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COLBRAN'S  
NEW GUIDE  
FOR  
TUNBRIDGE WELLS

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COLBRAN'S  
NEW GUIDE  
FOR  
TUNBRIDGE WELLS,

BEING  
A FULL AND ACCURATE DESCRIPTION  
OF  
THE WELLS AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD  
WITHIN  
A CIRCUIT OF NEARLY TWENTY MILES,  
AND NOTICES OF THE  
LONDON AND DOVER RAILWAY;

ILLUSTRATED WITH  
PLATES, WOOD ENGRAVINGS, ETC.

OF MOST OF THE  
PRINCIPAL PLACES.

[SECOND EDITION.]

---

BY JAMES PHIPPEN.

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS:  
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY J. COLBRAN, BOOKSELLER, ETC.  
HIGH STREET;

May also be had at the Libraries.

LONDON:  
A. H. BAILY AND CO., CORNHILL.

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TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

JOHN EARL OF ABERGAVENNY,

VISCOUNT NEVILL OF BIRLING,

IN THE COUNTY OF KENT,

BARON OF ABERGAVENNY,

IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH,

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BY HIS LORDSHIP'S OBLIGED

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J. COLBRAN.





## ADVERTISEMENT.

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THE unparalleled success that has attended the first edition of this work, has stimulated the publisher to still greater exertions in order to render a *second* edition worthy of the same liberal patronage which the first has received. It has been, therefore, carefully corrected to the present time, and will be found to contain much additional information, so that it may still maintain its position as a complete Guide to Tunbridge Wells and its Environs. In addition to a full description of the Mineral Waters, and rules for drinking

them, there will be found in the following pages, notices of the London and Dover Line of Railway; the numerous delightful Walks and Drives in the Vicinity of the Wells; and an accurate account of the several noble Mansions, Castles and remains of antiquity in the neighbourhood, with the days on which they may be seen.

The Publisher, in acknowledging, with grateful thanks, the preference given to his Guide, begs to remark, that as much of the matter in this work is entirely original, he has secured his interest in it by entering the same at Stationers' Hall.

J. COLBRAN.

## P R E F A C E.

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IN prefacing a second edition, the Editor has to remark that during the interval between the first and second editions his pursuits have enabled him to visit a second time most of the places described in it. He has availed himself of the opportunity to make such alterations as time and other circumstances rendered necessary, and he trusts that the descriptions of the several places will be found as accurate as they were at the former period. Some portions of the original work have been omitted in the present volume, being

considered of more exclusively local interest than a traveller or visitor would require; and although well adapted for residents, as domestic records, would not create similar interest in the minds of those who have not time to enter minutely into historical facts, although desirous of ascertaining in a general way the particulars of objects which may attract their attention. In abridging that portion of the work, the editor has been careful not to exclude anything that could be of general interest, whilst the several additions to it will, he trusts, prove that he has been equally anxious with the publisher, to render this Guide in every respect worthy of the very distinguished support its predecessor received.

JAMES PHIPPEN.

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## TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS, notwithstanding the present state of its population, comprising as it does nearly ten thousand inhabitants, cannot be regarded as a very ancient settlement, for within little more than half a century it was the custom of the inhabitants at the termination of their fashionable season to close the shops of every description, whilst the Hotels, Lodging and Boarding Houses, were all hermetically sealed till the return of the ensuing season.

It is situated thirty-six miles from London, with the villages of Pembury on the East, Frant on the South, Withyham on the West, and Southborough on the North ; and is in three Parishes and two Counties, the former being Tunbridge, Speldhurst, and Frant, and the latter Kent and Sussex. The alteration made by the opening of the South-Eastern



Railway to Tunbridge in 1842 has made the distance, in miles, greater, but has shortened the time of performing the journey to little more than one half. Dr. Rowzee, who wrote in 1632, describes it thus:—"The water commonly known here amongst us by the name of *Tunbridge* water, are two small Springs contiguous together, about some five miles southward from the towne of *Tunbridge*, in *Kent*, from which they have their name, as being the nearest Towne in *Kent* to them. They are seated in a valley compassed about with stony hills, so barren, that there groweth nothing but heath upon the same." The Counties of Kent and Sussex are divided by an insignificant stream, which runs under the road leading from the old chapel to the Springs, and here also the parishes of Frant and Tunbridge join, whilst Speldhurst borders upon both at the end of the Parade. Scarcely a century ago it was an inconsiderable village, but it has been since then gradually, and within the last fourteen years rapidly, increasing in size. In the year 1835, it was created a town by the passing of a Local Act for the watching, lighting, and otherwise regulating its affairs.

Many places of this description are rich in legendary tales relative to the origin of them, which is generally traced to the interposition of some Saint whose miraculous powers have been exerted for the exclusive benefit of a particularly favored spot, the sanctity of whose inhabitants afforded him comfortable means of subsistence, which he acknowledged by performing various miracles that enabled them to obtain for themselves those worldly advantages which had heretofore been denied to them. Strange, however, as it may appear, the discovery of the chalybeate waters of Tunbridge Wells cannot be traced to supernatural sources. There is indeed a vague tradition of somebody "dreaming a dream" at Somerhill, about the virtues of the then undiscovered waters, but as this vision has not been properly authenticated, we must leave it altogether to the imaginative faculties of the reader. Nature seems to have impregnated the Springs with their medicinal virtues, and as if she had been jealous of saintly interference, their efficacy can be traced to natural causes only.

It is more than probable that their qualities had been discovered, and the effects of

them beneficially experienced long antecedent to the time generally attributed to them, and being the subject of conversation among the peasantry, by this means reached the ears of the nobleman who afterwards tried them—for it can be scarcely credited that a young courtier would have tasted water of such a ferruginous and uninviting appearance, unless some such rumour had been communicated to him.\* However this may be, it is indisputable that Dudley, Lord North, was the Founder of Tunbridge Wells; and therefore,

\* Benge Burr, however, appears positive upon this point, and cites two M.S.S. in his possession stating that the waters were discovered in the fourth year, or thereabout, of King James. He further states, on the authority of “one of his own family, who had it from the grand children of Mrs. Humphreys, (who was the first water-dipper at Tunbridge Wells, and the very person that lent lord North the wooden bowl out of which he tasted the water:) that Mrs. Humphreys was married in the 30th year of her age, and soon after began to dip water from the spring for company attending the place. This trade she continued till her death, which happened in the year 1678, when she was an hundred and two years old. From hence it appears she was married in the year 1606, and began to make a profession of water-dipping a year or two afterwards.”—Burr’s History, p. 313.

quitting all conjecture, we will proceed to facts.

In the year 1603, this nobleman was one of the favorites of Prince Henry, the son of King James the first, in whose Court he was distinguished for his mental and personal endowments, and, what made him a still greater object of admiration in those times, for his numerous gallantries. In his twenty-fourth year the effects of these were felt in an impaired constitution and every symptom of a consumptive disease. Such indeed was his general state of debility that his physicians deemed it absolutely necessary to remove him altogether from the scenes of gaiety and dissipation in which he was involved, to some part of the country where pure air and peaceful pursuits might tend to invigorate his debilitated constitution. Perhaps no place could have been better selected for the purpose than that which was chosen by his advisers, by whose persuasions his lordship determined upon visiting Eridge House, which is situated two miles from Tunbridge Wells, and was at that period a perfectly sequestered place. It was, in fact, a mere hunting seat, belonging to lord Abergavenny,

and far different in appearance to the present elegant building. There is no doubt, however, that when the park and scenery around it were described as “an assemblage of all nature’s beauties—hills, dales, brooks, lawns, groves, thickets, rocks, waterfalls, all wildly noble and *irregularly amiable*,”\* the description, though glowing, conveyed a correct idea of what met the eye of lord North, when in the spring of 1606, he found himself an inhabitant of Eridge House. But notwithstanding the natural beauties lavished on this famed spot, it is represented as being situated “in one of the most savage parts of the County of Sussex, and by its distance from all neighbourhood, secluded its inhabitants from all intercourse with the rest of mankind.”†

It will be readily believed that there was no exaggeration in this picture, and it can create no surprise therefore, to find that the gay dissipated young Courtier, thus suddenly deprived of the fascinations of the brilliant scenes in which he had so conspicuously mingled, should become weary of a place in which the restorement of health appeared as

\* Aaron Hill’s works, vol. 2. † Burr, p. 8.

nothing compared with the loss of those enjoyments which had formed so large a portion, nay, probably the whole business of his life. He resolved, therefore, to return to the metropolis, and mix again in those scenes from which he had been in a measure banished; and although by the persuasions of his friends he was induced to remain some time longer to give the country a fair trial, he at length took a somewhat precipitate departure for London. "Fortunately for him," says Benge Burr (whose account is written with such a minuteness of detail that we feel bound to give it in his own words) "his road lay directly through the wood in which these useful springs were concealed from the knowledge of mankind; so that when his lordship came upon the spot\* at the beginning of his journey, and while he had the day before him, he could not well pass by, without taking notice of a water which seemed to claim his attention on account of the shining mineral scum that every where swam on its surface, as well as on account of the

\* It is perhaps, to be regretted that the precise spot cannot be pointed out, were it for no other motive than to gratify curiosity.

ochreous substance which subsided at the bottom, and marked its course to a neighbouring brook. His lordship accordingly observed these uncommon appearances, the meaning of which he could not instantly comprehend; however, they induced him to alight from his carriage, in order to examine it more attentively; and at the same time he ordered one of his attendants to borrow a little vessel from the neighbouring hovel, that he might taste it: and the peculiar ferruginous taste of the water not only convinced lord North that it held its course through some undiscovered mine, contained in the dark cavities of the earth, but also gave him room to fancy that it was indued with some medicinal properties, which might be highly beneficial to the human race.

“As a drowning man is said to catch at a straw, so his lordship, soon as he had imagination made this important discovery, began to hope it would be useful to himself; and therefore commanded his servants to bottle off some of the water, in order to consult his physicians upon this subject, as soon as he could get to London.

“They were accordingly consulted upon

its virtues, and their judgement so perfectly coincided with lord North's opinion, that they immediately left town to examine it on the spot, and the result of their enquiries proved so favorable to this hitherto neglected spring, that they hastened back again to publish its valuable qualities, and to give their noble patient sufficient encouragement to try its efficacy on the return of the vernal season.

“Accordingly, (in 1607,) as soon as the warm weather came on, and the roads were dry enough to render a journey practicable, my lord North returned to Eridge to add the power of the water to the purity of the air, and try how far their united force would contribute to restore strength and vigour to his shattered constitution.”

The experiment, it appears, perfectly succeeded, for his lordship's health became so completely renovated that his death did not take place until the year 1666, when he had reached the advanced age of eighty-five.

That his lordship himself attributed the restoration of his health to these waters, is proved by his remarks in a work published by him in 1637, wherein he says—“The use of Tunbridge and Epsom waters, for



health and cure, I first made known to London and the King's people: the Spa (in Germany) is a chargeable and inconvenient journey to sick bodies, besides the money it carries out of the kingdom and inconvenience to religion. Much more I could say, but I rather hint than handle—rather open a door to a large prospect than give it.”

The return of his lordship to Court in the full enjoyment of health, when he had quitted it apparently in the last stage of consumption, naturally raised eager enquiries as to the causes which had effected this wonderful change. The virtues of the chalybeate waters were then made known to the higher circles of society, and corroborated as they were by the physicians and others who had analysed them, it became a matter of fashion to visit the spot and partake of the waters which had effected such a wonderful cure in so distinguished an individual.

As the spring which produced these wonders had its rise on the borders of lord Abergavenny's estate, his lordship inspected the spot in person, and foreseeing the advantages that would ultimately arise from the fashionables who would naturally visit it, he

obtained permission from Mr. Weller, of Tunbridge, who was then lord of the manor of Rusthall, and commenced clearing the ground in the neighbourhood of the spring to make a readier and better access to it; and in order to obtain the fullest information on the subject, he procured the services of an eminent naturalist, under whose directions seven principal springs were discovered. Wells were sunk over them, a stone pavement laid round, and the whole were enclosed with wooden rails, placed in a triangular form.

But the efforts of lord Abergavenny to improve upon the discovery do not appear to have been supported by others, for the springs seem to have remained in the same desolate condition for upwards of twenty years after they were discovered and their virtues first promulgated. The uncertain results of a speculation of this kind, the wild nature of the surrounding country, with the circumstance that Tunbridge, the nearest town to the springs, was six miles distant over roads that were sometimes impassable, no doubt tended much to check that spirit of enterprise which his lordship's example might otherwise have created, and to suspend

everything in the shape of improvement beyond the mere clearing away of the bushes and underwood that incommoded the water-drinkers. An attempt, indeed, appears to have been made during this period to improve the road from Tunbridge to the springs, but judging from the modern appearance of these roads, it must have been attempted feebly, as it is within the last thirty years only that many of the approaches to Tunbridge Wells could be travelled on without difficulty or danger.

It is evident that the mere discovery of the Springs, did not establish Tunbridge Wells as a place of fashionable resort, for long after that period we find it in a most languishing condition for the want of proper sources of general amusement to cheer the convalescent, and to attract the healthy. "The sick had only the recovery of health in view, and proposed to themselves no other pleasures but such as were entirely rural. The amusements of the gentry were few, confined, and selfish. The great brought with them all the haughtiness of nobility, and knew not how to let themselves down with grace. In short, delicacy, politeness,

and elegant pleasures, were then but just budding forth from amidst the rubbish of Gothic barbarism, and, till these were grown to such a height as to be discernible amongst us, Tunbridge Wells was not esteemed a place of pleasure, in which the people of fashion might depend upon being agreeably amused.”\*

In the year 1630, the resuscitation of the Wells might be considered to have taken place, for previous to this date there were no dwelling-houses near the Springs for the accommodation of the invalids who visited them, if we except a few hovels which were erected near them to afford temporary shelter in unfavorable weather. Tunbridge was the nearest town at which suitable lodgings could be procured, and from this circumstance the Wells took their name, although it has been said, they were originally called *Fant* (Frant) Wells.

In this year Queen Henrietta Maria, the beautiful but ill-starred consort of the first Charles, was recommended by her physicians to try the Tunbridge Wells waters. It is reasonable to conjecture that Her Majesty's

\* Burr, p. 21.

delicate state of health would not allow of her residing far from the Springs, therefore as there were no houses erected near them, Her Majesty and suite encamped on Bishop's Down, where they remained about six weeks. Although this visit did not produce any immediate benefit to the place, it is probable that the honor conferred by it was the means of causing buildings to be erected earlier than they would have been otherwise.

It is stated that in one of her pedestrian excursions in the neighbourhood, Her Majesty strolled up the Frant Road, and finding herself fatigued, rested upon a bank beneath a birch tree—upon quitting which, with a *gaieté de cœur* that was natural to her, she gave orders for a stone to be placed on the spot “as a memorial of her travels into Sussex.” The gallantry of the courtiers suggested a complimentary latin inscription to be engraven upon it, but no vestige of the stone or inscription now remains. The spot where the stone had been originally placed is now a private residence, called “Mount Nevill,” about a quarter of a mile from the Springs, on the right of the road to Frant. Dr. Rowzee, who published a Treatise on the nature and

virtues of the Waters in 1632, says, "It pleased our gracious Queen *Marie* to grace this Water by her presence two years agoe, so that those Springs may justly be called, as some doe call them now, *Queen Marie's Wells.*" The troublesome times which soon after followed, possibly occasioned this name to be altered, and the original one restored.

Six years after the Queen's visit the first two buildings were erected in the immediate vicinity of the Springs. They were little better than cottages—one of them for the accommodation of gentlemen, and the other for ladies. It is supposed that these houses were built in "Pink Alley," in a direct line



from the Springs, and adjacent to them ; one of them is said to have been the residence of Mrs. Humphreys, the original water-dipper. They were both recently pulled down for the purpose of enlarging the adjoining premises. Our wood cut is a correct sketch of the last that remained, which was taken down in 1842.

Insignificant as these buildings must have been, they were so essential to the comforts of the place that they were greatly resorted to. The gentleman's house being called "The Pipe Office," where they assembled after taking the waters to indulge in a pipe,\* or join in the general conversation.

Two years afterwards a green bank was raised and a double row of trees planted on its borders to shelter the company from the heat of the weather. It was here that the Tradesmen stood to dispose of their merchandise at those hours when the company assembled to drink the waters, which was seldom more than once a day in consequence of the distance that visitors had to travel ;

\* Diverse doe take Tobacco after their water, which I doe not dislike, especially if they hold it a good while in their mouthes, before they puffed it out. *Rouzee's Treatise*, p. 55.

but in the course of the next year, 1639, finding the company on the increase, and the complaints for want of Accommodation loud and general, some parties interested in establishing the place commenced building a few small houses at Southborough, a village rather more than two miles from the Wells ; and on the Manor of Rusthall, which immediately adjoins it. Some of the latter are still remaining. Inconvenient as these were, such was the reputation the waters had now acquired that every other consideration was lost sight of in the necessity there appeared for all fashionable people to drink them ; and when the new buildings were full, every description of cottage or hut was eagerly sought after without one thought of its attendant discomforts : so eager was the world of fashion to partake of the benefits of the newly discovered Chalybeate Spring.\*

\* If Dr. Rowzee's statement can be relied on, the quality of the waters must be much improved since his time, (1632) or the human constitution proportionably degenerated, for he recommends the several patients " to begin at 30, 40, or 50 ounces, (about two pints,) and to arise by degrees to 100, 150, or 200 ounces, (*from six pints and a quarter to twelve pints and a half!*) more or less, as they shall be able."



The next twenty years, from 1640 to 1660, shew but a blank in the History of Tunbridge Wells. Brother was then fighting against brother, and father against son. The arts of peace were either wholly forgotten or utterly neglected, and the genius of civil war stalked triumphantly through the desolated land. But upon the death of Cromwell, and the happy restoration of the rightful monarch, the Wells began to assume a more flourishing aspect.

The year 1664 was probably the gayest among the records of Tunbridge Wells, as it was then visited by Charles 2nd., his Queen, and the greater portion of the distinguished individuals belonging to that licentious Court. It is generally considered that the residence of their Majesties and principal suite, was at the large house facing Bishop's Down, for some years passed used as a Tunbridge-Ware Manufactory. The style of the building strongly favors the supposition, although by many it is considered that the court resided at Southborough. The latter, however, could not have been the case, if the following allusion to the habitations being "half a mile round the

Wells" is correct. Count Hamilton,\* speaking of this visit says, "The court set out to pass about two months in that place, (the Wells) of all Europe the most rural and simple, and yet, at the same time, the most entertaining and agreeable. \*\*\* The company though numerous is always select, as the number of those who repaired thither for diversion ever exceeds the number of those who go thither for health. \*\*\* The company are accommodated with lodgings in little, clean, and convenient habitations that lie straggling and separated from each other, half-a-mile round the Wells: this place consists of a long walk, shaded by spreading trees, under which they walk while drinking the waters. On one side of this walk is a long row of shops, plentifully stocked with all manner of toys, lace, gloves, stockings; and where there is raffling, as at Paris, in the *Foire de Saint Germain*. On the other side of the walk is the market; and as it is the custom here for every person to buy their own provisions, care is taken that nothing appears offensive upon the stalls." The gaities of

\* Memoires de Count Grammont, vol. 2.

the Court are thus described by the same author:—"The Queen even surpassed her usual attentions in inviting and supporting entertainments: she endeavoured to increase the natural ease and freedom of Tunbridge, by dispensing altogether with the ceremonies that were due to her rank."

The Court remained at the Wells about two months, and it is probable that during their residence here many improvements were then commenced, or had been previously contemplated; for, about this time, Rusthall could boast of an Assembly Room, a Bowling Green, and other places of public diversion. The site of the Assembly Room is still to be seen on Rusthall Common. It stood about two or three hundred yards beyond the first mile stone, on the Langton Road, on the right hand; immediately adjoining which, was a Bowling Green of upwards of two acres in extent, the boundaries of which are yet visible. Southborough too, had not only materially increased in the number and quality of its houses, but had also a Bowling Green and Coffee House, and it was evident that the spirit of improvement was making rapid progress. Still, the inconvenience of

living at such a distance from the Wells, or else residing in mere hovels, was felt by all, especially to those who were *really* and not *fashionably* invalided.

In this year also, when Lord Muskerry\* was lord of the Manor, he displaced the original wood fencing put up by lord Abergavenny, and built a stone wall round the Springs. The annexed plate will give the reader an accurate idea of the appearance of the Springs previous to his lordship displacing the fence which is there shewn. His lordship also re-paved the interior, and placed a basin over the principal Spring, and at the same time built a Hall for the dippers. His lordship's arms were erected over the gateway

\* Charles, Lord Viscount Muskerry was the son of the Earl of Clancarty, and was killed in an engagement with the Dutch in Southwold-Bay, which was fought on the 3rd of June, 1665, when the English fleet was commanded by the Duke of York, Prince Rupert, and the Earl of Sandwich. The Dutch, by Admiral Obdam. Lady Muskerry was the only child of the 5th Earl of Clanrickarde, and was married three times—first, to Viscount Muskerry, second, in 1676, to Robert Villiers, called Viscount Purbeck, who died in 1685,—third, to Robert Fielding, Esq. She died in August, in 1698. Their residence was at Somerhill.

that led to the springs, but during the contentions that afterwards took place between the lord of the Manor and the tenants, upon a decision being given in their favour, they removed the arms as a token of victory. They are now at the back of the Upper Assembly Rooms.

Between the years 1665 and 1670, the place began to assume more of its present appearance than it had hitherto. The Assembly Room at Rusthall was abandoned, and one established at Mount Ephraim House, in a field to the north of which, at the back of Chancellor House, a Bowling Green was enclosed. A Tavern was also built, and called "The Castle." It was afterwards the residence of W. Congreve, Esq., from whom it was purchased in 1840, by the Rev. T. W. Franklyn, who had the old house pulled down and the present mansion erected, a few rods from the original site. It retains the name of "Castle House." These alterations had been scarcely accomplished, when Mount Sion preferred its claim for a share of that prosperity which now began to shew itself throughout the Wells, and from its contiguity to the Springs, it not

only proved a formidable rival to, but speedily eclipsed Mount Ephraim.

“ Thus, in the course of a few years, we find Tunbridge forsaken ; Southborough and Rusthall raised and ruined ; Mount Ephraim drooping ; and Mount Sion in the full bloom of prosperity ; this last indeed not only rivalled, but despoiled her predecessors, and triumphantly transferred their ornaments to herself ; for many houses were brought from Southborough, Rusthall, and Mount Ephraim, to be rebuilt on Mount Sion ; and some, whole and entire as they were, were *wheeled on sledges*, to be fixed in this new seat of favor.”\*

A place called the Fish Ponds, situated behind Chancellor House, and adjoining the Bowling Greens, was also opened for the public amusement, but as the managers of it did not bestow proper attention upon it, it soon became the resort of low company, and was speedily abandoned.

In 1670, the place was visited by the Duke and Duchess of York, with their daughters, the Princesses Mary and Anne. From the

\* Burr, p. 45.

following passage in the Rev. Dr. Owen's life, it would appear that their Royal Highnesses continued to reside in Tents.—“Being in a very languishing state of health in 1674, he was at Tunbridge Wells when the Duke of York was there. The Duke sent for him, and had several conversations with him *in his tent* about the dissenters and conventicles.”

From the great increase of company which now resorted to the Wells, the lord of the Manor of Rusthall, in 1676, thought it advisable to erect shops and dwelling-houses in the immediate vicinity of the springs; and in order to carry his intentions into effect, he entered into an agreement with his tenants to allow them ten shillings a year each, for a fifty year's lease, in lieu of their right of herbage. He then began to build upon the “green bank” and other convenient places; but it does not appear that there was yet sufficient accommodation for the visitors, as we find from several allusions in a Play, called “Tunbridge Wells; or, a Day's Courtship,” published in 1678, that Bounds, Southborough, and Rusthall, were then the principal places of residence for the visitors.

*Fairlove.* Where do these Dotterels lodge?

*Owmuch.* Here at *Bounds*, under the same Roof  
with you. *Act 1. sc. 1.*

*Alderman.* Let's be jogging towards *South-borough*,  
'tis almost dinner time.

*Fairlove.* I've business at *Rust Hall.* *Act 1. sc. 3.*

*Crack.* In the next close from *Bounds* you'll see  
an Oak carv'd full of love's names.

*Act 4. sc. 4.*

This play is amusing, as it gives us a glimpse of the nature of the company and the amusements of the Wells at this period. "A Morrice dance" is also introduced upon the Walks, and it is evident from other passages in this Comedy, that dancing under the trees was by no means an uncommon practice.

From the increasing growth of the place, and the fashionable piety which rendered an appearance at Church, once a day at least, almost indispensable, the attention of the inhabitants was naturally turned to the erection of some place for Divine worship. A subscription was accordingly entered into for the purpose, and the Chapel was finished in 1684.\*

\* The particulars of this and the other Chapels at the Wells, will be found under the head of "Places of Public Worship."



In 1687, a fire accidentally broke out at the end of the walks, which totally consumed all the buildings so recently erected on the Green Bank. But as good frequently springs out of evil, so the destruction of the whole of those houses led to the building of more convenient ones. An assembly room, shops, dwelling-houses, &c., were erected with a portico in front, precisely, in fact, as the Parade is now seen, with the exception of some of the present houses having been lately modernised in their appearance

In the year 1688, so memorable to Englishmen for the “glorious Revolution” that was effected, the Princess Anne of Denmark visited the Wells; and whilst residing here, it is said, sent her equerry, Colonel Sands, to enquire after the health of the new-born Prince of Wales. On the 2nd September, in this year, Archbishop Tillotson preached before the Princess Anne, in the chapel, his famous sermon on the parable of the ten virgins.

During the next ten years the Princess Anne frequently honored the Wells with her presence, and in 1696, gave a basin to the Spring, which was afterwards called “The

Queen's Well." She was also a great benefactress to the place, and in 1698, in consequence of her son, the young Duke of Gloucester, falling, while on the walks, she gave one hundred pounds to "one of the principal inhabitants" to have the walks, &c., paved by the ensuing season. Whoever this inhabitant was, he neglected to fulfil his commission, and the effects of his evil deeds were visible in the conduct of her Royal Highness, who, upon finding at her next visit no progress had been made in the work, quitted the Wells with strong expressions of disgust, and never visited the place again.

An important Cabinet Council appears to have been held at the Wells, in 1698. "William the 3rd was in Holland when he combined the vast plan of his foreign negotiations. When he came to open his design to his ministers in England, even the sober firmness of Somers, the undaunted resolution of Shrewsbury, and the adventurous spirit of Montague and Orford were staggered. They were not yet mounted to the elevation of the King. The cabinet met on the subject at Tunbridge Wells, the 28th

of Quality or Estate, but every Man that appears well converses with the best.—*Act 1, sc. 1.*

In 1707, John, Duke of Buckingham, assigned to four Trustees four acres of land, part of Inham's and Waghorn's forests, for the use and benefit of all the Inhabitants, Lodgers, Servants, and others of Tunbridge Wells, with instructions for a coach road and two footpaths to be made through this ground, and the whole planted and preserved as a Grove. This grove lies to the left of Mount Sion as you ascend the hill, and is undoubtedly one of the coolest and pleasantest lounging places in the summer that can be well imagined. Whether it was ever much frequented is a matter of uncertainty, but it is now seldom resorted to except as affording access to other parts.

In the year 1708, Mr. James Long, of Marylebone, Middlesex, went to a considerable expense in erecting a Cold Bath and other buildings at Rusthall. The bath was well supplied with water issuing from the rocks, and the grounds around it displayed water works, fountains and other appropriate devices suitable to the situation, which is exceedingly romantic. This is one of the

beautiful spots at Rusthall well worth visiting, for although the fountains, &c., have long since disappeared, there are objects enough still remaining to gratify the admirers of nature. The house, which now stands upon the site of the original bath house, is almost hidden by trees, and the approach to it from the common, descending what was once a flight of steps, but now nearly covered with turf, is extremely romantic. As you approach the house there are still the remains of the original steps that conducted to the Baths, though much worn. Whilst at this spot, the visitor will notice some curious excavations in the Rocks that lie immediately under the common, and which have served occasionally as dormitories for gipsies, &c.

From 1707 to 1725, but little change appears to have taken place in the affairs of the Wells, if we may except the taste for rhyming which manifested itself particularly from 1713, and continued to a comparatively recent period. Mr. Oneley, to whom we have already referred, says, in speaking of the company and their amusements, "A few minutes are spent by some in making verses, as the waters or genius of the place, or

as love and leisure inspire. A copy of them is usually left at the bookseller's shop, and entered into a book there for the inspection and entertainment of the company." A selection appears to have been made, each season, and published under the title of "Tunbriglia; or, Tunbridge Miscellanies." These were regularly published from 1716 to 1765, after which they appear, in a great degree, to have been discontinued.

Much of the poetry in these volumes is highly objectionable, and however amusing it might have proved to the *belles* of that period, it is certain that the ladies of the present day would find it most offensive.— The following extracts from the year 1719, will afford a correct idea of the *brilliant wit* and *powerful imagination* of these water Poets, as they were designated:—

STREPHON'S COMPLAINT.

—  
 When you're gone,  
 I shan't be long;  
 You need not ask the reason;  
 For who can stay,  
 When you're away,  
 Whose absence ends the season.

The Rev. Doctor Dent appears to have excited the anger of the scribbling race, and

thus do they launch a *biting Epigram* at the poor Doctor :—

Was Doctor D——t  
 From Heav'n sent,  
 To prate upon a *Sunday*?  
 Or did his muse  
 The Dotard chuse,  
 To scribble Rhyme on *Monday*?

In the “*Tunbrigialia*” for 1730, is the following expressive couplet :—

For those who *Tunbridge* Poetry have read,  
 Must think its streams impregnated with lead.

These few words pourtray with accuracy the truly no-meaning attempts at rhyme which characterise nearly the whole of those compositions.

The following is from a letter dated “*July 25, 1714,*” in which the writer thus humourously describes the place and company :—

“It is situated upon the side of a Heath, so barren and so poor, that had it not produc'd a Well, it would have yielded nothing. \* \* The Fidlers are as sawcy as Bum-bailiffs at a Sessions-house, and tug you by the Sleeve for half a Crown the very first time of your appearance. The chief diversion at the Wells is to stare one at another; and he or she that is best dress'd, is the greatest subject of the Morning's Tittle-tattle. \* \* Their chiefest pastimes are

these following—Dancing and Bowling at Mount Sion, where Fools lose their money and Knaves win it. Walking in the Grove, where the Ring-doves coo above, whilst the Lovers bill below, and gaming in the Shops upon the Walks, where every one strives to win, whilst the Box runs away with the money.—Lodgings are so scarce and dear, that a Beau is sometimes glad of a barn, and a Lady of Honour content to lie in a garret: The horses being commonly put to Grass, for the Servants to lie in the Stable. My landlord was a Farmer, and his very Out-houses were so full, that having shear'd some Sheep, he abated me half a Crown a week, to let the wool lie in my Bed-chamber. \* \* The most noble of their provisions is a Pack-saddle of Mutton, and a Wheat-ear-pye, which is accounted here a feast for an *Heliogabalus*, and is indeed so costly a banquet, that a man may go over to Amsterdam, treat half a dozen friends with a Fish dinner, and bring 'em back again into their own Country, almost as cheap as you can give yourself and your mistress a true *Tunbridge-Entertainment*. The liquors chiefly produc'd by this part of the Country are Beer made of Wood-dry'd Malt, and Wine drawn out of a Birch-tree; the first is infected with such a smoaky Tang, that you would think it was brew'd in a Chimney; and every Pint you drink, instead of quenching your drought, begets a thirst after a gallon. \* \* At Dick Pottinger's the *Sussex*, you have better usage."

A descriptive Poem under the usual title of "Tunbridgiale," was published in the year

1726, by the author of "My Time O ye Muses," &c., (Dr. Birom), which refers to practices prevalent even in the present day. It is a lively poem, as the following extracts will testify :—

"Some seven or eight Mile off, to give you the Meeting,  
Barbers, Dippers, and so forth, we send to you greeting—  
Soon as they set Eyes on you, off flies the Hat,  
Does your Honor want this, does your Honor want that ?  
That being a Stranger, by this *Apparatus*  
You may see our good manners before you come at us.—  
Now this, please your Honor, is what we call *Tooting*,  
A Trick in your Custom to get the first Footing.

St. 2.

"To Morley's you go, look about and sit down ;  
Then comes the Young Lass for your Honor's half Crown ;  
She brings out the Book, you look wisely upon her,  
What's the meaning of this ? *To Subscribe please your Honor* ;  
So you write, as your Betters have all done before ye,  
'Tis a Custom, and so there's an End of the Story.

St. 6.

In 1724, a German traveller thus describes the proceedings at the Wells :—

We rise in the morning and go to the Wells, where gentlemen and ladies mix together in *dishabille* to drink the waters. At nine we go home to dress ; and at ten the company returns, some to go to church, and the others to the Coffee Houses, where one is very well informed of what passes in the world. After prayers, all the company appear on the walks in the greatest splendour, music playing all the time ; and the ladies and gentlemen divert themselves with raffing, hazard, drinking of tea, and walking till two, when they go to dinner. In the afternoon there are



Bowling Greens for those that love that diversion; and in those Greens are Balls four times a week for the young people, and where every gentleman may dance if he pleases. At night the company generally return to the shops on the walks, where is all manner of play till midnight.

A law suit was commenced in the year 1732, between Maurice Conyers, Esq., then lord of the Manor of Rusthall, and the tenants. Upon the expiration of the original lease between them at Michaelmas, 1732, the tenants contended that the erections, buildings and enclosures ought not to be continued without their consent; and therefore that they were entitled to satisfaction for the same. This claim was resisted, and neither party being inclined to compromise, several tedious and expensive suits in law and at equity were instituted and continued for nearly eight years. They were ultimately decided in favor of the tenants, who were declared entitled to one third of the buildings on the estate, in lieu of their right to the herbage. The shops and buildings were then divided into three lots—of which the tenants were to draw one. Fortunately for them they drew the lot which included the Assembly Rooms, and which has proved the most

profitable of the three. An agreement was afterwards entered into, and confirmed by Act of Parliament, 13. Geo. 2. cap. 11., to prevent an increase of buildings on Tunbridge Wells Common, and thus preserve it from any encroachments, that might tend to destroy its natural beauties. The Freeholders, entitled to right of Common, perambulate the Manor annually, to see that no infringement of their privileges takes place.

It was about the year 1735 that the celebrated Beau Nash, the *arbiter elegantiarum* of Bath, made his appearance to give the laws for his new "colony" of Tunbridge Wells. Previous to his assuming the reins of fashionable government at the Wells, it appears that one of the fair sex, named Bell Causey, held them from the year 1725 to 1734, presiding, during that period, as absolute Governess over the whole territory, and declaring that she would not suffer the "great Beau Nash" to have any power there while she lived. This proved correct, as the "little king of a little people," as he was aptly called, did not arrive till the year succeeding her death, which took place in 1734. Many anecdotes are related of this woman, better

calculated for the times in which they occurred than the present, but all tending to show her unbounded influence and consummate impudence.

The personal appearance and manners of Nash are thus described:—

“Nature had by no means formed Mr. Nash for a *Beau garçon*; his person was clumsy, too large and awkward, and his features harsh, strong, and peculiarly irregular; yet even with those disadvantages, he made love, became an universal admirer of the fair sex, and was universally admired.\* With his superiors he was familiar and blunt, the inferiority of his station secured him from their resentment; but the same bluntness which they laughed at, was by his equals regarded as insolence. Something like a familiar boot-catcher at an inn, a gentleman would bear that joke from him, for which a brother boot-catcher would knock him down. His equipage was sumptuous, and he usually travelled to Tunbridge, in a post-chariot and six greys,

\* “The Life of Richard Nash, Esq.,” published anonymously in 1762, but said to have been written by Dr. Oliver Goldsmith, in whose works, edited by Mr. Prior, it has been recently published.

with out-riders, foot-men, French horns, and every other appendage of expensive parade. He always wore a white hat, and, to apologise for this singularity, said, he did it purely to secure it from being stolen; his dress was tawdry, tho' not perfectly genteel; he might be considered as a beau of several generations, and in his appearance he, in some measure, mixed the fashions of the last age with those of the present. He perfectly understood elegant expense, and generally past his time in the very best company, if persons of the first distinction deserve that title."\*

It must appear astonishing to the fashionables of the nineteenth century, that such a man as is here described could acquire so vast an ascendancy as he evidently possessed over the world of fashion. Nay, such was his power and popularity, that his mandates were issued with a kingly authority, and his proceedings described as important historical events. "We see a kingdom (Bath) beginning with him, and sending off *Tunbridge* as one of its colonies."† Yet it does not appear that his influence was ever so great

\* Life of Nash, p. 50. † Ibid—p. 27.

at Tunbridge Wells as at Bath, for in the year 1756, a letter was addressed to him by Mr. Henderson, a quaker, relative to a subscription for a Mr. Annesly, wherein he says, "I well remember, that thou then madest me a promise to assist him in soliciting a subscription, that was then begun at *Tunbridge*; but as that place *was not within the limits of thy province*, thou couldest not promise to do much there."

With all his foibles, follies and vices, Nash (who died in 1761, in his 88th year) had many good qualities, and some of the rules drawn up by him to regulate the fashionable company, may, and ought to be, printed in letters of gold in all watering-places in the kingdom, especially the following:—

Rule 10.—"That all whisperers of lies and scandal, be taken for their authors. N.B.—*Several men of no character, old women and young ones, of questioned reputation, are great authors of lies in these places.*"

A three-quarter likeness of Nash is placed in the Assembly Rooms.

At a secluded spot in the forest, a short distance beyond the rocks, a spring of clear water was discovered about the year 1754, which was called "Adam's Well."\* This spring

\* Burr states that this Well was discovered in 1670,

or well is still in existence, and is said to be the purest and most pleasant drinking water in the neighbourhood; and it is also thought to be the coldest in England. Dr. Linden, on analysing it, stated "he could not find that it was impregnated with any mineral, saline, nitrous, earthy matter, or sediment whatever, being what the ancients called a holy water." The worthy Doctor gives the following account of the Wells and its inhabitants at this period:—"The air at Tunbridge Wells is as good as can be wished for, or expected in this island: provisions of all kinds are easy to be had there. The houses are commodious and pleasant; so that there can be no where greater conveniences, or better accommodation for the reception of company of the first distinction. The inhabitants are very civil, and, as far as I could extend my acquaintance with them, I found them in general very just and reasonable in their dealings, which is the more commenda-

but at what period the discovery took place, cannot be positively ascertained. Dr. Linden must have visited the Wells about the year 1754, as his work on the Mineral Waters is published the following year, and he alludes to the Well as a recent discovery.

ble, in that they chiefly consist of such as depend on their public business ; whereas most of these places of occasional resort are accounted to abound in Exacters, which indeed too often proves true : But I am heartily glad of this occasion, to do no more than justice, in ranking *Tunbridge Wells* amongst the honourable exceptions ; and indeed it is the only place of that nature I have yet seen, where the landlords use their guests with any tolerable conscience or moderation, though I have been at a great many of the like noted places for mineral waters, though not in England, except those near London. I hope and wish therefore, that all the places of resort to these medicinal waters, may afford as good usage and reception as *Tunbridge Wells*, of which I speak experimentally.”\*

Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Amelia and the Duke of Cumberland visited the Wells in 1762, and remained for some time.

In the year 1765, we find the first notice of any public proceedings in honor of Royal

\* A Treatise on the Origin, Nature, and Virtues of Chalybeate Waters.—By Diederick Wessel Linden, M.D., London.—MDCCLV.

Visitors. On a visit from the Dukes of York and Gloucester, who arrived about the middle of September, they were welcomed by a triple discharge of eighteen pieces of cannon,\* and in the evening the walks were most splendidly illuminated. At this time the place appears to have been in a very flourishing state. The laws established by Beau Nash for the regulation of its amusements, had been attended with the happiest effects, and harmonised so well with the several grades of society, that one feeling appeared to actuate the whole.

The following smart "Epilogue" occurs in the Tunbridge Wells Verses for the year 1765:—

Our patron, Apollo, both wit and physician,  
 At Tunbridge will grant us but half our petition;  
 We find by the waters and what is here writ,  
 That his physic he gives, but denies us his wit;  
 No good can ensue while he plays us this trick,  
 For the spring makes us well, and the verse makes us sick.

In the winter of 1768, a Mr. Pinchbeck purchased the lands around Adam's Well. The virtues of the water are said to have

\* Two or three pieces of this Ordnance still remain at the "High Rocks," where they are used on occasions of public rejoicings.



been "to cure the leprous and the lame," and also

"Scorbutic sores, rheumatic pain,  
Of which poor mortals so complain,  
Yield to its balmy power."

These, or similar qualities, Mr. Pinchbeck expected to find in the water at Adam's Well, and from a host of cures effected by them, it would appear that his expectations were not disappointed. He built a cottage, a stone bath, with an outside bath for the benefit of the poor, and one for dogs and horses. He declared also that the baths and waters should be free for the use of the public, proposing no profits to himself beyond selling the water in London, and the advantages to be derived from the increased company it would bring to the Wells. How far this speculation answered the proprietor's purpose, or when the use of the water was discontinued, cannot be ascertained, but the well itself still remains in one of the most romantic spots that can be imagined, within a quarter of a mile of the High Rocks.

The Rev. Mr. Oneley, Rector of Speldhurst, in 1771, published, anonymously, a "General Account of Tunbridge Wells and

its environs," in which is the following description of the place and company resorting to it :—

"From the Well the Walks begin, on both sides of which, but chiefly on the right hand all along are traders' shops. And really the appearance of the company when assembled together, is quite beautiful and noble; in the day time moving along the parade, like a walking parterre; and at night, in the rooms, like a galaxy of stars in a bright nocturnal sky. The Ball nights are Tuesdays and Fridays; and Assemblies and Cards every other night, except Sundays."

The old stone basin at the Springs being in a decayed state, was replaced in the year 1785, by a marble one, presented by the lady of the manor, Miss Elizabeth Shorey; but this not proving so anti-corrosive a substance as was expected, a Portland stone basin, given by the same lady, was substituted for it in 1822, which remained until the year 1833, when a marble one was again placed there.

From the year 1790 to 1827, scarcely anything occurred worthy of particular notice. The place gradually increased and improved both in the number of buildings and in population, and was regularly visited by the most distinguished characters in the literary,

political, and fashionable world ; to enumerate whom, would be to republish the Court Guides and Peerage Books of the last half century. One thing, indeed, was introduced, which as it has since formed a principal feature in the amusements of most watering-places, may well deserve mention here. Previous to the year 1801, when ladies wished to take an equestrian excursion, they were accommodated by being mounted on a pillion, in the good old Darby and Joan manner, but in 1801, Lady George Seymour being here, introduced the custom of riding on donkies, which has continued the fashion ever since. In a letter of Mrs. Barbauld's to Miss Taylor, dated August 11th, 1804, she thus pleasantly alludes to the circumstance :—

“Oh! that you were here, Susan, to exhibit upon a donkey. I cannot tell whether my orthography is right, but donkey is the *monture* in high fashion here ; and I assure you, when covered with blue housings, and sleek, it makes no bad figure ;—I mean a lady, if an elegant woman, makes no bad figure upon it, with a little boy or girl behind: who carries a switch, meant to admonish the animal from time to time, that he is hired to walk on and not to stand still. The ass is much better adapted than the horse to

shew off a lady: for this reason, which perhaps may not have occurred to you, *that her beauty is not so likely to be eclipsed.*"\*

In consequence of the increased number of residents, it was found that the old Chapel (which had been enlarged to its present size in 1696) was insufficient to afford proper accommodation for the visitors; a new Church was therefore built, and was consecrated in 1829, the year preceding which, the most important alterations were commenced that the Wells had yet seen. These were made on the

## CALVERLEY ESTATE,

which is the property of John Ward, Esq., of Holwood, in the County of Kent. This gentleman having purchased the Calverley and other considerable property adjoining it, it was determined to erect a number of edifices suitable to the reception of genteel families; and simultaneously with the larger buildings, a number of shops, &c., in their immediate neighbourhood, so that the residents upon this estate might enjoy the same advantages as those who lived nearer the Springs. In the autumn of 1828, this ex-

\* Aikin's Works and Memoirs of Mrs. Barbauld.

tensive undertaking was commenced from the designs of Decimus Burton, Esq., of Spring Garden, London; the Messrs. Bramah, of Pimlico, having taken the ground necessary for the purpose, on a building lease. As these buildings progressed, it was evident that a new town was springing up—villas, a terrace, a parade, rows of shops, &c., soon began to develop themselves, and advanced steadily to completion. It would be manifestly unjust to this property, not to notice it more particularly than giving a mere cursory sketch of it. We shall therefore commence with

CALVERLEY PARK,

which comprises twenty-six acres, adjoining to and overlooking twenty acres of meadow and pleasure grounds in front of the Hotel, and contains twenty-four villas, chiefly of the Italian and Grecian style of architecture. The elegant appearance of these buildings attracts attention and excites admiration; and the views from the Park are at once extensive, diversified, and beautiful; equal, if not superior, to any at the Wells. The pleasure grounds are tastefully laid out, and afford some very pleasant walks.

