

The Tunbridge Wells guide / [John Clifford].

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The TUNBRIDGE WELLS

GUIDE

OR

An account of the ancient & present

STATE OF THAT PLACE.

with a particular description of all the

Towns, Villages, Antiquities, Natural Curiosities,

Ancient & Modern Seats, Founderies &c

within the circumference of sixteen Miles,

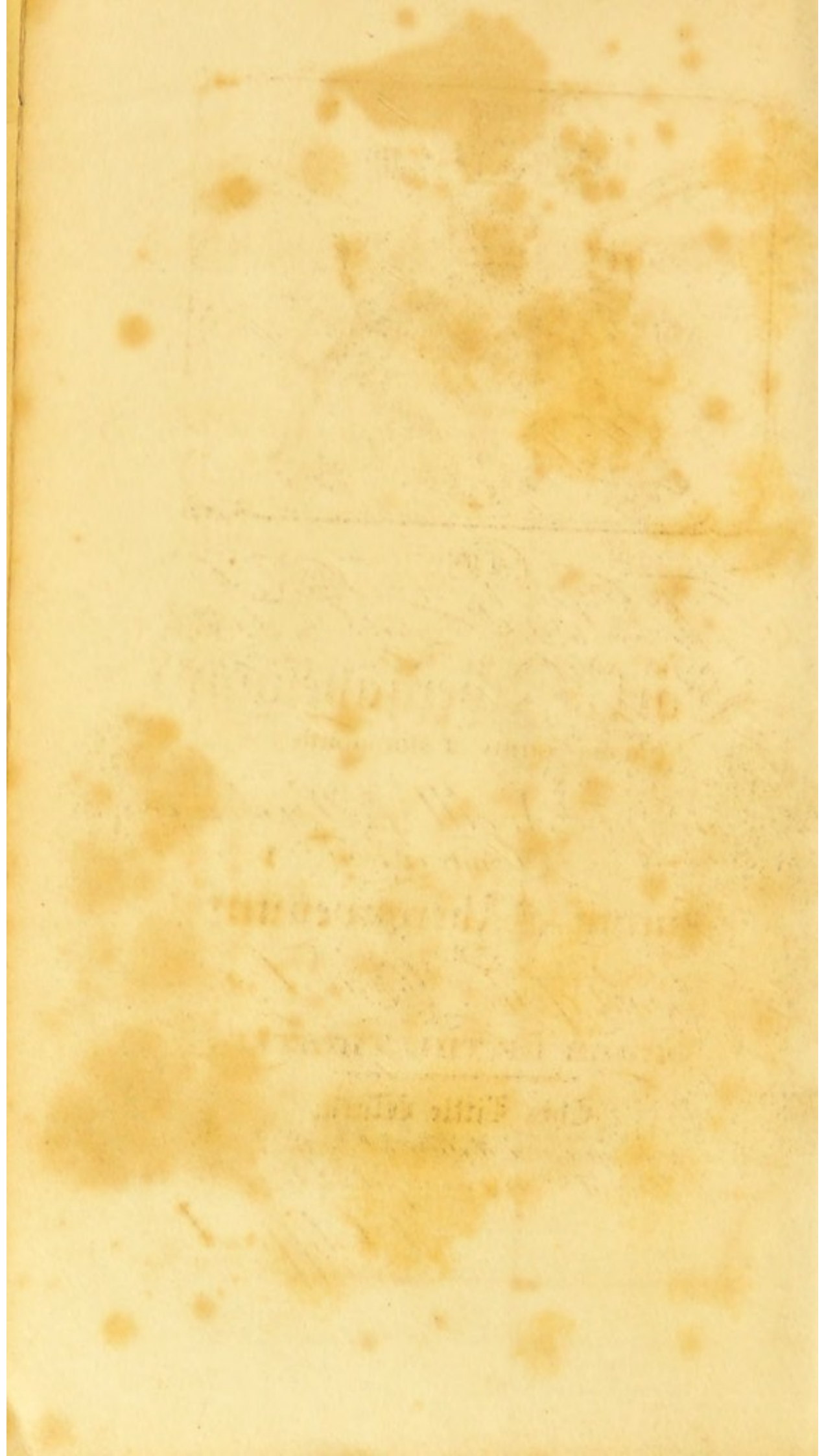
with accurate Views of the principal Objects.



Printed & Published by J. CLIFFORD,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

May also be had at either of the Libraries, on the Parade
Sold also in LONDON by Hamilton, Adams, & Co. Pall-malster Row.

1837.





TO
The Right Hon. Henry
Earl of Abergavenny,
(in the County of Monmouth)
Viscount. Nevill of Birling
(in the County of Kent.)
Baron of Abergavenny,
AND
Knight of the Most Antient
ORDER OF THE THISTLE.

This Little Work,
Is with permission dedicated by His Lordship's
much obliged & very grateful Servt.
J. Clifford.



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ADDRESS
TO THE READER.

Just as the Bee collects her sweets
From every flower and shrub she meets,
So what from various books I drew,
I give— including something new.
Nor is it vainly my design
To publish others' thoughts as mine;
Amplly rewarded for my pains,
If this *new Guide* but entertains.

THIS little work has been compiled from several descriptive accounts of Tunbridge Wells and its Environs, for the purpose of forming an agreeable and interesting Pocket Companion in perambulating the country; yet I obtrude it not on the public with an intention of depreciating the merit of others, who have written on the same

subject, but rather with a view of noticing what may have escaped their researches, or which, perhaps, had not existence at the time of those publications.

This Guide having already passed through *six* editions, evinces its flattering reception; and a *seventh* is now presented to the visitants and residents, with considerable augmentations, which, it is presumed, will be found replete with every useful information necessary to acquaint the reader with some of the many objects, which are most calculated to excite the notice of strangers, as well as to direct them to a proper channel for their several excursions.

As it is desirable, previously to issuing any subsequent edition of the

present work, to correct such errors, or supply such deficiencies as may be found in the following pages, those persons, who may feel any wish or interest in the correctness of the publication, are respectfully solicited to communicate their observations, in writing, which will be thankfully received, and meet with due attention from

Their very obedient

And grateful Servant,

J. CLIFFORD.

Tunbridge Wells,

June, 1837.

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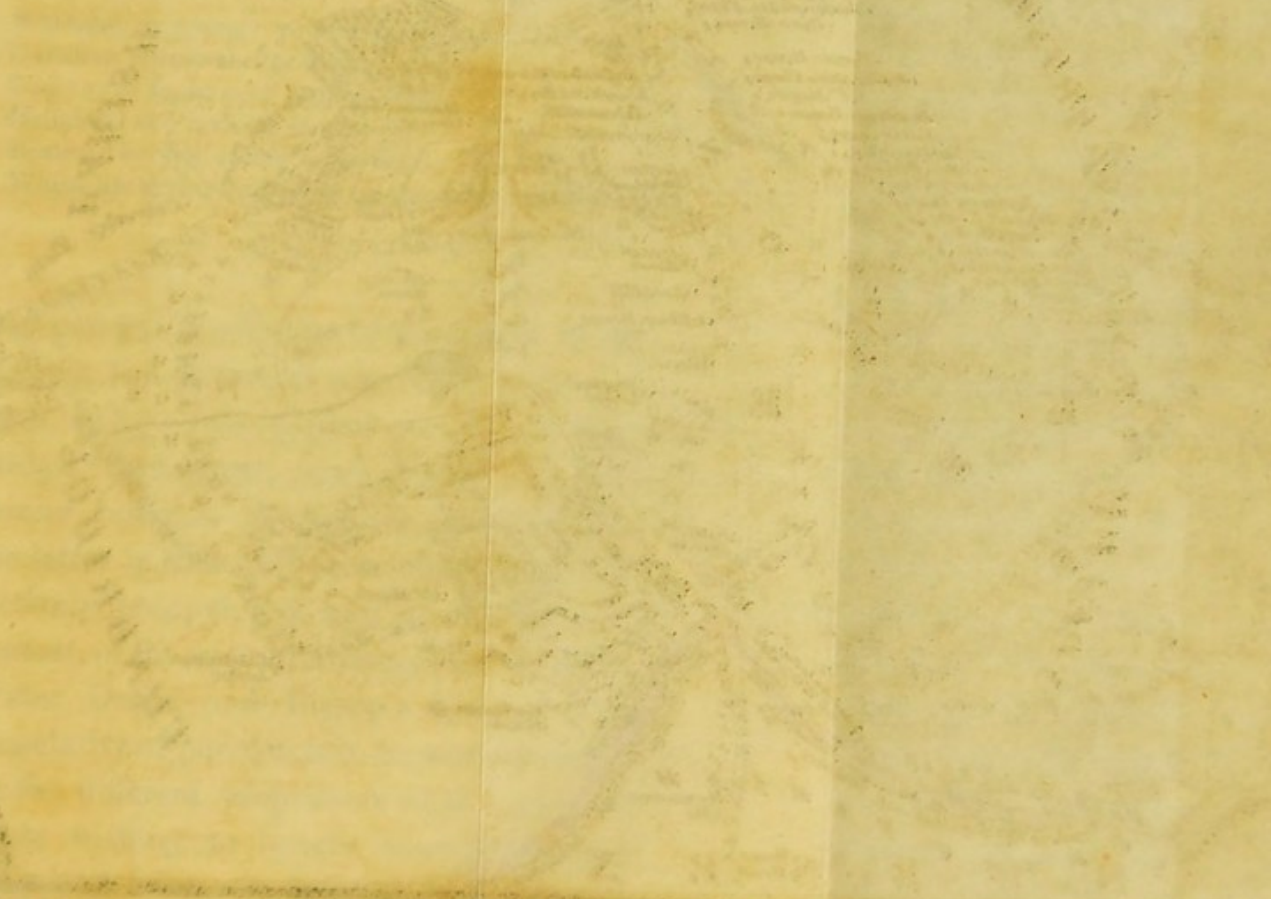
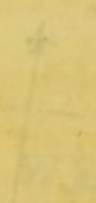
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MEMORANDUM

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10. The tenth part of the report



A PLAN of Tunbridge Wells.

REFERENCE

- 1. Chapel Free School.
- 2. Female National School.
- 3. Infant School.
- 4. Independant Chapel.
- 5. Dispensary.
- 6. Mineral Spring and Baths.
- 7. Nash's Library and Post Office.
- 8. Elliott's Library.
- 9. Market Place.
- 10. Theatre.
- F. Friends' Manufactory.
- U. Ubsdell's D^o.
- S. Sharp's D^o.
- B. Burrows's D^o.



T. Sadolph Del.

Published by J. Clifford, Tunbridge Wells.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

Welcome, ye scenes! ye bowery thickets, hail!
Delicious is your shelter to the soul!
Cool to the frame your healing *Waters* feel!
Delightful and reviving is your *Air*!
Restored by you, elated is the heart;
Whilst life shoots swift thro' all the lightened limbs!

THE general appellation of Tunbridge Wells is given to a large and populous hamlet, or town, lying in the several parishes of Tunbridge, Speldhurst, and Frant, the two former being in the county of Kent, and the latter in that of Sussex: the whole collectively occupying a spot at the point of contact, of the ancient forests of South Frith, Water Down, and Bishop's Down. This singularity of position is to be accounted for, by the different proprietors of the adjacent lands wishing to benefit themselves by a speculation from the influx of visitors to the

neighbouring spring; which, of course, gave the direction to the proper points for its exertion.

Tunbridge Wells is situated at the distance of thirty-six miles from London, and divided into four districts—Mount Ephraim, Mount Pleasant, Mount Sion, and the Wells. The latter division is surrounded on all sides by gently sloping hills, through which flows the small stream that separates the counties of Kent and Sussex; it is the centre of business and pleasure, containing, besides the mineral springs, the baths, public rooms, libraries, walks, and taverns. The buildings, erected apparently without a plan or semblance of regularity, are interspersed with trees, and, aided by the appearance of the surrounding scenery, have a striking effect on a first view; and the aspect of the country, as it presents itself from the various points of elevated ground in the vicinity, affords an endless variety of pleasing objects to the invalid in his pursuit of health, and to the admirer of picturesque scenery in his more extended researches. The easy distance of Tunbridge Wells from the Metropolis, and from the

sea coast, gives it a decided preference in the estimation of many, to all other watering places, of which it is the most ancient in the kingdom, Bath excepted; and must, while it retains this advantage, insure it a considerable portion of public favour and patronage.

The chalybeate water, which has for so long a time formed the principal attraction to Tunbridge Wells, was probably known and esteemed in the neighbourhood long before it excited general attention. About the commencement of the seventeenth century, accident made known the virtues of this medicinal water: and its salubrious effects on a person of distinction, tended speedily to recommend it to general notice.

Dudley Lord North, a young nobleman of lively parts but dissolute manners, belonging to the court of James the First, having in early life much injured his constitution, had retired, for the benefit of a pure air, and the accessory advantages of a retreat from his usual habits of dissipation, to Eridge House, the occasional residence of the Barons of Bergavenny. During this state of seclusion, his attention was excited

in the course of his wanderings through the wild country, by the ochreous aspect of the water in the neighbourhood. Intent on the amendment of his injured constitution, he seems to have been struck with the singularity, and speedily cherished the hope, that it might prove medicinal and applicable to his own particular case. Experiment proved that it was so: and experience demonstrated, that chance had thus cast in his way a treasure of the rarest worth. Having consulted his medical advisers on the subject, and derived encouragement from their opinions, he returned the ensuing summer, and drank perseveringly of the newly-discovered medicine. This effort was attended with the most encouraging success; and being in consequence completely reinstated in his health, he survived to the very advanced age of eighty-five.

Numbers had, probably, before Lord North, experienced similar benefit from these waters; but, as with less notice, so likewise with smaller consequence. His name, and the interest taken in his welfare, rendered the case of extensive notoriety; and the effect has been, that the name of

Dudley Lord North stands prominent, as being, in some measure, the founder of the celebrity of Tunbridge Wells. Not only was his restoration noised abroad at court, but his lordship, in a curious work, dated 1637, entitled, "A Forest promiscuous of several Seasons' production," quaintly remarks:—'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.'

Yet a considerable period elapsed before any advance was made towards its establishment as a place of public resort. It was, for many succeeding years, visited only by the solitary wanderer in pursuit of health; and persons of this description readily submitted to such accommodations, as the adjacent villages and hamlets afforded. These were chiefly procured at Tunbridge, a flourishing town, situated on the river

Medway, at the distance of six miles from the spring; formerly distinguished for its fortified castle, and now principally noted for its venerable ruin. It is from this accidental circumstance that the Wells attained their present name, rather than that of Speldhurst or Frant, to which, from strict locality, they have a preferable claim.

For several years the visitors continued to reside at Tunbridge, until a greater influx of company, some of them persons of distinction, gave a spur to industry and speculation; when buildings were erected, some at Southborough, midway between the Wells and Tunbridge, and others on Rusthall Common, at a shorter distance, in the opposite direction. Still, however, the immediate vicinity of the spring retained its forest and its dreary aspect; and, for a considerable time, the accommodation for visitants on the spot was limited to two very humble cottages—one, very near the spring, being a coffee-house for the ladies; whilst the other, near to where the Royal Victoria and Sussex Hotel now stands, was characteristically denominated the Gentleman's Pipe-house.

In this state the circumstances of the place remained during the turbulencies of the unfortunate reign of Charles the First; and here, as elsewhere, the spirit of party tended to separate persons, who were attracted to the spot by a common object—the republicans holding their assemblies at Rusthall; whilst the partizans of the court took up their residence in the opposite hamlet of Southborough. On the return of more quiet times, speculation took a safer and freer range; the buildings for the accommodation of visitants increased in various directions; still, however, it appears under the influence of party.

Towards the close of the reign of Charles the Second, the present divisions of the place seem to have been established, and a few buildings erected thereon. The names, which they still retain, bespeak the parties who projected and promoted these improvements. Mount Sion was the spot favoured by the Presbyterians and Independents, on which hill they had their separate conventicles; whilst Mount Ephraim was distinguished as the field of speculation with the Baptists, where this sect still retains a

burial ground, on the spot now exclusively denominated Bishop's Down.

These establishments were all anterior to any for the service of the Church of England, and tend materially to show the religious and political principles which chiefly prevailed in the neighbourhood. It was not till towards the close of the seventeenth century, that a place of worship for a congregation of the established church was deemed necessary. This was effected by a subscription, commenced in the year 1676, and closed in the year 1688, which exceeded the sum of £3000. Various landholders in the neighbourhood contributed timber, and the lady Viscountess Purbeck, then the proprietress of Somerhill, gave land, in the parish of Tunbridge, for the purpose of erecting a chapel thereon; which grant (in consequence of some previous irregularity) was, by a deed of trust bearing date Feb. 15, 1703, confirmed by her son John Earl of Buckingham.

About the same period, the walks and assembly rooms were arranged according to their present form. It was somewhat earlier that the grounds had been cleared in

the neighbourhood of the spring, and a turf terrace formed in the direction of the existing parade; a row of trees had at the same time been planted, and mean temporary buildings erected for the accommodation of tradesmen, who attended, during the season, with wares of various descriptions. Such was the state of the place during the residence of the court in the neighbourhood, as recorded in Count Grammont's "Memoirs." About the year 1676, an arrangement took place between the lord of the manor and his freehold tenants, whereby the latter were enabled to erect more substantial buildings, which they accordingly effected; but a fire breaking out a few years after, the houses were speedily consumed: and about the year 1687, the spot was re-occupied by the present buildings.

This accommodating lease, whereby the tenants on the manor were enabled to improve the place, and doubtless to benefit themselves, became, at the period of its expiration, the source of much unpleasant contest betwixt the parties: the landlord claimed the buildings left on his freehold,

but the disappointed tenants, who had expected a renewal of their term, exacted a compensation for the loss of their herbage, whereof they were deprived by the continuance of the buildings. The parties, indeed, were little inclined to accommodate; but having dearly purchased experience, by expending more in litigation than the objects in contention were worth, they at last listened to terms. The Lord was accordingly adjudged to be entitled to two-thirds of the buildings in question, and the tenants were remunerated for their disappointment, and loss of herbage, by the other third. But the wisdom of the arbitrators did not stop here: it was determined that all future disputes should be quelled for ever; and accordingly, by the general consent of the parties, an act of parliament was procured, which tended to set all questions of this description completely at rest. In this act, which received the royal assent April 29, 1740, there is a restricting clause, whereby it is declared "illegal to erect any buildings on the *Common*, or, in short, to build on any spot whereon a building had not pre-

viously existed :”—to this stipulation Tunbridge Wells may be said to owe much of its present attraction.

As the place advanced in prosperity, so did the wish for amusement keep pace ; though diversity of opinion still seemed to prevail as to the place and mode of entertainment. The republicans transferred their ball room and tavern from Rusthall to Mount Ephraim ; whilst the adverse party maintained similar places of amusement on Mount Sion and the Walks : and, in unison with the manners of those times, a bowling green, for the purpose as well of bowls as of dancing, was an appendage on each situation. These accommodations on Mount Ephraim, in consequence of the improvements in more convenient situations, have long ceased to exist. The bowling green on Mount Sion, however, continued till a later period, when the house of entertainment was converted into lodging houses, which were, from this circumstance, called the bowling-green houses.

Tunbridge Wells has at various periods been honoured with the presence of members of the Royal Family. That of King

Charles the Second and his court has been already noticed, and will again be brought under review. The queen of his unfortunate predecessor was also a visitor to this spot. But the place was especially indebted for much of its early celebrity to the frequent visits of Queen Anne, previous to her accession to the crown. She gave, as a token of her bounty, a stone basin for the spring; from which circumstance it was afterwards called the Queen's Well. She also contributed a hundred pounds towards the improvements of the Walks; which, being in consequence paved with square bricks or tiles, were thenceforth called the *Pantiles*. This name, however, on the Walks being handsomely repaved with Purbeck stone, in the year 1793, by means of a subscription among the inhabitants, has now been exchanged for that of the *Parade*.

The customs which prevailed in the very early periods of the place, can now with difficulty be ascertained. As with most places in their infancy, the manners of those who frequented it were, doubtless, simple; yet, from this visit of the court, which proved a spur to exertion for the improve-

ment of the place, it would appear, that a certain foundation for social harmony was established, and the pursuit of pleasure was reduced to a regular system, which has ever since prevailed. The Queen, also, having derived much benefit from the waters, and the festivities which had then taken place, having attracted unusual numbers to the spot, the Wells attained a great increase of celebrity, not only from the medicinal qualities of the waters, but as a place of gaiety and amusement.

From this time Tunbridge Wells seems to have afforded attraction to visitors of every description. Persons of the highest rank did not cease to frequent it; but henceforth the mixture was considerable. At present it seems almost exclusively to retain its character for good and select company. Its short distance from the Metropolis, and, compared with modern public places, its limited extent, have encouraged a degree of circumspection and even suspicion on the part of its regular frequenters, which tends to maintain this distinction: whilst, from the same caution, the suspicious, degraded, and abandoned, have

little opportunity of gaining an introduction. Besides, as the more dissipated habits of the Metropolis have increased, the fashionable part of the company, who frequent the Wells, seek rather the pleasures of retirement and the comforts of moderate society, than dissipation. The public amusements are continued on their ancient footing; but are engaged in without compulsion, as occasional recreation: whilst the habits of private society are daily gaining ground, and social intercourse is promoted by the free resource of the public establishments.

The celebrated Nash, commonly called Beau Nash, the first *Arbiter Elegantiarum* of an English public place, once presided over the amusements at Tunbridge Wells, and some of his institutions yet remain in force—his portrait still adorns the assembly rooms. Here in the summer and at Bath in the winter, he attended with punctuality. In the season of his prosperity he would make his entrance to the Wells in his chariot drawn by six handsome greys, preceded by two outriders with French horns. He died at Bath, in 1761, aged 88 years.

After this singular character, the following gentlemen have officiated, in succession, as Master of the Ceremonies :—Messrs. Collet, Derrick, Blake, Tyson, Fotheringham, Amsinck, Tyson, (2nd time), Roberts, Capt. Merryweather, and Mr. Madden—the latter gentleman resigned the office, Sept. 15th, 1836, after having held it for eleven years.

Little more than half a century ago, the season was limited to the short period between Midsummer and Michaelmas. After that time the tradespeople themselves migrated, the taverns were closed, the chapel service was discontinued ; and the place remained a desert till the following spring. Now the case is very different. Many houses, formerly let as lodgings, are permanently tenanted ; persons of fortune have been induced to purchase portions of land and build elegant villas ; the inhabitants have amended the condition of their houses or erected new ones, and winter residents have remunerated their speculation. Extensive improvements also have been made, and others are still making, to add to the comfort of those who may take up their abode here—a most important one is that

of procuring an Act of Parliament for the better “lighting, watching, cleansing, regulating, and otherwise improving the town of Tunbridge Wells,” which received the royal assent, July 21st, 1835. Thus, from a migrating colony, this place has obtained a considerable degree of wealth, consequence, and respectability: indeed, it may be truly said—

Here health and social pleasure reign,
And polish'd ease with freedom dwells;
Nor can another fount e'er gain
A greater fame than *Tunbridge Wells*.

CHALYBEATE SPRINGS AND BATHS.

Chalybeate springs are common in this place and neighbourhood; but, as the properties of all are nearly the same, one only is held in particular estimation, which, yielding about a gallon in a minute, affords an abundant supply to the numerous invalids who yearly resort hither. This spring remained in its original condition, surrounded merely by a rude wooden paling, until the year 1664, when it was enclosed

by a triangular stone wall, at the expense of Lord Muskerry,* then lord of the manor, who also built a convenient hall to shelter the dippers from the weather, during their attendance upon the company:—in this state it continued until the erection of the present building called the Baths.

About the year 1789, the old stone basin was found to be in a very decayed state, from the corroding of the mineral, at the aperture through which the water arose. On this occasion, the lady of the manor determined to replace it, by a handsome marble basin, on the supposition that marble would longer resist the corrosive effects of the chalybeate than stone: this, however, has proved otherwise, as it was obliged to be replaced by a new basin, in the year 1822, when Portland stone was selected as being preferable to any other.

* His lordship's arms were placed over the arch of the entrance leading to the spring; but on the decision of the unpleasant contest already noticed between the then lord of the manor and the freehold tenants, these arms were pulled down by the latter as a mark of triumph, and placed at the back of the assembly rooms, (where they are still to be seen), which, with the whole range of shops leading from thence to the passage next to Mr. Nash's library, became their property from that period.

Notwithstanding the spring which is now used, has, for so long a time, obtained an exclusive preference, it is said not to have been that which originally engaged the notice of the public. This is in a spot not far from the Parade, called the FOLLY, so named from an unsuccessful attempt made about the middle of the last century, by Mr. Todd, then the proprietor of the Sussex Tavern, to bring it into notice. This spring yields a water apparently of equal power to that now in use; but, from issuing more superficially from the earth, is supposed to be more liable to be affected by changes in the atmosphere, and by heavy rains. Still this place, which presents to many persons the recommendation of retirement and agreeable country scenery, was, after remaining many years a complete wilderness, a second time re-embellished with great spirit, so as to make it a pleasing rendezvous—to which was added an excellent bowling-green for the amusement of the inhabitants: but the scheme did not long answer the expectations of the projector, who no doubt lost considerable by the speculation; and the spot, consequently, still retains the name of “the FOLLY.”

The circumstance which brought to light the hidden quality of the waters having been already related, it remains only to investigate their chemical properties and effects, whereby the invalid may be enabled to conjecture, in some degree, how far he may be likely to derive benefit from a regular course of them. The whole contents of a wine gallon, according to Doctor Babington's analysis, are the following :—

	Grains.		Cubic inches.	
Of Oxide of Iron ..	1	} Of Carbonic Acid Gas	10·6	
Common Salt ..	0·5		Azotic Gas	4
Muriated Magnesia	2·25		Common Air	1·4
Selenite	1·25			<hr/>
	5			16

Total, 5 grains for the solid contents, and 16 cubic inches for the gaseous.

The water itself, at the spring, is extremely clear and bright, without any sort of colour: its taste is pleasingly steely; it has hardly any perceptible smell, though sometimes in a dense air, its ferruginous exhalations are very distinguishable; and, in point of heat, it is invariably temperate in every change of the atmosphere; for this is one of those springs, which lie so deep in

the bowels of the earth, that it can neither be affected by the scorching sun-beams of the summer, nor the severest frosts of the winter. The water, though covered with a sandy soil, is never affected by rains, but preserves very constantly the temperature of 50 at all seasons. 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.

From the experiments of physicians it appears, that the component parts of this water are—steely particles, marine salts, an oily matter, an ochreous substance, a volatile spirit, too subtle for analysis, and a simple fluid. It is excellently adapted to warm and invigorate the relaxed constitution; to restore the weakened fibres to their due tone and elasticity; to remove obstructions in the minuter vessels, and thereby to promote digestion, and an even flow of the spirits. In a languid state of the circu-

lation, and in nervous complaints in general, it seems to possess sovereign efficacy: in short, in most of those symptoms known by the appellation of hysteric and hypochondriac, these waters are particularly recommended. Thus they possess a high and deserved reputation in cachetic constitutions; in gouty affections and dyspepsia; in venous hæmorrhages, fluor albus, diabetes, and in scrophulous and rickety cases; in cases of dysury and gravel; in several diseases of the urinary organs; and in cutaneous affections: but it is in the cure of a variety of complaints incidental to the female sex, that they are eminently serviceable.

It is scarcely necessary to remark, that this water should be drunk on the spot, as it loses much of its activity on exposure, even for a short time: though some think, that by the addition of oleum sulphuris, and vitriol, it may be carried to, and drunk at a distance with equal advantage.

Influenced by fashion, or the counsel of friends, numbers quit the most distant parts of the kingdom in the full confidence of repairing a debilitated frame or improving

a weak constitution, at these springs: ignorant of the cause or nature of their disease, and regardless of symptoms, they commence a course in imprudence, and it is not surprising that they should often end it in disappointment. Many, no doubt, are defeated in their expectation by their own impatience, discontinuing the use of the waters on the occurrence of some outward symptom; or from not feeling immediate relief, concluding that they disagree with them; not reflecting how unreasonable it is to expect that the effects of a chronic disease, which have been years accumulating, should be removed or alleviated in a few days or weeks, by any natural means whatever.

