

**Descriptive sketches of Tunbridge Wells and the Calverley Estate. With brief notices of the picturesque scenery, seats, and antiquities in the vicinity ... / By John Britton, F.S.A.**

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Britton, John, 1771-1857.

**Publication/Creation**

London : By the author; Longman, [etc., etc.], 1832.

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/pzt62r5u>

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BRITTON'S  
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

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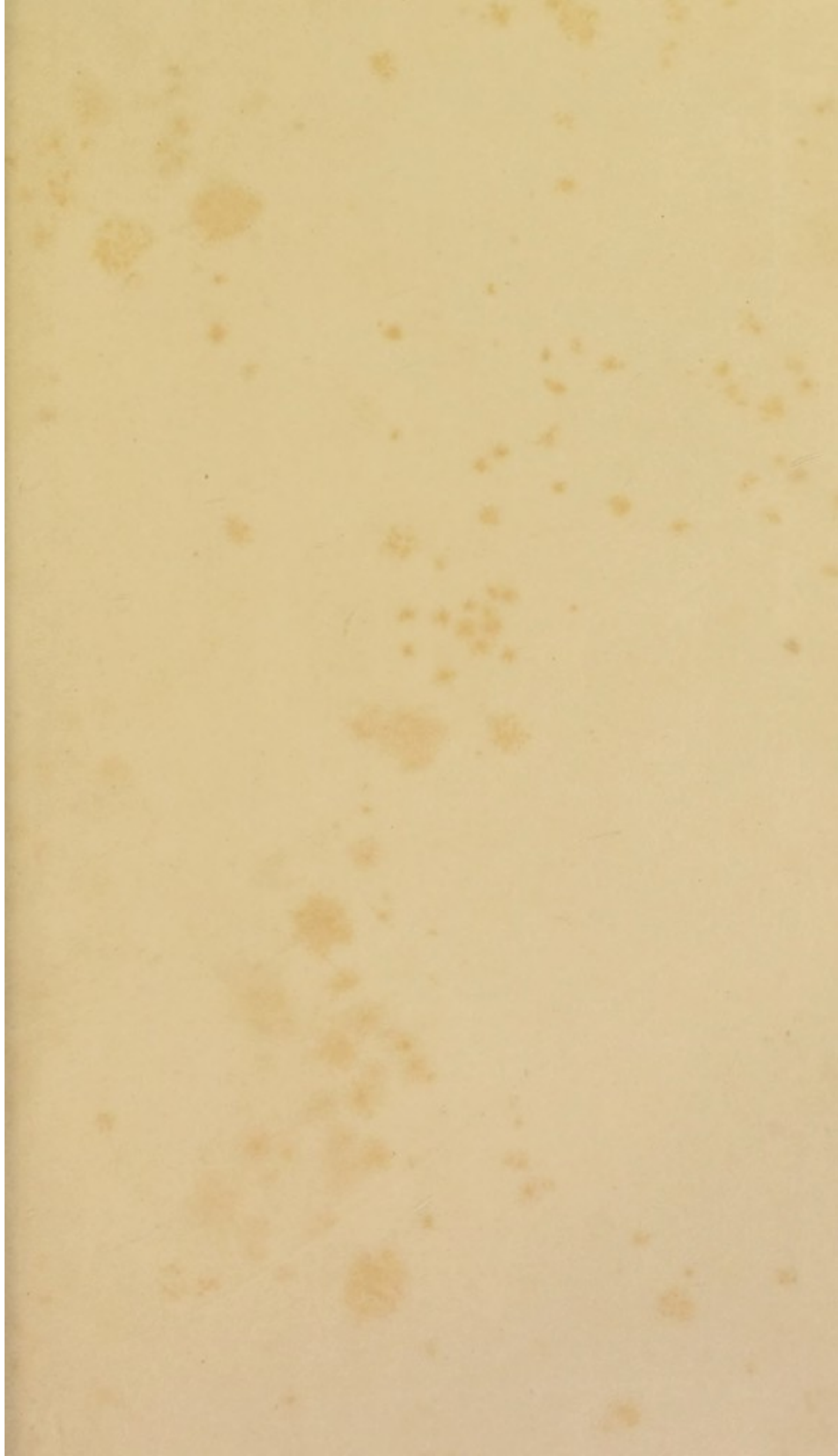
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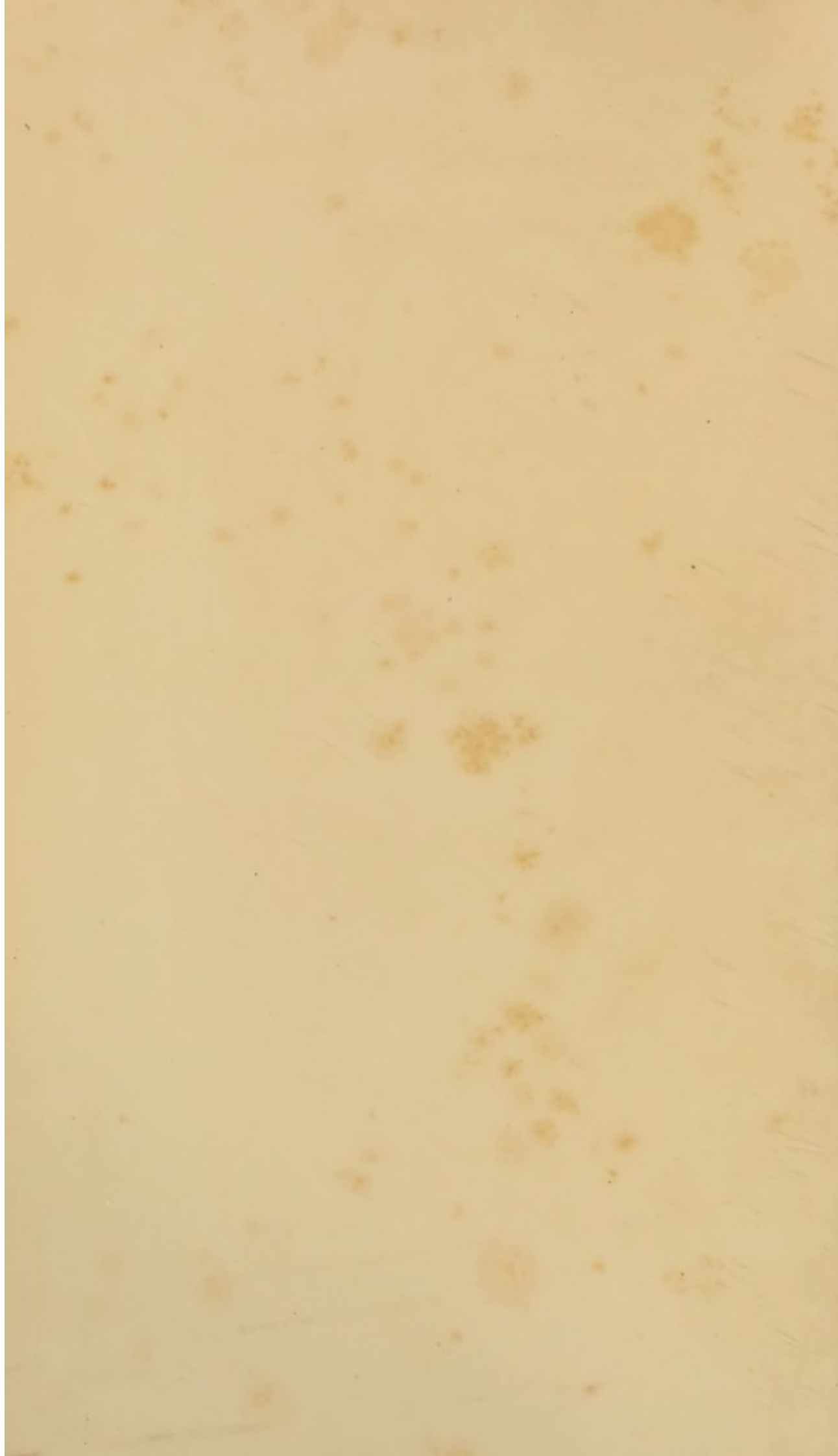
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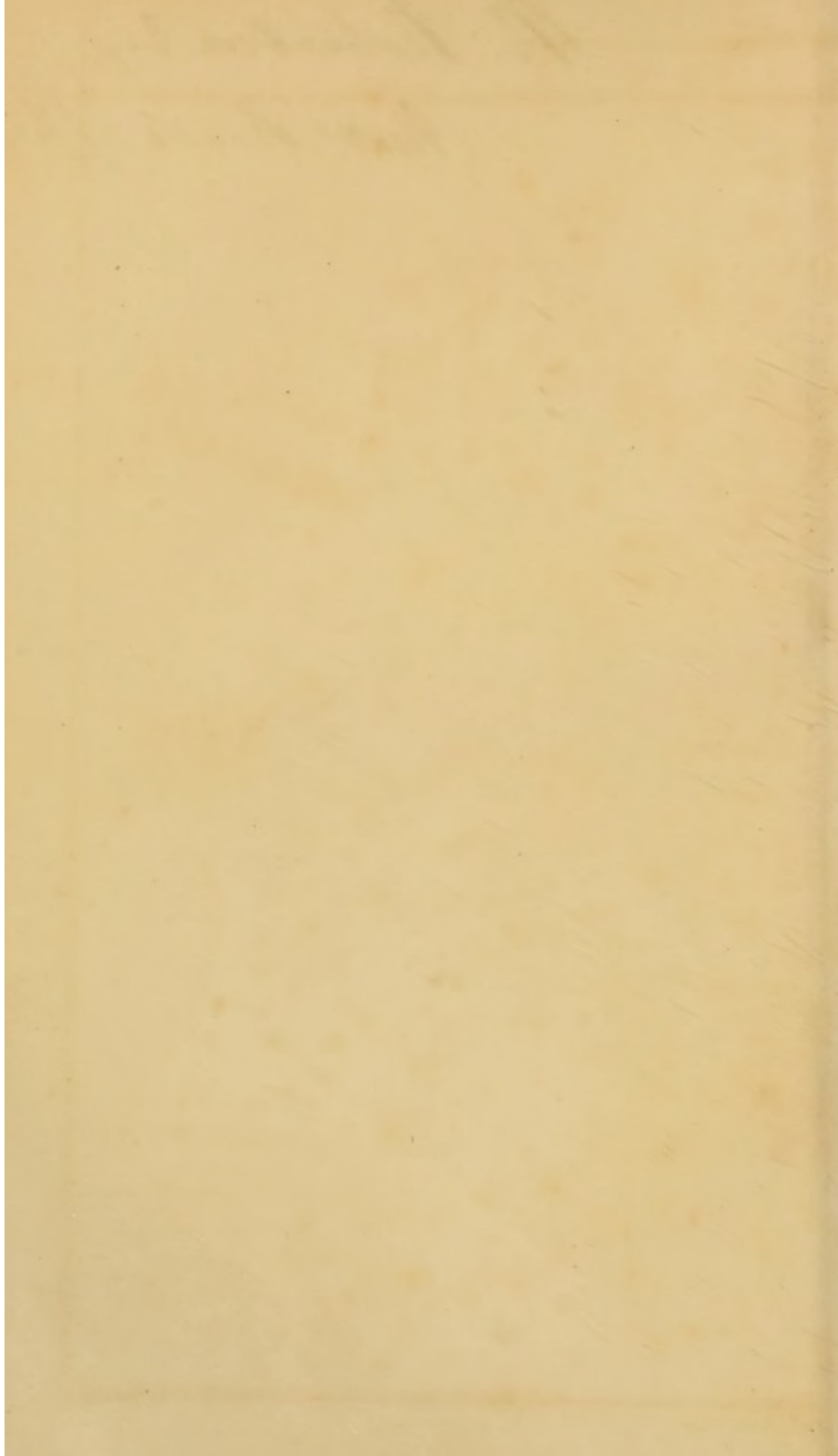




