy enough the patriots must have found it on that memorable occasion; the tombs of the monks under their feet, the rugged walls around them, and no ray of light except the lanterns brought with them, or the torches they lit. An impressive picture might be made, Lord Somers in the foreground, and the other Whig statesmen around. A Latin inscription records a visit made by George III. to the vaults.'

On the north side of the Thames is Cliefden, a summer residence of Frederick, Prince of Wales, and the scene of the famous duel between the Duke of Buckingham, satirized by Pope and Dryden, and the Earl of Shrewsbury, whose countess, disguised as a page, held the horse of her victorious paramour.

At Taplow many Danish antiquities have been unearthed, vestiges of the Vikings on their expeditions up the Thames to the siege of Reading.\*

Some reference to Maidenhead is also made on pp. 25, 64-66, and 67. In July, 1647, Charles I. was allowed to see his children at the Greyhound at Maidenhead for perhaps the last time.† Further west

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House Plot," against Charles II., which brought Lord Russell and Algernon Sydney to the block, was first planned.'

Other ancient monastic or conventual buildings near Slough were those at Upton, Ankerwyke, Shottesbrooke, Burnham Abbey, etc. For a fuller list see Sheahan's 'History of Bucks,' p. 35.

\* See also *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. viii., for details of the discovery of a large number of Roman coins during the making of the railway here.

† Clarendon's 'History of the Rebellion,' iii., 94.

is Marlow, once the site of the East India College, and identified with Shelley. Mr. Ashby Sterry says:

‘ Here Shelley dreamed, and thought, and wrote,  
And wandered o’er the leas,  
And sung and drifted in his boat  
Beneath the Bisham trees.’

On the east side of Slough is the spreading parish of Langley, otherwise Langley Marish (which may take its name from the Marreys family, once important landholders in the neighbourhood, and who resided in the historic halls of Ockwells, or possibly from the name of its church, St. Mary’s), which comprises:

Horsemoor Green.	Langley Broom.
Middle Green.	George Green.
	Sawyer’s Green.

The old church\* is picturesquely situated, has a melodious peal of bells, and includes in its building an ancient library, the gift of Sir John Kederminster, containing theological works published between 15 and 1638, sometimes consulted by Milton.† The almshouses adjoining the churchyard make a pretty picture in summer when their small gardens are in flower.

\* The glass in the parish church at Langley is ancient, and bears the arms of Edward III., and the lions of Egypt. An account of the church, and more especially of its ancient library, will be found in a paper by Charles Knight in *Once a Week* for July, 1859.

† [Milton, no doubt, used the Langley Church Library when living at Horton. It was said some few years ago that there were copies of his earlier works there, enriched with his MS. notes. Mark Pattison wrote to me inquiring as to these, but I satisfied myself that there were no such books.—T. A. N.]

[There are one or two curious tombstones in Langley churchyard—*e.g.*, to the memory of one Gosling, ‘Yeoman Pricker to George III.’ greatly admired for his many noble acts in the Royal Hunt; an allusion probably to the ease and dexterity with which Gosling broke down the farmers’ gates and fences for the convenience of his royal master. There is also a stone, just outside the chancel door, to the memory of the Count de Lude, a Huguenot refugee, who, curiously enough, became vicar of St. Mary’s. A more recent vicar of Langley was the Rev. Dalton Scoones, a graceful writer and translator.—T. A. N.]

Near Langley Church are the remains of trenches said to have been made at the time of the Civil War.

The house at Langley Park was built by the second Duke of Marlborough, who planted also Black Park, in close proximity, so called from its firs.

A little to the east of Langley lies Ritchings Park, originally known as Percy Lodge, and the site of the chapel to St. Laurence, one of the tutelary saints of Windsor Forest.

‘By Bathurst planted first these shades arose,  
Prior and Pope have sung beneath these boughs;  
Here Addison his moral theme pursued,  
And social Gay has cheered the solitude.’

Swift, Congreve, Shenstone, Thomson, and others, were frequent visitors at Ritchings, and Sir Walter Scott was sometimes a guest.\*

\* ‘At Ritchings Lord Bathurst, the pleasant, kindly Mæcenas of the last century, loved to entertain the literary celebrities of his time. Round his table Addison, Steele, Pope, Prior, and Swift

Near Ritchings is Parlaunt Park, in former days of some importance. A stained window, now in Hedsor Church, is said to be taken from Parlaunt.

‘We found Parlem (or Parlaunt) Park about a mile from Colnbrook,’ says Mr. Jesse, ‘just as Lady Hertford had described it (in 1740).’\* There was the large moat round it, with the finest Abele poplars I have ever seen; trees on which rooks or herons might build their nests with safety. The house has indeed a venerable appearance, and certainly from its antiquity Queen Elizabeth might have been nursed in it, as the tradition is. The upper story projects considerably, being supported by pillars, and having a covered way the length of the house, into which the windows of the sitting-room look.†

On the south side of Langley is Ditton Park, the

constantly gathered. An old bench in the grounds used to be covered with the autographs of these immortals—post-prandial mementoes of a pleasant jaunt from town. Here, too, the great Congreve wrote his name.’

Ritchings passed from Lord Bathurst’s hands to those of the Earl of Hertford, in 1739, whose wife (afterwards Duchess of Somerset) continued the literary traditions of the place. She was the Eusebia of Dr. Watts, and the Cleora of Mrs. Rowe, and a friend of Thomson, the author of ‘The Seasons.’—W. Outram Tristram’s ‘Coaching Days and Coaching Ways.’