The sensible effects of this water are the following:—soon after a person has taken a glass of it, he feels a pleasant sensation about the stomach, with a degree of warmth over the whole body; his pulse is raised in strength; his spirits are exhilarated, and he feels more alive to active pursuits, whether of business or pleasure: it creates a sharp appetite; acts powerfully as a diu-

retic; and when the weather is warm, and the body well clothed, or when much regular exercise is taken, it increases perspiration.

At the commencement of a course, it is not uncommon immediately after taking a glass, for the patient to experience giddiness, head-ach, and drowsiness; or sometimes nausea, vomiting, and pain about the stomach; but these effects are transient, and gradually diminish on the further use of the waters.

Dr. (now Sir Charles) Scudamore, who formerly attended the place, published "An Analysis of the Mineral Water of Tunbridge Wells," a perusal of which would prove highly gratifying to those who may wish to obtain an interesting detail of many curious experiments, as well as to be more fully acquainted with its medicinal properties. This gentleman observes, that "on all occasions, on entering on the use of this water, some aperient medicine should be premised. If more than such simple treatment be necessary, it constitutes a case in which further medical consideration would be useful. The patient, being favourably prepared, should take the first

dose of the water at seven or eight o'clock in the morning; the second at noon; and the third about three in the afternoon. However small the total quantity may be which is first employed, I am induced to recommend this frequency of repetition, upon the same principles that we employ any diffusible stimulant in successive portions, where it is our object to render its effects permanent. The exact quantity to be taken daily, must of course be varied, according to the several circumstances of the age and constitution of the patient, and the nature of the disease; but above all, according to the effects which it is found to produce on the individual. The directions of the women in attendance (who are named the *Dippers*) can only be of a general, and obviously not of a medical nature; but certainly as far as relates to the *quantity*, they are always on the side of security, supposing that the case is not unfit for the employment of the water.

“ It is very correct that every one should begin, and continue with a small quantity, for three or four days; after which, if it perfectly agree, the total daily amount

should, I apprehend, be larger than is most commonly employed.

“As a general statement, I would say that half a pint daily, is the extreme smallest quantity, and that two pints daily is the extreme largest amount, to found a just expectation of benefit; and further, in the way of general outline of direction, I conceive, that half a pint, a pint, a pint and a half, and two pints, should form the progressive ratio of the total daily quantity to be taken at the three intervals. As the patient arrives at the larger proportions, they may with advantage be subdivided, with the interval of a quarter, or half an hour, which should be occupied in exercise.

“Those who consult their health in the best manner, should take exercise in the open air of the common, rather than in the sheltered parade, when the weather is favourable. I need not expatiate on the kind and degree of exercise, which must be entirely relative to the convenience and strength of the invalid.

“An attentive regard to diet is strictly necessary. Tea at breakfast should be avoided, on account of the combination

which its astringent principle forms with the iron in the water; and for the same reason, in a degree, the use of coffee also is not very correct. In the evening, however, either of these refreshments may be taken without disadvantage, as the water will long since have quitted the stomach. Bread and milk, or cocoa, or chocolate, may be taken at breakfast with propriety. The hour of dining should not be later than four or five:* and with this arrangement, very slight refreshment can only be required in the middle of the day.

“Some persons, I know, when in perfect health, have made trial of the water; and not finding from it any notable effect, have most unjustly undervalued its power, which ought not to be expected to act in any very marked manner, unless on the invalid. An exception, however, presents itself to this observation, as I can assert from experience, that all persons in full health cannot make free use of the water with equal impunity. A plethoric habit, with vessels

* I would advise that not less than an hour should always elapse between the taking of the water, and a meal.

easily excited to strong action, might find it to be a very injurious stimulant.

“ The employment of the water for young children, is a much more questionable consideration than for adults. From the observations which I have attentively made, I am induced to draw a *general* conclusion, that under six years of age especially, it is not a favourable remedy. The diseases of very young children are, for the most part, of a nature to require a distinct attention to the bowels; to the progress of dentition; and a sensible arrangement of diet, exercise, and sleep, with cold or tepid ablution, or bathing; and do not, so far as I have seen, come within the usual influence of a chalybeate water.

“ In respect to the necessary duration of a course of the water, it may in general terms be observed, that a shorter period than three weeks scarcely justifies the expectation of any material advantage; and that a longer one than two months, or at the utmost three, is not required, to produce all the good effects of which it is capable; so that its employment has been fairly and judiciously managed.”

Doctor S. thus continues. “ But the most favourable period of the year for the visit of the invalid to this fountain of health, is from May to November; both because this season affords the best opportunity of enjoying the very material adjuncts of regular exercise, of early rising, and of the full influence of the air: and because it gives the important advantage of drinking the water, in its highest state of impregnation.”

The spring is “ *always open and free for the use and benefit of the public*”—it is so defined and ascertained by Act of Parliament—whereby also provisions are made for its security; but there has ever been a regular attendance on the visitors to this spot, by those persons called the *Dippers*, who are usually selected from the wives or relatives of the inferior tenants of the manor, and are nominated to their situation by the lord. They are at all times unremitting in their attention, but wholly depend on what is given them by those who drink the water. The long-established custom, first recommended to the company by the Master of the Ceremonies, is, for each person, on commencing a course of the water, to give

2s. 6d. (called the dippers' "welcome penny"), and 10s. 6d. on leaving off, provided it does not exceed three weeks or a month ; and for a longer course in proportion.

In drinking of this chalybeate, however, it would be unpardonable to omit the following precept "to gentle sippers."

"Don't hold it trembling to your lip,
Nor from the goblet *timid sip*,
But *off at once* the bev'rage quaff,
(Lest friends or strangers round you laugh):
Depend upon't 'twill do you good,
'Twill clear and purify your blood ;
Make you quite *active, blithe, and gay*,
And chase *dull care and pain away*."

Baths had frequently been required at Tunbridge Wells. There was, indeed, an excellent cold bath near Rusthall Common, which had formerly been an appendage to a place of public entertainment : but this was at too great a distance for invalids ; difficult of access ; and the building was in a very dilapidated and uncomfortable condition. There were no warm baths. It was suggested that some benefit might be derived from baths composed of the mineral water ; upon which Mrs. Shorey, then lady of the manor, with a liberality and zeal for the

public good, erected the present handsome edifice, on the site of the ancient enclosure, wherein are cold and warm, vapour, and shower baths, all excellent in their kind and well appointed. The well from which the water is supplied by the dippers, still retains its ancient situation, though better protected, in front of the building.

There are also the Royal Victoria Turkish medicated vapour, barege, sulphur, warm, douche, and shower Baths, at No. 1, Calverley Promenade, Mount Pleasant, which are fitted up with every accommodation for invalids; and the greatest attention is paid by Mr. and Mrs. Seaman, (of the Royal Baths, No. 9, Suffolk Place, Pall Mall East, London), to those who may honour the establishment with their favours.

PARADE, PUBLIC ROOMS, ETC.

The Parade extends from the mineral spring a hundred and seventy-five yards, in an opposite direction, and is the fashionable rendezvous for the company: here they meet, sit, or walk, during the hours of general resort. On the right hand, in one continued line leading from the spring,

stand the libraries, the upper assembly rooms, and billiard rooms, the post-office, and many neat shops for the sale of jewellery, perfumery, Tunbridge ware, &c.; in front of which is a convenient portico, supported by wooden Tuscan pillars, which runs the entire length of the principal Parade, and affords an agreeable shelter from the sun and rain. A row of trees of luxuriant growth, also contributes to the pleasantness of this picturesque promenade, in the centre of which is an orchestra, where an efficient band of music plays three times a day during the season.

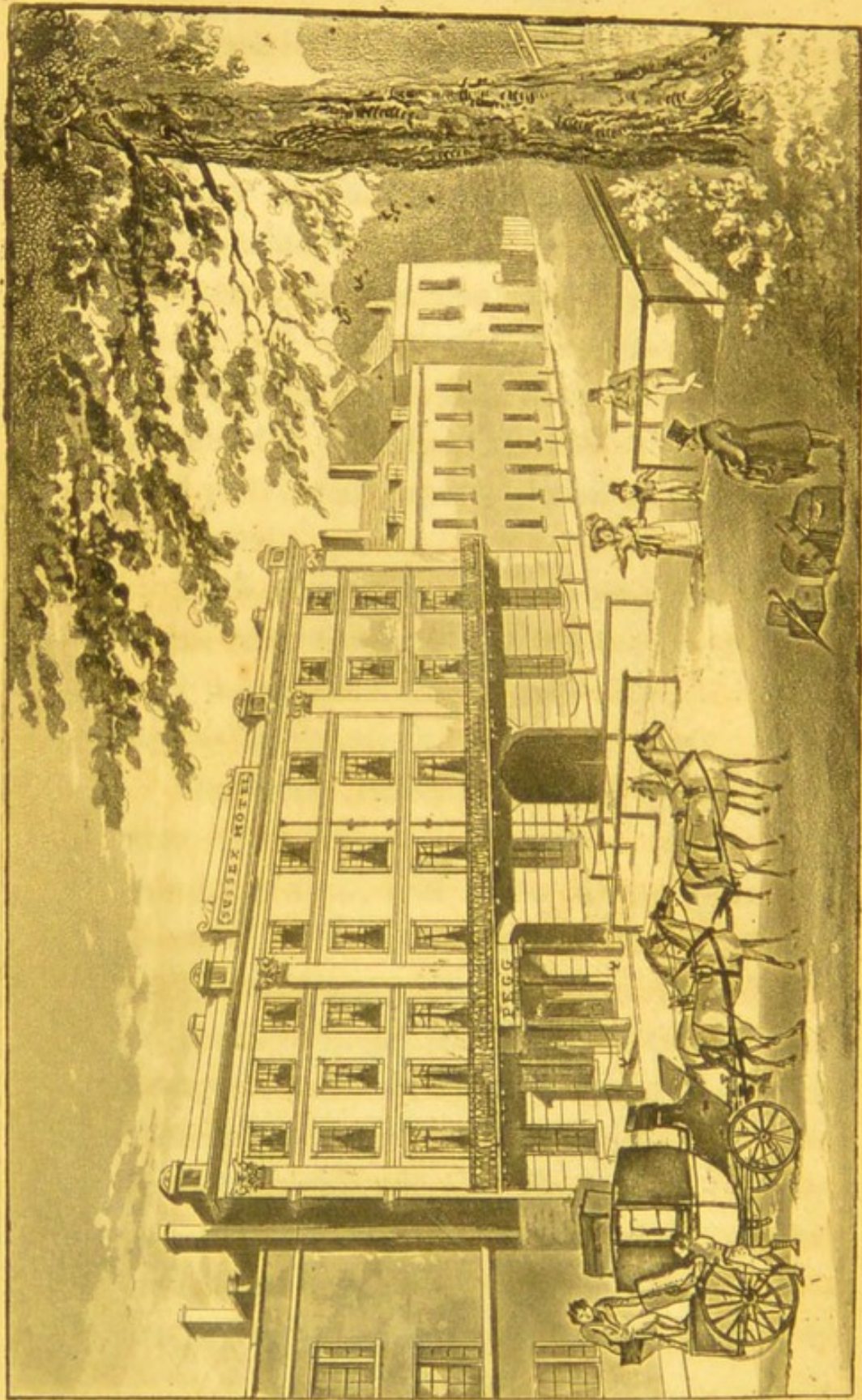
There are two libraries on the Parade, the one conducted by Nash, the other by Elliott. Both are well filled, and afford a most agreeable lounge, having their appropriate attractions, as a desirable resort for intellectual and colloquial recreation. Subscriptions are received by the week, month, quarter, half-year, or year; and as the expense is but trifling, strangers, who wish to partake of the varieties of society which Tunbridge Wells furnishes, will add to their own pleasure by subscribing, during their stay, to each of them.

These libraries (as well as the one lately opened on the Calverley Promenade) contain each a well-chosen and extensive collection of books, and are fitted up with great attention to the convenience of subscribers; besides new and valuable publications of merit, various monthly reviews, magazines, army and navy lists, &c., are constantly added, with the daily London and provincial papers, which are promptly procured.

Each library has also an extensive assortment of stationery, &c., constantly on sale; and the proprietors let out musical instruments by the week, month, or year.

The trade carried on here is similar to that of the Spa in Germany, and consists chiefly of toys, and useful domestic articles in wood. Great quantities of these are sold to the company; and are sent to different parts of the kingdom. The elegance of these articles is universally admired, particularly those made entirely of Mosaic work, which, from the minuteness of the different parts, (a late invention), is brought to that perfection, that even birds, dogs, butterflies, &c., are correctly delineated in beautiful coloured

The image shows a page from an old document with a large, faint rectangular area containing a table. The table is too light to read, but its structure is visible. It consists of approximately 4-5 columns and 15-20 rows. The paper is yellowed with age, and there are some dark spots and smudges on the right side of the page.



Superior Hotel.

woods, both English and foreign, of which there is a great variety.

THE THEATRE,

Which affords amusement at the close of a long summer's day, is, though on a small scale, particularly neat, and does great credit to the manager, Mr. J. Sloman, who has a very respectable company. He opens his campaign in June or July, and does not close till the end of October; after which he takes a circuit to Maidstone, Rochester, Canterbury, and Dover, whence he returns to this place for the summer season.

HOTELS AND TAVERNS.

The Royal Victoria and Sussex Hotel, pleasantly situated opposite the Parade, contains excellent sitting and bed rooms, an assembly room and coffee room. The front has an elegant appearance; and the interior is fitted up in the most complete manner for the reception and entertainment of the nobility and gentry visiting this establishment, for whose recreation, Mr. Pegg, the spirited proprietor, has added an exten-

sive promenade garden at the back of the premises.

The Royal Kentish Hotel stands by the road side on entering the place, and is but a short distance from the chalybeate spring. This house has lately undergone considerable improvements, which have amply repaid Mr. E. Churchill for his exertions.

The Camden Hotel, near Calverley Place, Mount Pleasant, and the new Hotel on Mount Ephraim, continue to receive considerable patronage.

There are also the George Inn, London Road; Clarence Tavern, Church Road; the Castle Tavern and White Bear, at the foot of Mount Sion; the Swan and Hand and Sceptre Inns, at the back of the Parade; and the Sussex Commercial House, adjoining the Royal Victoria and Sussex Hotel. Each furnishes good accommodation to travellers, and others, and is extremely convenient for business.

BOARDING HOUSE.

The Gloucester Family Boarding House, opposite the Upper Assembly Rooms, Parade,

is fitted up in a style of great comfort and elegance : it has the advantage of excellent stabling and lock-up coach houses.

ACCOMMODATIONS.

Tunbridge Wells furnishes excellent lodgings for persons of condition; and those which can be hired by the middling or lower classes of society, are equally numerous. There is a plentiful supply, during the season, of butter, eggs, poultry, vegetables, and various kinds of fine fruit from the neighbouring villages; and the epicure will be delighted to find that his favourite wheatear, may be had here in the greatest perfection. There is also a regular supply of sea, pond, and river fish, every day, which may be purchased on moderate terms. The butchers are remarkable for selling excellent meat, particularly the mutton from the South Downs of Sussex, which is highly esteemed for its delicacy and flavour.

The short distance of Tunbridge Wells from the capital, brings quick intelligence of all that passes there—the morning papers reach us before the hour of dinner, and the evening ones before breakfast the next day;

whilst between the arrival of the general post and its departure, there is an interval of more than *twelve hours*, an accommodation in point of correspondence, that even London cannot boast of. Stage coaches also pass and repass to the Metropolis, Brighton, Hastings, and Maidstone, every day; and, in addition to these intrinsic advantages, the inhabitants are remarkably civil and obliging.

“ For those who’re lame, or have the gout,
Or those who cannot *walk* about,
Donkeys, here, are let for hire,
At any hour you may require;
As also *Gigs* or *Pony Chaise*,
To drive out where or when you please.”

There are also several other kinds of carriages kept to let, which are sufficiently roomy to accommodate a party in a jaunt to the High Rocks, Penshurst, Bayham Abbey, and other inviting excursions.

PLACES OF WORSHIP.

Previous to the erection of the Chapel of Ease, which was effected by a subscription, as has already been noticed, there was no place of worship for a congregation of the established church nearer than Speldhurst

er Frant, at the distance of two miles. The fund for the repairs and maintenance of this building, arises from money collected at a charity sermon, in the course of the season, and some casual bequests. The clergyman, however, has no other endowment, except the voluntary subscription of the company during summer, and of the inhabitants during winter. The ceiling of the chapel is beautifully ornamented; and in the front gallery is a small, yet fine-toned organ. The organist, also, depends upon the liberality of those who frequent this place of worship. There are no pews, but seats appropriated for the ladies distinctly from the gentlemen—a custom which has prevailed ever since its erection. The Rev. Martin Benson* was upwards of forty-three years the esteemed and revered minister of this chapel; and on his leaving the Wells,

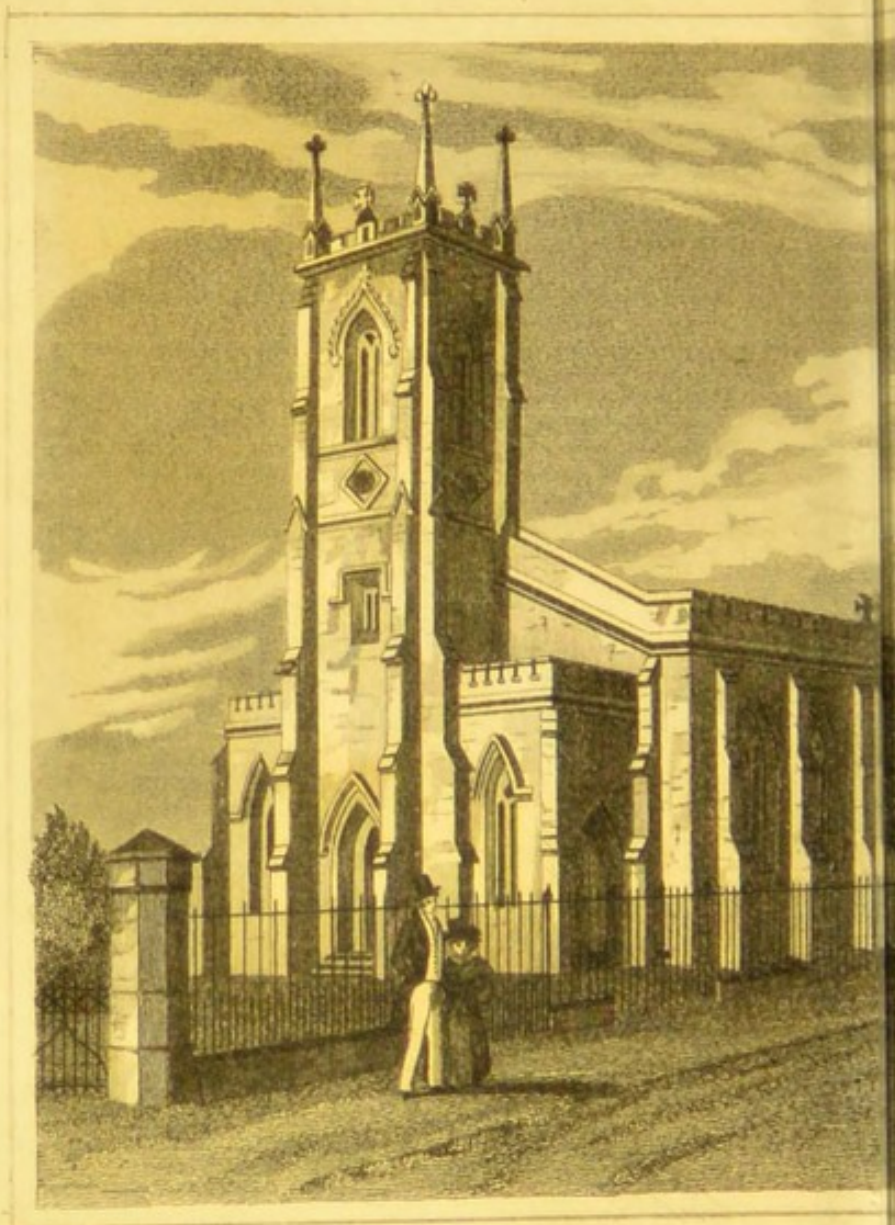
* His death is thus recorded:—"Died, April 1st, 1833, the Rev. Martin Benson, late Rector of Merstham, Surrey, aged 72 years, forty-two of which he had officiated as Rector of Merstham and Minister of the Tunbridge Wells Chapel alternately; where he obtained the respect, love, and admiration of each congregation, and, in the lingering illness which terminated his valuable existence, left an example of patience and resignation to the will of Heaven worthy of imitation."

through a long and severe illness, he published his Farewell Address, (dated December 31st, 1828), which was distributed generally throughout the place, and without distinction. As a token of respect, gratitude, and affection, a superb piece of plate was subscribed for, and presented to him by his friends, the inhabitants of Tunbridge Wells. He was succeeded by the Rev. W. L. Pope, the present minister.

NEW CHURCH.

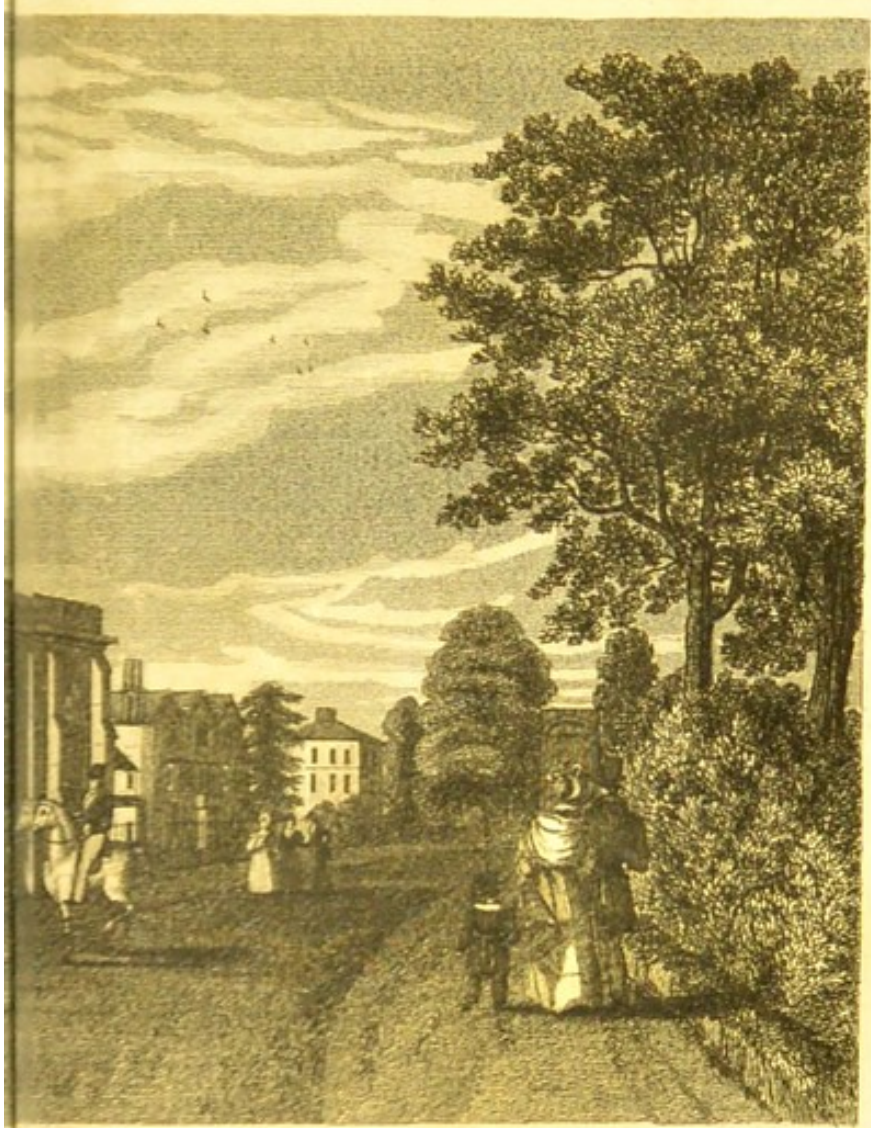
In consequence of the want of sufficient accommodation in the Chapel of Ease, especially in the summer months, for a large and rapidly-increasing population, a new Church has been erected. At a meeting held on the 25th of August, 1824, to take into consideration the erection of an additional place of worship, on the principles of the Established Church, (the Rev. Martin Benson in the chair), a liberal subscription was entered into for that purpose: an application was also made to his Majesty's Commissioners for building additional churches, to assist in the undertaking, which, being complied with, the subscriptions were con-





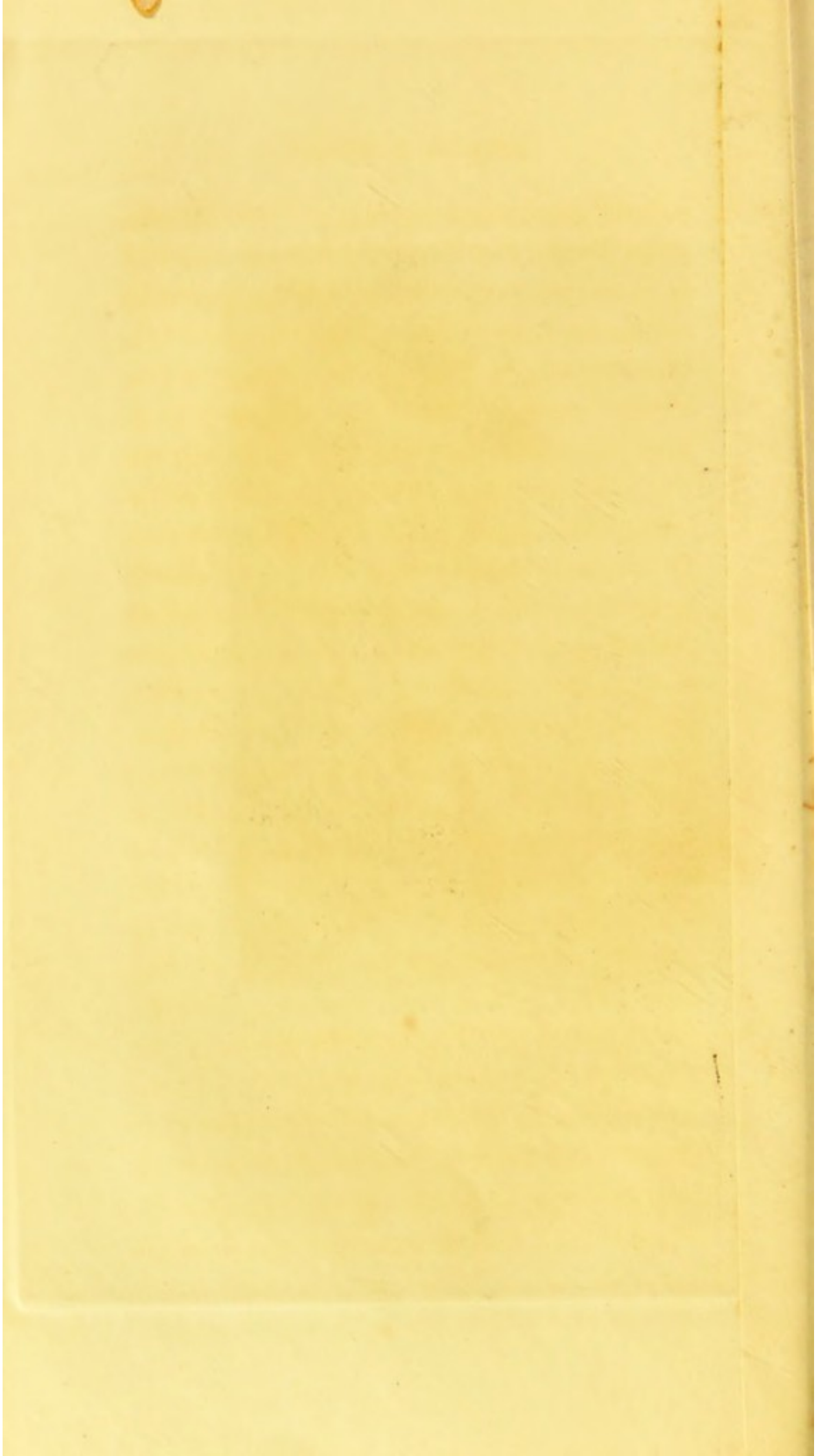
NEW CHURCH, T

Published by J. Clifford, Tin



CAMBRIDGE WELLS.