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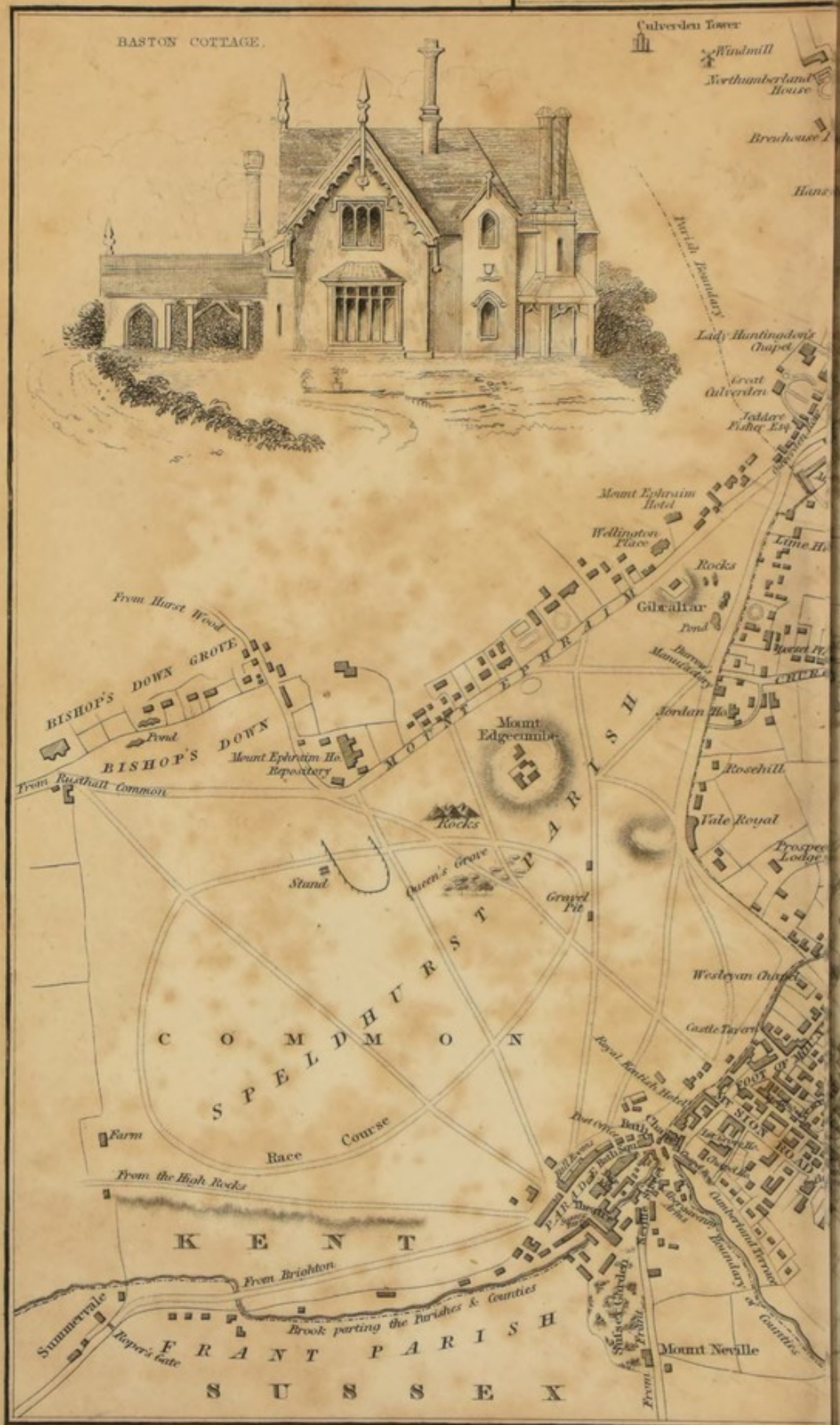




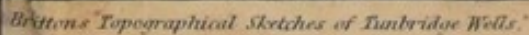




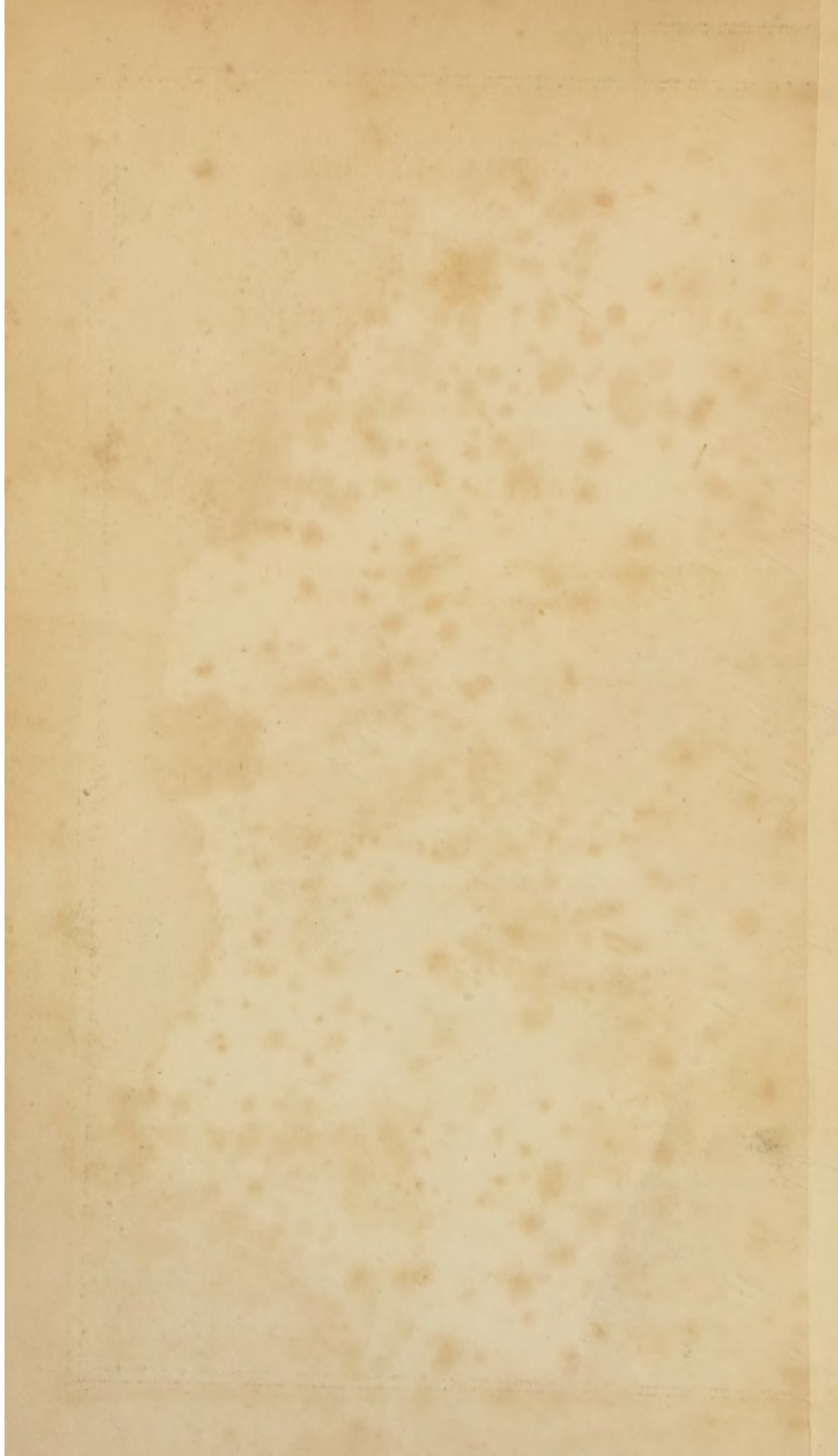
# TUNBRIDGE WELL





*repellens* Gustv.





DESCRIPTIVE SKETCHES  
OF  
TUNBRIDGE WELLS

AND THE  
CALVERLEY ESTATE;

WITH BRIEF NOTICES OF THE PICTURESQUE SCENERY, SEATS,  
AND ANTIQUITIES IN THE VICINITY.

Embellished with Maps and Prints.

---

By JOHN BRITTON, F.S.A.

AND OF OTHER ENGLISH AND FOREIGN SOCIETIES.