There is a lodge at each entrance, called Victoria, Keston, and Farnborough lodges. The former is named after her present Majesty, as it adjoins Calverley House, (now an Hotel,) in which Her Majesty and her royal mother, the Duchess of Kent were residing when these buildings were commenced. Farnborough lodge, at the entrance to the park from Grove Hill, is a neat rustic building. At the north west side of the park, is

CALVERLEY PROMENADE,

built in the form of a crescent. This row of buildings (seventeen in number) was originally intended for shops, but within the last five years most of them have been converted into dwelling houses. At one end of the promenade there are Shampooing and Vapour Baths; in the centre, a Library, Reading Room, &c., opposite to which is a Fountain, and a temporary Orchestra has been erected for a band to amuse the company. Immediately adjacent to the promenade is the CALVERLEY HOTEL, which was opened by Mr. E. Churchill, in 1840; the accommodations here are of the first-rate description, and the situation in which it is placed, commanding

as it does an uninterrupted view over delightful scenery, renders it one of the most charming spots in the country. From its contiguity to the park, it appears to form a portion of it, and some ornamental water at the bottom of a gently sloping lawn, adds greatly to the picturesque appearance of the *tout ensemble*.

On the opposite side of the road from the Hotel is CALVERLEY TERRACE, consisting of four double Villas with pleasure grounds in front and gardens behind, communicating with the stables, coach-houses, &c. CALVERLEY PARADE, immediately adjoining, is a range of twelve houses on a similar scale to those of the terrace, but smaller; and at the back of these are the Calverley Mews, which afford extensive accommodation for horses and carriages, independent of those which are attached to the houses on the terrace and parade. A short distance from the latter, is the *Camden Hotel*, next to which is a *Market House*. On a line with this is CALVERLEY PLACE, consisting of twelve houses and shops. The whole of the buildings are faced with stone from a quarry on the estate; near which Water-works have been erected to supply

the inhabitants with excellent water from the celebrated Jack's Wood Spring.

The quarry on this estate is of such repute, that it was one of those chosen with reference to the selection of stone for building the new Houses of Parliament. From the official report made on the occasion, which contains no notice of any other quarry of building stone in the counties of Kent or Sussex, we have extracted its several qualities:—It is a sandstone, formed of fine silicious grains with a slightly calcareous cement. The colors are variegated browns, and the weight of a cube foot in its ordinary state is 118lbs. 1oz. The entire depth of workable stone is from 6 feet to 6 feet and a half, which is in three beds—the upper and softest bed is two feet; the middle, three feet to three feet and a half; and the lower, nine to fourteen inches. Blocks may be procured from 80 feet to upwards of 500 feet, and Trinity Church, with many other buildings at the Wells and its vicinity, can testify its durability.

Opposite one of the entrances to the Park is Baston Cottage, an elegant building in the Gothic style of architecture, the property of Decimus Burton, Esq. There are some



extensive pleasure grounds here, which are laid out with great taste. Immediately adjacent to Baston Cottage, are the *Calverley Nursery Grounds*, in the occupation of Mr. William Piper, which afford a most delightful lounge to visitors, and are well worth seeing. The building of the new town appeared to act as a powerful stimulus, for while this was going on the Windmill Fields in the neighbourhood of Calverley were covered with cottages, and much of the adjoining land was also built upon. Several detached villas have been erected, as well as a row of houses, called *Park View*, pleasantly situated, which command an extensive prospect. Adjoining these is

GROVE HILL,

comprising a number of genteel residences and first-rate lodging-houses, which are eagerly sought after during the season. The gardens and pleasure grounds in front are tastefully arranged, and kept in excellent order for the use of the residents on that property. The situation is airy and healthful, and the views from the pleasure grounds, looking across the Common, are of the first description, whilst the prospect from the

back, over the Forest and adjacent country is very extensive and diversified. Immediately adjoining this is, "The Grove;" and there is also a new road by Cambridge House, which leads through the *Twenty-Acre Wood* and some extremely romantic and picturesque rural walks to Bayham Abbey.

In the neighbourhood of Bishop's Down, a new Park has been commenced, called

NEVILL PARK,

the situation of which for building, has been happily chosen. It commands a most charming prospect, and its short distance from the chalybeate springs, renders it a particularly desirable residence for those who wish to derive benefit from the waters. There is a pleasant walk through this park from Bishop's Down to Rusthall Common, and four handsome houses are erected here. The views from all parts of the park are varied and extensive, and at each entrance is a remarkably pretty lodge, the rustic appearance of which harmonises well with the surrounding scenery.

There is also another part of the town where buildings, on an extensive scale, have been erected. These are situated at the en-

trance to the Wells from the Metropolis, and are on the property of Captain Foreman and Hans Busk, Esq. The houses already finished are exceedingly well adapted for small genteel families. They have gardens attached to them, and are at a pleasant distance from the springs.

#### MOUNT EPHRAIM

still continues the favourite lounge and drive of the fashionable frequenters of the Wells, and appears to have recovered its ancient renown. It has long been celebrated for lodging-houses and private residences of the first class, possessing very extensive views of the Kent and Surrey hills. An HOTEL was erected here in 1834, the prospect from which can be surpassed by few in the kingdom.

#### MOUNT SION

continues its ancient rivalry with Mount Ephraim. There are some lodging-houses here upon a very superior scale. Many of them are modern buildings, and some of the ancient ones have been renovated. The situation is extremely pleasant.

Considerable alterations have been also made in *Jordan Lane*, (now called Church

Road) by the erection of some elegant private residences and excellent lodging-houses, and there is a row of neat lodging-houses, facing the Common, called *Clarence Terrace*.

The consequence of the vast increase of buildings has naturally been a proportionate addition to the number of inhabitants. Many families that formerly visited the place periodically have now become permanent residents, and their numbers increase every season.

But the inhabitants of the old part of the town did not look supinely on, whilst so many new buildings were flourishing around them. Although they felt that with the Assembly Rooms, the Springs, the Post Office, two Libraries, and the Hotels, the Parade must continue the primary and chief object of attraction, yet they saw clearly the necessity of embellishment. Many of the houses and shops therefore, on the Pantiles,\* have undergone a complete renovation; the orchestra has been altered and fresh decorated, and the general improvements of the parade have kept pace with the spirit of the times.

\* The Walks were called the Pantiles from their having been originally paved with a sort of baked tile, so designated.

Her present Majesty, with her royal mother, the Duchess of Kent, having frequently honored Tunbridge Wells by residing there in the season, chiefly at Calverley House, the inhabitants were anxious to afford them a proof of their attachment and gratitude. At a meeting of the Freeholders of Rusthall Common, in the autumn of 1834, it was considered that the most appropriate record of their feelings would be shewn in planting a Grove on the common, adjoining Queen Anne's Grove, to be called the Victoria Grove. As this common belongs exclusively to the lord of the manor, and the freehold tenants, who have a right of herbage, it was but natural that they should take the lead in the business—but no sooner were their intentions made known, than the inhabitants of all descriptions felt desirous of participating in the proceedings on the occasion. The interesting ceremony took place on Thursday, the 12th of February, 1835. William Scoones, Esq., as representative of the Lord of the Manor of Rusthall, planted the first tree. Three cheers were then given, and the band played the national anthem. The planting of the other trees was then

proceeded with by those who were desirous of the honor, and in the evening upwards of two hundred of the clergy, magistrates, gentry, and inhabitants dined at the Upper Assembly Rooms in celebration of the event. The grove is 550 feet long and 50 feet wide, and consists of three rows of trees, Elms, Limes, and Sycamores—the trees being planted twelve feet apart.

But little more of the historical portion of Tunbridge Wells remains to be recorded. The passing of the Local Act, in 1835, has been of most essential benefit to the place in every respect, more especially as regards the watching of the town by an efficient Police establishment, and the lighting of it by gas.

GENERAL REMARKS  
ON  
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

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“Some account of the air of Tunbridge Wells,” says Benge Burr, “will certainly be esteemed necessary to render this work tolerably compleat,”—the same might be said with equal truth of the water, but we do not so far concur with these opinions as to inflict such dissertations upon subjects that must be seen and felt to be properly appreciated. Many learned Essays upon both these points have been ushered into the world, which few read, and still fewer comprehend; whilst every medical treatise that we have seen on the subject of the mineral waters, from Dr. Rowzee, in 1632, to Dr. Yeats, in 1832, strongly reprobate the prac-

tice of drinking them without proper medical advice. A short paragraph from the life of Mr. Richard Cumberland is more to the purpose, as speaking practically, than volumes of speculative opinions. He says, "More than twenty years I lived at Tunbridge Wells inhabiting the same house, and cultivating a plot of garden ground, embowered with trees, and amply sufficient for a profusion of flowers. Whilst I lived in town I had hardly ever passed a year without a long and dangerous fever, but in this salubrious climate, I never once experienced so much indisposition as to confine me to bed even for a single hour."\* From this testimony of an experienced and disinterested individual, it is evident that the air partakes of those invigorating qualities for which the waters are so justly celebrated. It is in fact, dry, pure, and bracing—strengthening the attenuated frame, and tending much to exhilarate the spirits of the hypochondriac. In summer a gentle breeze prevails, which keeps the air delightfully cool and pleasant, whilst it wafts the fragrance of the wild thyme, the chamomile, and the in-

\* Cumberland's Life, vol. 2. p. 330.



numerable sweet herbs that abound on the Common, and in every direction around it.\*

#### THE WATERS.

Not only does the immediate neighbourhood of Tunbridge Wells abound with mineral springs, but they are found at distances of twelve to fifteen miles from it. None of them, however, appear to have attained the celebrity that these have, although experiments have been tried at other springs: one of them about the middle of the last century, at a spot adjoining the gardens of the Sussex Hotel, which was tried by Mr. Todd, then the proprietor of the Hotel, but his efforts to attract invalids to it, failed of success, and the spot was christened "The Folly," which cognomen it still bears.

\* Dr. Yeats in writing "On the temperature of the Atmosphere," has this remark:—"I am inclined to believe that, in addition to its purity, it is also indebted for its salutary influence to the actual presence, in suspension or solution, of the effluvia or aroma from the plants, particularly the broom and the heath on the extensive downs of what is called the Forest, and on Crowboro' Common, situated to the south and west of Tunbridge Wells; for it is from these points that the breezes bring the grateful feelings alluded to."—Britton's Descriptive Sketches, p. 69.

Another was tried a short distance on the Pembury road, to the right of which it stands at a farm called the *Burnt House Farm*. This was apparently better attended than that at the Sussex, for a large square stone, which was remaining in 1839 by the side of the spring, was much carved with initials and dates. The spring is pleasantly situated on the property of John Ward, Esq. The stone had all the appearance of a monumental stone, and one of the dates upon it was 17—. “The water itself at the present spring is extremely clear and light, its taste is pleasingly steely. In point of heat it is invariably temperate, let the atmosphere be in whatever state it will. When it is first taken up in a large glass its particles continue at rest, till it is warmed to nearly the heat of the atmosphere, then a few airy globules begin to separate themselves and adhere to the sides of the vessel; and, in a few hours more, a light copper coloured scum begins to swim on the surface; after which an ochreous sediment settles at the bottom.”\* These

\* Burr’s “Historical Account,” p. 73.—Mr. Burr appears to have formed his opinion of the waters from the testimonies of Dr. Rowzee, and Dr. Linden.

changes are accounted for in the following manner:—The water as it rises from the spring, contains a solution of carbonate of iron in an excess of carbonic acid—the excess of acid readily escapes in the form of gas, leaving the carbonate of iron in the state of an insoluble precipitate. Long continued rains sometimes give the water a milky appearance, but do not otherwise sensibly affect it. From the experiments of different chymists, it appears that the component parts of this water are—Iron in its mildest state of solution, being in combination with carbonic acid gas, or fixed air, with a slighter trace of earthy salts than is usually met with in spring water. The quantity of carbonate, or rather proto-carbonate of iron in a gallon of the water, amounts to about three grains and a half—that of saline substances in combination, four and a half grains, making eight grains of solid matter in each gallon.

The following is an accurate analysis of a wine pint of it:—

	GASES.	Cubic Inches.
Nitrogen	- - - -	- 0.59
Carbonic Acid	- - - -	- 1
Slight trace of Oxygen	- - - -	- —

	SOLIDS.	Grains.
Carbonate of Lime	- - -	0.03
Sulphate of ditto	- - -	0.17
Chloride of Sodium	- - -	0.30
Hydrochlorate of Magnesia	-	0.03
Ditto of Lime	- - -	0.05
Protoxide of Iron	- - -	0.28

To drink it in perfection, recourse must always be had to the fountain head. "The nature and medicinal qualities of the *mineral Springs*," says Dr. Yeats, "are well calculated to aid the very salubrious property of the air, and prove highly beneficial in all cases of simple debility, and in such debility as is complicated with sluggish movements in the glandular system, where no inflammatory action or serious obstructions exist;—and all that class of diseases which has general or local debility for its basis."

Curtis in his "Treatise on Health," says, "The Tunbridge waters are the strongest chalybeates in England, and have been known from a very early period, those of Bath alone claiming a higher antiquity. From the small quantity of saline constituents in the water, it may be considered a pure chalybeate; and although it is inferior to many continental spas in the quantity of iron contained in it,

yet its efficacy is by no means proportionably less; on the contrary, in the opinion of some writers it is for some classes of disease quite as valuable a remedy as the most powerful of the continental chalybeates. It acts strongly as a tonic; and aperients are often required to prevent constipation being occasioned by drinking it. The water is especially useful in that form of dyspepsia which arises from weakness of the stomach, in several scrofulous affections, in various female complaints, and in calculous.”\*

By the Act of Parliament mentioned at page 37, the spring is declared “open and free to the public,” but from the first establishment of it there has always been a certain number of females employed as *Dippers*, who attend at the spring with glasses, &c., for the accommodation of the visitors. The present shop over the springs, forms part of the building that was originally intended for baths and a pump room. Previous to this the large circular space round the springs was used by the country people who attended there to dispose of their commodities. There

\* For a further account of these waters, vide Sir C. Scudamore's work on Mineral waters.

was a sun dial in the centre of it, and they stationed themselves on the steps which led to the springs. Upon the laying of the foundation stone for this building, it was celebrated as a gala day, and a numerous party assembled to witness the ceremony, and partake of the punch that was made in the two basins.

In digging the foundations for the Baths, the workmen by some means cut through the springs, and the next day, being Sunday, the water rushed out in such quantities that nearly all the congregation left the chapel, fearing an inundation. In the year 1835, as a well was being sunk on some premises at the back of the Parade, the water in the basins was suddenly observed to decrease, and an inquiry being instituted, it was ascertained that the well had cut off the communication. It had penetrated the stratum containing the chalybeate water, and it was thus found that the source of the spring was not so deep as had been imagined. The spring yields about a gallon a minute, exclusive of a considerable quantity that rises within the baths and passes off in another direction.

The salubrity of the air, with the efficacy

of the water in many complaints, and the easy distance from the metropolis, rendered still more so by the South-Eastern Railway, have naturally rendered Tunbridge Wells a favorite resort of the fashionable world. The appearance of the Common when the furze is in full bloom would of itself amply compensate for the fatigue of a journey from the metropolis. Yet beautiful as this is, it is exceeded by the delightful walks and rides in every direction around the Wells. Previous to introducing the reader to these, we shall notice some of the principal mansions and lodging-houses in the place, that have not yet been noticed. As you enter the town from the metropolis, immediately after passing the turnpike gate on the right, is a brewery, where the celebrated Colonel Warde carried on business. He also kept a farm and dairy, and resided at the Villa immediately beyond it, which is now the property of Hans Busk, Esq. His partner in celebrity, Mary Anne Clarke, occupied Ephraim Lodge, on Mount Ephraim. Near the brewhouse is Northumberland House, so called after his Grace of that name, who made it his occasional residence.

As you approach the Wells, on the right is the Culverden property, which formerly belonged to the Countess of Huntingdon, who resided here. The present elegant mansion, the residence of Mrs. Fisher, is not seen from the road, but we may with truth say in the same terms as were used of it upwards of seventy years since, "It is as happily situated as almost any house in the place." In one part of the grounds there is an unique building, having its lower apartments hewn out of the sand rocks. It is called the *Swiss Cottage*, and both the exterior and interior well merit the name, as may be judged from the annexed wood-cut.

In another part of the grounds, in a most romantic situation, is a modern-built tower, which overlooks an extensive tract of country, and looks down immediately on a wild glen, which, with the necessary adjuncts of moustachiod faces and high crowned hats, would have formed a capital study for Salvator Rosa. There is also an interesting subject for the naturalist to be found here. In the ravine at the foot of the Castle, from three to six feet below the surface, lie buried large trunks and branches of birch trees in a tolerably



perfect state, and with the rind (notable for its thin texture) in better preservation than the wood itself.\* Proceeding along Mount Ephraim you arrive at *Douro House*, which was occupied by the Duchess of Wellington at the time the battle of Salamanca was fought. *Boyne House* was built by Lord Viscount Boyne, who called it Somerville in compliment to his lady, but it was afterwards named from his lordship. It was the residence of the Queen and the Duchess of Kent the last time they honored the town with a visit in the year 1835. The cottage at the corner, now called *Somerville Cottage*, was occasionally the residence of the celebrated Rev. Wm. Huntingdon, S.S., and in one of the back rooms of it he died. His peculiarities are too well known to require notice in these pages.

Next to Boyne House, is *Wellington Place*, which owes its designation to the illustrious Duke. Sir George Buggin, knight, built

\* There are other places in the neighbourhood where trees are found beneath the surface, particularly in the vicinity of Jack's Wood Spring, where there is a row of oaks embedded horizontally, some of them measuring ten or twelve feet in girth.

the first house on this spot, which now forms Nos. 2 and 3. Nearly opposite to this, on the common, are two very picturesque buildings, called *Gibraltar* and *St. Helena*, the latter, the property of William Stone, Esq., and the former, the property of Edmund Bennett, Esq., used occasionally as lodging-houses. There are also on Mount Ephraim, in addition to a number of superior lodging-houses, several private residences which command the most lovely prospects both in the front and back part. An old *Stone House* that formerly occupied a conspicuous place here was pulled down in 1842, having been in a ruinous state for some years previous. There are no records of the date when it was built, nor of the builder. It was long used for a lodging-house, and for several seasons it was occupied by Sir Philip Francis, so well known in the literary world.

*Earl's Court*, the residence of Mrs. Tighe, is said to have been built by Sir Edmund King, one of the Physicians to King Charles 2nd. *Castle House*, was once occupied by Mrs. Johnson, sister of the Bishop of Rochester, where the Lord Chief Justice Mansfield was frequently a guest. *Chancellor House*,

the property of Richard Becher, Esq., stands in some extensive grounds near the Tunbridge-Ware Manufactory. It was formerly the residence of Judge Jeffries, whose name is "damned to everlasting fame" for the barbarities practised by him in the West of England and elsewhere, when trying the prisoners taken during the rebellion of the Duke of Monmouth, in 1685. It afterwards became the property of Sir Richard Heron, Bart., who considerably enlarged and improved it.

The house adjoining Fenner's Repository, called *Ephraim House*, we have already noticed as having probably been the residence of Charles 2nd. and his Court. It is a large commodious building, but some parts of it have been recently modernised—the old staircases however, still remaining in the back part of the house, shew that it must have been a mansion of some consequence.

*Bishop's Down Grove*, the residence of D. J. Robertson, Esq., was once the property of Sir George Kelly, knight, an eminent physician, from whose descendants it was purchased by Major Yorke, who resided here for upwards of twenty-five years. During

this period he "improved his house, beautified his grounds, and made his home a constant scene of friendly intercourse and cheerful hospitality."\*

On the rival hill, Mount Sion, is *Cumberland House*, formerly the residence of Richard Cumberland, Esq., whose fame as a dramatic writer, will outlive his reputation as a diplomatist. At Burlington House, lived Sir James Bland Burgess; and North Grove House, behind Christ Church, was the occasional residence of Lord North. Descending the hill, on the left, is a row of buildings, called *Cumberland Gardens*, and at the end is *Cumberland Terrace*, so named from its having been the favorite promenade of the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland. This terrace is pleasantly situated, and has some excellent lodging-houses. There are fields and gardens in front, with the little stream that divides the Counties running between them.

\* Amsinck.

## PLACES OF PUBLIC WORSHIP.

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### THE CHAPEL OF EASE.

THIS Chapel is a commodious building, containing sittings for nearly twelve hundred persons. It has no architectural beauty to recommend the external appearance, and the interior is equally plain, if we except the ceiling, which is highly ornamented. It was opened for divine worship in the season of 1684, under a temporary roof, the building not being then completed. It appears to have been finished in the year 1683, when the Rev. Dr. Walker preached two sermons in the chapel, and afterwards published them.

The Chapel is dedicated to King Charles the Martyr. In 1688, a subscription was commenced for its enlargement, which was continued in each succeeding season for about eight years, and amounted upwards of nine hundred pounds. The two lists of subscribers are in the vestry room. In the first list is the name of the Princess Anne of Denmark for £10 15s., and in the second, for the enlargement of the chapel, her Royal Highness's name appears for £53 15s. From these lists, the cost of the chapel is ascertained, as well as the time it was built, and the

period of the enlargement of it. The first list is headed, "The Account of all the Money which hath bin contributed unto and Expended on and aboute the Erecting a Chapel at Tunbridge Wells from 1676 to 1684." The second merely alters the word "Erecting" into "Enlarging" from the year 1688 to 1696; and the sum total is stated as follows:—

Contributions by first Catalogue .....	1380	7	3
Ditto by this Catalogue .....	797	5	7
Owing to Mr. Pett's Executors .....	100	0	0
Due to Mr. N. Hawes to balance this Account..	0	8	9
	<hr/>		
	£2278	1	7
	<hr/>		
Paid as by first Catalogue.....	1334	15	2
Ditto by this.....	943	6	5
	<hr/>		
	£2278	1	7

At the bottom of the first Catalogue is this entry, "The Soile of the ground on which this Chapel stands, was given by Robert Lord Purbecke and his Lady." The original chapel must have been exceedingly small. The trust deed, dated 15th February, 1703, recites, "*All which said Chapel, Gallery, Vestry and Ground thereunto adjoining do stand and lye in the parish of Tunbridge aforesaid in the County of Kent.*" From this it would appear that the opinion of the Chapel being in two Counties and three parishes, is an erroneous one; and in perambulating the boundaries, the Tunbridge authorities invariably go round the outside of the building—but the records of Speldhurst parish state that from the erection of the Chapel until 1791, when the Church was destroyed by fire, it was the invariable custom to close the Chapel on Easter-Day; and it was the practice at one

time for the officiating minister at the Chapel of Ease to forward to the Rector of Speldhurst, a certain portion of the Alms collected for the poor at the Holy Communion on that day, but this has latterly been discontinued: although it has been stated, that when the parishioners knew the contents of the deed of 1703, they convened a meeting and made an attestation against that portion of it which describes the chapel as being entirely in Tunbridge parish.

In the year 1817, the *right* of Speldhurst parish was disputed. On that occasion, the son of the Rev. Martin Benson attended when the Speldhurst authorities were perambulating the boundaries of their parish, and refused them admission at the Chapel doors, objecting also to their entrance through the window. A Mr. Huntley, who was Churchwarden at the time, forced a boy partly into it, but the boy retreated, and after other efforts, Mr. Huntley finding the authorities could not obtain ingress, contented himself with marking "1817," in red paint upon a brick under the stone of 1794, both of which, we understand, were removed in 1842.

The appointment is vested in certain Trustees, named by the deed. Several eminent ministers have officiated here. The first minister appointed appears to have been the Rev. David Waterhouse, and after him came in succession, the Reverends John Elton, William Dowding, William Thornhill, Thomas Foster, and Martin Benson. The latter gentleman having resigned in 1823, was succeeded in his ministry in 1829, by the present minister, the Rev. W. L. Pope, M.A., Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford.

There is no endowment for the clergyman, whose income is derived from the subscriptions of the Visitors and Inhabitants who frequent the chapel. Occasional collections are made at the doors of the chapel for the repairs and lighting the same, or for such charitable purposes as may be announced.

The sittings in the chapel are free. There is a small fine-toned organ—the organist being paid by subscription. Divine service is performed here twice on Sundays—at eleven in the morning, and at half-past six in the evening. The Sacrament is administered the first Sunday in every month. The Rev. W. L. Pope resides at Claremont Lodge; Mr. Thomas Stidolph, Organist, and Mr. John Jenner, Clerk, at Cumberland Terrace.

#### THE DISTRICT CHURCH.

The first stone of this church was laid on the Duchess of Kent's birth-day, the 17th August, 1827. The building was completed in about two years, and on the 3rd September, 1829, it was consecrated, with the accustomed ceremonies, by the Bishop of Rochester. The church, called "Holy Trinity," is a handsome structure in the style of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and is seen to great advantage from many parts of the common. It cost upwards of £12,000. The stone used in the building was procured from the Calverley quarry, in the immediate neighbourhood of the church. There is no endowment for the clergyman, whose income is derived from the pew rents. The repairs, &c., of the church are paid from a church rate, levied as may be required.



The benefice is at present in the gift of the Rev. Sir Charles Hardinge, Bart.—afterwards the presentation will be in the hands of John Deacon, Esq., of Quarry Hill. There are about 1600 sittings, one half of which are free. The organ and stained glass window were purchased by the profits arising from a fancy fair in 1839, and private subscriptions. The organ was built by Mr. Gray, of London, and the window, which represents the four Evangelists, was executed by Mr. Miller, of London. The elegant font, which was substituted in June, 1842, for a smaller one, was the gift of a resident lady. The present Incumbent is the Rev. I. N. Pearson, who resides at the Parsonage House, situated near the Calverley Market, the munificent gift of the Marquis of Bristol, who conveyed it to the church for the use of the Incumbent.

The Clerk is Mr. J. B. Hastings, Priory Cottage, near the church, where sittings may be obtained. Divine Service is performed on Sundays, at eleven in the morning, and at half-past three in the afternoon, (in winter at three.) The Lord's Supper is administered on the third Sunday in the month. A Sunday School is established here for girls and boys, which is attended by nearly 230 scholars. The Organist, Mr. Charles Goodban, resides at 2, Wilton Place, Grosvenor Road.

#### CHRIST CHURCH

Is situated in High Street, near the foot of Grove Hill Road. The foundation stone was laid on the 9th of September, 1835, but the church was not opened

for divine worship till the 9th of May, 1841, after it had become the property, by purchase, of the present officiating minister, the Rev. Thomas Ward Franklin. It was designed by R. P. Brown, Esq., of Greenwich; and the cost of building was upwards of £6000. There are 900 sittings, of which 200 in the gallery and 50 in the body of the church are free, independent of 100 sittings in the pews under the gallery, which are let at the nominal sum of *one shilling* per annum each, to the labouring classes. The church is supported entirely by the pew rents.

The Services on Sundays are at eleven in the morning, and half-past six in the evening; and on Thursday evenings at seven o'clock. The Sacrament is administered on the last Sunday in the month. Sittings may be taken of Mr. Gardener, Chemist, High Street.

#### INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.

This chapel is situated on Mount Sion. It was built by voluntary subscriptions, and opened for divine service on the first of August, 1720, for the use of the presbyterians; on which occasion the Rev. John Archer officiated.

For several years the pulpit was supplied by various ministers, who officiated for a limited number of weeks or months in succession. In the year 1731, the Rev. Thomas Bayes, F.R.S., appears to have been the stated pastor: how long he continued is not known; but his decease took place on the 17th April, 1761, when he was fifty-nine years of age. He was succeeded by the Rev. William Johnston, A.M., who became the stated minister of the chapel, in the year 1752.

Mr. Johnston, who was a native of Scotland, was distinguished both by his literary acquirements and his amiable and gentlemanly deportment. His remains are interred in Speldhurst church-yard, with those of six of his children.

For some time after the death of Mr. Johnston, there was no stated minister, but the chapel was opened for public worship for about five months in the visiting season. The next minister was Mr. Skinner, who was succeeded by Mr. Hampson, and he was followed by Mr. Gough, in 1795, who was master of the Free School at Southborough. From this time, in common with many of the old presbyterian places in England, the congregation gradually decreased and dwindled away until the chapel was nearly deserted. The Wesleyan Methodists were allowed to hold their meetings for public worship here for some time, till they erected a chapel for themselves in Vale Royal, in the year 1812. Mount Sion Chapel was eventually closed in the year 1814. But in the spring of the year 1830, the attention of Thomas Wilson, Esq., of Highbury, then on a visit at the Wells, was directed to this place of worship. After making arrangements with the surviving trustees to apply the chapel to the use of the Congregational body—commonly called Independents—Mr. Wilson undertook to have it thoroughly repaired, which was accordingly done. The expenses incurred by the alterations and repairs amounted to upwards of £700., the greater portion of which was defrayed by Mr. Wilson.

The Chapel was re-opened on the 8th of July, 1830.

The Rev. Benjamin Slight, the present minister, formerly of Highbury College, preached his first sermon in this chapel on the 8th of August, 1830; and at a meeting of the members, held on the 21st January, 1831, it was unanimously resolved that he should become the stated pastor; and on the 10th of May following he was publicly set apart to that office.

Since then a new Trust Deed has been formed, by which the Chapel, with the cottage and garden adjoining, has been vested in the hands of Trustees, for the use of the congregation assembling there.

The Chapel is a plain substantial building, nearly square—40 feet by 34. It is distinguished by no architectural attractions; but its interior is comfortable and commodious. It is capable of seating 450 persons; allowing 400 for the chapel itself, and 50 for the adjoining school-room, which is separated from the chapel by sliding shutters. Of these sittings 170 are free. During the week the school room is used for a Female School, on the plan of the British and Foreign School Society; the average attendance at which is 60 girls. The stated public services in this place of worship are as follow:—on Sabbath days, at eleven in the morning, and half-past six in the evening; on Monday evenings, Prayer Meeting at seven; and Lecture on Wednesday evenings, at seven. The residence of the present minister, the Rev. Benjamin Slight, is No. 3, Park View, Grove Hill Road, facing the Calverley Park; and the Clerk, Mr. J. Scholes, Calverley Road.

The old Independent chapel, subsequently converted into a dwelling house, is now known by the name of Durham House, and situated in Vale Royal.

## THE COUNTESS OF HUNTINGDON'S CHAPEL.

This Chapel is situated at the entrance of the town from the metropolis. It is a neat wooden edifice—one small portion only being finished with tiles. It was built by Selina, the celebrated Countess of Huntingdon, who resided at Tunbridge Wells, in 1768, at a house on the Culverden, on the site of which Mrs. Jeddere Fisher's mansion is built.

Encouraged by the success which attended her efforts in this part of Kent, it appears that her ladyship determined upon having a chapel in the place. Previous to building which, the Rev. George Whitefield used to address numerous auditories on a mound of earth, near her ladyship's residence, and which is still remaining in the garden of the present respected minister. From this period it does not appear from the records that there were any settled ministers until the year 1808, when the Rev. John Finley was appointed, who still enjoys the office, having we believe, presided over his congregation longer than any minister within a circuit of twenty miles. There is a remarkably neat burying ground in front of the chapel, which is kept apparently with great care. The chapel contains sittings for 500 persons; and those in the galleries are free, with the exception of the front seat. There is no endowment, but the income of the minister is derived from the pew rents and voluntary contributions. Divine service is performed here on Sundays in the morning at eleven, and the evening at half-past six o'clock, and the sacraments administered on the first Sunday in the month.

There is a prayer meeting on Monday evenings, and a lecture on Tuesday evenings, each service commencing at seven o'clock. The minister, the Rev. John Finley, resides in a house immediately adjoining the chapel; and the clerk, Mr. George Budgen, lives at Ephraim Terrace.

#### THE BAPTIST CHAPEL.

At what period the congregation of Baptists first assembled in this place is now a subject for conjecture. The first traces of them as a distinct body of worshippers appear to be not earlier than the middle of the eighteenth century, as we find somewhere about the year 1770 a chapel was built for "The General Baptists," by the united exertions of Mr. Mathias Copper and Mr. Joseph Haines, both of whom were preachers in that persuasion, and the latter it appears held the ministry for about thirty years. This chapel was erected immediately adjoining Ephraim House, and was pulled down about the year 1809. On its site a row of cottages has been built, but the original Baptistry still remains. The burying ground,\* too, though sadly, we may say disgracefully neglected, still marks the spot, where some of the "rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep." A division in the sect, we believe, occasioned the negligence that is here apparent, for the original

\* The original burying ground belonging to this sect of worshippers was formerly at a distance of upwards of two miles from the chapel, in the corner of an orchard on *Shellock's Pond Farm*, now called the *Burying Ground Farm*, from that circumstance, situated on the left of the road leading from Langton to Speldhurst.

‘General or Freewill Baptists,’ in this place dwindled away upwards of thirty years since, nor does there appear to have been any effort made to revive them. About the year 1833, however, some few serious persons occasionally assembled for worship, belonging to the sect of Particular Baptists, and they commenced the present neat building in Hanover Road, on the 14th of August, 1834. It was finished on the 5th of November, and opened on the 6th of November in the same year. There is accommodation in the chapel, including pews and free sittings, for 550 persons. The cost of the chapel, including land, &c., was about £1265. It is a plain brick building without architectural ornaments. There is a Sunday School established here, which consists of about 120 scholars; and there is a burial ground at the back of the chapel. There is no endowment, but the minister derives his income from pew rents and voluntary subscriptions. Divine service is performed here on Sundays, in the morning at eleven, afternoon at three, and evening at half-past six o’clock; and on Monday and Thursday evenings at seven o’clock. The present minister is the Rev. Henry Kewell, who resides in the Grosvenor Road. The clerk, Mr. J. Austen, lives in the Windmill Fields.

#### THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

This structure is pleasantly situated at Vale Royal, facing the Common, and adjoining the London Road. It is a plain neat building, without architectural pretensions. The Rev. John Wesley, the Founder of

Methodism, frequently preached here between the years 1778 and 1784. Subsequently, Dr. Coke and other ministers in connexion with the Rev. J. Wesley, occasionally visited the place, and a society was ultimately formed in 1809, which led to the erection of the present Chapel. It was built by subscription, and opened for public worship, June 24th, 1812. Since then the society has been steadily increasing. In 1841 the chapel was added to by new entrance wings, side galleries, and a commodious school room for the instruction of Sunday scholars. Divine service is performed here twice on Sundays, viz. at eleven o'clock in the morning, and at half-past six in the evening; and on Thursday evenings, at seven. Prayer Meeting on Monday evenings, at seven o'clock.

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL.

The Catholic Church of St. Augustine is a neat stone edifice, situated in the Grosvenor Road. It was built by subscription. There is a house adjoining it, which is the residence of the priest. The foundation was laid in 1837, and it was completed in 1838, in which year, on the 17th July, it was opened with a pontifical mass. The Right Rev. Dr. Griffiths, Bishop of Olena, and Vicar Apostolic of the London district, officiated on the occasion. There are sittings for 260 persons, one third of the body of the chapel being free. The Rev. Mr. Waterton is the resident clergyman. Morning service begins at eleven o'clock, and the afternoon at three o'clock.



## CHARITY SCHOOLS, &c.

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Besides the schools connected with the several places of worship, already noticed, there are three other schools supported chiefly by voluntary contributions. These are the Female National and the Female British Schools, on Mount Sion; the Infant School in the Grosvenor Road; and the Victoria National School for boys, at the back of the Calverley Market. The foundation stone of the latter was laid on the 29th of September, 1834, by her present gracious Majesty and the Duchess of Kent.

### CHAPEL OF EASE FREE SCHOOL.

Adjoining the Chapel is a School for the instruction of "fifty or more poor boys and girls," but at present confined to the education of boys, in consequence of other schools on a similar plan having been opened for girls. This school was opened about the year 1686, and for some time after its establishment, was held in the gallery of the chapel behind the organ, until successive donations enabled the Trustees to erect a school-room at the back of the chapel, which within these few years has been enlarged to its present

size. As an encouragement to parents to have their children educated and brought up in habits of honesty and industry, Mr. William Strong, in his will, proved at Canterbury, January 20th, 1713, left the following bequest for the use of the scholars:—"A farm of about 90 acres, situate at Pembury, for the purpose of clothing and putting forth apprentice yearly for ever one or more boys born or to be born in the said parish of Tunbridge, or in any other parish, who has or have been for some considerable time educated in the great School at Tunbridge, or at the great School at the Wells in or near the Chapel thereof, to the trades of Sailmaker, Block maker, Rope maker, Ship Carpenter, Ship Joiner, Smith, Caulker, or to any Mariner, Master of a Ship or Vessel, or to any other employment relating to the setting forth to sea any Vessels in her Majesty's service, or in any other private persons in that part of Great Britain called England. Such boy or boys to be yearly chosen at the feast of Easter, and to be of honest parents and know the four first Rules of Arithmetic, the most necessitous to have the preference. And such boys shall be within 14 years of age to 18, and not defective in body or mind. And that the said Charity may not be smothered up a copy of the Will shall be provided and the boys' names and parents and masters to whom bound shall be entered in a Vellum Book, and what money paid with them and laid out in fitting them out, and kept in the

\* It should be observed, that the *School* itself derives no benefit from the bequest, as it belongs exclusively to the Scholars after they have quitted.

Church and to be consulted by any parties interested without fee, &c. And I do hereby further will and declare that if the said Charity shall be at any time hereafter smothered, neglected, or perverted, or my Will herein declared concerning the same shall not be duly performed according to the provisions, the same shall revert to my right heir. And if the yearly rents thereof, over and above all deductions shall be more than sufficient for the clothing and putting out one such boy or boys in each year, then the surplus money shall be paid and applied by the said Churchwarden and Successors for enabling some one or more of such boys so put out as have most need of help, and have honestly served their apprenticeship to each of them a sum from £20 to £50 for five years without interest upon security approved by the Minister and Churchwardens or any two of them, and to no other purpose whatever." A claim was also made from the Tunbridge division of the parish, that the benefaction was meant to apply to the boys of the National School established there; but in 1836 it was settled that the "Great School at Tunbridge meant Sir Andrew Judd's School, and that boys from that School, or from the Chapel School at the Wells, were alone eligible to partake of the benefits of the Charity."

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## MANUFACTURE.

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THE Tunbridge-ware has obtained such celebrity in all parts of the world, that it appears almost a work of supererogation to give it a detailed notice. At what period this beautiful ware was first introduced it is impossible to say, as it is mentioned by the earliest writers on the Wells as a trade then existing, and they have pronounced it to be similar to that of the Spa in Germany. The manufacture has, however, been rapidly progressing, and articles of utility as well as ornament have long since usurped the place of the mere toys that were formerly our staple commodity. These toys appear to have been first made at Speldhurst, but the manufacturer's art was then chiefly confined to the making of humming tops and small turnery ware. It is probable that when these articles were first made, one species of wood only was used in their composition ;

the art of veneering was unknown, and the ambition of the makers appears to have been confined to working such woods as were found in their immediate neighbourhood. Encouraged by their extraordinary success, the art obtained a wider range, and instead of the simple wood, other and more adventurous spirits attempted greater things. This led to the introduction of veneering, and afterwards, from an accidental occurrence, the present mosaic system was acted upon. Such is the value set upon Tunbridge-ware articles, that few persons visit the place without purchasing for their friends some reminiscence of it, which is considered acceptable; and in the year 1826, the inhabitants presented to the Princess Victoria a table formed with King-wood, beautifully veneered with party-coloured woods from every part of the globe. It was lined with gold tufted satin, and comprised a complete writing and reading desk, covered with purple embossed velvet, fitted up with cut glasses mounted in massive silver. A side drawer exhibited a complete work-box, with appropriate instruments of richly-chased silver; the reels, runners, &c. being of sandal

wood, and the silk winders fine specimens of native and foreign woods; the whole lined throughout with gold-coloured embossed satin. A drawer on the opposite side was furnished with a drawing box, comprising the necessary colours, pencils, pallet, sandal-wood rulers, &c. From the lower part of the top a work-box of rich gold-coloured silk, appropriately ornamented, fell in graceful folds. The whole was supported by a finely-worked tripod of solid king-wood. The British woods chiefly used in the manufacture of the ware are holly, yew, plum, cherry, stem of furze, broom, white and black thorn, laurel, &c. Many of the dressing-cases, work-boxes, &c. now made contain upwards of forty varieties of native wood, besides foreign.

## PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

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THE original amusements of the Wells appear to have partaken more of a rural character than any other, for there were frequently balls and breakfasts given *al fresco*, when the fashionable visitors amused and regaled themselves on the upper walks, and the tradesmen with those of a lower class, contented themselves with looking on from the lower walks, which now form the space in front of the Sussex Hotel; and within fifty years it was by no means an uncommon occurrence on ball nights for the windows of the Assembly-rooms to be opened to their full extent, and the tradespeople of both sexes to dance on the Parade to the enlivening strains that were animating their more aristocratic neighbours within.

The admission to the balls was half-a-crown each for the gentlemen and *one shilling* each for the ladies. They began at *six o'clock* in the evening and ended at eleven. The ball opened with minuets, each gentleman being obliged to dance with two ladies till the minuets were over. About eight o'clock country dances began, and continued till a little after nine, when tea was brought in, shortly after which dancing was resumed, and continued till eleven. This appears to have been the regular routine of amusements for many years. The celebrated Beau Nash first officiated here as Master of the Ceremonies, and the following gentlemen have successively held the office :—Messrs. Collet, Derrick, Blake, Tyson, Fotheringham, Am-sink, Roberts, Captain Merryweather, and Lieut. Madden, R.M. The latter gentleman resigned at the end of the season of 1836. Since then the office has been dispensed with, and when public balls are now given, certain gentlemen act as stewards for the evening. So recently as June, 1822, Thursday evenings were appropriated to a promenade, tea-drinking, and undress ball. On every other evening the rooms were



lighted, and parties assembled at loo, &c., the band on those evenings playing in the orchestra immediately opposite. Besides the upper, and original rooms, there is a very fine assembly room at the Sussex Hotel, which, within these few years, has been tastefully re-decorated, and makes a handsome appearance. At present there are no fixed amusements at the Wells. Balls are given occasionally, but at no certain intervals; and during the season, there are generally concerts at both the assembly rooms. Horse races, also usually take place in the month of August. There are two good Billiard Rooms on the Parade, which are much frequented.

During the fashionable season musicians are engaged, who perform in the orchestra on the Parade three times a day, and a local band is stationed on Mount Ephraim every evening: both these are paid by subscriptions from the visitors and inhabitants.

Hunting and Fowling may be enjoyed in the neighbourhood—the former, not in the immediate vicinity of the place, but within a few miles of it; and for the latter, it is the  
to hire the right of shooting over

certain property—some hundreds of acres of good sporting ground being to let, at a reasonable rent, for the season.

Good Fishing may be easily obtained by permission of the proprietors of the small and large streams, in the immediate neighbourhood of the Wells. Bentham Mill pond, through the Hurst Wood, and the fishpond at the Red Lion, Ashurst, are available to the public at a trifling remuneration. Groombridge and Penshurst are also favorite places for the followers of old "Izaak Walton."

The Wheatear, (*the Montacilla ænanthe* of Linnæus,) or as it has been termed for its extreme delicacy, the English Ortolan, is esteemed a great dainty. This bird is found in great quantities in the vicinity of Eastbourne; nor is our own immediate neighbourhood without them. They are caught principally by the shepherds on the South Downs, and are brought to the Wells in the utmost perfection.\*

\* The manner of catching this delicious bird is very particular. The shepherds cut a turf of about a foot long, and half a foot deep, in which they place snares of horsehair, and the birds, being very shy on the approach of anything, running into these holes for shelter, are easily caught in prodigious numbers.—De Foe, 1724.