Wills. August 17th 1834.



siderably increased by handsome donations from the frequent visitors to the Wells, and from the inhabitants. This church is a handsome structure, and reflects great credit on the architect, Mr. Decimus Burton, and also on the builders, Messrs. Barrett, of Tunbridge Wells. The first stone was laid on the 17th of August, 1827, being the birthday of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, then residing at Calverley House); and the building being completed by the 3rd of September, 1829, the Consecration took place on that day. The style of building has been adopted, which prevailed in England during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and of which, beautiful examples may be seen in York and Carlisle Cathedrals, Westminster Abbey, &c. The whole building when finished cost about £12,000. The stone made use of, was principally brought from Calverley Quarry, which is a short distance from the spot, on the estate of John Ward, Esq.

On Mount Ephraim is a Chapel with a cemetery, belonging to the late *Countess of Huntingdon*. It is neat in appearance, having gothic windows, and is well attended.

The *Wesleyan Methodists* likewise have a Chapel, situated at the foot of Mount Sion. This was erected in the year 1812. The *Independent Chapel*, on Mount Sion, (after having undergone a thorough repair), was re-opened July 8th, 1830. The *Baptist Chapel*, situated in Hanover Road, near Grosvenor Cottage, was built in 1834.

A new Church is now being erected at the foot of Mount Sion, near Edger Terrace, to be called Christ Church, the first stone of which was laid on the 9th of September, 1835.

THE COMMON,

On which are walks, rides, romantic rocks, the race ground, &c., has ever been a favourite place of resort with the visitors to the Wells. The turf is covered, during the summer, with flocks of sheep, and pedestrians, equestrians, and *asinurians*,* of all ranks, sexes, and ages, amuse themselves on it. The most pleasant part of the common is the *Queen's Grove*, planted in honourable memory of Queen Anne, who was particu-

* The riding of Asses was first brought into fashion here by Lady G. Seymour, in 1801.

larly fond of the place, and a liberal benefactress to it. Here, in the height of summer, is always to be found a cooling and delightful breeze. The trees having gone considerably to decay, a new Grove has been planted in addition to the old one, at the joint expense of T. C. Gardner, Esq., (lord of the manor), and the freehold tenants, which, as a public testimony of grateful remembrance of the frequent visits of their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria, was named the *Royal Victoria Grove*. The interesting ceremony of planting took place on the 12th of February, 1835; after which, upwards of two hundred of the gentry and inhabitants dined together, and drank the healths of their illustrious patronesses, whose public and private benevolence the proceedings of the day were intended to commemorate.

CUMBERLAND TERRACE

Is pleasantly situated a short distance beyond the chapel. It takes its name from having been the favourite walk of the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, during their sojourn at the Wells. From this circum-

stance, and the many improvements making on the spot, it continues to be much frequented.

MOUNT SION HILL.

This delightful spot received its name from a landlord, of the name of Jordan, who, building a house here, affixed to it the sign of Mount Sion. It is now composed chiefly of lodging houses, so charmingly intermixed with trees, and so agreeably sheltered from the easterly winds, that they are generally well occupied. On the corner of them, as well as of various other houses in the place, is inscribed their designation; such as Eden House, Boyne House, Oldenburgh House, Wellington Place, Northumberland House, Bedford Place, &c.—many of these abodes thus indicating their noble residents on former occasions. Cumberland House, at the top of Mount Sion, was named after the celebrated dramatist, Mr. Cumberland, from his having resided there upwards of twenty years, during which, he was a warm friend to the place, and a patron of every thing for its advantage. He died at an advanced age, and was entombed in Westminster Abbey.

THE GROVE.

About the commencement of the last century, Mount Sion experienced a material accession of dignity and elegance from the bounty of John Earl of Buckingham, the same who had, not long before, given the land whereon the chapel was erected. By a deed, bearing date April 20th, 1703, this nobleman conveyed to trustees, for the amusement and recreation of the visitors to Tunbridge Wells, about four acres of land, covered with very fine oaks and beeches. It has ever since been maintained for this purpose: and although it has never obtained the public sanction, as a place of fashionable resort, yet it affords a pleasant retreat to invalids in sultry weather; and, from its very fortunate position, adds materially to the general beauty of the place.

There are villas, lodging-houses and gardens also dispersed around the Grove. To the east is a pleasant villa built by the late Dr. Yeats; near to which, on the brow of an eminence, are some large and respectable houses, called Grove Hill, the fronts of which command views of the Common, of

Calverley Park, &c., whilst from the windows in the rear, the spectator looks over an extended range of country.

MOUNT PLEASANT.

This hill deserves the name it has acquired, from its prominent situation and extensive prospect; but till very recently, it had to boast of only three or four houses, which, however, were of the first description. Since Mr. Ward has become possessed of the principal part of the property at Mount Pleasant, by purchase, it has given rise to much speculation. On the ground formerly called the Lanthorn-house Field, a considerable number of handsome and uniform houses have been erected, called

CALVERLEY TERRACE AND CALVERLEY

PARADE.

The Terrace consists of four detached double villas, and the Parade of twelve houses, all faced with stone. There are pleasure grounds before each range of houses, for the general use of the occupiers; private gardens behind, and a mews beyond them.

The beautiful situation of the Terrace and Parade, and their proximity to the Church and Calverley Park, will, doubtless, render this part of the place exceedingly attractive.

CALVERLEY PARK.

In Calverley Park, also the property of Mr. Ward, is Calverley House, late the residence of the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria. Several detached villas have also been built, and others are in a state of completion. Each villa has its lawn, garden, and plantation; and the view towards the south and south-west extends over a fine expanse of country. The entrances to the Park from different parts of the Wells, are—Farnborough Lodge, at the top of Grove Hill; Keston Lodge, opposite to a rustic cottage, the residence of Mr. Decimus Burton; and Victoria Lodge, near Lady Louisa Cadogan's, Holly Bank.

CALVERLEY PROMENADE.

An elegant range of seventeen shops, with convenient private residences over them, has been erected at the north-west portion of Calverley Park, by Victoria Lodge, on

the plan of a crescent, having a spacious colonnade in front, opening at each end to the public road. In the centre of the colonnade is the library; and at one end are the Royal Baths. A large extent of pleasure ground is laid out in front of the colonnade, where there is an orchestra, in which a band of musicians play during the summer season.

Near to the park, and on the same estate, is a row of new houses called Calverley Place, close to which, and the Camden Hotel, is the New Market-place, a very elegant building. In the centre of the area, round which the shops are placed, a fountain is erected, at once useful and ornamental. A spacious room runs over the front; it is called the Market room, and well adapted for the purposes intended, such as meetings, exhibitions, &c.

MOUNT EPHRAIM AND BISHOP'S DOWN.

Mount Ephraim, situated about half a mile from the Parade, was, at a very early period, the most fashionable quarter, possessing its assembly room, tavern, and bowling green. These have long since been removed, or converted into private mansions, and many

lodging houses and cottages have been erected, most of which have the advantage of spacious gardens, groves, or pleasant fields adjacent; forming a delightful situation for those who are inclined to mingle retirement with public amusement. The views towards the Kentish and Surrey hills are various and extensive.

Bishop's Down, though still more distant than Mount Ephraim, contains some good lodging houses and private dwellings.

Leaving Bishop's Down by a shady lane, near Ashburnham house, a delightful walk may be extended to a most interesting and secluded retreat, called the *Hurst Wood*, where will be found

“ Scenes form'd for contemplation, and to nurse
The growing seeds of wisdom, that suggest
By every pleasing image they present,
Reflections such as meliorate the heart,
Compose the passions, and exalt the mind.”

Imagination can scarcely picture a spot more calculated to convey serenity and peacefulness to the soul. The beautiful intermixture of the magnificent, the rural, and the picturesque, are so happily blended, that the various prospects they present

excite the highest interest and admiration. D. J. Robertson, Esq., to whom this wood belongs, has spared no expense in laying it out to afford pleasure and convenience; and has placed seats in various parts, for the general accommodation of those who may visit this sweet place of retirement: thus, whether induced by curiosity, a wish for solitude, or a love of the beauties of nature, they will find an ample recompense for their ramble.

Returning from the wood, by a path which leads through the grounds of the late J. J. Fisher, Esq., to the London Road and Mount Ephraim, a curious cottage presents itself; it is called the Swiss Cottage, under which is a cave, hewn out of a rock. At a short distance further is another object of interest, Culverden Tower,—both built by that gentleman. The scenery round this spot is most beautifully varied; and the tower may be seen at a great distance.

NEVILL PARK.

Great progress is now making in the new improvements near Bishop's Down, on the estate of the Earl of Abergavenny, called

Nevill Park. The land set apart for the erection of houses, on a building lease, (principally of a first-rate description), is most delightfully situated; in the front, is an uninterrupted view of the High Rocks, Eridge Castle, Crowborough, and the more distant parts of Sussex; whilst, in the back ground, the Kent and Surrey hills form an interesting feature in the landscape. The lodges at the entrance gates present a pretty object from the commons of Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall, the line of road through the Park forming an ingress and egress at either of these points. Mr. James Richardson, of this place, having, in the first instance, taken a portion of the ground, has already completed two very handsome and roomy houses, which, in point of convenience and good workmanship, are generally admired. A little further on is the residence of the Rev. T. J. Bramley.

RUSTHALL COMMON

Is about a mile from the Wells: it is so called from an ancient manor belonging to a family who derived their surname from it. Here invalids, visiting this delightful water-

ing place, would do well to wander early in a fine summer morning, as the best means of renovating health, if their physical strength is sufficient to accomplish the undertaking; the air here being very salubrious and bracing. In a valley adjoining the common is a curious rock, called the *Toad Rock*, which forms part of a group very remarkable for the singular shapes which many of them present. The walk to this spot is amongst the most agreeable in the immediate vicinity. On passing over the common, keeping the course of the turnpike road, a pit is observable on the right hand; it is said to be the cellar belonging to the tavern and assembly rooms, when Rusthall was the principal resort of the company. Opposite to this pit, situated in a beautiful romantic dell, is a farm house, called the Cold Bath,* the building attached to which, containing the

* In 1708, there was an elegant building erected by Mr. James Long, which contained the bath and suitable rooms for the accommodation of bathers; the ground and gardens were also most tastefully laid out, and adorned with fountains and amusing water works. In the course of years, through the neglect of the different proprietors, the house was suffered to fall, and the pleasure grounds in consequence became a complete wilderness.

bath and dressing room, being in a dilapidated condition, it has lately been pulled down, and the bath stopped up; but the water, which issues from a rock close by, may be pronounced to be as pure and as excellent as any in the kingdom. Near this spot are the *Tea Gardens*, laid out by an industrious gardener of this place. Parties are here supplied with tea, home-made bread, butter, cream, and new milk from the cow: those who are fond of fruit, may purchase it fresh on the spot. From the house and gardens the view is bold and picturesque. On the left, a perpendicular ledge of rocks terminates a piece of table-land, and thence shelves abruptly into a narrow valley, towards the cold bath. Looking more to the south, the range of High Rocks, form a prominent object; whilst the various views into the distant country, are similar to those seen from Nevill Park, the aspect being nearly the same. Close to the Tea Gardens, a narrow lane, down a steep descent, leads to the High Rocks; whilst the turnpike road to the west, conducts the traveller to the pleasant hamlet of Langton Green.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

MAY BE CONSIDERED THE CENTRAL POINT

TO

	MILES		MILES
Brenchley	8	Hadlow	10
Bayham Abbey ..	6	Lamberhurst	8
Bidborough	4	Mereworth	13
Burwash	13	Maidstone	20
Cranbrook	15	Mayfield	8
Crowborough Hill	7	Penshurst	7
Chiddingstone ...	9	Rotherfield	7
East Grinstead ..	15	Sevenoaks	13
Edenbridge	13	Speldhurst	3
Frant	2	Southborough ...	3
Forest Row	12	Tunbridge	6
Goudhurst	11	Ticehurst	10
Groombridge	4	Uckfield	14
Hartfield	8	Wadhurst	7
Hever	11	Withyham	7

WALKS AND RIDES

ROUND

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

“ Come, my companions, ye who feel the charms
Of nature and the year—come let us stray
Where chance and fancy lead our roving walk;
Come, while the soft voluptuous breezes fan
The fleecy heavens, enwrap the limbs in balm,
And shed a charming languor o’er the soul.”

“ But if the toilsome walk o’er hill and dale
Exceed your strength —————
————— go, mount the exulting steed.”

THE environs of Tunbridge Wells furnish a pleasurable employment of time in visiting the noblemen’s and gentlemen’s seats, abbeys, castles, and other objects of curiosity; and as some of them may be included in the circuit of a morning promenade, as well as a saunter on horseback, or in a carriage, a brief list of them shall be presented to the reader, accompanied by a short description appropriate to each: but the

beauty of the country through which the traveller must pass, before he attains a sight of these objects—the infinite variety of the rides; the exquisite purity of the air, peculiarly refreshing to invalids; and, lastly, the interest arising from the local history of many of the places—admit not of description. It may, however, safely be asserted, that no single spot in the kingdom contains, within the same compass, so rich a variety of these particulars, or is better calculated to reward the inquirer, whatever may be his individual pursuit. We will first recommend a walk across the Common* to the

HIGH ROCKS,

which are about a mile and a half from the Wells, situated among woods, by the side of a gentle murmuring stream, and afford great matter of speculation to the curious naturalist and antiquarian: some of them are above seventy feet high, though the average may be taken at forty. They are partly divided from each other, and split in

* There is an excellent path from the turnpike road, at the upper end of the Parade, which leads direct to the High Rocks.

several places, by great clefts and chasms, that lead quite through the midst of them by narrow gloomy passages. Within one of the innermost clefts, there is a particular rock, which, when struck, rings like a bell, and hence is called the *Bell Rock!* A lady, losing her lap-dog, which had fallen into a chasm, has left these lines inscribed by way of epitaph :—

1702

THIS SCRATCH I MAKE THAT YOY MAY KNOW
ON THIS ROCK LYES y^c BEAVTIOVS BOW ;
READER THIS ROCK IS y^c BOWS BELL
STRIKE 't WITH THY STICK & RING HIS KNELL.

Between these rocks, and the opposite hills, there is a deep narrow winding valley, which by some is supposed to have been the bed of a river. Some think that this whole irregular and romantic scene was occasioned by the violence of an earthquake; and others are of opinion, that it was the effect of the universal deluge. The great and good Dr. Isaac Watts, who visited this spot, struck with their appearance, wrote a sermon on the occasion, from Rev. vi. 15, 16, 17.

Parties very often frequent this delightful and sequestered spot, the walk to which is

exceeded in point of beauty by nothing in the country: there is a public-house* close by, having for its sign the Cape of Good Hope, with these refreshing words under it—Fine bottled Beer, Porter, Cider, Soda Water, Spruce and Ginger Beer, Tea, Coffee, Rock Cakes, &c.—from such agreeable accommodation, many are induced to make entertainments amidst these stupendous works of nature, which ever have been considered one of the greatest curiosities of the place. The walks about the rocks are laid out, and the grounds kept in order, by the landlord, who, to defray the expense of keeping them open for the entertainment and recreation of the public, has been under the necessity of making a small demand from each person who may favour him with a visit. He has also recently erected a spacious tea room, and formed an excellent bowling-green.

There are two other objects of notice, called HARRISON'S and PENN'S ROCKS,

* In the kitchen is a curious old iron grate back—doubtless cast at some of the foundries in this neighbourhood. It bears the royal arms, and the initials of King James.—I. R.—1602.

named from the proprietors of the adjacent lands: the former about five miles from the Wells, on the road leading to Brighton: the latter, about a mile further in the same direction.

On the right of Eridge Green, from the Wells, at no great distance from the turnpike road, is a range of rocks, called Eridge Rocks, which, till very lately, have only attracted the casual notice of strangers. They are, however, now much frequented.

Among these rocks, heaths of great variety and beauty; forest shrubs, and rock plants abound. And that, which is peculiarly appropriate, being denominated, from the spot, the *Trichomanes Tonbrigensis*, is here found in abundance and perfection.

ON A VISIT TO THE HIGH ROCKS.

O Rocks! whose tow'ring, cragged brow,
O'erhangs the gloomy Cave below,
And forms a solemn, awful shade,
For lonely contemplation made;
Deaf as thou art to every call,
To thy rough, hard, unfeeling wall,
As well those truths I may declare,
Which most import the living soul to hear,
As to a thoughtless World, who vainly stop the ear.

Oh! could ye say how many years have roll'd,
 How many generations have been told,
 Since the Almighty's fiat bade you stand,
 A monument of His supreme command :
 The vast amount, too great for human thought,
 Would sink our hopes of lengthen'd days to nought.
 Of human life so very short the span :
 So soon to dust returns vain self-important man.

Yet e'en *thy* years, proud pile, shall pass away ;
 And though thy firmness will resist decay,
 Once more Almighty power shall rend in twain
 Thy mass, and crumble thee to dust again :
 Scorch'd and consum'd to ashes, thou shalt fall,
 A prey to that dread fire, devouring all.
 Then, from the grave, man rais'd, in youthful prime,
 Shall live for ages far surpassing thine !

SPELDHURST,

A small obscure village, lies on the southern confines of the Weald, adjoining the county of Sussex, in a district abounding with rich and varied prospects, though the views here are not generally extensive. In this parish the chalybeate springs rise, though they obtain the name of Tunbridge Wells from the neighbouring town of Tunbridge.

Speldhurst church is singularly placed at the utmost extremity of its very extensive parish, within two fields of Penshurst. It

was a simple gothic structure, with a most elegant spire, but was, on the 20th of October, 1791, burnt down by lightning; even the bells were melted by the intense heat. It has since been re-built, but not with a design equal to that of the ancient edifice. The various monuments and memorials of the Wallers, who were buried in the old church from the year 1391 to 1641, were totally destroyed by the lightning, which consumed that building.

Sir J. W. Waller, Bart., of Braywick Lodge, in the county of Berks., and Twickenham, in the county of Middlesex, has recently placed a tablet in the chancel to perpetuate the memory of his ancestors: he also gave the painted window over the altar-piece.

At the southern extremity of the parish of Speldhurst, is the hamlet of

GROOMBRIDGE.

It is a place of some note, and has been in the possession of several noble families, particularly of the Wallers, who resided there from the year 1360 to the year 1604.

The site of their mansion is still noticeable, though occupied by a modern building: but the moat remains, and marks what was its character in ancient times. It was here that the poet Waller, while on a visit to his relatives, first saw and became enamoured of the Lady Dorothy Sydney.

This place, having been previously possessed by the families of Cobham and Clinton, was purchased in the reign of Henry the Fifth, by Sir Richard Waller. In his military capacity, he attended the monarch in his wars on the continent, and having much distinguished himself at the battle of Agincourt, on the 25th of October, 1415, he had, as a reward for his bravery, the custody granted him of the Duke of Orleans, who had been made prisoner by him on that memorable day: and, as a perpetual token of his services, received this honourable addition to his family arms, viz. the escutcheon of France, hanging by a label on a walnut-tree, with this motto affixed to it—*HÆC FRUCTUS VIRTUTIS*. This prince was detained a captive in the mansion of Groombridge for twenty-five years: and

tradition states, that, in token of the handsome treatment he experienced, besides the large ransom which he eventually paid, he rebuilt the house; and so far repaired and beautified the parochial church, that he was, in some measure, considered as its founder.

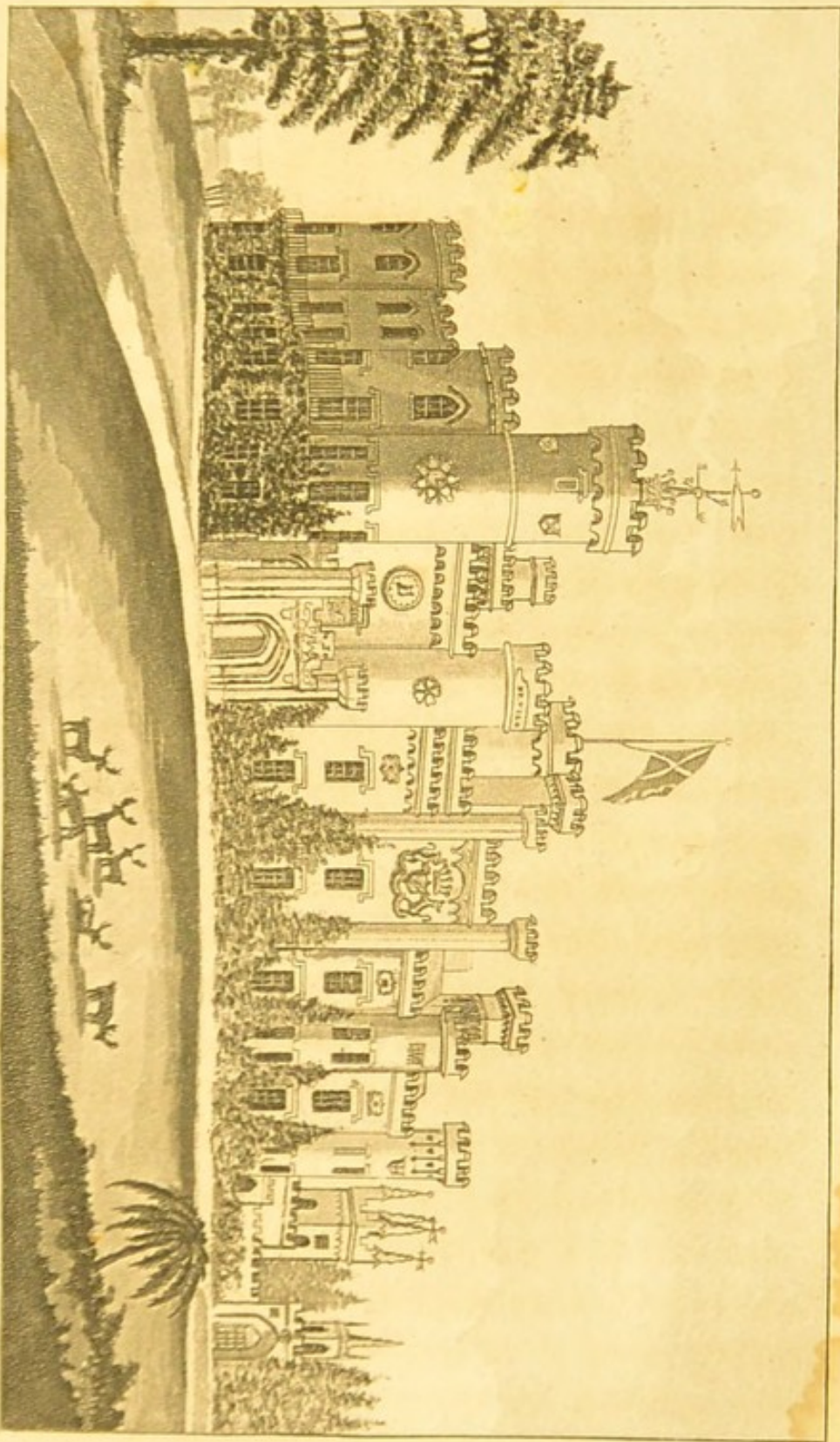
ASHURST.

Ashurst, or the Wood of Ashes, is a small inconsiderable parish about four miles from Tunbridge Wells: it has no village, the houses being interspersed throughout it, and but few in number. The church is a very humble edifice, situated on the west side of the parish; in it, before the reformation, was a famous *Rood* or crucifix. This wonderful image was supposed to work innumerable miracles; and the poor deluded multitude came in such throngs to make their offerings to it, that the wily incumbent, who could hardly subsist before, soon grew fat upon his benefice.

In the church-yard is an extraordinary large yew tree, which cannot fail to attract the attention of those who visit this spot.

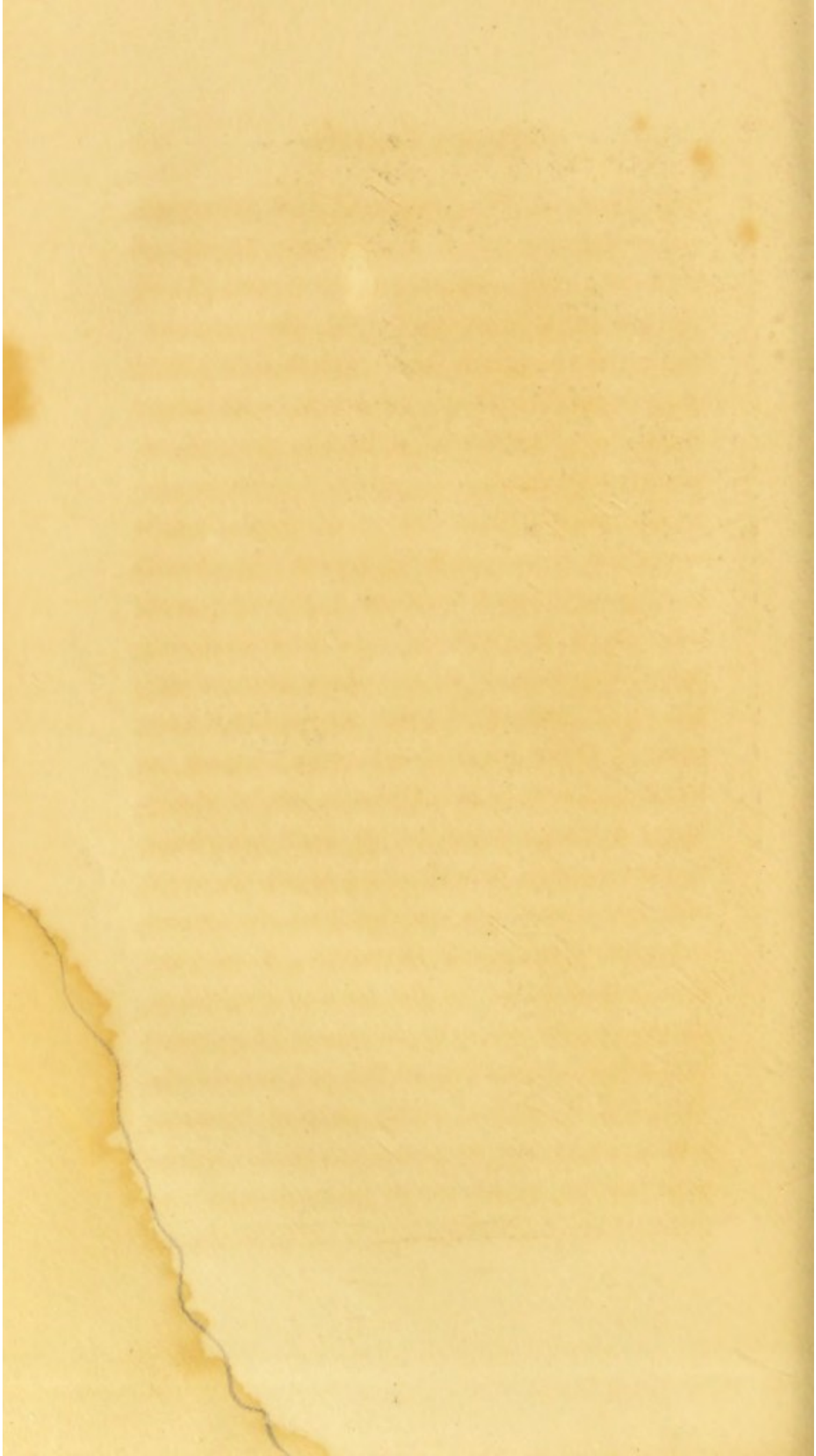
ERIDGE CASTLE,

The magnificent residence of the Earl of Abergavenny, is most pleasantly situated in the parish of Frant, about two miles from Tunbridge Wells, on the road leading to Brighton. The manor is very extensive, comprising, besides several subordinate manors, the forest of Waterdown, described by Camden as one of the three great forests in Sussex. Before the Norman invasion, it belonged to Godwin, Earl of Kent; and after the conquest, was granted to the Earl of Mortaigne and Cornwall. In the reign of Edward I. it constituted a part of the large possessions of the Earl of Clare, being then called *Eregge Hamlet*; as it was afterwards Ernregg Hamlet. From this it would seem probable, that on what is now called ERIDGE GREEN, there was thus early somewhat of a village; when all the adjacent country, now so well inhabited, was a dreary and desolate forest. The estate passed through several distinguished families, till in the 14th of Henry VI. it descended to Sir Edward Nevill, a younger son of the



Tab. 1026. by J. Clifford. Newbridge, Mass.