\* ‘Letters between the Countess of Hertford and the Countess of Pomfret,’ second edition, 1806, vol. iii., p. 128.

† ‘Favourite Haunts and Rural Studies,’ by Edward Jesse, edition of 1847, p. 17. Mr. Jesse resided for many years in Upton Park, and his book contains illustrations of Upton Old Church (before the alteration to the tower), Ockwells, and other places in the vicinity.



mansion originally erected by Sir Ralph Winwood, Secretary of State to James I., but destroyed by fire in 1812,\* and subsequently rebuilt.

At Horton, in the vicinity, Milton resided with his father, at the Manor House. His mother was buried in the chancel of the church in 1637. While at Horton Milton wrote 'Lycidas,' 'Comus,' the sonnet 'To the Nightingale,' and probably 'L'Allegro' and 'Il Penseroso.'

Colnbrook has already been referred to (at p. 25), and another hostelry there has claims of historic interest. The Princess Elizabeth, when being conveyed a prisoner from Woodstock to Hampton Court, slept there, at the George Inn. The chapel, part of the present church, was built by Edward III. Colnbrook, like Uxbridge, and many other open towns, was 'occupied' during the Civil Wars, and it also has a literary interest, being referred to in one of Richardson's novels.

At West Drayton, a picturesque and characteristic village, is the house once occupied by the great Protector, Cromwell, and to which tradition states his body was secretly conveyed to avoid being dishonoured by the courtiers of Charles II. The church, which can only be approached in one direction, has an interesting tower (which is visible from the railway).

\* The ravages of fire in this neighbourhood have been very great, witness Ockwells, 1778; Cliefden, 1795, and again in 1849; Ritchings, 1788; Ditton, 1812; Gregories, 1813; Upton Park, 1854; Botham's large hotel, 'The (Old) Windmill,' at Salt Hill, 1879, and the Prince of Wales's Tower at Windsor Castle, 1853.

At Cowley is buried Dr. Dodd, author of 'Lectures on Death,' who was executed for forgery in 1777.

The rooms in the Crown Inn at Uxbridge still exist, in which negotiations were carried on in 1645 between Charles I. and the Parliamentary Commissioners.

A little to the north is Swankley Park, once occupied by Sir James Harrington, the author of 'Oceana.'

To the west of Uxbridge is Iver, in whose church is a memorial to Ralph Aubrey, 'cheyffe of the kitchen to Prince Arthur.'\*

Some way to the north of Iver (in early days spelt 'Evre' and also 'Eureham') is Denham. At Denham Court Charles II. was concealed for a time by the help of Lady Bowyer, and here Dryden translated part of Virgil.

It was also a country retreat of Sir Humphrey Davy, and was visited frequently by Captain Cook, the explorer. Lucien and Joseph Buonaparte resided here for a time in 1836.†

Space will not permit more than passing reference to Windsor, at one time the county town of Berkshire—in the hundred of Ripplesmere—or to the castle existing in Edward the Confessor's time, rebuilt by William the Conqueror, and enlarged to nearly its present limits by Edward III. (with the help of the ransom of the kings of France and Scotland). William of Wykeham and Chaucer were employed here. Cardinal Wolsey built his tomb at Windsor (used afterwards for Lord

\* Measom's 'History of Great Western Railway,' p. 12. Which Prince Arthur is not stated.

† Murray's 'Handbook for Bucks,' p. 101.

Nelson in St. Paul's). John, King of France; David, King of Scotland; James I., King of Scotland; Charles I., King of England; the Earl of Surrey, and others, were prisoners here at different times. Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer were also detained for a short time at Windsor. Shakespeare was at Windsor, and Miss Burney's 'Memoirs' were written there.

Swift says: 'Windsor is a delicious situation, but the town is scoundrel.' Pepys remarks of the view towards Slough: 'But Lord! the prospect that is in the balcony at the Queen's Lodgings—and the Terrace—and Walk are strange things to consider; being the best in the world, sure!' Evelyn also speaks of the same: 'The Terrace towards Eton, with the Park, meandering Thames, and sweete meadows, yield one of the most delightful prospects in the world.' In later years Edward Fitzgerald writes: 'The view from the Terrace at Windsor is the noblest I know of.' It was when in the library overlooking this view that the news was brought to Queen Anne of the great victory at Blenheim.

'Our sovereigns have changed their other places of residence time after time, and have in turn occupied many different palaces, but none of them ever neglected the great mediæval fortress by the Thames. That "proud keep, girt with its double belt of kindred and coeval towers\*"—"that awful structure overseeing and guarding the subjected land," which inspired Burke when he penned the most magnificent of all the prose

\* From which portions of twelve counties are visible on a fine day—Kent, Essex, Sussex, and Wilts being the most distant.

poems which adorn his works, preserves in its walls and turrets the deeds and fortunes of our ancient kings.\*

De Quincey relates in his 'Confessions of an English Opium Eater,' how on one occasion, when intending to travel to Eton, he was carried on, ill and tired, in the (night) Bristol mail, 'some seven miles west of Salt Hill,' where he was deposited about 11 at night. He struggled back on foot, and turned down the road from Slough to Windsor as he heard a clock in one of the cottages adjacent strike 4 a.m. Overcome with fatigue, he sank asleep by the roadside on the way to Eton, and awoke an hour afterwards to find a most rascally-looking man standing over him, and the recollections of a murder recently committed in the neighbourhood flashed vividly across his memory.