## THE THEATRE.

The theatre at Tunbridge Wells has many pleasing associations in the minds of theatrical amateurs, as upon these boards many a stroller has strutted and fretted his hour for a miserable pittance, who has afterwards shone like a meteor in the theatrical firmament. Kean once figured here for some time for ten or twelve shillings a week, and it was from this theatre that Dowton, the most sterling actor of his day, was transplanted to the London boards, on the recommendation of Mr. Richard Cumberland.

In 1737, an itinerant group of comedians exhibited here. Afterwards Mr. Smith, better known as Canterbury Smith, visited it occasionally. He was succeeded in 1753 by an actor of his company named Peters, who used a room belonging to a public house not far from the present theatre. About 1770, Mrs. Baker erected a "Temple to the muses" on Mount Sion, a short distance from Cumberland House. She occupied this building two seasons only, during both of which she was opposed by a company under the management of Mr. Glassington, who.

exhibited in a warehouse in Castle-street, which stands nearly opposite the tap of the Castle Hotel, and is now occupied as stables, &c. They both played on the same evenings, but Mr. Glassington, finding his efforts unsuccessful, made the best terms he could, and eventually joined Mrs. Baker's company, who soon afterwards pulled down the original theatre on Mount Sion, and erected a new one partly with the old materials, on the site of some premises adjoining the Sussex Hotel. But in 1801, finding it much out of repair, she determined upon pulling it down, and building a new one upon a more extensive scale. This was accordingly done, and the present theatre was opened on the 8th July, 1802. It is a neat building, and, if properly painted and decorated, its appearance would be superior to most theatres of a similar size. It cost about £1600, and holds between £60 and £70. Mrs. Baker ultimately became proprietress of several theatres on the West Kent circuit, viz., Maidstone, Rochester, Dover, and Canterbury. At her demise these became the property of Messrs. W. and H. Dowton, the sons of Mr. Dowton, who married Miss

S. Baker. The management for a few seasons was in the hands of Mr. W. Dowton, and in 1831, they were taken on lease by Mr. Sloman, who married the widow of Mr. H. Dowton. Mr. Sloman's lease having expired in 1838, he resigned the management, and the property was again in the hands of Mr. W. Dowton, son of the veteran actor, who continued in the management of it until 1842, when it was opened by Mr. H. Wallack, who closed it abruptly after a very short season. It is now under the management of Mr. Rogers, who took it on lease in the year 1843.

#### LIBRARIES, LITERARY SOCIETIES, &c.

There are several Circulating Libraries and Reading Rooms, which are well supplied with modern productions and the metropolitan newspapers.

There are two Literary Societies here; one called the *Literary and Scientific Society*, and the other the *Mechanics' Institution*. The former was established in 1836, and holds its meetings in a room over the Billiard Room. This society has a library and a small museum, containing among other things

some specimens of fossils, &c., chiefly of those found in the neighbourhood. The Mechanics' Institution is situated in High Street, and although not long established, has a small but useful library attached to it. There is also an Horticultural Society, which has three or four shows during the year for the distribution of prizes. This is well supported, and the shows generally prove very attractive.

#### BATHS, &c.

Immediately adjoining the springs, and supplied by them, are warm and cold baths, which are found to be extremely efficacious in the diseases for which they are recommended. On the Calverley Promenade there are shampooing and vapour baths which are much used, and have been patronised by royalty. At Grosvenor House, a *Hydropathic Establishment* has been recently opened for the cure of diseases by means of water, variously applied, both externally and internally, with the aid of fresh air, exercise, and simple diet, and the spot selected is extremely suitable for the successful application of this treatment. It is also in contemplation to

establish a *German Spa* on the plan which has proved so successful at Brighton, and we believe that it is the opinion of many of the leading medical practitioners of the day, that the air of this place is admirably suited to assist the beneficial effect of these waters; and, as a climate for the convalescent, it is universally acknowledged to stand unrivalled.

#### INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY.

This is a handsome stone building, situated in the Grosvenor Road. It was completed in 1842, and is intended to combine the advantages of a Dispensary with an Infirmary for about thirty in-patients, which can be much extended if considered desirable. It is supported wholly by voluntary contributions. The building cost about two thousand pounds, and at present is used only as a Dispensary. The liberal sum of £3000. was subscribed towards the expenses of the building and fitting it up. Two Physicians and three Surgeons of the place give their gratuitous services; and there is a resident House Surgeon. Subscribers of one guinea a year become Governors of the Institution, and can have

two patients always on the books. Subscribers of half a guinea a year, one patient.

#### HOTELS, &c.

The principal hotels at Tunbridge Wells are the following:—The *Royal Victoria and Sussex*; the *Kentish Royal*; the *Mount Ephraim*, and the *Calverley*. The *Royal Victoria and Sussex Hotel* is pleasantly situated facing the Parade. Within the last few years it has been greatly improved, both externally and internally; and in addition to the comforts of the house there are gardens at the back of it, which, besides being a pleasant lounging place, present most delightful views of the surrounding country. The *Kentish Royal Hotel* faces the common on the London and Hastings Road, in the neighbourhood of the chalybeate springs. Immediately opposite to it is a double row of trees, and a walk that leads to the common. The situation of it is extremely airy and pleasant. The *Calverley* and *Mount Ephraim Hotels* have been already described. In addition to these are the *Camden Hotel*, and the *Bristol Arms*, Calverley Road; the *George Hotel*, (commercial house,) London Road; *Clarence Tavern*, Church Road; the



*Castle Tavern*, and *White Bear*, (commercial houses,) the *Swan*, (commercial house,) the *Hand and Sceptre*, back of the Parade; the *Duke of York*, and the *Coach and Horses*, Market Place; the *Nevill Arms*, Frant Road; the *Rose and Crown*, Mount Ephraim; and the *Kentish Yeoman*, Grove Hill.

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THE MANOR AND BOROUGH OF  
RUSTHALL

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THE open wastes called Rusthall Common and Bishop's Down, forming together one of the greatest attractions of Tunbridge Wells, comprise about 265 acres, viz., Bishop's Down, or Tunbridge Wells Common, 172 acres; and Rusthall Common, 93 acres.

Rusthall is a very ancient manor, from which the possessors formerly derived their surname. It is also designated as the "Borough (Borhoe) of Rusthall," a name derived from our Saxon ancestors, signifying a pledge, from a certain number of families being bound together by "borhoe," or pledge, who were each security for the good behaviour of his neighbour. Elias de Rusthall

was proprietor of the estate in the reign of Edward the first, and his descendants continued in possession of it till the reign of Henry the sixth, about which period it was alienated to Richard Waller, Esq., of Groombridge, whose descendant Richard, in the 26th of Elizabeth, sold it to Mr. George Stacey. By the latter it was conveyed to Robert Byng, Esq., of Wrotham, who died possessed of the property in the 37th of that reign. His descendants continued to hold the manor for several generations, till at length one of them sold it to Richard Constable, Gent., of Groombridge, who again sold it to Sir Francis Dashwood, Bart.; and he very soon afterwards conveyed it to Maurice Conyers, Esq., who possessed it in the reign of George the Second. By the latter it was alienated to Mr. O'Connor, whose son John sold it to George Kelly, Esq., who resided at Tunbridge Wells, and served the office of high sheriff of Kent in 1762, in which year he was knighted. He died possessed of this manor in 1772, leaving his three sisters his co-heiresses, viz., Anne Shorey, widow, Hannah Tanner, widow, and Martha, wife of James Spagg, Esq. Mrs.

Tanner died in 1770, at whose death and that of her two sisters, this manor successively devolved on Miss Elizabeth Shorey and Thomas Christopher Gardner, Esq. The present Lord is Captain Weller.

We have already noticed\* the original agreement entered into between the lord of the manor and the tenants for improving the place; their subsequent suits at law, and the termination of them by a fresh agreement, afterwards confirmed by a private act of parliament (13 Geo. II. cap 11), by which the property in dispute was divided into three lots, to be divided by drawing; the premises in two of the lots to belong to the lord, freed from all rights of the tenants; and the premises in the other lot to belong to the freehold tenants, freed from all claims of the lord. The tenants in effect getting this third of the buildings themselves, in lieu of their right of common on the site of the whole. Thus ended the contest; and from that time the lords and the freehold tenants have gone on amicably, mutually protecting their respective rights from encroachments.

The medicinal springs, dipper's hall, the

\* See page 37.

walks, and all ways, passages, and open pieces of ground, part of the same premises or leading thereto, were to remain always open and free for the public use and benefit of the nobility, gentry, and other persons resorting to or frequenting Tunbridge Wells.

The music gallery was to be continually repaired and supported by the lords of the manor, and continue free and open for the use of the music without paying anything for the same.

The freehold tenants being greatly interested in the Commons, (not only in respect of their valuable right of pasturage appurtenant to the lands held by them, but also in respect to the voice they have in preventing encroachments,) formed among themselves an association for the protection of their rights, and for many years have had annual meetings for the purpose of perambulating the boundaries of the manor, and of viewing encroachments, &c.

The precise boundaries of Rusthall borough are not now known, but it is more than probable that those of the manor were nearly if not quite the same.

It is to be regretted that the site of the

original manor house is lost in obscurity. The residence of Miss Shephard, on Bishop's Down, called the Manor House, has but little, if any, pretensions to be so considered ; but there is reason to believe that a moated house once stood at the extremity of the pleasure grounds of William Wix, Esq., who lives at Lloyd's house, next to Miss Shephard's, and which might have been the manor house. The spot alluded to is at the corner of his land where it adjoins the property of D. J. Robertson, Esq. On Mr. Wix's land there are still remaining what is evidently one half of the moat, the other portion of it being on the corresponding land on Mr. Robertson's property, but now dry. The area which this moat inclosed is distinctly marked. It is nearly square, and of ample dimensions for a mansion of some consequence. The width of the moat in the narrowest part is about twenty feet, and in the widest part thirty feet. The generally received opinion is, that the original manor-house stood upon Rusthall Common. About fifty years since, two ancient edifices, one of them a stone building, were pulled down. One of these stood upon Mr. Robertson's

pleasure grounds, to the right of the turnpike, where there is now an ornamental spire, and the other, some two or three hundred yards below it, on a spot nearly covered with holly. There was also a square built brick house in the corner of the common on the opposite side, (in a field near the poor-house,) which was pulled down a few years since, and was thought by many to have been the manor-house.

Whilst we are in this locality we would point out to the attention of the visitor the singularly shaped rocks which are on the common. One of which is called the *Toad Rock*. It is considered by some persons that the hand of the artisan has been employed to assist in the singular formation of this rock, but the slightest investigation will convince the most incredulous that its shape has been produced by natural causes alone.

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## PLEASANT WALKS.

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THERE are many agreeable walks in every direction around the Wells, each of them possessing strong claims for preference, and all boasting of attractions for the admirers of rural and forest scenery. The favourite ramble of pedestrians is across the Common. The singular appearance of many of the rocks here cannot fail to interest the most casual observer. The prospect from the Common is very extensive, and it commands a fine panoramic view of the town; a striking object in the foreground of which is *Romanoff House*, a modern building in the gothic style of architecture. It is occupied by Mr. T. R. Allfree,

who has established a classical school here for the education of young gentlemen.

The HURST WOOD affords another delightful stroll. Turning to the right, you pass the old Baptist burying-ground, and *Ashburnham House*, and then proceed down a shady lane through some fields to the wood, which is the property of D. J. Robertson, Esq. It is tastefully laid out in walks, and seats are provided for the accommodation of visitors.

Very delightful rural walks may be taken by going across the fields to *Speldhurst*, either by way of *Lower Green*, or of *Rusthall Common* down the *Workhouse Lane*. On crossing the stream at the bottom of the fields, going to the Hurst Wood, over a stile on the right, is a footpath that leads past the *Swiss Cottage*, the *Tower*, &c., to *Culverden Down* and the London Road. A longer walk can be taken by going across the Down to the *Tanyard Farm*, passing the farther end of the Hurst Wood, the *Water Mill*,\* *Broom-hill*, the beautiful villa of D. Salomons, Esq., and leaving *Bentham-hill*, the residence of A. Pott, Esq. on the left, following the bridle road past the *Cross Keys* to the Wells.

There is another pleasant walk from Mount Ephraim across Bishop's Down to Rusthall Common, on approaching which, to the right, passing the Toad Rock, is another rural walk to the Hurst Wood. To the left as you pass the turnpike is a Farm-house, the property of the Earl of Abergavenny. It is in

\* Angling is permitted in the mill-pond by applying at the house and making a trifling remuneration.





the style of a yeoman's house of the Tudor times, and the barge boards are very richly carved. To the right of this is the *Toad Rock*, a short distance from which across the common is the spot where once stood the assembly-rooms and a bowling green; and nearly opposite the latter is the original cold bath, the whole of which we have already described (p. p. 20. 22.) A short distance beyond the excavations mentioned at p. 31, there are some *Tea and Strawberry Gardens*, which are very pleasantly situated, by the side of a lane leading to the High Rocks. There are also several extremely delightful walks diverging from Cumberland Terrace, across the fields to the *Frant Forest*, *Twenty Acre Wood*, *Hall's Hole*, &c. ; also from Mount Sion, Calverley, &c. There are likewise some very pretty walks on leaving the Lon-

don road to the right, opposite the Brewery, through the brickfield to the *Strawberry Gardens, &c.*, on the estate of Capt. Foreman. Another delightful walk will be found on the Eridge road, leaving it to the left at Strawberry Hill, by the gate that leads through the Park to Frant road, &c.

The transparent substances, apparently pebbles, which are found upon the several paths leading to the common, especially after rain, are actually crystals, rounded and coated by attrition, and the minutest ones are always more accurately formed than the larger ones. They partake of the *Nova Mina*, of Brazil, exactly in quality, where it occurs, both as detached and massive crystals. The rounding by attrition is a clear proof that at some very remote period, they have been acted upon in some such way as the pebbles of the sea-shore; and they thus afford corroborative evidence to the assumption, that this neighbourhood has, at one time, been an arm of the sea. The natural position of these crystals in the South of England, is in the white or grey marl, found above and below the chalk, but chiefly below it, in their layers. These crystals, when cut and polished, are extremely brilliant, and are introduced into rings, brooches, and other ornamental articles of jewellery.



### THE HIGH ROCKS.

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AMONG the principal objects of attraction to visitors are the High Rocks, distant about a mile and a half from the Wells. The nearest way for a pedestrian is across a new road from the end of the Parade. There is little doubt but that the singular appearance of these rocks has been caused by some great and awful convulsion of nature, in times so remote, that no traces are left whereby conjecture can be assisted by any glimmering of probability. The greatest altitude is about

70 feet, and the lowest is nearly 40 feet. They are sand rocks, and the numerous clefts and chasms in them are probably produced by land springs operating upon the softer portion of them, although the width of many of these openings justifies the idea of a separation having been effected by some wild throe of nature. They present many shapes and forms; more than one of them having the appearance of the stern of a first-rate man-of-war. On the right as you ascend the steps from the road is a rock that has evidently fallen into its present position, and offers a singular appearance; forming a short passage—two portions of it retaining their perpendicular, and the third crossing the top horizontally. Notwithstanding the natural beauties which these rocks must have presented from the earliest date, it appears they were not much thought of as a fashionable resort until the year 1670, when the Duke of York (afterwards James II.) visited the mineral springs with his duchess; and it is said that his royal highness was the first distinguished visitor who noticed these singular productions of nature; to which he paid such frequent visits, and was so much pleased with

them, that they soon became an object of general attraction and resort ; but the habits and manners of the fashionable world have undergone a complete revolution, and the *al fresco* entertainments of our ancestors have fallen into disuetude. Still these rocks must always form a prominent feature in the agreeable lounges with which the neighbourhood of the Wells abounds. Of late years they have been inclosed ; a tea room has been erected and various rural places have been built, where refreshments of every kind can be obtained. There is a rock here called the Bell Rock, which, if struck with a stick reverberates a sound similar to that of a bell. At the commencement of the last century, a lady's lap-dog having fallen through the chasm, she had the following quaint conceit inscribed on the rock.

1702.

This scratch I make that yov may know  
On this Rock lyes y<sup>e</sup> beautiovs Bow :  
Reader, this Rock is the Bow's Bell,  
Strike 't with thy stick and ring his knell.

There is also a rock called the "Trafalgar Rock," on which some lines were formerly cut commemorative of that glorious

victory, but they are now so far obliterated as to render it impossible to decipher them. Another rock bears the name of "Waterloo," and on the anniversary of the battle, the 18th of June, a dinner takes place at the Rocks, which is followed by dancing. On a rock leading to the Bell Rock are the following lines :—

Infidel! who, with thy finite wisdom,  
 Wouldst grasp things Infinite, and dost become  
 A scoffer of God's holiest Mysteries,  
 Behold this Rock, then tremble, and rejoice.  
 Tremble! for HE who form'd the mighty mass,  
 Could, in His Justice, crush thee where thou art:  
 Rejoice!—that still His Mercy spares thee.

*March 21, 1831.*

J. PHIPPEN.

A new public-house has been recently built here, which affords increased accommodation to visitors.

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### ERIDGE CASTLE.

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THIS noble edifice is the residence of the Earl of Abergavenny, and is situated about two miles from the Wells on the road to Lewes and Brighton. It is an irregular pile of buildings, the greater portion of which is modern, although the original house was of

great antiquity. There can be no doubt that there was a large mansion at Eridge from the earliest times, which was used by different branches of the Nevill family until the reign of Charles I. From that period they appear to have ceased to inhabit it, until within the last half century, when Henry, the late Earl of Abergavenny came to reside here from Kidbrook. From the remains of the building which can be remembered, and the occasionally digging up old foundations and cellars, it would seem that it was originally built in the common form of a quadrangle, and probably one of great extent. Certain it is that it was of sufficient consequence to entertain Queen Elizabeth and her numerous suite in 1573, when she made a progress through Kent and some part of Sussex. In August, 1573, Lord Burleigh, writing to the Earl of Shrewsbury mentions that "the Queen had met the French Ambassador at Eridge." Henry Nevill, Lord Bergavenny, who died in 1586, was a great favourite of the Queen's. The family had certainly ceased to live at Eridge after the death of George, Lord Abergavenny, who died without issue in March, 1694-5. The

late noble proprietor about half a century since directed his attention to the deserted seat of his ancestors, which was then occupied as a farm-house. There were considerable remains, however, of the old buildings: The park was paled, but it had suffered greatly from depredations in the woods. The result of his labors, if they may be termed such, fulfilled all the expectations of the noble proprietor; he created a gothic edifice and picturesque grounds of the most unique kind, and certainly inferior to none in splendid internal decoration.

The castle, as a dwelling-house, may be said to be possessed of much elasticity in its construction. It is calculated to hold a very large establishment; and it is a place, at the same time, in the arrangement of its apartments, well adapted to afford great domestic comfort to a more limited family. It is situated in a well wooded and watered park containing above three thousand acres of land, surrounded by an ample demesne of ten thousand acres. Eridge was once a royal chace of very considerable extent. It is now laid out into rides and drives, which measure fifty-four miles.



“ Within the park,” says Amsinck, “ is a great variety of rides which conduct to scenes of various kinds, and occasionally embrace the most interesting objects in the adjacent country.” There are also rows of beeches in the park many of which are twisted so singularly as to assume a variety of grotesque appearances. From Fox-gate Field there is a most extensive view over the Surrey hills and the country round Buckhurst. Near this field are two beech trees which, from their similarity, are called the “ two sisters.” There is also an old beech tree near a barn, which at four feet from the ground measures nearly twenty feet in circumference ; and at a short distance from this is a chestnut tree which girts 16 feet. Near a chalybeate spring at one extremity of the Park is a cave through which is a subterraneous passage about seven feet high.

In another part of the Park near Frant, on a lofty knoll, 659 feet above the level of the sea, are the remains of an ancient circular encampment said to be Saxon; the hill is therefore called *Saxonbury Hill*. In 1828, round tower, chiefly of brick, was erected nearly the centre of the entrenchment.

The original fosse is still perceptible, and incloses about two acres, to which there is but one entrance. On the opposite side of the Park, nearly adjoining the Brighton road is *Dane Gate*, said to have been a Danish military road, of which no vestiges now remain, as the ground has long since been cultivated, and several houses have been built on the spot. There are two fine pieces of water in the Park, called the Mill Pond and the Furnace Pond.

An abstract of the illustrious genealogy of this truly noble family will, we are certain, be read with interest :—

In the male line there have been 1 Duke of Bedford; 1 Marquis of Montacute; 15 Earls, whereof 6 were Earls of Northumberland, before the Conquest; and 6 were Earls of Westmoreland; another, Earl of Salisbury and Lord Monthermer; another was Earl of Kent and Lord Falconberg; and the other was that famous Earl of Warwick and Salisbury, commonly called the King-maker. There have also been two Nevills Archbishops of York: whereof one was a favourite of King Richard the Second; and the other was Lord High Chancellor of England, and Chancellor of the University of Oxford, in the time of King Edward the Fourth, who was his cousin-german. And there have been 2 Nevills Bishops: one of which was Lord Bishop of Chichester, and

was also Lord High Chancellor of England, and elected Archbishop of Canterbury in the reign of King Henry the 3rd; and the other was Lord Bishop and Count Palatine of Durham. There have been also a numberless company of Nevills (with their progenitors and ancestors) that have been Lords and Barons; as namely, first of Raby, from Uchtred, the Second Earl of Northumberland, (and who was also made Earl of York, by King Ethelred,) to him that first took the surname of Nevill; and 6 more of Raby, before the Lord Ralph Nevill was created Earl of Westmoreland, which was in the year of Grace 1398, 21 Richard 2nd; and there hath been 1 Nevill, Lord Furnival; 2 Nevills, Lords Ferrars of Oversley, whereof one was also Lord Newmarch; 1 Nevill, Lord St. Maure (Seymour); 7 Nevills, Lords Latimer; 8 Nevills, Lords Abergavenny; and 3 Lords Nevill that died married persons, eldest sons by some of the Earls of Westmoreland. There have been 100 Nevills that were Knights Bachelors; and divers Nevills, Knights of the Noble Order of the Bath; and some Nevills, Knights Bannerets; and 1 Nevill (of the House of Abergavenny) was one of the Knights of Rhodes, in the time of Henry the 8th, and he lies buried in Mereworth Church, in Kent, where he hath a goodly monument.

Of the House of Nevill, in the female line, there hath been one Nevill Queen of England. She was the first wife of Edward Plantagenet, Prince of Wales, the only son of King Henry VI.; and then, secondly, (being a widow) she was re-married to King Richard III., by whom she had a son that was created

Prince of Wales when he was about ten years of age, but died soon after, before his father. There have been six Nevills Duchesses; one of whom lived to see three princes of her body crowned and four murdered. Also, of the same family of Nevills there have been fourteen Countesses. There hath also been one Nevill, an Abbess of Barking in Essex. There have been nine Nevills Knights and Companions of the most noble order of the Garter. Three Nevills Lord High Chancellors of England. There hath been one Nevill, Earl Marshal of England. Three Nevills Lord High Admirals of the Sea, whereof one of them was Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Constable of Dover Castle, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, High Steward of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Lord Lieutenant of Calais and the territories thereof. There have been four Nevills Lord Chamberlains of the King's Household, and one, Lord Steward of the Household to King Edward III. There have been six Nevills Chief Foresters of all England. From Lady Cecilia Nevill, the Duchess of York, who was mother to King Edward IV. and King Richard III., there have been lineally descended seven Kings of England, three Queens of England, four Princes of Wales, four Kings of Scotland, two Queens of Scotland, two Queens of France, one Queen of Spain, one Queen of Bohemia; and she was a great-grandmother to King James I. the father of King Charles;—"and the like honour cannot be said of any other English family."\*

See "History of the Nevill Family," by Daniel Rowland, Esq.

The Park is well stocked with deer, and a few buffaloes were recently kept here.

A short distance from the castle is ERIDGE GREEN, upon which formerly stood a curious piece of old iron ordnance, which tradition reports to have been the first gun made in England. It was of an uncouth form, with a very large bore, ribbed round with rings of wrought iron. It lay on a portion of the Green now inclosed, opposite the public-house, by the roadside, with a large ball of iron by it. It is preserved in the British Museum, and an account of it, with a plate, in the "Archæologia, vol. x. p. 472," says, "It has always been understood that this mortar was the first that was made in England, and that the first guns were made at Buxted Furnace, about ten miles from Lewes."

A short distance from the Green are rocks of a similar character to the High Rocks, and which are well worth visiting; as are also *Harrison's Rocks* and *Penn's Rocks*; the former of which are about two miles from Eridge, and the latter a mile further. The house at Penn's Rocks which is a spacious and rather handsome building, was built by

the celebrated William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania. In more modern times it was occupied by Mr. John Bishopp, who was well known in the Wells and its vicinity from his peculiar habits. This singular character died at Penn's Rocks, intestate, on the 4th December, 1827, aged 42 years, and was said to be worth about £60,000. He was never married, but left an illegitimate son, for whom he made no provision. The mansion and grounds became the property of Thomas Beeching, Esq., by purchase, and at his decease in 1842, were left to his family.

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F R A N T.

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THIS beautiful village is about two miles from the Wells. It is most romantically situated on the brow of a hill, and the church, which is built on an eminence, "commands the most extensive prospect of any place near the Wells, or in Kent, or perhaps in all England. One sees from hence all through east Kent to Canterbury hills, within a mile of Dover; the South Downs in Sussex; northwards, over Bounds, Sevenoaks hills,

and Morant's Court hills, and the adjacent parts of Chatham; and westwards, Leith and Box hills, near Dorking in Surrey. From the top of the church-tower-steeple one's eyes will be almost fatigued in being extended over such a vast tract of land,—about one hundred miles from the eastern to the western horizon.”\*

A small portion of the parish is in Kent, and the remainder in Sussex. There are several genteel residences here, and the principal part of the village has a remarkably neat appearance. Saxonbury Lodge, the residence of Daniel Rowland, Esq., is an elegant modern villa, in the gothic style. The grounds are laid out with much taste, and command views of Eridge Park and the surrounding country. Shernfold Place stands upon an elevated spot in some park-like grounds; the views from which are varied and extensive. It is the residence of the Hon. Percy Ashburnham.

The church at Frant was built on the site of the old one, which it was found necessary to pull down, and the present church was

\* “General Account of Tunbridge Wells and its Environs: Historical and Descriptive.” 1771. p. 27.

opened on the 14th of July, 1822. It is a handsome gothic edifice. The east chancel was built at the expense of the vicar, the Hon. and Rev. William Nevill ; and the late Earl of Abergavenny contributed with his usual munificence towards the cost of the church. The late Marquis Camden built the chancel in the south aisle, which is now occupied as a family pew. The chancel window affords a fine specimen of modern stained glass.

On the Green there are some hillocks, which were used by the country people in the olden time when exercising themselves in shooting at butts with bows and arrows.

The Visitor ought not to quit this pleasant village without making the acquaintance of an ingenious tailor residing here, whose name is *Smart*. His house is much visited in the season, and he designates himself "Artist in Cloth and Velvet Figures to His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex."

The road from the Wells to Frant abounds in diversified views. To the left of Frant Bottom, are the Water-works, which supply a great portion of the Wells with very excellent water. Immediately before you enter



the village of Frant, the extensive and charming prospect over the demesne of the Earl of Abergavenny cannot be surpassed in the kingdom. Frant is called in some early writings *Fant*, and in others *Fernet* or *Ferent*.

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### ROTHERFIELD.

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ABOUT a mile from Frant on the road to Mayfield is *Saxonbury Tower*, and three miles further, on the right, the church of Rotherfield presents a conspicuous object. The lordship of Rotherfield is of very considerable extent, comprising the whole of the parish of Rotherfield, and the greatest part of that of Frant, within which latter Eridge Castle, the seat of the lord of the manor, is situated. It also embraces the whole of the great forest of Waterdown, which is described by Camden as one of the three great forests of Sussex. There were a Park and Chase here before the conquest, and the Domes-day book shows that Rotherfield was a royal demesne. The village was given by King Alfred in his will to his kinsman, Osforth. The church is dedicated to St. Denis. The light tapering and lofty spire is a beautiful

object in the scenery of the vicinity. It is a large and not unhandsome structure ; and has an arched roof of chestnut wood. The tower, which is embattled, contains five bells with chimes. Over the font, at the bottom of the south aisle, is a wooden cover in the shape of a pulpit, carved profusely, and dated on the north side 1533, having also an escutcheon carved on it. The river Rother rises near Argus Hill, in this parish. The Rev. Robert Gream is the Rector.

About two miles to the right of the church is the manor house, called *Walshes*. But little however of the old building remains, except the entrance porch and some two or three windows. Over the doorway is 1551, and some quarterings of the family arms of Sir E. Fermor, knight, who formerly resided here. It is now occupied by the owner, Mr. Robert Burges Fry.

In a field near the present house, are the remains of a considerable moat, which is supposed to have enclosed the site of the original manor house.



## MAYFIELD.

THIS is a remarkably neat and pleasant town in the county of Sussex, about eight miles to the south of Tunbridge Wells. Being situated on the summit of a hill, the prospect from it in every direction is rich and varied. The name was originally written Maghefelde and Maighfield. The parish is very extensive, and the general appearance of Mayfield has an aspect of ancient grandeur about it particularly attractive to the antiquary. The manor is the property of the

Marquis Camden, by purchase. Under the Reform Act of 1832, it was appointed a polling place for East Sussex, and the votes are registered in one of the rooms belonging to the old Palace. The great object of attraction to visitors are the ruins of the Archiepiscopal Palace, which is said to have been built by St. Dunstan some time in the tenth century. This is stated upon the authority of Eadernus, a monk of Canterbury, who lived in that century, and wrote the life of St. Dunstan; but it is thought by many that the palace was built long after his time, although at what period there are no records to prove. It is certain that in very early times it was one of the residences belonging to the Archbishops of Canterbury, of which they had several, in order, as their historians say, "for the purpose of keeping hospitality in the more remote parts of the diocess," but in fact for the greater convenience of meeting the clergy in the accustomed journies of the archbishops between the metropolis and Canterbury. It is certainly probable that St. Dunstan might have built this noble edifice. That he resided somewhere in the place is evident, not merely

from traditionary accounts, but from the authority of his learned biographer, who mentions also that he erected a wooden church here.

Mayfield was evidently a favourite residence of the archbishops, and many courts were held here and causes heard and determined. A provincial synod is also said to have been held here in 1332, at which a constitution passed relating to holidays, their number and the observance of them. During the 14th century three archbishops of Canterbury died in this palace:—Simon Mepham, in 1332; John Stratford, in 1348; and Simon Islip, in 1366. The latter held his distinguished post for a year and a half only. He fell from his horse into a dirty slough between Sevenoaks and Tunbridge, which occasioned the palsy, and eventually his death. In the 37th of Henry VIII., Archbishop Cranmer granted to the king this manor and mansion, who, January 5, 1545, granted it to Sir Edward North for the consideration of £337 6s. 8d. and 1-20th part of a knight's fee. Sir Edward shortly afterwards alienated it to Sir Thomas Gresham, who occasionally resided here in great splen-

dour. In the M.S. journal kept by Sir Thomas, the "goods and chattels" are said to have been worth £7553 10s. 8d., an immense sum for those times. Sir Thomas Gresham died 21st November, 1579, and bequeathed this property to Sir Henry Nevil. It is now the joint property of the Rev. John Kirby, the present vicar, and his brothers and sisters.

The principal object deserving notice in the ruins of the old palace is the magnificent banqueting hall, which is 70 feet long, and 39 feet wide. The three arches which formerly supported the open roof are still remaining entire, and are, we believe, the only arches of this magnitude in the kingdom supported entirely from their own springings. The hall roof was taken off towards the end of the eighteenth century, as in 1800 there were persons living who remembered the circumstance. The accidental falling of some plaster at the upper end of the hall, discovered a mitre formed of roses carved in stone, which is supposed to have been the spot where the Archbishop's chair was placed. At the opposite end of the hall are three pointed arches, outside of which was the

Archbishop's private chapel : the niches in which the holy water was placed still remain. Immediately to the right of this chapel are some steps descending to a doorway, said to have been the entrance to a subterranean passage which led to the church. The grand staircase, leading to what were the principal apartments, is a massive piece of stone work, and leads into a large wainscoted room, wherein are deposited the celebrated *reliques* of St. Dunstan, viz. his sword, an anvil and hammer, and the very tongs which he applied to the nose of the arch-deceiver of mankind, who tempted his chastity in the form of a fair damsel ; but the saint, espied the cloven foot, and dexterously applying the hot tongs to Satan's nasal organ, led him out of the palace to a brook about a mile from it, where he most unceremoniously gave him a kick that sent him out of the parish. The kitchen, the dining-room, and the kitchen chamber merit particular notice from the antique style in which they are built. In the dining room, which is now used as a hop store, there is an old iron chimney-back, dated "1663." On a chimney-piece in the kitchen chamber is roughly cut a date "1371," and on each side of

the door of the anteroom are some armorial bearings, said to be those of the see of Canterbury, or of Sir Thomas Gresham, but they have been so carefully and repeatedly lime-whited, as to have become obliterated. The rooms called Queen Elizabeth's chambers are wainscoted, one with oak and the other with deal. But it is thought by many antiquaries who have visited the ruins that the Queen's chamber was at the back or north side of the building, which is now unroofed. To the right of the principal entrance to the great hall, a stone is let in to the outer wall with the arms of the see of Canterbury engraven on it; and to the left of the entrance is St. Dunstan's well, said to be of the depth of 300 feet. There is a curious old iron knocker on the outer door, leading to the dwelling apartments. The gate house still remains entire. A large and noble arch, by which access was formerly obtained, has been built up, and a door introduced. It is now a private residence, and the east end of the palace is used as a farm house.

The wooden church erected by St. Dunstan, and nearly the whole of the village were destroyed by fire in 1389. The present



church probably replaced the wooden structure. It is a large commodious building dedicated to St. Dunstan, and built in the later style of English architecture. It is capable of holding about 1000 persons, and consists of a chancel, nave, and side aisles, and a tower, surmounted by a shingled spire. One of the side galleries has a remarkably antique appearance; there is also a stone octangular font with the date of 1666 upon it. Many of the pews and the pulpit have some curious old carved work in them; and there is some oak wainscoting in the vestry-room richly carved and pannelled, which is evidently of very ancient date. In the church there are numerous monuments of the Baker family, which have been of some account in this parish from time immemorial. They occupied the *Lower House*, now dismantled, and their descendants, till very lately, resided at an ancient mansion in the town called *Middle House*. At the east end of the aisles in the church is a remarkably fine marble monument, the figures on which are beautifully executed. In the chancel is a large cast iron slab, which from the irregularity of the lines upon it may be regarded as a

curiosity. It is in memory of Thomas Sands, and dated 1668.

On the east side of the churchyard is an old stone monument in a state of great dilapidation. From the remains of a latin inscription it appears to have belonged to the Maynard family, one of whom was vicar of Mayfield, and chaplain to the House of Commons. It bears the date of 1665, and is the oldest in the churchyard.

The vicarage, though situated in the diocess of Chichester, is a peculiar subordinate to the jurisdiction of the metropolitan see of Canterbury. There was formerly an extensive park surrounding the palace, which appears to have been enlarged in the 18th of Edward III., but was afterwards disparked. In the 43rd of Henry III. a charter was granted for a market and fair to be held at Mayfield, which in the 15th of Richard II. was increased to two fairs, that are still held on the 30th May and 13th November.

In the year 1596, Thomas May, the dramatic writer and poet was born in this town.

## HEATHFIELD.

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HEATHFIELD stands pleasantly situated about three miles from Mayfield, and eleven from the Wells. It was once of importance as a manufactory for cannon. The ordnance cast here were asserted to be of better metal, and would bear higher charges than those of any other foundry in the kingdom. For upwards of 40 years the manufactory has ceased, and the building has disappeared, leaving the proof-bank for cannon, the under banks, &c., as the only vestiges of things that were. A battle was fought here in 633 or 635, between Cadwallo, a prince of the royal blood of Wessex, and Edwin, king of Northumberland. Slaughter Common, near Owlsbury mill, the property of Sir C. R. Blunt, Bart., is said to have been the spot where this sanguinary action was fought, and which terminated in the death of Edwin and his son Osfrid. Heathfield Park is the residence of Sir C. Blunt, and in the north-west corner of it is a tower built on an elevation of 600 feet above the level of the sea. It was built of stone in commemoration of

the hero of Gibraltar, Lieut. Gen. Elliott, afterwards Lord Heathfield and Baron Gibraltar, once proprietor of this estate. It is 20 feet in diameter, and contains a circular staircase, and three apartments fitted up in the gothic style. Over the door on the outside is a tablet with this inscription: "Calpes defensori," which is formed of the metal of the guns from the Spanish floating batteries. About a mile from the park is a hamlet called Cade Street, erroneously said to have been the spot where the notorious Jack Cade was killed by Alexander Iden, or Eden, sheriff of Kent in the reign of Henry VI. A stone pillar was erected some years since by Mr. Newbery, (then proprietor of the park,) on the spot where he is reported to have been slain, which bears the following inscription: "Near this spot was slain the notorious rebel Jack Cade, by Alexander Iden, Esq., Sheriff of Kent, A.D. 1450. His body was carried to London, and his head fixed upon London Bridge.—'This is the success of all rebels, and this fortune chanceth ever to traitors.'—*Hall's Chronicle.*"

Tradition says that after Jack Cade was deserted by his followers he fled into Sussex,

and concealed himself at an obscure house at Heathfield, called in ancient deeds New-ick, which was formerly moated, and the remains of it are yet visible. A gate placed on the road that leads from the house to the common is still called Iden's gate.

There can be little doubt but that the whole of this is pure invention. Cade, according to the Kentish historians, was killed at Hothfield, near Ashford, in a close belonging to Ripple manor, which has been recently added to the grounds of the Earl of Thanet, at Hothfield House. Previous to which it was open to the Common, and was called "Jack Cade's field." Why this stone is allowed to remain as a record of an historical occurrence, for which there appears not the slightest authority, is a question that can be answered only by those whose duty we think it would be to remove such a false memorial.\*

\*Seymour, in his Survey, speaking of Hothfield, says, "Alexander Eden, a gentleman of this County, took and killed here the rebel Jack Cade, in 1450; for this national service he had 1000 marks reward from Henry VI."



### BAYHAM ABBEY.

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THESE ruins are situated about six miles from the Wells. The pleasantest and most direct road to them was formerly through Frant, but a new road has been opened, which is less hilly, and shortens the distance as compared with the old road. The new road is about half a mile to the left of the first turnpike from the Wells, and it leads to

the little village of *Bell's Ewe Green*, from whence there is a delightful drive through romantic woodland scenery to the venerable abbey. The site of Bayham Abbey was originally in two counties, viz. Kent and Sussex, as appears from the list of suppressed monasteries; but the present ruins, with the dwelling-house adjoining, are in Sussex only, and stand on a point of land between two branches, or rather a divided branch, of the river Medway. It was anciently called Begham, or Begeham, and was first occupied in the twelfth century by a society of white canons called Premonstratensians, from the chief abbey being at Premontre in Picardy. It was not originally intended that this should have been their residence, as a priory was founded and endowed at Stoneacre, in the parish of Otham, near Maidstone. It is thought by some writers that Otham, in Sussex, was the place meant, but the Kentish writers agree in fixing it at this place. Seymour in his "Survey of Kent," (1776), in mentioning Otham, says, "Here was formerly a religious seminary of canons, *Præmonstratenses*, or white canons, instituted by St. Norbert; it was founded by Ralph de Dene

to the honour of St. Lawrence, but the canons having unanimously complained of this unhealthy situation, and of their revenues being inadequate to their maintenance, Ella, the daughter of the founder, transplanted them to Bayham, in Sussex, in the reign of Richard 2nd, building them a priory in honour of the Blessed Virgin, upon an estate of Sir Robert Turnham, which she had obtained for that religious purpose, and making a better provision for their support." The community was accordingly established here on the feast of the Annunciation, A.D. 1200.

The following inscription, on a stone near the spot where the high altar stood, gives the particulars of the foundation of the Priory of Bayham ; but notwithstanding the ancient characters in which it appears, it is conjectured to be of modern date :—

Ela de Sackville, Daughter of Ralphe de Dene, founded this Priorie in honovr of St. Marie, in the Reign of K. Richard ye First. The Grovnd was given bye Syr Richard de Thorneham. The Præmonstratensian Canons of Brockley, with those of Beavliev were incorporated and placed here, and their charters were confirmed bye Kyng John, K. Henrie III. and K. Edw. II. It was dissolved in the Reign of K. Hen. VIII.



It was used for some time as the burial place of the Sackvilles, and among the benefactors to the abbots and convent of Bayham was Sir Thomas Sackville, who was knight of the shire for Buckinghamshire, in the first and eighteenth years of Richard II.

King John not only confirmed by charter the donations and privileges already bestowed, but added considerable emoluments to them. Liberty of free warren over their demesne lands was also granted by Henry III. William de Burgelle gave certain marsh lands to the canons for the service of half a pound of pepper to be paid yearly on the vigil of Christmas. Henry III. also granted them a weekly market on their manor of Rokeland, and a fair for three days at Midsummer. The canons continued to flourish until the Priory was dissolved in the 17th of Henry VIII., when, in consequence of its being classed with the smaller monasteries it was amongst the first dissolved, and its revenues, amounting to £152. 9s. 4½d., granted to Cardinal Wolsey towards the foundation of his projected colleges at Ipswich and Oxford. After the disgrace of the Cardinal the site of the Priory reverted to

the crown, and was granted by Queen Elizabeth to the Montague family. It came into the possession of John Pratt, Esq., afterwards Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench in the year 1714, from whom it descended to the present Marquess Camden, who derives from it the title of Viscount Bayham. About the year 1762, John Pratt, Esq., nephew of Lord Camden, erected the present dwelling-house, which has been considerably improved within the last few years, and is frequently the residence of its noble proprietor. This house is most delightfully situated, having a fine piece of water nearly surrounding it, consisting altogether of about thirty acres, which is fed by the Medway; and the gently rising hills in front, present to the eye a beautiful and finished picture, but seldom equalled.

When the estate came into the hands of Chief Justice Pratt, much of the ruin was in tolerably good preservation, more particularly the church, which was nearly entire; but his Steward, requiring materials for the repair of other buildings on the property, completely unroofed the church, without his lordship's sanction, and thus exposed to the

injurious effects of the weather the tombs and monuments of the abbots and the Sackvilles which were then remaining. The ruins stand on a level and somewhat marshy ground, and display some exceedingly fine specimens of the architecture of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. They consist of the nave of the church, the cloisters, and a portion of the refectory, with its offices. At the north-eastern end are the remains of a staircase leading probably to a gallery, which, passing behind the altar, went round the interior of the church, as is frequently found in buildings of that period. Traces of the high altar are still very perceptible, and in various parts of the ruins are flat stones, thought to be grave stones. A great portion of the interior being laid out as pleasure grounds, the walls alone remain to gratify the curiosity of the antiquary. A short distance from the Abbey are the remains of the entrance gate-house, adjoining which is a pollard ash tree, measuring forty-two feet in girth at three feet from the ground. Gough describes this as being "as old, if not older than the abbey, and supposed to be the largest extant." Facing the old gateway is a stone bridge of

three small arches over a branch of the Medway; and, from the lower side, the water rushing through the arches has a very pleasing effect.

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### SCOTNEY CASTLE.

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FROM Bayham, the most direct road to Scotney, from which it is distant about three miles, is to leave Lamberhurst to the left, and cross the Down into the Hastings road.