Engraved by J. B. Brown.



first Earl of Westmoreland, by his marriage with the daughter and sole heiress of Richard, Earl of Worcester, and Lord Bergavenny, in whose right also he succeeded to the latter title. He died in 1480; and from him this estate has, with other possessions, been transmitted to the present noble proprietor.

The ancient mansion of Eridge, though never the principal residence of the Nevill family, and only used as a hunting seat, was on a large scale. It was certainly capacious enough to admit of entertaining Queen Elizabeth, in the year 1573, who, passing from Lord Bergavenny's house, at Berling, towards Mr. Culpepper's, at Bedgbury, deviated considerably from her route, to visit Eridge, where she passed six days, and gave audience to the French ambassador, with her usual pageantry. Lord Burleigh, in a letter to the Earl of Salisbury, dated August 10, 1573, says,—“The Queen had a hard beginning of her progress in the Wild of Kent and some part of Sussex; where surely were more dangerous rocks and valleys, much worse ground than was in the Peak of Derbyshire.” He continues,

that "they were bending their course towards Dover, where they should have amends."

During the civil wars, the noble family of Nevill adhered with fidelity to their unfortunate monarch, and their estates were in consequence sequestered by the ruling powers; but after the surrender of Oxford, which was a fatal blow to the interests of Charles I., John Lord Abergavenny was allowed, in 1654, to compound for the remainder of his property by a decree of the Commissioners, under the articles of Oxford, of which he had petitioned to be allowed to avail himself on payment of a fine of £1062 3s. 7d.—at that period the rents of the Sussex estates, possessed by Lord Abergavenny, were inconceivably small, compared to what they are at present.

From the time of Charles II. Eridge appears to have been altogether deserted by its noble owners; much of the building was pulled down for the sake of the materials, and the whole demesne exhibited marks of total neglect. In the early part of the last century, William Lord Abergavenny, the grandfather of the present Earl, erected for

himself a handsome mansion at Kidbrook, near East Grinstead, which, till within these few years, was considered as the principal English residence of the family: but the present Earl was induced to turn his attention towards this, the deserted and dilapidated mansion of his ancestors; and, having completed an abode, worthy of his extensive domain, he was speedily induced to part with the modern mansion of Kidbrook, and permanently to re-occupy the spot, where Warwick relaxed from his war-like toils, and where the princely Elizabeth partook of the hospitalities of his ancestors.

Eridge Castle is an irregular yet noble edifice, constructed, as its name implies, in the castellated style, embattled and flanked with round towers, but without any imitation of ancient architecture in the doors and windows: as a dwelling, it is calculated to hold a very large establishment; and it is a place, at the same time, in its arrangement of its apartments, well adapted to afford great domestic comfort to a limited family—certainly, it is inferior to none in splendid internal decoration. The castle stands on a bold eminence, in the midst of a park

well wooded and watered, comprehending about two thousand acres, and a demesne of near seven thousand :* in short, those beautiful lines of Pope, are not inapplicable to the spot :—

Here waving groves their chequer'd scenes display
 And part admit, and part exclude the day ;
 There, interspers'd in lawns and opening glades,
 Thin trees arise that shun each other's shades.
 Here in full light the russet plains extend ;
 There, wrapt in clouds, the bluish hills ascend :
 Ev'n the wild heath displays her purple dyes,
 And 'midst the desert, fruitful fields arise.

It may not be improper to recall the reader's attention, that it was on a visit to Eridge, for the restoration of his health, that Dudley Lord North, in the reign of James I. discovered, or rather made known, the medicinal virtues of the chalybeate water, which was the origin of the celebrity of Tunbridge Wells.

In the park, on a high ground between Frant and Mayfield, are the remains of a fortification, which is ascribed to the Saxon invaders of this country, and yet retains the

* The Earl of Abergavenny's manorial property extends, almost without interruption, hence to Lewes and Brighton.

name of *Saxonbury Hill*. The fosse, plainly discernible, enclosed an area of two acres, having but one outlet; the apex of the hill within is formed of a compact body of stone, on which, doubtless, was erected some strong fortress. On this spot a tower has recently been built by the Earl of Abergavenny; it is called Saxonbury Tower. *Dane's Gate*, another place in this park, is presumed to have been part of a military way communicating between Crowborough, indisputably a Danish station, and Saxonbury Hill.

ERIDGE GREEN

Is but a short distance from Eridge Castle, and appears, from what has already been noticed, to be of very ancient date. Though the whole of the green has been lately taken in by the Earl of Abergavenny, and added to his extensive park, the spot still retains its original appellation.

It is worthy of remark, that on this green remained for many years wholly neglected, a very curious piece of antiquity—now in the British Museum—the *first* mortar or

gun* ever made in England, which was formed at a furnace about twelve miles from Tunbridge Wells, as appears from the following particulars of it in the *Archæologia*.† “ It has always been understood, that the *mortar* (engraved pl. 37) was the first that was made in England, and that the first *Guns* were made at *Buxted* furnace, about ten miles from Lewes. This mortar lies now at *Eridge* green, and has served for many years for the amusement of the people on a holiday or fair day; they collect money to buy gunpowder to throw the shell to a hill about a mile distant. The weight of the shell sinks it so deep in the earth, that it costs no little pains to dig it out after each discharge, which is repeated as long as the money lasts. The chamber of the gun is cast iron, the other part, as is evident, wrought.—1768.” Another account says— “ The first cannon made in England, was cast at Buxted, Sussex, by a person named

* The sign of the public house on the green is the Gun, which, with the farm attached to it, took its name from this circumstance.

† *Archæologia*, Appendix, vol. 10, page 472.

Howe, and his man, according to the following tradition, which was carved upon a stone near the spot, where it remained for many years :—

‘ I, John Howe, and my man John,
We two cast the first Cannon.’ ”

This gun is still in the remembrance of several of the inhabitants now living at Eridge Green.

FRANT

Is about two miles from the Wells, and commands a rich and extensive view over the wild scenery of Eridge Park, and the surrounding country. The pure air and delightful situation of this village, have induced many persons to establish their summer residence in its vicinity.

Frant church is beautifully situated on an eminence, and has a very commanding aspect at a distance. From the steeple, it is said, that the cliffs in the neighbourhood of Dover may be discerned ; but it does not appear that this point is satisfactorily ascertained. Dungeness, however, and Beachy Head are distinct objects, for here Lieut. Gen. Roy established one of the bases of

his trigonometrical survey of this part of the kingdom. The church is a vicarage in the gift of the rector of Rotherfield; the advowson of which latter benefice has been, for centuries past, in the Nevill family; and was, in early times, granted with the lordship of Rotherfield, (which possesses the rights of free warren and free chase) by the crown, to the potent heads of that noble family. Little is known of the origin of this vicarage. In very ancient times it seems, that Rotherfield was described as the mother church, Frant being only a chapel to it. In the ecclesiastical taxation of Pope Nicholas the Fourth, A. D. 1291, Rotherfield *cum* Frant is estimated at £53 6s. 8d.

In the ecclesiastical survey, made by the authority of 26th Henry VIII. Rotherfield and Frant are returned as distinct benefices. This affords ground for conjecture, that between 1342 and 1535, (the date of the Parliamentary survey), the church of Frant had been erected; but by whom, has never been, and probably never will be, ascertained.

The old church had a tower at the west end; a nave and chancel running east; and

a north aisle. In 1819, the tower was in such a ruinous condition, that it was pulled down, and rebuilt at the expense of £1200. It was then considered, that the old fabric of the church might be preserved; but, upon subsequent examination, it was deemed advisable to pull it down, and erect a new structure. The present church was opened on the 14th of July, 1822; and on the Wednesday following, a piece of ground was consecrated by the Bishop of Chichester, which was given, to make an addition to the church yard, by the Earl of Abergavenny.

The new church stands upon the old site, with the addition of a new South aisle. It is a handsome gothic edifice, and was erected agreeably to a design, and under the superintendence of Mr. John Montier, of Tunbridge Wells, Architect, to whom also the parish is indebted for the designs of the altar-piece, pews, and internal finishings. To judge of his taste and talents on this occasion, considerable as they appear, would be unjust, without adverting, at the same time, to the rigid restraints which were imposed upon him in respect to œconomy; and, considering the limited means which

he possessed, it must be allowed, that the architect is entitled to unqualified approbation. The execution of the works was taken by public contract, by tender, and it cannot be doubted, that Mr. John Taylor, of Denmark Street, London, has discharged his engagements with great reputation to himself, and satisfaction to his employers. The east chancel was built at the expense of the vicar, the Hon. and Rev. William Nevill, the third son of the Earl of Abergavenny. A considerable portion of the whole structure was erected at the cost of the Earl; and the chancel in the south aisle, was built at the expense of the Marquess of Camden, and is now occupied as a family pew. The style of architecture of the edifice is gothic, and rather imitates the simplicity of the early Norman—it is so in its piers, windows, arches, and battlements. Few, indeed, are blind to the grandeur and beauty of the pointed arch and lancet window; and whoever has lamented their absence in this edifice, should remember, they can only be introduced with effect, in buildings of a more lofty and expanded description. It has been alleged that the side windows are not gothic,

and are incompatible with the general style of the structure: the critic may be assured that specimens of the same kind, as genuine gothic, are to be found in the *Archæologia*, particularly in the parish church of Brereton, being the most ancient church in the county Palatine of Chester. The east window is after the most perfect specimens of the Saracenic gothic, when in its meridian. It is divided by mullions into three lights, and these mullions branch into flowing tracery of various figures. The altar-piece, pulpit, and pews, are formed either of oak, or a good imitation of it. They are decorated with gothic ornaments; and the pews are headed with battlements. The pulpit, as a specimen of modern carved oak, can scarcely be excelled in workmanship. It has been objected that it is too large; but considering it with relation to its situation, over an archway, which embraces the passage in the middle aisle, and relieved as it is by the light rich gothic lace round it, the visitor must hesitate before he acquiesces in the objection. The drawing of the east window was made by a clerical gentleman, in Shropshire. It exhibits some of the finest speci-

mens of modern glass. There are three full-length figures—St. Paul, St. Peter, and St. John; remarkable for the grace and beauty of the designs. The whole was executed by the gentleman alluded to, who possesses great taste and genius; and was by him given to the vicar, who presented it to the parish. Underneath is the following inscription:—

DONUM HONORABILIS GULIELMI NEVILL, VICARII,
MDCCCXXII.

The company from the Wells, in their rides through Frant, are agreeably attracted, on entering the village, by the *nouvelle* exhibition of a tailor, who, out of cloth of divers colours, delineates animals and birds of various description, with a variety of grotesque characters, particularly old Bright, the Postman, many years sweeper of Tunbridge Wells' Walks, which is considered a good likeness. He has many visitors to inspect this singular collection, who seldom leave his house without becoming purchasers. He calls himself "Artist in Cloth and Velvet Figures to his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex," who, with his characteristic good

humour, patronises the *humble tailor*. He is not a little proud of his *royal* patronage, which, with the following lines, penned by the village bard, he never forgets to place at the back of his ingenious productions.

At FRANT there dwells a man of fame,
 By trade a tailor—SMART by name ;
 Whose studies gave me great delight,
 For life resembled caught my sight !
 There I beheld the *Postman's* face,
 His walking-stick and letter-case ;
 With ass in hand, to where he dwells,
 As he returns to TUNBRIDGE WELLS.
 A milestone also was in sight,
 Which gave the work a natural light :
 He bore a *letter* in his hand,
 Perhaps some favourable demand,
 The same address'd to Mr. SMART,
 Professor of—peculiar art ;
 Whose works appear by no means faint,
 Sure Ruben's there with brush and paint :
 For dogs and cats like life are seen ;
 The feather'd tribe of red and green ;
 Of cloth and velvet are prepared,
 And seem as though by nature rear'd !
 His camera obscura too,
 And telescope to take the view
 Of scenes which gratify the mind,
 And you may purchase, if inclin'd !

The roads which pass over Frant green, soon after quitting it, branch off in different directions, and afford some of the most delightful rides to the frequenters of the Wells.

For richness of scenery, they do not yield to any in the southern parts of the kingdom : and they have the additional advantage of generally conducting to some objects of curiosity. Leaving the green, on the left of the road to Mayfield, is

SHERNFOLD PLACE,

A splendid mansion, erected some years since by Charles Pigou, Esq. on an elevated spot, with extensive grounds, the views from which are varied and commanding in every direction : and the house itself an object of interest to all the surrounding country. It is now the property and residence of Mrs. Colonel By.

SAXONBURY LODGE.

Almost opposite Shernfold Place, and near the turnpike gate, is an elegant villa, fitted up in the old English style, called Saxonbury Lodge, the residence of Daniel Rowland, Esq., High Sheriff for the county of Sussex in 1824 : it is built in the gothic style, with appropriate out-buildings. The grounds are laid out with peculiar taste and neatness, the whole commanding a beautiful

and uninterrupted view of the extensive park of Eridge, and the adjacent country.

Of the principal residents within the parish of Frant, are also Sheffield Grace, Esq., Knole House; Robert Hebden, Esq., Ely Place; Mrs. Beatson, Henly House; Capt. G. L. Minet, Delvidere; Major Macfarlane, and occasionally the Earl of Brecknock, Bayham Abbey. The Earl of Abergavenny, the Marquess of Camden, and Mrs. Col. By, are the chief landed proprietors.

MAYFIELD,

Or, as it was anciently spelt, Maighfeld, is a small, but pleasant town, situated on the summit of a hill, about eight miles from the Wells, on the road leading through Frant to East Bourne, and commands a rich and extensive prospect in every direction.

Mayfield Palace was formerly one of the earliest residences of the Archbishops of Canterbury. Eadmer, in the life of St. Dunstan, who died in 988, seems to imply, that it was built by that prelate, who, he says, here erected a wooden church: and the tradition, which fixes on this place as

the scene of some of Dunstan's miracles, would justify the conclusion, that he was himself an occasional resident. Whether this church continued till the year 1389, or whether it had been repaired or renovated with the same material, it would appear that it was then so constructed; for in that year it is recorded to have been burnt down, together with nearly the whole village.

From the many deeds and instruments dated at this place, Mayfield seems to have been a favourite residence of the Archbishops. In 1332 a provincial council was assembled here, at which a law was made relating to holidays; and in 1362 another council was held at Mayfield on the same subject. In this mansion, also, several of the metropolitans ended their days; as Simon Mepham in 1333; John Stratford in 1348; and Simon Islip, after a residence of a year and a half, in 1366. From this period to the reformation, the manor of Maighfeld appears to have been uninterruptedly in the possession of the successive Archbishops of Canterbury, and to have formed part of their demesne possessions. The entries relative to this

manor and palace at the time of the survey above referred to, are curious and interesting.

The manor and mansion were surrendered by Archbishop Cranmer to Henry VIII., who, in 1545, granted the estate to Sir Henry North. By him it was soon after alienated to Sir John Gresham, and descended to his next brother Sir Thomas, who occasionally resided here in great splendour. By the will of Sir Thomas, this manor and estate passed to Sir Henry Nevill, Knt., whose son sold it for £6387, to Thomas May, Esq., of Burwash. In the 16th of James I, it passed into the family of Baker, with whom it remained, till a late alienation transferred it into that of the Rev. John Kirby, vicar of Mayfield, who left it to his son, Mr. Thomas Kirby, the present proprietor.

The church of Mayfield is dedicated to St. Dunstan; and the palace occupies a considerable space at the east end of it, the ruins of which exactly represent what it was in its entire state: many of the apartments are totally dilapidated; and others, of large dimensions, are converted into store houses and granaries for the use of the farmer, who

occupies the house: but these are sufficiently entire to admit the visitor, and to gratify the investigator of ancient manners. But that which principally excites attention, is the venerable ruin of the great hall, which is 68 feet by 38 feet: the walls are perfect, and the three magnificent arches whereby the roof was supported, remain as entire and solid, as when the building was in its perfect state. It has now lost the name of *Palace*, in that of *Mayfield Place*. But when it is considered, that in its best days, the domain appendant on it was extensive; indeed, that in some directions it extended as far as the eye could reach; that it was immediately surrounded by a park, and other aids to magnificence, conveniency, and enjoyment, it will readily be allowed, that Mayfield was an abode well suited to its former dignified inhabitants.

In the house are exhibited curiosities of the *rarest kind*—the anvil and hammer of St. Dunstan, and the identical tongs with which he so uncivilly repulsed the Devil, when he assumed the amiable form of a fair lady! The sign of the celebrated Devil Tavern, in the metropolis, which formerly

stood on the east side of the Temple, in the parish of St. Dunstan in the west, portrayed this memorable and marvellous event; and there is a painting preserved in Goldsmith's Hall, of this temptation of St. Dunstan, wherein the heavenly host are displayed as rejoicing at his triumph.

The life of this saint, as related by Osbert, Eadmer, and other monkish writers, is filled with accounts of miracles wrought by him, and also of various conflicts with the Devil, in all which, Satan met with more than his match. We are told, that the Archbishop, performing in person the ceremony of dedicating Mayfield church, and, according to the accustomed form, going in procession round the building, observed that it was out of the line of sanctity, or, in other words, that it did not stand due east and west; on which he *gently* touched the edifice with his shoulder, and moved it into its proper bearings!!!

WADHURST,

A small town, distant from Tunbridge Wells about six miles. The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is partly in

the early and partly in the latter style of English architecture. It has a high and shingled spire, in which are six musical bells.

Proceeding on about three miles towards Ticehurst, there is, on the left of the road before you enter the village, a place called

HIGHLANDS,

It is an establishment for the reception of insane persons, the inmates of which are of the highest class, and of which Mr. Newington, who is a medical man, is the proprietor. The house is beautifully situated on a commanding eminence, enclosed within a paddock of sixty acres of land, surrounded with plantations and pleasure grounds. There are several buildings connected with the establishment, which, from their ornamented appearance, possess claims to architectural distinction. Among these are the Chinese Gallery, which is fitted up with much taste, and affords to the invalids a secure retreat in wet weather; and an extensive Conservatory, in which are some choice plants, and a good collection of the beauties of Flora. There are likewise phea-

santries and aviaries for birds of various kinds. There is also a spacious chapel for the performance of divine service. In the paddock is the Vineyard Cottage, the residence of the Misses Newington—a very delightful spot.

Returning to Frant Green, either from Mayfield or Wadhurst, a very excellent road presents itself in another direction, which leads to

BAYHAM ABBEY.

Bayham Abbey, or, more properly Begeham Abbey, is situated on the borders of Kent and Sussex, about six miles from Tunbridge Wells, in a south-east direction, partly in the parish of Lamberhurst, and partly in that of Frant, on a point of land included between two branches of the little river Tun, which here divides the two counties. It originally belonged to the Præmonstratensians, or White Canons, so called from their dress, which was a white cassock with a rochet over it, and a long white cloak. This order derived its origin from France; and took its denomination from the miraculous interposition of the Holy Virgin, who,

in a dream, appeared to the founder of this order, and pointed out the spot where an order was to be founded and an abbey built to her honour; from which circumstance the order took the denomination of Præ-Monstratenses, from Præ (before) and Monstro (to show), the situation having been *previously shown* or selected by the Holy Virgin; on which the stately abbey of Premonstrè, near Leon, in France, was subsequently erected. It is said to have been there established about the year 1120; and introduced into this country as early as the year 1146.

The first monastery of this new and favourite order of monks, was erected in Lincolnshire, by Peter de Saulia, and called *New House*. In the course of the following century, there were no less than twenty-seven religious houses of this order in England. Begeham Abbey was amongst the first of these; although its community was not originally established on the present spot, anciently named Beaulieu: for it appears that their first establishment was at Ottenham, in Sussex, and afterwards at Brockley, in Deptford.

These primary foundations owed their existence to the pious munificence of Ralph de Dene; but the former place being found objectionable, on account of its extreme poverty, the monks soon removed to Brockley. There, also, they met with obstacles to their comfort: on which Sir Robert de Thurnham, a great patron of monastic institutions, and one of the companions of Richard I. in the holy wars, with the consent of his lord paramount, the Earl of Clare, granted to these canons all his lands at Begeham, in pure and perpetual alms, for the purpose of building a new abbey. They removed in consequence to this spot, with the consent of Ela de Sackville, the daughter of their original founder, and permanently established their community, on the feast of the annunciation, A. D. 1200. Here they continued till the 17th of Henry VIII., when Cardinal Wolsey obtained a grant of this house, as one of the smaller monasteries, for the endowment of his intended colleges, though its revenues amounted to £152 per annum. On the disgrace of the cardinal, the manor, with the site of the abbey, reverted to the king, which, in all probability,

is the reason it is not mentioned in the great ecclesiastical survey made in 1535; and it seems to have remained in the possession of the crown, till Queen Elizabeth granted the estate to Anthony Brown, Viscount Montague. About 1714, it was purchased by John Pratt, Esq., afterwards Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench; and from him descended to the Marquess of Camden. This truly patriotic nobleman has a small mansion adjoining the abbey ruins, where his son, the Earl of Brecknock, resides; but the principal seat of the noble Marquess is at the Wilderness, near Riverhead.

The ruins of this venerable pile stand on an extensive level, enclosed on all sides by rising hills; and its romantic beauties attract the admiration of every spectator. Every where it displays the massy richness of gothic architecture; for the preservation of which it is indebted to the repairs it has received from the proprietors. The present remains consist of the nave of the church and its attached offices, a part of the refectory, and apparently of cloisters, together with some cellars or appendages on the buttery. The church is a handsome edifice,

perfect in its outline and principal walls; and contains some beautiful gothic windows, and various good specimens of the architecture of the thirteenth century. At the north-east end of the church are the remains of a turret staircase, which seems to have conducted to a rood loft, opening probably into the church, above the high altar, the traces of which also are very noticeable. On a stone, close by this spot, is the following inscription in old characters:—

Ela de Sackville, Daughter of Ralph 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.

When these monastic remains came into the hands of Lord Chief Justice Pratt, the church was still entire; but some buildings or repairs being wanted on the estate, the steward took off the roof, unknown to his lordship, for the sake of the timber and other materials. Thus the tombs of the abbots, and other monuments, were left exposed to the injuries of the weather.

The family of Sackville were probably benefactors to this monastery even after the time of its first establishment ; for it appears that they made it their place of interment. Sir Thomas, son of Sir Edward Sackville, and Richard Sackville, Esq. are particularly stated to have been buried here. There are still to be traced several flat grave stones, within the church, which however are much defaced. The interior of the church, and the cloisters, are now laid out as a pleasure garden, with flowers and gravel walks ; yet here the visitor may contemplate at his ease, the changes that time has wrought: a branch of the Medway murmurs near the foot of the abbey, and gives a finish to the pensive scenery.

About 100 yards to the north-west of the church are some remains of the entrance gate-house, or lodge to the abbey precincts. Immediately adjoining this is an immense pollard ash-tree, which Gough describes, in his additions to Camden's " Britannia," as being " several yards in girth, as old, if not older, than the abbey, and supposed to be the largest extant."

LINES ON BAYHAM ABBEY.

Ye sacred reliques, which with pious care,
Camden preserves from Time's destructive wear ;
Pleased thro' your mould'ring aisle, my footstep strays,
Where "pealing anthems breathed the notes of praise :"
While fancy, ever busy, loves to trace,
The former glories which adorned the place.
Here some dejected Abelard has trod,
And Eloisa's charms resign'd for God ;
Here hid in Contemplation's secret cell,
To this world's vanities has bid farewell ;
Here wild ambition, and the thirst of gain,
In holy bosoms long have ceased to reign.
Hail! calm retreat, in which was hush'd to rest
Each jarring passion of the human breast ;
Where resignation with repentance meek,
Added fresh lustre to the faded cheek ;
And Heaven, propitious to the voice of prayer,
Dispelled all sorrow and controlled despair.
Let scoffers mock, and infidels deride
At Monkish ignorance, and Monkish pride,
Yet here religion never clos'd the door
Against the wretched, or the suffering poor :
The houseless wanderer forced by want to roam,
Here found a kind and hospitable home.
Why deem we those who lived in these retreats,
As useless drones, or hypocritic cheats ?
How much of human learning had been lost,
Thro' this wide world, in wild confusion tost,
Had not the patient labours of the cell,
(Where many a holy man preferred to dwell),
Preserved from gothic ignorance and fire,
Those sacred volumes which we all admire !
But say, ye slaves of dissipation, say,
What are the boasted pleasures of the gay ?
Is it to see paternal acres fly,
Cast on the hazard of a single die ?

Is it at mid-day from a fev'rish bed,
 To rise distracted with an aching head ?
 Ah! who would change for these the tranquil mind,
 The conscience undisturbed, the will resigned ?
 Not that a cloistered life I would approve,
 Or seek to damp the joys of wedded love.
 Yet sure 'tis safer from the foe to fly,
 Than in the fields the doubtful contest try.
 Yet, from the neighbouring WELLS full oft repair,
 Too many a thoughtless youth and giddy fair ;
 And through these awful ruins as they rove,
 Tell their soft tales of pleasure and of love.
 But, oh! what thinking mind can look around,
 Or view the structure which adorn'd this ground,
 Heedless of human life's uncertain stay,
 And how all things are hastening to decay.
 Oh! may these sacred ruins long remain
 To warn the thoughtless and instruct the vain.

Nor shall the hoary-headed Gardener's praise,
 Be deemed unworthy of these humble lays ;
 Were there no traces left, he still remains
 The sole historian of these sacred plains.
 Hear him the kindness of his Lord declare,
 And tell how lovely all his daughters are ;
 Then lead the way with interesting talk,
 Thro' each green alley, and each favourite walk,
 Where Camden's beauteous offspring love to stray,
 Casting all grandeur and all pomp away :
 For no magnificence is here displayed,
 No lofty portico or colonnade ;
 But round the modest roof the ivy spreads,
 And peaceful comfort all its influence sheds.
 What! tho' no fountains spouting to the skies,
 No proud colossal statues meet your eyes ;
 Within no splendour, and without no show,
 Yet here is all that man can want below.

Hail! then, illustrious Lord of these domains,
 These fertile valleys, and these hallowed plains ;

To thee, how truly grateful, and how sweet,
Must be this elegant and calm retreat :
To leave the bustle and the noise of Courts,
For simpler pleasures and for country sports ;
Grandeur and pomp for rural ease to change,
And thro' these pleasing solitudes to range.
Oh! had all-gracious heav'n but formed for me,
So kind a shelter from life's stormy sea,
Some humbler cottage in a lonely vale,
Where no rude tempests ever could assail,
Where I might tune these unassuming lays,
And pass securely my remaining days.
Oh! had it raised some sympathizing friend,
To smooth my passage to my latter end,
Then, had I, bless'd with all the means I have,
The power that granted, and the hand that gave.

Bayham is the favourite resort of the fashionables, at Tunbridge Wells, during the summer and autumn months, for, independent of the attractions of the place itself, the road to it from the Wells, through the village of Frant, opens a view to the most delightful prospects : but strangers are only permitted to view the abbey ruins one day in the week, which is Friday.