---

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR, BURTON STREET;  
LONGMAN & CO. PATERNOSTER ROW; AND RODWELL, NEW BOND STREET.  
SOLD BY NASH, AND BY ELLIOTT, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, &c.

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LONDON :

J. MOLES, CASTLE STREET, LEICESTER SQUARE.

TO

Her Royal Highness

THE DUCHESS OF KENT,

&c. &c. &c. &c.

---

MADAM,

*Presuming that there are circumstances and objects belonging to Tunbridge Wells closely associated with incidents in the juvenile life of the illustrious and amiable Princess, whose present happiness and future destinies your Royal Highness must contemplate with patriotic and maternal solicitude, I venture to inscribe this small Volume to you, and remain*

*Your Royal Highness's*

*Obedient Servant,*

JOHN BRITTON.

February 18, 1832.



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## P R E F A C E.

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CONSIDERING myself almost a veteran in Topographical and Antiquarian literature, from having devoted nearly forty years to the subject ;—after visiting and describing many of the famed “ watering ” and “ sea-bathing ” places of the kingdom, I was at last tempted to sojourn a few days at Tunbridge Wells, in the summer of 1830. Pleased with the wildness and picturesque features of the place and surrounding country, interested by the many attractive antiquities, objects of art, and of historic fame, which are to be found within a few miles of “ the Wells,” and finding that I could be wafted rapidly and easily from the metropolis to a *fashionable hamlet* so rural, and yet so well adapted to administer to the comforts and luxuries of life, I was not only seduced to study its characteristics, but to commit to the press a few facts and reflections on the subjects named in the title-page. These are not the lucubrations of idle moments, but have been produced at intervals, between other more pressing occupations.

The wealthy and the idle may follow the chase of pleasure—may obey the impulses of whim and



fashion—may be in the gay and ever-attractive metropolis in its gayest seasons of the year, or seek the animating recreations of the field in the autumn—may traverse all the regions of the globe for amusement, information, or to “kill time”—and may also lounge through the evening and night, and sleep through the day at any rendezvous of fashion and folly. But the man habituated to studies, or to business, or to any species of active employment, cannot easily, or instantly, detach himself from them, and say,—“Henceforward I will be supremely idle, and indulge in all the luxuries of an indolent life.” But was idleness ever luxurious? can it produce worldly enjoyment?

I remember that my late learned and estimable friend, the Rev. John Whitaker, the historian of Manchester, and author of other works, was ordered by his physician to abstain from closet studies, and seek change and amusement in the gay city of Bath. The transition was “prodigious:”—it was from a secluded village in a wild part of Cornwall, where his parishioners were uneducated peasants, miners, and fishermen, to a city where every sort of luxury, fashion, and folly, prevailed. Yet “habit is second nature;” and books had been for so many years the daily companions of our good man, but caustic critic, that he could not live without them. Warner’s “History of Bath” had just made its appearance on Mr. Whitaker’s arrival at Bath, and it was purchased by him, read with avidity, and criticised



with severity. For three or four successive months, many pages of the “ Anti-jacobin Review ” were occupied by the castigating animadversions of the invalid who visited Bath for relaxation—for the purpose of amusing the mind by change and variety. Coming to London soon afterwards, he told me that he never engaged more eagerly in a task than in that of criticising the “ History of Bath.” With some similitude of habits, but influenced by a very different disposition—for my friend, like Dr. Parr and Mr. Ritson, could not avoid being censorious and sententious—I never visit a place without inquiring into its history and topographical peculiarities, and have ever felt an inclination to say or do something towards improving the one, or elucidating the other. My physician, and my eyes, tell me that I must soon close the book of small print, and seek relaxation and amusement in the ever-varying, never-tiring, book of nature, where, in Shakspeare’s language, I may find

“ Books in the running brooks,  
Sermons in stones, and good in every thing.”

The present small volume of “ Descriptive Sketches ” is intended to furnish the stranger, who visits Tunbridge Wells, with some general information respecting the natural features and artificial peculiarities of the place; and also to point out to him objects in the vicinity, which not only attract the notice, but are entitled to the particular attention



of the admirer of picturesque scenery, the antiquary, historian, and man of taste. Each of these classes of persons will find ample materials for their respective studies and amusement in the neighbourhood; and some may reasonably require much more ample information than can be contained within the compass of a *vade-mecum* like the present. Sources will be pointed out where such may be obtained; for it must be borne in mind, that I profess to furnish merely *Sketches*,—*i. e.* hints, or notices,—to awaken the imagination, and induce the inquirer to seek further, for the purpose of making finished pictures. As artists' sketches are of varied kinds, and of different degrees of finish and effect, so are the “Descriptive Sketches” of the Author. In one artist we see a mere outline of forms and contours; another advances a little further, and puts in a few touches of detail and individuality of feature; whilst a third heightens and embellishes his sketch with light, shade, and effect. Each of these may be equally beautiful, and equally intelligible, to the practical artist; but the last only will be understood by the uninitiated eye, and will consequently be best appreciated.

Besides the authorities referred to in the course of the ensuing pages, many particulars in this small volume have been derived from the kind and unreserved communications of the following gentlemen, to whom I beg to tender my thanks: Decimus Burton, Esq.; John Joseph Bramah, Esq.;



Jeddere Fisher, Esq.; P. F. Robinson, Esq.; Mr. Thomas Fry; Mr. Sandall; Mr. Squirrell; Mr. Nash, of the Post-office; and Mr. Clifford, the author of "A Guide to Tunbridge Wells." Dr. Yeats, who has practised many years at the Wells, has at once obliged me and the public, by writing, expressly for this work, an essay on the *climate, temperature, and waters*, of the place. Gideon Mantell, Esq. of Lewes, has conferred a similar obligation by his scientific remarks on the *geology of the district*. Zealously attached to the study of this science, and its immediate associate, mineralogy, Mr. Mantell has collected a very interesting museum of specimens illustrative of both, as appertaining to the South Downs, and other parts of Sussex, and has published two valuable volumes on the subject. To the Rev. P. S. Dodd, and the Rev. Dr. Yates of Penshurst, I am obliged for much friendly attention during my visits to the famed seats of the Sydneys; and to the Rev. Dr. Knox, J. Scoones, Esq., and John George Children, Esq., for civilities respecting the town and famed school of Tunbridge. By the polite permission of the Marquess Camden, I was allowed to explore every part of the interesting ruins of Bayham Abbey; and similar indulgence of the Earl of Plymouth enabled me to examine the mansion, and its pictorial contents, of Knole. To my old friend Thomas Harrel, Esq. I beg to express my acknowledgments for some literary assistance in the following pages.



## HINTS TO VISITORS.

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Tunbridge Wells is calculated to afford domestic accommodation to almost every class of visitors, from the prince or princess, with appropriate retinue and household, to the solitary batchelor in sulky singleness. Houses of varied sizes and styles of fittings-up, —also lodgings of different grades, are to be found there. The large *Sussex* and the *Kentish Hotels* are adapted for the higher classes of persons, who propose to sojourn for a short time; while the smaller hotels, or inns, the Camden, the Castle, the George, the Swan, will be found convenient, comfortable, and moderate in charges. A new hotel, on a large scale, is to be erected on that fine and commanding site, Mount Ephraim.

Particulars respecting lodging-houses, as well as board and lodging, may be known of the respectable tradesmen of the place.

The architect who has been employed in the improvements on the Calverley Estate, is Decimus Burton, Esq. of Spring Gardens, London, and also of Tunbridge Wells. The parties interested in the buildings in Calverley Park, &c. are, Messrs. Bramah and Sons, of Pimlico, and of Tunbridge Wells.

# DESCRIPTIVE SKETCHES,

ETC. ETC.

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## SKETCH I.

A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE WELLS, SKETCHED WITH PEN AND INK, MARKING SOME OF THE PROMINENT FEATURES OF THE PLACE, WITH A VARIETY OF GROUPS, SINGLE FIGURES, AND INCIDENTAL OBJECTS.

AT the distance of thirty-six miles south of London, thirty from Hastings, and the same distance from Brighton, is the retired and picturesque hamlet of Tunbridge Wells. In topographical language, it must rank as a hamlet, or a series of hamlets, connected with, and subordinate to, the mother parishes of Tunbridge, Speldhurst, and Frant. Mr. Rickman, in the Population Census of 1831, improperly calls it a "town." Its parochial peculiarity, being partly in Kent, partly in Sussex, and forming portions of three parishes, occasions some legal disputes; but it is expected that an Act of Parliament will soon be obtained to settle and define the rights and privileges of the place. The south-western part of the Wells, a small portion, is in the parish of Frant and county of Sussex, whilst all the remainder is within the county of Kent; its greater portion being part of the extensive parish of Tunbridge. As the



houses and population form integral parts of the three parishes already enumerated, we are not enabled to specify the number of the former which strictly belong to and constitute "the Wells."

Like many towns of fashionable notoriety, and of considerable magnitude, Tunbridge Wells has sprung up from insignificance to consequence—from obscurity to fame, within two hundred years. "It is," says Mr. Amsinck, in his work on "Tunbridge Wells," &c. "the most ancient public place (with the exception of Bath, its contemporary, but with which it admits not of comparison) in the kingdom." At the beginning of the seventeenth century, it obtained, like Bath, the notice, and was subjected to the periodical government of that leader and arbiter of the *beau-monde*, Richard Nash, Esq., who not only attracted around him a large assemblage of obedient subjects, but completely governed them by his despotic, though salutary, laws.\* Thenceforward it grew in public favour, and consequently increased in size and renown. Many people of fashion frequented it for the season, and some persons of fortune purchased portions of land, and built houses. Within the last ten years many and great improvements have been made, and others are still making, to augment both the comforts and luxuries of those who take up their abode here. Considering the active spirit that prevails with some of its principal landed proprietors,

\* In the History, &c. of Bath Abbey Church, I have given a brief biographical sketch of "Beau Nash."



and the means they possess, it may be fairly presumed that every succeeding year will be distinguished by increased attractions, to tempt the visitor and to retain the resident. The tide of fashion, which may be said to ebb and flow like the tides of the ever-changing, but naturally regular, ocean, has set in for this haven. Its time of flood cannot be foretold, nor can human sagacity dare predict when or why an ebb should occur. Its vicinity to the overcharged and plethoric metropolis—its varied attractions of picturesque and truly wild scenery—the salubrious waters which perpetually flow from its iron substrata—and the bracing and finely scented airs which pass over its thymy commons and umbrageous woods, are so many securities to the valedudinarian and lover of nature, that we may say of the Wells, as Shakspeare says of Cleopatra ;

“ Age cannot wither, nor custom stale her infinite variety.”