De Quincey was preceded upon the same stretch of country by another pedestrian and man of letters. 'Walpole and Gray, during their travels in Italy, had quarrelled at Reggio and parted. Walpole, on his return to England, went to live at Windsor, and from thence sent a letter to Gray at Stoke, expressing a wish to see him and be reconciled. Gray walked over the two miles of enchanting country between Stoke and Windsor, passing through the playing-fields of Eton, and subsequently embodied his wistful reflections in the polished verses of the "Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College." '†

Eton is chiefly noticeable for the 'College of the Blessed Marie of Etone besyde Wyndesore,' founded

\* The *Times* newspaper, 1888.

† Herbert Bindley, in the *Universal Review*, vol. iv., No. 13.

by Henry VI. in 1440, and linked by him to King's College, Cambridge, founded in 1443. So many works are extant touching on the history of Eton, that it would be impertinent to state anything further here, unless, perhaps, that a curious account of Sir William Outred, the mathematician, appears in Lipscomb's 'History of Buckinghamshire.\*

Eton College had formerly the power of proving wills and of granting administration.

The well-known lines of Gray have been parodied by Mr. Stephen, in the stanzas beginning :†

'Ye bigot spires, ye Tory towers  
That crown the watery lea,  
Where grateful science still adores  
The aristocrace,' etc.

Any mention of Windsor would be incomplete without some reference to that eccentric knight, Sir John Dineley. Some account of him, and of his extraordinary proposals of marriage by advertisement and made in person, will be found in the 'Dictionary of National Biography,' vol. xv.

It was in the immediate neighbourhood of Windsor that the conqueror of Scotland—the 'butcher' Duke of Cumberland—and the great Governor of Bengal—Warren Hastings—resided. The building occupied by them at Old Windsor now forms part of the Roman Catholic College at Beau Mont Park. The conqueror of India, the hero of Arcot and of Plassy—Clive—resided at Claremont, where he built the

\* Vol. iv., pp. 494, 495.

† 'Lapsus Calami,' third edition, p. 22.

present house on the site of Vanbrugh's—'the great wicked lord, it was whispered, ordered the walls to be made so thick to keep out the devil'; and the great Earl of Chatham 'for a season' at St. Leonard's Hill.

At Old Windsor, Mary—better known as Perdita—Robinson is buried. On the other side of Windsor, nearer to Maidenhead, Nell Gwynne had a residence at Philberds, now taken down.

The son of the poet Wordsworth resided for some time at Willowbrook, between Eton and Slough.

Christopher Barker, Queen Elizabeth's printer, lived at Datchet, and Jacob Tonson had a residence at Water Oakley, near Maidenhead. In more recent times Charles Knight, the publisher, resided at Windsor, and Mr. George Smith at Slough, and Mr. George Bentley now lives at Upton.

The River Thames, which has its source near Cirencester, passes Slough at a distance of a mile and three-quarters on the south, approaching nearest to the town by a horseshoe curve between Datchet and Windsor. Roughly speaking, it separates the counties of Bucks and Berks, but Berkshire has a *pied à terre* on the north side of Windsor Bridge, owning the first half of a house in Eton, and a little lower down the river Buckinghamshire in turn steps across to the southern bank, and claims a small plot of ground in one of the curves of the river.

Windsor Town Bridge is by river 43 miles from London Bridge and 67 from Oxford. The first six locks east of Windsor Lock are Old Windsor, Bell Weir, Penton Hook, Chertsey, Shepperton, and



Sunbury. The first five west of Windsor Lock are Boveney, Bray, Boulter's Lock, Cookham, and Marlow. Steamers run in summer occasionally as high as Oxford.

The swans on the Thames belong to the Crown or to the Vintners' or Dyers' Companies. Eton College had at one time the right by charter, but when it expired, the governing body did not apply for a renewal.

It was ascertained some years ago by the engineers, when remodelling the drainage of Windsor Castle, that in the gravel-beds which lie on either side of the Thames, more than a mile from the banks, in certain levels near Windsor there is a slow but steady current of water passing parallel to the external river, and moving at the rate of about half a mile per diem.\*

The principal floods on the Thames in recent years have occurred in 1774 (the highest water-mark recorded), January 1809, 1822, 1826 or 1827, 1852, 1861 (?), 1875-77, and 1891. It should be borne in mind that in 1774, also, the adjacent lands being less drained than they now are, the river valley would be less subject to the sudden influx of large bodies of water. Since the floods of 1875-77, greater care has also been exercised in reporting the head of water coming from above, and in lowering the river beforehand, at the locks.

The greatest rains which have fallen at one time in this district were those of September 1, 1768, and July 17, 1890.

\* See p. 11.

The rainfall at Upton (5-inch gauge) for the last eighteen years has been :\*

	INCHES.		INCHES.
1874 . . .	19·700†	1883 . . .	24·630
1875 . . .	26·690	1884 . . .	20·650
1876 . . .	28·565	1885 . . .	28·138
1877 . . .	28·170	1886 . . .	28·455
1878 . . .	28·215	1887 . . .	20·240
1879 . . .	35·255	1888 . . .	24·642
1880 . . .	33·490	1889 . . .	20·610
1881 . . .	29·350	1890 . . .	19·495†
1882 . . .	28·640	1891 . . .	24·920†

The greatest snowfall of late years occurred on January 18 and 19, 1881, and the most severe thunder-storm on August 2, 1879.