SOUTHBOROUGH

Is a pleasant hamlet about two miles and a half on the road, between the town of Tunbridge and the Wells, but has nothing now particular to attract, though it once had

its bowling-green and coffee-house, and was, on the first discovery of the waters, or soon afterwards, considered a place of speculation, before the company could be accommodated with lodgings at the Wells. It is noticed in the lively record of Count Grammont's "Memoirs," wherein is detailed the visit of Charles's dissipated court, that, at this period, there were no houses capable of affording the requisite accommodation at Tunbridge Wells: and tradition records, that the court took up their residence here, chiefly at two houses, lately standing, near the Hand and Sceptre Inn, on a spot now occupied by a neat mansion, the property of Mrs. Broadley Wilson; whilst others were accommodated at Somerhill, then the property and residence of Lord Muskerry.

The hamlet of Southborough and its immediate neighbourhood, is supposed to contain a population of 1100, which is rapidly increasing; and, as there was no place of worship nearer than the parish church of Bidborough, (distant about one mile), which could only properly accommodate about two hundred, the number of its own inhabitants, a spirited subscription was commenced to-

wards erecting a Church or Chapel on Southborough Common, a grant having at the same time been obtained from the Lord of the Manor, James Alexander, Esq., (with the consent of the Tenants), of a suitable piece of land for that purpose, close to a grove of very fine old oaks. The church is built in the simplest style of early English architecture, without ornament; and it is constructed to contain four hundred and eighty-six sittings, of which *two hundred and eighty-six* are *free*. It was erected from the designs of Mr. Decimus Burton; and opened and consecrated for divine worship, on the 25th of August, 1830.

Southborough affords a pleasant airing from the Wells; and is further inviting, from the beautiful seat and park called

GREAT BOUNDS,

Which is an ancient gothic structure, situated in the parish of Bidborough, and receives its appellation from being the extreme boundary of the liberty of Tunbridge. In remoter times it was held by the same proprietors as owned the castle of Tunbridge. About the commencement of the reign of

James the First, it was purchased by Sir Thomas Smyth, of Sutton at Hone, in this county, in whose family it continued until the year 1790, when, on the demise of Lady Smyth, relict of Sir Sydney Stafford Smyth, Knt., Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, it was sold for the benefit of her relatives, and purchased by John Earl of Darnley, by whose mother, the Dowager Lady Darnley, it was inhabited for some years. Since her death, which was severely felt by the neighbouring poor, to whom she had ever been a liberal benefactress, it became only the residence of a yearly tenant. Some time after, it was occupied by the Baron de Roll, who died there, August the 27th, 1813. He was one of the oldest Colonels in the British Army, and raised the regiment of foreigners which takes his name, and whose eminent services, in almost every quarter of the globe, have repeatedly contributed to the glory of their adopted country. Baron de Roll was captain in the Swiss Guards of the King of France, previously to the Revolution. From that eventful period, he uniformly followed the fortunes of the Bourbon family, who ever found in him a faithful and most

steadfast adherent. At the risk of his life, he frequently executed at foreign courts, missions of great importance to the individuals of this august family : and he had just before his death returned from Colberg, whither he had accompanied their Royal Highnesses Monsieur and the Duc d'Angoulême. Few men were endowed with more amiable and more solid qualities, and, it may be added, that few foreigners were more deservedly respected by the highest characters, than the Baron de Roll. The house is now the property of the Rev. Sir Charles Hardinge, Bart., Vicar of Tunbridge, who purchased it recently of Lord Caledon ; it stands in a well-wooded park of about a hundred and twenty acres, agreeably varied, and presenting a greater diversity of scenery than is usually met with in so limited a compass ; the grounds, however, are still capable of great improvement, and under the guidance of taste, Bounds would certainly become one of the most charming places in the county.

In a very retired situation in the Birch Wood, is a handsome monument erected in memory of Lady Catharine, the wife of

Brigadier-general Charles William Stewart,
and sister to Lord Darnley, bearing this
inscription :—

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 Mamma ! "

" 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 Fre-
nada, in Portugal, by Charles Stewart, in Feb. 1812.

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

In Feb. 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, and Truth.

C. S.

From a seat just by, there is, through an opening in the wood, a most picturesque and unexpected view of the parish church, which stands on an eminence just without the boundary; and, though an humble edifice, is still an object of much interest when seen from the park. In the church-yard is a beautiful and elegant Sarcophagus, executed by Bacon, to the memory of the late Baron de Roll, inscribed as follows:—

LOUIS ROBERT BARON DE ROLL,
 De Emmenhobz, in the Canton of Soleure,
 Count of the Holy Roman Empire,
 Knight of the Military Order of St. Louis,
 Adjutant General to his Royal Highness Monsieur
 Count D'Artois,
 Major General and Colonel of De Roll's Swiss
 Regiment, in his Britannick Majesty's Service,
 Died at Bounds, in this Parish,
 August 27th, 1813,
 Aged 64.

At the other end of the Sarcophagus:—

Why do we weep, when those esteem'd the best
 Of human beings, from their labours rest?
 Why do we weep, when, freed from anguish here
 They rise to heaven, eternal joys to share?
 Is not the tear a selfish tear that flows,
 For friends beyond the reach of mortal woes?
 Friends whose high virtues Nations might extol,
 Such as the faithful, brave, and good DE ROLL.

Child of the land, where *Tell* first saw the light,
He loved Britannia, and a Briton's right,
Simple in heart, yet dignified in mind,
Social in temper, as a husband kind;
He stood unchanged at fortune's bitter frown,
That bore the Royal House of *Bourbon* down;
He cheer'd its exile, gained its just applause,
And died, at length, a martyr to its cause:
He died in bliss, for he had shewn on earth,
All that can stamp the Man,—a Man of worth.

MABLEDON

Is situated on an eminence called Quarry Hill, about a mile and a half on the road from Tunbridge to the Wells. This elegant imitation of an ancient castellated mansion, was erected by James Burton, Esq., and is surrounded by an estate of considerable magnitude. Its elevated situation gives it a command of view in every direction, and the beauty of the adjacent grounds will recommend it to the admirers of rich and varied scenery; whilst the well-conceived character of what it is intended to represent, produces an admirable effect to the whole country from whence it is viewed, and will probably impose itself on the stranger to this neighbourhood, for the genuine remains of an ancient edifice. It was purchased by John Deacon, Esq. in 1828; and since that time

it has been much enlarged and improved, from the designs of Decimus Burton, Esq. Part of the exterior walls of the house was brought from the ruins of Penshurst Place, and the new walls have been stained and worked to match the old materials.

PENS HurST.

About six miles north-west of the Wells, on the banks of the River Medway, which is here a considerable stream, stands the pleasant village of Penshurst, or *the head of a wood*, adjoining to which is Penshurst Place. It was anciently the property and residence of a family which bore the name of the place: being possessed in the reign of Henry III. and Edward I., by Stephen de Peneshurste, or Penchester, whose rude monument still exists in the parish church. After passing through several dignified families, it was, for a short time, in the early part of the reign of Edward VI. owned by John Earl of Warwick: this estate, however, soon became forfeited to the crown; when King Edward granted it to Sir William Sidney, (one of the heroes of Flodden

Field), the father of his most worthy friend and favourite, Sir Henry Sidney, who, as a monument of gratitude to that generous monarch, from whom his father obtained this estate, built the tower over the gateway of the principal entrance, on which he placed this inscription.

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, caused this Tower to be bylded, and that most excellent Princes Arms to be erected. Anno Domini, 1585.

Sir Henry Sidney, a learned and accomplished gentleman, was educated with Edward VI., on whose premature death, he retired to Penshurst to indulge his melancholy, for in his arms the young monarch had expired. Sir Henry was distinguished by Mary and Elizabeth, the latter of whom appointed him Lord President of the Marches of Wales. He was also four times Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, and three times Deputy Governor of that kingdom, where

he much distinguished himself by his active services. Dying at Ludlow, in 1586, he was interred by the Queen's order, with great solemnity, at Penshurst. He left three sons, of whom the two eldest, Sir Philip and Sir Robert, have distinguished places in our annals; and a daughter Mary, who became Countess of Pembroke, whom her brother Sir Philip, has celebrated in his *Arcadia*; and Ben Jonson panegyricized, by the beautiful lines inscribed on her tomb.

Sir Philip Sidney, stiled the *Incomparable*, was born at Penshurst, on the 29th of November, 1554, and was mortally wounded in a skirmish at Zutphen, in Holland, on the 22nd of September, 1586. This noble personage, whose splendour of talents was, if possible, exceeded by the elegance of his manners, closed his short but matchless career, by a death, in which the highest military glory was more than rivalled by the piety of a saint, and the fortitude of a hero. The military and literary events of his life have been the theme of the highest panegyric, and are too well known to be here inserted: but we flatter ourselves, that the following account of the circumstances of his prema-

ture death, extracted from Dr. Zouch's elegant memoir of his life and writings, will be considered interesting by our readers.

“Suffering under extreme misery and pain, he had now languished sixteen days on the bed of sickness. His condition was then truly deplorable. Lord Brooke says, ‘*The very shoulder bones of this delicate patient were worn through the skin, with constant and obedient posturing of his body to the art of the Chirurgeon.*’ At length, he declared that he smelt what may not unaptly be called the smell of death. Though his attendants did not perceive this, and endeavoured to persuade him that, from this circumstance, he had no cause to suspect danger, he persevered in his opinion, that a mortification had taken place; and, sensible of the approach of his dissolution, he prepared himself for death with cheerfulness and fortitude. The night before he died, leaning upon a pillow in his bed, he wrote the following short note to the celebrated Johannes Weierus,*

* We have the gratification to assure our readers, from unquestionable authority, that the original letter from Sir Philip Sidney to Dr. Johannes Weierus has very recently been discovered in His Majesty's State Paper

Physician to the Duke of Cleves, and famed for his learning and professional knowledge:—*‘Come, my Weierus, come to me—my life is in danger—Dead or alive I will never be ungrateful.—I can write no more, but I earnestly entreat you to come to me without delay.—Farewell.’*”

There is still extant, one of the rarest books in the English language; namely, “Whetstone’s Elegy on the Death of Sir Philip Sidney,”* which was written in the year 1587, and dedicated to Ambrose, Earl of Warwick, a very near relation of the

Office, London, by Mr. Lemon, Jun. This most interesting literary relic of one of the brightest characters in English history, is in Latin; and though written in the agonies of death, (for Sir Philip expired in a few hours afterwards), is critically correct, even to an accent. It is accompanied by a medical report, in Dutch, from Dr. Gisbert Enerwitz, one of the physicians who attended Sir Philip, to Dr. Weierus, which no doubt contains many interesting particulars of his case, but, from the difficulty of decyphering the writing, it has hitherto not been found practicable to translate it.

* The extreme scarcity of Whetstone’s Poetical Works, may be estimated by the fact, that a copy of them, in a very thin octavo volume, was sold at an exceedingly high price, at the celebrated sale of the Duke of Roxburghe’s library, by Mr. Evans, of Pall Mall: very few other copies are known to be in existence, and those only in the libraries of distinguished collectors.

Sidney family : and through the kindness of a friend, we are enabled to give, as specimens of ancient poetry, some very curious extracts from it, of the life and death of this illustrious hero.

O what is Life—the life of fleshe and blood,
 A Moment's Joy—a Blast—a Blaze—a Breath,
 A bitter sweet, that yields no savory good,
 A certaine cause, that brings uncertaine deathe,
 A rustie Sword, clos'd in a painted Sheath,
 Which being drawn, to set the Soule at large,
 They only live whom Virtue hath in charge.

Fame is the life and joy of valiant sprites,
 Desire whereof doth drive them on the pike ;
 Hap Life, hap Deathe, who first at danger smytes
 In Country's cause, doth either fortune like.
 Death cannot daunt, though death them dead doe strike:
 And these be they that fame with name doth crown,
 When shallow graves the multitude doe drowne.

Of such a one, and equall with the best,
 My Muse is bound the praises to revive ;
 A Knighte he was, that with the foremost prest,
 Where martiall men for highest honor strive,
 Within whose brest the Graces all did hive.
 His name that lyves was—Phillip Sydney, Knight,
 His Death blames not the foe, but fortune's spight.

Whom to revive, Mars and the Muses meet,
 In Armor faire his Hearse they have arraied,
 And on the same a robe down to the feete,
 About his Helm a Laurell Wrethe is brayd,
 And on his Sword a Silver Penne is layde,
 And either said, that he their glory was,
 And either sigh'd to see him cutt like grasse.

After a description of his family, his early promise, his education, foreign travels, public services, poetical works, &c., the poem proceeds.

In peace he liv'd, admired of the best,
In peace he liv'd, beloved of the worst,
In peace he liv'd, and never man opprest,
In peace he liv'd, and ever, with the first
Laid help on those whom fortune had accurst ;
And, to be short, the rising Sun he was
That comforted and shined in every place.

After detailing the circumstances which induced Queen Elizabeth to espouse the cause of the Dutch, the sending a body of auxiliary forces, under the command of the Earl of Leicester, and the appointment of his nephew, Sir Philip Sidney, to the government of Flushing, the author proceeds to describe the circumstances of the battle of Zutphen, where Sir Philip received his death wound.

A hunting Fight, this skirmish may be call'd
Of eager dogges, as for a leashe we see,
A herd of deer, doe skatter, kyll, and gall'd,
Our Men but few, with fury did so flee
Upon their foes, that some amazed be,
Essex that day revived his father's name,
Lord Willoughby charged like a fiery flame.

But O! to shade this glory with our woe,
Hardy Sydney, likest to Mars in view,

With furious charge did brake upon the foe,
 A muskett shotte his stately Horse then slew ;
 He, hors'd again, the fight did soon renew,
 But fortune, that at his renown did spight,
 A bullett sent, that in his thigh did light.

The wound was deepe, and shivered the bone,
 His heart was good, and manly bare this crosse
 With courage stout ; he did suppress the moan
 That many made which did behold his losse.
 Udall* then lit, softly to lead his horse,
 " Let go," quoth he, " till I fall to the grounde,
 " The foe shall misse the glory of this wounde."

Forth of the field, with courage stout he rode,
 To search his wounde, their skill the Surgeons show,
 What might be bought, to do him any good,
 What might be wrought, to mitigate his woe,
 What might be sought, to salve his mortall blow,
 Was bought, wrought, sought, his wound, his grief, his
 To cure, ease, save—but O ! the fatall knife [life

Had grav'd his wound too deepe to draw long breath,
 Had forg'd his grieffe too sharpe to relish ease,
 Had thrust his life into the mouth of Death ;
 What now remains ? since nothing may appease
 The monster Death, that feeds of his disease ;
 Even only this—to show his godly ende,
 For soveraign praise did with his life contend.

When death he felt lay heavy in his womb,
 When life he saw made hast from him to fly,
 " My Glory now," quoth he, " must be my tomb,
 " In which I could forbear a while to lye ;
 " Not that I faine on lyfe, or feare to dye,
 " But of mere zeale, if with God's Will it stood,
 " I respite wish, to do my Country good."

* Capt. J. Uvedale, or Udall, a brave and experienced officer, who constantly attended Sir Philip on military service, and was particularly mentioned by him in his will.

The description of Sir Philip Sidney's funeral, though the expressions are quaint, and the metre harsh, compared with modern versification, is yet so highly animated, nervous, and picturesque, that we think our readers would not forgive us, if we did not submit the whole of it to their kind indulgence and perusal.

When Winter's bitter blasts, the trees began to bare
 Sweet Sydney slayn, down fell our hope, and pillar of welfare.
 He was the rying Sunne, that made all England glad,
 He was the life and light of those that any vertues had
 He was the Muses' joy: He was Bellona's Shield:
 Within the town he was a Lambe, a Lyon in the Field.
 His life bewrayd a love that matched Curtius's zeal,
 His life no life, contempt of death, to serve the commonweale.
 Noe gift nor grace there was, but in his vertues shin'd
 His worth, more worth than Flanders' wealth, nowe by his loss we find
 For when his sacred sowl did forth his bodie fly,
 Ten thousand shrieks pursued the same, unto the starry sky;
 The stowtest souldier then, shew'd feminine dismay,
 And with their tears did wash the wound that brought him to decay.
 Some kiss'd his breathless mouth, where wisdom flow'd at will,
 Some rais'd his head, that lately was the treasure house of skill,
 Where truth and courage lived: his noble hart some felt,
 Some layd their handes upon his brest, where all the vertues dwelt.
 Some ey'd his closed eyes, that watch'd the poor man's neede,
 And when they did unwrap his thigh, his wound did make them bleede;
 O! honor dearly bought, they cry'd, and moaned for his chaunce,
 And shook his hand, and said farewell, thou Glory of the Launce.
 Outcries soon spread his death, the moan ranne farre and near,
 What was he then that mourned not, the dolcful newes to hear.
 The Kynge of Scottes bewray'd his griefe, in good and learned verse,
 And many more their passions penn'd, with praise to deck his hearse.
 The Flusshingers made suit his breathlesse corse to have,
 And offered a sumptuous tomb, the same for to engrave:

But oh! his lovinge frendes at their request did grieve,
 It was too much he lost his life, his corpse they would not leave;
 And so from Flushing Port, in shippe attir'd with blacke,
 They did embark this perfect Knight, that only breath did lacke.
 The winds and seas did mourn to see this heavy sight,
 And to the Thames they did convey this much lamented Knight.
 Unto the Minories his body was convayd,
 And there, under a martiall hearse, three monthes or more was layd:
 But when the day was come, he to his grave must goe,
 A host of heavy men repayr'd to see the sollemn show,
 The poor whom he, good Knight, did often clothe and feed,
 In fresh remembrance of their woe, went first in mourning weed.
 His friends and servants sad, was thought a heavy sight,
 Who fix'd their eyes upon the ground, which now must house their Knight.
 To heare the drumme and fyfe send forth a dolefull sound,
 To see his colours, late advanc'd, lye trailing on the ground;
 Each ornament of war thus out of order borne,
 Did pierce ten thousand harts with griefe, that were not wont to moan.
 Some mark'd the great dismay that charg'd his martiall band,
 And how some horsemen walked on foote, with battle axe in hand;
 Some told the mourning cloakes his Gentlemen did wear,
 What Knights and Captains were in gowns, and what the Heralds bare.
 Some mark'd his stately Horse, how they hung down their head,
 As if they mourned for their Knight, that followed after, dead.
 But when his noble Corpse in solemne wise past by,
 "Farewell the worthiest Knight that liv'd, the multitude did cry,
 "Farewell he that honour'd art, by lawrel and by launce,
 "Farewell the Friend beloved of all, that had no foe but chaunce."
 His solemn Funerall, beseeming his estate,
 Thus by the Heralds marshalled: the more to moan his fate,
 Three Earls, and other Lords, the Holland's States, in black,
 With all their trayn then followed; and that noe love might lack,
 The Mayor and Aldermen, in purple robes, there mourn'd,
 And last a Band of Citizens, with weapons aukward turn'd,
 In solemne wise did bring this Knight unto the ground,
 Who being there bestowed at rest, their last adiewe to sound
 Two volley of brave shot they thunder'd in the skyes,
 And thus his Funerall did ende, with many weeping eyes.

The successor of Sir Philip Sidney, was
 Robert, his next brother, by whom the

family was enobled; he being created, by James I., on his accession, Baron Sidney of Penshurst; in the third year of the same reign, Viscount Lisle; and the next year, in further consideration of his eminent services, Earl of Leicester. On his death, the title and estate devolved to his third and only surviving son. This earl, who died in 1677, had by his lady, the daughter of the Earl of Northumberland, a large family, most of whom occupied conspicuous stations. Of these were two celebrated characters; one, his second son, Algernon Sidney, who was implicated in the Rye-House Plot, and perished on the scaffold, on Tower Hill, in 1683, for his attachment to the cause of liberty: the other, the famed Lady Dorothy Sidney, so celebrated for her beauty and indifference to "humble love," by the plaintive muse of Waller, by whom she was eulogised under the poetic appellation of Sacharissa. She was married first to the Earl of Sunderland, and secondly to Robert Smyth, Esq., of Great Bounds, in the parish of Bidborough.

Penshurst, the ancient seat of the Sidneys, Earls of Leicester, has, for a number of years

successively, been the habitation of heroes and patriots; few houses in this kingdom shine with such distinguished lustre, and none can claim a superior place in the annals of fame.

This noble mansion, which still remains in the Sidney family, stands near the southwest angle of the park, and immediately adjoining the village and church; it has been much reduced in bulk of late years, a part of the building having been taken down, and the materials sold. It was formerly a very extensive pile, and though of irregular design, (being the work of different hands), was not wholly destitute of architectural beauty or domestic convenience. It still contains many good apartments; but the great hall has been divested of much of its former interest by the mania of modern improvement. Not many years since the fine timber roof of this noble room was entire; the side walls throughout were covered with pikes, lances, and match-locks; and the upper end and piers with entire suits of plate armour. That of Sir Philip Sidney was pointed out to the spectator; it was possibly spurious, but the deception was

allowable, and very little enthusiasm was wanting to give it reality. However, there is yet to be seen the great fire hearth, which Mr. King speaks of in his *Archæologia*, as being in the midst of the old hospitable hall of the house, with the frame of iron, strong enough to hold vast piles of wood. The state rooms are grand, their ornaments consisting of many excellent family portraits, and others of eminent characters in English history, together with some valuable cabinets and a collection of curious works of art. The present noble proprietor of Penshurst, Lord de Lisle, is making great improvements in every part of the mansion, which will go far towards restoring it to its ancient splendour. The interior is shown to visitors on Mondays and Saturdays only.

The park was formerly one of the finest in the kingdom, and though much decreased, is pleasantly diversified by gentle eminences, lawns, and woods; but among the fine oak, beech, and chesnut trees with which the park abounds, that which is said to have stood

“ ——— the sacred mark

“ Of noble Sidney’s birth, ——— ”

(as alluded to by the poets Jonson and

Waller, and also by a more modern bard, Mr. E. Coventry, in a little poem called *Penshurst*), will be sought for in vain, having proved more perishable than the fame of him, whose birth it was intended to commemorate. Collins informs his readers, that this tree was remaining in the park in his time, and called Bear's Oak; but it does not appear that there is now any well-ascertained tradition relating to it in the family. "The famous Penshurst Oak," which stands at a short distance beyond a fine piece of water, called Lancup Well, is still considered by some to be the tree mentioned by Collins. It is now deprived of many of its branches by the desolating hand of time, but yet retains a sort of melancholy pre-eminence. There is certainly something remarkably grand in the appearance of its gigantic but decaying trunk, which measures upwards of twenty-two feet in girth: it has been hollowed out with great pains and labour, and an entrance cut in the side, so that several persons may seat themselves in it, notwithstanding the rind and trunk is still of enormous thickness. Indeed, it may be said of this tree

“ Once thy spreading boughs
 O'erhung the champaign, and the numerous flock
 That graz'd it, stood beneath that ample cope
 Uncrowded, yet safe shelter'd from the storm.
 Time was, when settling on thy trunk a fly
 Could shake thee to the root; and time has been
 When tempests could not! At thy firmest age
 Thou hadst within thy bole solid contents
 That might have ribb'd the sides and plank'd the deck
 Of some flagg'd Admiral, and tortuous arms,
 The shipwright's darling treasure, didst present
 To the four quartered winds robust and bold
 Warp'd into tough knee timber, many a load!”

The park still retains one lasting memorial of the ancient splendour of the place: in the lofty beeches, on the highest ground opposite, is a well-frequented *Heronry*, now considered a singular curiosity. The late Mrs. Charlotte Smith, while at Penshurst, in the autumn of 1788, composed the following beautiful and descriptive sonnet:—

Ye towers sublime, deserted now and drear;
 Ye woods, deep sighing to the hollow blast!
 The musing wanderer loves to linger near,
 While history points to all your glories past;
 And, startling from their haunts the timid deer,
 To trace the walks obscured by matted fern,
 Which Waller's soothing notes were wont to hear,
 But where now clamours the discordant her'n!
 The spoiling hand of time may overturn
 These lofty battlements, and quite deface
 The fading canvass, whence we love to learn
 Sidney's keen look, and Sacharissa's grace;
 But fame and beauty still defy decay,
 Sav'd by th' historic page, the poet's tender lay.

In Penshurst church, which is a good substantial structure, are several antique monuments of the proprietors of Penshurst Place, and particularly of the Sidneys, most of whom, for above these two hundred years past, have been buried there. In the churchyard, the stranger is attracted by the sentimental tomb of two amiable young ladies, (the Miss Allnutt's), who were prematurely snatched from the world, just as they had entered its flowery paths. Their afflicted parents have decked their graves with roses, clematis, and cypress, and a constant succession of the finest flowers in season. Two rude unshapen stones are placed in an erect position, on which are tablets containing 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 pair shall rest ;
Hence, hand-in-hand before th' Almighty rise ;
Together quit earth's cold and dreary breast,
For brighter dwellings in ethereal skies.

For love of parent, husband, wife, and child,
So strongly planted in the human heart ;
Inspires the faith that we shall meet again
In realms of bliss, where we shall never part !

Though sweet that faith, yet futile are our cares,
 For God has promis'd, and he will fulfil :
 And atoms scatter'd 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 emblems of these buried here.

O'er 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.

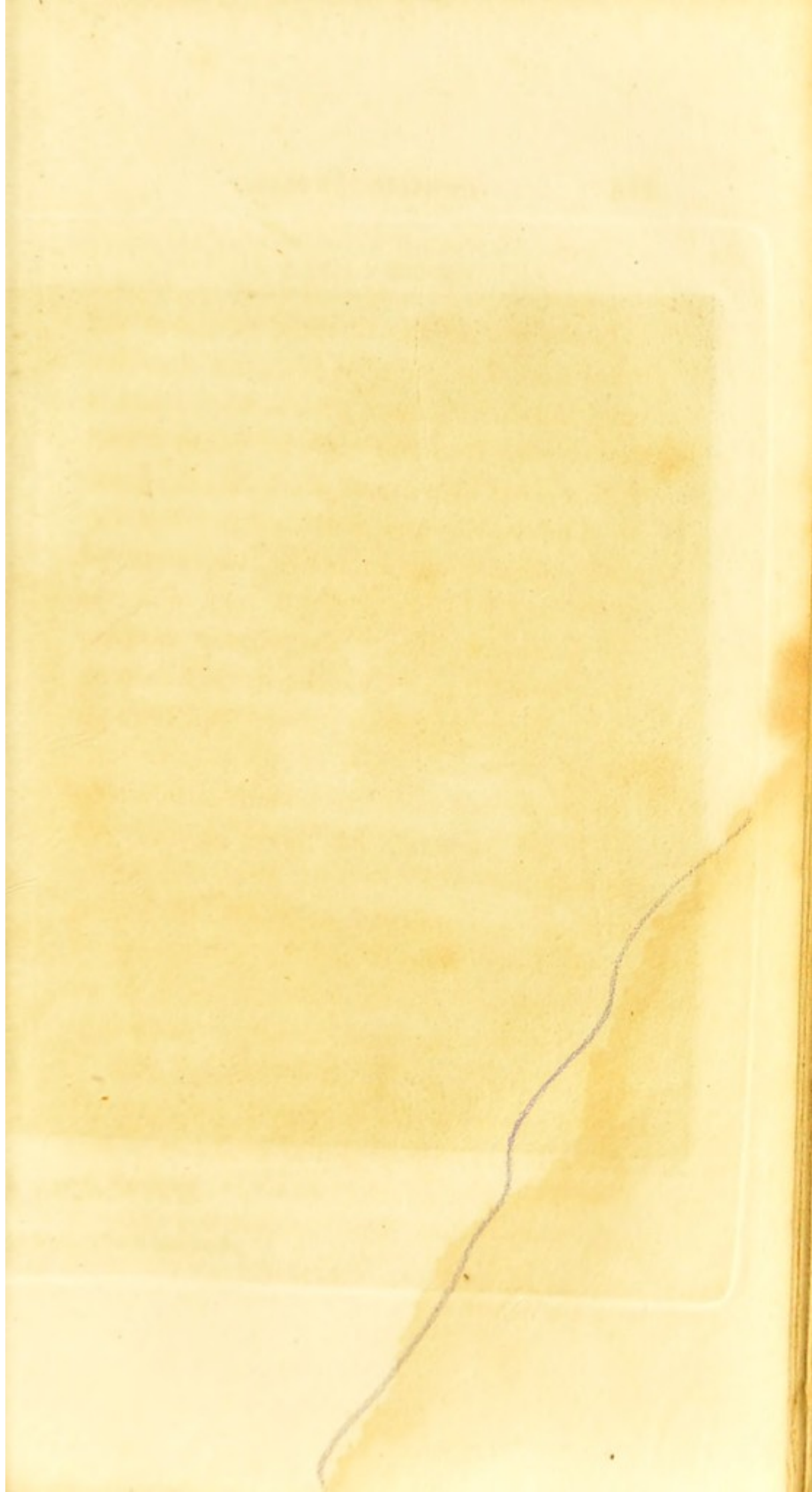
At the northern extremity of Penshurst Park is RED LEAF, the property and residence of William Wells, Esq. This gentleman, partial to works of art, has a valuable collection of ancient and modern paintings.