Fortunately for the lovers of retirement, Tunbridge Wells is not over crowded with population,—is not formed of a congregation of narrow streets and lanes,—of symmetrical, but flat and insipid, rows of brick houses,—and therefore has little resemblance to Brighton, Margate, and other crowded towns. On the contrary, here the majority of houses are detached buildings, with gardens and lawns in the front and at the rear, and command either extensive views over a wild or cultivated country, or into the furze-clad common in their immediate vici-



nage. Here nature, unadorned, but “adorned the most,” presents various attractive charms for the gaze and inquiry of her votaries. The unenclosed common, bestrewed with broom, and heath, and bramble, and rock, and thyme; and the primæval hurst, or forest, may be said to display the same features which were familiar to the aboriginal Britons, the conquering Romans, the demi-civilised Saxons, Danes, and Normans, in the first, second, fifth, ninth, and eleventh centuries. Here, hill and dale, forest and cultivated fields, commons, woods, meadows, and cornlands, interspersed with the sober green of the hop, and its beautiful foliage and pendant clusters, are alternately presented to the traveller, and afford to the eye and mind an endless variety of objects and scenes, which cannot fail at once to amuse the fancy and excite the feelings.

Partaking of the ever-changing, ever-varied character of the ocean, the surface-features of Kent and Sussex are undulating, irriguous, and tossed about into bold swells and deep hollows. In some places there are tracts of perfectly level plains, like the dead calm of the sea-waters; and in others the ground swells gently, and almost imperceptibly, into small wave-like ridges, whilst some display abrupt, high, beetling hills, and narrow, deep glens, resembling the troubled billows of the ocean, when beaten about by the fury of the storm.

The history of places, as of persons, is either important or trivial, according to the relative degree



of public interest attached to each. The plains of Marathon, the banks of the Nile, the campagna of Rome, the fields of Cressy and Waterloo, the birth-places of Raphael and Reynolds, of Bacon, Newton, and Shakspeare, cannot fail to rouse minds of sensibility and ambition to the highest degree of pleasurable excitement, and may even elicit some spark from apathy itself. "To abstract the mind," says the stern and eloquent moralist, Dr. Johnson, "from all *local emotion* would be impossible if it were endeavoured, and would be foolish if it were possible. Whatever withdraws us from the power of our senses, whatever makes the past, the distant, or the future, predominate over the present, advances us in the dignity of thinking beings. Far from me, and far from my friends, be such frigid philosophy, as may conduct us indifferent and unmoved over any ground which has been dignified by wisdom, bravery, or virtue. That man is little to be envied whose patriotism would not gain force upon the plains of Marathon, or whose piety would not grow warmer among the ruins of Iona."\*

\* "Tour in the Western Islands of Scotland." *Marathon* is a village of Attica, about forty miles from Athens, near which the Athenians obtained a signal victory over the Persians, B.C. 490. The army of the latter is said to have consisted of 100,000 foot and 10,000 horse, whilst the former had only 10,000 Athenians and 1000 Plateæans; but the military skill, intrepidity, and patriotism of this small band prevailed, and drove the invaders from the Grecian shores.—*Iona* is a small island in the Atlantic Ocean, on the western coast of Scotland, containing an area of about three



The place now about to be described derives no small share of interest, of claims on the attention of the topographer and scholar, from its association with many royal, noble, and eminent personages of former times—the fanatic sectarians of the Cromwell dynasty—the wits, the gallants, the profligate fop-lings of the no less profligate Charles—royal and noble visitors of more recent times, and persons of literary distinction, of scientific eminence in a later age. All these times and personages, with their local and individual attributes, constitute so many subjects for inquiry, for reflection, for memory's festival; and though our limits will not allow of lengthened narrative or comment, it will be necessary to point out briefly, and it is hoped appropriately, such traits of the whole, as may afford the reader some temporary amusement, and excite a desire to seek further for more detailed information.

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Introductory to a particular description of the Wells, it may be pleasing to many readers to take a cursory notice of some of the prominent objects which may be seen on the road between the metro-

miles in length by about three-quarters of a mile in breadth. Here the ancient Culdees were established at an early age; and from their devotional habits and character, the place obtained the name of "Holy Island." See Dr. Jamieson's learned "Historical Account of the Ancient Culdees of Iona." 4to. 1811.



polis and this rural retreat. The road from London to Tunbridge Wells presents to the lover of nature and art many objects and scenes to arouse his curiosity and interest his imagination. On a rising ground near *New Cross*, about four miles S.E. from Cornhill, the traveller emerges from the seemingly endless rows of brick houses, and may then take a retrospective glance over the immense metropolis which he has quitted, with its numerous towers, spires, and domes. A long line of the Thames is indicated by a dense forest of masts of the shipping which crowd the pool and the docks. Rotherhithe, Deptford, Greenwich, and Charlton, are stretched out beneath, and appear a connected town, skirting the southern shore of the river; whilst the park of Greenwich, with its Observatory, noble forest trees, and bold hills, at once closes the scene, and forms a fine contrast to the levels below, and its countless mass of houses. Shooter's Hill rises boldly to the left. Passing through the village of *Lewisham*, whose long street is skirted by rows of fine trees, and washed by the small stream of the Ravensbourne, some irriguous eminences are descried to the right, beyond and bounding the villages of Sydenham and Beckenham, whilst the view to the left includes the ruined palace of Eltham, with its disparked and subdivided grounds. On the slope of a hill in the hamlet of *Norwood*, formerly noted as a haunt of the wandering tribe of gipsies, is a saline spring, which is calculated to compete in efficacy, if not in fashion, with



the famed waters of Cheltenham, Leamington, &c.\* On approaching *Bromley*, the finely wooded park of Lord Farnborough is on the right hand, and the taste of its accomplished occupants is shewn by two picturesque lodges near the road. *Bromley* is a small irregularly built town, in which is a large brick building, called a College, founded by John Warner, Bishop of Rochester, A.D. 1666. It was at first intended for the residence and support of twenty clergymen's widows, but further bequests have provided accommodation and income for twenty more females. The Bishop of Rochester has a palace about a quarter of a mile from Bromley.† In the town are two respectable Inns, at either of which travellers may hire post-horses, and obtain comfortable accommodation. On the right of the road, for the next four or five miles, is a continued series of woods and parks; among which is *Holwood Park*, where the late Right Hon. William Pitt resided for some years, during the most active part of his political life, and the most eventful period in the history of civilised Europe. It was purchased by John Ward, Esq. in the year 1822, by whom the house has been rebuilt, and the park much improved. In the grounds are the

\* See a very interesting pamphlet, recently written by Dr. Weatherhead, of London, "On the Beulah Saline Spa, at Norwood," 8vo.

† From an early period, the Bishops of Rochester had a country-seat here. A new house was erected by Bishop Thomas, in 1777. Five or six bishops of the see were interred in the church of Bromley.



banks, &c. of an encampment, said to be of Roman formation, and where some antique vestiges of the Anglicised Romans were discovered in the year 1829.\* *Halstead Place*, the seat of Alderman Atkins, M.P. is seen from the road near Pratt's Bottom.

After passing the 18th mile-stone, the traveller reaches, without any apparent ascent, the brow of a bold ridge, called *Morants Court Hill*, and is presented with one of those grand views which belong to the hilly region of Kent, and which is distinguished by a broad valley of irregular width, consisting of corn-fields, pasture land, parks, woods, copses, &c. The hill on the northern side is of chalk formation, whilst that to the south is composed of red sand, gravel, and marl. Villages, mansions, farms, and villas, are scattered over the whole of this rich vale, which exhibits to the eye a picture of luxurious fertility and of picturesque beauty. The large warehouse-looking mansion of *Chevening Place*, partly built by Inigo Jones, immediately at the base of the hill, was for many years occupied by that profound mechanic, philosopher, and statesman, the late Earl Stanhope, who prosecuted and perfected some of his valuable and useful inventions at this retreat. Near this park is *Chepsted Place*, a seat of Frederick Perkins, Esq.; *Montreal*, the seat of Earl Amherst;

\* See "Archæologia," vol. xxii.; and "Gentleman's Magazine" for 1829, for interesting essays by Crofton Croker and J. A. Kempe, Esqrs., both fellows of the Society of Antiquaries.



and Kippington, formerly belonging to the Cobhams, now to Colonel Austen. Adjoining the hamlet of Riverhead are several other seats, which, being embosomed in fine old woods, present, from their contiguity, a seemingly continued forest. Among these is the Wilderness, one of the seats of the truly patriotic Marquess Camden. A small church, from the designs of Decimus Burton, Esq., has recently been built in the middle of Riverhead. In the church of *Westerham*, seen from Morants Court Hill, is a cenotaph to the memory of the gallant Major-General Wolfe (a native of this place), who lost his life in America, in 1759. In the same town was born Dr. Benjamin Hoadley, Bishop of Winchester in 1670, who died in 1746, in the 85th year of his age. Adjoining Westerham is *Hill Park*, the seat of J. H. Barrow, Esq. The village church of Sundridge, seen among trees, contains some interesting monuments for different members of the Hyde and Isley families. This church was altered and repaired from the designs of Mr. John Carter, for Lord Frederick Campbell, who resided at Coombe Bank, in the vicinity.

The town of *Sevenoaks* crowns the summit of a hill, which bounds the southern side of the valley now passed over, and contains a spacious, fine church, some very respectable houses, and two large, besides smaller, inns. At the southern end of the town is a large stone building for an almshouse and school, founded and endowed by Sir William de Seven-



oake.\* Immediately adjoining this town is Knole Park, the celebrated seat of the Earls and Dukes of Dorset, which, with some other seats and places, between Sevenoaks and the Wells, will come under notice in a subsequent part of this volume.