Scotney castle was a castellated mansion of considerable extent surrounded by a moat, and from a very early period was occupied by families of some consequence, from whom it was named. Walter de Scoteni held it in the reign of Henry III, and it continued in the same name and family till the middle of the reign of King Edward III, when it was in the possession of the Ashburnhams of Sussex, one of whom was a conservator of the peace in the first year of Richard 2nd, and resided at this mansion, which was then castellated. From his successor it passed to Chicheley, Archbishop of Canterbury, who occasionally resided here, one of his man-

dates being dated from "Scotney," in 1418. It then became the property of the Darell's, by the marriage of John Darell, Esq., to a niece of the Archbishop's, and it continued in this family till the year 1774, when it was conveyed to Mr. John Richards, of Robertsbridge, who held it for five years, and then disposed of it to Edward Hussey, Esq., of Burwash, in Sussex, and Ashford, in Kent, in whose family it remains at present.\*

It was a square building, having a round machicolated tower at each corner, with intermediate buildings. One of these only remains—that at the south entrance. The lantern on the top is evidently of modern date as compared with the original building. A portion of the gate-house is still remaining, and also part of an ancient mansion, the latter of which was designed by Inigo Jones. The entrance to the principal rooms appears to have been in the first court; the stone steps leading to it, and the door, are yet standing. In the inner wall at the end of the kitchen, nearly at the top of it, is a small aperture, which is thought to have been a

\* See Hasted's "History of Kent."

private entrance to a closet, or secret place, in the lower part of the building. Several ancient coins have been found here at different times ; and in cleaning out the moat, a few years since, some broken glass bottles were found at the bottom of it with all the hues of the rainbow upon them, evidently produced by the qualities of the water. The present proprietor of Scotney, Edward Hussey, Esq., has built a superb edifice in the Elizabethan style, from the designs of Anthony Salvin, Esq., who has long enjoyed a high reputation for his designs in this style of architecture. It is at a short distance from the ancient mansion, on the summit of a hill, and with the exception of a few internal fittings was finished in the spring of the present year (1843). It is built of stone raised on the estate. Over the principal entrance in the west front are the family arms richly carved in stone, with the motto "Vix ea nostra voco;" and underneath in old english characters is the following appropriate couplet :

Healthe and happinesse attende  
The coming and the parting Ffriende.

In the gable over the kitchen window is the

following from "The Paradise of Dainty Devices," published in the sixteenth century:—

Upon y<sup>e</sup> settled Rocke thy building surest standes,  
 Away it quickly weares, that resteth on y<sup>e</sup> Sandes.  
 Dame Virtve is y<sup>e</sup> Rocke, that yielde assured stay,  
 Dame Ffortune is y<sup>e</sup> Sande thatskowreth soone away.

At the east front over the garden entrance is carved, "Frustra, nisi Dominus." Over the staircase is a shield with armorial bearings, and it may certainly rank with the most splendid mansions in the county.\*

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### STONE CROUCH

Is a small hamlet three miles from Lamberhurst, and eleven from the Wells. A short distance from the inn is *Combwell House*, the property of William Campion, Esq., of Danny, near Brighton. This was formerly a Priory of the order of St. Augustine, and was founded by Robert de Thurneham in the reign of King Henry II. Tanner states in his "Notitia," that it was an abbey, but on

\* To prevent disappointment, it is right to observe that neither the mansion nor the ruins, are allowed to be seen by strangers.

account of the charge of supporting the state of so great a prelate as an abbot, was on that account reduced to a priory. At the dissolution of monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII., Thomas Vincent, who was then prior, had a pension of £10 per annum awarded for his future maintenance.

A mile beyond *Stone Crouch* is FLIMWELL, where the direct roads from Hastings and Rye meet; that on the right being the road to Hastings, and that on the left leading to Rye, through Hawkhurst and Northiam.

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### HAWKHURST

Is a pretty and genteel village fifteen miles from the Wells and the same distance from Rye, to which it is the direct road from the metropolis. It was anciently a market town, but the market has long since been disused. It is described by Seymour in his Survey of the County, (1776), as "a poor deserted village." If this were a correct description of it sixty-seven years ago, everybody who now visits Hawkhurst must acknowledge that a wonderful alteration for the better has taken place in its appearance since Mr. Seymour surveyed it, for it is a remarkably clean,



pretty, and substantial looking village, abounding in good houses, good shops, good inns, and everything that is required to constitute a very superior town. The parish is very populous and one of the largest in the county; but although of great extent it is only a curacy, never having been endowed, either by the Abbey of Battle, when dependent on it, or Christ Church, Oxford, to which college the patronage was transferred by Henry VIII, after the dissolution of the Abbey. "While it was under the jurisdiction of the Abbey," remarks Seymour, "it obtained many privileges; Odo, the Abbot, and the convent, granted by charter to the owners of the lands and their heirs, the subordinate Manor of Hawkhurst, paying yearly ten pounds, twenty hens, and two hundred and fifty eggs!" In the time of Edward 1st, another Abbot, upon taking a parcel of his tenancy, reduced the rent to eight pounds, and compounded for their hens and eggs at eight shillings! There were anciently five crosses, or watch-houses, and a beacon here. The church is dedicated to St. Laurence, and was founded by the Abbot of Battle in the reign of Edward 3rd. It

formerly contained some fine painted glass windows, very few remains of which are now visible. In the north windows there were twelve men and their wives kneeling, probably the principal inhabitants of the parish at the time the church was built, or soon afterwards. "In the great window of the middle chancel were the effigies of the good Kings of Israel and the prophets of their time. In the south chancel were anciently the image of the Virgin Mary, and several lights and tapers." The font appears to be very ancient, and has four shields upon it, but no date. There are some very genteel families residing in the village and neighbourhood, among whom may be mentioned Sir I. W. Herschell, whose name, connected as it is with the highest branches of science, Hawkhurst may be justly proud of enrolling among her worthies.

Kilburne, author of the "Survey of the County of Kent," (1659), resided in this parish "for above twenty-eight years," and speaks very affectionately of it.

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Those who may not feel disposed to extend their ride beyond Scotney, can return by the Hastings and London road to

### LAMBERHURST,

which is eight miles from Tunbridge Wells. The late William Cobbett, in his "Rural Rides," says, "This is one of the most beautiful villages that man ever sat his eyes on. I saw what I never saw before; namely, *a gooseberry tree trained against a house.* The house was one of those ancient buildings, consisting of a frame of oak wood, the interval filled up with brick, plastered over. The tree had been planted at the foot of one of the perpendicular pieces of wood; from the stem, which mounted up this piece of wood, were taken side limbs, to run along the horizontal pieces. There were two windows, round the frame of each of which the limbs had been trained. The height of the highest shoot was about ten feet from the ground, and the horizontal shoots on each side, were from eight to ten feet in length. The tree had been judiciously pruned, and all the limbs were full of very large gooseberries, considering the age of the tree."

The cottage alluded to is now occupied by a person of the name of Hickmott, who still cultivates this extraordinary tree.

On the 10th February, 1840, an oak was

planted with some ceremony, by W. A. Morland, Esq., at the junction of the roads, to commemorate the marriage of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria. A very neat chapel for Wesleyan Methodists was opened here in July, 1842. It is capable of accommodating 200 persons, and has a flourishing Sunday School attached to it.

Opposite the *George Inn* is a large house, part of which is a farm-house, belonging to Mr. Calverley, of Ewell Castle, near Epsom. It was for many generations in possession of a family of the name of Thomas. Westward from this is the ancient parsonage house; and on the opposite side on the rise of a hill adjoining the church, is *Court Lodge*,\* the seat of W. A. Morland, Esq. The church, which has nothing remarkable in its architecture, is dedicated to St. Mary. There are some very fine monuments in it, particularly one to the memory of Colonel Charles Morland, brother of the present proprietor of Court Lodge, who was aid-de-

\* The manor, to which it is the principal mansion, was antiently a part of the large possessions of the Crevequers, and was a limb of their Barony of Leeds. In the reign of King John, it was given by Nicholas de Kenith to the Abbot and convent of Robertsbridge.

to St. Peter. From the circumstance of there being three shields of coat armour on the buttresses, south side of the chancel, belonging to the Colepeper and Hardreshall families, it is conjectured that this church was built in the reign of Edward III, by John Colepeper, Esq., as he married the co-heir of the Hardreshall family; and on a very ancient stone in the pavement of the chancel is an inscription in Norman French, for Margaret daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, which appears coeval with the above-mentioned reign. This singular monumental record, which nearly resembles a coffin in shape, has a cross upon the upper part of it, and the inscription is round the edge of the stone in a sort of border. The letters are curiously carved, and many of them obliterated. From those which remain, we think the following must have been the inscription:—“*Pri pour l'ame de Margarete la file chere Thomas Colepeper.*”\* There is no date upon it. Several memorials and monuments of the Amherst family are also in this church, and a figure in brass, with an inscription for Elizabeth, the daughter of Richard Rowe,

\* The letters in italics are very legible.

Esq., who died 28th Sept., 1607, is near the altar. In the porch were formerly two ancient stones with brasses upon them, but they have been removed for some time, and a brick paving laid down. In 1354, King Edward III., "in consideration of twenty marks paid to him," granted a license to John Colepeper, of Bayhall, to found a perpetual chantry in the chapel of St. Mary in the cemetery of this church. This chantry existed till the suppression of such foundations in the reign of Edward VI., soon after which, the chapel, which stood at the east end of the churchyard, was pulled down and the materials sold; but in digging for the purposes of interment, portions of the foundation are frequently seen. Near this spot is a very remarkable old tomb-stone. It bears neither date nor inscription, and appears perfectly solid to some depth beneath the surface. The ground has been removed to the extent of two feet, and there it presents a similar molding to the top. There is a cross upon it, and it is nearly the same shape as Margaret Colepeper's in the church.

Adjoining the churchyard is *Spring Grove*, the property and residence of A. B. Belcher,

Esq. A short distance from this, past the water-mill, is a farm called *Hawkwell*, where formerly stood a very ancient moated mansion, belonging to a family of that name, or rather Halkwell, who resided for some generations on this manor. A portion of the walls of the old house is still remaining in an orchard near the present farm-house, and it is said that the Market House at Tunbridge, was built with the materials of the old house.

Descending the hill towards the church, there are very distinct appearances of coal on each side of the road, and there can be little doubt that a vein of that useful article might be found here at no great depth from the surface.

At the end of the village is a row of neat almshouses, the gift of Charles Amherst, Esq., of Bayhall, in 1702, for six old, blind, or impotent persons of the parish of Pembury. In addition to the houses, each person is allowed twenty shillings a month, with the privilege of taking in lodgers. The Marquis Camden, on whose property the houses are built, has the appointment of filling up the vacancies that occur by death

or otherwise. The almsmen have also a vote for the county.

Immediately after passing the *Camden Arms*, kept by Mr. Pawley, on the right, is a pleasant road through some fields and hop-gardens to Bayhall.

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### BAYHALL.

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This was one of the most ancient seats of the distinguished family of the Colepepers, "whose demesnes," says Hasted, "spread over the whole face of this County, but more especially the western parts of it. The first eminent man of the family was Thomas de Colepeper, whose descendants possessed the manor of Bayhall, and resided here, from the middle of the thirteenth century to the reign of Henry VI. when the manor was alienated to Humphery Stafford, duke of Buckingham, whose grandson, Henry duke of Buckingham, was the principal agent in forwarding the designs of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, afterwards King Richard III. Upon his attainder in the first year of that reign, his estates were forfeited to the crown,



and Bayhall was held by several distinguished families by purchase and otherwise from that period to 1790, when it was sold to Thomas Streatfield, Esq. It is now the property of the Marquis Camden, and this with the adjoining farm of Little Bayhall is occupied by Mr. Stephen Lansdell.

The present structure was raised by Richard Amherst, Esq., who died in 1664. The old mansion was surrounded by a moat, a considerable portion of which remains, and traces of the whole are clearly perceptible. The principal entrance appears to have been at the north-east front, over a bridge which still remains. There are eight pilasters in this front, which extend the whole width of the building. A great part of the house has been pulled down, but what is left is very interesting. The rooms are lofty and spacious, and the substantial staircase, with its heavy balusters, reminds one of the old baronial mansions of the Norman times. The walls of the staircases and landing-places are painted in panels, but so finely is it done, that it requires a close inspection to be satisfied that it is not panelled wainscoting. It is a perfect specimen of the illusive powers

of house-painting. On the landings are two old chimney-pieces made of oak, the largest of which is seven feet square. In one of the upper rooms is a very old iron vane. From the top of one of the chimneys the branch of an alder tree peeps out, which is actually growing inside the chimney, where the tree is eight or nine feet in length. At the east entrance are some stone steps, almost hidden in the grass and turf. Pedestrians wishing to visit Bayhall, will find a most delightful walk from the Wells, by proceeding past Hall's Hole, turn to the left through a wood and some hop gardens to little Bayhall, within a few yards of which it is situated.

Returning to the *Camden Arms*, the direct road to Goudhurst is on the west side of the parish through the Southfrith woods to Lamberhurst quarter; but by lengthening the distance a little more than a mile, you pass through Matfield Green, Brenchley, and Horsmonden.

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### MATFIELD GREEN

Is a pretty little rural village about six miles from the Wells. There is a very neat dis-

senting Chapel here, and some genteel residences. Mr. Harris, the celebrated hat manufacturer, of London, carries on his manufacturing business here to a large extent. A mile further is,

### BRENCHLEY.

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IN the *Textus Roffensis* this is written Brænceste. It is of large extent, and pleasantly situated on a hill. The houses in general are capacious, and of ancient construction. A short distance eastward is a place called *Broad Oak*, and near it, upon an eminence is a remarkable cluster of trees called Brenchley toll, which, from their elevated situation, are seen at a great distance from every direction round them. In the wood adjoining this are the remains of a square moat, enclosing three or four acres. It is probable that it was the site of a mansion of some consequence. In another part of the parish there are similar remains of a moat, but much wider and deeper, though the area of it is not so extensive, as the first. Very little doubt can be entertained that in

ancient times a building of great magnitude stood here, and it is not a little remarkable that neither the woods nor farms where these remains are found bear any particular name, although the families possessing them must at one time have been of consequence in the county; unless indeed they may be considered as the "Moatlands" belonging to the Pimpes, who held lands here *temp.* Henry VI. The manor of Brenchley in the time of Queen Elizabeth was the property of Mr. Lambarde, whose perambulations through Kent, published in 1593, are well known in the literary world. He settled it on the alms house he had founded at Greenwich, called Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, with a limitation in favour of the heirs male of his line.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and there are some good monuments in it belonging to the families of the Courthopes and Roberts's. There is also an inscription for Elizabeth, wife of George Fane, Esq., of Tudely, who died in 1566. The churchyard has a very neat appearance, especially the row of well clipt yews leading to the porch. Near the village are the extensive nursery grounds belonging to Mr. Hooker, which are

highly deserving of a visit.\* In this parish, and partly in Goudhurst, is the manor of *Bokinfold*. The mansion house is in Yalding parish, and was once surrounded with a park or forest of great extent. In the 27th of Edward I. Bartholomew de Badlesmere held this manor *in socage* by the service of paying one pair of clove gilliflowers, by the hands of the Sheriff. Edward I. visited this place in the nineteenth year of his reign, when on his way to France to do homage for his duchy of Guienne, and whilst here, received from the Bishop of Rochester, his confessor, a present of wine and grapes, from his vineyard at Halling, near Rochester. Whilst residing here he caused several persons to be punished for unlawfully hunting in the park. Bokinfold is now occupied by Mr. Hartridge.

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#### HORSMONDEN.

THIS village is ten miles from Tunbridge Wells. The church is a very handsome building dedicated to St. Margaret, and the churchyard presents the same neat appear-

\* Visitors from Tunbridge Wells going to these grounds will find a much nearer road to them, immediately beyond the *Blue Boys*, a mile from Pembury.

ance as that of Brenchley. In the south side of the chancel is a handsome tomb without any inscription. Over the west door are the arms of Poynings and Fitzpaine. There are several ancient manors in this parish, among which are *Spelmonden*, *Lewis Heath*, *Sprivers*, *Grovehurst*, and *Brambles*. At *Badmonden*, a reputed manor in this parish, was formerly a cell, not conventual, belonging to the priory of Beaulieu, in Normandy, and in 1338, Robert de Grosshurst, or Grovehurst, founded a perpetual chantry in this church, in the chapel of the Virgin Mary, "to the praise of God, and for the souls of himself and his wife." The principal part of the village is situated round the Green, or, as it is termed, *Horsmonden Heath*. The present rector is the Rev. William Smith Marriott. In the neighbourhood are also some old mansions, the most noted of which are *Finchcocks*, and *Gatehouse*, anciently *Riseden*.

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### GOUDHURST.

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THIS is a very pretty village, situated about twelve miles from the Wells. The

church, with a great portion of the village, stands on an exceedingly high hill, and the prospect from the churchyard is at once extensive, rich, and varied; such indeed as Kent only can afford. The village is built on the sides of five different roads, which unite at a large pond in the centre. The houses, generally, are ancient and spacious. A woollen manufactory was established here in the reign of Edward III. by the Flemings, which continued to flourish until about the middle of the last century. In 1725, Mr. Robert Tate had ten broad looms in constant work, and there were besides upwards of forty looms at that time at work in the parish. In 1727, Mr. Henry Tricker kept four narrow looms here for the purpose of manufacturing worsted and stocking yarn; since which time these manufactories have gradually decayed. The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a handsome building consisting of three aisles and the same number of chancels. At the west end is a low tower, and a smaller one at the corner with a pointed turret and a vane on the top. There was formerly a lofty spire, but "upon Wednesday, the 23rd day of August, 1637, (about eleven

of the clock at night,) there happened a most fierce and sudden storme of thunder and lightning, which set on fire the said steeple, and broke, and melted five great bells in the same, and burnt and consumed foure lofts; and the stonework of the same was thereby so shaken and rent, that it was faine afterwards to be pulled down, and the church and leads, by fall of the timber, was much impaired.”\*

There are several very handsome monuments in the church, many of them belonging to the Colepepers of Bedgebury, a very ancient family in the county, but now, we believe, extinct. To the right of the altar are some monuments of the Campions of Combwell, one of whom “famous for his loyalty to King Charles I. was killed at the siege of Colchester, and buried there.” There is a remarkably fine marble bust of him adorned with the flowing periwig of that period. To the right of this, under an arch, is a tomb of Bethersden marble, † with brass

\* Kilburne’s Survey, p. 111.

† Bethersden is in the Hundred of Chart, in Kent. There is a kind of turbinated marble found in this parish, which bears a good polish if dug up in its perpendicular state, but if excavated horizontally, it



effigies of a man and woman with their six children. This belongs to the Colepepers. Against the south wall is a monument composed of different coloured marbles, with the figures of a man and woman kneeling at two desks, the woman on the right. Behind the man is a youth kneeling; beneath are the five daughters, with eleven sons, and two still-born infants. The manner in which the numerous progeny is arranged deserves notice. After the first son they are placed in couples, the last row containing three. The still-born infants are placed under the knees of the sons. Under the male figure is an inscription for Thomas Colepeper, Esq., of Bedgebury, and over it is the following:—

“Here lyeth y<sup>e</sup> body of Sr Alexander Colepepyr, sonne of y<sup>e</sup> said Tho: who had to Wyfe Mary one of y<sup>e</sup> daughters of y<sup>e</sup> Lo: Willm Dacre of y<sup>e</sup> North, who had Yssve by her Anthonye Colepepyr onelye & dyed y<sup>e</sup> 16 day of Janvary, 1599. Memorare novissima et in eternv—non peccabis. Ecolos. 7. 36.”

Over the lady:—

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peels off in flakes. This marble was formerly in great repute—most of the old churches in Kent, and a number in Sussex, having handsome monuments of Bethersden marble. The quarries are now seldom used,

Th<sup>e</sup> worthy Ladye noble borne  
 On bothe sydes: wyse and mylde  
 Grand-childe to th<sup>e</sup> Earlie of Shrewsbvrye  
 & noble Dacres Childe  
 Here lyeth: To dust & ashes changd  
 Her earthly body is  
 Her solve devine transported eke  
 To Heaven and Hevenly blisse.  
 Turne thy face fro: ovr sinnes (O Lorde)  
 & Blot ovt all ovr offenses. Ps. 51. 9.

Under the female statue is inscribed :—

Her Father London great evne Roilde  
 As Maior, a worthy man,  
 Her mother borne of ancyent stock  
 A noble Grecian.  
 Her children manye, vertves more  
 God sent & cherefvll will  
 Y<sup>e</sup> naked, Poore, & needy soules  
 To helpe & svccore still.

My children if Sinners entise yov consetne not.  
 Proverb. 1. 10.

For blessed is y<sup>e</sup> Sovle of him y<sup>t</sup> feareth y<sup>e</sup> Lord.  
 Eccl 34. 15.

On the same monument is this inscription :—

S<sup>r</sup> Anthony Colepepyr K<sup>nt</sup> Sonne & Heire of y<sup>e</sup>  
 said S<sup>r</sup> Alexander had to Wyfe Anne, one of y<sup>e</sup> davgh-  
 ters of S<sup>r</sup> Roger Martin of London K<sup>nt</sup> & had by her  
 12 Sonnes & 4 davghters, w<sup>ch</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Anthonie made this  
 Tombe A<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup> 1608

Etatis svæ 48 Beinge then liveinge.  
 Pvlvis es et in pvlvrem redibis.—Gen. 3. 19.

Let vs heare y<sup>e</sup> end of all Feare God & kepe his comandments For y<sup>s</sup> is y<sup>e</sup> whole dvtie of man.

Eccles: 12. 13.

There is a low window in the south aisle, in the recess of which is a tomb of Bethersden marble, and upon it the figures of a knight and his lady *carved in wood*, habited in the dress of their times. The knight's armour is richly carved, and the *tout ensemble* is probably superior to anything in the kingdom. At the west end of it, traces of armorial bearings and devices are slightly perceptible, but white lime and the *decorator* have shamefully defaced them. This tomb is almost hidden by the pew of the Bedgebury property, Lord Beresford's, but it is well worthy inspection. There is also a natural curiosity in this window claiming attention, and that is a hazel tree which grows inside the window, and from which nuts have been gathered within the last season or two. Near this, against the wall, is an old breast-plate. In the south chancel is the font, which is of great antiquity. Figures of birds, beasts, and other things can be with difficulty traced upon it, for the spoliator has been at work, and under the churchwarden

plea of "beautifying and adorning," the beautiful sculpture of this font, was entirely effaced, and continued so till very recently, when it was cleared from the load of plaster and restored nearly to its pristine beauty. Nor was this the only restoration that took place whilst this edition was passing through the press, the brass effigies, mentioned at page 166, have been completely renovated in accordance with the costume of their time, from, we understood, original portraits. There is a fine ring of eight bells, and chimes play every three hours.

So commanding is the eminence upon which this church is built, that fifty-seven parish churches may be distinctly seen from the tower.

Goudhurst, in 1747, was the scene of an extraordinary civil war, in which the inhabitants were engaged in mortal combat with smugglers, whom they ultimately defeated.

About two miles from Goudhurst is

### KILNDOWN,

where, pleasantly situated on a rising ground, is a new district church, erected in the year 1840, chiefly through the munificent contribu-

tions of the Viscount and Viscountess Beresford, by whom it is principally endowed. It contains sittings for 320 persons, 220 of which are free. The east window is composed of three lancets of splendid coloured glass ; the centre one contains a representation of the Virgin Mary almost the size of life, and on her knee an infant. The right lancet is filled by St. Peter, holding a pair of keys ; the left, by St. Paul, pictured with a sword. In the west window on the right side of the church-door, is a full length painting of King Charles I., labelled " Sanct. Carolus Rex et Martyr." In the window on the opposite side of the door is Pope Gregory, dressed in his Papal robes, with the triple crown of the Popedom on his head ; in his left hand the patriarchal staff or triple cross. The communion table is a square stone altar, with thirteen hollowed Gothic niches, three at each end and seven in front. At the back, in a compartment lined with purple velvet, is a gilt cross about eighteen inches high. Over the communion-table on the ceiling is a lamb, bearing the cross and pennon, surrounded with rays. The walls are covered with selections from the Scriptures and Apocrypha.

The painted windows were executed at the royal manufactory at Munich, and were presented to the church by A. B. Hope, Esq., M.P. for Maidstone. They are said to have cost a large sum of money, and are considered by many as the most beautiful specimens of the restoration of this ancient art in England. The stone altar was also the gift of Mr. Hope, and the fine-toned organ was given by Lady Beresford. The Rev. Henry Harrison is the present incumbent.

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### BEDGEBURY.

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THIS magnificent mansion is about two miles and a half to the south of Goudhurst. The manor appears to have been of considerable eminence from the earliest period; and it gave residence and surname to its possessors, probably in the time of Edward II. In 1424 it was held by John Colepeper, Esq., of Bayhall, who married Agnes, sister to John de Bedgebury, who died without issue. In Queen Elizabeth's progress through Kent in 1573, she honoured this seat with her presence; and Camden states, that at this

time there were twelve knights and baronets alive of the renowned house of Colepeper. Bedgbury has recently become the property, by purchase, of Viscount Beresford, who has a princely mansion here. The style is strictly Palladian—the wings advancing at the eastern and western fronts beyond the centre. The space between the wings on the western side is taken up by a vestibule and portico, and that on the eastern front by a terrace, approached at each end by steps, and surmounted by a balustrade. Before this front is the flower garden, which is laid out in the Italian style, and surrounded by a balustrading. The fountains, walks, flower beds, &c., correspond with the style of the garden. The interior contains on the ground floor an elegant *suite* of rooms, consisting of dining room, saloon, drawing rooms, &c., with a grand staircase leading to the upper floors, decorated with Corinthian and composite columns, grained in imitation of marble, &c. The whole arrangements of the interior were planned by the noble proprietor. The architectural proportions and embellishments, inside and out are from the designs of Alexander Roos, Esq., a young Italian

artist of great taste and judgment, by whom, also, the ceilings of the principal rooms were painted. The mansion is surrounded by 2000 acres of woodland, and opposite the east front is a fine lake covering 22 acres. Nature has done much for the grounds about this princely edifice, and art, directed by the refined taste which is perceptible here, has made them "beautiful exceedingly." The house as well as the fountains are supplied with water from a spring about a mile and a half distant from the building, which, conveyed in pipes, would supply a cistern ten feet higher than the top of the mansion.

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### GLASSENBURY

Was formerly the principal seat of a very ancient family in this county, of the name of Rookherste or Roberts. It is two miles from Goudhurst, and was once of considerable note. The house is surrounded by a moat, and possesses great interest from its antiquity. About the year 1745, the Duke of St. Alban's became possessed of this property by marriage with Jane Roberts, the lineal descendant of Walter Roberts, Esq., who held it in



the reign of Henry VI. His grace left it to Sir Thomas Roberts, Bart., of Ireland. A few years since Napoleon Buonaparte's favourite charger Zeppa, died here, at the advanced age of 34 years, and was interred in the park. After he had been placed in the grave, several bushels of salt were thrown upon him ; after which the grave was filled up with earth, over which was erected a stone column about eight feet high, bearing a suitable inscription who and what he was, and where he had fought and come off victorious. The stone remains to be seen.

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### CRANBROOK.

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THIS pleasant town is situated in a valley, sixteen miles from the Wells, and is renowned for the salubrity of the air. Dr. Derham states, that "Cranbrook, in Kent, and Aynho, in Northamptonshire, are the two healthiest towns in England," and some remarkable instances of longevity in this parish have been recorded. Several respectable families have flourished here, who were called the *Grey Coats of Kent*, from the

dress which they usually wore. These were so numerous and united, that at county elections they were pretty certain of returning their favoured candidate. The church is dedicated to St. Dunstan, and is a spacious and handsome edifice, being one of the largest in the Weald of Kent. Cranbrook and Goudhurst churches are considered two of the handsomest on the inside of any in the county.

The Society of Friends have a meeting-house here, and a burial ground, which is a short distance from the town.

It was at this town, in the year 1336, that the Flemings, encouraged by Edward III. established broad-cloth weaving, which was soon held in such estimation, says Hasted, that persons possessed of most landed property followed this business, and nearly all the ancient families, many of which are now ennobled, sprang from and owe their titles to ancestors who followed this great staple occupation, at the present day almost unknown at this place. Queen Elizabeth, it is said, inspected the principal manufactories in 1573, and walked to Coursehorne, which is a mile distant from the town, the whole

way upon broad cloth. She also founded a grammar school here, to which she gave a charter.

In this parish, a mile and a half from the town, is a hamlet called *Milkhouse Street*, where are the remains of a chapel founded by John Lawness, *temp.* Henry VI., and dedicated to the Holy Trinity. Near this is *Sissinghurst*, or as it was anciently called *Saxenherst*, from the owners of this demesne. It was once the residence of the distinguished family of the Bakers. Sir John Baker, who resided here in the ninth year of Queen Mary's reign, was called "Bloody Baker," from his cruelties towards the protestants. On June 19th, 1554, four men and four women were burnt at Maidstone, he, being one of the prosecutors. It is said that a gentleman of Cranbrook, who received early intimation of Queen Mary's death, sent Sir John three halts, upon receiving which, he mounted his horse with the intention of apprehending the gentleman, but on his road, hearing of the Queen's death, he returned to Sissinghurst, before he reached which he was shot at. He very soon afterwards left the place. It was a castellated mansion,

and, originally, one of great extent ; but the only remains of it at present are the western entrance, which is flanked by octagonal towers, and a small portion of the out-offices. It is now the property of the Earl Cornwallis, who has within these few years repaired and decorated the interior, which is occasionally used in the shooting season. In one of the rooms are two or three portraits painted on oak, and said to have formed part of an old chest, which was found in one of the lumber rooms. The book for visitors' names is a great curiosity, containing, as we should think, the most unique specimens of calligraphy extant. Between the years 1756 and 1763, this place was occupied by nearly 3000 French prisoners.

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### SPELDHURST.

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THIS parish is so intimately connected with Tunbridge Wells, that it appears absolutely a part of it, although the places are dissimilar in every respect. Speldhurst, or *Speleherste*, as it was anciently called, being a perfectly rural and retired village, whilst

the Wells, or south-east portion of the parish, boasts of the utmost gaiety and splendour. It is thought to have derived its name from the Saxon words *spele* and *herste*, signifying the gospel, or holy, wood, but the derivation of it is doubtful. Certain it is that from a remote period it appears to have been a rectory ; and the antiquity of the old church, with the several ancient manors in the vicinity, prove incontestibly that this parish ought to be reckoned amongst the earliest of which we have any account. The road to the church and village is extremely pleasant. Whether for the pedestrian, equestrian, or for a carriage drive, you proceed about half way across Rusthall Common, and turn to the right, which leads you to *Lower Green*. On the left, just after leaving the common, is an ancient house formerly the residence of Lady Ann Agnes Erskine, daughter of the Earl of Buchan, who died the fifth October, 1804, aged 65. She was the intimate friend of the celebrated Countess of Huntingdon, and the poplars planted at Erskine Cottage, were among the first brought into this country from Lombardy by her brother, Lord Erskine. The house is

thought by many to have been the Rusthall manor house, but the supposition rests upon mere conjecture.

From Lower Green there is a pleasant walk through the fields to Speldhurst.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a modern building, the old church having been destroyed by fire, October 20th, 1791, during an awful storm of thunder and lightning. A ball of fire was seen to enter the shingled spire, and almost immediately flames issued forth, which, assisted by the wind, soon commenced their ravages upon the church, and in four hours this beautiful edifice was reduced to a heap of ashes. The bells were melted by the intense heat, and the walls alone were left standing, but in too ruinous a condition to be again rendered serviceable. The font was found turned upside down, but entire; the monuments were entirely destroyed, among which were several to the Waller family, chiefly in the sixteenth century. The old church was a fine structure, and the curious porch to it was built by the Duke of Orleans during the period of his confinement at Groombridge. Within the church was a fine canopy of wainscoting,

adorned with the figures of angels holding shields, in a very elegant style of sculpture, with ornaments of roses and what appeared to be *fleurs de lys*. In the chancel was a monument erected to the memory of Sir Walter Waller and Anna his lady, without any date; but it appears by the parish register that Sir Walter was buried in 1599. There were two epitaphs on this monument, epigrammatical, acrostical, and anagrammatical, according to the taste of those times.

The descendant of this renowned family has caused an inscription on brass to be placed in the wall near the altar, as follows :

### **Sacred to the Memory**

#### **OF THE FAMILY OF THE WALLERS,**

(Descended from Alured de Wallur, of Newark, Notts, who died A. D. 1183,) who were settled at Groombridge in this Parish, from the year 1360 to the year 1604, and were Lords not only of the Manor of Speldhurst, but also of Hollenden, Barnes, Shaliscourt, Nackington, Rusthall, Hadlow, Hollonds, Ashurst, and Ferbies, all in this county, many of whom, besides those whose names are hereon inscribed, were buried in the old church of Speldhurst; but as all their monuments and other memorials were totally destroyed together with that edifice, by lightning, on the 20th of October, 1791, Sir J. W. Waller, of Twickenham, Bart., and Knight of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, has caused this plate to be here placed, to perpetuate the memory of these his Ancestors.

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David de Waller, Master of the Sir John Waller, Knight..

Rolls to King Ed. III. ob. 1360

ob. Dec. 1510

Thomas Waller....ob. Dec. 1391 William Waller,...ob. Feb. 1525

Thomas Waller....ob. Jan. 1410	William Waller....ob. Aug. 1555
Sir Richd. Waller, Knt. who, at the battle of Asincourt, 1415, took prisoner Charles Duke of Orleans, ob. Oct. 1439	John Waller.....ob. Sept. 1574 Thomas Waller .. ob. Nov. 1586 Sir Walter Waller, Knight.. ob. July 1599
Richard Waller....ob. May 1470	Lady Waller.....ob. Sept. 1694

*And also to the Memory of the following Descendants of the  
above who were not buried at Speldhurst.*

Sir Thomas Waller, Knt., Lieut of Dover Castle and the Cinque Ports, M.P. for Dover..... ob. July 1613	Thomas Waller....ob. June 1705 Richard Waller .. ob. Dec. 1715 Thomas Waller .. ob. June 1731 Anne Waller .....ob. Jan. 1780
Gen. Sir Wm. Waller, Knight ob. Sept. 1668	Anne Waller.....ob. April 1800 James Waller.....ob. Dec. 1802
Sir William Waller, Knight ob. Nov. 1700	Mary, mother of Sir I. W. Waller.....ob. Aug. 1804

*Extracted from the Family Records in the College of Arms,  
and from the Register of this Parish.*  
I. W. WALLER, Bart., K.G.H.—May, 1896.

An ancient and apparently a large mansion stood next to the churchyard. The whole of the front apartments have been removed, and the remainder of the mansion is occupied by Mr. Martin. A part of the old wall is still standing in his garden.

There were several places of note in this parish in ancient times; among them, Ewhurst, Ferbies, Rusthall, and Hollonds; but, except the last two, they are now remembered by name only. The Rev. J. J. Saint is the present rector of Speldhurst.

A quarter of a mile north from Speldhurst,



at a place called *Bardens*, were formerly a foundry and forge for casting large cannon, and making divers sorts of iron work. They have long since been disused.

About a mile from the village, on the road to Penshurst, is *Pound's Bridge*, where, at the bottom of a hill, is a curious old half-timbered-house, with gables, barge boards, &c. The date in the front of it is 1593. Underneath this are the letters, "W. D." rather fantastically fashioned in wood, and "ETA 69." W. D. are the initials of William Darkenoll, a former rector of Penshurst, who died July 12, 1596.

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### PENS HurST.

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THE village of Penshurst is situated at the north-west of the Wells, from which it is distant between six and seven miles, according to the road taken. The shortest, through Speldhurst, we have already mentioned; there is also another, by way of Langton and Crockhurst Hatch, but the pleasantest is *via* Southborough and Bidborough. Some think

the name of this parish is derived from the Saxon words *pen* and *herste*, or the head of a wood, but others have, with more probability, taken it from the ancient records, where it is spelt *Pencester* and *Penchester*, from a fortified camp or ancient fortress that once stood upon the site of the old Place.

The *Place* at Penshurst being the principal object of attraction to visitors, we shall first enter upon a description of it, although from the recent improvements effected in it and the alterations proceeding with, it is impossible to convey to the reader a correct idea of the original state of this once magnificent building, or its present splendid appearance. It was a place of some importance before the time of William the Norman; and, after being in possession of several dignified families, it was presented by Edward VI. to Sir William Sidney, who was made a knight banneret at the memorable battle of Flodden Field. Sir Henry Sidney, his son, and the favourite of that monarch, built the tower over the gateway of the principal entrance, and caused this inscription to be engraven on it, over the royal arms, which is still perfectly legible:—

The most religious and renowned Prince Edward the sixth, King of England, France and Ireland, gave this House of Pencester, with the Mannors, Landes and Appvrtenavnces there vnto belonging, vnto his trvstye and well beloved Servant Syr William Sydney, Knight Bannaret, servinge him from the tyme of his Birth vnto his Coronation, in the Offices of Chamberlayne and Stvarde of his Hovshold, in Commemoration of which most worthie and famovs King, Syr Henrye Sydney, Knight of the most noble Order of the Garter, Lord President of the Covnsell established in the Marches of Wales, Sonne and Heyer to the afore named Syr William, causd this Tower to be byvlded, and that most excellent Princes Arms to be erected. Anno Domini, 1585.

Sir Henry Sidney enjoyed the friendship of Edward VI. to an unprecedented degree, that monarch, according to the early chroniclers, taking such delight in his company as rarely to give him leave of absence. Upon the death of Edward at Greenwich in 1552, Sir Henry, overpowered with grief, retired to Penshurst. He was afterwards distinguished by Queen Mary, and was appointed Lord Warden of the Marches of Wales, by Queen Elizabeth. He was four times Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, and three times Deputy Governor of that kingdom, where he greatly signalized himself in suppressing repeated dangerous rebellions, and in executing several public works, which greatly benefited the country. He died on the 5th May, 1585,

at Ludlow, in Shropshire, from whence his body was removed by command of Queen Elizabeth, and buried with great pomp in the chancel of Penshurst church. Sir Philip Sidney, son of the above, and author of the *Arcadia*, was born at Penshurst, on the 29th Nov., 1554. From the surpassing excellence of his talents he was styled the *Incomparable*, and whether we regard him as a warrior or a scholar, he was undoubtedly superior to most men of the age in which he lived. Being the first of that family born at Penshurst, a tree was planted in the park on that occasion, to which Ben Jonson alludes as

That tall tree too, which of a nut was set  
At his great birth, where all the muses met.

Sir Philip was killed at the battle of Zutphen in Holland, on the 22d Sept., 1586. The celebrated "Arcadia," was written here by Sir Philip, in the 29th year of his age, during a temporary retirement from public business. In 1649, the young Duke of Gloucester and his sister, the Princess Elizabeth, two of the children of the unfortunate Charles I. were consigned to the care of the Countess of Leicester, and remained with her at Penshurst about twelve months. This lady was

the mother of Lady Dorothy, better known as the *Sacharissa* of the poet Waller.

Penshurst was also the birth-place of Algernon Sidney, who was beheaded on Tower-hill in 1683, for being concerned in the Rye-house plot.

Robert Sidney, third Earl of Leicester, and brother of Algernon, died at Penshurst in 1674. He was called the "handsome Sidney."

The present noble proprietor, created Baron De L'Isle and Dudley in 1835, is the only son of Sir John Shelley Sidney, Bart., who was the second son of the late Sir Bysse Shelley, of Castle Goring, in the county of Sussex, Bart.

The principal front of this noble edifice extends upwards of 300 feet in length. It is a plain stone and brick building, without ornament, but the general appearance of it cannot fail to impress the mind with ideas of its ancient grandeur. Nearly the whole of the building has been restored to its original dimensions, from the designs and under the judicious management of Mr. Rebecca.

The mansion incloses a spacious quadrangle, to which the gateway already noticed

forms the front entrance. The cupola or lantern over the great hall has been removed. An inner portal opens into a corridor, where there are three arched doorways, leading to the buttery, kitchen, &c. This is divided from the hall by a screen, over which is a gallery for the minstrels; and from this gallery there were communications with the principal apartments on the north side of the mansion. The screen was once richly ornamented with carved armorial bearings, coronets, crests, and various devices; but these are in a great measure obliterated, faint traces of the original designs being barely perceptible. The fine old baronial hall is 54 feet long by 38 feet wide, and upwards of 60 feet in height. It is entirely open to the roof, which is ribbed with timber, and in the centre of it there was an open louvre or lantern, for the purposes of ventilation and allowing the smoke to escape. Immediately beneath this is the original fire-place, and upon it is an immense bar, with large hand-irons, or dogs, as they were more commonly called. At the upper end of the hall is the dais or raised platform, upon which the lord and his principal guests were regaled, whilst

those of humbler class and his retainers feasted right merrily in the body of the hall. There are three antique tables now in the hall, which have possibly groaned under the weight of many a feast, and appear quite capable of performing similar duties for generations to come. At the upper end of the hall is an attempt at perspective painting, which is miserably executed. It represents Edward the Sixth in an old English habit, with his sceptre, standing on a pedestal, and the other portion of the painting is meant to represent a continuation of the hall. On the walls, niches are marked as if intended for paintings, and in these are figures in armour sketched with chalk. The floor is paved with red tiles, and underneath, extending the whole length of the hall, are remarkably fine crypts or vaults.

From the hall a stone staircase leads into a saloon, called the ball-room. In the corners and centre of this room are six marble columns—two Egyptian green, two Sienna, and two Scagliola. There are also several tables of mosaic, representing figures and landscapes; a table of Sienna marble, and two of black marble, elaborately inlaid. At

the end of the room are some steps leading into a gallery which communicates with the modern apartments. Near these steps are some ancient screens,—one of them a Chinese screen with hunting subjects. From the ceiling two cut glass chandeliers are suspended, with crowns at the top, said to be a royal present. In this chamber Queen Elizabeth was once entertained with a *masque*, the chair of state being placed in the gallery already noticed. The paintings in this room are chiefly on mythological subjects by H. Vanderbrocht. Over the fire-place is a portrait of Lady E. Sidney, by Sir Peter Lely. There is also a portrait of Lady Egerton, with other pictures. The iron back to the fire-place is dated 1693. The next room is called the *Page's room*, in which, among others, are the following paintings, &c.—*Holy Family*, by A. del Sarton; *Old Parr*; *Practising for a Masque*, by Antoine de Massera; *Algernon Sidney*, by Julius Venus; *St. Hubert*, by Titian; *Catherine Cecil, Countess of Leicester*, by Lely; *Duns Scotus*; *Landscape*, by Teniers; *Fall of Phaeton*, by Julio Romano; *The Duchess of Portsmouth*; *Flowers*, by Caravaggio;



a fine picture of a head, by Rembrandt ; an engraving of Thomas Killegrew, groom of the bedchamber to Charles I. ; a cabinet, inlaid with birds and flowers ; alabaster and china vases ; a richly decorated bridle, martingale, and crupper, which belonged to George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. Next, is the *Queen's Drawing Room*, in which are some chairs highly ornamented ; the frames richly carved and gilt, the down cushions and stuffed backs are crimson silk damask embroidered with gold. A brass cabinet, inlaid with tortoiseshell, is covered with curious and valuable antiques, many of them discovered at Herculaneum. Amongst the most remarkable of them is a skeleton modelled in wax, lying on crystal, which is said to have been found among the relics, and is conjectured by the virtuosi to have belonged to Celsus, the celebrated physician. There is also a petrified nest with eggs, said to be a pheasant's. The pictures in this room are chiefly of the Sidney family by Lely, Holbein, Mark Gerard, and Vandyke. There is one of Jane Wrotherly, countess of Rochford, by S. Netcher, in which the lady's hand and a dog are beautifully painted. In

the *Tapestry Room* is an Egyptian green marble table and ornaments. The colouring of the old tapestry in this room is the finest imaginable, and bears an appearance of freshness and brilliancy, as if but newly hung. The subject of one is the triumph of Cybele, and on the opposite end of the room is Eolus unbarring the portal of the winds, with Juno and her attendant nymphs looking on. In the left corner the honeysuckles and other flowers are exquisitely finished. A small room adjoining this is called the *Second Page's Room*, in which was formerly a curious antique cradle, made of black wood, said to have belonged to George Villiers, duke of Buckingham; and there was also a glass-case here that contained several folio volumes and some MSS., from which Mr. Collins composed his memoirs of the Sidney family. The cradle is now *non est inventus*, and the case has been removed to the private apartments. There are a few pictures in this room, the principal of which are a *Madona and Sleeping Christ*, by Guido, and *Titian's Mistress*, by himself.