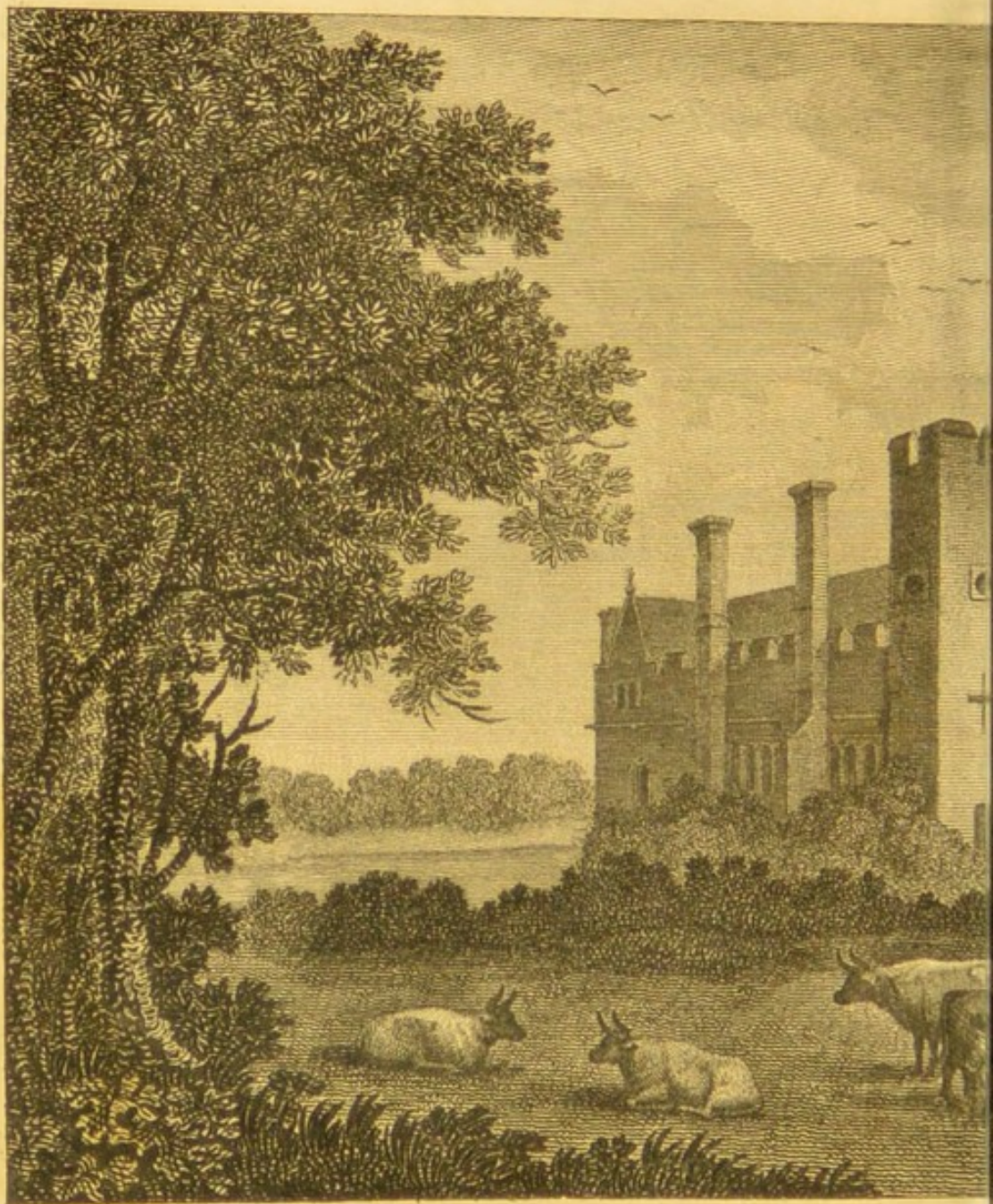
At POUND'S BRIDGE, in Penshurst parish, is a singular-built old timber house, which, by a date on its front, appears to have been erected in 1595. The ride to it, in the direction of Speldhurst, may be recommended as one of peculiar beauty.

HEVER CASTLE

Is situated at the distance of about ten miles from Tunbridge Wells, and four beyond Penshurst, from which place there is now a good turnpike road by South Park, Walnut-tree Cross, and Mark Beech, leading to Cowden and Edenbridge; but the road which branches off on the right of Mark Beech to Hever, is not easy of access for carriages, during the winter months. Mr. Streatfeild, of Chiddingstone, however, has made an excellent private road towards his own place.

This ancient castle, of which considerable ruins still remain, has long claimed the attention of the curious, from the many interesting historical facts appertaining to it, particularly from being the birth-place of an unfortunate queen, and the scene of an unprincipled monarch's revelry; yet its situation is far from agreeable, though exactly according with the notions of comfort and security entertained by our ancestors. It is surrounded by a moat, which is supplied by the river Eden, and approached over a bridge through an embattled gateway, in

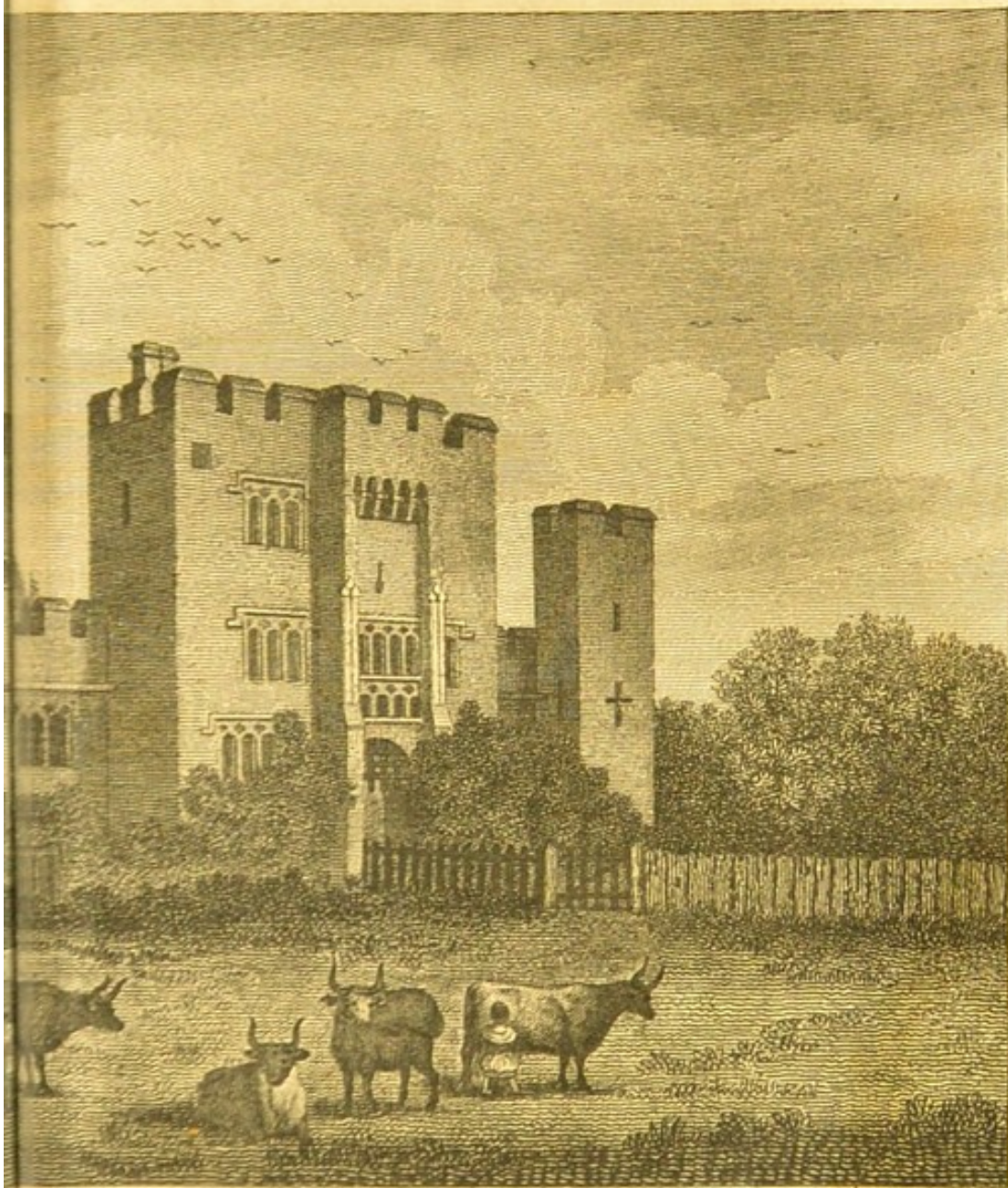




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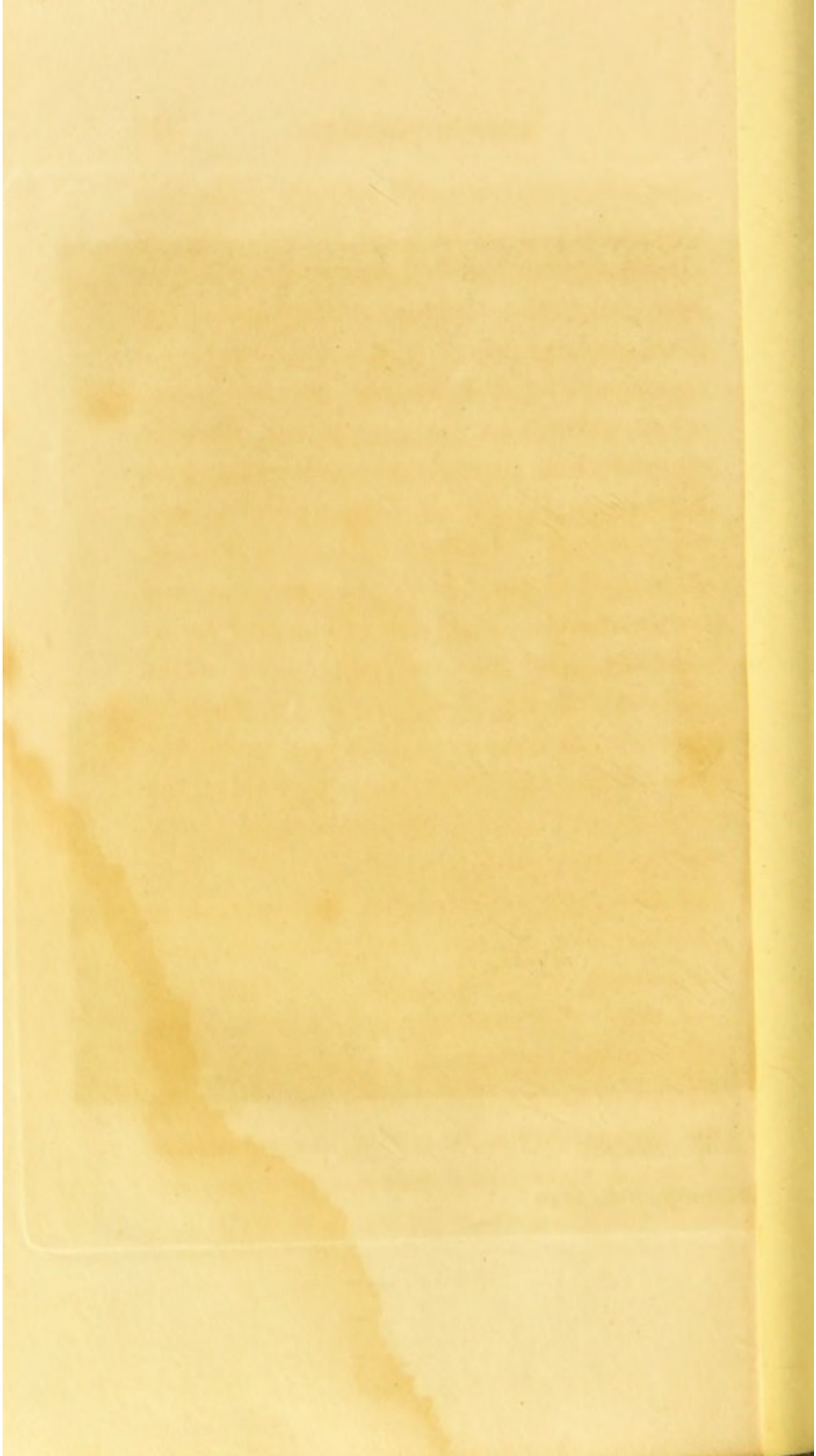
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W^m & J. Walker sc.

CASTLE Kent.

Ward, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.



which the portcullis still remains. The outline of the principal front is pleasing, and on the whole, the building is a very creditable specimen of the domestic architecture of the fourteenth century. It retains, indeed, no splendour; it has lost its ancient consequence: but it serves to point and illustrate an interesting tale. It was built in the time of Edward III., by William de Hever, and afterwards fell into the hands of the Bullens, who made it their principal residence, and to whom, also, it is chiefly indebted for its celebrity: for who can enter these walls, without recalling to his mind the unfortunate Anne Bullen? Who can enter the great hall, and there see, probably, the identical oak table, at which the royal Henry sat a suitor and a guest; and not allow his imagination some play amongst those extraordinary scenes? It was here the stern and inflexible tyrant, awed for a season by the charms of beauty, is said to have spent some of the happiest of his days. Extraordinary instances of the influence of passion are too numerous, to render the conduct of Henry, even on this occasion, either singular or surprising; for whether under the do-

minion of love, (if this cruel and vindictive monarch could for a moment be thought capable of it) or under the gross impulse of appetite; the inclination must have been great, which induced his haughty spirit to stoop from the grandeur and pageantry of royalty, to the humble forms and inconveniences of common life: besides, the difficulty of approach to this secluded spot, must have been an additional obstacle; for, according to tradition, it was his custom, on gaining the hill, whence the towers of the castle were visible, to wind his bugle horn, as a notice of his approach; which it is observed, “he could sometimes with difficulty effect, on account of the depth and tenacity of the surrounding mire.”

In Hever Castle is still preserved a portrait of Queen Anne Bullen, who, with her brother, Lord Rochford, fell a sacrifice to the cruel jealousy and wavering passions of the tyrannical Henry. On their execution, he seized on this estate as his rightful inheritance; and in the 32nd year of his reign, granted what he had thus obtained by the execution of one wife, to another, whom he repudiated—Anne of Cleves. The tale of

Anne Bullen has recently been revived. Her "Memoirs," in two volumes, by Miss Benger, is a well-written production.

There can be no doubt that the estate of Hever was granted to Anne of Cleves, though it certainly is not mentioned among the lands settled on her after her divorce from Henry VIII., which are specified in Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. 14, p. 710. Here this unfortunate, ill-used, but apparently contented lady, resided till her death, which happened at Hever, on the 16th of July, 1557, having survived her nominal husband above ten years. By the kindness of the same friend who has embellished this edition with many curious and valuable historic notes, we are enabled to state, that an original letter from this lady to her daughter-in-law, Queen Mary, congratulating her on her marriage with Philip II., King of Spain, is still extant, dated "Frome my poure house of Hever, the 4th off August, 1554," and subscribed "Your Highnes's to commaunde, Anna the Dowghter of Cleves." It is a singular fact, that in June, 1821, during the preparations for the coronation of his late Majesty, in Westminster Abbey, when the workmen

were employed in pulling down some partitions of wainscot work, which separated the choir from Henry VIII's chapel, the tomb of Anne of Cleves was discovered, in the most perfect state of preservation, and afforded a very fine specimen of the sculpture at that period, being particularly rich in gothic tracery and heraldic decoration. The original sentence of divorce between Anne of Cleves and Henry VIII., in July, 1540, signed in full convocation by all the bishops, and nearly 200 of the most eminent of the clergy, was recently discovered in the magnificent library of Sir Mark Sykes, which was sold in May, 1824, by Mr. Evans, of Pall Mall. This most interesting and valuable manuscript was purchased by a bookseller of London, for £215.

On the death of Anne of Cleves, the estate of Hever reverted to the crown, and was soon after purchased by Sir Edward Waldegrave. From this family, about the commencement of the last century, it passed to Sir William Humphreys, Bart.; from whose descendants it was conveyed, in the year 1745, to the family, which still own it, of the name of Waldo.

CHIDDINGSTONE

Is a village about two miles from Hever, and eight from Tunbridge Wells. It is so named from a remarkable stone, anciently called "the Chiding-stone," standing upon a base of two steps, in the park, on the south side of the village, which lies entirely within the Weald. The river Eden crosses about the middle of it eastward, and then, bending to the south, joins the Medway. The church is a fine large structure, the tower of which is the admiration of all who visit the place, it being considered a piece of architecture unrivalled by any in Kent; it contains a peal of eight bells, much admired for their fine tone. Within the church are several handsome monuments.

SOUTH PARK

Is an elegant villa built on a commanding eminence, in the midst of a well-wooded park, and was, for many years, the property and residence of Richard Allnutt, Esq. It now belongs to — Lloyd, Esq., by purchase, who has considerably enlarged and beautified the house in the castellated style. In

the valley just by, a branch of the river Medway holds its winding course : it is not navigable here, though it flows with a tolerable body of water ; and, chancing at this point to fall over a shallow bed of stones, by a natural cascade, adds materially to the beauty of the place.

The excursion from the Wells to Penshurst is very pleasantly varied, by returning in this direction. In that case, the traveller passes near the extensive paper mills belonging to Mr. Turner, called Chafford.

RAMHURST MILLS.

These mills are on an extensive scale, and were built by Messrs. Burton and Co., for the purpose of manufacturing gunpowder from a chemical process discovered by Sir H. Davey. They are pleasantly situated about a mile from the town of Tunbridge.

TUNBRIDGE TOWN, CASTLE AND PRIORY.

The town of Tunbridge, from which the Wells accidentally, though very improperly, received their name, is about six miles distant from them ; it was formerly celebrated

only for its castle, a fortress of great importance in the feudal times, and to which it was then merely a suburb: yet the increased thoroughfare to the Wells, and various places on the Sussex coast, the opening of a considerable navigation, and the general improvement of the adjacent country, have combined to give it an air of business and opulence, which entitle it to be considered as one of the principal places in this division of the county. This town consists principally of one good street of considerable length, and contains many well-built houses and respectable inhabitants: it is built on a spot intersected by five small branches of the river Medway; and from the bridges of these several streams it obtained its name, the *Town of Bridges*. The church is a neat structure, with a square tower, and its interior is embellished with some good monuments. Immediately below the great bridge is a spacious wharf, for the accommodation of the trade on the river, which is now very considerable. There is also a good market every Friday, for corn and meat; and an excellent one on the first Tuesday in every month, for all kinds of cattle.

As the Castle of Tunbridge was of great strength and importance, so has it, with its appendant property, been held by persons of the highest eminence in their day. Before the conquest, it appears to have formed a part of the vast domains of the Archbishops of Canterbury; but was afterwards usurped by the famous Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, half brother to the Conqueror. Through the energy and perseverance of Archbishop Lanfranc, it was, however, recovered to the see. It afterwards came into the possession of Richard Fitz-Gilbert, Earl of Ewe and Brionne, whose grandfather, Geoffrey, a natural son of Richard first Duke of Normandy, had been advanced to those titles.

Odo, it is said, during the time of his usurpation of the property, gave it to this Richard, his kinsman. Richard, in his character of Earl of Brionne, in Normandy, was an earnest supporter of the designs of William Rufus on the territories of his brother. In consequence of this, Robert Duke of Normandy entered his Earldom of Brionne, laid waste his estates, and utterly destroyed his castle. To reward him for his exertions and sufferings in his cause,

William Rufus determined to make Richard amends, by the grant of equivalent possessions in England ; and Tunbridge, to which he had already an equivocal kind of title, was selected for that purpose. To accomplish this, an arrangement of exchange was effected with the Archbishop of Canterbury, who was to receive a compensation in the territory of Brionne. The castle of Brionne was surrounded by a district, termed the *Leuca*, which was measured by a line, agreeably to the simplicity of the age ; and the same being brought to England, was employed to measure out a similar portion of land surrounding the castle of Tunbridge, which was called the *Leuca de Tonbridge* ; a name which it still retains, although the appropriate liberties and peculiar customs have been long since disused. This land, including the town of Tunbridge, was conveyed to its new possessor, Richard Fitz-Gilbert, who, from estates in the county of Suffolk, took the name of Clare. His successors became Earls of Gloucester and Hertford, and continued for several generations to hold and improve this castle, which passed from the direct line of descent on the

death of Gilbert, the last earl, who was slain in the battle of Bannockburn, in 1314. Having died without male issue, his property was divided, and afterwards came into the possession of Hugh de Audley, by marriage, who was, in the 11th of Edward III. created Earl of Gloucester. On his death, Ralph Lord Stafford obtained it by marrying his only daughter Margaret. The castle remained in the possession of this family till the time of Henry VIII., when it became forfeited to the crown.

Edward VI. bestowed the castle and manor of Tunbridge, with its extensive demesne, on John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, afterwards created Duke of Northumberland, who soon conveyed them to the king in exchange for other lands. Queen Mary gave them to Cardinal Pole, for his life, and at his disposal for one year after. On the death of the Cardinal, Queen Elizabeth granted them to her relation Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon, from whose family they passed into that of Sir Thomas Berkeley, K.B., who soon after sold them. After various successions, the castle and manor, with the immediate appurtenances, were pur-

chased in the year 1739, by John Hooker, Esq., whose son Thomas succeeded him in this estate. The stone house, which immediately adjoins the greater tower of the castle, was begun in the year 1793, by Mr. Hooker, who, before its completion, alienated the property to his brother-in-law, William Woodgate, Esq., of Somerhill. It was afterwards sold to William Bailey, Esq., who devised it to Lady Stafford. Capt. West now resides there.

The entrance from the great tower of the castle, which led into the interior court, is the part remaining the most entire, and is supposed to have been erected about the commencement of the thirteenth century. On this subject, it is observed by that laborious and judicious antiquary, Edward King, Esq., that it is "one of the noblest and most perfect structures of the kind, of any at present remaining in England." Its chief curiosity consists, in its containing, as an ancient fortress, all the peculiarities of the obsolete mode of defence; and, as being one of the latest structures of the kind, all the improvements of the art. The form of the fosses, portcullis, &c., and the manner of

annoying the enemy with stones, arrows, and other missile weapons, may be seen by the curious inquirer into the mode of ancient fortification.

The remains, though inconsiderable in extent, are still interesting, and of much picturesque importance in the different views of the town; they consist chiefly of the inner gateway, a quadrangular building in tolerable preservation, flanked by massive round towers, a part of the outer walls, and the artificial mount, whereon some fir trees now grow: on this point was the *barbican*, or watch tower, which rose majestically over the whole of the adjacent works; overlooking, threatening, and protecting the domain of its powerful owner. In the Barons' wars, this castle was considered to be impregnable, and some of the records and archives of the kingdom were lodged here; as well as at Dover and Pomfret castles, which were allowed to be equally strong.

At a considerable distance from the castle, on the opposite side of the river, to the south of the town, was a priory, founded in 1191, by Richard, the first Earl of Hertford, proprietor of the castle and lowy of Tun-

bridge, for canons regular, or canons of St. Augustin, and dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen. After it had subsisted in a prosperous condition, nearly two centuries, it was totally destroyed by fire, A. D. 1351. However, it was soon restored with increased magnificence, and so continued till the suppression of certain classes of religious houses in the reign of Henry VIII. Nothing now remains of this priory but that part which seems to have been the great hall or refectory—long since converted into a barn. Several coffins of very ancient form, have been dug up at different times, by workmen, on and near this spot, particularly in December, 1817, when a leaden one of very singular shape, but without an inscription, was discovered in a grave carefully lined with stone, supposed to contain the remains of one of the De Clares. On opening the coffin, the body was found wrapped in a covering, the bandages of which remained, with their bows, as if just tied. Every limb and feature appeared fresh as when lately interred; but on being exposed to the air, the greater part soon mouldered away to dust, leaving only the principal bones.

TUNBRIDGE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Tunbridge town is noted for its richly-endowed grammar school, which is free for the children of the inhabitants of the parish of Tunbridge, and the country adjacent. It is an elegant building, admirably calculated for the purpose, and stands at the north entrance to the town, adjoining to which is a commodious dwelling for the master. The front, which extends about one hundred and thirty feet, is plain and simple, yet massy and substantial; and the addition of rooms and offices, which appear not from the road, is very considerable. The internal arrangements of the house, as regards the accommodation both of the master's family and of the scholars, are not only convenient for every purpose of the institution, but spacious and handsome. At the back of the school, and immediately contiguous to it, enclosed by a park paling, are the play grounds, comprising nearly twelve acres of land. The situation of the premises is the more striking from the grounds, as the front gives the passing traveller no expectation of it; and, while it affords all the advantages and con-

veniences of a town, possesses the airiness and scenery of a fine country; and the experience of nearly three hundred years has proved, that the situation is remarkably salubrious.

This institution was founded in the year 1554, by Sir Andrew Judde, a native of the town, who, being destined to commercial life, was in early youth sent to London, where he acquired a splendid fortune by a most extensive trade in furs—an article, at that period, in great request. He served the office of Sheriff of London in 1544, of Lord Mayor in 1550, and died the 4th of September, 1558; appointing by his will, (executed a short time only before his death), the Company of Skinners for the time being, the standing trustees of this noble charity.

An annual visit is made to the school in the month of May, by the Skinners' Company, in compliance with the injunction of their statutes, when they are accompanied by their Chaplain, as an examiner of the progress made by the pupils: this visit, and the examination, is attended with much ceremony, and honorary rewards are dis-

tributed to those who merit them.* The spirit of emulation excited by this yearly exhibition is manifest in the reputation which the pupils of this seminary have always maintained.

This school was, for many years, under the superintendance of the late Dr. Vicesimus Knox, a character too well known in the literary world to need any eulogium here. Upon his resignation, he was succeeded by the present master, Thomas Knox, D. D. This is the first instance of a Tunbridge scholar having filled the office of master. Dr. Thomas Knox received his education at school, under his father, which he completed at Brazenose College, Oxford. The Rev. Thomas Brown is the present usher on the foundation.

* The following Fellowship and Exhibitions are appropriated to Tunbridge Scholars:—A Fellowship at St. John's College, Oxford. Sixteen Exhibitions of 100*l.* per annum each, tenable at any College of either University. Six Exhibitions of 10*l.* per annum each, tenable in like manner. One Scholarship at Brazenose College, Oxford, of 17*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* per annum. One Exhibition of 2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum. One Exhibition of 8*l.* per annum. Two Exhibitions of 75*l.* per annum each, tenable at Jesus' College, Cambridge. Two Exhibitions of 6*l.* per annum each.

RIVER HILL.