At the southern end of Sevenoaks is a respectable stone mansion, the seat of Multon Lambard, Esq. The forest-looking park of Knole skirts the left-hand side of the road, for about a mile beyond the town, and numerous fine old beech-trees, with their lengthened roots bursting from the gravelly bank, gnarled branches, and silvery bark, spread over and adorn the public way. Several neat villas, with gardens and plantations, are seen on the right of the road ; after passing which, the traveller comes to the brow of another eminence, called *River Hill*, which commands a wide, diversified, and fertile vale, through which the river Medway meanders, from the west towards the east. Although this valley

\* Like the famous Whittington, Lord Mayor of London, this person rose from beggary to opulence, and has perpetuated his name and philanthropy in the benevolent foundation above noticed. According to Lambard, in his "Perambulation of Kent," De Sevenoake was deserted by his parents when a boy, and found lying in the streets of this town. By some charitable persons he was brought up, and apprenticed to a grocer in London. "He arose by degrees to be maior and chief majistrate of that citie." ("Per. of Kent," p. 387 ; ed. 1576.) He was knighted by Henry VI., and represented the city in parliament. After accumulating great wealth, he died in 1432, and was buried in St. Martin's church, Ludgate Hill, London.



may be said to bear some resemblance to the one previously passed, between Morants Court Hill and Sevenoaks, by exhibiting in the general character certain analogous features, yet every detail, and all its component parts, are dissimilar. The ruined mansion and park of Penshurst, with the undulating grounds and woods around the town of Tunbridge, also its ruined castle and turreted school-house,—Quarry Hill, Summer Hill, and other seats,—with a few village towers and a wide extent of country, are spread out before the admiring spectator. The turnpike-road conducts the traveller through the respectable town of Tunbridge, where the large modernised gothic school-house, some gables of old houses, the town-hall, the formal church tower, and parts of the ancient castle, alternately attract attention. The river Medway, a dull, sluggish stream, intersects the public road here, and is navigable for flat-bottomed barges to the town. A road branches off, to the left, to Hastings, &c.; whilst that to Tunbridge Wells, and thence to Lewes and Brighton, ascends a long acclivity, which only a few years back was exceedingly steep. James Burton, Esq., who undertook large building speculations in the Regent's Park, &c., and, in the year 1828, designed, and has already in great measure carried into execution, a new town at St. Leonard's, near Hastings,—having purchased the estate of Quarry Hill, built himself a residence there, and assisted in making the road over this hill easy of ascent. Quarry Hill is



now the seat of J. Deacon, Esq., who has recently built large additions to the house. Here, as in many other instances, great public works are projected by enthusiastic individuals. Buonaparte employed his army to form a road over the immense mountains between France and Italy. If our soldiers, who are too often shut up in barracks and public-houses, were engaged about six hours a-day on public roads, canals, &c. both they and their country would be benefited. The views from this road, on taking a retrospective glance over Tunbridge, and to the ridge of hills to the south of the valley,—also to the west and east, up and down the vale,—are highly interesting and impressive. The eye wanders from dale to hill, from wood to mead, from town to village, from castle to mansion, and from the latter to the lowly cot, with inquisitive and admiring curiosity. On contemplating such a scene, who can say that England is little? that its fields are barren—that its inhabitants are idle and worthless? that the proprietor and the tiller of her lands are not alike filling the destinies of Providence, and entitled to omnipotent protection? Heartless and reckless must that man be who can deliberately view these vast and magnificent displays of nature without reverencing and adoring Nature's God. They are evidences of Omniscience, and tend to rouse and call into action the best qualities and feelings of man, whilst they are calculated to subdue, or at least correct, his bad passions.

But what would be all the charms of inanimate



nature—her fruitful soil, her life-inspiring springs, the perfumed airs of “Araby the blest”—all that is beautiful and picturesque, all that is grand, and wild, and sublime in scenery—what would all these be worth without *Man*—MAN, in his greatness and in his virtue? Here, then, without reference to casual visitors, to the gay and brilliant, the elegant and refined sojourners of the hour, is a superadded claim to favour. “The Men of Kent, properly so called,” observes Cumberland, the dramatist, who passed a considerable portion of his long and useful life at Tunbridge Wells, “are a peculiar race, well worthy of the attention and study of the philanthropist. There is not only a distinguishing cast of humour, but a dignity of mind and principle about them, which is the very clew that will lead you into their hearts, if rightly understood; but, if mistaken or misused, you will find them quick enough to conceive, and more than forward enough to express, their proud contempt and defiance of you. I have said in my first volume of ‘Arundel,’ page 220, that they are ‘a race distinguishable above all their fellow-subjects for the beauty of their persons, the dignity of their sentiments, the courage of their hearts, and the elegance of their manners.’ Many years have passed since I gave this testimony, and the full experience I have now had of the Men of Kent, ever my kind friends, and now become my comrades and fellow-soldiers, confirms every word that I have said, or can say, expressive of their



worthiness in my esteem.”\* After passing the village of Southborough, with its beautiful, well-timbered common and new church, we arrive at the Wells.

Tunbridge Wells, as already noticed, may be regarded as a large scattered village, or series of hamlets, dispersed over an extensive tract of ground. Different groups of the buildings, or portions of land, are designated by names, which serve to indicate the class of persons, or temper of the times, when they were christened. Thus, Mount Sion, or Zion, Mount Ephraim, &c. shew that a species of fanaticism must have prevailed here, when those appellations were given to particular spots. Although there be no law of Moses or the Prophets to prohibit the misuse or abuse of scriptural terms, we may be assured that no truly good and truly wise person will ever be guilty of the folly. During the Cromwell dynasty, however, the cant of religion was the order of the day; and at that restless and fanatic time, it is presumed that the names above specified were conferred on the respective places.

Before we point out particular parts and objects of “the Wells,” it is intended to narrate a few events and incidents, calculated to shew its origin as a place of fashionable and valetudinarian resort, its growth, and present state. The restorative Springs, which rise in the parish of Speldhurst, and of which a new

\* “Memoirs of Richard Cumberland,” written by himself. Vol. ii. p. 180. Edit. 1807.



and scientific account, from the pen of Dr. Yeats, will be given in a succeeding portion of this volume, have, from an early period, proved the chief, though not the sole attraction for valetudinarians. The origin of their celebrity is traced no further back than the year 1606 ; but unquestionably their virtues were previously known.\*

Tradition, though vague and uncertain, is frequently imbued with the essence of truth ; and it is to traditional narrative, rather than to historical fact, that we are indebted for our knowledge of the incident which brought the chalybeate springs of Speldhurst into general repute. Declining all controversy upon the subject, and taking it upon the credit of preceding topographers, a slight sketch of a well-known story will here suffice, which, though again related in this place, does not command assent to all its improbable parts.

By the dissipations of fashionable life, *Dudley*, third *Lord North*, a distinguished person at the court of James I., had greatly debilitated his constitution. Change of air was prescribed by his physicians as the only mode of re-establishing his health. Accordingly, in 1606, at the age of twenty-five, he found a temporary retreat at Eridge House, a hunting-seat of Lord Abergavenny's, romantically situated in a

\* The soil for miles around Tunbridge Wells is strongly impregnated with iron. St. Margaret's Well, situated in the priory grounds at Tunbridge, was known and resorted to, for its medicinal properties, at a remote era.



wild country, without neighbourhood, and almost without human intercourse.\* The seclusion was too severe for his lordship's taste; and, notwithstanding the remonstrances of his friends, he soon determined to return to London. Almost at the commencement of his journey—for Eridge House is about two miles only from the Wells—in passing through a wood, he observed some water, on the surface of which floated a shining mineral scum, and at the bottom appeared a subsidence of ochreous particles. Tasting this water, he found it ferruginous; and believing that it contained medicinal virtues, he directed some of it to be conveyed to London, where he consulted his physicians on its properties. Coinciding in opinion with his lordship, they submitted the water to such chemical tests as were then in use; and, satisfied of its virtues, urged their noble patient to give it a trial. Acting upon this advice, his lordship returned to Eridge House in the ensuing spring; remained there three months, drinking the water, and aiding its effect by air and exercise; and, at the expiration of that term, he became a stouter, stronger, healthier man than ever; the best proof of which is,

\* The following character of the country about Eridge House is found in a letter from Lord Chancellor Burleigh to the Earl of Shrewsbury, dated 10th Aug. 1573, before Tunbridge Wells was known. The French ambassador was then with Queen Elizabeth at "Eridg, my L. of Burgeni's housse.—The Q. Ma<sup>ty</sup> hath had a hard begynning of a progress in the Weld of Kent; and namely in some p<sup>t</sup> of Sussex, wher suerly ar more *wondeross rocks and valleys, and much worss ground*, than is in the Peek."



that he lived till the year 1666, and then died at the age of *eighty-five*.

His lordship was not slow in promulgating his discovery,\* the effects of which were extensively promoted by Lord Abergavenny, on the borders of whose estate the water had its rise. "His lordship ordered the ground about the springs to be cleared from the surrounding rubbish, and sent for an eminent naturalist from London, with whose assistance he distinguished the two principal of seven several springs, (for so many were at first discovered); and over these his lordship ordered wells to be sunk, a stone pave-

\* In 1645, his lordship published a folio volume of Essays, intituled, "A Forest of Varieties," in *three* Parts; a second edition of which appears to have been produced in 1659, under the altered title of "A Forest Promiscuous of several Seasons' Productions," in *four* Parts. In a marginal note, his lordship remarks,—"The use of Tunbridge and Epsom waters, for health and cure, I first made known to London and the king's people. The Spaw 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." *Vide* "Memoirs of the Peers of England during the Reign of James the First," by Sir Egerton Brydges, vol. i. p. 357; and Lord Orford's "Royal and Noble Authors," vol. iii. p. 81, edit. 1806. Of this dissipated, but fanatical nobleman, some curious particulars are given in the two works just referred to. Walpole thus characterises his writings:—"The prose, which is affected and obscure, with many quotations and allusions to Scripture and the classics, consists of essays, letters, characters, in the manner of Sir Thomas Overbury, and devout meditations on his misfortunes. The verse, though not very poetical, is written with the *genteel ease*! of a man of quality."



ment to be laid round, and the whole to be enclosed with wooden rails, in a triangular form.”\*

Kilburne, in 1650, thus speaks of the wells in the parish of Speldhurst. “In this parish,” he says, “are those famous waters (called by some *Fant Welles*, and by others *Tunbridge Welles*) so much resorted unto, and drunk of by the nobility and gentry of this nation; coming thither for that purpose from several parts yearly in the summer, and more especially in the months of July and August.”†

It was not until after the lapse of thirty years from the discovery of the springs, that any material improvements were effected in their immediate vicinity. A new impetus to their fame was given in 1630, by the arrival of Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I., who was sent to the Wells by her physicians for the re-establishment of her health, after the birth of her son, Prince Charles. For about six weeks her majesty remained encamped on Bishop's Down, a part of which had been cleared for her reception; and, as

\* *Vide* “History of Tunbridge Wells,” by Thomas Benge Burr. 1766. Watts, in “*Bibliotheca Britannica*,” has the following strange and silly remark on this volume:—“It is a work of considerable merit, though written by a journeyman bookseller.” What was Shakspeare? what was Dr. Johnson? what were many of Dr. Watts's learned and justly eminent countrymen, in their early career? Burr, speaking of the age in which he lived, said, it “abounded with authors of every rank, sex, and profession;” and therefore justifies himself for taking up his pen to write the history of his native place, to be “of some little service to his friends and acquaintance.”