The Picture Gallery is about ninety feet long, with a recess similar to one at Charle-

cot in Warwickshire, belonging to the Lucys, whom Shakspeare has immortalized. In the recess is a table of *lapis lazuli*, inlaid with the arms of the Sidney family, and contains *ninety-five* quarterings, beautifully executed. There is a cabinet here, a present from King James I. to Robert, first Earl of Leicester. It is divided into small compartments, which are enriched with some fine paintings, chiefly scriptural, and figures of brass gilt. The gallery is well filled with paintings, many of which are by the first masters. Amongst them are two portraits of *Dorothy Sidney, Countess of Sunderland* (Sacharissa,) by Vandyke. A large picture of *Apollo and the Muses*, by P. Lely; *The Percy Family in 1752*, David Corder Loder; cabinet picture, *Trial of a Deserter*, Heimkerk; a *Flemish Woman*, Terburgh; *Sir Thomas More*, Holbein; *Languet*, (Sir Philip Sidney's tutor,) 1564. Over this is *Lady Mary Dudley*, wife to Sir H. Sidney, and mother of Sir Philip. Near this is a painting on marble by Lambert Cristi Gori. The subject is a young peasant playing on a reed to his companion, a young girl with her distaff in her hand, but more absorbed with the

music than mindful of her work. An ancient *Female Head*, by Simon Mercoli, 1340. This picture formed part of the collection of King Charles I. *Martin Luther*, by Lucas Cranach. Several busts also adorn this gallery.

Returning to the great hall you proceed into what is called *The Minstrel's Gallery*, which abounds in ancient armour and various relics of the olden times. There are some iron shields; a variety of helmets and skull caps; knights' armour, horsemen's boots, partisans, &c. Most of these are of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The boots appear to be of the description worn by cuirassiers of the time of Charles II. The firearms are mostly "wheel-lock carabines" of that period. The helmets are described as worn in 1625, 1630, and 1640. The partisans (or halberds, as they are now termed,) were of the time of Elizabeth. The shields were of the same period. The long guns and rests which are ranged on the walls are thus mentioned in Meyrick's "Ancient Armour:" "The considerable execution done by small calibre probably caused the introduction of the musquet or mousquet. The English

whilst rowing about in an Indian canoe. Just beyond this, and immediately facing the principal entrance to the mansion, from which it can be seen, are some trees called "Lady Gamage's Bower," so named after Barbara Gamage, Countess of Leicester. Nearly adjoining this is a row of trees called "Sacharissa's Walk." There is also a traditional report, that a Countess of Leicester was once taken in labour under, or near, a great oak in this park, which was afterwards called "My Lady's Oak," but no positive record or memorial is preserved to mark the spot. A fine heronry was formerly in the park, which was nearly the last in the kingdom, but no herons have been kept here for some time.

On a suitable piece of ground, fronting the mansion, the Peshurst Cricket Club occasionally exercise their skill, by permission of the noble proprietor. Near this is a new road to the house, with a lodge entrance; the present access from the village being through the churchyard.

Peshurst church is a venerable looking building, dedicated to St. John the Baptist. From its situation there can be little doubt

but that it was once within the extensive park. There are several ancient monuments in the church, of most distinguished families. The oldest is in the middle aisle, on a brass plate:—

“ Pray for the soulys of Watin Darnoldtt\* Johane and Annes his Wyfys the which Watin decessed the 21 day of March in the year of our Lord God 1507 on whose soulys JHU have mercy Amen.”

The following are the principal inscriptions. On a stone in the middle aisle:—

Robert Kerwin doth now here liei  
A man of proved honestie,  
Whose sowl to heven hence did flie,  
To enjoy Christ his felicity,  
The seventh of Februarie. 1615.

On a brass plate in the chancel:—

Here lyethe the bodyes of Robert Pavie and Fraunces his wife, late servants to the honourable house of the Sydneies ever since the second year of queene Marie, which Fraunces was here buried the 15th day of Februarie, 1596, and Robert the 12th of October, 1600, who by his last will appointed this monument to be layde in testimonie of his true love and faithfull service to the sayd honourable house.

\* This name, from the character in which it is engraved, can with difficulty be deciphered. It might possibly be for one of the “ Draynont” family, but we have given it as well as we could trace it.

In the south chancel, under the effigies in brass of a man and woman :—

Of your charite pray for the soules of Pawle Yden, gentilman, the sone of Thomas Yden, esquier, and Agnes his wyf, the whiche Pawle decessed the vi day of August, in the yer of our Lord M.Vc.LXIII. on whose soules JHESU have mercy.—Amen.\*

On the north side of the chancel on a brass plate :—

Here lyeth William Darkenoll, parson of this place,†  
 Endynge his minsteri even this yeare of grace 1596  
 His father and mother, and wyves two, by name  
<sup>80</sup> John, <sup>88</sup> Jone, and two <sup>50</sup> Margarets, <sup>67</sup> all lyved in good fame;  
 Their severall ages who lyketh to knowe,  
 Over each of their names the figures do shewe.  
 The sonnes and daughters now spronge of this race  
 Are fyve score and od in every place.  
 Deceased July 12th Anno supradicto.

In the chancel, on a brass plate, is a record to the memory of the “Rev. John Bvst, God’s painfvll minister in this place the space of 21 years.” Next to this is a long inscription, dated 1727, for William Egerton, L.L.D., grandson to John, Earl of Bridgewater. At the west end of the chancel is a monument to Sir William Sidney, the first

\* “Pawle Yden” was the great-grandson of Sheriff Yden, who slew the rebel Cade.

† See p. 182.

of that name who was Lord of Penshurst, 1515, and died in 1553. There is also in the chancel, an ancient but mutilated figure in stone, of a knight templar, supposed to be Stephen de Penchester, founder of the church; whose family, in the time of the Conqueror, was possessed of Penshurst place and manor, and of whom there is mention made in Domesday book. In the church-yard there is a very interesting memorial in remembrance of two young ladies named Allnutt. Within an iron palisading are planted roses, geraniums, clematis, cypress, &c.; and on two stones, one at the head, and the other at the foot of the grave, are the following lines:—

## ON THE HEAD-STONE.

When all the pleasures of the world are past,  
 And all its little vanities are o'er;  
 Amidst the silent mansions of the dead,  
 Where cares torment, and joys delight no more.  
 Here, side by side, a kindred dear shall rest;  
 Hence, hand-in-hand before th' Almighty rise,  
 Together quit earth's cold and dreary breast,  
 For brighter dwelling in Æthereal skies.  
 For love of parent, husband, wife, and child,  
 So strongly planted in the human heart,  
 Inspires the faith that they shall meet again  
 In realms of bliss, where they shall never part!



Though sweet that faith, yet futile are our cares,  
 For God has promis'd, and he will fulfil:  
 And atoms scattered o'er the world's wide space  
 Shall rise embodied, and perform his will!

## ON THE FOOT-STONE.

Spare what thou seest, for spoil will but increase  
 The bitter anguish of a Father's breast:  
 Whose greatest joy, is thus to deck the tomb,  
 And dress the green sod where his Children rest.  
 These fragrant Flowers, the fairest of their kind,  
 Restore to memory, for ever dear;  
 Some sweet bewitching grace of form or mind,  
 And bloom the emblem of these buried here.  
 O're these sad graves, each gentle maid shall sigh,  
 And sorrowing, raise her thoughts to Heaven above:  
 Ah! gentle maid, may'st thou be spared to bless,  
 With fond return, thine anxious parents' love.

The Rev. P. S. Dodd is the present rector of Penshurst. At the entrance to the church-yard are some very ancient dwellings, and a remarkably large tree. In other parts of the village are several genteel modern residences, and some very pretty rustic almshouses. The river Medway runs through the southern part of the parish, and about two miles from the village is a station of the South-Eastern Railway.

REDLEAF HOUSE is situated at the north-west corner of Penshurst Park, and formerly

belonged to the Spencers of St. Alban's. Gilbert Spencer resided here in the reigns of Charles II. and William III.; and one of his descendants, Abraham Spencer, was Sheriff of the county in 1736. It is now the property of William Wells, Esq., who has greatly improved it. The gardens and pleasure grounds are laid out with very refined taste, and the house is adorned with a superb collection of pictures by the most esteemed ancient and modern artists.

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LEIGH,

Or *Lyghe*, is a small parish eastward from Penshurst, and sometimes called in ancient writings *La Lye*, from a family that possibly derived its surname from the place, and to whom probably the house at *Spring Hill* belonged, which is described at Chafford. The church is a remarkably old building, and quite diminutive in size. It is dedicated to St. Mary, and has some good specimens of painted glass in the windows. In the chancel there are three brass plates removed from some grave stones, and nailed on the floor of a pew. There is also a brass plate represent-

ing the effigies of a woman in her shroud lying in a tomb; underneath which, on the side of the tomb, is this curious distich, in black letter:—

***Farre well, all ye,  
Tell you come to me.***

Adjoining this parish is an estate called *Philipotts*, which was once the property of the Polhill's, of Debtling and Chatham, in whose family, according to Hasted, is a tradition that one of them was Bowbender to Queen Elizabeth; and not many years ago, there hung up in this house a bow, curiously enamelled and studded, which was said to have belonged to the Queen.

About half a mile from Penshurst is SOUTH PARK, formerly belonging to the great park, from which it was alienated. The house is prettily situated on an eminence, and is built in the castellated style. It is the property and residence of the gallant veteran Sir Henry Hardinge; Bart.

If the visitor to Penshurst should wish to extend his ride he will be gratified in proceeding to Chiddingstone and Hever.

## CHIDDINGSTONE

Is a very neat and pleasant village eight miles from the Wells. The name of it is said to be derived from a large stone, which now stands in the park belonging to H. Streatfield, Esq., and was anciently called the "chiding-stone," from its being the place where females addicted to scolding were seated while they were chided by the priest. The church is a remarkably handsome building, dedicated to St. Mary. The tower steeple at the west end is justly reckoned amongst the finest specimens of architecture to be found in Kent, and it contains a peal of eight richly-toned bells. There are several handsome monuments in the church, and on an iron plate in the middle aisle is the following inscription :—

Loe here the corpes of Richard Streatfelde, green  
in yere, but ripe in faith and frutes, yet soone God  
hath his soule, this towne his fame; the poor a por-  
tion large of all his worldly stoore.

Vivit post funera virtus.

Obijt 15 die Septembris, anno 1601, ætatis suæ 40.

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## HEVER

Is situated about a mile from Chiddingstone, and ten miles from the Wells. The castle is a highly interesting place to visit, not merely from the excellent preservation in which this "domestic fortress" is maintained, but from the many historical reminiscences connected with it. It was originally a portion of the patrimony of Sir Stephen de Penchester, but afterwards became the property of a family named Hever, from an estate at Hever, near Northfleet in this county. In the reign of Edward III., Thomas de Hever rebuilt the mansion, and obtained leave to embattle it. His descendant William de

Hever dying without male issue, it passed to his daughters, with whom it continued till it was purchased by Geoffery Bullen, the grandfather of Sir Thomas Bullen, who was father of the unfortunate queen Anna Bullen. It was at this castle where Henry VIII. wooed and won his bride, and many state documents of that period, besides others of a more tender and private nature, are dated from Hever. After the death of Anna Bullen the castle was declared forfeited to the king, by whom it was given to his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves, who remained sometime here after her repudiation. Upon her death the estate again reverted to the Crown, and was given by Queen Mary to Sir Edward Waldegrave, in whose family it continued until 1715, when it was conveyed to Sir William Humfreys, Bart., who was then Lord Mayor of London. It remained with him till 1745, when it was purchased by Timothy Waldo, Esq., afterwards Sir Timothy, of London, whose family still possess it.

The castle, which is entire, is a large mass of building with buttresses, machicollations, square towers, embrasures, &c. A moat, formed by the river Eden, surrounds the

building, over which there is a stone bridge leading to the grand entrance, under the principal tower. In the gateway is the portcullis, still very perfect. Inside this gateway is a quadrangle, round which the domestic offices are arranged. Crossing the quadrangle you enter the great hall, in which is a large and ancient oak table. The great staircase leads to the principal chambers—among others to the chapel, which is now divided into several apartments. The gallery, which is about 100 feet long, and 14 or 15 feet wide, like the chapel and the other rooms, is wainscoted with small oaken panels. A recess on one side of this gallery, ascended by two steps, contains a seat capable of holding ten or a dozen persons. Tradition states that this was used as a throne when the king visited the castle, but as it never appears that he kept up any state here, this may be reasonably doubted. At the opposite end of the gallery is a trap door in the floor, which it is said opens into a dungeon, that extends as far as the moat. This, however, is more than apocryphal, as a short ladder reaches to the bottom of it. In one of the chambers an old-fashioned bedstead and some antique

chairs are said to have belonged to Anna Bullen, who was immured here after her disgrace; and in a corner of this room is a sort of closet, with the window walled up, where it is stated she was placed whenever closer confinement was deemed necessary. Over the entrance gate is a drawing-room very tastefully fitted up with all modern conveniences, but in perfect unison with the style of the building. The entrance to this room is up some stone steps in the left hand tower, and a gallery which runs across the end of it leads to the top of the tower. Several other apartments were also fitted up by the late owner, Mrs. Waldo, of Clapham Common, which are now occupied by the tenant. There are some good family pictures in this room, and a small portrait on panel of Queen Anna Bullen, which has been preserved with almost religious veneration by the different possessors of the castle. The oak mantle-piece is very richly carved, and divided into compartments, containing the arms of Carey and Bullen; Carey and Waldo; Bullen and Howard; King Henry VIII. and Bullen. The hand-irons assimilate to the general decorations of the room. The property now belongs to E. W. Meade Waldo, Esq.



The church is at the eastern end of the village, and is a small building with a neat spire. It is dedicated to St. Peter, and bears strong marks of antiquity. There is a gravestone in the aisle for Margaret wife of William Cheyne, dated 1419. An altar tomb stands in the north chancel, with a large figure in brass of Sir Thomas Bullen, Knight of the Garter, &c., in his robes and collar of the order; and on a brass plate is this inscription:—

Here lieth Sr Thomas Bullen, Knight of the Order of the Garter, Erle of Wilscher and Erle of Ormvnde, wiche decessed the 12 dai of Marche in the Yere of ovr Lorde 1538.

In opening an adjoining vault, in the summer of 1838, some of the brickwork belonging to the Bullen vault was displaced, and through the aperture it could be seen, that the oak coffin had wasted away, but the leaden, or inner one, appeared perfect after a lapse of three centuries. Upon a brass plate in the wall is the figure of a man kneeling at a desk, with a black letter inscription for William Todde, who died in 1585. In the belfry, or rather entrance porch, is an altar tomb, with a brass plate bearing a French

inscription, nearly illegible, to the memory of John de Cobham, who died in 1399, Dame Johane de Leukenore, his wife, and Renaud, their son. This plate was formerly on a stone in the belfry, but becoming loose and broken, it was removed to its present situation to preserve it.

### EDENBRIDGE

Is about two miles from Hever, and takes its name from the river Eden, which runs through here, and joins the Medway at Penshurst. The church is a large and handsome building, and in ancient times was celebrated for a crucifix of excellent workmanship. The rood loft, in which this image stood, still remains; and there is enough painted glass left in the windows to prove that at one time they must have been very handsome. The South-Eastern Railway Company have a station here.

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Proceeding from the Wells to Groombridge you cross Rusthall Common. As you leave this, to the left is the residence of Captain Cooper; a little beyond which, on the same side of the road, is Miss Bowen Harding's.

Next to this is *Mitchells*, late the property of John Carruthers, Esq., whose mansion was destroyed by fire in 1837. A new house has since been erected. The views on each side of the road to

#### LANGTON,

which is two miles from Tunbridge Wells, are extremely pleasant. At Langton Green is the property of Baden Powell, Esq., and on the left of the road is the estate of Bingham Richards, Esq., the friend of Henry Salt, the celebrated Abyssinian traveller. Adjoining this is

#### HOLLONDS,

one of the manors already mentioned as being in the parish of Speldhurst. It was named after a noble family of the name of Holland, once the owners of it. From them it passed to the Wallers and afterwards to the Earls of Dorset, who alienated it to the Coldicots. Nothing remains of the original mansion, which was once the property and residence of Joanna of Kent, the daughter of Edmund of Woodstock, Earl of Kent, and uncle to Edward III. "This young lady," says Benge Burr, "appears to have been a

woman of great beauty and distinguished gallantry; and was that famous lady to whom, it is said, we owe the noble order of the garter. In the early part of her life she was contracted to Sir Thomas Holland, but while he was engaged abroad in the wars of France, she was prevailed on to wed the young Earl of Salisbury. Soon after this, being at Werk castle in Northumberland, she ordered her garrison to interrupt the rear of the king of Scotland's army in his retreat from England, which so incensed him that he turned back and besieged her. The young lady, but little frightened at the number of his forces, repulsed the king several times, and kept his army at bay till relieved by Edward the III. When Sir Thomas Holland returned to England, he presented a petition to the pope, pleading his pre-contract with the lady. This was held good, and she was divorced from Lord Salisbury, and married to Sir Thomas Holland, who built a mansion here, and afterwards became the Earl of Kent. At his death he left one son, and his countess a rich young widow, who at the end of one year married Edward the Black Prince!" The site of the old mansion has long been lost,

but there are appearances near the present house, of an orchard and the remains of a garden, which belonged to the ancient dwelling. The estate has been lately purchased by the Rev. H. Cholmondeley, who has built there,

“Bosom'd high in tufted trees,”

an elegant modern mansion, called *The Hollonds*. Some short distance beyond, diverging to the right, is *Crockhurst Hatch*, which leads through *Chafford* to *Penshurst*.

### CHAFFORD

Is another ancient manor in the neighbourhood, for many years the property and residence of the Rowe's and Rivers'. It derives its name from a ford of early date across the Medway, which is here a considerable stream. The principal object at this place is the paper manufactory of Mr. R. Turner, which is well worth inspecting. Immediately facing the lodge leading to these mills, on the right, is a very ancient house with a porch in front of it, and beyond this is *Spring Hill*,\* occupied by Mr. Austin. This latter house has evidently been of some

\* See p. 201.

importance. It appears to have been a square building, of which one entire wing remains. There must have been a corresponding wing to the present, and the arched entrance doorway seems to have stood in the centre of the building, the addition to the original wing being comparatively modern. Under the gable in front of the house, is a date, 1622, and the initials, W.A.L.; and beneath these are *fleurs de lis*. Of this latter ornament there are several in different parts of the house externally, and from these we should judge that it was once the property, and probably the residence, of the family of *La Lye*, who were afterwards settled at Leigh near Penshurst. Supposing this conjecture to be correct, (and the conceit upon "*la Lye*," or lily, would go far towards confirming it,) this house must have been one of the most ancient in the county.

To the left of *Crockhurst Hatch*, leaving *Ashurst Park*, the property of Mrs. Fowler Jones, on the right, is the road to

### ASHURST,

Which owes its derivation to the Saxon word *Ashyrst*, or the wood of ashes. At

*Stone Cross*, near this place is a chestnut tree, by the road side, which measures thirty feet in girth. There is a singular old church here, and a large branch of the Medway, but of the place itself and the ancient Rood which was formerly erected here, we cannot do better than quote from the earliest authorities. Kilburne says, "The church was once famous for a rood or crucifix miraculously growing (as was pretended,) of which who desires to read more, I refer him to *Mr. Lambert's Perambulations in Ashurst.*" Lambard records, \*—

"In the south-east corner of this shire, towards the confines of Sussex and Surrey, lieth Ashurst, a place now a days so obscure (being little better than a town with two houses,)† that it is not worthy the visiting: but yet in old time so glorious for a Rood which it had of rare property that many vouchsafed to bestow both their labour and money upon it. It was beaten, forsooth, into the heads of the common people, (as what thing was so absurd, which the clergy could not make the world then to believe?) that the rood or crvcifix of this church, did by certain increments continually wax and grow, as well in the bush of hair

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\* P. 421. ed. 1596.

† In justice to the village, we must remark, that the number of houses and inhabitants have greatly increased since Lambard wrote.

it had on the head, as also in the length and stature of the members and the body itself. By means whereof it came to pass, that whereas before time the fruits of the benefice, were hardly able to sustain the incumbent, now by the benefit of this invention, (which was in papistry, *novum genus aucupij*;) the parson there was not only furnished by the offering to live plentifully, but also well aided toward the making of a rich hoard."

The manner of making those roods is more particularly described, at page 228 in the same work.

The Rev. William Ramsden, the rector of this parish, has a mansion here, called "The Mount." It is most romantically situated, and is fitted up internally with great taste. The grounds are well laid out, and a communication is formed between them over the road, by a rustic bridge, which produces a pleasing effect.

### GROOMBRIDGE

Is four miles from the Wells, and was originally called Gromenbridge, from a noble Saxon, named Gromen, who was the proprietor of it. It afterwards became the property in succession of several distinguished families, till it was purchased by Sir Richard Waller, in the reign of Henry V. This



worthy knight greatly distinguished himself at the ever memorable battle of Azincourt, where he was fortunate enough to take the Duke of Orleans prisoner, and for his bravery on the occasion was allowed by Henry to keep him in honourable confinement at Groombridge. After a confinement of upwards of twenty years he was at last released by the mediation of the Duke of Burgundy, upon the payment of a ransom of 300,000 crowns,\* although strongly opposed by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester. In gratitude for the generous treatment he met with during his captivity, he rebuilt the old house, which was formerly a four square castle, occupying the whole space, and inclosing an inner court. The house thus rebuilt by the Duke of Orleans, after passing through several possessors, was again reduced, and rebuilt upon a more contracted plan by John Packer, Esq., Clerk of the Privy Seal to Charles I., who also built a votive chapel of ease to the parish church of Speldhurst. The old chantry is supposed to have been in the chapel within the park. The Duke also assigned to Sir Richard Waller and his heirs

\* Dugdale says 400,000 crowns.

for ever this honourable addition to their family arms, the escutcheon of France suspended upon an oak, with the motto, "Hi fructus virtutis." Many conjectures have been hazarded relative to the date of the present building. That the original house was at least double the size of the present mansion, must be evident to all those who have seen other moated houses, the outer walls of which are generally close to the water. Evelyn, speaking of this house, says,

"Aug. 6. 1674. The old house had been the place of confinement of the Duke of Orleans, taken by one Waller, (whose house it then was,) at the battle of Agincourt, now demolish'd, and a new one built in its place, tho' a far better situation had been on the South of the wood, on a graceful ascent. At some small distance is a large chapell not long since built by Mr. Packer's father, on a vow he made to do it on the return of King Charles I. out of Spaine, 1625, and dedicated to St. Charles."

The inscription over the door of this chapel still remains, the prince's crest having been fresh carved. "D.O.M. 1625. ob felicissimi Caroli Principis ex Hispaniâ reducis Sacellum hoc D.D.J.P."

A few years since a small coin composed of a mixture of copper and brass was found

near Groombridge Place. It was much corroded, having on one side a crown, under which and separated from it, was a *Fleur-de-lis*. Whatever had been on the other side of the coin was entirely obliterated. Insignificant as this relic appears, it is probable the only one extant that bears any reference to the Duke of Orleans living at this mansion.

It is probable that the present building is nearly a transcript of the old, but it is much disfigured by a modern colonnade extending from wing to wing, and which altogether destroys the character of it. In front of the house are two remarkably tall fir trees, and a short distance from it is a noble piece of water extending to the village. In the churchyard is a very ancient thorn. There was formerly an extensive park here, which probably included the whole of the present village, as there can be no doubt that the chapel once stood within its bounds. The present proprietress of the *Place* is Mrs. Saint.

About a mile from the village is *Burr's Wood*, the property of David Salomons, Esq., who a few years since erected a very elegant mansion in the Elizabethan style. It is

pleasantly situated, and the grounds around it are laid out with much taste.

### WITHYHAM

Is a pleasant village in the county of Sussex, seven miles from Tunbridge Wells. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, stands upon an eminence, near the parsonage house, and is a large and handsome edifice, in the style of the 15th century. The original edifice was destroyed by lightning on the 16th of June, 1663, and was rebuilt, according to one account, in 1689, but there is a date of 1672 on the porch, which would indicate that the rebuilding took place very soon after the destruction of it. There are some fine monuments in the church, principally of the Sackville family. The Sackville chancel had a highly ornamented ceiling. The frame work represented fruit and flowers beautifully executed in plaster, of the date of Louis XIV. The whole of this, however, having fallen into decay, has been removed and replaced by a ribbed ceiling in the Tudor style, with the armorial bearings of the Sackville family at the intersections. The vault of the Sackville family is under the mausoleum. John

Sackville, an ancestor of the family, in his will, dated 1556, directs, "that my poore, synful carkase be buried within the church of Witheam if I chaunce to change this uncertayn liffe, at Chiddingleigh, or within XII or XIII miles of the same, in such place as then shall be most conveniente, by myne executors and frendes, if I do not prepare the place by my liffe. Which buriall, yt it be wethoute pompe or pride or vayn glorie of this world; so that the most of my goodes may be given to the poor of Witheam and Hartfield, and Chiddingleigh, and other places, wher my lands lieth, wherewith I have had lyving." There are several handsome monuments in the church, the principal of which are the following:—John Frederick, duke of Dorset, ob. 1799, æt. 55, by Nollekins; George John Frederick, duke of Dorset, (who at the age of twenty-one years was killed in Ireland, by a fall from his horse, in 1815,) by Flaxman; Arabella Diana, duchess of Dorset, ob. 1825, æt. 58, by Chantry.

In the churchyard against a buttress on the east end, is an iron slab, probably cast in the neighbourhood, with this inscription:—

Heare lieth Wilyam A Lfrey late of Wythih Am-  
Yeoman, which Ende D His life The 15 day Jvne an-  
No Do 1610.

And near this on a raised grave-stone :—

One the 28 of Septembe R Anno Dom 1612 was  
Bi Chard May Nard of Co Zleigh Bvried.

The Hon. and Rev. R. W. West is the  
present incumbent.

### BUCKHURST.

A short distance from Withyham church is the only remaining tower of the once magnificent seat of the Sackvilles. From the ground plan it appears to have been an immense pile of buildings, covering an area of 260 feet in front, with a depth of 200 feet. There were eight towers, and in front was the tower gateway, which still remains in good preservation. The site of nearly the whole building can be traced with some little difficulty, and the remains of the ancient hall, which was 55 feet long and 40 feet wide, are now used as a barn. The tennis court was 55 feet long, and the several apartments were in proportion. It originally belonged to the family of Dene, and became the property of the Sackvilles by the marriage of Ela,

daughter and co-heiress of Ralph de Dene, with Jordan de Sackville, from whom the dukes of Dorset were lineally descended. A friend has furnished us with the following interesting particulars of this ancient place:—

At what time Buckhurst House, the ancient mansion of the Sackvilles, was built, is matter rather of conjecture than certainty. Queen Elizabeth is stated, in the course of one of her progresses, amongst other places of note, to have intended visiting Buckhurst. The following curious record on the subject occurs in the account of her various excursions. '19th Q. Elizabeth. The queen, this summer, took her progress into Kent, Surry, and Sussex. Now was the Lord Buckhurst to receive her at his house in Sussex; therefore sent he to the Earl of Sussex, Lord Chamberlain, to understand when her Majesty's pleasure was to come into those parts; that as the Earl of Arundel and others, expecting her presence with them, had made great provision for her, so he might not be wanting in his: being fain to send into Flanders to supply him; the others having drawn the country dry before him.' He adds, 'If her Highness had tarried but one year longer, his House would by that time had been more fitted for her entertainment.' This letter is dated July the 4th, 1577.

In 1782 appeared a third edition of Walpole's *Anecdotes of Paintings in England*, from the Supplement to which is made the following extract:—'I am empowered to point out a volume of drawings of that architect, *John Thorpe*, who has left a folio of plans of Somerset House; of Buckhurst House, *an immense pile*; of Woollaton; Copthall; Burleigh House;

Burleigh on the Hill, the Duke of Buckingham's; Sir Walter Cope's, now Holland House, at Kensington; Giddy Hall in Essex; Audley End (Braybrook); Ampthill, now called Houghton; and Ampthill old House, another spacious palace; and Kirby, of which he says he laid the first stone in 1570.' It appears, then, that the works alluded to in the letter from Lord Buckhurst to the Earl of Sussex, were at that time carrying on, under the direction of this hitherto unknown, but eminent and favourite artist. The initials I.T. in old characters, inscribed over the gateway of a tower, detached from the house, (the only building which now remains) mark that to have been erected at this time, and to have been the work of Thorpe. Thos. Sackville, Lord Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth, who was made Earl of Dorset by James I., obtained Knoles, on account of its nearness to London, and the *great foulness* of the roads to Buckhurst:\* thus Buckhurst was deserted, and it appears that Thorpe was the last resident there.

\* In "Leland's Itinerary," vol. v. p. 26, is the following allusion to the County of Sussex:—

Essex full of god hoswyfes,  
 Middlesex full of stryves,  
 Kentshire hoot as fyre,  
*Souseks full of dyrt and myre.*

And in a "Tour through Great Britain," published in 1724, the writer says: "I came away, or as they call it there, (Tunbridge,) I retired and came to Lewes, through the deepest, dirtiest, but many ways the richest, and most profitable country in all that part of England. \* \* Here I had a sight, which indeed I never saw in any other part of England; namely, that going to church at a country village, not far from Lewes, I saw an ancient lady, and a lady of very good quality, I assure you, drawn to church in her coach with six oxen; nor was it done in frolick or humour, but mere necessity, the way being so stiff and deep, that no horses could go in it."



“Before the destruction of Buckhurst, another house had been erected on a very beautiful situation in *Stoneland Park*, which was separated by a road only from that of Buckhurst. It is said to have been designed as a lodge for the keeper; but received considerable additions from the first duke of Dorset, who made it his occasional summer retreat. His son, Lord George Germaine, afterwards created Viscount Sackville, constantly resided here during the summer, till his decease in 1785. Stoneland was for some years inhabited by Lord Whitworth and the Duchess of Dorset, who much improved the house and grounds; and having re-united to the park a portion of what once constituted that of Buckhurst, restored to the whole the name of *Buckhurst Park*.”\*

This beautiful mansion is the property and residence of Earl De La Warr, who married Elizabeth, daughter of John Frederick, third Duke of Dorset, by whom this portion of the Sackville property was inherited. His lordship has added considerably to it, from the plans of J. A. Repton, Esq. It is in the Tudor style, and stands in a very extensive park, which contains some of the finest beeches probably in the country. In the entrance hall, on each side of the inner doorway, is a complete suit of armour, *temp. Eliz.* with partisans of the same

\* Shoberl's "Sussex," p. 178.

period. To describe the interior of this building, would occupy more space than can be afforded in this work ; but the dining-room is so perfectly unique, that it ought not to be passed in silence. It is of oak paneling, most elaborately carved, and the great proportion of it is of the time of Henry the eighth, having been removed from Halnaker House, about three miles from Chichester, which once belonged to the La Warre family. Over the doors are the two half-length figures, described by Grose, of men holding cups, and seemingly inviting strangers to partake of the hospitality of the house. In a label under the figure of one is, " Les biens venvs," and under the other, "Come here and drynke." The drawing-room has an ornamented ceiling, and the billiard-room contains an antique chimney-piece, resembling Bethersden marble, removed from the ancient mansion of Bolebrook ; which was evidently executed by some sculptor who wished to attain the art of perspective in marble. There is a fine piece of water in the park covering seventeen acres, and a portion of it falls over some rough rocks at the end, into a glen, making a very picturesque waterfall ; across

which is a rustic bridge, that harmonises beautifully with the character of the scenery.

The families of the Wests and De La Warrs are of great antiquity, and we find many of them highly distinguished in the history of their country, from the earliest periods.

### HARTFIELD

Is one mile beyond Withyham. It is a pretty village, and the church, dedicated to St. Mary, stands in a very conspicuous situation. There are some good monuments in it, some of which are very ancient, and there are also several iron slabs, and a few of stone, formerly inlaid with brasses. In this parish is *Bolebroke*, once the residence of the Thanet family, but now belonging to the Buckhurst Estate, and one of the earliest brick edifices in the country, having been built in the fifteenth century. Enough of it still remains to trace the original plans, and a tower gateway affords a good specimen of the style of the building. There are several gentlemen's seats in the parish, which are pleasantly situated; and the neighbourhood abounds with the most delightful scenery. The present incumbent is the Rev. John Jowett.

## FOREST ROW.

Tradition states that this village was built for the accommodation of the nobility and their attendants, when they came to hunt in the great Forest of Ashdowne. Adjoining it is *Kidbrook*, the seat of Lord Colchester. It is a building of considerable size, and completely sheltered by the extensive and flourishing plantations around, which effectually exclude it from the road. The mansion was built under the superintendance of Mr. Mylne, for William, the forty-second Baron of Abergavenny; but his descendant having chosen Eridge for his residence, *Kidbrook* was purchased by Lord Colchester, formerly the Right Hon. Charles Abbot, and for many years highly esteemed as Speaker of the House of Commons. A new Chapel of Ease to East Grinstead was built in the year 1835. It is a plain gothic building, with a shingled spire, and contains about 436 sittings. There is a commodious inn here, called the *Swan*, a little beyond which to the left is the road, through some fields, to

## BRAMBLETYE.

This was formerly an ancient manor. From the beginning of the reign of Edward

I. to that of Edward III. it was held by a family of the name of Audehame; but at the latter period, John, son of John de St. Clere, was seized of the lordship. In this family it continued many years.

It is supposed that Brambletye House was built by Sir Henry Compton, who was possessed of the manor at the commencement of the reign of James I. Sir Henry's first wife was Lady Cicely, the daughter of Robert, Earl of Dorset; and his second was Mary, daughter of Sir George Browne, Knight. It was during the life of the latter lady that Brambletye was built, for over the principal entrance, in stone, is the coat armour of Compton, impaling the arms of Browne, and on the upper story is carved also in stone,—

C.

H. M.

1631.

the initials of Henry and Mary Compton.

“From the court rolls of the manor, it does not appear who succeeded the Comptons in the possession of the mansion; but so much is certain, that Sir James Richards, in his patent of baronetcy, dated 26th Feb., 1683-4, is described as of Brambletye House. To this gentleman, the tradition which accounts for its premature decay, is supposed to apply.

It is related, that on a suspicion of treasonable practices, against a proprietor of this house, officers of justice were dispatched to search the premises, where a considerable quantity of arms and military stores were discovered. The owner, who was just then engaged in the diversions of the chase, receiving intimation of the circumstance, deemed it most prudent to abscond; and the mansion being thus deserted was suffered to go to decay. The well-known loyalty of the Comptons has led to the surmise, that this occurrence took place during their tenure, under the commonwealth, in behalf of their lawful sovereign; but that can scarcely have been the case, as John, the son of Sir Henry, is recorded to have died at Brambletye, July 28th, 1659. On the other hand, it is certain that it was occupied during the reign of Charles II. by Sir James Richards, who was of French extraction, his father having come into this country with Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I. Being first knighted for an act of bravery in the sea-service he was afterwards advanced to the dignity of a baronet: and married, for his second wife, Beatrice Herrera, a Spaniard. It is recorded of him, that he quitted the country and settled in Spain, where some of his descendants have occupied high stations in the Spanish army. These circumstances, coupled with that of his being the last known resident at Brambletye, render it more than probable, that the destruction of the house, attributed by report to the rebellious propensities of its owner, ought to be dated from his occupation. The manor has been, for about a century, in the possession of the Biddulphs, a

roman catholic family, of which John Biddulph, Esq., of Burton Park, near Arundel, is the representative."\*

The remains of this once noble mansion consist of the principal entrance, one square turret, and the portion of another, the upper part of which, together with much of the building has been taken away within these few years by the tenants on the manor, for building purposes. The domestic offices underneath the building are extensive and display pointed arches. The entrance to them is under an arched passage at the end of the building; the freshness of the masonry of this passage appears but of yesterday, and not of the age of two centuries. The entrance tower is square, and inside it are two niches for the reception of figures. This part appears to have been highly ornamented, and evidently led to the principal apartments. Both inside and outside of the doorway, at some short distance from the ground, a large acorn and an oak leaf are carved in the stone. Brambletye was attacked and taken by the Roundheads, in the time of the civil wars, who forced an entrance through the gateway which is still standing, and arranged their

\* History of Sussex, pp. 152, 153.

forces in the courtyard, now ploughed up.

In this neighbourhood is the celebrated *Forest of Ashdowne*, the scenery from which, in every direction, is of the most romantic description, many parts of it more resembling uncultivated wilds than the vicinage of anything civilised.

It was once a distinguished place for the fattening of pigs, whole droves of which, under the care of swineherds were regularly turned into the forest. In one part of the forest is a heap of stones called *Gill's Lap*, which it has been reasonably conjectured was the burial place of some warrior of antiquity, and, in the work we have just quoted, is the following:—

“A tumulus was opened a few years ago at the Glynde side, near Lewes, by Mr. Shrapnall, Major Shadwell, and Captain Fraser, but nothing was found besides burnt bones. Mr. Shrapnall asked me, ‘what we called this barrow?’ I replied, ‘Gill's grave.’ ‘Gill's grave,’ said he, ‘It is Guelderus's burying place;’ and turning to Messrs. Shadwell and Fraser, said, ‘There is a place in Ashdowne Forest called *Gill's Lap*, that was Guelderus's way post; this is the burying place of the Roman general.’”

### EAST GRINSTEAD.

THIS town is situated on a considerable eminence, near the borders of Surrey. It



contains some good modern houses, and respectable inns. It is distant three miles from Forest Row, and fifteen from Tunbridge Wells. The church, dedicated to St. Swithin, is a conspicuous object from many parts of the surrounding country. It consists of a nave, aisles, and chancel, with a noble tower of considerable elevation; and is a spacious and handsome edifice, in a pure style of gothic architecture. It is a singular fact that the present church is the third that has existed within a century and a half; the first having been burnt down by lightning in 1684. The tower of the second, owing to unskilful workmanship and bad materials, fell down in November, 1785, and destroyed a great portion of the church. In 1556 (in the reign of Queen Mary), three persons were burnt here for heretical opinions. The spot where this took place was opposite the *Dorset Head* houses, where, in 1828, several wood coals, mixed with burnt earth, were dug up in good preservation.

### SOUTHBOROUGH

Is an exceedingly pretty hamlet, situated about two miles and a half from the Wells, on

the London road. Immediately after passing the first turnpike gate from the Wells, you cross the "Loo," as it is now termed, being evidently a corruption of *Lowy*, by which name the Normans distinguished a certain district round their castle or chief mansion. Southborough commences at the *Cross Keys*, a little beyond which is *South Field Park*, the property and residence of the Rev. W. W. Stephens. The house has been recently new fronted in the Elizabethan style, and has a very handsome appearance, and there is also a new entrance lodge designed with great taste. On this estate there are many romantic spots commanding most delightful scenery, and the valley leading from the brickfield on the *Lowy* towards the old powder mills, although now chiefly enclosed, has every appearance of having been the bed of a very considerable river. There is much to admire on this property, and a dropping well in the sequestered part of it, adds greatly to the interest of the scenery. Adjoining *South Fields*, is *Southborough Hall*, the property of Thomas Lotherington, Esq.

Southborough, or the borough of South, was formerly the principal place for the

residences of the nobility and gentry who came to drink the Tunbridge waters. Within these few years there stood an ancient mansion, near the *Hand and Sceptre*, which is reported to have been once occupied by King Charles II. A modern villa, belonging to Mrs. Broadley Wilson is erected on the site of it. There were several other old houses here, which were no doubt at that period the abodes of some of the most distinguished families in the kingdom. The church, which is most picturesquely situated on the beautiful common, is a plain, but extremely neat building, containing 500 sittings, of which 286 are free. The present incumbent is the Rev. H. Bigsby. Divine service on Sundays is at half-past ten and three o'clock, and on Wednesday evenings at a quarter before seven. There have been also some gothic villas lately erected on the property of David Salomons, Esq. A short distance beyond these is

#### GREAT BOUNDS,

Called in ancient deeds Bonds' tenement, "perhaps," says Hasted, "a contraction from the name of Bohun." It is an ancient mansion, the residence of the Rev. Sir Charles

Hardinge, Bart., vicar of Tunbridge. It had, originally, the same proprietors as Tunbridge Castle, and formed part of the possessions of the family of the Clare's, Earls of Gloucester. It passed from them to the Audley's and Stafford's, with whom it continued till upon the attainder of the Duke of Buckingham it was forfeited to the crown; and Henry VIII. in the 14th year of his reign granted it to Sir Thomas More, afterwards Lord Chancellor, who having refused to take the oath of supremacy and succession, was arraigned for high treason, and being found guilty, he was executed six days afterwards on Tower Hill. The walk through a part of these grounds to Bidborough church is extremely picturesque. In a retired and romantic situation in the *Birch Wood* is a plain monumental column to the memory of Lady Catharine Stewart, sister to Lord Darnley. The interesting circumstances attending the erection of this memorial will, we are certain, derive an additional interest, when we state, that this lady was the wife of Brigadier-General Stewart, now Marquis of Londonderry; and "Fred." alluded to, is the present Viscount Castlereagh.

On one side are the following lines from  
the pen of the noble marquis :—

Within this favour'd wood, this sacred shade,  
Where CATHARINE's angel form so lately stray'd ;  
He who could best her various merits prize  
Bids this memorial of her virtues rise.  
With reverence due, the spotless Urn survey,  
Emblem of her whom Death has snatch'd away ;  
Who now, in Heaven, her own SWEET NATIVE lays,  
Tunes to her HARP, in endless NOTES OF PRAISE ;  
For scarcely we on Earth again shall find  
Such Talents with such loveliness combin'd.

On the other side :

“ EPITAPH ON POOR MAMA ! ”

“ Here lies a faded rose,  
Who, struck by Death's unfeeling hand  
Contented died, contented liv'd,  
In GOD she put her trust.”

“ By Fred. every word.” Dec. 29. 1811.

Sent from England in Dec. 1811 ; and received at Frenada, in  
Portugal, by Charles Stewart, in February, 1812.

In Dec. 1811, the above Epitaph was written on Catharine, the  
wife of Charles Stewart, in the bloom of Life and Health,  
by their Son Frederick, a Boy of six years old.

In February, 1812, it pleased the ALMIGHTY to take her to himself,  
after a few days' illness.

Such are the inscrutable decrees of Heaven !  
During her short and valuable existence,  
Hope was her support ;  
Her trust was GOD.

A devoted and inconsolable Husband inscribed this Stone  
in memory of her  
Purity, Rectitude, Piety, and Truth.

C. S.



### BIDBOROUGH.

ADJOINING Great Bounds Park is the ancient little church belonging to this parish, which forms a picturesque object from many parts of the surrounding scenery. It is dedicated to St. Laurence, but contains no memorials of any consequence. Near it is the parsonage house, built some few years since, from the designs of Mr. Wyatt. The present rector is the Rev. Mr. Gay. In the churchyard there is a sarcophagus, executed by Bacon, to the memory of the Baron de Roll, who died at Great Bounds on the 27th August, 1813, aged 64. The Baron was Major-General, and Colonel of the Swiss

regiment bearing his name, which greatly distinguished itself in the service of England. He was devotedly attached to the House of Bourbon, and, as some elegiac stanzas on the sarcophagus tell us,

He cheer'd its exile, gained its just applause,  
And died, at length, a martyr to its cause.

Proceeding by this *route* to Penshurst, the eye is enchanted with one of the finest inland views in the kingdom. The *coup d'œil* is of the most charming description. Richly cultivated hills and valleys are stretched before you to an almost boundless extent, forming one of those exquisite living panoramas which nature, and nature only, can produce.

As you proceed down Quarry Hill, towards Tunbridge, on the left is *Mabledon*, the property and residence of John Deacon, Esq. It is a modern castellated mansion, built a few years since by James Burton, Esq., who resided here for some time, but in 1828, disposed of it to the present proprietor, who has since made extensive alterations in it. The elevated situation in which it is placed, renders the views from it particularly delightful, comprising as it does, much of the

interesting scenery already noticed at Bidborough, with striking features of its own in perfect unison with it. From two or three parts of the hill, on the right, are pretty glimpses of *Somerhill*, besides some very extensive and diversified scenery.



### TUNBRIDGE.

THE name of this town is sometimes spelt *Tonbridge*, but we think incorrectly. In the Saxon language it was written *Tunbridge*, and in the *Textus Roffensis* it is spelt *Tonebriga*. Lambard says, (p. 327.) “*Tunbridge*, called of *Mathew of Paris*, *Thunebrugge*, corruptly for *Tonebrege*, that is, the bridge over the *Tone*: but if it be truly written, *Tunbrege*, then it signifyeth the towne of



Bridges, as indeed it hath many;" whilst it might be remarked, that the river Tone is wanting to make the derivation of the first word correct. The great majority of the early authorities are certainly in favor of Tunbridge, and where the "o" is introduced it is spelt "Tone," but never "Ton."