The lowest barometer-reading of late years was December 8, 1886, the glycerine instrument at Upton recording 28·18 during a long-continued gale accompanied by thunder and lightning.‡

The Thames was crossed on foot near Windsor on ice during the severe winter of 1890-91.

There are at the present time six bridges over the river in this neighbourhood. Three for ordinary traffic ; Eton to Windsor, iron, toll ; Datchet to Windsor, stone, free ; Taplow to Maidenhead, stone, toll ; and three for railway traffic: the London and South Western branch, at Windsor, iron, built in 1848 ; the Great Western branch, iron, bowstring girders, at

\* A list of observers and totals of rainfall in this neighbourhood will be found in Symons' 'British Rainfall.'

† The gauge was in a different position. ‡ See also p. 70.

Windsor, built also in 1848;\* and the Great Western main line at Maidenhead, the largest and flattest brick span extant, built in 1837, and widened in 1891-92 on both sides.†

It was across the bend of the river on the north side of Old Windsor that the English found a ford to escape from the Danes pursuing them after the Battle of Reading in 871;‡ and from early times down to 1706 there was a ferry at Datchet.

Dr. Osborn,§ in his interesting records of Datchet, describes how the magnificent cavalcade of Henry VIII., passing from London to Windsor, in May, 1520, went by way of Eton and Windsor Bridge; but Queen Catherine of Aragon, diverged from the route near Colnbrook, and crossed at Datchet Ferry.|| In the

\* Beamish's 'Life of Brunel,' p. 200, gives some of the more important details of this bridge. See also Humber's 'Bridge Construction,' i., 228; and Molinos et Pronnier, 'Construction des Ponts Métalliques,' p. 328. The viaduct approaching this bridge from Slough had originally a wooden superstructure, which was afterwards superseded by the long stretch of brick arches we are now familiar with.

† For some particulars of Maidenhead railway bridge, see Beamish's 'Life of Brunel,' pp. 96 and 173.

‡ Geoff. Gaimar, 'Estoire des Englois,' 2963.

§ Dr. Osborn has set an excellent example in publishing a brief history of his immediate neighbourhood in a very cheap form, accessible to all its inhabitants.

|| In the household accounts of Henry VIII., Dr. Osborn points out some entries referring to this ferry. One at Christmas, 1517-18, when Henry VIII. paid 3s. 3d., for two crossings by his daughter, the Princess Mary and her suite, and one in April, 1530, when the 'Ferryman of Dochet' made himself so agreeable in the royal eyes as to receive 20s. for conveying the King across.

same work allusion is made to a tract of 1681 (to be found in the Harleian Collection, 2,072), entitled 'A Dialogue betwixt Sam the Ferryman, of Dochet ; Will, a Waterman of London ; and Tom, a Bargeman of Oxford, deploring the loss which would result to the ferry if the King (Charles II.) moved the Parliament from London to Oxford.'

Many accidents occurred at this spot. In 1594 six persons perished through the oversetting of the boat, and in 1827 thirteen people coming from Egham Races were drowned.

The first bridge at Datchet was built by Queen Anne in 1705. This was rebuilt in stone with wooden superstructure in 1770, and lasted until 1795, when it fell in, and the ferry again came into use. After prolonged litigation between the counties, half a bridge was built in iron by Berks, and half in wood by Bucks, in 1812. This curious bridge remained until 1851, when it was removed, upon the opening of the present Victoria Bridge.

The Windsor Town Bridge was repaired in 1276 ; and Paul Hentzner, in his 'Travels' (p. 55), refers in the time of Queen Elizabeth to a bridge of wood between Eton and Windsor. The existing bridge is modern.

The 'Old' Bridge at Maidenhead was repaired in 1298, and the present one was built in 1772.\*

Salmon was taken in the river as late as the early part of the present century, and besides such renowned

\* 'History of the Hundred of Bray,' by Charles Kerry, pp. 79, 80.

anglers as Izaak Walton and Sir Henry Wotton, we find an allusion in Pope to Charles II.

‘Methinks I see our mighty monarch stand,  
The pliant rod now trembling in his hand ;  
And see, he now doth up from Datchet come  
Laden with spoils of slaughter’d gudgeons home.’

It was in the same monarch’s reign that the races were held at Datchet, which have of later years been transferred to Ascot. A quaint picture of the races at Datchet, about 1682, is copied as a frontispiece to Hore’s ‘Annals of Newmarket.’

Dr. Osborn places the site of Datchet Meade, whither Sir John Falstaff was conveyed, near the ‘Hog’s Hole,’ on the Berks side of the Victoria Bridge, and curiously also entries of Fords and Pages appear in the Datchet church registers of the time.

Before leaving the Thames, it may be mentioned that close by Ankerwyke lies the small ait or island of Runnymede, on which King John signed Magna Charta in June, 1215.