† “*Topographie of Kent*,” 4to, 1650, p. 254.



in the days of her prosperity, she was fond of masks, dancing, &c., she encouraged the same at this place, and thus imparted great gaiety to the scene.

Dr. Rowzee, in his treatise on these mineral waters, endeavoured to perpetuate the memory of her majesty's visit, by calling them "The Queen's Welles;" but the appellation seems not to have been long continued.\*

The first buildings erected in the immediate vicinity of the springs (about the year 1636) were two small houses, or rather cottages. One of these was appropriated to the use of the ladies; in the other, termed the Pipe Office,—for cigars were then unknown in the fashionable world,—the gentlemen

\* The learned Doctor's short dissertation may be regarded a curiosity, not only from local relation, but as illustrative of the literary, scientific, and physiological character of the age. It is a small 18mo volume of 79 pages, dated 1670, and "imprinted at the Turk's Head, in Bishop-gate Street." "Lodwick Rowzee, Dr. of Physic, practising at Ashford in Kent," gives us a chapter on "water in general," quoting Hesiod, Thales, Empedocles, Hypocrates, Scaliger, &c.; another on "the differences of water," referring to Genesis, the Psalms, and other parts of the sacred writings. He highly panegyrises the waters of the Wells, and shews that they are calculated, with his good advice, "by the grace of God," and physic, to cure almost every disease to which the body is subject. He recommends the patient to begin by drinking 10 or 12 ounces in the morning, about an hour after sunrise, and he may increase his dose to 200 ounces per day!! Towards the end of the book, we find that the Doctor "likes the place;" and says, if company continues to resort to the water, he "will be there every summer," with "variety of physic," and his "best counsel."



were accustomed to assemble, and smoke, and chat over a cup of coffee, after they had paid their *devoirs* to the goddess of the fount. For the accommodation thus afforded, the usual subscription for the season was half-a-crown. Dr. Rowzee says, “divers do take *tobacco* after their water, which I do not dislike, especially if they hold it a good while in their mouthes before they puffe it out.”

About the year 1638, a fine level green bank, afterwards paved, and called the “Upper Walk,” was raised, and a double row of trees was planted on its borders. Under these trees the trades-people generally took their morning stand, to dispose of their different wares during the hours of water-drinking. Speculation now started into life; and, for the accommodation of the yearly-increasing influx of company, a few houses—the majority of them small and inconvenient—were built at Southborough and at Rusthall.\* The spirit of improvement experienced a lamentable check from the commotions to which the kingdom was subjected during the next ten or fifteen years; but no sooner did the violence of the storm begin to subside, than the people reverted to their customary pursuits and pleasures, and the Wells were again resorted to with greater avidity than before. In a short time, an assembly-room, a bowling-green, and other places of amusement, were

\* Rust-hall, about a mile n.w. from the Wells, was so denominated from its ancient proprietors, named Rust, one of whom was mayor of Faversham in the time of Henry VI.



established at Rusthall; and at Southborough, too, there was a bowling-green, a coffee-house, and many houses, of a superior description, for lodgings.\* Still, the distance from those places to the Wells was too great; especially as, in unfavourable weather, there was no shelter for the water-drinkers—no appropriate building in which they could take their requisite exercise.

The genius of England is not republican. It worships at the altar, it bows to the throne, it flourishes under the sway of a favourite monarch. At length the Restoration of Charles II. imparted a new spirit to the nation; and the Wells participated largely in the gaieties of the new era. In 1664, it was honoured with another royal visit—that of the king, with his queen, Katharine (just recovered from a dangerous fever), and their gay and dissipated court; but there were no houses at the Wells capable of affording them suitable accommodation. “Such at least is the tradition, which records that the

\* Party-faction is ever violent and narrow-minded. In the present day, there are many towns in England in which Whigs will not deal with Tories, Reformers with Anti-reformers; and we find that, previously to the grand rebellion, and for years afterwards, the Royalists were accustomed to take up their abode at Southborough, and the Roundheads at Rusthall; each party fearing, it is presumed, that it might be contaminated by an approach to the other. The Presbyterians were desirous of erecting a chapel at Rusthall; but, though the place was chiefly supported by that sect, the landlord refused to sell them a plot of land for the purpose, even at an extravagant price.



court took up their residence chiefly at two houses at Southborough ; whilst others were accommodated at Summer Hill, then the property and residence of Lord Muskerry." The royal sojourn lasted about two months ; and, from the graphic record of it in Grammont's " *Memoirs*," the reader may form a tolerably correct idea of its appearance, natural attractions, and gay and varied amusements.\*

\* The following account, from the celebrated, but frivolous and demoralising, writings of the Count, will serve to characterise the author and the place :—

" Tunbridge is the same distance from London that Fontainebleau is from Paris, and is, at the season, the general rendezvous of all the gay and handsome of both sexes. The company, though always numerous, is always select, since those who repair thither for diversion ever exceed the number of those who go thither for health. Every thing there breathes mirth and pleasure — constraint is banished, familiarity is established upon the first acquaintance, and joy and pleasure are the sole sovereigns of the place. The company are accommodated with lodgings in little clean and convenient habitations, that lie straggling and separated from each other, a mile and a half all round the Wells, where the company meet in the morning. This place consists of a long walk, shaded by pleasant trees, under which they walk while they are drinking the waters. On one side of this walk is a long row of shops, plentifully stocked with all manner of toys, lace, gloves, stockings ; and where there is raffling, as at Paris in the Foire de Saint Germain. On the other side of the walk is the market ; and as it is the custom here for every person to buy their own provisions, care is taken that nothing appears offensive upon the stalls. Here, young, fair, fresh-coloured country girls, with clean linen, small straw hats, and neat shoes and stockings, sell game, vegetables, flowers, and fruit. Here one lives as one pleases. Here is likewise deep play, and no want of amorous intrigues. As soon as the evening comes, every one quits his little palace to assemble on



Lord Muskerrey\* made several improvements at the Wells for the accommodation of the visitors, and built a hall, or room, for the dippers. The assembly-room "was *brought home* from Rusthall to Mount Ephraim, on which a bowling-green was enclosed, a tavern was opened, and many lodging-houses were erected."

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

The following passage from Evelyn's "Memoirs,"

the bowling-green, where, in the open air, those who choose, dance upon a turf, more soft and smooth than the finest carpet in the world."

\* Lord Muskerrey was killed in the following year (1665) in the great naval action with the Dutch admiral, Opdam, in Southwold Bay. His lordship's family arms, placed in the arch of the gateway leading to the springs, were pulled down during the progress of a law-suit, which commenced about sixty years afterwards, between the lord of the manor and the tenants; and the arch itself was taken down when the Wells were repaired, in 1743 or 1744. The arms, however, are still to be seen at the assembly-room, on the parade, where they were fixed by the tenants, in memory of their triumph.

† Burr's "History of Tunbridge Wells," p. 45.



vol. i. p. 266, 4to, of the date June 11, 1652, is at once allusive to this place, the character of the times, and the vain garrulity of the journalist:—

“ My wife being discomposed by having been so long at sea, we set not forth towards home till the 14th; when hearing the small-pox was very rife in and about London, and Lady Browne having a desire to drink Tunbridge-waters, I carried them thither, and staid in a very sweete place, private and refreshing, and tooke the waters myself till the 23d, when I went (to London) to prepare for their reception, leaving them for the present in their little cottage by the Wells. The weather being hot, and having sent my man on before, I rod negligently under favor of the shade, till, within three miles of Bromley, at a place call'd the Procession Oake, two cut-throates started out, and striking with long staves at y<sup>e</sup> horse, and taking hold of the reines, threw me down, tooke my sword, and haled me into a deepe thickett, some quarter of a mile from the highway, where they might securely rob me, as they soone did. What they got of money was not considerable; but they took two rings, the one an emerald with diamonds, the other an onyx, and a pair of buckles, set with rubies and diamonds, which were of value; and, after all, bound my hands behind me, and my feete, having before pull'd off my bootes. They then set me up against a oake, with most bloody threats, to cutt my throat if I offer'd to cry out, or make any noise, for they should be within hearing, I not being the person they looked for. I told them, if they had not basely surprized me they should not have had so easy a prize; and that it would teach me never to ride neere an hedge, since, had I ben in the mid-way, they durst not have adventured on me; at which they cocked their pistols, and told me they had long guns too, and were 14 companions. I begged for my onyx; and told them, it being engraven with my armes would betray them; but nothing prevailed. My horse's bridle they slip't, and searched the saddle, which they pulled off, but let the horse graze; and then turning again, bridled him, and tied him to a tree, yet so that he might graze, and thus left me bound. My horse was perhaps not taken, because he was marked and cropt on both eares, and well known on that



roade. Left in this manner, grievously was I tormented with flies, ants, and the sunn; nor was my anxiety little how I should get loose in that solitary place, where I could neither heare, or see any creature but my poore horse, and a few sheep stragling in the copse. After neare 2 houres attempting, I got my hands to turn palm to palm, having been tied back to back; and then it was long before I could slip the cord over my wrists to my thumb, which at last I did, and then soone unbound my feet, and sadling my horse, and roaming awhile about, I at last perceived dust to rise, and soone after heard the ratling of a cart, towards which I made, and by the help of two countrymen I got back into the highway. I rode to Coll. Blount's, a greate justiciare of the times, who sent out hue and cry immediately. The next morning, sore as my wrists and armes were, I went to London, and got 500 tickets printed and dispersed by an officer of Goldsmith's Hall, and within 2 daies had tidings of all I had lost, except my sword, which had a silver hilt, and some trifles. The rogues had pawned one of my rings for a trifle to a goldsmith's servant before the tickets came to the shop, by which means they scap'd: the other ring was bought by a victuallor, who brought it to a goldsmith, but he having seen the ticket seized the man. I afterwards discharged him, on his protestation of innocence. Thus did God deliver me from these villains, and not onely so, but restor'd what they tooke, as twice before he had graciously don, both at sea and land; I mean when I had been rob'd by pyrates, and was in danger of a considerable losse at Amsterdam; for which, and many, many signal preservations, I am extreamey obliged to give thanks to God my Savior." One of the robbers was afterwards taken, "and, refusing to plead, was press'd to death."