Ricardus filius Comitis Gisleberti, also called Ricardus de Tonebrege, is said to have had Tonebrege in Kent, from which he took the appellation *de Tonebrege*; but that he held it of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and not immediately of the crown. Of this, however, there is no trace in the Domesday Book, nor is Tunbridge mentioned in the survey, except that "a tract of woodland in Tonebrege" is said to have belonged to the Bishop of Rochester. It is also stated in history that there was a castle at Tunbridge soon after the Conquest, and "Hector Boetius says there was a battle at Tunbridge, wherein the Conqueror prevailed against Harold; but this is untrue, unless he mean it of the continuance of the chase after the fight even to Tunbridge."

The castle of Tunbridge was a great possession, long held by the above Richard and

his descendants; and they assumed to hold it immediately of the crown, though the superiority was claimed by the Archbishops of Canterbury; and it seems probable that it had been obtained from Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury at the time of the Conquest, when that prelate had fallen under the displeasure of the Conqueror. Dugdale indeed asserts that the Archbishop had given Tunbridge in exchange for Brionne in Normandy, the inheritance of Earl Gilbert; but from the proceedings after mentioned it appears probable that Richard obtained some grant of Tonebrege from the Archbishop by way of subinfeudation; as even Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, claimed only the superiority. Richard de Tonebrege was the ancestor of a great family who assumed the name of *De Clare*, and were first styled Earls of Clare, and afterwards Earls of Gloucester and Hertford. They dropped the surname of Tonebrege, by which Richard, son of Earl Gilbert, was distinguished, and used that of Clare. In 1088, Odo, with others of the nobility, having made defection from William Rufus to Robert his elder brother, the king besieged at Tun-

bridge, one Gilbert, then keeper of the castle, and compelled him to yield it. It was long held of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and continued many years in the possession of the Earls of Clare, afterwards called of Gloucester. In 1163, (*temp.* Hen. II.) Thomas, the Archbishop, required homage of Roger, then Earl of Gloucester, for his castle of Tunbridge, who, knowing the king to be half angry with the Archbishop, and wholly on his own side, shaped him a short answer, affirming stoutly that it was none of his, but the king's own as a lay fee. It has not been ascertained in what manner this dispute was at that time terminated; but the descendants of the Earl appear to have held the castle long after, though they at length submitted to hold it of the see of Canterbury, and not of the crown; and the claim of Becket seems to have been only of the superiority. Falcasius, a hired soldier, that was entertained by King John during the wars with his nobility (1215), took the castle by force from the Earl of Gloucester, and kept it for a season to the king's behoof. Henry III. also, after the death of Gilbert, Earl of Gloucester (1231), seized the ward-

ship of his heir, and committed the custody of this castle to Hubert de Burghe: but Richard the Archbishop (surnamed the Great) being offended thereat, came to the king in great haste, and made his claim, by reason that the Earl Gilbert died in his homage; the king gave answer, that the whole earldom was holden of him, and that he might lawfully commit the custody of the lands to whomsoever it liked himself.

In consequence of the death of this prelate the castle continued as the king had disposed of it, till the minor, Richard, the fourth Earl, arrived at years of maturity, when "K. Hen. 3. granted him licence to Wall and Embattel his Town of Tunbridge. Concerning this intended wall at Tunbridge, either the earl did nothing therein, or that which he did is now invisibe and come to naught."\*

\* Lambard, p. 424. In a garden belonging to Mr. Creasy, in Swan Lane, Tunbridge, are evident remains of a moat of considerable extent, traces of which are perceptible from thence to the churchyard. It is thought that this was the castle moat, but we think it more probable that this was the moat which surrounded the town when the process of embattling it commenced.

Richard dying in 1262, Tunbridge descended to Gilbert the Red, who immediately repaired to Henry III. at Guienne, to obtain the investiture of his father's inheritance, which the king reluctantly granted after receiving a considerable present. Gilbert, however, revenged himself upon the king by joining the Earl of Leicester in open rebellion against him. In consequence of which Henry having burnt the city of Rochester, turned his arms against this castle, and took it by surprise. Finding the Countess of Gloucester and several other eminent persons there, he instantly restored them their liberty, but strongly garrisoned the castle, which he kept till after his defeat at Lewes, where, with his son and brother, he was taken prisoner. After this battle, wherein the Earl of Gloucester greatly distinguished himself, he became suspicious of Leicester, and was the chief instrument in restoring the king to the throne. He was also one of the first to proclaim Edward I. on the death of his father, and entertained him and his retinue with great magnificence at Tunbridge castle, on his return from the Holy Land. This Earl being divorced from his first wife,

gave up his castle of Tunbridge and other possessions into the king's hands, to secure an alliance with his daughter, Joan of Acre, to whom he was married, and the king then restored all his estates, settled upon her and her issue. Gilbert died in 1295, leaving his widowed princess with a son and three daughters. She soon afterwards clandestinely married a plain country squire called Monthermer, or Mortimer, who was afterwards created Mortimer Earl of Gloucester and Hertford. The princess died in 1307, and her son, by the Earl of Gloucester, having been slain at Bannockburn, the castle devolved to Margaret, the second daughter, (who was first married to Piers Gaveston,) and thus by marriage it passed to Audley, in her right, Earl of Gloucester; who, having no sons, it went with his daughter to Ralph, Earl of Stafford, who died in 1373, and was buried at Tunbridge Priory. It continued with his descendants till 1521, when the Duke of Buckingham, then in possession of it, falling a victim to the ambition of Cardinal Wolsey, it came to the crown, and from that time, notwithstanding it has been held by several noble families, it has gradually

mouldered away. The ruins, though not of great magnitude, are highly interesting, and the entrance tower is said to be the finest specimen of Norman architecture now existing.

It is evident that the great gate, or tower of entrance was erected about the early part of the reign of Henry III., and long after the first construction of the castle, for it contained more convenient apartments for the residence of a powerful baron than are to be met with in any of the original buildings of the age near the conquest. It is a strong tower, and was defended by a draw-bridge and a deep fosse or ditch, which has been filled up within these few years. On digging at the bottom of this fosse there were discovered the foundations of two piers which supported the bridge, and which were constructed in a very remarkable manner, the stones being laid in pitch, mixed with hair. The great entrance led to the Bass court, or Ballium. On each side of the front of the tower are places in the wall where the draw-bridge was drawn up, thus completely closing the entrance. These, as well as the places for fixing the windlass for drawing it up, are

still visible. Under the first archway, at a great height, are three machicollations for pouring down boiling lead or hot sand on any assailants, in the event of the drawbridge being torn down and the entrance forced. Next to this was an enormous portcullis, descending from another of the high arches near the top of the tower, and behind this was a pair of strong gates. Between the portcullis and these gates are three more machicollations over head, placed under an arch somewhat lower than the former. At this point were two narrow loop holes, one on the right and the other on the left. The latter is blocked up. These were for the purpose of assailing besiegers attempting the second gate, by spears as well as cross bows, if they broke or burnt the portcullis. Beyond this is a large area, the arch of which is perforated with rows of machicollations, for the same purpose and similar to those at the first entrance. In the middle of the passage, on each side, is a small doorway, four feet six inches in width; each of which appears to have been secured by a strong portcullis and an iron door. These led to two apartments of equal dimensions, being about twenty-



of the river, its base forming a circle of about an acre. On the top of this was situated the keep, of an elliptical form, the diameter within being sixty-four feet by fifty feet. This summit appears to have been formed of earth dug out of the great ditches and trenches which surround the castle, and from what is now the bed of the river Medway. To prevent the walls of the keep from settling, or sinking, they were not only constructed of great thickness, but were supported by strong buttresses, which still remain, compacted with timber wrought up in their substance. The upper part of the wall, with the keep itself, has long been destroyed. There were two most extraordinary approaches to the keep from the other parts of the fortress, one of which, a covered way from the upper part of the entrance tower, along the top of a high wall, is still remaining, but is held to be in a dangerous state, and visitors are prohibited from passing across it: few traces are left of the other approach to the keep, except the foundations at the west end of the area of the castle. From this tower there was a covered way to the top of the wall, about half the inter-

mediate distance towards the keep, where was a steep descent by stairs, to a square subterraneous vault still remaining and entire. From thence there was a subterraneous ascent (the entrance arch to which also still remains) to the summit of the mount, where it communicated only with the store room or lower apartments of the keep, and with a small winding staircase, within the substance of the wall, having had no communication with the state rooms or the intermediate apartments. It is obvious, therefore, that the former covered way was intended for the use of the governor or lord of the castle, and his immediate attendants; and the latter, for the use of the garrison, was their common mode of approach, so long as the area of the castle was preserved from the hands of the enemy, and till they were more closely besieged and shut up in the keep itself. A portion of these steps was remaining in 1742. The walls surrounding the area of the castle are in general about ten feet in thickness, but some parts of them exceed this. The whole interior and exterior arrangements of this extensive fortress might be easily traced, but as the description would occupy more

pages than a work of this nature can afford, and would prove interesting merely to the antiquary, we must waive it. Adjoining the old entrance gate is a handsome stone mansion, began by Thomas Hooker, Esq., in 1793, and finished by W. Woodgate, Esq., which is now the residence of J. E. West, Esq.



#### THE PRIORY

Was founded about the year 1241, by Richard de Clare, first Earl of Hertford, and Lord of Tunbridge, and uncle to Richard Strongbow, for the black canons of St. Augustine, and was dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen. In 1351 a dreadful fire broke out in this priory, and consumed it to the foundation, together with their vestments, ornaments, jewels, and furniture, which loss is said to have been

repaired by the appropriation of the church of Leigh; in the instrument for which, the priory is described to have been *edificia splendida et nobilia*. At what time it became disused as a priory cannot be clearly ascertained, most probably when the monasteries were suppressed by Henry 8.—although it appears that Queen Mary granted the priory to Cardinal Pole, who died in 1558, when it again reverted to the crown—but we find that Queen Elizabeth gave the *site* of it to Sir Henry Sidney, and afterwards to Dame Ursula Walsingham, from whom it passed into the possession of Viscountess Parbeck, of Somerhill. In Brooks' "Catalogue of Kings and Nobles," published in 1622, we find an account of some of the noble personages buried in the priory. In 1218, Richard, Earl of Clare. In 1260, the son of Richard de Clare, second Earl of Gloucester, died; his bowels were buried at Canterbury, his heart at Tunbridge, and his body at Tewksbury. In 1347, Hugh de Audley, son and heir of William Longspere. In 1370, Ralphe, Lord Stafford: his wife had been previously buried in this Priory.

In April, 1840, the last remaining vestiges

of the priory,\* consisting of the great hall and the chapel, as shewn in our wood-cut, were pulled down for the South-Eastern Railway. On clearing the ground several stones, apparently the tops of coffins or the coverings of graves, were found. One of them had a curiously carved cross and some letters, those legible were

HSIE DEBARLOEN.

Another presented a man's head. There can be little doubt that the field in which the ruins stood was the cemetery, as various remains of a similar nature have been discovered at different periods.

In the spring of 1816, as some men were digging for stones for the foundation of buildings, a little to the south-east of the refectory, they discovered a leaden coffin, if it might be so called, in shape resembling an Egyptian mummy, being made to fit the head and shoulders, and coming nearly to a point at the feet—the toes also being above the other part. Upon opening it, it was found to contain a body, bound up in a kind of waxed

\* Mr. Field, modelist, Tunbridge Wells, has a very good model of the Priory, and many other buildings of note in the neighbourhood.

cloth or wrapper, by a large cord, which passed longitudinally over the head and feet; it also went several times round the body. Part of the cloth being removed, the body presented an appearance somewhat like dried clay, the larger muscles retaining their form—but upon the touch of the workmen, mouldered into dust: the bones, however, were perfectly sound; they were taken out of the lead and deposited in the north of the place of their first sepulture. Close by the side of this, was found a skeleton buried in wood, the iron bands and nails of which only were remaining. A little to the east of these was found a stone coffin, about half a foot from the surface, containing a skeleton partly decayed: it was composed of several stones joined together, making a close stone grave rather than a coffin. Between this and the first two, another skeleton was found apparently deposited without a coffin, the head being placed on a tile. About ten yards from the first, to the west, was found a long stone, shaped like a coffin, covered with sculpture.

Through the interference of the late Rev. Dr. Knox, the field remained untouched

until the railway operations commenced. One of the coffins is in the possession of James Alexander, Esq., at Somerhill.

Tunbridge Town consists principally of one long, and in some parts wide, street. The river Medway, or Medweg,\* as it was originally called, crosses the town near the south end, in five streams, over which there are as many bridges. The southern was formerly the main stream, but the present navigable branch of it, is said to have been dug out and widened to form the castle moat. The stone bridge which crosses it was built in 1775, on the foundations of the former structure,†at the expense of the county; and the iron railing was erected by subscription in 1817. On a stone in the wall of the Loggerheads public-house, is the following inscription grotesquely carved:—

“This bridge was repayred at the charge of the  
Counti A.D. ni 1630, Wm. ”†

\* From the ancient British word *vaga*, or way, and the Saxon *med* or middle, from this river traversing the midst of the kingdom, thus calling it in Saxon *Med-weg* or Mid-way, easily corrupted to Medway.

† There is a heart on each side of the “Wm,” which was probably intended for the artificer’s name, Wm. **Hart**. The bridge alluded to is not the main bridge.

The Town Hall is a plain unornamented building, and the principal object in the town is the celebrated Free Grammar School, which within these few years has undergone some extensive and judicious alterations, both externally and internally. This Free Grammar School was founded and endowed by Sir Andrew Judd, who was Lord Mayor of London in 1551. He was a native of Tunbridge, and his ancestors were returned by the Commissioners in the reign of Henry VI., among the principal gentry flourishing in that County in 1484. For a long period, this property (for the maintenance of the School,) ample as it has now become, yielded an income little more than sufficient to defray the specific charges made upon it by the Founder's will; but owing to the great increase of buildings in the neighbourhood of Brunswick Square, London, where the Founder's property was situated, the income derived therefrom became so considerable, that the Skinners' Company who are the trustees of this charity, sanctioned by the report of a Master in Chancery, dated the 24th day of December, 1824; advanced the master's salary from twenty pounds (the



original sum,) to five hundred pounds; and the usher's to two hundred pounds, from the 24th of June, 1824. It does not appear, however, that the scholars have derived any particular benefit from the increase of the funds.

The Chancery Master says in his report :  
“ He thought it expedient and proper that the privileges of the said Free Grammar School, should not only extend to boys and youths whose parents or guardians should *bonâ fide* reside within the Town and Parish of Tunbridge, but also to such boys and youths whose parents or guardians should reside in any other parish or place in the County of Kent, *within the distance of ten miles*, by the ordinary roads and ways, from the church of the said Town of Tunbridge; which boys and youths should be considered as constituting the first class; and, that there might be a sufficient number of youths to receive the exhibitions hereinafter mentioned, he had thought it proper and advisable that there should be another or second class comprehending all boys and youths of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, who, being qualified under the regulations thereafter mentioned, should be capable of receiving the said exhibitions.”

There is an annual visitation by the Skinners' Company, at which verses, themes, &c., are spoken before them by the senior scholars, and prizes awarded.

The following is a list of the fellowships and exhibitions appropriated to the Tunbridge scholars :

A fellowship at St. John's College, Oxford, founded by Sir Thomas Whyte.

Sixteen exhibitions of one hundred pounds per annum each, tenable at any College of either University, and payable out of the Founder's endowment.

Six exhibitions of ten pounds per annum each, tenable in like manner, founded by Sir Thomas Smyth.

One scholarship at Brasenose College, Oxford, of £17 9s. 6d. per annum, founded by Mr. H. Fisher.

One exhibition of £2 13s. 4d. per annum, founded by Mr. Thomas Lampard.

One exhibition of £8 per annum, (in default of scholars from Sevenoaks school,) founded by Mr. Robert Holmedon.

Two exhibitions of £75 per annum each, tenable at Jesus College, Cambridge, (in default of scholars from Sevenoaks school,) founded by Lady Mary Boswell.

Two exhibitions of six pounds per annum each, founded by Mr. Worrall.

The late master, Dr. Thomas Knox,\* was the first instance of a Tunbridge scholar

\* The Rev. Dr. died suddenly, in the vestry room of the parish church, during divine service, on Sunday, July 23rd, 1843.

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One exhibition of £2 13s. 4d. per annum, founded by Mr. Thomas Lampard.

One exhibition of £8 per annum, (in default of scholars from Sevenoaks school,) founded by Mr. Robert Holmedon.

Two exhibitions of £75 per annum each, tenable at Jesus College, Cambridge, (in default of scholars from Sevenoaks school,) founded by Lady Mary Boswell.

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The late master, Dr. Thomas Knox,\* was the first vice of a Tunbridge scholar

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original sum,) to five hundred pounds; and the usher's to two hundred pounds, from the 24th of June, 1824. It does not appear, however, that the scholars have derived any particular benefit from the increase of the funds.

The Chancery Master says in his report :  
“ He thought it expedient and proper that the privileges of the said Free Grammar School, should not only extend to boys and youths whose parents or guardians should *bonâ fide* reside within the Town and Parish of Tunbridge, but also to such boys and youths whose parents or guardians should reside in any other parish or place in the County of Kent, *within the distance of ten miles*, by the ordinary roads and ways, from the church of the said Town of Tunbridge; which boys and youths should be considered as constituting the first class; and, that there might be a sufficient number of youths to receive the exhibitions hereinafter mentioned, he had thought it proper and advisable that there should be another or second class comprehending all boys and youths of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, who, being qualified under the regulations thereafter mentioned, should be capable of receiving the said exhibitions.”

There is an annual visitation by the Skinners' Company, at which verses, themes, &c., are spoken before them by the senior scholars, and prizes awarded.

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\* The Rev. Dr. died suddenly, in the vestry room of the parish church, during divine service, on Sunday, July 23rd, 1843.



having filled the office. He succeeded his father in 1812. The Rev. James Ind Welldon, M.A. of St. John's College, Cambridge, and late second master of Shrewsbury Grammar School, is the present Master, and the Rev. Thomas Brown the Usher. The Eton grammar is used, and the Eton plan, with few exceptions, followed. No boy can be admitted under eight years of age, nor continue in the school after nineteen.

There are some very ancient houses in the town, which have evidently been of consequence in the olden time. But the most ancient are those in a line with the Town Hall, where the *Chequers* public-house is situated. The remains of an arched entrance here, with the thickness of the old walls, render it probable that the date of this building is nearly, if not quite, coeval with that of the castle; and the interior of the *Chequers* itself, bears strong marks of antiquity.

The church is dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul. It is a large building with a square tower at the end. There are several good monuments in it, among others the following:—On the south side of the church is one

to Sir Anthony Denton, Knight, who died in 1615. . He was one of the Honourable Band of Pensioners to Queen Elizabeth and King James I. The following couplet appears on the monument :—

Christ's death's my life ; my death to life was portal ;  
So, through two deaths I have one life immortal.

The same side there is a mural monument of grey marble to Thomas Panwell, Esq., who died at his seat, *Calverley*, in this parish, on the 31st February, 1749-50, aged 78, a bachelor.

In the church-yard is a handsome tomb, with a carved urn, to the memory of Anne Elliott, who was a native of this parish, and died in 1769, aged 26.

The Vicar is the Rev. Sir C. Hardinge, Bart.

Tunbridge was formerly a borough, with the privilege of sending members to Parliament, although it is said they valued the right so little, that there is but one return of members sent up from here, which was in the reign of Edward I., when John German and John Martin were returned.

On the 12th July, 1555, Margaret Palley is said to have been burnt in this town, being

the first woman, according to Burnett, that suffered death in the reign of Queen Mary, on account of her attachment to the principles of the Reformation. Seymour, in his Survey of Kent, says that "Margery Polley suffered an excruciating death in July, 1555, in the gravel pit near Dartford." He adds, "John Herpole, of Rochester, and John Beach, of Tunbridge, suffered likewise at the stake, April 1st, 1556," but at what place, he has not stated. At the entrance into the town from the Wells are some Alms Houses, erected and endowed for seven poor men and women, by George Petley, Esq., in the year 1707. There are also some alms houses just out of the town, on the Hastings road, the gift of Captain Deacon, formerly of Somerhill.

A cattle market is held here the first Tuesday in every month, which is generally well attended. The old market house was taken down about the year 1797, and the present building erected by William Woodgate, Esq., of Somerhill, then lord of the manor. The materials were said to be principally taken from an old manor house called Lawkwell or Halkwell, in the parish of Ambury.

There are several good Inns and Commercial Houses in the town, the principal of which is the *Rose and Crown*, which is also a posting house.

### SOMERHILL.

THIS mansion is pleasantly situated on the brow of a well wooded eminence, about two miles from Tunbridge. It originally formed a portion of a large district, having a park within its boundaries, called the *South Frith*, and was part of the extensive demesnes belonging to the possessors of Tunbridge castle. It was once the property and residence of Sir Francis Walsingham, from whom it descended to his daughter Frances, who married, first, the accomplished Sir Philip Sidney; secondly, the unfortunate Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex; and lastly, Richard de Burghe, Earl of Clanrickard, of whom Smollett says, "He was a very handsome gallant young nobleman, and so much like the late Earl of Essex, that the queen (Elizabeth,) then far advanced in years, made some overtures to him, which he declined." Upon the marriage of the Earl of Clanrickard he commenced building the

present noble mansion, to which he gave the name of Somerhill, from one of his Irish estates. The house must have been begun soon after the commencement of the seventeenth century, as some of the leaden water spouts have the dates of 1611 and 1613 on them. It was not finished till the reign of James I., which monarch, in the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of his reign, created Lord Clanrickard, Baron Somerhill and Viscount Tunbridge. He died in 1636, and was buried in Tunbridge church. Ulick, his son and heir, long bore arms in the cause of Charles I. in Ireland, and being obliged to fly from that country he came to England, and in 1645 was created Marquis Clanrickard. His attachment to the royal cause, which he espoused with great ardour, naturally drew upon him the vengeance of parliament, by whom his estates were sequestered, and Somerhill granted to the Earl of Essex, as a reward for his unspotted fidelity, as captain general of the parliamentary forces. Upon his death it was given by the parliament to John Bradshaw, Serjeant at Law, who presided at the mock trial of the unfortunate Charles I. Bradshaw died in 1659, and was

buried at Westminster, but the following year his body was disinterred, and hanged at Tyburn, and the head being cut off, was set on Westminster Hall. At the restoration of Charles II., Somerhill returned to its rightful owner, Margaret, the daughter of Ulick, Marquis of Clanrickard, and of Viscount Muskerry,\* who having married a third husband, Robert Fielding, Esq., died in 1698. Hasted says,† “Lady Muskerry having, by her expensive way of life, wasted her estate, she by piecemeal sold off a great part of the demesne lands, lying mostly on the southern side of South Frith, to different persons: and dying in great distress, was buried accordingly, about the year 1698.” After this the estate belonged in succession to the Dekins, Cave, and Woodgate families, until 1816, when it became the property, by purchase, of the present occupier, James Alexander, Esq., who made many judicious improvements in the mansion, preserving its original character, yet adapting its interior to modern comfort and convenience. From a turret in the court on the north side of the house are seen the Canterbury Hills near

\* See page 21.

† Vol. ii. p. 341.

Dover, at the distance of about fifty miles ; but this view, and the several objects it comprises, is best enjoyed from a rising hill, on which grow two large beeches, at a little distance southward from the house.\* The library is a very noble room, executed from the designs of Sir Jeffry Wyatville. It extends the whole depth of the house, about one hundred feet, and is adorned with five bay windows, and eight columns.

An opinion has long been prevalent that Charles II. and his Queen held their court here when they visited the Wells, but this, as we have already stated, must be erroneous. It is evident from De Grammont's Memoirs, that they merely paid it occasional visits, and never resided here: "Lady Muskerry and Miss Hamilton," he says, "were at Summer Hill, having left the melancholy residence of Peckham. They went every day to Court, or the Court came to them." Again he says, "He had seen Miss Hamilton daily, either in the marshes of melancholy Peckham, or

\* By the permission of the proprietor, visitors are allowed to drive through these beautiful grounds, from which some of the finest scenery in this part of the country may be viewed.

in the delicious walks of cheerful Summer Hill." It is, therefore, evident that Somershill could not have been the residence of the court.

As Tunbridge, previous to the opening of the South-Eastern Railway, was the great thoroughfare from the Wells, not only to the metropolis, but other places, we shall take this as a starting point to some towns and villages not generally noticed—premising that a visit to each or all of them will prove highly gratifying. The ride from Tunbridge to Maidstone, from which it is distant fourteen miles, is remarkably pleasant, and may be well termed the "Garden of Kent," as the land on each side of the road for nearly the whole distance, is highly cultivated, and laid out as hop gardens, cherry orchards, filbert plantations, &c. The first village you arrive at is

#### HADLOW,

Which is four miles from Tunbridge, and ten from the Wells. The church is a small building, with a low pointed steeple, and stands on the east side of the town. It is dedicated to St. Mary. The chief point of



attraction here is *Hadlow Castle*, the residence of A. B. May, Esq., by whom it was built. It is a castellated building, and the character of it is well preserved throughout. An octagonal tower, ninety feet high, built partly with stone and partly with brick, has been recently erected by Mr. May, which, from its great height, and the level nature of the country around it, can be seen from a great distance. A short distance from Hadlow to the left is *Oxonhoath*, the elegant mansion of Sir William R. P. Geary, Bart.

As you approach Mereworth, on the left is Yoke's Place, originally called Yote's Place, the seat of Viscount Torrington. The mansion is pleasantly situated, and the grounds around it are very extensive.

### MEREWORTH.

MEREWORTH is two miles beyond Hadlow. The mansion called *Mereworth Place*, was built about the year 1748, after the plans of Colin Campbell, (from the original designs of Palladio,) for the eighth Earl of Westmoreland. It stands on the site of an ancient embattled residence, surrounded by a moat, and consists of a centre and two wings. The

great hall from which all the apartments branch, is lighted by a dome and cupola, between the walls of which the flews are carried up, and shew no external marks of chimnies. On the ground floor the rooms communicate with each other, so that whichever side you enter, you proceed through a suite of rooms to the picture gallery, which brings you to another suite of rooms on the opposite side, corresponding, or nearly so, with those you have already visited. There was formerly a fine collection of pictures here, and a choice museum of natural and other curiosities, but some few years since, the whole of them were sold. The ground behind the house forms a very pleasing natural amphitheatre, embellished with plantations, and in front of it is a fine sheet of water which rises at a short distance westward, and flows into the Medway. The Baroness Le Despencer, who attained her majority on the 24th March, 1843, is the present possessor of this charming property. The church, dedicated to St. Lawrence, formerly stood on the spot now occupied by the west wing of Mereworth Place, but was pulled down for the purpose of rebuilding the mansion, by

the Earl of Westmoreland, who caused the present elegant church to be built on the plan of St. Paul's, Covent Garden. It is, however, considered by many to be more beautiful than that structure, and has a splendid spire. This church contains no pews, but open seats, and the pillars are painted in imitation of marble. At the west end, in a small chapel, are some monuments of the Fane's, removed from the old church. There is some fine stained glass in the east window, which was also removed from the old building. Near Mereworth is *East Peckham*, the white church of which, standing on the summit of a hill, is easily distinguished for several miles around, and serves, we believe, for a landmark in many parts of the channel. Near this is an ancient brick mansion, called *Royden Hall*, formerly called *Fortune*, the property of the ancient family of the Twysdens, many of whom have been distinguished for their extensive learning and unshaken loyalty. In the reign of Charles I., Sir Roger Twysden had a licence to enclose it as a park, which, judging from the present state of the land, appears to have been begun if not finished. The house, though not

extremely ancient is worth visiting, and the view from Peckham church, just above it, is well deserving the traveller's attention. About two miles from Mereworth, on the Maidstone road, is

### WATERINGBURY,

A truly delightful village, and well worthy a visit. Alderman Lucas resides here, and has rebuilt a great portion of the village. Most of the houses are of a rustic character, and the gardens are laid out with considerable taste and effect. The ancient mansion house, which was moated, was pulled down in 1707, and the present erected in its place. The church stands at the west end of the village. It is a gothic building, with a lofty spire, and is paved and wainscoted. There are also the remains of some good stained glass in the windows. A curious custom formerly prevailed here, that of electing a deputy to the dumb borsholder of Chart, claiming liberty over fifteen houses in the precincts of Pizein-well; each householder being obliged to pay one penny yearly to the keeper of this borsholder. It was always first called at the court leet for the hundred

of Twyford; when its keeper, who was yearly appointed by that court, held it up to his call, with a neckcloth or handkerchief put through the iron ring at the top, and answered for it. This dumb borsholder was made of wood, about three feet long. It is not easy to ascertain the origin of it, from the lapse of time, but it has long been dis-used.\* The whole country from here to Maidstone abounds in rich and diversified scenery, in many parts of which the river Medway is seen to great advantage.

#### SHIPBORNE.

A very interesting ride of four miles from Tunbridge, chiefly through the North Frith woods, the property of Christopher Idle, Esq., brings you to Shipborne or Shipbourn, which is an exceedingly pretty village. The houses are built chiefly round an extensive green, and the whole has an air of comfort and respectability, that naturally creates a feeling of interest in the place. The church, dedicated to St. Giles, is a remarkably neat fabric, and was rebuilt by Christopher Lord Barnard, several of whose family are buried

\* Vide Hasted, vol. 2. p. 107.

here, as well as some branches of the Westmoreland and Darlington families, of whom there are several memorials in the church; besides helmets, swords, and various pieces of armour belonging to those noble families. There is a handsome marble monument in the church to "The Hon. Eliz. Vane, eldest daughter of the Right Hon. Lord and Lady Barnard. Obijt. Anno 1688. Etatis nono." The figures of the parents, large as life, are sitting, with the daughter in front of them. The whole is supported by Ionic pilasters. About a mile from the village is *Plaxtol*, where there is a great natural curiosity, an immense elm tree, the branches of which are of an amazing size, and spread very widely. They are supported by props, and from each limb appears to spring another tree, the whole resembling at a short distance, a cluster of trees. On the rise of the hill from Shipborne is *Fairlawn*, the elegant mansion of Miss Yates. The grounds around it are very extensive, and it was formerly of some note as the residence of the Fane or Vane family, the ancestors of the Earl of Westmoreland. To the left of this village, but in the parish of

## IGHTHAM,

Is a very ancient moated house, in the occupation of Mrs. Selby, and in whose family it has been since the latter end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when it was purchased by Sir William Selby, of Branxton, in Northumberland. The house is situated in a complete dell, and is scarcely visible from any of the approaches to it, till you are close upon it. Then indeed the effect produced is almost startling. The wide moat—the grey walls—the air of antiquity that pervades everything, carries you back to by-gone times, and the imagination so yields itself to the illusion of the scene, that a train of fair damosels, with their attendant knights issuing forth from the principal entrance and crossing the bridge, to enjoy the diversion of hawking, would appear perfectly natural and to be expected. Fronting the house, and outside the moat, are barns, granaries, &c., of very great extent, and of most venerable appearance. Crossing the stone bridge you arrive at the principal gateway, which leads into a quadrangle, around which are the offices, &c. ; and here the visitor will be struck with the

remarkable air of freshness, as it were, of everything around. Notwithstanding the centuries that have elapsed since this mansion was erected, there is scarcely any appearance of repairs perceptible in the massive walls—and the good taste of the different proprietors of it, has prevented the unholy hand of the decorator from “beautifying or adorning” it. The barge boards to the gables in this court, are richly carved, and there are enough remaining to afford a fine study for modern Elizabethan architects; but a feast for the antiquary is the chapel, which is entered by an open staircase from the court, which staircase has ballusters painted on the wall in imitation of the real ballusters. A rude wooden screen, which is carved, crosses the upper end. Two of the panels on the left have been cut away to make an entrance to a pulpit and reading desk. In front of the screen are seats for the household, and behind on each side are open seats for the family, running parallel to the sides of the building. On the ends of the desks belonging to these are carved terminals, on which may be seen, upon close inspection, two shields of arms painted. That on the left is argent, two



bends viure nebulæ (or wavy) sable, on a chief gules, three leopards' faces, or; that on the right is the same impaled with two demi lions passant gardant sable. The sides and ends of the room are wainscoted, and divided into small panels, about a foot square, and painted a dark brown, or rather a dull red colour. At the end, beyond the screen, is a musical instrument resembling a harpsichord, with an apparatus beneath it similar to the modern organ bellows. The keys are gone, but fragments of the wires are still remaining. The outside has been well painted with arabesque ornaments, on a lead coloured ground—very like some of the borders to the *fine* old tapestry. There are two shields of arms, one of sixteen quarters in the centre, and another of six quarters. On the lid inside is a representation of Orpheus playing to the brutes. This instrument appears to have been placed here at a much later period than the building of the chapel, but at what date is very uncertain. It is probable that it stands on the site of the altar, and the difference in the panelling at this part warrants the supposition. On each side are doorways leading to small closets

beyond—these doors have panels of lattice work in the upper part. The window frames are square headed, and unornamented. Three of the windows have stained glass. One of them is our Saviour and Mary—another, St. John—and the third is a knight in armour, with a surcoat or tunic. A part of this has been destroyed, but a date beneath the figure appears to be 1537. The roof or ceiling, now going rapidly to decay, is the most decorated part. Its shape is the obtuse arch, formed by planks of oak, bent over narrow ribs of the same material. These ribs are painted slate and green in chevron stripes. The planks are painted with heraldic badges of the house of Tudor, and divided into half lozenge compartments, painted red alternately, and the whole upon a white ground. It is much to be regretted that this chapel has been neglected. Not only is the roof decaying, but portions of the walls are crumbling away. The whole might be easily restored to its original appearance.

To prevent disappointment to those who may wish to view the interior of the Moat House, it is necessary to remark, that the venerable proprietor and occupier of it,

Mrs. Selby, will not allow it to be shewn to strangers.

At *Oldbury Hill*, in this parish, are very considerable remains of a Roman entrenchment, the area of which is said to contain 137 acres. It is of an oval form, but so overgrown with wood, that it is difficult to trace it. On the brow of the hill there is an entrance to a cave, which, tradition states, went a considerable distance under the hill.

### WROTHAM.

THIS ancient town is situated two miles from *Leitcham*, and fifteen from *Tunbridge Wells*. It lies at the foot of the well known chalk hills, from the summit of which the views are of the most magnificent description. There are the remains here of an archiepiscopal palace, which was one of the residences of the *Bishops* of *Canterbury*, till the reign of *Edward III.*, when *Archbishop* *Becket* wishing to complete the palace *Becket* pulled down the greater part of the residence, and conveyed the materials *Becket* very little of the palace remains beyond *Becket* of the walls, that forms the garden *Becket* Bull Inn, behind which the ruins

are situated. A large stone building, now employed for various uses, appears to have been the offices belonging to the palace, and there are also marks of a garden, bowling green, and terrace, in the adjoining field. Opposite the inn is a very ancient mansion, thought to have been of Saxon origin. *Blacksole Field*, in this parish, is the spot where the Lord Abergavenny, and Sir Robert Southwell, High Sheriff of the County, routed Sir Henry Isley and his party, who were engaged in Sir Thomas Wyat's rebellion. The church, dedicated to Saint George, is a large ancient structure, and contains some old monuments. At the bottom of Wrotham Hills is "the Pilgrim's Road," which was much frequented by devotees, who considered it meritorious either by way of penance, or otherwise, to visit the celebrated shrine of Thomas à Becket, at Canterbury.

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Proceeding from Tunbridge to Sevenoaks, about a mile from the former place on the left is *Mountain's*, the property of — Turley, Esq. This was once the residence of George Colman the Younger, the author of some of our best comedies; and it was in this house,

had retired with his followers to a wood near Sevenoaks, but upon the Royalist forces appearing he gave them battle, and defeated them with great slaughter. Sir Humphrey and his brother being both slain.

There is an interesting fact of a more pleasing description, connected with this town. Towards the close of the fourteenth century, an infant boy, deserted by his unnatural parents, was picked up either in the streets of Sevenoaks, or in one of the adjoining fields. He was named William de Sennocke, and was brought up, and apprenticed at the expence of Mr. William Rumsched, a charitable inhabitant of the town. The orphan was successful in his commercial pursuits, and became in 1419 Sir William de Sennocke, Lord Mayor of London. Unlike too many, who, springing from obscurity to opulence forget their original station and their early benefactors, Sir William, in remembrance of his preservation, built and endowed thirteen almshouses for the maintenance of aged persons, and a school for the education of poor children. These are on the right, as you pass through the town, neatly built with Kentish rag-stone. In the

twenty-nine miles distant in a direct line. From this hill, also, a small Chapel of Ease, standing in the midst of some beautiful scenery, forms a very pleasing object. The *coup d'œil* from River Hill is considered by many to surpass that of Morant's Court Hill, on the other side of Sevenoaks; but the former wants, what the latter enjoys in perfection, many ancient spots and dwellings that interest the mind, as well as please the eye.

### SEVENOAKS.

THIS town is situated thirteen miles from the Wells, on the London Road. The derivation of the name is extremely doubtful. In the Itineraries it is written *Suenoca*, but in ancient writings it is termed *Sennocks*, by which latter name it is frequently called even in the present day. Just previous to entering the town, on the left, there are some fields, called "Sole Fields," from a tradition that the engagement between Jack Cade's followers and the Royalist forces, under Sir Humphrey Stafford, in the reign of Henry VI., took place here, and that it was of so sanguinary a nature the blood ran over the soldiers' shoes! History says, that Cade

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Lady Boswell, which fully explains her charitable intentions :

To the Memorie of ye Pious Relict of Sir William Boswell, residant at the Hague xxi years for King Charles 1st, ye Lady Margaret Boswell whose Religious Charitable Spirit not satisfied to exert her Christian Liberalitie, in large and frequent bounties towards the comfort and support of indigents only, during LXXXVII years she conversed among us mortals: but being near the state Æternal projected a fund of munificence such as might continue to the posteritie of future ages, which she happily effected, by settling a farm called Hallywell in Burnham in Essex, upon trustees and their Heirs for ever, to pay and dispose the rents to these uses. To Jesvs College in Cambridge, Two Scholarships xii pounds per Annum each, ye Scholars to be called Sir Wm. Boswell's scholars, and to be chosen out of Sevenoke school, (and for want of lads fitting here, then from Tonbridge school) and upon every vacancy, 5 pounds a-piece to two of ye Fellows of Jesus Coll.: to come over to prove the capacities of the Lads: Also xii pounds yearly to a Schoolmaster, to instruct xv of the poorest children born in this parish, in the catechism of ye church of England, and to write and cast accompts: and xviii pounds per Annm more, to be kept in Public stock to place them so taught to Handycraft Trades or Employments:

The mortal part of the said Lady Margaret Boswell, was deposited in a new vault, and over it this monument, erected at the sole care and charge of



Mrs. Green, formerly Worsley, Executrix of her Lady's last will, to express her affectionate duty to her deceased relation; in the year MDCXCII.

Plura velis Lector Tibi cunctas hoc breve Saxum  
 Virtutes Dominicæ non recitare queat.  
 Ore vigent Populi Grato ore hæc Villa Sonabit,  
 Dum nomen Septem à Quercabus, alma tenet;  
 Munera Virtutes, Magnalia Bosvileorune  
 Plaudens, ac si vis Æmulus esto Vale.

At the west end of the north aisle is the monument of Lambarde, the Perambulator. It was first erected in Greenwich Church, but when that building was taken down, it was brought to Sevenoaks by a descendant and placed where it now remains. It is a handsome mural monument of white marble, and on a tablet of black is an inscription to William Lambarde, who died August 19th, 1601.

Against the north wall is a monument to Charles, Earl Whitworth, with a bust of that nobleman, by Carew. Monuments to the first Earl Amherst, and his brother the Admiral, occupy parts of the east end of the south aisle, also an old one to the Scott family, and a quaint memorial, to a person not named, painted on board and dated 1618. There are also many inscriptions on legers and mural

slabs, among which may be mentioned, the Lambarde, Farnaby, Petly, Streatfield, Curteis, Theobald, and Fermor families. The alms houses were originally for twenty persons only, but the income has been increased by benefactions, from the following humane individuals:—Anthony Pope, in 1571; John Pott, 1589; John Potkin; Edward Sisley, on the part of John Spratt, 16th James 1st.; Robert Holmsden, 1619; John Leonard, Mrs. Mash, 1815, &c. &c. For the last century there have been thirty-two dwellings for poor people, and sixteen persons receiving out-pensions.

The principal Inns in this town are *The Crown*, and *The Royal Oak*, which are posting and commercial houses.

#### KNOLE.

THIS splendid building is situated on a commanding eminence, in a most extensive and finely wooded park. The area upon which it stands is said to exceed three acres, and notwithstanding the apparent uniformity in the style of the building, there can be no doubt that it has been erected at different periods, and some portion of it at a very

remote date. The earliest authentic history of it is in the beginning of the reign of King John, when it was the property of Falcatius de Brent, and afterwards of Baldwin de Betun, who also possessed the adjoining manors of Braborne, Kemsing, and Seale. From these it was successively in the occupation of several noble and distinguished families until 1456, when William, Lord Say and Seale, being much engaged in the unhappy troubles of those times, was necessitated to sell the greater part of his possessions. On the 30th of June in the above year, he conveyed his manor of Knole, with its appurtenances, to Thomas Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury, who re-built the manor-house, and enclosed the park round it. The greater portion of the present building is considered to be of that date, and one of the rooms situated over the entrance looking into the front court, not accessible to visitors, has the form and character of a private chapel. On each side of the room is a projecting shield in stone; on the one is a double triangle, enclosing the letters I. H. S.; and on the other an hieroglyphic, signifying Canterbury surrounded with the knot or

cognizance of Archbishop Bouchier; who resided chiefly at Knole. At his death, which took place on the 30th March, 1486, he bequeathed this manor to the See of Canterbury, as a palace for his successors, for ever. Archbishop Moreton, his successor in the See, who was also a Cardinal of Rome, and Lord Chancellor of England, resided here frequently, and considerably enlarged the house. He died at Knole, in October, 1500, and left behind him the character of "having been born for the good of all England." Archbishop Wareham, who died in 1532, was succeeded by Thomas Cranmer, who possessed it at a most inauspicious period, as he was scarcely installed, when he felt himself compelled to resign the most valuable part of his possessions to save the remainder. Knole continued in the hands of the Crown till King Edward VI. in the fourth year of his reign gave it to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, in exchange for other lands. He was created Duke of Northumberland in the seventh year of that reign, and on his attainder and execution, in the first year of Queen Mary's reign, the Queen granted it to Reginald Pole, Archbishop of Canterbury, and a

Cardinal of the Church of Rome. He died on the same day that Queen Mary died, November 17th, 1558, when this estate again reverted to the Crown, and Queen Elizabeth granted it to her kinsman Henry Cary, Lord Hunsdon. In the third year of her reign the manor and house of Knole, with the parks and lands, were granted by the Queen to Sir Robert Dudley, afterwards Earl of Leicester, who surrendered it again in June, 1566, and it was then given to Thomas Sackville, Baron Buckhurst, and afterwards Earl of Dorset, who was related to the Queen by inter-marriage of his family with that of Bullen. The Earl came to reside at Knole in 1603, and continued to reside there till his death, at the Council Board, April 19th, 1608, at the advanced age of 81. The leaden water spouts bear his initials, of the respective dates of 1605 and 1607, and the carved screen in the hall bears his arms, with those of his Countess; while many other parts of the wainscot and ceilings that have not been modernised, are of the same style and character. This Earl was succeeded by his son Robert, and it has since continued to be the principal residence of the Sackville family to

the present time. Richard, the third Earl of Dorset, appears to have lived at Knole in almost regal splendour. He was born March 25th, 1589; and February 28th, 1609, two days after the death of his father, married Anne Clifford, daughter of the Earl of Cumberland. After making a continental tour he returned to Knole, April 8th, 1612, where he was received with great rejoicings. He is described as being "handsome, elegant, learned, generous, and affable. Falling in with, or rather taking the lead in, the splendour and hospitality of the times, together with the magnificence of his retinue and his own costly deportment, he amply gratified all who knew or that looked up to him; but in the end so exhausted his means as to excite a general regret, and leave his posterity to deplore his waste and profusion." After being compelled to part with all his possessions at Knole, reserving only a lease of the house at an annual rent, he died at the age of thirty-five, March 28th, 1624, and was buried at Withyham, in Sussex.