## ADDENDA.

- Page 8.—*Slowe*. Sometimes styled also 'Slow,' and 'le Slowe' and 'le Slough,' in old deeds or grants. One document states (in 1444) that the stream which ran from Upton to the Thames had from time immemorial the name of Bullokeslok (*vide* Tighe and Davis).
- Page 30.—*St. Lawrence, Upton*. Styled by Lysons a Saxon church.
- Page 41.—*Bricks*. The earliest brick-kiln mentioned at Slough is one erected in 1442, when thorns were used in burning bricks there for Eton College.
- Page 42.—*Bayliss House*. Formerly a seat of the Duke of Cleveland. Rebuilt by Dr. Gregory Hascard, Dean of Windsor.
- Page 47.—*Fulmer*, where the early days of the great scientist, Sir Richard Owen, were spent.
- Page 48.—*Jordans*. This meeting-house, in conformity with the former requirements of the law, was erected at a certain distance from the adjacent market towns.
- Page 54.—*Ockwells* has fallen into appreciative hands, and part is being restored (in 1892) as closely as possible in conformity with the original plan.
- Page 63.—Another record of *Eccentricity at Windsor* will be found in the Countess of Hertford's Letters to the Countess of Pomfret (edition of 1806, vol. ii., page 25).
- Page 66.—*Weather*. Almost the highest recorded reading of the barometer was January 17-18, 1882 (nearly 31 inches). A very low barometer was registered on December 4, 1876. The highest thermometer reading in recent years was that of July 15, 1881. Prolonged frosts occurred in January, 1881, and in December, 1890, and January, 1891.

On St. David's Day, 1251, a great storm ravaged the neighbourhood, and dealt much havoc among the trees in Windsor Forest (Tighe and Davis).



## INDEX.

### PERSONS.

#### A

Addison, Joseph, 57  
 Albert, Prince, 46  
 Albert, Mr. Frederick (father of  
     Mrs. Papendiek), 14  
 Aldrich, Robert, 52  
 Alfred the Great, 54  
 Algernon Sydney, 55  
 Anne, Queen, 51, 61, 68  
 Arago, Jean Domenique, 13  
 Arthur, Prince, 60  
 Aubrey, Ralph, 60  
 Austria, Emperor of, 15  
     ,, Empress of, 19

#### B

Babbage, Charles, 21  
 Bancroft, Mr. and Mrs., 41  
 Banks, Sir Joseph, 15  
 Barker, Christopher, 64  
 Bathurst, Earl of, 57, 58  
 Beaconsfield, Earl of, 7, 48  
 Beamish, Richard, 67  
 Bent family, 46  
 Bentley, George, 64 *and title-page*  
     ,, Richard, 42  
 'Bentley,' 27  
 Bindley, Herbert, 62  
 Bishop, a coach proprietor, 26  
 Bonaparte, Joseph, 60  
     ,, Lucien, 42, 60  
 Boston, Admiral, 16  
 Botham, Mr., 59

### PLACES.

#### A

Abingdon, 26, 28  
 Agmondesham, 48  
 Amersham, 51  
 Ankerwyke, 55, 69  
 Aragon, 67  
 Arcot, Battle of, 63  
 Ascot, 69  
 Asia, Central, 34  
 Aylesbury, 8

#### B

Bagshot, 25  
 Bath, 26, 27, 28, 41, 52  
 Bayliss House, 42, 54, 70  
 Beaconsfield, 48  
 Beaumont, 63  
 Bell Weir, 64  
 Bengal, 63  
 Berkshire, 64, 68, 69  
 Birmingham, 16  
 Birnam Wood, 47  
 Bisham, 56  
 Bisley, 46  
 Black Park, 57  
 Blenheim, Battle of, 61  
 Boulter's Lock, 65  
 Boveney, 30, 65  
 Bray, 25, 30, 52, 65, 68

## PERSONS.

Bowyer, Lady, 60  
 Boyle, Charles, 52  
 'Bradshaw,' 20  
 Bramston, Sarah, 31  
 Brunel, I. K., 20, 21, 23, 67  
 Bryant, Jacob, 51  
 Buckingham, Duke of, 55  
 Bulstrode family, 47  
 Burke, Edmund, 33, 48, 61  
 Burney, Miss F., 61  
 Burney, Dr., 16  
 Burnham, Abbess of, 52  
 Burton, Mrs., 34

## C

Cambridge, Duke of, 15  
 Canterbury, Archbishop of, 15  
 Catherine of Aragon, 67  
 Cavendish family, 48  
 Charles I., 45, 55, 60, 61  
   his children, 55  
 Charles II., 55, 59, 60, 68, 69  
 Charlotte, Queen, 26, 34, 51  
 Chatham, Earl of, 64  
 Chaucer, Geoffrey, 7, 60  
 Chesterfield, Earl of, 42  
 Clarendon, Earl of, 55  
 Clark, a coach proprietor, 26  
 Cleveland, Duke of, 70  
 Clive, Lord, 63  
 Coke, Sir Edward and Lady, 45  
 Cole, Rev. William, 51, 52  
 Coleman, Mr., 46  
 Collins, Mortimer, 22, 51  
 Congreve, William, 57, 58  
 Cook, Captain, 60  
 Cranmer, Archbishop, 61  
 Cromwell, Oliver, 47, 59  
 Cumberland, Duke of, 63

## D

Danes, The, 7, 55, 67  
 Darnley, Earl of, 16

## PLACES.

Brentford, 11  
 Brightwell Court, 52  
 Bristol, 26, 28, 62  
 Buckingham, 8  
 Buckinghamshire, 7, 8, 28, 31,  
   34, 45, 51, 52, 54, 55, 60, 63,  
   64, 68  
 Bullokeslok, 70  
 Bulstrode, 47, 48  
 Burnham, 11, 25, 26, 29, 52  
   ,, Abbey, 52, 55  
   ,, Beeches, 47