Again, in Aug. 1661, the worthy gossipping and Bobadil knight — "went again to Tunbridge Wells, my wife being there for the benefit of her health. Walking about the solitudes, I greatly admired at the extravagant turnings, insinuations, and growth of certaine birch trees among the rocks."

In 1670, the Duke and Duchess of York, and their two daughters, the Princesses Mary and Anne,



were at the Wells; and, as his royal highness was much delighted with the "*High Rocks*," which he frequently visited, a small house, or rustic shed, was built there, and it became fashionable for the company to assemble and have entertainments amongst those picturesque masses of stone.

Geologically considered, the characteristic feature of the country is sand-stone; large masses of which are frequently seen of imposing magnitude, grouped in wild, irregular, and fantastic forms: the effect of these is greatly heightened by the sombre hue acquired from the exposure of their surface to the air; also by the heaths, of great variety and beauty, the forest shrubs, and the rock plants, that start from their fissures, fantastically entwine themselves amongst the stones, and seem to grow out of, but cling to, their sterile parents.

Of these prominences, which have ever ranked amongst the chief natural beauties of Tunbridge Wells, there are three principal aggregations in its vicinity: the High Rocks, so denominated from their superior elevation, ranging from forty to seventy feet in height, about a mile and a half westward; Harrison's Rocks, and Penn's Rocks, named after the proprietors of the adjacent lands; the former about five, the latter six miles from the Wells, on the Brighton road. There are other masses of these rocks, rising above the surface-soil, on the commons, at the Wells, and Rusthall, and also in several other places. Some of the blocks assume fantastic



and grotesque forms ; and one of them, at Rusthall, has long borne the name of *the Toad Rock*, from a supposed resemblance to a monstrous toad. In the forest, a little west of the High Rocks, is a spring, called *Adam's Well*, noted for the transparency of its water, and for its efficacy in some cutaneous diseases.

About the year 1676, the annual increase of company resorting to the Wells, induced the lord of the manor to erect shops and houses on and near the walks. He accordingly “ entered into an agreement with his tenants, and hired the herbage of the manor on a fifty years’ lease, at ten shillings per annum each tenant, and then began to build upon the green bank, and in every other convenient situation near the springs.”\* At that time there was no place of religious worship at the Wells ; but a chapel was erected from a subscription, raised between the years 1676 and 1684. The sum of 1385*l.* was raised. Various landholders in the neighbourhood contributed timber ; Lady Purbeck, of Summer Hill, gave land. When finished, it was found to be too small ; and, 900*l.* additional having been produced by a second subscription, it was much enlarged and beautified.†

Hasted, in his “ History of Kent,”‡ remarks of

\* Burr’s “ History of Tunbridge Wells,” p. 51.

† Vide Burr’s “ History of Tunbridge Wells.” In Mr. Am-sinck’s work it is stated that the aggregate sum raised exceeded 3000*l.*

‡ Vol. iii. p. 276. 8vo, 1797.



this chapel, which was impiously dedicated to King Charles the Martyr, thus making the dead monarch a *protestant* saint, that it stands in three parishes, and two counties; the pulpit being in Speldhurst, the altar in Tunbridge, and the vestry in Frant; and, he adds, “the stream also, which parted the counties of Kent and Sussex, formerly ran underneath it, but is now turned to a greater distance.” This is not correct: the chapel is wholly in the parish of Tunbridge, and is so described in the deed of trust, confirmed by John, Earl of Buckingham, the son of Lady Purbeck, in 1703.

Casual bequests, and money collected after a sermon preached in the course of the season, supply the principal funds for the support and repairs of the building.\*

As good frequently results from evil, so it occurred at the Wells in 1687. By a fire which then broke out at one end of the walk, the shops and other buildings lately erected on the green bank were entirely

\* Adjoining the chapel is a *School*, supported chiefly by collections made from two charity sermons preached annually. Here, fifty or more poor boys and girls are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic; and through the benefaction of William Strong, Esq. every alternate year one boy is clothed and apprenticed to the sea service. For this purpose, with a similar advantage to the great school of Tunbridge, Mr. Strong, in 1713, bequeathed the annual rents of two small farms. The surplus, should any remain,—as, from the increased value of land, it may be presumed there does,—is lent, on proper security, to some deserving young man, educated at the school, for five years, without interest.



consumed ; but others, and better buildings, were speedily raised on their sites. An assembly-room, coffee-houses, shops, and dwelling-houses, were erected in one continued line ; and a convenient colonnade or piazza was placed in front, and carried on from the upper end of the parade down to the spring or well, a distance of 525 feet.

In 1688, the memorable year of the Revolution, the Princess Anne of Denmark visited and resided some time at the Wells. In 1696, she presented a basin of Portland stone for the spring, afterwards called the Queen's Well ;\* and, in 1698, she gave 100*l.* for the beneficial purpose of paving the walks.†

\* This basin was replaced in 1789 by one of marble, presented by the lady of the manor ; and, as it was discovered that much filth had accumulated beneath from exposure, a fixed cover was added, to prevent a recurrence of the inconvenience. Prejudice, however, conceived that, by this means, the water was deteriorated in quality ; and, after much contention, the cover was removed, and the basin was allowed to remain open as before. About twenty-eight years since, Mrs. Shorey, the then lady of the manor, erected the present house over the Wells, as a sort of pump-room. As settled by Act of Parliament, the spring is constituted public property. Females, called dippers, are stationed at the Well to serve the water to persons who apply for it. These dippers are appointed by the lord of the manor. It is usual for each person, on commencing a course of the waters, to give a half-crown (called the dippers' "welcome penny") ; and on leaving off, another fee is generally given.

† The material adopted for the pavement was baked tile, and the walks were henceforth called the *Pantiles*. Some years ago, by means of a subscription amongst the inhabitants, they were repaved with stone, and are now denominated the Parade.



On the accession of this princess to the throne, the inhabitants planted the Queen's Grove—a triple row of birch-trees—on the common, “for a *growing* monument of gratitude to their royal and generous benefactress.”

Amongst the poets or rhymers by whom the praises of Tunbridge Wells have been sung, was one Peter Causton—whose name, we apprehend, is “unknown to fame.” He appears to have “flourished,” as the old phrase goes, at the commencement of the eighteenth century, the period at which we are now arrived; we have before us a Latin poem of his, of about three hundred lines, bearing the imprint, “Londini: Anno M.DCC.IX.” From this scarce, probably unique, copy of Mr. Causton's “Tunbrigialia,”—a “new and enlarged edition,” by the by—we select a brief passage or two for the gratification of the curious.

Having recovered his lost health by drinking the waters, the poet returns thanks to the god of the fountain, describes the market, abuses cards, eulogises tobacco, sketches the amusements at Rusthall, &c., and gives a general account of the mode in which visitors pass their time. Thus, after an opening, *secundum artem*, of one-and-twenty lines, the first thirteen of which are devoted to an acrostic on his own name, he comments on the morning of the day:—

“Mox ubi grata quies lassos reparaverit artus,  
Et tristi pulsâ caligine noctis opacæ  
Ostendat lucem rubicunda *Aurora*, comamque

Splendentem *Phæbus* referens illuxerit orbi,  
 Ad Fontem lento gradimur pede ; taxa nec ignes  
 Obstant (procedo tabaco nam fortior hausto),  
 Confestim advolitat quæ pocula porrigat ultro  
 Plena perennis aquæ, quam fons sine munere donat,  
 Qualem nec *Latium* novit, nec *Græcia* jactat :  
 Illa beat siccos fœcundâ stirpe parentes,  
 Deciduumque facit post funera vivere nomen :  
 Illa domat Febres, et si malè calculus hærens  
 Renibus aut peni languentia viscera torquet,  
 Illa fugat, pellit curas, et nubila menti  
 Discutiens aptat doctis, sacratque *Camænis*."

And then, after expatiating on bile, fever, bowel,  
 stomach, heart, and brain complaints,—doctors, and  
 all the "ills that flesh is heir to,"—he passes to  
 pleasanter themes :—

" Hos inter calices, per amœnas arboris umbras  
 Hinc illinc patulos jactantis in aëra crines  
 Usque vagor, possim ut gelidos tolerare liquores :  
 Migrâsse huc jures *Venerem*, *Nymphasque Britannas*,  
 Mirè argentatâ splendentes corpora veste,  
 Captatum insolito juvenesque virosque nitore ;  
 Incessus stupeos verecundos, corporum honores,  
 Divinas facies, multo fulgentia colla  
 Auroque et gemmis, quæ vel dedit India dives,  
 Vel cautus tulit *Afrorum* mercator ab oris.  
 Non aliter, *Paride et Graiis* comitata puellis,  
*Tyndaris* ad *Phrygias* fertur spatiata carinas.  
 Dumque vagi circumferimur, vel tibia melos  
 Grande sonat, fidibusve implentur mollibus aures ;  
 Harmonicâ ad chordas resonante per aëra voce.  
 Usque Deus foveat, media inter pocula ritè  
 Sacra Deo facimus ; quippe hîc posuere sacellum  
 Nuper *Hydropotæ*. *Nec spernitur herba tabaccum*,  
*Ventitur in fumum in selectis ædibus, arctis*  
*Hausta tubis, stomachi sedans accensa tumultus.*"



Here we must desist ; for by this time the reader must have had *quantum suff.*, and will not be sorry to return to plain English prose.