On the road from Tunbridge, and near to Sevenoaks, is a delightful spot called River Hill, on gaining the summit of which, a prospect of vast extent bursts at once upon the traveller: woods, heaths, towns, and villages, appearing all in mingled beauty. The eye takes in the greater part of West Kent, a considerable part of Sussex, and a distant view of the hills of Hampshire. The foreground is woody; whilst the whitened steeples rising every where among the trees, with gentlemen's seats scattered round in great variety, form prominent features in the landscape. Penshurst, the ancient residence of the Sidneys, also stands conspicuous on a gentle swell, appearing as a middle point between the foreground and the South Downs that skirt the horizon: it must indeed remind the reader of the spot where the patriot Algernon Sidney, and the gallant Sir Philip, were born, and where the amorous Waller so passionately eulogised his Sacharissa. Though the prospect from this hill is extremely beautiful, it does not surpass in grandeur and extent of scenery that of

Morant's-Court Hill, about two miles beyond Riverhead, from the top of which there is one of the most splendid living panoramas that the imagination can possibly conceive, comprising hills in all their native wildness, contrasted with valleys in the highest state of cultivation.*

KNOLE

Is situated about half a mile from the town of Sevenoaks. It has been a remarkable place almost from the days of William the Conqueror. After passing through many illustrious families, it was purchased by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who annexed it to the archiepiscopal see, and rebuilt the house in a magnificent manner; and his successors afterwards much improved and augmented this noble mansion, which continued in their possession till the 29th year of King Henry VIII., when Cranmer, observing that its grandeur excited the jealousy

* A description of this enchanting spot, with every other object of interest between London and Tunbridge Wells, will be found in an excellent little work, by Mr. Phippen, entitled "The Road Guide from London to Tunbridge Wells."

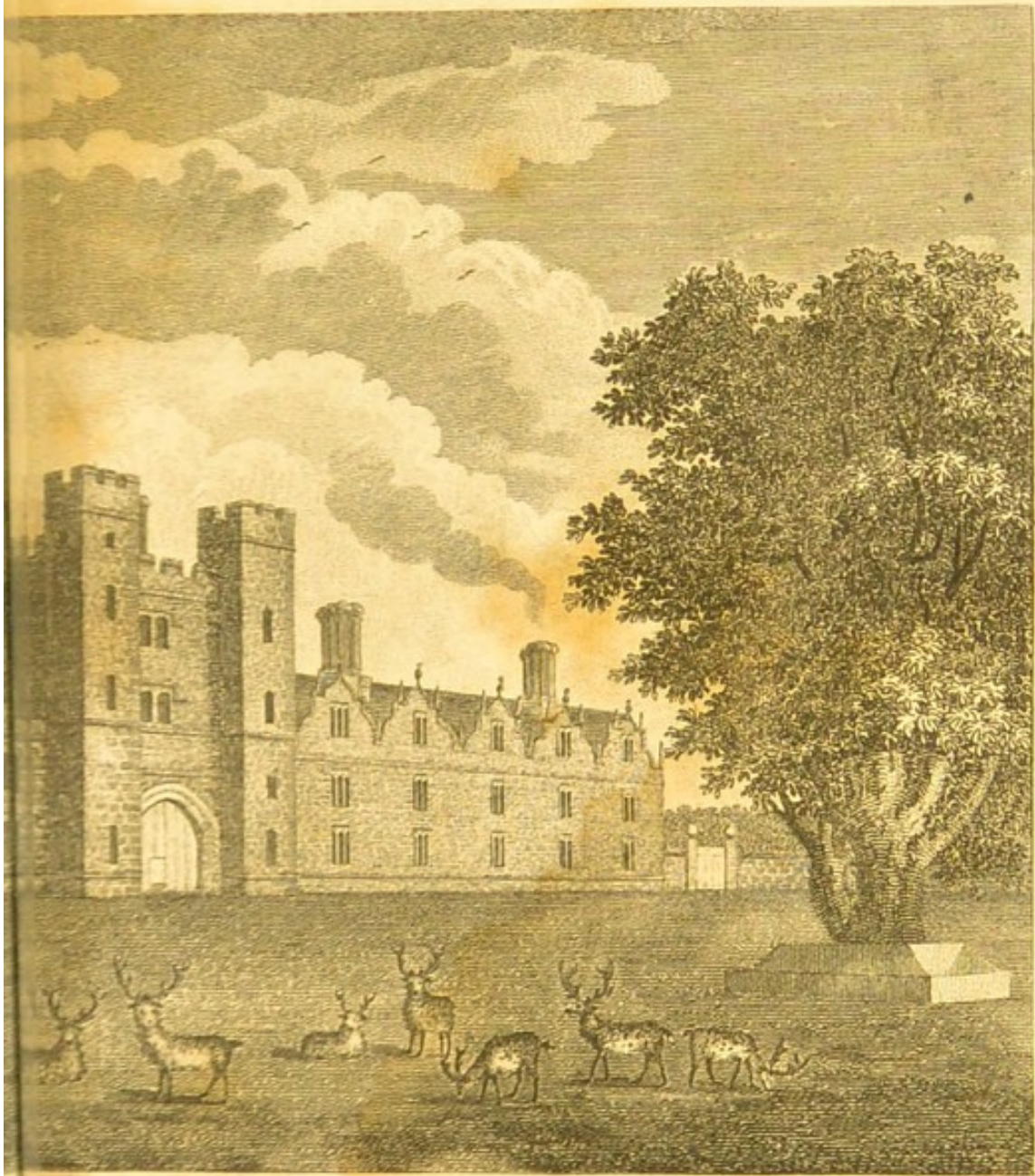




Ja. Lambert delin.

K N

Published by J. Clifford



H. Abby Sculp.

L E .

Edge Wells, Nov. 1734.



and envy of the nobility, exchanged it with the crown, as he also did the sumptuous palace at Otford, built by Archbishop Warham, his immediate predecessor, which cost the vast sum of £33,000. Remaining a short time attached to the crown, Knole was granted by Edward VI. to the great and ambitious John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland. After some time, it was presented by Queen Elizabeth to Thomas Sackville, afterwards created Earl of Dorset, whose family have ever since occasionally made this house their residence. By the demise of the Duchess of Dorset, Knole was bequeathed to the Countess of Plymouth.

To the gratification of every beholder, Knole, in defiance of age and change of circumstances, still occupies its station un-mutilated, and unimpaired. It thus nobly stands the proud memorial of the munificence of Cardinals Bouchier and Moreton; of the candour and moderation of Cranmer; and of the laudable attentions and exertions of the noble proprietors, the Sackvilles.

The house, which is a grand and conspicuous object from the London road, stands on an eminence, in a beautiful and well-

timbered park. It occupies a very considerable extent of ground ; consisting of three regular courts surrounded by buildings ; besides offices of a more irregular form. Indeed, it is recorded, that the family of Thomas, the first Earl of Dorset, consisted of little less than two hundred persons, besides workmen and others hired, making at least two hundred and twenty, who were to be provided for daily—for such a household a large space was requisite ; and the present appearance of Knole justifies the record of such a retinue. The great hall is a handsome room, of suitable proportions, and in a good style of architecture ; but from the alteration in the mode of living, it is become of little utility and much positive inconvenience. Scarce any of the ancient mansions of our nobility can impress us more with the ideas of feudal magnificence than Knole—its site ; the space it occupies ; its towers and battlements ; all concur in bringing to our recollection the days of chivalry and romance.

From this detail it will have appeared that few places, in this county at least, have been the residence of more persons of dis-

tion, or of extraordinary character, than Knole. It may be added, there is scarcely a place in the county on so large a scale ; or, according to the ancient system of domestic habits, so well calculated for the accommodation of such persons. “The apartments generally shown to visitors,” says Mr. Britton, “are the following, all of which are adorned with pictures :—The hall, measuring 75 feet by 27, and 28 in height. At one end is a carved screen, and in the fire-place is a pair of and-irons, brought from Hever Castle, and supposed to have belonged to Henry VIII., as they have the crown and H. R. on them. The brown gallery, 88 feet in length, contains a series of old portraits of eminent persons. Lady Betty Germain’s room and dressing room contains several pictures and portraits. The spangled bed-room, and its dressing-room ; the billiard-room—portraits ; the Venetian bed-room, and its dressing-room ; the ball-room—mostly family portraits ; the chapel-room, organ-room, and chapel ; the drawing-room. The cartoon-room, or great gallery, contains copies from Raffael’s Cartoons, by D. Myttens, &c. The king’s bed-chamber ;

the dining, or poet's parlour, contains a series of portraits of the most eminent poets, and other authors, some of which are by Sir Joshua. The colonnade contains several busts. The guard-room; the breakfast-parlour; the music-room; the library."

The park, which is well stocked with deer, owes much to nature, and much to its noble proprietor: it is of considerable extent, and, the line of its surface perpetually varying, presents at the same time most delightful views in various directions; whilst stately beeches and venerable oaks adorn every part of the landscape.

SEVENOAKS

Is a good market town, about twelve miles from Tunbridge Wells, on the road to London. This place is supposed to derive its name from seven oaks, of an extraordinary height, that grew in or near the town when it was first built. Both the Alms-houses and the Free School in this town were erected by Sir William de Sevenoke, who was a foundling in this place. Acquiring wealth, and becoming Lord Mayor of London, he thus evinced his gratitude for the treatment ex-

perienced here during his infancy. The only memorable event respecting Sevenoaks is, that in the time of Henry VI. Jack Cade and his followers, here discomfited Sir Humphrey Stafford and his brother, two noble gentlemen, whom the king had sent, with a detachment of his army to encounter them.

MEREWORTH.

The village of Mereworth is about twelve miles from the Wells, on the road to Maidstone. The chief object of attraction in this parish, is Mereworth House, or, as it is sometimes called, Mereworth Castle, erected on the site of the old mansion, which anciently gave name to an eminent family who held the manor nearly two hundred years; when it descended to the Malmains, Bohuns, and Brembres. It then passed from the Earls of Arundel to the Lords Abergavenny; and thence to the Le Despencers, whose heir was the Lady Mary Fane, created Baroness le Despencer, by James I. Her son was also created Earl of Westmorland, by the same monarch. The present mansion, now the seat of Lord le Despencer, was built under the direction of Collin Campbell,

about the year 1748, by John the seventh Earl of Westmorland, after a design of Andrea Palladio, or rather in imitation of a villa, in the neighbourhood of Venice, designed and executed by that celebrated architect. On either side, in front of the house, and at right angles with it, are two handsome buildings of corresponding architecture; one contains the kitchen and other domestic offices; the other the stables, and their appropriate appendages. The ground rises beautifully behind the house, is generally well wooded, and commands exquisite prospects over a well-inhabited and richly-cultivated country. In front is a stream, which affords a tolerable command of water, and even in its present state, is a principal object in the scene.

The parochial church formerly occupied the site of the present stabling of Mereworth; but being considered a great obstacle to the projects of improvement entertained by Lord Westmorland, he procured a grant for its removal, with that of the parsonage, from this once retired and appropriate situation to one, perhaps, equally as convenient to the parish. The present church was erected by

his lordship in the year 1744: it is a fine piece of modern architecture; and its handsome spire, not unlike that of St. Martin's in the Fields, London, boldly claims the attention of the passing traveller.

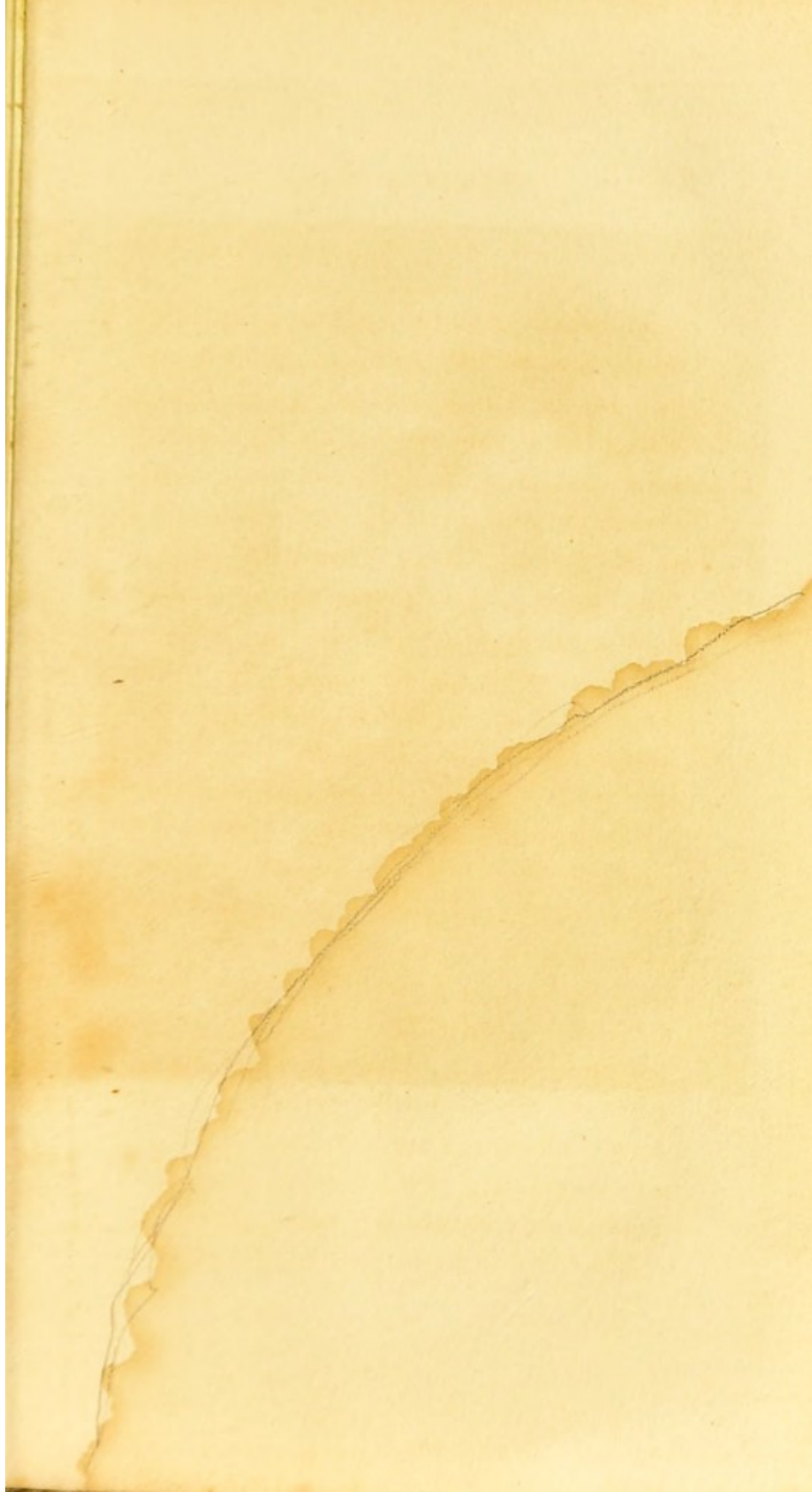
The drive to Mereworth is, on a variety of accounts, one of the most pleasing in this neighbourhood, the country being agreeably studded with many comfortable dwellings, and ornamented by some handsome mansions. But that which creates the greatest interest in this excursion, is the good specimen it yields of Kentish farming, which is still further exemplified, if the ride be extended a little towards Maidstone. Here the eye will be gratified with the cultivation of hops, on a large scale, the specimens produced in this neighbourhood being the very best in the kingdom. In a propitious season, nothing can exceed the beauty of this quick succession of plantations, the soil being every where well adapted to this capricious plant,

— whose tendrils climbing round
The tall aspiring pole, bear their light heads
Aloft in pendent clusters—which in the malt's
Fermenting tuns infus'd, to mellow age
Preserve the potent draught!

SOMERHILL.

About a mile and a half from Tunbridge, on the road to Lamberhurst, stands Somerhill, a large edifice, erected in the reign of James I. It was originally the mansion to a very extensive domain; and has been possessed by persons of the first eminence in the kingdom. Queen Elizabeth gave it to Sir Francis Walsingham, whose daughter Frances had three husbands, who possessed it successively; Sir Philip Sidney, the unfortunate Earl of Essex, and the Earl of Clanrickard. The heiress, at length, was Margaret, Viscountess Purbeck, a woman of a most generous disposition. After various changes, the Woodgates became possessed of this estate, by purchase, about the year 1712. The mansion is precisely that which was built by Richard Earl of Clanrickard, in the reign of James I. It is kept in good repair, having suffered no mutilations; or, what is generally more offensive, modern improvements. James Alexander, Esq. is the present proprietor, who has made great alterations in the pleasure grounds.

The house is on an elevated site, and com-

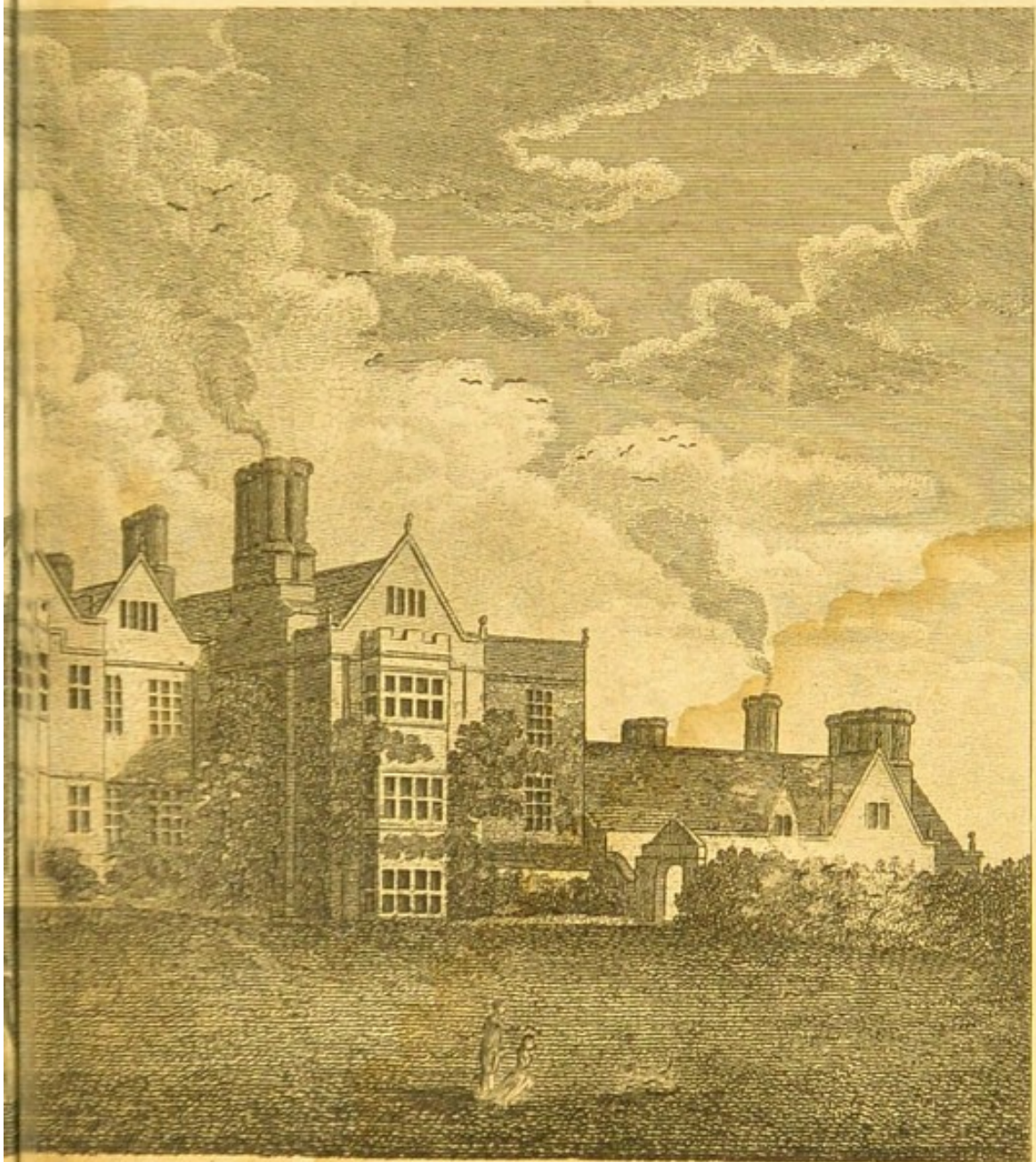




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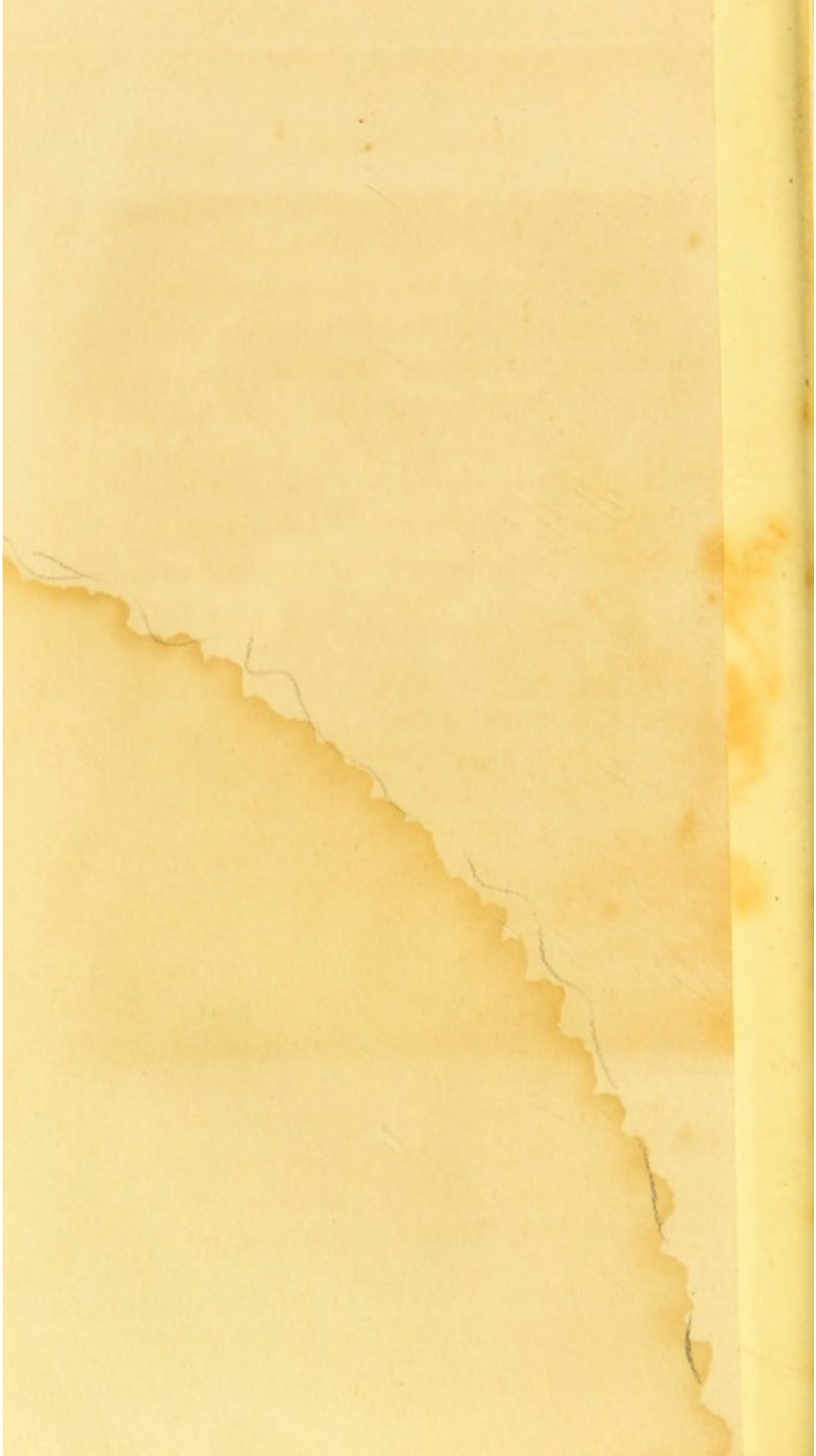
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H. J. G. J. P.

R. H. J. L. L.

Clifford, Timbridge Wells



mands very extensive prospects. The town and castle of Tunbridge, the river Medway, and the rich meadows through which it runs, beautifully diversified with corn fields, pasturage, hop-gardens, and orchards, are here in full view, and form a most delightful scene.

In Count Grammont's "Memoirs" are some interesting anecdotes of the noble inhabitants of this place, at the time he wrote.

WOODSGATE

Is about three miles from the Wells and five from Tunbridge Town, at which point the two roads meet. Here is an excellent Inn and Posting-house, called the *Royal Oak*, kept by Mr. Pawley, which is fitted up with every accommodation for the reception of company, who in their airings on that road, frequently stop there to take refreshments.

A short distance further on the Lamberhurst road is *Pembury Green*—a most delightful spot. Here is also a very good Inn, called the *Camden Arms*. Continuing on to Kipping's Cross, a road branches off on the left to Matfield Green and Brenchley.

BRENCHLEY

Is situated about a mile from Matfield Green, on the road leading to Horsmonden and Goudhurst, and the northern part of the Weald. None can pass through this pleasant little town, without noticing the neatness of its church-yard, particularly the yew trees, cut into fanciful forms: the traveller, though pleased with their appearance, might, on other occasions, readily address the *yew*:—

Cheerless unsocial plant! that loves to dwell
'Midst skulls and coffins, epitaphs and worms;
Where light-heel'd ghosts and visionary shades,
Beneath the wan cold moon, (as fame reports)
Embodied thick, perform their mystic rounds;
No other merriment, dull tree, is thine.

GOUDHURST,

A small town on an eminence, whence the view is rich and extensive. On the highest ground stands the church, a conspicuous object from all points. About five miles further, on the left of Cranbrook, are the ruins of MILK HOUSE CHAPEL, and those of SISSINGHURST, the former residence of the Bakers; whom Queen Elizabeth visited

here, and on the head of which family she conferred the honour of knighthood. From its having been once hired by government for the confinement of about 2500 French prisoners, it acquired the name of Sissinghurst Castle.*

LAMBERHURST.

About two miles south of Bayham is the pleasant village of Lamberhurst, situated on the banks of the small river Bewle, which divides the counties of Kent and Sussex at this place. The grounds ascend from the houses in steep acclivities, and every approach to the place presents a very picturesque scene. On one of the slopes, commanding very extensive views, is a mansion called the *Court Lodge*, the seat of William Alexander Morland, Esq. Near it is the village church, in the vicinity of which is the rectory house, pleasingly embosomed in trees. As you approach Lamberhurst from London, a turnpike road breaks off on the left to Goudhurst. At the other extremity

* A print of this once magnificent pile is given in Hasted's folio edition of the History of Kent.

of the village, the roads branch off in three directions: that, in a strait line towards Wadhurst and Ticehurst, a very agreeable ride, but not marked by any particular object. The turnpike road to the left, is that which conducts to Rye and Hastings. The third road above alluded to, branching off on the right hand, leads back towards Tunbridge Wells, by Bayham Abbey, through Frant. This road forms the best approach to Bayham; exhibiting the ruins from many elevated spots on the road to very great advantage. At a short distant from this road, on the right hand, was formerly one of the largest iron foundries in this part of the kingdom, called the Gloucester Furnace, in honour of the Duke of Gloucester, the son of Queen Anne, who visited it in an excursion from the Wells, in the year 1698: but the rival establishments in Wales, Yorkshire, and Scotland, (wherein pit-coal is used), were enabled to smelt and cast at so much less expense than those in Sussex, (where wood constituted the fuel), that they secured a monopoly of the trade. However, it is worthy of remark, that at this furnace was cast the magnificent balustrade which

encloses the church-yard of St. Paul's, in the metropolis. According to the furnace books, this railing, with its seven beautiful iron gates, weighed two hundred tons and eighty-one pounds, and cost £11,202 0s. 6*d.*

SCOTNEY CASTLE

Is about a mile and a half beyond Lamberhurst, on the left of the road to Hastings. There are but small remains of the ancient place, which was a castellated mansion, as early as the reign of Richard II.; and from what may be collected from the remains, the style of the building, and the characters of the various owners and occupiers of it, there is no doubt that it was a place of considerable consequence and extent. At each angle was a round machicollated tower, of which only the southern remains; the other three were pulled down, and the materials employed in building the front of Mr. Morland's house, called the Court Lodge, at Lamberhurst. The gate-house was a strong building, with a guard-room over it, of which two uprights are standing; and the fine moat,

with which the castle was surrounded, is still remaining. It is now the property and residence of — Hussey, Esq.