## C

Cambridge, 63  
 Camden Town, 16  
 Chalfont St. Giles, 48  
 Chalvey, *see Upton-cum-Chalvey*  
 Chalvey Village, 9, 32, 42, 51  
 Chenies, 48  
 Chertsey, 64  
 Chiltern Hundred, 8  
 Chippenham, 28  
 Crippenham, 51, 52  
 Cirencester, 64  
 Claremont, 63  
 Clewer, 10, 29, 30  
 Cliefden, 55, 59  
 Coldbath Fields, 28  
 Colnbrook, 25, 26, 29, 45, 58,  
   59, 67  
 Colne, R., 7  
 Cookham, 65  
 Cowley, 60  
 Cranford, 12  
 Crewe, 23  
 Cypenham, 51, 52

## D

Datchet, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 22,  
   29, 37, 64, 66, 67, 68, 69

## PERSONS.

David, King of Scotland, 61  
 Davies, Bishop, 52  
 Davis, Mr., 3, 51, 70  
 Davy, Sir Humphry, 60  
 Delany, Mrs., 48  
 De Lude, Count, 57  
 De Quincey, Thomas, 62  
 Dickens, Charles, 41, 52  
 Dineley, Sir John, 63  
 D'Israeli, Benjamin, 7, 48  
 „ Isaac, 45  
 Dixon, a coach proprietor, 26  
 Dodd, Dr., 60  
 „ (Boffin), 52  
 Dotesio, Monsieur and Madame,  
 23  
 Drummond, Mrs., 34  
 Dryden, John, 55, 60  
 Dyers' Company, 65

## E

Eaton family, 34  
 Edinburgh, Duke of, 17  
 Edward the Confessor, 60  
 Edward I., 25  
 Edward II., 52 *and title-page*  
 Edward III., 52, 56, 59, 60  
 Elizabeth, Princess (and Queen),  
 38, 45, 58, 59, 64, 68  
 Elwood, Thomas, 48  
 Emma, Queen, 54  
 Erasmus, 52  
 Evelyn, John, 61  
 Eyre, Walpole, 25

## F

Fitzgerald, Edward, 61  
 Ford family, 69  
 Forsyth, Sir T. D., 34, 36  
 France, King of, 15, 60  
 'Fraser,' 27  
 Frederick, Prince of Wales, 55  
 Fuller, Thomas, 51

## PLACES.

Dedworth, 30  
 Denham, 28, 60  
 Devizes, 28  
 Devonport, 28  
 Ditton, 54, 58, 59  
 Dochet, *see under Datchet*  
 Dorney, 12, 13  
 Dovor, 46  
 Drayton, *see West Drayton*  
 Dropmore, 29, 47

## E

East Burnham, 47  
 Egham, 30, 68  
 England, 32, 41, 61, 62  
 Essex, 61  
 Eton, 20, 22, 26, 30, 61, 62, 63,  
 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 70  
 Eton Union, 10 [38]  
 Eton Wick, 30  
 Eureham, 60  
 Euston, 16, 17  
 Evre, 60  
 Exeter, 21, 23, 28

## F

Farnham Royal, 13, 29, 52  
 France, 32, 41, 61  
 Fulmer, 29, 70

## PERSONS.

## G

- Galitzin, Prince, 15, 16  
 Gay, John, 57  
 Gayer, Sir Robert, 45  
 „ Lady, 45  
 Geoffrey Gaimar, 67  
 George II., 31  
 George III., 15, 51, 55, 57  
 Godolphin, Lord, 42  
 Gosling, Yeoman, 57  
 Gray, Thomas, 7, 30, 31, 32,  
 33, 42, 46, 47, 51, 62  
 Grenfell, Mr., 54  
 Gretton, Dr., 41  
 Greville, C., 46  
 Grote, Mr. George, 46, 47  
 „ Mrs., 47  
 „ Mr. Joseph, 46  
 Gwynne, Nell, 64  
 Gyll, Mr., 25

## H

- Hall, Samuel Carter, 33  
 „ Mrs. S. C., 33  
 Harewood, Earl of, 34  
 Harrington, Sir James, 60  
 Harris, Mr. Stanley, 27  
 Harrison, Mr., 10  
 Hart, Mr., 19  
 Hascard, Dr. Gregory, 70  
 Hastings, Warren, 63  
 Hatton, Sir Christopher, 42  
 Hawtrey, Rev. John, 41, 42  
 Henry III., 25, 52  
 Henry VI., 63  
 Henry VIII., 25, 31, 67  
 Hentzner, Paul, 68  
 Herne, a coach proprietor, 26  
 Herschel, Caroline, 14, 15, 16,  
 41  
 Herschel, Sir John, 14, 33  
 „ Sir William, 7, 13, 14,  
 15, 16, 30, 34

## PLACES.

## G

- George Green, 30, 41, 56  
 Gloucester, 26, 28  
 Greece, 47  
 Greenwich, 9  
 Gregories, 48, 59

## H

- Hall Barns, 48  
 Hampton, 12  
 „ Court, 59  
 Hanover, 14  
 Harmondsworth, 29  
 Hedgerley, 29, 48  
 Hedsor, 47, 58  
 Henley, 26  
 Hitcham, 29  
 Horsemoor Green, 56  
 Horton, 29, 56, 59  
 Hounslow, 25, 28  
 Hughenden, 48  
 Hurley, 25

## PERSONS.

Hertford, Countess of, 58, 70  
 „ Earl of, 58  
 Hissey, Mr. J. J., 41, 48  
 Hore, J. P., 69  
 Howard, Field-Marshal, 46  
 Howitt, William, 48  
 Humber, Mr., 67  
 Hungerford family, 34  
 Hurley, Vicar of, 25