The chief apartments shewn to Visitors are, the Hall, the Brown or Horn Gallery, Lady Betty Germain's Rooms, the Spangled

Bed Room and its Dressing Room, the Billiard Room, the Leicester Gallery, the Venetian Bed Room, the Ball Room, the Chapel Room and Chapel, the Drawing Room, the Cartoon Gallery, the King's Bed Chamber, the Dining, or Poet's Parlour, the Colonnade, the Guard Room, &c.

The entrance to the house is through a tower portal, in the centre of the first court or range of buildings. Passing through the lodge, in which are some arms and accoutrements, you enter the first quadrangle, or "green court;" on the right hand of which is a cast of a Gladiator, and on the left Venus coming from the bath. Our wood engraving represents the second gateway, nearly the centre of the building, which leads into the second quadrangle, on the opposite side of which is a portico supported by eight Ionic columns. Upon the parapet which forms the side of the hall is a large shield carved in stone, with the Arms of Cranfield, quartered. This was formerly at Copt Hall, in Essex, and was fixed at Knole in 1701. The Clock formerly stood in a dome over the Hall, but from the supposed insecurity of the roof it was removed in 1745,

to its present situation. Under the portico are the skulls and horns of a Moz-deer, that were found in a Marl-pit near the mountains of Wicklow ; the other horns are fine specimens of the horns of English deer. The first room to which Visitors are introduced, is

THE HALL, which is finely proportioned, and measures about 75 feet in length, including the Screen, 27 feet in breadth, and about 26 feet 8 inches in height. Among the Pictures here, are, *The Death of Marc Antony*, by Dance; the face of Cleopatra is exquisitely beautiful; *The Finding of Moses*, by Giordana; *A View of Dover Castle and the adjacent County*, with the procession of Lionel, Duke of Dorset, as Lord Warden, painted by Wotton, in 1727. At one end is a fine Grecian relic, in marble, of *Demosthenes* in the act of delivering an Oration, which was purchased in Italy, by the Duke of Dorset, for £700. There is also a Cast from Canova, of *Perseus with the Head of Medusa*, also a recumbent figure in marble, of *The Goddess Egeria*. The room is built after the fashion of the Anglo-Norman halls, such as we have described at Penshurst, and other places. The curious and-irons in the fireplace, on which are the arms and initials of Henry VIII. conjointly with those of Bullen, were purchased at a sale at Hever Castle. The long oak table is constructed for the game of shuffle-board.

THE BROWN OR HORN GALLERY is 88 feet in length, and is chiefly filled with Portraits of the Reformers,



and illustrious persons of the time of Henry VIII. Among these are, *Luther, Erasmus, Dryden, and Melancthon*, (said to be by Holbein, but pronounced by others to be the production of Lucius Greni.) *Wickliffe, Cromwell, Wolsey, Cranmer, &c.* (copies from Holbein.) *Friar Bacon*, (whose acquirements and profound erudition caused him to be considered as a magician.) *Queen Anne Boleyn*, (an excellent painting,) supposed by *Tintoretti*.

LADY BETTY GERMAIN'S BED ROOM and DRESSING ROOM are to the right of this Gallery, and contain some excellent paintings and tapestry, including *Vandyke*, and his father-in-law, the *Earl of Gowrie*. The bedstead, which is of oak, appears to be of great antiquity. On the left of the Gallery is

The SPANGLED BED ROOM; so called from the bed and furniture being covered with spangles. The bed has crimson silk furniture, lined with satin, and richly embroidered. There is also some tapestry by *Reydam*; which, with the whole of the furniture in this room (except the Chinese or Indian Idol, Shrine and Stand,) was presented by James I. to Lionel, fifth Earl of Middlesex, from whom it descended to the Sackville family. The and-irons are of silver. The wainscot, antique ebony wardrobe, and rude floor of this room, are worth notice. In the adjoining Dressing Room, are several pictures, including two *Candle-light Pieces*, by *Schalkchen*; *A Miser*, by *Quintin Matsys*; *Venus and a Satyr*, by *Correggio*; *Mrs. Stewart, Duchess of Richmond*, by *Lely*; (this lady is said to have been the original of the emblematical figure of *Britannia*, as it appears on our copper coins.)

*Abraham entertaining the Angels*, by Guercino; *Interior of Old House, with Figures*, by Cuyp.

THE BILLIARD ROOM and LEICESTER GALLERY contain, among a variety of splendid pictures, the following:—*Sir Kenelm Digby*, a copy from Vandyke, by Goudt; *Democritus and Heraclitus*, the laughing and crying Philosophers, by Mignard; a *Head of Edward, Earl of Dorset*, by Vandyke; *The Earl and Countess of Middlesex*, by Mytens; (the satin dress of the Countess is extremely beautiful.) *Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey*, by Holbein; (he was executed in 1547, temp. Henry VIII.) *Henry, Prince of Wales*, eldest son of James I., by Mytens; (this Prince died, Nov. 6th, 1612, at the early age of 19; he was the friend of Lord Dudley North, the discover of the Tunbridge Wells Waters.) *The God of Silence*, a copy from Schiavone, by Cartwright; *Major Mohun*, (he was an actor in the time of Charles I., and greatly distinguished himself during the civil wars, by his services in the royal army.) The windows of these rooms command very diversified views of the pleasure grounds, &c.

THE VENETIAN BED ROOM, so called from having been slept in by Nicolo Malino, a Venetian Ambassador. The state bed, with its green velvet furniture, was prepared for King James II., who was expected to honor Knole with a visit, but did not arrive. There is some tapestry in this room, and a portrait of *Catherine, Second Empress of Russia*, in military costume. In the Dressing Room are several fine pictures, including the *Death of Cleopatra*, by Domichino, a splendid picture; and *Sir Thomas More*, by

Holbein. In the passage is a portrait of *Jane Seymour*, Queen of Henry VIII., with two or three other pictures.

THE ORGAN ROOM is a remarkably rough looking apartment, the walls being rudely covered with oak not panelled, probably from their having at one time, been concealed with tapestry. In this room there are the remains of an Organ, said to have been the second made in England. Some of the keys are still left. The Organ is so judiciously placed, that the Organist, though sitting in this room, could observe the altar and officiating priests, whilst he himself, unseen from the chapel, performed the requisite music. There is an old oak chest here, grotesquely carved, which belonged to the travelling equipage of Lord Buckhurst, at the time when it was the custom to draw travelling chariots with teams of oxen. There are also several paintings in this room, but nothing particularly remarkable. Adjoining is the family pew, or gallery, looking down into

The CHAPEL, which preserves much of its original character, although the ceiling, formerly panelled oak, is now a stuccoed imitation of vaulting. There was also some tapestry here, suspended in front of the family seat, and some scriptural paintings. This chapel is by no means so interesting as that at Ightham, though in many respects similar to it. It had been for a long time neglected, when the third Duke of Dorset caused it to be repaired and altered; and Divine Service has since continued to be regularly performed in it, by the family Chaplain, on Sunday afternoon. There is a fine crypt beneath the chapel,

with a vaulted roof, which is not generally shewn to Visitors.

The CHAPEL, or PASSAGE ROOM, is highly interesting, though somewhat disfigured by paint and certain wooden repairs, which harmonise badly with the general ancient appearance of the room. The walls are hung with tapestry, representing, in compartments, the history of Noah, the building of the Ark, &c. It is very finely done, and in one corner is a figure so naturally placed, that it appears laboriously employed on the tapestry. The most interesting relics in this room, are those upon the ancient chestnut Cabinet. This is a group of figures, most elaborately carved, presented by Mary, Queen of Scots, a short time previous to her execution, to the second Earl of Dorset. The subjects are, Christ's entry into Jerusalem; His bearing the Cross; Taking down from the Cross; The Entombment. A portion of the carving appears to have been destroyed, as a pillar remains which is thought to have formed part of a group representing the Scourging. In one of the rooms on the left of the entrance to the chapel is a curious old chimney-piece, which bears the cognizance of Archbishop Bourchier, but as this and an adjoining room are not shewn to Visitors, we need not describe them more particularly.

In the BALL ROOM, the pictures are chiefly of the family. Among others, *Richard, Earl of Dorset, and his Lady*, by Mytens. *The Countess of Middlesex*.<sup>\*</sup> *Edward, Earl of Dorset*, by Vandyke; *His Countess*, by Mytens.

\* This was the lady that replied to one of Charles 2nd's Secretaries of State, who ventured to dictate to her a Member for the

The CRIMSON DRAWING ROOM contains, *A Persian Sybil*, by Dominichino. *Count Ugolio and his Sons*, by Sir Joshua Reynolds; (the subject is from Dante's *Inferno*.) Four Dutch Figures, by Teniers. *Countess of Dorset*, by Vandyke; *Duchess of Cleveland*, by Lely; *Judith with the Head of Holofernes*, by Garafuli; *A Head of Raphael*, by himself; *St. John and a Lamb*, by Schidoni; *A Holy Family*, by Titian; and three others, by Titian, Veronese, and Vandyke. This room is next to the Ball Room, and certainly boasts of the finest collection of paintings. It has also a remarkably fine marble chimney piece, and there are several singular looking stilettoes, and other things about the room.

The CARTOON GALLERY.—This gallery contains copies, by Daniel Mytens, of six of the Cartoons of Raphael, as follow: *The Death of Ananias*; *Peter and John restoring the Lame Man*; *The Miraculous Draught of Fishes*; *Jesus and his Disciples*; and *Paul and Barnabas at Lycaonia*. Among the pictures are, *Charles, sixth Earl of Dorset*; *His Countess*, by Sir Godfrey Kneller; *George the Fourth*, by Sir Thomas Laurence; *James, Lord Northampton*; *The Earl of Surrey*, by Holbein; a fine three-quarter Picture, by Dobson, called by some, *General Monk*, and by others, *General Davis*, said to have been Oliver Cromwell's barber. ("A vulgar error," says Bridgman, "to say the least of it. It is a pity it is

borough of Appleby:—"I have been bullied by an Usurper; I have been neglected by a Court; but I will not be dictated to by a subject. Your man sha'n't stand!

ANN,

"Dorset, Pembroke, and Montgomery."

not known whose likeness it is, the picture being among the best portraits in the house, and no doubt that of a loyal and distinguished officer.") In this room there are four fine casts from the Florentine Gallery, viz. *The Venus de Medicis*; *The Listening Slave*; *The Wrestlers*; and *The Dancing Faun*. The room is 90 feet in length, 18 in width, and 15 in height. The fire-dogs, or and-irons,\* sconces, and carpets, are rare and curious. The State Canopy, with its appendages, was used by the Duke of Dorset, during the time he was Ambassador at the Court of Louis XVI. The Treasurer's Official Chest belonged to the first Earl of Dorset.

The KING'S BED ROOM, is so called from having been prepared for the reception of James I. It is fitted up in the most splendid manner. The walls are hung with tapestry, representing the life of Nebuchadnezzar. The state bed alone, is said to have cost £8,000. The bedstead is richly ornamented, and the bed hangings and fringed borders are of gold and silver tissue. The chairs and stools are covered to correspond with the bed furniture. Silver vases, baskets, urns, &c., lie about in great profusion. The tables and frames of the looking glasses are of chased silver, and on the dressing table is a silver toilet ser-

\* Before the introduction of fire-places, and-irons were found not only in the houses of persons of condition, but in the bed-chamber of the king himself. Strutt says, (1775,) "These and-irons are used at this day, and called cob-irons: they stand on the hearth, where they burn wood, to lay it upon; their fronts are usually carved, with a round knob at the top; some of them are kept polished and bright: anciently, many of them were embellished with a variety of ornaments." At Knole, silver and-irons are in great profusion throughout the house.

vice, beautifully worked. There are also two Cabinets here, one of ebony, and the other of ebony and ivory. The latter contains two official keys of the Lord Chamberlain, and is prettily decorated with scriptural subjects. The only picture in this room is the *Coligni Family*, by C. Jansen. The entire fittings up of the room are said to have cost upwards of £20,000.

The DINING PARLOUR.—The pictures in this room are almost exclusively those of men who have distinguished themselves in Literature, or the Arts and Sciences; and a more goodly assemblage of talent it would be rare to find. There are upwards of sixty portraits, comprising the poets from Chaucer to Sir Walter Scott; and include, what is said to be, an original portrait of Shakspeare. *A Conversation Piece*, by Vandergucht, is well done. The painter has introduced himself, sketching Durfey, the Poet, while conversing with Mr. Buck, the Chaplain, and Mr. Lowin, the Steward. There are three other figures in the picture, one of them Geo. Allen, a Clothier of Sevenoaks; Mother Moss; and Randall, the steward's-room boy.

This is the last room shewn to Visitors; and even from the necessarily limited sketch we have given of Knole, it will be seen that no person can fail to be highly gratified by inspecting the magnificent mansion.\* It is

\* We are indebted for a portion of our description to Bridgman's "Sketch of Knole," published in 1817.

now occupied by the Earl and Countess Amherst; the Countess Dowager of Plymouth having married Earl Amherst, on the 25th of June, 1839. The private apartments, which of course are not shewn to Visitors, are, we understand, fitted up with much elegance, and abound with articles of great taste and *virtú*.

The following places in the immediate neighbourhood of Sevenoaks, are worthy of a visit:

#### MONTREAL.

THIS is an elegant mansion, belonging to Earl Amherst. It is of stone, and was built by Sir Jeffery Amherst, the uncle of the present Earl, after his return from America, where he had greatly distinguished himself in taking Montreal, in Upper Canada, (from which this place is named,) and several other places. There is an obelisk erected in the grounds, commemorative of Sir Jeffery's achievements.

#### CHEVENING.

THE noble mansion here is the residence of Earl Stanhope. It was built about the year 1617, by Richard Lennard, Lord Dacre,



from the plans of Inigo Jones, and was sold in 1717, to Major-General James Stanhope, grandson to the first Earl of Chesterfield. The house is by no means an elegant looking building, but the grounds are laid out with great taste, and there is an armoury here, arranged by the first Earl Stanhope. The parish church adjoining, is dedicated to St. Botolph, and contains some remarkably fine tombs; among others, one beautifully executed by Chantrey, to the memory of Lady Frederica Stanhope, which alone is worth visiting. In this neighbourhood are also some very ancient mansions, particularly Morant's Court, (from which the hill is named,) Combe Bank, and Chipsted House.

#### SUNDRIDGE

Is a pretty little village, anciently called Sundrish. The celebrated Bishop Porteus lies buried here, and the village gives the title of Baron to the Duke of Argyle, who was created Baron Sundridge, of Combebank, on the 20th Dec., 1766. It was by way of Chipstead, Sundridge, &c., that the Fishermen of Rye, and other parts of the Sussex coast, formerly made their journies to London, considering it the best and most direct road.

## WESTERHAM.

THIS is a very extensive parish, remarkable for two distinguished characters who were born here. Dr. Benj. Hoadley, Bishop of Winchester, and, in 1727, General Wolfe, the Conqueror of Quebec; for the latter of whom a monument is erected, over the south door of the Church. There is a place in this village called "Tower Wood," near Hosey Common, which was built in —, by the then Lord of the manor, John Ward, Esq., for the purpose of obtaining an uninterrupted view of St. Paul's, London, but the attempt proved a complete failure, and the tower has been for some time in a ruinous condition; portions of the walls are still standing. The Rev. R. Board, is the present incumbent.

## KEMSING,

Now an inconsiderable hamlet was formerly a place of some importance, and had a castle, which in those days was reckoned impregnable. It is from the range of hills above Kemsing to Tunbridge town that the inhabitants claim the title of "Men of Kent;" still retaining the old traditional proverb "Holmesdale never conquered, nor ever

shall.”\* The Church is dedicated to St. Edith, whose image formerly stood in the churchyard; and in the Catholic times of superstition, was greatly resorted to for the Saint’s good offices in preserving grain from mildew.

#### SEALE

Is a very ancient manor and parish, in which is situated the principal country residence of the Marquis Camden, called the *Wilderness*. This is a most delightful spot, and the grounds around the noble mansion are very extensive, and laid out with the most refined taste.

#### OTFORD

Is a most interesting village, from the historical reminiscences connected with it. A great battle was fought here in 773 or 774, by Offa, King of Mercia, and Aldric, King of Kent, when the former gained the victory, with great slaughter on both sides. There is also a field in this parish still called *Dane Field*, which is reported to be the spot where Edmund Ironsides, in 1016, fought Canute, the Danish King, whom he defeated with

\* See “Lambarde,” also “Bridgman’s Sketches of Knole, 1817.”

great slaughter, pursuing the Danes to Aylesford, near Maidstone. Remains of human bones are continually being ploughed up in this vicinity, and in making the new turnpike-road in 1836, to avoid Morant's Court Hill, between twenty and thirty skeletons were found at from eighteen inches to three feet from the surface. A few remains of the Archiepiscopal Palace, one of the earliest, probably, in the kingdom, are still to be seen here. This palace was the scene of several of Thomas à Becket's miracles; and the fine spring of water which runs through the ruins, it is recorded, sprung up from the prelate's striking his staff into the ground! The Church is dedicated to St. Bartholomew, and contains several singular monuments; among others, in the great chancel, on a grave-stone, is the following:

Here lyeth the body of Thomas Peake, who died July the 21st, 1746, aged 69 years:—

He was the only comfort of my life,  
 The best of husbands to a wife;  
 Since he is gone, no joy on earth for me,  
 But hope in heaven to meet with he.

On the south side of Tunbridge Wells, after passing through the village of Frant, (page 121,) is a pleasant ride to

**WADHURST,**

Which is six miles from the Wells. On the left of the road, about a mile from Frant, is *Knole House*, built in the Elizabethan style of architecture, and has, from an early period, been the residence of many distinguished individuals.

*Wadhurst Castle*, the property and residence of B. Harding, Esq., stands at the entrance of the village, on the right hand of the road to Hastings, from the Wells. The house originally consisted of a quadrangular tower, flanked by four turrets, in the castellated style. It has recently undergone extensive repairs and alterations, and is now one of the most attractive objects in the neighbourhood. It was built about thirty years ago on the site of a farm house called "Maplehurst," by which name the land is still designated in the parish and county records. The style is of the Tudor period, and the character is well maintained throughout. The material of the old building was stone, brought from the ruins of an old edifice at Faircrouch. That of the new additions is from a quarry on the estate, and has been pronounced equal to the best Portland.

The terrace in front of the house shows the stone to great advantage. The park is gracefully undulated and prettily wooded, though of limited extent ; a suitable and very pretty lodge has been added. The situation has commanding views of great extent and variety, from Fairlight down to Beechy Head, to the south ; Mayfield, Crowborough, Saxonbury Hill to the west ; the Wells, Morant's Court Hill to the north ; Goudhurst, Lamberhurst, with the distant heights above Canterbury and Folkstone, to the east.

*Besbeech Hill*, about a mile on the Rotherfield Road, is noted for the panoramic treat it offers to the tourist. A large portion of the counties of Sussex, Surrey, and Kent, appears to lie at the very feet of the spectator.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is partly in the early and partly in the later style of English architecture. It has a high and shingled spire, with a ring of six bells. There are several monuments in it, but not any remarkable, if we except one to "John Legas, Gent.;" which, as shewing the change of currents in manufacturing affairs, may be worth noticing. This gentleman died in 1752, aged 62 years, having

acquired a handsome fortune "by his industry and diligence in the *iron works* of this county."

### TICEHURST.

THIS village, situated on a gentle rise, and surrounded by fertile hills and vallies, is distant nine miles from the Wells. The church, which is in the later style of English architecture, is dedicated to St. Mary. Over the porch is a room with a grated window, formerly used as a prison.

At HIGHLANDS, in this parish, is a most extensive establishment for insane persons, conducted by Mr. Newington. The house is beautifully situated on a commanding eminence, and is surrounded with plantations and pleasure grounds, amounting to sixty acres. Looking at the extent of the grounds and the elegance of the buildings connected with the establishment, we think it may be justly considered as the first of this description in the kingdom.

### BOAR'S HEAD.

LEAVING the Wells by Roper's Gate you proceed across Eridge Green, and thence continue on the Brighton road till you arrive

at Boar's Head, which is distant from the Wells about five miles. The village is said to derive its name from a remarkable rock which stands in a garden on the left. Mr. Onely terms it, "A huge high stone capped with another one, like a monstrous head, an hideous frightful figure!—a sort of Druid idol, resembling one of the Rock Idols, or Rocking Stones, in Borlase's History of Cornwall." Why the place should be named from this rock, cannot be easily divined, for certainly it bears no resemblance to a Boar. At the opposite end of the village, is a very neat little Chapel and School Room, belonging to the Wesleyans. The chapel was opened for Divine Worship on Good-Friday, 1835. Two miles beyond is

#### CROWBOROUGH.

HOWEVER bleak this spot may be considered, the ride or walk to it will be amply compensated by the extensive view obtained from the summit of the hill. It stands 804 feet above the level of the sea, and commands a prospect at once grand and diversified; and of that wild and romantic nature, which cannot fail to enrapture, and leave a most



powerful impression. The whole journey indeed, from the Wells, partakes something of this character, only more cultivated. Crowborough Hill was one of the spots selected for a Beacon, to give alarm in case of invasion, and the place where it stood is still seen, a short distance from the public-house, on the opposite side of the road. It is in the parish of Rotherfield, and a Chapel with a School-house, was founded here about 1720, by Sir Henry Fermor, Bart., of Sevenoaks. Another Chapel of Ease, in this district, was also opened in 1839. The present officiating Minister is the Hon. and Rev. R. W. West. Sir Henry Fermor died in 1734, leaving £1500 for the clothing and educating of forty boys and girls, belonging to the parishes of Rotherfield and Buxted, and a fund to provide for the maintenance of a Clergyman and Schoolmaster, and keep the house and chapel in repair for ever.

#### BUXTED.

THIS village is situated about five miles from Crowborough, and is celebrated for being the first place where iron ordnance was cast. The village consists of a few scattered

houses, one of which is an ancient building on Huggett's Farm, called the "The Hog-house," from the rude figure of a hog, carved in stone, which is said to have been the original Foundry of Ralphe Hogge, who, with Peter Baude, cast the first cannon. There is still a place at Buxted called "Huggett's Furnace," where there was formerly a stone with the following couplet carved on it :

Master Huggette and his man John  
They did make the first cannon.

The Earl of Liverpool has a noble mansion here, called *Buxted Place*. The style of architecture is extremely simple, and it is built of brick. It is not an ancient building, having been erected about the middle of the last century, by Edward Medley, Esq., Barrister-at-Law. There is an estate called *The Rocks*, in this parish, where there is an extensive cavern in one of the Sand Rocks which abound here. We must not omit to mention, that George Watson, the "Sussex Calculator," was born in this village, in 1785. Almost idiotic in appearance, his powers of memory and calculation were of the most astonishing description. He was ignorant and uneducated, not being able either to read

or write, yet he could perform, with the utmost ease, the most difficult calculations in arithmetic, and could tell with great accuracy the day of the week on which any given day of the month occurred, from an early period of his birth, with the state of the weather on that day. He died a few years since, we believe, in the workhouse of his native village.

### COWDEN

Is situated about three miles westward from Chafford.\* The pedestrian will find a pleasant walk, and a perfectly romantic one, through the fields to it, by leaving the Paper Mills at Chafford on the right. The church, which bears every mark of antiquity, is pleasantly situated on the brow of a hill, and commands a very extensive prospect. There is a date in front of the pulpit of 1628, and an hour glass by the side of it, which formerly served to regulate the length of the preacher's discourse. The gallery was erected in 1593. Amongst the donations and benefactions recorded, is one of twenty shillings to the clerk, for "ringing the bell *at five in the*

\* See page 212.

*morning and eight in the evening, from Michaelmas to Lady-day, for ever."* Another board states, "This church was ceiled and repaired in the year 1742, with the money found in the custody of Joan Wickenden, who was relieved and maintained by this parish nearly forty years." The village is very neat, and is in the high road between the Metropolis and East Grinstead.

A short distance from Cowden, is *Holty House*, the residence of R. M. Whatley, Esq. In a field on this gentleman's property, is a pedestal, with a leaden figure upon it, said to be Pluto. It had been thrown from its erect position when we visited it in August, 1843, but as it lay on the ground, it appeared to be a warrior, with his left arm raised as if warding a blow, whilst his right hand grasped a spear, more by way of support, than meditating offensive operations. In an adjoining piece of ground, once used as a shrubbery, but now overgrown with weeds, is a figure of Alexander the Great. This shrubbery, which has been enclosed from the adjacent wood, is romantically situated, and overlooks a lovely country, terminating with the Surrey Hills. Near this

place is Holty Common, and we can assure the Visitor, that the ride or walk from this spot, across Blackham Common, and through Ashurst, to the Wells, will more than repay him for any fatigue it may occasion. The views, nearly the whole line of road, are of the most splendid description; probably more romantic and diversified, than any which could be selected within the same distance.

Having gone through the regular places within a day's pleasant trip of the Wells, the Visitor or Antiquary will be probably induced to extend his ride to some or all of the following relics of antiquity:

**BATTLE**, 22 miles, is the town where the Conqueror fought Harold, who is said to have been killed on the spot whereon the Abbey now stands. This is the property of Lady Webster, and the Abbey is shewn to Visitors on Mondays.

**ROBERTSBRIDGE**, 17 miles. In this village are the remains of a Cistercian Abbey, founded in 1176.

**BODIAM**, 15 miles. Here are the remains of what was once a magnificent Castle, erected in 1386. It is encompassed by a broad and deep moat, and the spiked iron portcullis still remains entire over the gateway. Shewn every day.

**LEWES**, 22 miles, is the County town of Sussex. There are several relics of the olden time to be found

here, besides the Gateway and other portions of the celebrated Castle.

PREVENSEY, 25 miles, is reported to have been the place where the Normans landed. It is of Roman origin, and the mass of ruins, once forming the formidable castle, is well worth visiting.

HURSTMONCEUX, 28 miles. The ruins of the Castle here are of a particularly interesting nature, retaining in a great measure its original form, but exhibiting within, a scene of utter desolation. It was built entirely of brick, in the reign of Henry VI. by Sir Roger de Fynes, or Fiennes, Treasurer of the Royal Household. It has suffered more from the spoliation of man than the ravages of time, but enough remains to gratify the antiquary. Shewn every day.

RYE, 30 miles. This is a very ancient tower. The celebrated *Ypres Tower*, built by a warrior of the name of William de Ypres, in the reign of King Stephen, is now used as a prison. It is a strong square pile, with a round tower at each angle. The land-gate, forming the entrance to the town from London and Dover, is still remaining in good preservation, and forms an interesting object. Between Rye and Winchelsea, on the sands, are the remains of a Castle, a shapeless mass of buildings, said to be of the time of Henry VIII.

WINCHELSEA, 33 miles. Every thing about this town has an antique bearing. The strand-gate, being the entrance from Rye, has a very picturesque appearance. It has a round tower on each side, and is nearly overgrown with ivy. There are also the

remains of two other gates here, the land-gate and new-gate. There were formerly three churches here, a very considerable portion of one, dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket, still remains. It was originally a large and splendid structure, and even in its present state, will furnish ample food for observation and contemplation, and its inspection cannot fail to gratify the antiquary as well as the most casual observer.

MAIDSTONE, 20 miles, is the County town of Kent. There are some highly interesting remains of antiquity in this town, and the road to it from the Wells, as we have before noticed, may be considered as the Garden of Kent.

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## D I S T A N C E S

*To the Places mentioned in this Guide, with the days  
on which they can be seen.*

		MILES.			MILES.
Frant .....	2		Glassenbury .....	2	
Mark Cross .....	3		Cranbrook .....	2	
(Rotherfield 2 miles to the right.)					16
Mayfield .....	3				—
The Ruins every day.					
Heathfield .....	3		Speldhurst .....	3	
	—		Penshurst .....	3	
	11		Mondays and Saturdays. (Redleaf and Leigh to the right, after passing the Place.)		
Bell's Ewe Green ....	2		Chiddingstone.....	2	
By the new road, over Frant Forest; (if by Frant Village, 3 miles.)			Hever .....	2	
Bayham .....	3		Every day.		
The Ruins every Tuesday and Friday.			Edenbridge .....	2	
Lamberhurst (2 miles)	—			12	
(Eight miles from the Wells, by way of Pembury.)				—	
Scotney .....	3		Langton .....	2	
Stone Crouch .....	2		(A little beyond to the right is Crockhurst Hatch—the road to Ashurst, Chafford, and Cowden.)		
Hawkhurst .....	4		Groombridge .....	2	
	—		14 Withyham .....	3	
	—		(Buckhurst, 1 mile to the left)		
Pembury .....	3		Hartfield .....	1	
(Bayhall 1 mile to the right, every day.)			Forest Row .....	4	
Matfield Green .....	3		Bramble-tye, 1 mile to the left, every day.		
Brenchley .....	1		Eastgrinstead .....	3	
Horsmonden .....	3			—	
Goudhurst .....	2			15	
(To the right, Bedgebury.)				—	



TO	MILES.	TO	MILES.
Southborough .....	3	Sevenoaks .....	2
Bidborough .....	1	Knole to the right—every day, from 11 to 5 o'clock. To the left, Montreal, Chevening, Sundridge, and Westerham.	
Tunbridge .....	2	To the right, Kemsing, Seale, and Otford.	
The Castle, on Mondays, from 9 till 4 o'clock, on application to Messrs. Parker, of the Rose and Crown.			—
Hadlow .....	4		13
Mereworth .....	4		—
Wateringbury .....	1	Frant .....	2
Maidstone .....	5	Wadhurst .....	4
	20	Ticehurst .....	4
	—		—
Tunbridge .....	6		10
Shipbourne .....	4	Eridge Green .....	2
Ightham .....	1	Rocks to the right.	
(The Moated House to the left, between Shipbourne and Ightham.)		Boar's Head .....	4
Wrotham .....	4	Crowborough .....	1
	15	Buxted .....	6
	—	Uckfield .....	1
	—	Lewes .....	8
Tunbridge .....	6		—
River Hill .....	5		22

# ITINERARY

*Of the Principal Roads from Tunbridge Wells.*

	MILES.		MILES.
<i>To London.</i>			
Tunbridge .....	6	Battle, by new Road ..	3
Sevenoaks .....	7	Hastings, or St. Leo-	7
Dunton Green .....	3	nards.....	7
Farnborough .....	6		—
Lock's Bottom.....	1		28
Bromley .....	4		—
Lewisham Bridge ....	4	<i>Another Road.</i>	
London .....	5	Woodsgate .....	3
—	36	Lamberhurst .....	5
		Flimwell .....	4
		Robertsbridge.....	5
		Battle .....	5
		Hastings .....	7
			—
			29
			—
<i>To Rye.</i>		<i>To East-Bourne.</i>	
Woodsgate .....	3	Wadhurst.....	6
Lamberhurst .. . . .	5	Shover's Green .....	2
Stone Crouch .....	3	Burwash Wheel .....	6
Flimwell .....	1	Brightling Down.....	2
Hawkhurst .....	3	Boreham Bridge.....	7
Sandhurst .....	3	Bourne, Sea Houses ..	10
Northiam.....	4		—
Rye .....	8		33
—	30		—
			—
		<i>Another Road.</i>	
		Mayfield .....	8
		Cross-in-hand .....	6
		Horeham .....	3
			—
<i>To Hastings.</i>			
Wadhurst.....	6		
Ticehurst.....	4		
Hurst Green .....	4		
Robertsbridge .....	2		
John's Cross .....	2		

	MILES.		MILES.
Hailsham .....	6	<i>Another Road.</i>	
East-Bourne .....	7	Groombridge .....	4
	—	Leigh-Green .....	2
	30	Maresfield .....	7
	—	Buxted .....	1
<i>Another Road.</i>		Uckfield .....	1
Uckfield .....	14	Lewes .....	8
East-Hoathly ..	5	Brighton .....	8
Horsebridge .....	6		—
East-Bourne .....	8		31
	—		—
	33	<i>To Windsor.</i>	
	—	East Grinstead .....	15
		Riegate .....	14
<i>To Margate.</i>		Kingstone .....	14
Tunbridge .....	6	Windsor .....	16
Maidstone .....	14		—
Penenden Heath .....	1		59
Key Street .....	8		—
Canterbury .....	18	<i>Shortest Road to</i>	
Margate .....	16	<i>Southampton.</i>	
	—	Brighton .....	30
	63	Findon .....	10
	—	Arundel .....	10
		Chichester .....	9
<i>To Brighton.</i>		Havant .....	9
Crowborough Gate ...	8	Portsdown .....	4
Uckfield .....	6	Fareham .....	6
Lewes .....	8	Botely .....	4
Brighton .....	8	Southampton .....	10
	—		—
	30		92
	—		—
		<i>To Southampton by way</i>	
		<i>of London, 113 Miles.</i>	

## LOCAL INFORMATION.

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### MAGISTRATES FOR THE TUNBRIDGE WELLS, TUNBRIDGE, AND FRANT DISTRICTS.

Aretas Akers, Robert Alexander, Robert Willis Blencowe, George Campion Courthope, James Deanc, Cuthbert Jeddere Fisher, Frederic Hare, Edward Hussey, Thomas Lotherington, William Alexander Morland, George Palmer, Baden Powell, Arthur Pott, Daniel Rowland, David Salomons, James Cranbourne Strode, Edward Suart, and Ford Wilson, Esquires; Revds. William Marriott Smith Marriott, Isaac J. Moneyppenny, and Henry Walker.

#### SITTINGS.

*Tunbridge Wells.*—The First and Third Wednesday in every Month, at the Clarence Tavern.

*Tunbridge.*—Second and Fourth Wednesday in every Month, at the Town Hall.

*Frant.*—The First and Third Tuesday in every Month, at the Abergavenny Arms Inn.

#### CLERKS.

For the Tunbridge Wells and Frant Districts, Messrs. Stone and Wall, Tunbridge Wells.

For Tunbridge, Messrs. W. & J. Scoones, Tunbridge.

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#### LOCAL ACT.

The Commissioners under this Act meet the First Monday in every Month, at 11 o'Clock, at their Office, Vale Cottage. Mr. B. Lewis, Clerk.

Police Station House, No. 3, Grove Hill.—Superintendent of Police, Mr. Barton.

## POST OFFICE,

*(At Nash's Library, on the Parade.)*

THE Mail arrives from London every morning, (Mondays excepted,) and leaves for London every night, (Saturdays excepted.) The same Mail conveys the letters to and from Hastings every day. Letters are delivered at 7 o'clock in the morning, during summer, and at 8 o'clock in the winter. The letter box is closed at  $\frac{1}{4}$ -past 8 o'clock in the evening, but upon payment of one penny, letters can be posted until 9, and from 9 until 11, twopence.

By an alteration in the Mails, which took place on the 9th of October, 1839, the Uckfield, Lewes, and Brighton letters are posted and delivered at the same time as those from London. There is a Cross-post to East Grinstead, through Groombridge and Hartfield, which arrives every day at  $\frac{1}{2}$ -past 11 o'clock, and leaves at  $\frac{3}{4}$ -past 12; Sundays at 12. Letters must be posted before 12 o'clock, and on Sundays before 11. There is no post to London on Saturday, nor from London on Monday.

There are two *Receiving Houses*—One at MOUNT EPHRAIM, and the other at the CALVERLEY LIBRARY, at which no letters can be received after  $\frac{1}{4}$ -past 8 o'clock.

## EXCISE OFFICE.

Sittings held at the Swan Inn every six weeks, and two extra Sittings for Hop Duty.

## BANKS.

Tunbridge and Tunbridge Wells Old Bank.—Messrs. Beeching, Church Road—draw on Masterman, Peters, and Co., London. Open from 10 to 4 o'clock.

Lewes Old Bank.—Messrs. Molineux, Whitfield, and Dicker—draw on Williams, Deacon, and Co., London. Agent for Tunbridge Wells, Mr. Nash, Parade. Open from 10 to 4 o'clock.

The London and County Joint Stock Bank.—Agent for Tunbridge Wells, Mr. R. Corke. Open from 9 to 5 o'clock.

## CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, &amp;c.

Boys' National School, at the Chapel of Ease.—Treasurer, the Rev. W. L. Pope.

Female National School, Mount Sion—Mr. W. Nash, Treasurer; the Rev. J. N. Pearson, Secretary.

- Infant School, Grosvenor Road.—Secretary, the Rev. S. N. Dalton.  
Victoria National School.—Aretas Akers, Esq. Treasurer.  
Female British, and Infant Schools, at the Mount Sion Chapel.—  
Treasurer, Mrs. M. Stapley; Secretary, Mrs. Maddock.  
The Lying-in Charity.—Treasurer, Miss Jaëcomb; Secretary, Mrs.  
J. Finley.  
The Dispensary and Infirmary, (for the relief of the Sick and  
Destitute Poor at their own houses.) Physicians, Dr. Wilmot,  
Dr. Powell. Surgeons, Mr. Hargraves, Mr. Trustram, Mr.  
Gream; Treasurer, the Rev. W. L. Pope; House-Surgeon and  
Secretary, Mr. Yate.  
Tunbridge and Tunbridge Wells Auxiliary Bible Society.—Treas-  
urers, Messrs. Beeching; Secretaries, the Rev. B. Slight, the  
Rev. S. N. Dalton, and Mr. Barcham; Depository and Assistant  
Secretary, Mr. Stubbs, Grosvenor Road.  
Tunbridge Wells Bible Society—Ladies' Association.—Treasurers,  
Mrs. Saxby and Mrs. Harris; Secretary, Mrs. Slight.  
Church Missionary Society.—Secretary, the Rev. T. W. Franklyn.  
Savings Bank.—Mr. R. Nash, Actuary and Treasurer.  
Loan Society.—Treasurer, the Rev. H. G. Keene; Secretary, Mr.  
Stubbs.  
Auxiliary to the Newfoundland & British North America Society  
for Educating the Poor.—President, John Deacon, Esq.; Vice-  
President, the Rev. J. N. Pearson; Treasurer, Mr. Corke.  
Horticultural Society.—Treasurer, the Rev. W. L. Pope; Secre-  
tary, Mr. Maddock.  
District Visiting Society.—Treasurer, the Rev. H. Bishop; Secre-  
tary, Mr. Maddock.  
Mendicity Society.—Treasurer, Mr. Way.  
Society for the Cultivation of Literature and Science.—President,  
W. S. Taylor, Esq.; Treasurer, Dr. Wilmot; Secretary, Mr.  
Maddock.  
Mechanics' Institution, High Street.—President, A. W. Ward,  
Esq.; Treasurer, Mr. E. M. Hunter; Secretary, Mr. John  
Colbran.  
Parochial Aid Society.—Treasurer, Ford Wilson, Esq.  
Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts.—Treasurers,  
Arthur Pott, Esq. and the Rev. J. J. Saint; Secretaries, Dr.  
Powell, J. Carnell, Esq., and C. Powell, Esq.  
Society for Promoting the Education and Religious Instruction of  
the Native Irish.—Treasurer, Mr. Corke; Secretary, Mr. Turner.  
The Poor Man's Library.—Treasurer, the Rev. W. L. Pope;  
Secretary, Mr. Chapman.  
Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Benevolent Society.—  
Secretary, Mr. Clifford.  
London Hibernian Society.—Secretary, Mr. Way.  
Moravian Missions.—Treasurer, the Rev. W. L. Pope.  
Parochial Lending Library.—Secretary, the Rev. S. N. Dalton.

After twelve o'clock at night and until two o'clock in the morning, all fares shall be increased one-half; and after two o'clock until six in the morning, be doubled.

N. B. If the fare keeps a carriage waiting more than ten minutes, the driver may claim payment for time, at the rate of 6d. for every quarter of an hour.

\*. Further particulars are published on a Card for the Pocket, (price 2d.) by the proprietor of this work.

#### COACHES, WAGONS, ETC.

**THE MAILS.**—To London,  $\frac{1}{2}$ -before 2 o'clock; to Hastings,  $\frac{1}{2}$ -past 12 o'clock, every night, from the Kentish Hotel Office.

**THE KENTISH ROYAL HOTEL.**—Coaches, &c. to London, Hastings, Brighton, Rochester, Canterbury, Dover, Ramsgate, and Margate, daily.

An Omnibus to Maidstone, Canterbury, and Dover, every morning (except Sundays) at a quarter before 8 o'clock. A Van to Goudhurst on Wednesdays and Saturdays, at 3 o'clock. A Van to Lamberhurst on Tuesdays and Fridays.

J. BARNETT's Vans and Wagons (by Rail and Road) to and from London, daily, from his Office, near the Kentish Hotel. Also Vans to Uckfield, Lewes, Brighton, Maidstone and Hastings.

W. HARRIS's Light Vans (by Rail and Road) to and from London daily, from his Office, Grosvenor Road.

W. DIGGENS's Vans, on springs, from Calverley Road, 3 times a week.

G. WICKENS's Wagons and Vans to London, twice a week, from his Office, Camden Mews, Calverley Road.

#### CONVEYANCES FROM THE FOLLOWING PLACES:

**HAND AND SCRIPTRE**, back of the Parade.—Gillham, Postman, to Groombridge, Withyham, Hartfield, Forest Row, and Eastgrinstead, daily. Carts to Boar's Head, Rotherfield, and Crowborough daily.

**SUSSEX TAP, SUSSEX HOTEL.**—Mail Cart to Uckfield, Lewes, and Brighton, every morning, at half-past 2 o'clock. Wadhurst, Ticehurst, Rotherfield, and Withyham, daily. Speldhurst and Peshurst, three times a week.

**THE SWAN**, back of the Parade.—Cranbrook, Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Mark Cross and Rotherfield, daily.

**NEVILL ARMS**, Frant Road.—Mayfield, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Wadhurst and Ticehurst, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Burwash, Saturdays. Frant, Mark Cross, and Rotherfield, daily.

DESCRIPTIVE PARTICULARS  
OF THE  
SOUTH EASTERN  
LONDON AND DOVER  
RAILWAY,  
CONTAINING  
NOTICES OF THE SEVERAL STATIONS,  
AND THE PRINCIPAL  
OBJECTS OF INTEREST ON THE LINE  
FROM THE  
TUNBRIDGE STATION  
TO  
LONDON,  
FOLKESTONE, AND DOVER.

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BY JAMES PHIPPEN.

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ED AND PUBLISHED BY JOHN COLBRAN,  
HIGH STREET, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.



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## INTRODUCTION.

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The contiguity of this important Railway to Tunbridge Wells has rendered it almost the only medium of transit from thence to the Metropolis, Dover, and the intermediate towns on the line. The publisher of this Guide has therefore been induced to add to it an accurate account of the principal mansions of the nobility and gentry, with the several remains of antiquity, and whatever else may be interesting to the traveller on the South Eastern Railway ; and which he hopes will not be found without interest to his readers generally.

From the frequent alterations in the time of arrival and departure, it is not considered necessary to add a Time table to the following descriptive account. The average number of daily trains in summer is eight

## INTRODUCTION.

(five only on Sundays) and in winter six daily trains and three on Sundays—performing the distance from the Tunbridge Station to London in 2 hours—to Folkestone in  $1\frac{3}{4}$  hour, and to Dover in 2 hours. The distance from the Wells to the Station is  $5\frac{3}{4}$  miles, and omnibuses convey passengers and luggage to and from every train.

Time Tables and any further information may be readily obtained at the Booking Offices, or the several Stations on the line.

## SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY.

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In the following brief account of the objects worthy of notice on this line of Railway, we have made Tunbridge the starting point, so that the traveller proceeding either to Dover or to the Metropolis, will find each place described in regular succession—except it is any place mentioned in the body of the work, when a note of reference will be found at the bottom of the page.

### THE DOVER LINE.

From the Tunbridge Station the road continues in a direct line for about five miles, part of which is through Paddock Wood, until you arrive at

### THE MAIDSTONE ROAD STATION,

which is an intermediate one,  $45\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant from London, and  $41\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Dover. It is at this station that the Branch Railway to Maidstone, from which it is distant 10 miles, will commence. The branch is expected to be finished in September, 1844. At present the conveyance is by coaches, which run to and fro six times a day. Paddock Wood is singularly wild in its appearance, and naturally forces a comparison between the times of our progenitors

When wild in woods the noble savage ran

and the present advanced, yet still progressing, state of improvement in everything connected with the arts and sciences.

Four miles to the left of this station is Roydon Hall.\* Mereworth Place,† seven miles. Barham Court, the seat of the Earl of Gainsborough, eight miles. Yote's Place,‡ five miles. The church§ of East Peckham also to the left, is a very conspicuous object. The line then proceeds through a pleasant valley, bounded by richly wooded eminences. In crossing the Yalding and Horsmonden road (47½ miles) on the left, is Hunton Rectory, (the Rev. Robt. Moore) which stands in a most delightful situation. Close to the church at Hunton is Court Lodge, the property and residence of T. T. Alkin, Esq. This was formerly Lord Hunton's, and was moated, the site of which was visible in 1782, and the present mansion was erected upon it. In this parish resides Mr. Golding, one of the first Apiarists in the kingdom. His improvements in the management of bees fully entitle him to this distinction.