ROTHERFIELD.

On an elevated spot, about seven miles south of Tunbridge Wells, (the road branching off at Eridge Green on the left), is the small town of Rotherfield, so called from the river Rother, which rises in it; and thence taking its course in a south-east direction, through a beautiful, and, for the most part, rich country, at last forms a considerable basin, somewhat to the east of the port of Rye. The church has nothing remarkable in it except the arched ceiling, which is made of chesnut wood, in the gothic style: however, its elegant light tapering and lofty spire forms a conspicuous object throughout this part of the country. The spires also of Crowborough, Mayfield, Hartfield, Pembury, Wadhurst, &c., all within a short distance from the Wells, are seen rising from above the masses of wood, which here abound—they enliven the views, and add much to the picturesque scenery.

BOAR'S HEAD

Is about five miles from the Wells, on the turnpike road to Lewes and Brighton: it consists of a small street, and is only remarkable for a Rock of a very singular shape, which has long attracted the observation of travellers, being close by the road side. Two miles further is

CROWBOROUGH HILL.

This hill is worthy of notice. It is remarkable for its great height, being the fourth highest hill in the county of Sussex, and 804 feet above the level of the sea: but of all the objects that are seen in the extensive and comprehensive view from this place, the sea is the most surprising, being plainly perceived, on a fine day, through the opening of the hills towards East Bourne. On this eminence was formerly placed a beacon, which, when lighted, could be seen from the sea, and nearly all over the interior parts of the neighbouring counties.

The chapel and school-house, which are visible from Tunbridge Wells' Common, were erected by Sir Henry Fermor, Bart., of

Sevenoaks, for the clothing and educating of forty poor girls and boys,* belonging to Rotherfield and Buxted parishes, who continue four years at school. Sir Henry Fermor died the 2nd of June, 1734, leaving by his last will, the sum of £1500 for the above charitable purpose: also a sufficient fund to keep in repair for ever, the chapel and house, and to provide for the maintenance of a clergyman and a schoolmaster.

BUCKHURST,

Formerly the principal seat of the Sackvilles, is situated in the parish of Withyham, in the county of Sussex, on the northern boundary of the ancient forest of Ashdown. Of this mansion little more now remains than a fine old tower gate, which appears to

* The dress worn by the boys is—a blue coat and breeches, and yellow waistcoat and stockings. They used to have a hat with a yellow band, but that is now changed for a cap. The silver badge, bearing the arms and name of the founder, which was worn by each boy whilst at school, and retained by him on quitting it, has not been given for many years. From this circumstance, and its estimated value being about five shillings, (which induced many to sell them), there has been great difficulty in procuring even the one now in the possession of the compiler and publisher of this little work.

have been a kind of watch tower, as well as a portal to the house. It presents a pleasing object to the neighbourhood : and whatever might have been its former uses, it now only proclaims the spot, whereon the lordly Buckhurst once stood. This manor gives the title of Earl to the Duke of Dorset.

STONELAND HOUSE

Was many years adopted as the country residence of the late Duchess of Dorset, and Lord Whitworth, who, besides many improvements in the house, re-united to the park a portion of what constituted that of Buckhurst ; and also, as an earnest of further improvements, restored to the whole the name of BUCKHURST PARK. The situation of the house is extremely pleasant : and the various points in which it presents itself, with the opposing beauties of wood and water, altogether render the approach particularly delightful. By the demise of the Duchess of Dorset, it became the property of the Earl De La Warr, who now resides there.

WITHYHAM

Is about seven miles from Tunbridge Wells, on the high road to East Grinstead, and contains much picturesque scenery. The church, which is situated on an eminence near the parsonage, is handsome and commodious, and is kept in the best order. The original edifice was destroyed by lightning, June 16th, 1663, but was speedily rebuilt; the date of 1666 appearing on the font, and 1672 on the porch. On the north side of the chancel a building has been added, which is called the Dorset chancel. This was erected in the year 1680; and contains a large vault wherein the Earls and Dukes of Dorset have been buried. The inscriptions in this church, being attainable by those who choose to visit it, will not be inserted here:—the monuments of the Sackvilles, however, are eminently entitled to the notice of the antiquary and artist. But it is noticeable, and to be lamented, that the following beautiful epitaph, written by Pope, on Charles, sixth Earl of Dorset, and said in all the editions of his works,

to be in the church of Withyham, is not found here.

Dorset, the grace of courts, the muses' pride,
 Patron of arts, and judge of nature, died.
 The scourge of pride, though sanctified or great,
 Of fops in learning, and of knaves in state :
 Yet soft his nature, though severe his lay,
 His anger moral, and his wisdom gay.
 Blest satirist ! who touch'd the mean so true,
 As show'd vice had his hate and pity too.
 Blest courtier ! who could king and country please,
 Yet sacred keep his friendships, and his ease.
 Blest peer ! his great forefathers' every grace
 Reflecting, and reflected in his race ;
 Where other Buckhursts, other Dorsets shine,
 And patrons still, or poets, deck the line.

BOLEBROOK.

Two miles from Buckhurst is Bolebrook house, said to have been built about the middle of the fifteenth century, undoubtedly by the Sackville family : the remains are considerable ; and the turrets, now covered with ivy, form a picturesque object, and afford a specimen of the style of building at that time.

KIDBROOK,

Formerly a seat of the Earl of Abergavenny, is situated near Forest Row, on the great

road leading from Lewes towards London, in the parish of East Grinstead, and at the distance of about twelve miles from Tunbridge Wells. This respectable mansion has a verdant and well-timbered park; and the views of the rising grounds, covered with judiciously arranged and flourishing plantations, are eminently pleasing. It was purchased some years since by the late Lord Colchester, many years speaker of the House of Commons.

BRAMBLE-TYE.

Bramble-tye house, which has furnished the title of Mr. Horace Smith's very interesting novel, stands upon the extreme borders of Ashdown Forest, a short distance beyond Forest Row, on the left of the road to East Grinstead. After the conquest, it became the property of the Earl of Mortain and Cornwall; and passing through the hands of several other possessors, it came into the occupation of the Comptons, (the heroes of the novel), towards the beginning of the seventeenth century. The old moated edifice was abandoned in the reign of James I. by Sir Henry Compton, who built, in the

year 1631, (as appears by an inscription in front of the building), the solid baronial mansion, commonly known by the name of Bramble-tye House. This noble structure is now a mass of ivy-covered ruins; the site, however, may yet be traced; and the vaults, which are extensive and admirably constructed, are well worthy the inspection of the curious: but the numerous visitors, who have, for some years past, been attracted to the material ruins by the fame of the imaginary "Bramble-tye House," have not preserved inviolate the shrine at which their devotions have been paid; fragment after fragment of fallen mouldings, or broken arches, have been borne away as mementos of their pilgrimage.

Bramble-tye has, for many years, been the property of an ancient Roman Catholic family, of the name of Bidulph, who reside at Burton, near Arundel, in the county of Sussex.

There are many other interesting objects, which a morning's ride from Tunbridge Wells will offer to the notice of the curious

visitor; and the urbanity with which the respective noblemen and gentlemen to whom these domains severally belong, and the facility of access which they condescend to offer to those who avail themselves of the opportunity of visiting them, which is presented by a temporary residence in the neighbourhood, deserve to be mentioned with respect.

SONNET

ON LEAVING TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

Ye scenes, long courted for salubrious powers,
Where Nature with her shelter'd meads hath blent
The breezy upland purpled o'er with flowers,
And latent stream with mineral dew besprent:
In future seasons may your charms be lent,
While leisure leads along my roseate hours
Thro' the smooth vale, or up the steep ascent,
When spring looks gay, or autumn wildly lowers.
For sweet, tho' swift, alas! the moments fled,
As near the rock I hymn'd my matin lay,
And hallow'd are the paths Peace deigns to tread,
And dear is every vestige of the way,
And blest each scene which frames the mind to share
' Divine oblivion of low-thoughted care.'

LOCAL ANECDOTES.

EARL MANSFIELD was a frequent visitor to Tunbridge Wells. Cumberland tells us, that dining with him and Dr. Moss, Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Prelate informed them, that he was repairing an Almhouse, at Wells, for the reception of five-and-twenty women, the widows of clergymen; and turning to Cumberland, asked him if he could suggest an appropriate inscription. "Why do you apply to Cumberland for an inscription?" said Lord Mansfield. "I'll furnish you with what you want directly. 'Here are *five-and-twenty women* all kept by the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells:' that's plain English; Cumberland would have puzzled the cause, and his brains into the bargain."

Lord North, late Earl of Guilford, took up his abode in one of the Grove Houses, during his occasional visits to the Wells. He was minister all the time of the American war; and though he lost his sight in his latter days, he retained his cheerfulness to the end of life. His spirited

opponent, Col. Barrè, was similarly afflicted. Under his misfortune he lost much of his former asperity; and had these political combatants met under the impression of their common calamity, they would have forgotten their animosities. Indeed, Lord North facetiously remarked, that “although no political antagonist had been more bitter against him than Col. Barrè, yet there were no two persons in the world who would then be more happy to SEE each other.”

Cumberland says, “One day at Mount Sion, Lord North took my arm, and asked me to conduct him to the Parade on the Pantiles.—‘I have a general recollection of the way,’ he said, ‘and if you will *make me* understand the posts upon the footpath and the steps about the chapel, I shall remember them in future.’—I could not lead blind Gloucester to the cliff: I executed my affecting trust, and brought him safely to his family.”

Lord George Germain, latterly known by the title of Viscount Sackville, generally made Stoneland his place of residence, where Cumberland was a frequent visitor; who, having mentioned him as an excellent landlord, and a steady friend to the poor, adds a ludicrous account of his conduct: “To his religious duties, this good man

was not only regularly, but respectfully attentive. On the Sunday morning he appeared in gala, as if he was dressed for a drawing room; he marched out his whole family in grand cavalcade to his parish church, leaving only a sentinel to watch the fires at home, and mount guard upon the spits. His deportment in the house of prayer was exemplary, and more in character of times past than of times present. He had a way of standing up in sermon time, for the purpose of reviewing the congregation, and awing the idlers into decorum, that never failed to remind me of Sir Roger de Coverly at church. Sometimes, when he has been struck with passages in the discourse, which he wished to point out to the audience as rules for moral practice worthy to be noticed, he would mark his approbation of them with such cheering nods and signals of assent to the preacher, as were often more than my muscles could withstand: but when to the total overthrow of all gravity, in his zeal to encourage the efforts of a very young declaimer in the pulpit, I heard him cry out to the Rev. Mr. Henry Eatoff, in the middle of his sermon, 'Well done, Harry!' it was irresistible—suppression was out of my power. What made it more intolerably comic was, the unmoved sincerity of his manner, and his surprise to find that any thing had passed that could provoke a laugh so out of time and place.

He had nursed up, with no small care and cost, in each of his parish churches, a corps of rustic psalm singers, to whose performances he paid the greatest attention, rising up, and, with his eyes directed to the singing gallery, marking time, which was not always rigidly adhered to; and once, when his ear, which was very correct, had been tortured by a tone most glaringly discordant, he set his mark upon the culprit, by calling out to him by name, and loudly saying, 'Out of tune, Tom Baker!' Now this faulty musician *Tom Baker*, happened to be his lordship's butcher; but then, in order to set names and trades upon a par, *Tom Butcher* was his lordship's baker—which I observed to him was much such a reconciliation of cross partners as my illustrious friend George Faulkner hit upon, when, in his Dublin Journal he printed—'Erratum in our last, *For* His Grace the Duchess of Dorset, *read*, Her Grace the Duke of Dorset!' "

Mr. KEAN, before he obtained any celebrity whatever as an actor, entered into an engagement with Mrs. Baker, of the Tunbridge Wells' Theatre, to perform in her Company. His first appearance was on the 22nd of September, 1806, when he played Lord Hastings, in the tragedy of Jane Shore; after which, he sung the comic song of "Four-and-twenty Puppet Shows;" and took the

part of Peeping Tom, in the farce of Peeping Tom of Coventry, (in which character he introduced the song of "The Little Farthing Rushlight"): and, as it was a prevailing custom with that eccentric lady, Mrs. Baker, to make the most of a new arrival, Mr. Kean was duly announced as coming direct "from the Theatre Royal, Haymarket." That, however, did not afterwards appear likely, for it was found that he had engaged himself to play "many parts;" or, in short, as an "Actor of all Work," at a salary of *eighteen shillings per week!* We have frequently seen him as Harlequin, jump through a barrel of fire: take the parts of—Lenox, in Macbeth; Music Master and Tailor, in Catherine and Petruchio; Caleb Quotem, in the Wags of Windsor; Lieutenant of the Tower, in Richard the Third; Shacabac, in Blue Beard; Gratiano, in the Merchant of Venice; Scaramouch, in Don Juan; Old Bromley, in the Jew and Doctor; Young Norval, in Douglas, &c. &c.* Mr. Kean's Benefit, which took place on the first of November in the same year, was announced, in addition to the general hand-bills, by the largest posters he could have printed, which he had pasted on boards, to be placed in the most frequented parts of the place; and what

* A file of bills, containing the various characters in which Mr. Kean appeared during his engagement at the Tunbridge Wells' Theatre, may be seen at Clifford's Printing-Office.

was most remarkable, in giving his order to the printer, he desired that *his Name* might be put in the *largest* type in the office; for, to use his own words, “ he *would* be thought A GREAT MAN ONCE IN HIS LIFE ! ” This humble effort of introducing himself to the public failed, for the receipts of the house that night did not exceed *Five Pounds!* Before the close of the following season, he left Tunbridge Wells without any prospect of theatrical advancement: but, after an elapse of nearly twelve years, in the course of which his unprecedented reception at Drury Lane had obtained him

“ Th’ applause, delight, the wonder of our stage,”

he visited Tunbridge Wells, and played at the theatre, (November 6, 1818), Orestes, in the tragedy of the Distressed Mother: and such was the anxiety to witness the acting of this now GREAT MAN, that the doors of the theatre were actually surrounded as early as five o’clock in the afternoon to gain admission! We will not attempt to describe the feelings of Mr. Kean on that occasion—the latent passion must have been great—if for a moment his thoughts reverted to the last time he appeared on these boards; when in vain he exerted those talents, then in embryo, which have since ranked him among the very first of his profession.

Several individuals of great oddity have lived at Tunbridge Wells; amongst these, it would be unpardonable not to notice the memorable Mrs. Sarah Porter, called the "Queen of the Touters." This singular character was well known to all the visitors, till within the year 1762; and was first introduced here by the celebrated Beau Nash, for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions for him. She pretended to know the fathers, mothers, uncles, aunts, &c. of every person of distinction, whom she suffered not to escape from her importunity: she had a shrewd memory, and could recollect or forget whatever was for her interest. It was her custom to stand at the ball-room door, and make some thousand curtseys in a day: she had not the least inclination to trust; and if any individual did not immediately subscribe to her, she would take her book, pen and ink in her hand, and follow the person all round the room, when it was full of Company, which often made many of them very angry; but reprimanding her was never known to put her out of humour, or make her uncivil. The boys would often tease her, by telling her that two or three gentlemen, who they believed were foreigners, had slipt by her up the Parade; at which she would show the utmost anxiety; and being asked "Why are you so uneasy, they'll soon be back again?" She would answer, "I don't know that, for I have known

more than one drop down dead before returning, and many that have slipt quite away." She valued herself much upon her intrepidity, and not giving up any thing ; and an ingenious droll American parson, who made himself very affable with her, obtained from her many laughable and singular secrets, as well as some curious anecdotes of her life. A print of this strange person was made after a fine picture of Vandermisson ; and the only one now remaining is in the possession of the compiler and publisher of this Guide.

A person of the name of Jarrett, (afterwards many years a wine merchant in the Wells), having heard of the arrival of a family who had been served with grocery for several seasons, by a competitor of the name of Benge, adopted the following stratagem to get away the custom :—as soon as he heard that the gentleman was arrived at the Wells, and had taken a house, he called upon him with his usual touting* assurance, to solicit his favours ; when he received for answer " that he had dealt with Benge for many years, and had no wish to leave him." " Sir," replied Jarrett, " you cannot deal with him any longer,

* Touting, or more properly *Tooting*, from a village of that name, near Epsom. At the time Epsom was celebrated for its mineral waters, the tradesmen of that place used to go to *Tooting* to meet the company, and solicit their custom.

he's dead!" "Well, then," says the gentleman, "if so, I have no objection to have what I may require of you," and gave an order. The next day, however, as the gentleman was going to the Parade, he encountered—not the ghost of poor Bengé, but the very man himself! "What!" exclaimed he, "do I see Mr. Bengé—can I believe my eyes? Why, I was informed yesterday that you were *dead!*" Bengé answered—"Sir, it is not at all uncommon to *kill* each other amongst us touters." The gentleman acknowledged that he was duped; but he gave poor Bengé his future favours.

Touters formerly went as far as Bromley to secure "custom to the shop." A butcher in this place once stopped a post chaise on Bromley common, and on his attempting to introduce his card, the gentleman inside, not being aware of his purpose, took him for an highwayman, and actually was on the point of shooting him. An *eclaircissement*, however, quickly taking place, the butcher was relived from his perilous situation.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS FARES

Of Hackney Coaches or other Carriages, Chaises, Flys, Sedan Chairs, Bath Chairs, Horses, Asses, and Mules for riding, pursuant to Act of Parliament.

FIRST CLASS.—Full-sized carriages, drawn by two horses, carrying, if required, five persons, exclusive of the driver.

SECOND CLASS.—Carriages drawn by one horse or two ponies, to carry, if required, four persons, exclusive of the driver.

THIRD CLASS.—Carriages drawn by a pony, mule, or ass, to carry, if required, two persons, exclusive of the driver.

FOR TIME.

The first charges of Fares, marked (A), are for every hour, or any less time: the second ditto, marked (B), are for every additional half hour, or any less time.

	(A)		(B)	
	s	d.	s.	d.
For every Carriage of 1st Class	2	6	1	3
For every Carriage of 2nd Class	2	0	1	0
For every Carriage of 3rd Class	1	6	0	9
For every Sedan or Bath Chair	1	6	0	9
For every Saddle Horse	2	6	1	3
For every Pony or Mule	1	0	0	6
For every Ass, including a person } to lead or drive the same }	8d. first hour.		6d. every hour after.	

FOR DISTANCE.

The first charges of Fares, marked (C), are for a distance not exceeding one mile:—the second ditto, marked (D), are for every additional half-mile, or less distance.

	(C)		(D)	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
For every Carriage of 1st Class	1	2	0	7
For every Carriage of 2nd Class	1	0	0	6
For every Carriage of 3rd Class	0	8	0	4

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.

If the fare keep a carriage waiting more than ten minutes, the driver may claim payment for time, at the rate of sixpence for every quarter of an hour.

DISTANCES
OF
SEVERAL PLEASANT EXCURSIONS

On leaving the Wells and returning by different Routes.

TO	MILES.	TO	MILES.
Frant	2	Eridge (Rocks)	2
Bayham Abbey	4	Boar's Head Street ..	3
<small>Ruins to be seen on Fridays.</small>		Crowborough Hill ..	2
Lamberhurst	2	Rotherfield	3
Woodsgate	5	Mark Cross	2
Tunbridge Wells ..	3	Frant	3
16 Miles.		Tunbridge Wells ..	2
		17 Miles.	
Frant	2	Groombridge	4
Mayfield (Ruins) ..	6	Withyham	3
Best Beech Hill	4	Hartfield	1
Wadhurst	2	Forest Row	4
Frant	4	Bramble-tye (Ruins)	1
Tunbridge Wells ..	2	13 Miles.	
20 Miles.		Woodsgate	3
Southborough	3	Tunbridge	5
Penshurst (Place) ..	4	Southborough	2
<small>To be seen Mondays & Sat.</small>		Tunbridge Wells ..	3
Leigh	3	13 Miles.	
Watt's Cross	2	Woodsgate	3
Tunbridge (Castle) ..	3	Brenchley	5
Tunbridge Wells ..	5	Goudhurst	4
20 Miles.		Lamberhurst	3
Southborough	3	Woodsgate	5
Tunbridge	3	Tunbridge Wells ...	3
Hadlow	4	23 Miles.	
Mereworth	3		
13 Miles.			

ITINERARY,

WITH THE SEVERAL DISTANCES

FROM TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

<i>To London.</i>		<i>Another Road to Hastings.</i>	
Tunbridge	6	Woodsgate	3
Sevenoaks	7	Lamberhurst	5
Farnborough	9	Flimwell	4
Bromley	4	Robertsbridge	5
Lewisham Bridge ..	5	Battle	6
London	5	Hastings	8
	36 Miles.		31 Miles.
<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, S. Houses ..	10
Northiam	4		33 Miles.
Rye	8		
	30 Miles.		
<i>To Hastings.</i>		<i>Another Road to East Bourne.</i>	
Wadhurst	6	Mayfield	8
Ticehurst	4	Cross-in-hand	6
Hurst Green	4	Horeham	3
Robertsbridge	2	Hailsham	6
Battle	6	East Bourne	7
Hastings	8		30 Miles.
	30 Miles.		

To Margate.

Tunbridge	6
Maidstone	14
Penenden Heath ..	1
Key Street	8
Canterbury	18
Margate	16
63 Miles.	

To Margate by the Coast.

Wadhurst	6
Ticehurst	4
Hawkhurst	4
Newenden	5
Northiam	2
Beckley	2
Peasmarsh	2
Rye	4
New Romney	13
Dymchurch	4
Hythe	5
Sandgate	3
Folkstone	3
Dover	7
Deal	8
Sandwich	5
Margate	10
87 Miles.	

Another Road to East Bourne.

Uckfield	14
East-Hoathley	5
Horsebridge	6
East Bourne	8
33 Miles.	

To Brighton.

Crowborough Gate..	8
Uckfield	6
Lewes	8
Brighton	8
30 Miles.	

Shortest Road to Southampton.

Brighton	30
Findon	10
Arundel	10
Chichester	9
Havant	9
Portsdown	4
Fareham	6
Botley	4
Southampton	10
92 Miles.	

From Tunbridge Wells to Southampton by
London, 113 Miles.

BRIEF NOTICES

RELATIVE TO TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

There are Races, annually, at Tunbridge Wells, which usually take place about the middle of August, and are well attended by the visitants as well as the neighbouring gentry. They are principally supported by a subscription, which, as it is generally very liberal, affords at least, two days' diversion.

Musical Instruments let out for hire.

Table and Bed Linen, and Household Furniture, ditto.

Servants may be hired by the Day, Week, Month, &c.

Each of the Hotels furnishes excellent Post Chaises and open Carriages.

There are two excellent Billiard Rooms: one at the upper Assembly Rooms, and the other at Elliott's Library, Parade.

In Tunbridge Wells and its vicinity, there are many valuable plants to be found; and those who have a taste for this interesting and useful study, will be amply repaid by encouraging botanical researches.

Fishing, Fowling, and Hunting in the immediate neighbourhood.

CHARITABLE AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

Female National School, Mount Sion.

Charity School for Boys, at the Chapel of Ease.

Infant School, Crown Field, Mount Pleasant.

Victoria National School, near the Camden Hotel.

Female British School, at the Independent Chapel.

Lying-in Charity.

Dispensary, on Mount Sion.

Tunbridge and Tunbridge Wells Branch Bible Society.

Church Missionary Society.

Christian Instruction Society.

Savings' Bank.

Loan Society.

Horticultural Society.

District Visiting Society.

Provident Society.

Mendicity Society.

Society for promoting Literature and Science.

BANKS.

Tunbridge and Tunbridge Wells Old Bank. Messrs. Beeching and Sons—draw on Masterman, Peters, & Co. London.

Lewes Old Bank.—Messrs. Hurly, Molineux, Whitfeld, and Dicker—draw on Williams, Deacon, & Co., London.—Mr. Nash, Agent for Tunbridge Wells.

Surrey, Kent, and Sussex Joint Stock Bank. Mr. Corke, Agent for Tunbridge Wells.

PHYSICIANS.

Dr. Thomson, Mount Pleasant.

Dr. Wilmot, 10, Parade.

Dr. Powell, 1, Clarence Terrace.

Dr. Scudamore, Richmond House.

SURGEONS, ETC.

Mr. Trustrum, upper end of the Parade

Mr. Cornwall, near the Mineral Springs.

Mr. Hargraves, opposite the Parade.

Mr. Way, Mount Sion.

Mr. Clouter, 1, Calverley Place.

Mr. Penfold, 8, ditto.

Mr. Wisdon, 1, Hertford Place.

Mr. Sopwith, Mount Pleasant Terrace.

CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS.

Mr. Maddock, 10, Parade.

Mr. Luker, Mount Sion.

Mr. Boorman, Mount Ephraim.

TEACHERS OF MUSIC, ETC.

Mr. Goodban, Professor of Music, 2, Vale Royal.

Miss C. Stapley, Teacher of the Piano-Forte, Mt. Sion.

Mr. Stidolph, Piano-Forte Tuner, Woodbine Cottage.

Mons. Devina, B. A. of the University of Paris, Teacher of the French Language, 10, Edger Terrace.

Mr. Allfree, Classical School, Albion House.

Mr. Griffith, Classical and Commercial School, Nevill Lodge.

SEMINARIES FOR YOUNG LADIES.

Miss Syddall, Camden House, Mount Sion.

Miss Cox, Church Road.

Miss Smart, Cambrian House, Hanover Road.

Mrs. Phippen, (Daily Governess), Monson Cottage.

COACHES

Leave the Royal Sussex and Kentish Hotels, Tunbridge Wells, daily, for London, at 7, 9, 10, 12, 3, and 4 o'Clock. Other Coaches leave the same Hotels, daily, to and from the following places:—Hastings, Brighton, Maidstone, and Rochester, particulars of which may be known by applying at the Hotels.

London and Hastings Mail, every night, between Twelve and One o'Clock; stops at the Camden Hotel, Calverley New Town.

WAGGONS, ETC.

Bennett's Waggons and Vans, on Springs, from his Office, at the back of the Parade, to the Nag's Head Inn, in the Borough, and the Old White Horse Cellar, 156, Piccadilly, every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings: return the following mornings.

Barnetts' Waggons and Vans, from their Office, every Monday and Thursday morning, to the White Hart Inn, Borough.

Chandler's (late Wood's) Light Caravan leaves every Monday and Friday morning for Brighton, from whence it returns the following mornings.

POST-OFFICE,

(*At Nash's Library, on the Parade*).

The Mail arrives from London every morning, (Mondays excepted), and sets out for London every night, (Saturdays excepted). Letters are delivered at Seven in the morning, during Summer, and at Eight o'Clock in Winter. The Letter-box is closed at Nine o'Clock: Letters delivered in at the Office after that hour, pay *one penny*.

Letters for East Grinstead, Uckfield, Lewes, and Brighton, must be given in at the Office before Twelve o'Clock in the morning, and on Sundays before Eleven, as a bag is despatched every day.

FINIS.

NOTICE!

A SAVING OF FULL SIX MILES IN DISTANCE,
AND AVOIDING HILLS!

THE Nobility, Gentry, and the Public generally, are respectfully informed, that in travelling from TUNBRIDGE WELLS, HASTINGS, EASTBOURNE, &c., to Windsor, Guildford, Kingston, and into the high Western roads, a saving of full six miles is effected by the following route, viz.—from Tunbridge Wells to East Grinstead 15 miles; from East Grinstead to Ryegate 14 miles; from Ryegate to Kingston 14 miles; and from Kingston to Windsor 16 miles. The roads are excellent, avoiding Hills.

Comfortable Accommodation, good Post Horses, and careful Drivers at each Stage.

THE NEAREST WAY ALSO TO GODSTONE AND CROYDON
BY TWO MILES.

AT THE DORSET ARMS,
Family Hotel and Posting House,
EAST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX,
BY JAMES DEMPSTER,

LATE OF MITCHAM, SURREY,

(Delightfully situated, commanding extensive and uninterrupted views of the surrounding country, and within a short ride of the ruins of Brambletye),

WILL BE FOUND,

**Airy and comfortable Sleeping Apartments,
Private Rooms, &c. &c.**