## I

Iffley, 31

## J

James I., 59  
 James II., 54  
 James I., of Scotland, 61  
 Jefferys, Lord, 47  
 Jennings, Mr., 34  
 Jesse, Mr. Edward, 3, 32, 58  
 John, King of England, 69  
 John, King of France, 61  
 Jones, Miss Alice, 54

## K

Katharine of Arragon, 67  
 Kederminster, Sir John, 56  
 Kent, Duke of, 15  
 „ a coach proprietor, 26  
 Kerry, Charles, 25, 68  
 Knight, Charles, 52, 56, 64

## L

Landseer, Sir Edwin, 46  
 Lane family, 34  
 Lardner, Dr., 18  
 Lascelles family, 34  
 Latimer, Bishop, 61  
 Leland, John, 25  
 Lieven, Prince and Princess, 46

## PLACES.

## I

India, 34, 63  
 Italy, 62  
 Iver, 29, 60  
 „ Heath, 29

## J

Jordans, 33, 48, 70

## K

Kent, 61  
 Kew, 11  
 Kingston, 11

## L

Lady Place, 54, 55  
 Langley Broom, 56  
 „ Marish, 8, 13, 20, 23,  
 30, 56, 57, 58  
 Langley New Town, 30, 32  
 „ Park, 57  
 Latimers, 48

## PERSONS.

Linley, Miss, 47  
 Lipscomb, Dr. George, 3, 45, 48,  
 52, 63  
 Lude, Count de, 57  
 Luff, Mr. Charles, 26  
 Luther, Martin, 51  
 Luttrell, Henry, 47  
 Lysons, D. and S., 54, 70

## M

Manners Sutton, Archbishop, 15  
 Marlborough, Duke of, 57  
 Marreys family, 53, 54, 56  
 Mary, Princess, 67  
 Meason, George, 33, 60  
 Menzies, William, 38  
 Mercian Kings, The, 51  
 Merton, The Monks of, 34  
 Milton, John, 7, 33, 48, 56, 59  
     his father, 59  
     his mother, 59  
 Mitford, Miss M. R., 32, 53, 54  
 Molinos, 67  
 Montagu, Mrs., 48  
 More family, 34  
 Morris, Gouverneur, 14  
 Mulgrave, Earl of, 15  
 'Murray,' 60  
 Myers, Mr. John, 30, 34

## N

Nash, Mr. John, 23  
     „ Mr., 54  
     „ family, 34  
     „ Mr. T. A., 56, 57  
 Nelson, Admiral Viscount, 61  
     „ Mr., 34  
 Nichols, Mr. J. B., 51  
 Norman Kings, Early, 51  
 Norreys family, 53

## PLACES.

Lincoln, Diocese of, 8  
 Littlehampton, 9  
 London, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16,  
 17, 18, 19, 25, 26, 27, 28,  
 [61], 64, 67, 68  
 London Basin, 9, 10, 12

## M

Magna Charta Island, 69  
 Maidenhead, 8, 11, 12, 20, 25,  
 27, 28, 52, 53, 55, 64, 66,  
 67, 68  
 Marlborough, 12  
 Marlow, 26, 56, 65  
 Mercia, Kingdom of, 8, 51  
 Merton, 34  
 Middle Green, 56  
 Midland Circuit, 8  
 Montem, 26

## N

Newbury, 34  
 Newmarket, 69  
 New Windsor, *see Windsor*  
 Norfolk Circuit, 8  
 Northampton, Diocese of, 8



## PERSONS.

## O

- Orange, Prince of, 16  
 Orrery, Earl of, 52  
 Osborn, Dr., 8, 67, 69  
 „ Mr., 16  
 Oughtred, Sir W., 63  
 Owen, Sir Richard, 70  
 Oxford, Bishop of, 8, 31

## P

- Page family, 69  
 Palmerston, Viscount, 15  
 Papendiek, Mrs., 14, 26, 33  
 Pattison, Prof. Mark, 56  
 Paxton, Sir Joseph, 38  
 Penn, Thomas, 45  
 „ William, 33, 45  
 Pepys, Samuel, 61  
 'Perdita' Robinson, 64  
 Phipps, Rev. P. W., 31  
 Pigot, J. and Co., 27  
 Pocock, Mr., 30  
 Pomfret, Countess, of, 58, 70  
 Pond, John, 41  
 Pope, Alexander, 7, 55, 57, 69  
 Portland, Duke of, 48  
 Prince Consort, 46  
 Prior, Matthew, 57  
 Pronnier, 67  
 Purser family, 38

## R

- Reid, Mr., 26  
 Richard, Prince, 52  
 Richardson, Samuel, 59  
 Ridley, Bishop, 61  
 Roberts, David, 37  
 Robinson, Mary, 64  
 Rowe, Mrs., 58  
 Rucker, 9

## PLACES.

## O

- Ockholt, }  
 Ockwells, } 53, 56, 58, 59, 70  
 Old Windsor, 29, 63, 64, 67  
 Oxford, 20, 26, 28, 64, 65, 68  
 Oxford, Diocese of, 8

## P

- Paddington, 17, 18, 19, 20  
 Paris, 47  
 Parlant (Parlem) Park, 54, 58  
 Pennsylvania, U.S.A., 45  
 Penton Hook, 64  
 Percy Lodge, 57  
 Philadelphia, U.S.A., 17  
 Philberds, 64  
 Plassy, Battle of, 63  
 Popple's Park, 47