#### MARDEN STATION

Is an intermediate station, 50 miles from London, and 36½ miles from Dover. About three miles and a half to the left of this station, are the mansions of Earl Cornwallis, Linton Place. Thomas Rider, Esq. Boughton Place; and Thomas Fairfax Best, Esq. Wierton House. Linton Place, which was originally called Capell's Court, from the family who formerly possessed this estate, is most pleasantly situated, and the house commands a very extensive prospect. In Linton church there are some exquisitely carved white marble monuments, executed by Bailey, to several members of the Cornwallis family.

#### STAPLEHURST STATION.

This is a principal station, 52½ miles from London, and 34 miles from Dover, and from which it is proposed to make a branch Railway to Rye and Hastings. On the right of the station the village church, which is an ancient structure, and a windmill, are conspicuous objects. Staplehurst is pleasantly situated on the summit of a hill, and the air here is considered remarkably healthy—so much so, indeed, that it is said

\* p. 270. † p. 268. ‡ p. 268. § p. 270.

to have been formerly resorted to by persons in nearly the last stage of consumption. There are some quarries in the parish which produce a hard stone, containing a great number of marine shells, capable of receiving a high polish. A modern writer, speaking of the church here, says, "Our attention was particularly attracted by a curious old oaken door, on the south side of this edifice, covered with pieces of iron, wrought into various shapes and devices, affording no small evidence of its antiquity."

#### HEADCORN STATION

Is an intermediate one,  $56\frac{1}{2}$  miles from London, and  $30\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Dover. The traveller is now passing through a valley which is traditionally reported to have been an estuary, or a great arm of the sea. We have heard of an ancient publication (but have not yet been fortunate enough to meet with it) which describes minutely a fleet of ships of war that once floated here, and persons now living, have a distinct recollection of hearing their parents speak of an immensely large anchor being found imbedded in a field immediately under Sutton Valence Castle. Marine shells, chiefly however of a small size, are continually being found here. It is by no means improbable that the sea, or at least a large branch of it, might have come up here—there is certainly more likelihood of it from appearances, than that it should have been at Appledore, about 12 or 14 miles from it; where there is scarcely a "murmuring brook" now to be found, although it is clearly recorded that in the time of Alfred, the Danes with a fleet of 250 ships, came nearly, if not quite, to the town and destroyed the castle there; and in the eleventh of Edward 3rd, a license was granted to stop a channel or trench which came from *an arm of the sea*, called Appledore, which clearly proved the sea formerly flowed up as far as that town.\* These things are, however, with regard to Headcorn, mere matter of conjecture, and, perhaps, after all, the greater wonder is that you are travelling by steam over the "debateable land."

See "Seymour's Survey," p. 9.

In this parish, on Mottenden Manor, there was a Monastery of Crossed, or Crouched Friars. "As the Friars for the redemption of the captives from the slavery of the infidels took also the denomination of Trinitarians, they acted in this church, upon Trinity Sunday, a religious farce, with an heterogeneous mixture of buffoonery with solemnity."\* This "religious farce" was doubtless one of those "Miracle Plays" which were the precursors of the Drama. Boughton Blean and Headcorn appear to be the only places in Kent where these performances took place. The former has been noticed by Mr. Collier in his "Annals of the Stage,"—the latter appears to have escaped his research.

About four miles to the left of the Headcorn station are the ruins of Sutton Valence Castle. Nearly the only remains of this Castle are the keep, and some ivy covered walls. It is considered to have been an early Norman Fortress, built by the powerful Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, on the site of a Roman watch tower. From its situation, having been erected on an almost precipitous hill, the supposition that the sea once washed its base, acquires additional strength. The present walls are 9 feet in thickness in the narrowest part; and about 10 feet from the ground there are small cells built within the thickness of the walls, from 6 feet to 8 feet long—nearly the same height, and from 3 feet to 4 feet wide. They had no other opening to them but the entrance, nor any aperture to admit air or light, and are supposed to have been used as cells for refractory vassals. East Sutton Place, the residence of Sir Edmund Filmer, Bart, M. P., is about two miles from the Castle, and a short distance beyond is Little Charlton, one of the most perfect specimens of Elizabethan architecture, probably in the county. It is the residence of Mrs. Munro, Lady Filmer's mother, and has recently been restored with great taste.

At Boughton Malherbe, four miles from the station, formerly stood Boughton Hall, the residence of Sir Nicholas Wotton, who was Privy Counsellor

\* Seymour, p. 452.

to Henry 8th, Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth. "He was sent nine times Ambassador to foreign courts, and employed in three arduous negotiations as Plenipotentiary, in making a peace between England, France, and Scotland; in all these important and honorable commissions he acquitted himself as became the representative of the mighty sovereigns of the ocean. He died full of years and glory." This was also the birth place of the accomplished Sir Henry Wotton. Thomas, Lord Wotton lived here in the reign of Charles 1st, and the Earl of Chesterfield was the last nobleman who maintained the hospitality and splendour which had distinguished the owners of this castellated mansion. The remains of the hall are occupied by a farmer. It is the property of Earl Cornwallis. A short distance from this, and about a mile from Lenham, is Chilson Park, the property and residence of J. S. Douglas, Esq., M. P.

#### PLUCKLEY STATION

Is an intermediate one, 61 miles from London, and  $25\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Dover. The village of Pluckley stands on an eminence that commands an extensive and diversified prospect, considered by many the finest in Kent. About a mile to the left of the station is Surrenden Dering, the residence of Sir Edward C. Dering, Bart. This is one of the most ancient and distinguished families in the County. It is of Saxon origin, and according to the Kentish historians, flourished in the county long before surnames were in use. Dering is a Saxon word, signifying terror, and the horse, which is the family crest, was the arms of the chief Saxons, particularly of Hengist, and after him, of all the kings of Kent. Several of the family rendered themselves conspicuous by their gallant deeds in the earliest periods of our history, and in the troublesome times of the civil wars Sir Edward Dering was sent to the tower for his attachment and devotion to the cause of royalty. This was in 1642, when "his noble estate was sequestrated, his house was four several times plundered by the parliament



soldiers, his goods and stock were all siezed, his farm houses and fences ruined and destroyed, his woods and timber felled, and himself, with his lady, reduced to extreme poverty for many weeks before he died." Cale Hill, is pleasantly situated two miles from the station. It is the residence of Edward Darell, Esq. in whose family it has been from the time of Henry 4th. As you cross the Bethersden and Hothfield road, about a mile to the left, is Hothfield House, for a long time the family seat of the Tufton's, Earls of Thanet. The present mansion is comparatively a modern building, having been erected about the year 1776. It was in a field on this estate, recently enclosed from the common, that Jack Cade, the Kentish rebel, was killed in 1450, by Walter Iden, the High Sheriff of Kent.\*

#### ASHFORD STATION.

This is a principal station, 66½ miles from London, and 20 miles from Dover. Ashford is an important market town, carrying on a considerable traffic with most parts of the Weald and East Kent. There are several large and well built houses here. The church is a handsome structure, and was much improved and the handsome tower built by Sir John Fogge, Lord of Repton, in this parish, in the reign of Edward 4th. Sir John was comptroller of the household to that monarch, and obtained leave to make the church a collegiate, consisting of a prebendary with priests and choristers. His tomb, with that of his two wives, is in the high chancel, and bears the date of 1490. Among the old monuments in the church is one nearly 500 years old. It is the figure of a woman, in brass, holding in her left hand a banner, and said to be the effgies of a Countess of Athol. Adjoining the church is a free grammar school, founded and endowed in the reign of Charles 1st by Sir Norton Knatchbull. Seymour says, (1776) "This school is reckoned one of the best Seminaries of classical learning in the County."

Three miles to the left of Ashford is Eastwell Park, the seat of the Earl of Winchelsea. De Foe, in his

\* p. 135.

"Journey through England," published in 1724, says "The finest seat I met with in my way, was that of the Earl of Winchelsea, called *Eastwell*. Its situation is noble; its parks as fine as any I have seen, well planted with old trees; and the house venerable, and worthy of a great man, the prospect being very commanding." The mansion appears to have been neglected soon after this date, and allowed to go to decay. The present noble building is in the modern style of architecture. The views from the park, in the direction of the coast, are of the most extensive description—and in a retired part of it is a small building, said to be erected on the site of a cottage once occupied by Richard Plantagenet, a natural son of Richard 3rd. A spring near it is still called Plantagenet's well. The circumstances attending his residence here, are of the most romantic description, and were they not well authenticated, would savour more of fiction than reality. After the defeat of Richard 3rd, at Bosworth, on the 22nd August, 1485, his son, supposed to be then 16 years of age, fled to London, and for more effectual concealment he put himself apprentice to a bricklayer. In the year 1543 or 4, Sir Thomas Moyle, who was erecting a mansion at Eastwell, having noticed that his principal bricklayer retired with a book when his work was finished, without mixing with the other men, had the curiosity to watch him.—and coming suddenly upon him snatched the book out of his hand. It was a latin work, and upon being closely questioned by Sir Thomas, he announced himself as the son of Richard 3rd. Satisfied with the truth of his statement, "Sir Thomas said, 'You are now old, and almost passed your labour, I will give you the running of my kitchen as long as you live.' He answered, 'Sir, you have a numerous family; I have been used to live retired; give me leave to build a house of one room for myself in such a field, and there, with your good leave, I will live and die.' Sir Thomas granted his request; he built his house, and there continued to his death." It is said he was buried near a monument in the wall of the church, but it is doubtful how

far such an assumption is correct. In the register of Eastwell parish it is recorded, "Richard Plantagenet was buried the 22nd of December, *anno ut supra, ex Registro de Eastwell, sub anno 1550.*"\* He must have been at least 81 years old at the time of his death.

Ollantigh, the seat of S. E. Sawbridge, Esq. is an ancient manor, five miles to the left of the station. In the reign of Edward 1st it was the property of the Kempe's, once of high repute in the county. John Kempe having been Archbishop of Canterbury and Cardinal of St. Rufina. He built on this spot a magnificent oratory; and Sir Thomas Kempe added to it a noble mansion, upon the site of which the present house appears to have been built.

Gormersham Park (originally called Ford Park) is the residence of E. Knight, Esq., and about six miles to the left of the station. There is a most delightful prospect from it over a large tract of richly cultivated lands. The manor house was frequently used as a residence by the Priors of Canterbury, who appear to have lived here in great state. Over the porch, at the principal entrance, were the effigies of a prior, curiously carved in stone, sitting, in rich vestments, with his mitre and pall, having sandals on his feet. He bears the crosier in his left hand, his right being raised in the act of benediction. The manor itself is of great antiquity, and was given to the Monks of Christ church, Canterbury, by Bonulphus, king of the Mercians, in 820, to supply them with food and raiment.

Seven miles and a half to the left of the station, is Chilham Castle, the property of J. B. Wildman, Esq. This place is conjectured to be the spot where Julius Cæsar encamped in his second expedition to Britain. It was anciently called Julham, which Camden and other antiquaries state to mean Julius's station. In his account of this expedition, Cæsar says, "that after

\* The deeply interesting "Memoirs of Richard Plantagenet," from which the above account is taken, are to be found in Peck's *Desiderata Curiosa*, and in Seymour's Survey of Kent. It is singular that De Foe appears not to have been acquainted with the fact, when he noticed Eastwell.

he had landed he marched by night twelve miles from the shore, where he first encountered the Britons upon a river, and after he had beaten them into a wood, encamped there. "This place is exactly twelve miles from the sea coast, and there is no river, but the Stour which is close to Chilham, between that and the coast." A little below the town on the banks of the Stour is a barrow, called 'Julliberrie's grave,' said to have been the burying place of Laberius Dorus, the Tribune, slain by the Britons in their march from that camp; and from him the barrow was called Jul, Laber. or Julii Laberius. King Lucius built a palace here, where he and several British kings occasionally resided; but the Saxons dispossessed them of it, and it then became the seat of the kings of Kent. It was afterwards converted into a fortress to protect the country from the depredations of the Danes, but during the struggles between Edmund Ironsides and Canute for the English throne, the castle was nearly destroyed, and remained in that state till the conquest, when it was given by king William to Fulbert Lacy, who rebuilt it. It was afterwards in the possession of several distinguished characters, and in 1636, became the property, by marriage, of Sir Dudley Digges, then Master of the Rolls. He removed part of the ruins of the old castle and raised the present noble edifice in its place. In doing this several Roman vessels and coins were found, as well as the site of an ancient Roman fortress. After the death of Sir Dudley, it was purchased by Mr. James Colebrooke, of Arundel, in Sussex, from whom it descended to Robert Colebrooke, Esq. 'who was the second and last of that name,' says Seymour, 'who enjoyed it.' There is very little of the ancient structure remaining, and what there is, is chiefly of Norman architecture. In the south chancel of the church is the family vault and monuments of the Digges' family, many of whom are buried here; and on the opposite side is the mausoleum of the Colebrooke family.

Four miles to the left of the railway, at the 70th milestone, is Mersham Hatch, the residence of Sir

Edward Knatchbull, Bart. M.P. for the county,—in whose family it has been ever since the 2nd of Henry 7th. “The Knatchbolls were originally seated at Limne, where they flourished as early as the reign of Edward 3rd.” The mansion, which is perfectly secluded, is “regular, elegant, and commodious, and the surrounding grounds and gardens are laid out with great taste and judgement.”

At the 74th milestone, you enter on the Standford excavation, to the right of which is Westenhanger. This is a place of very great antiquity, and by some early writers is called O-stenhanger. Its chief interest at present consists in its having been once the residence (or prison) of “fair Rosamond,” the mistress of Henry 2nd. One of the towers still retains her name. It is said she was kept here for some time previous to her removal to Woodstock. According to Seymour, “The room, called her prison, was a gallery 160 feet in length: within the great gate was a court 130 feet square, in the middle of which was once a fountain. The hall was 50 feet long and 32 feet wide, and a music gallery at one end of it, with cloisters which led from the other end to the chapel. There were then in this house 126 rooms. In 1701, for the lucre of £1000, which was given for the materials then standing in this house, three parts of it were pulled down.” In the 32nd year of his reign Henry 8th granted to Sir Thomas Cheney, the treasurer of his household, “the office of constable of the castle of Saltwood, and keeper of his capital mansion at Westenhanger, and of the orchards and gardens belonging to it with the park there; his wages of constable of Saltwood were £9 2s. 6d., as keeper of Westenhanger house 6d, and keeper of the parks 4d. *per diem*. Strype, in his annals, mentions queen Elizabeth at ‘her own house,’ at Westenhanger. There are few remains left of the original building, but the site can be easily traced, which sufficiently proves the ancient grandeur of it. A farm house has been built on a portion of the site, which is the property of Lord Strangford.

## HYTHE STATION

Is a principal one, 74 miles from London, 2½ miles from the town of Hythe, and 13 miles from Dover.

Hythe is a very neat and pretty town, and ancient withal. It is one of the Cinque ports, and is indebted for its origin to the decay of West Hythe and Lymne, which were formerly sea ports until they were choked up with the sands, which the sea continually deposited. East or New Hythe, as it was called then, became a port, and in its turn suffered a similar fate. The sea is now about a mile distant from the town; and, in a parallel line between the two, runs the military canal. It was formerly a Roman station, and at a short distance from the town stood a fort, or as some writers contend, a castle, that is conjectured to have been the *Portus Lemani*s erected by the Emperor Theodosius. Part of the ancient walls are still remaining. From Hythe to Canterbury is a paved military road, now called Stone Street. In a vault under the church is a remarkable collection of human bones, consisting of arms, legs, thigh bones, skulls, &c., some of them an extraordinary size. The pile is twenty-eight feet long, six feet broad, and eight feet high. They are said to be the remains of the Danes and Britons killed in a battle near this place before the Norman conquest—and there is a memorandum in the vault purporting to be an extract from an ancient history of Britain, but whose is not said, in which it is stated that the battle referred to took place in the reign of Ethelwolf, A.D. 143, when the Danes having made an irruption into Kent, were driven back to their ships, near Hythe, and there making an obstinate resistance, an immense slaughter took place on both sides. The Britons were victorious, but the amount of the killed is stated to be not less than 30,000. Another account states this sanguinary conflict to have taken place A.D. 456, when Vortimer pursued the flying *Saxons* from Aylesford to the sea shore between Folkestone and Hythe, “and there fought a third battle, gaining a complete victory, and driving the remains of his enemy’s troops into the Isle of Thanet.” It is, how-

ever, thought by some, that these bones are more likely to be the remains of the inhabitants in the reign of Henry 4th, when "most of them were cut off by pestilence, 200 of their houses were consumed, and five of their ships sunk at sea with the loss of 100 men." Upon inquiring for the distinctive mark between the skulls of the natives and the Danes, or Saxons, we were gravely informed that they were easily known, as the skulls of the Britons were much thicker than those belonging to any other nation! De Foe, in speaking of Hythe, says, "Here I was surprised to see a collection of dead heads and bones, kept in a great room, in as good order as books are kept in a library."

The village of Standford is built on the Roman military road already mentioned, which extends from Lyme or Lynne to Canterbury, a distance of fourteen miles, in nearly a straight line. From this station the line passes under the Stone Street road, and along an excavation till you arrive at Sandling Park, the seat of Wm. Deedes, Esq., previous to entering which you pass under a bridge of singular construction, called Honeywood's Bridge. The line crosses the Park close to the mansion, which is a very elegant building. Soon after passing which the railway arrives at the Saltwood tunnel, which is 964 yards long, and 100 feet below the surface. After leaving this you cross an embankment 80 feet high, from which, to the right, the first view of the sea is obtained, and in the same direction the ruins of Saltwood castle become visible. This castle is of extreme antiquity. It is supposed to have been built by the Romans, and Vesc, the son of Hengist, king of Kent, who succeeded his father in 488, is said to have repaired and enlarged the original fortification. Upon the appointment of Archbishop Courtney to the Metropolitan See in 1381—2, "he repaired, enlarged, and beautified this castle, so as to vie with a royal residence; his arms on the stone work remained a long time a monument of his magnificence. This noble episcopal mansion was inclosed with a large park, and the manor continued annexed to the see

till the 28th Henry 8th, when Archbishop Cranmer exchanged it for other lands, with the crown." It is conjectured to have been originally intended as a fortress for the protection of the town and harbour of Hythe. About the middle of the last century, an anchor was ploughed up in the valley close to the castle; which supports the generally received opinion, that the sea once washed its walls, and made a harbour near it. In April 1580, a considerable part of this noble structure was thrown down by the shock of an earthquake. The present ruins appear to be of Norman architecture, and are extremely spacious. The greater portion of the outward walls are still remaining, and are of an oval shape. The inner gatehouse, now used as a farm house, has a fine circular tower on each side, and in the entrance archway are the grooves in which the portcullis was lowered. "On the inner side of the moat, is a very strong wall, with towers and bastions; and in the chapel are some fine ruins, beautifully vaulted beneath. There is also a spacious hall, and large banquetting room, as well as numerous offices of an inferior description." It was at Saltwood Castle where the four knights who murdered Thomas à Becket, are said to have slept the evening previous to the murder. As it is possible that some travellers on this line might have forgotten the circumstances attending this, we think that an introduction of them in this place, from an ancient history, will not be unacceptable.

Thomas Becket was the first English Archbishop since the Conquest. He was born in London, where his father was a merchant, and his mother a Syrian. He was made Lord Chancellor of England in Henry 2nd's reign from an abject station without any intermediate advancement towards the highest office a subject can aspire to. The king's partiality misled his judgement. He was consecrated Archbishop in 1162, soon after which he told the king, he could not serve the court and the church, and desired to resign the office of Chancellor. This led to a series of quarrels between them, and the result was that Becket excommunicated the Bishops who assisted at



the coronation of young Henry. "When the king was informed in Normandy of this new provocation, he cursed in the bitterest terms, the day he made him Archbishop or restored him to his see. 'Surely,' said he, 'Majesty shall not be suffered to be trampled upon by this factious Priest with impunity, unless every one about me has ungratefully forgot the proofs they have received of my royal favor.' This was spoken in the presence of Reginald Fitzurse, Sir Hugh Morvill, Sir William Tracy, and Sir Richard Britain, who, giving the King's speech a wicked interpretation, immediately sailed for England, and landed at Dover, with the nefarious design to take off the Archbishop. They proceeded first to Saltwood and then to Canterbury, and came to his palace, insisting on his homage and fealty to the young king. He answered with his usual boldness, that 'the King should extort no oath from him, which he could not lawfully require; that the Pope had communicated the bishops who crowned the young King, but that he would absolve them upon satisfaction given for the injury done to his Church.' They left him after this altercation, but in the evening while the Bishop was at Vespers they rushed into the Cathedral with their swords drawn, and demanded that Traitor, the Archbishop. He came towards them with great composure and resolution; and as he was going back, upon the third or fourth step that goes up to the quire, (at Canterbury) they basely murdered him, adding sacrilege to their barbarity."

As you pass the last embankment, on the left, is Beachborough Summer House, which belongs to Beachborough, the property and residence of Wm. Brockman, Esq. On the left is Swiss Cottage, the residence of Col. King. To the right of the line is Sandgate, which is a very pretty and fashionable watering place, much frequented in the summer season. A shipbuilder of the name of Wilson first established it in 1773. "Several pretty neat houses," says Seymour, "have been of late built on this spot, for the accommodation of small families desirous of bathing in the sea, and fond of retirement." There

is a castle here, the original of which appears to have been of great antiquity and of considerable extent, as in the reign of Richard 2nd we find the royal writ issued to the keeper "of the Castle of Sandgate" to admit Henry of Lancaster (afterwards Henry 4th) with his family, horses and attendants, to remain there six weeks for refreshment. In the year 1539, the king (Henry 8th) thinking it necessary to fortify the coast, rebuilt this castle in a circular form, similar to others on the coast, particularly that between Rye and Winchelsea. In 1588, during the Royal progresses to the coast queen Elizabeth was entertained and lodged at Sandgate castle. In 1805 it was put into complete repair, and a martello tower, the top of which is bomb proof, built in the centre. At that time the room called queen Elizabeth's, was, with others, renovated. It is said that the bedstead on which her majesty slept was carefully preserved till the year 1785. Within the last few years Sandgate has been rapidly advancing in public estimation as a watering place, and it bids fair to increase. After passing through Saltwood tunnel, you cross the Ford Valley Viaduct, which is the highest, we believe, in the country, and consists of 20 arches, with 14 feet space to each. Soon after passing this you arrive at

#### THE FOLKESTONE STATION,

Which is a principal one,  $81\frac{1}{2}$  miles from London,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Dover,  $17\frac{1}{4}$  miles from Canterbury.

Folkestone is an irregular built town, with steep and narrow streets. The opening of the Railroad to this place in the summer of 1843, has already occasioned many improvements, and more are in contemplation. It is a town of great antiquity, and was of considerable note in the time of the Romans and Saxons. Roman coins and british bricks have been frequently found, from which it is conjectured that a tower was built here by the Romans in the reign of Theodosius the younger, to protect them against the Saxons. Eadbald, King of Kent, A. D. 616, built and endowed a monastery at Folkestone for noble virgins under the rule of St. Benedict, and his daughter Ean-

swid or Eanswith became a veiled nun in this house. She is one of the saints of the Romish calendar. This abbey was of such repute during part of the Saxon heptarchy that it became a seminary for the daughters of princes and noblemen. From its proximity to the shore, the sea was continually making great encroachments, and the same cause affording facilities for the depredations of the Danes, the nuns abandoned the place, which soon went into decay. After the conquest a Priory was built in another part of the town, and more remote from the sea, for the maintenance of six monks of the Benedictine order. Leland speaks thus of the ruins of the nunnery in his time: "Hard upon the shore yn a place cawled the Castel yard be greate ruines of a solemne old nunnery, yn the walles whereof yn divers places apere great and long Briton brickets; and on the right hand of the quier a grave trunck of squared stone. The castel yard hath been a place of great burial; yn so much so as wher the se hath woren on the banke, bones apere half stykyng out." The castle alluded to was possibly the remains of a castle built by king Eadbald, which, going into decay, a fort was built upon the same foundation, and from the old materials by William de Abranceis in 1068—the ruins of which Seymour says were visible in his time (1776.) It is conjectured that the continued incroachments of the sea have entirely washed away all vestiges of these ancient buildings, except the castle, a few fragments of which are still visible. It is curious to contrast the present bustling appearance of the town with the description of it in the last century. De Foe says (1724) "From Dover along the sea coast, I passed by a miserable fishing town, called *Folkston*, miserable in its appearance, yet I was told there are above three hundred sail of fishing boats belonging to it." Seymour describes the town as being wealthy and populous, and to prove the business carried on, says "Bailey goes to and from Canterbury with a <sup>4</sup>ne on Saturday during the summer, in winter out on Friday and returns on Saturday. He ekly with the same machine to Dover and

Deal; the post days are Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. One hoy goes to London and returns from thence every three weeks." In the course of the last century the stone coffin wherein the body of St. Eanswith had been deposited was found, with several medals in it and an hour glass. The body is said to have been in tolerable preservation, and several locks of her hair were preserved as sacred relics. Among other monuments in the church is one to Dr. Harvey, who is called "the father of Physicians" for having discovered the circulation of the blood. He was a native of this town. Prior to the Railroad being introduced, the greatest improvement to the town was commenced in 1805, in the construction of a safe and spacious harbour with piers that extend some distance into the sea, enclosing a space of about nineteen acres, which will contain in perfect security, 100 vessels of 200 to 300 tons burden. From the signal post, about a mile and a half from the town, on a clear day, the harbour of Boulogne is distinctly visible. Upon the opening of the Railway in 1843, Steam Packets to Boulogne were established. After quitting the Folkestone station you proceed through the Warren cutting, which is of great depth, to the Martello tunnel. This is 150 feet below the surface and 616 feet in length. At  $38\frac{3}{4}$  miles is the Abbot's Cliff tunnel, which is 400 feet deep from the top of the cliff and 1895 yards in length. This leads to the sea wall which is 1511 yards long, from 58 feet to 70 feet high, and at its base is from 25 feet to 30 feet thick. On the top of this wall, between the parapet and the cliff is the Shakspeare tunnel, which is 1331 yards long, on leaving which the line goes through an embankment and over a timber viaduct to a tunnel, 70 yards long under Archcliff Fort, from which it proceeds on a level to

#### THE DOVER STATION,

Which is in the vicinity of the harbour, 87 miles from London,  $15\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Canterbury,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Deal,  $22\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Ramsgate,  $24\frac{1}{4}$  miles from Margate, 25 miles from Calais, and 30 miles from Boulogne.



The works executed at this place from their nature and magnitude, would appear almost impossible to have been accomplished—and indeed to a mind less energetic than Mr. Cubitt's they must have been reckoned insurmountable. That gentleman, however, by overcoming the numerous difficulties he had to contend against, has raised a monument to his fame as an Engineer, that will be imperishable. The facts connected with those proceedings have been so fully detailed in the newspapers and periodicals that it seems almost unnecessary to call attention more particularly to the subject. We will, however, briefly state the nature of the difficulties. To form the sea wall and adjacent works it became requisite to remove the cliff known as the Round Down, as well as other portions of the cliffs. This was done by mining. Nearly one hundred barrels of gunpowder were used in the different charges, and it has been calculated that upwards of two millions of tons of chalk were removed. The quantity removed at the Round Down alone covered a space of 15 acres, at an average depth of 50 feet.

To enter upon a full description of Dover would occupy more space than the limits of this work will permit, besides it would be manifestly unjust to the local "Guides," to which we must refer travellers for whatever information they may require.

Having conveyed the traveller to Dover, we now return to the starting point at the TUNBRIDGE STATION to proceed with him to the Metropolis.

On leaving the station the line passes under a viaduct built across the Tunbridge Wells road. Near the  $37\frac{1}{2}$  milestone Hall Place, the seat of W. Smith, Esq., and the village of Leigh<sup>a</sup> are seen on the right. You then proceed through the Medway valley embankment which, with three viaducts, crosses the river. To the right of the  $39\frac{1}{2}$  milestone are the picturesque little church and woods of Bidborough.<sup>b</sup> You soon afterwards enter upon the Leigh excavation, the cuttings of which are so deep as to exclude

<sup>a</sup> p. 201. <sup>b</sup> p. 237. <sup>c</sup> p. 182.

all view of the several interesting objects in the immediate neighbourhood, amongst which are Penshurst Place<sup>c</sup> and Redleaf<sup>d</sup> on the left, South Park<sup>e</sup> on the right. Soon after emerging from the White Posts tunnel, which is 64 yards long, you arrive at

THE PENSHURST STATION.

This is an intermediate one, 36 miles from London and 50 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Dover. The Chiddingstone embankment commences about half a mile from the Penshurst station, and you proceed to the Bowbeach embankment, on the left of which is Chiddingstone Park.<sup>f</sup> The handsome tower of the parish church is also seen to advantage. About a mile and a quarter to the left of the 33 $\frac{1}{2}$  milestone is Hever Castle.<sup>g</sup> The next station you arrive at is the

EDENBRIDGE STATION,

Which is a principal one, 31 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles from London, and 55 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Dover. It is situated at Marlpit Hill, about a mile from the village,<sup>h</sup> and 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Westerham. This is at present considered the most convenient station from which to proceed to Sevenoaks<sup>i</sup> and Knole Park.<sup>k</sup> About 5 miles from this station you arrive at the

GODSTONE STATION,

Which is a principal one, and in the County of Surrey; which County you enter shortly after leaving Edenbridge. It is 26 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles from London, 60 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Dover, and 2 miles from the town. There are several genteel residences in this neighbourhood, among which to the left, between two and three miles distant are Flower House, the Hon. G. F. Nevill—Rooksnest, C. Turner, Esq.—and Marden Park, the residence of Mrs. Richards. Soon after passing the 26th milestone, you enter the Bletchingley tunnel which is 1324 yards long. Bletchingley is a short distance from the 24th milestone. It was once a market town of considerable importance, and returned two Members to Parliament from the 23rd Edward 1st. till the passing of the Reform Bill. In 1835

*d* p. 200. *e* p. 202. *f* p. 203. *g* p. 204. *h* p. 209. *i* p. 281.  
*k* p. 287.

nearly the whole town was disposed of by public auction, and, including the manor, was purchased for about £11,000 by John Perkins, Esq. of Pondhill. Near the town was formerly a Roman road, and traces of Roman buildings have been frequently discovered. From this to Reigate the line proceeds through a beautiful country—that on the left being bounded by the Nutfield and Bletchingley hills. Rather more than a mile to the right of the 23½ mile-stone is the village of Nutfield or Northfield, which is remarkable for the quantity of fuller's earth found there. Two miles and a half further you arrive at

#### THE REIGATE STATION.

This is a principal station, at which the junction of the South Eastern and Brighton Railway takes place. It is 21 miles from London, 65½ miles from Dover, and 1½ mile from the town. The name of this town was anciently spelt Ryegate. The market house is said to have been originally a chapel, dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket. "It had also formerly a castle called Holm, or Holme castle, built in the time of the Saxons, some ruins of which are still to be seen; particularly a long vault, with a room at the end, large enough to hold 500 persons, where (according to tradition) the barons, who took up arms against king John, held their private meetings." The town is pleasantly situated and the neighbourhood abounds with medicinal plants. Shortly after leaving this station on the left is Upper Gatton House, at present unoccupied. To the left of the Merstham embankment is Gatton Park, the seat of the Countess of Wick. The approach to this house from the hill leading to Reigate cannot be surmount in the kingdom. The road meanders through a forest of firs, for nearly a mile, relieved with occasional openings that present some charming vistas of country so luxuriantly spread beneath it. In front of the mansion is a splendid lake covering 40 acres, in which are two picturesque islands—the islands being well stocked with swans, and a variety of other water fowls. Gatton, although now an in-

significant village, was once a place of some consequence in the County, and sent two Members to Parliament from the reign of Henry 6th till it was disfranchised by the Reform Bill. The next station you arrive at is

THE MERSTHAM STATION,

Which is an intermediate one,  $19\frac{1}{2}$  miles from London, 31 miles from Brighton, and  $67\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Dover. Near this station is Merstham House, the seat of Sir W. G. H. Jolliffe, Bart. About a mile from the station you enter the Merstham tunnel, which is a mile and 220 yards long—The approach to it is through a cutting of considerable depth, in many places upwards of 100 feet. The tunnel is white-washed and has some gas lights in it. After emerging from this you arrive in about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles at

THE STOAT'S NEST STATION,

An intermediate one,  $14\frac{1}{2}$  miles from London, 36 miles from Brighton, and  $72\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Dover. This station is a short distance from the Brighton road, and barely a mile from the Red Lion—a house which few, if any, of the members of the crack Surrey Hunt will need any description of. The Epsom race course is about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the left of this station, through Woodmanstern and across the Banstead Downs. De Foe in speaking of Epsom says, "Epsom is a charming town, which from the Church to the Lord Guilford's Palace may make a good mile and a half in a Semicircle. All the Houses have gardens and trees before the doors; so that it seems a continued Grove. Box Hill, is a charming place, about six miles off, where there is no house, but Arbors cut out in Box wood on the top of the hill. This place was first planted with Box wood by that famous antiquary, Thomas, Earl of Arundel, who designed to have built a house there, but want of water made him alter his resolution. The hunting of a Pig there every Monday morning, when the only knack consists in catching and holding him by the tail, is infinitely more becoming the boys that perform it, than the Spectators that employ them." Epsom in its



present state is too well known to require a description of it here. The South Eastern line begins a few rods before you arrive at this station. One mile and a quarter brings you to

#### THE GODSTONE, OR COMBE LANE STATION,

Which is  $13\frac{1}{4}$  miles from London,  $37\frac{1}{4}$  miles from Brighton, and  $73\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Dover. To the right and left of this station are several distinguished mansions. On the right, distant  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, is The Oaks. The house is now unoccupied, but it is well known in the sporting world, as having been for a long period the residence of the late Earl of Derby, whose hospitality to the supporters of the turf was such, that in the sporting season it was rarely that one of the fifty sleeping apartments which the mansion contains was unoccupied. The Oak Stakes, was first made here in 1777, and the following year the Derby stakes originated in a similar manner. The park, which is laid out with great taste, is upwards of two miles in circumference. Purley House, a mile and a quarter to the left, now the property of E. B. Kemble, Esq., was once the residence of Bradshaw, the regicide, who presided at the mock trial of Charles 1st. In more modern times John Horne Tooke, equally celebrated in his way, lived here, and at this mansion wrote his remarkable work, which was named after the house, "The diversions of Purley." Sanderstead Court, the seat of Colonel Houston, is situated a mile to the right of the Sanderstead road at the 12th milestone. A mile and a half to the left of the Selsden road, which the Railway crosses, is the elegant mansion of G. R. Smith, Esq. To the right of Combe Lane, is Combe House, the residence of John Currie, Esq., and a mile and a half distant in the same direction is Addington Palace, the princely mansion of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

#### THE CROYDON STATION

Is a principal one,  $10\frac{1}{4}$  miles from London,  $40\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Brighton, and  $76\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Dover. Croydon is a handsome town and a place of great antiquity.

The manor belonged to the See of Canterbury previous to the Norman Conquest, and about the year 1276, Archbishop Kilwardy built a palace here. To the right of the station is Shirley House, the residence of M. T. Smith, Esq., and the East India Military College at Addiscombe. At the entrance of the town is a mansion belonging to Lord Ashburton. Beddington Park, the seat of Captain Carew, is a mile and a half to the left. At the end of the town is Hailing Park, the property and residence of R. Fenwick, Esq.

#### THE LOWER CROYDON STATION

Is a principal one,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  miles from London,  $41\frac{1}{4}$  miles from Brighton, and  $77\frac{1}{3}$  miles from Dover. At this station the Brighton line commences. From this to New Cross, which is three miles from the metropolis, are the following intermediate stations—The Jolly Sailor,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles; Annerley,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles; Penge Common, 7 miles; Sydenham,  $6\frac{1}{4}$  miles; and Dartmouth Arms,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

The whole of the country from Croydon, both right and left of the line, bears marks of the highest cultivation, and presents the most charming prospects. In nearly every direction it is so richly studded with villages, mansions, and pleasant villas, that it would require a volume of no ordinary bulk to describe them, we must, therefore, decline the attempt, and respectfully bid the traveller farewell.

THE END.

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**STAMPS.**

## ADDENDA.

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**THE RAILWAY.**—The branch line of the London and Dover Railway from Tunbridge to Tunbridge Wells, was opened to the public on the 19th of September, 1845. It is intended to carry on the line from the Wells to Hastings; and also to form a junction with a projected line from this place to Brighton. The length of the branch from Tunbridge to the station is five miles, which is approached by a tunnel about 800 yards long, passing under Basinghall, the highroad, and Dr. Thomson's pleasure grounds to the terminus at the foot of Mount Pleasant hill, formerly the site occupied by Bell's brewery; from thence the branch to Hastings passes under the turnpike road and Edger terrace, through a short cutting, to the tunnel under the Grove, which is 858 feet long, coming out by the southern side of Belle Vue house, lately the residence of A. Akers, Esq.

The works to the station are heavy, there being half a million yards of earth-work or cuttings, chiefly in rock. There is also a tunnel, called Vauxhall, of a quarter of a mile, near Somerhill Park, and a brick viaduct 270 yards long and 40 feet high. The line was commenced in July, 1844, as a single line, exactly twelve months before the Act was obtained; and in April, 1845, it was determined to make it a double line. The cost of the branch line to the station, including land, was £180,000. The line passes near Somerhill Park, the property of James Alexander, Esq. and near Colebrook Park, the residence of Benjamin Smith, Esq. The cuttings intersect the headings of the

ancient iron works of this county, and a most remarkable feature connected with this line is the fact that it was opened within a few weeks after the obtainment of the Act.

Branch lines from Tunbridge to Maidstone, and from Ashford to Canterbury, are now opened, and the company have it in contemplation to make a more direct line from London to Dover by way of Sevenoaks, Mereworth, &c. This project will considerably shorten the distance between this place and London.

**BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS.**—Many additional residences of every description have sprung up in various parts of the place, more especially in the immediate neighbourhood of the railway and the High-street.

**CAMDEN PARK.**—This is some building land recently laid out by the Marquis Camden, in plots of one acre each, for the erection of a number of first class residences, designed by D. Burton, Esq. architect. The land is approached from Grove Hill Road, near Calverley Park, and is admirably chosen for the purpose, having the advantage of a private park, and yet within an easy walk of the mineral springs and the business part of the town. There are already some excellent residences in the immediate neighbourhood; among the most recently built is Oak Field Court, a beautiful stone-faced mansion, belonging to Demetrius Grevis James, Esq.; near which is Chesterfield House, the property and residence of Captain Bailey, and Clifton Villa, the property of Mr. Chas. Cripps.

There are also several other very eligible sites of freehold land laid out for building on either side of the Pembury road; by the Clarence road, and the London road, near the site of the turnpike. This gate, so long a subject of complaint with visitors and the inhabitants, was removed to the foot of the

Bidborough hill, the other side of Southborough in February last. The removal of it has opened one of the prettiest drives in the neighbourhood, free of toll.

**THE THEATRE.**—This place of amusement has been converted, by a company of speculators, into a very handsome and spacious Corn Exchange, in which the farmers and traders assemble every Friday for the purposes of buying and selling grain, &c. The room on other days may be had for public meetings, balls, sales, &c.

**THE MINERAL SPRINGS.**—Improvements have also been made at these springs by the addition of a new portico, or piazza, a cloak room, &c., and the following rules and regulations :—

1. **ATTENDANCE.**—During summer, from the 1st of April to the 1st of November, one Dipper to be in daily attendance from seven o'clock, a.m., to six o'clock, p.m.; and two Dippers from seven to nine a.m. and from eleven to one p.m. During winter, from the 1st of November to the 1st of April, one Dipper to be in daily attendance from eight a.m. to five p.m.
2. **CLEANLINESS.**—Strict cleanliness to be observed with respect to the waiting room, drinking glasses, basins, and other apparatus. The basins to be well cleansed every morning half an hour before the time fixed for attendance; and the private basin to be protected at night by a suitable cover.
3. **REGISTRATION.**—The Dippers shall keep in a book a correct register of the number of persons drinking the water, and of the period for which they subscribe. This book to be the property of the stewards.
4. **SCALES OF CHARGES.**—One week, 3s.; two weeks, 5s.; one month, 7s. 6d.; two months, 10s.; three months, 12s. 6d.; six months, £1; and twelve months, £1 10s. A double subscription shall entitle any number, members of the same family, to drink the waters. Subscriptions to be paid in advance. No demand to be made for tasting the water.
5. **WARMING THE WATER.**—The requisite apparatus to be provided free of additional charge, for warming a glass of the water, viz. a clean glass flask, a narrow stemmed thermometer, and a vessel of hot water.

#### POST OFFICE.

Robert Nash, postmaster, Parade. Money orders are granted and paid at this office. The London night mail is dispatched at eleven o'clock: letters

are received at the office until a quarter past eight o'clock ; after that time the fee for late letters is 1d. each until nine o'clock, and 2d. from nine to eleven. Letters are delivered at seven during the summer, and eight during the winter months. The London mail is dispatched every morning at quarter-past ten o'clock, with bags for Ashford, Cranbrook, Dover, Folkstone, Staplehurst, and Tunbridge ; the letters received by the day mail are delivered about two p.m.

The eastern mail, with letters for Ashford, Battle, Lewes, Brighton, Dover, Folkstone, Hastings, Hurst-green, St. Leonards-on-sea, Staplehurst, &c., are despatched by mail cart at a quarter to nine, p.m. Letters must be posted before a quarter-past eight, p.m. On Sundays the office is closed from ten, a.m. till five, p.m.

Letters for Bromley, Croydon, Deptford, East Grinstead, Reigate, and Tunbridge, are dispatched at the same time as the London bag.

*Branch Offices.*—Calverley Place, and Mount Ephraim, opposite the George Inn, where letters may be posted until 8 o'clock, p.m.



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HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN DOWAGER,  
H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF KENT, &c.

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*(Near the Centre of the Parade,)*

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BY APPOINTMENT,

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[When Princess Victoria.]

**London House, Chapel Yard, Tunbridge Wells**

*Millinery Show Rooms and Baby Linen.*

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Funerals conducted to all parts of the Kingdom on reasonable terms.

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An extensive stock of French and English Boots, Shoes, and Coloshes, constantly on sale.

All orders will meet with prompt attention, and be executed on the shortest notice, of the best materials and workmanship.

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**Iron Railings, Fencings, and Ornamental Wire Work.**

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**Malleable Sheet Zinc for Roofing Houses and  
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[See over.]



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[A CARD.]

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*Fine flavored Tea, as imported.*  
**FRESH ROASTED COFFEE, &C.**

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**W. LOOF,**  
**WATCH & CLOCK MAKER**

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**Duchess of Kent & Princess Victoria,**

**Working Jeweller, Silversmith,**

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Chronometer, Duplex, Lever, Horizontal, Repeating, Geneva, Vertical, and every description of Foreign and English Watches accurately repaired and cleaned.

Musical, Chime, Quarter, and Spring Clocks; also Barometers, Thermometers, and Jewellery of every description repaired and cleaned. Hair work executed. Musical Boxes repaired and cleaned.

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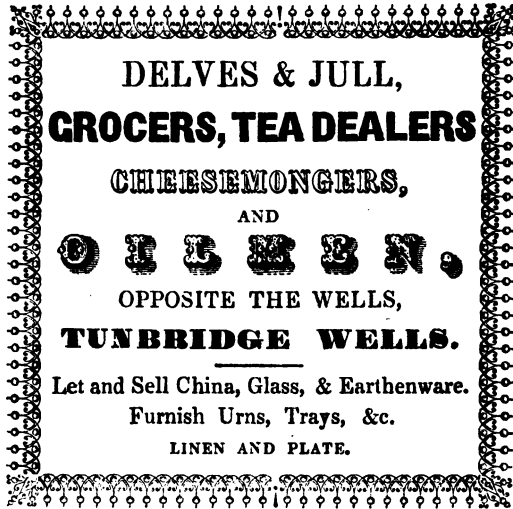
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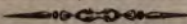
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