## Q

- Queen Anne's Well, 51

## R

- Reading, 9, 55, 67  
 Reggio, 62  
 Richings (Richkings) Park, 54,  
 57, 58, 59  
 Ripplesmere, Hundred of, 60  
 Rome, 37  
 Runnymede, 69  
 Rye House, 55

## PERSONS.

Russell family, 48 ; Lord, 55  
 Russia, Emperor of, 15

## S

Sala, George Augustus, 34, 36, 37  
 Saxton, Christopher, 28  
 Scoones, Rev. Dalton, 57  
 Scotland, King of, 60  
 Scott, Sir Walter, 57  
 Shadwell, L. Æ., 41  
 Shakespeare, William, 61  
 Sheahan, Mr., 3, 52, 55  
 Shelley, Percy Bysshe, 56  
 Shenstone, William, 57  
 Sheridan, Richard Brinsley, 47  
 Shrewsbury, Countess of, 55  
 „ Earl of, 55  
 Smith, George Murray, 64  
 Somers, Earl, 55  
 Somerset, Duchess of, 58  
 Spagnoletti, Mr. C. E., 17  
 Spon, Ernest, 10  
 Steele, Sir Richard, 57  
 Stephen, J. K., 63  
 Sterry, J. Ashby, 56  
 Stuart Dynasty, 45  
 Surrey, Earl of, 61  
 Sussex, Duke of, 15, 16  
 Sutton, Archbishop Manners, 15  
 Swift, Jonathan, 57, 61  
 Sydney, Algernon, 55  
 Symons, Professor, 66

## T

Talleyrand, Prince, 46  
 Taunton, Lord, 46  
 Tawell, a Quaker, 18  
 Thomson, James, 57, 58  
 Thorpe, Mr., 9  
 Tighe, Mr., 3, 51, 70  
 Tollett, a coach proprietor, 26  
 Tonson, Jacob, 64  
 Tristram, W. Outram, 58

## PLACES.

## S

Saint Joseph's, 42  
 Saint Leonard's Hill, 64  
 Salt Hill, 12, 25, 26, 27, 32, 59,  
 62  
 Sawyer's Green, 56  
 Scotland, 47, 61, 63  
 Shene, 52  
 Shepperton, 64  
 Shottesbrooke, 28, 55  
 SLOUGH, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12,  
 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20,  
 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 31,  
 34, 37, 38, 41, 42, 46, 54, 56  
 61, 62, 64, 67, 70  
 'Slowe,' 8, 70  
 South Wales, 28  
 Staines, 22  
 Stoke Gardens, 32  
 „ Hundred, 8  
 „ Poges, 8, 13, 29, 33, 42,  
 45, 46, 62  
 Stroud, 26, 28  
 Sunbury, 64  
 Sussex, 61  
 Swankley Park, 60  
 Swindon, 23

## T

Taplow, 29, 52, 54, 55, 66  
 Teddington, 11, 12  
 Thames, R., 10, 11, 12, 33, 37,  
 51, 55, 61, 64, 65, 66, 69, 70  
 Thames Ditton, 11  
 Tunbridge (Wells), 41

## PERSONS.

- V
- Vanbrugh, 64  
 Venables, Mrs., 42  
 Vikings, The, 55 (67)  
 Vintners' Company, 65  
 Virgil, 60
- W
- Wales, Frederick, Prince of, 55  
 Waller, Edmund, 33, 48  
 Walpole, Horace, 46, 47, 62  
 Walton, Izaac, 69  
 Ward, R. A., 31  
 Watts, Dr., 58  
 Wilberforce, Bishop, 8, 31  
 William I., 60  
 William III., 45, 48, 54  
 William IV., 27  
 William of Wykeham, 60  
 Williams, Mr. Montagu, 41  
 Windsor, Dean of, 70  
 Winwood, Sir Ralph, 59  
 Wolsey, Cardinal, 60  
 Wordsworth, Mr., 64  
 Wotton, Sir Henry, 69  
 Wyatt, a coach proprietor, 26  
 „ the architect, 45  
 Wykeham, William of, 60

## Y

- Yates, Edmund, 37

## PLACES.

- Ufton, 34  
 UPTON, 3, 10, 13, 14, 28, 30,  
 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38,  
 46, 47, 32, 58, 59, 64, 66, 70  
 Upton-cum-Chalvey, 8, 13, 30,  
 33, 34, 46, 47  
 Upton Court, 34, 35, 36, 37  
 Upton Royal, 13  
 Uxbridge, 13, 59, 60

## W

- Wantage, 26  
 Water Oakley, 64  
 West Dravton, 20, 22, 23, 24,  
 29, 59  
 Wexham, 26, 29, 46, 54  
 Willowbrook, 64  
 Wilts, 61  
 Wimbledon, 46  
 Windsor, New, 10, 12, 14, 17,  
 18, 19, 22, 29, 30, 33, 37, 38,  
 51, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65,  
 66, 67, 68  
 Windsor, Old, *see Old Windsor*  
 „ Castle, 14, 18, 29, 30,  
 37, 59, 60, 61, 65  
 Windsor Forest, 30, 70  
 Wolverton, 23  
 Woodstock, 59  
 Worcester, 28  
 Wraysbury, }  
 Wyrardisbury, } 25, 29

## Y

- Yiewsley, 29

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