The lease, referred to in a preceding page, between the lord of the manor and his tenants, expiring about the year 1726, the latter, unable to obtain a renewal, claimed compensation for the loss of their herbage. A tedious and expensive law-suit followed ; the result of which was, that the tenants were adjudged to be entitled to a third part of the buildings which had been erected. In pursuance of this judgment, all the shops and houses on the manor were divided into three equally apportioned lots, of which the tenants were to draw one, and the other two were to remain with the lord. Fortunately for the tenants, they drew the middle lot, which included the assembly-room, and which has proved the most advantageous portion. The whole of this arrangement was confirmed by an Act of Parliament in 1740, an important restricting clause in which declared it illegal to erect any building on the common, or on any spot where a building had not previously stood. This salutary clause has tended to check encroachments on the common ; though some persons have ventured to raise buildings on it, in contravention of the statute.

Hitherto, this attractive resort of fashion had “ flourished ” without any local laws, or specific regulations ; but, in the early part of the last century, it was found expedient to place its amusements under



the control of the celebrated, or rather notorious, Beau Nash, as master of the ceremonies. For years, his dominion here, as at Bath, was absolute; the proudest of the aristocracy submitted to his wand; and "in the seasons of his prosperity," it is recorded, "he would make his entrance to the Wells in his chariot and six handsome grey horses, preceded by two out-riders with French horns." A gentleman by birth and education, gifted with an insinuating address, with elegant and imposing manners, his grand aim was to make every one live in public—to render the scene one unceasing round of pleasure, gaiety, and dissipation.\*

The manners of the place at this period (1748) have been more piquantly described by Richardson, the novelist, than they were in the reign of Charles II. by De Grammont; and, in happy illustration of his remarks, a drawing, from which the annexed print has been copied, was found amongst his papers, after his death, in 1761.† "I had rather be in a

\* Some account of the character of Nash, and of the customs, &c. at Bath during his presidency over the amusements of that city, may be found in the "History and Antiquities of Bath Abbey," 8vo, 1825.

† *Logan*, or *Loggan*, who made the drawing, and whose portrait is introduced, was a fan-painter, who, for some years, kept a shop at the south end of the walks. He was an odd, diminutive figure, but a sensible, honest, and ingenious man. From his window he could view the company; and he was in the habit of delineating such remarkable characters as appeared amongst the groups on his fans, so as to be immediately recognised by their forms. He had been dwarf to the Prince and Princess



desert," says he, in one of his letters to Miss Westcombe,\* "than in a place so public and so giddy, if I may call the place so from its frequenters."——  
 "What, if I could inform you, that among scores of belles, flutterers, triflers, who swim along these walks, self-satisfied and pleased, and looking defiance to men (and to modesty, I had like to have said, for bashfulness seems to be considered as want of breeding in all I see here), a pretty woman is as rare as a black swan; and when one such starts up, she is nicknamed a Beauty, and old fellows and young fellows are set a-spinning after her."——  
 "If you have not been at Tunbridge, you may nevertheless have heard, that here are a parcel of fellows, mean traders, whom they call touters, and their business, touting—riding out miles to meet coaches and company coming hither, to beg their custom while here."†

of Wales. His character, good sense, jokes, and repartees, were long remembered at the Hot Wells, Bristol, where he afterwards lived, and where he died much respected.

\* Edited by Mrs. Barbauld, who furnished a very interesting and discriminating Memoir of the writer to precede Richardson's Correspondence, which was published in six octavo volumes in 1804. The letter addressed to Miss Westcombe, from which we have extracted the illustrations of our plate, &c. will be found in the third volume, page 311.

† *Touting*, or *Tooting*, from the name of a village between Epsom and Clapham. It is said, that the tradesmen who lived at Epsom went to Tooting to meet and invite company. It has also been asserted that touting was carried to such an excess in the neighbourhood of Tunbridge Wells, that a butcher of the



In illustration of the annexed print, we give the following transcript of the names and references an-

place travelled as far as Bromley to solicit customers; and on one occasion, thrusting his card into the carriage of a gentleman, was taken for a highwayman.

In the time of Nash, a little deformed man (the Well's Cryer), nicknamed Lord Rawlins, was remarkable for singing the *Touting Song*, and for reciting some speeches relating to the place, taught him by the famous Duke of Wharton, from whom he received his mock dignity. His grace took him to London, ridiculously but richly dressed, and introduced him to some of the fashionable clubs. This honour deranged the weak intellects of the poor man, who died in the parish workhouse in a state of madness.

A woman, named Sarah Porter, and distinguished by the title of *Queen of the Touters*, was formerly well known at the Wells. From the time when Nash arrived, till about the year 1739, he was accustomed to take her to the public rooms to solicit subscriptions; and not a person of the least rank or credit would she suffer to escape. Amongst persons of distinction, she pretended to know their fathers, mothers, uncles, aunts, and every relative. She had a strong and equally convenient memory; could recollect or forget whatever was for her interest; used to stand at the ball-room, and make thousands of curtsies in a day; had not the least faith, or 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 party all round the room, when it was full of company. Scolding, swearing, or any other severity of treatment, was never known to put her out of humour, or to induce incivility. She valued herself much upon her intrepidity; and especially "from being descended in a direct line from the English women in the time of the Danes, who cut all their husbands' throats the first night of their marriage." A print of this strange person was engraved from a painting of Vander-Smissen, which is now very scarce. It represents her in a fine brocaded gown, stomacher, mob-cap, and a large book, with the names of many subscribers, and the amounts of their respective subscriptions.







*Drawn by Loggan 1748.*

THE WALK TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

*& Characters there, in Aug<sup>r</sup> 1748. See description.*

London, Published Jan<sup>y</sup> 1832 for J. BRITTON'S, sketches of Tunbridge Wells.

*J.S. Templeton del. in Stone*



nexed to the original drawing in the hand-writing of Richardson: they indicate, in portrait, many of the public characters of the day, contemporary visitants with the writer.

- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Woman of the Wells.         | 13. Lord Powis.               |
| 2. Loggan, the Artist.         | 14. Duchess of Norfolk.       |
| 3. Dr. Johnson.                | 15. Miss Peggy Banks.         |
| 4. Gilbert, Bp. of Salisbury.  | 16. Lady Lincoln.             |
| 5. Lord Harcourt.              | 17. Mr. Lyttleton, afterwards |
| 6. Colley Cibber.              | Lord Lyttleton.               |
| 7. Garrick.                    | 18. The Baron, a German       |
| 8. Mrs. Frasi, the Singer.     | Gamester.                     |
| 9. Beau Nash.                  | 19. Richardson.               |
| 10. Miss Chudleigh, afterwards | 20. Mrs. Onslow.              |
| Duchess of Kingston.           | 21. Mrs. Johnson.             |
| 11. Earl of Chatham.           | 22. Mr. Whiston.              |
| 12. The Speaker Onslow.        |                               |

Cibber, it will be observed, is the very picture of an old beau, with laced hat and flowing peruke. Dr. Johnson was at that time only in his fortieth year, and less corpulent than he afterwards became: his better half is at a sufficiently respectful distance. Richardson himself is seen beneath the trees, evidently avoiding the triflers. The most interesting group is formed by Miss Chudleigh (afterwards Duchess of Kingston), between Beau Nash and Mr. Pitt (Earl of Chatham), each of whom is endeavouring to obtain a side-long glance at the "sweet-tempered" and "generally-admired" lady.

The print, it should be observed, represents the upper or principal walk, with the assembly-room and



post-office, the Tunbridge ware, milliners', and other shops,—with a row of spreading trees on the opposite side, shewn rather larger than they could have been at the middle of the last century. The entire scene, the humble style of the shops, the wooden portico and tiled roofs, the costume of the characters, with their high-heeled shoes, silken hose, court hoops, embroidery, point ruffles, &c. form a striking contrast between the fashions of the past and the present age.

But we must yet indulge in some further illustrative passages from our friend Richardson :—

“ Miss Banks,” says he, “ was the belle when I came first down ; yet she had been so many seasons here, that she obtained but a faint and languid attention ; so that the smarts began to put her down in their list of had-beens. New faces, my dear, are more sought after than fine faces. A piece of instruction lies here—that women should not make even their faces cheap.

“ Miss Chudleigh next was the triumphant toast ; a lively, sweet-tempered, gay, self-admired, and not altogether without reason, generally-admired lady—she moved not without crowds after her. She smiled at every one. Every one smiled before they saw her, when they heard she was on the walk. She played, she lost, she won—all with equal good-humour. But, alas ! she went off, before she was wished to go off : and then the fellows' hearts were almost broken for a new beauty.



“ Behold ! seasonably, the very day that she went away, entered upon the walks Miss L., of Hackney ! Miss Chudleigh was forgotten (who would wish for so transient a dominion in the land of fickledom ?)— And have you seen the new beauty ? And have you seen Miss L. ? was all the inquiry from smart to smartless. But she had not traversed the walks two days, before she was found to want spirit and life. Miss Chudleigh was remembered by those who wished for the brilliant mistress, and scorned the wife-like quality of sedateness ; and Miss L. is now seen with a very silly fellow or two, walking backwards and forwards unmolested, dwindled down from the new beauty to a very pretty girl ; and perhaps glad to come off so. For, upon my word, my dear, there are very few pretty girls here.

“ But here, to change the scene, to see Mr. W—sh, at eighty (Mr. Cibber calls him papa), and Mr. Cibber, at seventy-seven, hunting after new faces ; and thinking themselves happy if they can obtain the notice and familiarity of a fine woman ! How ridiculous !

“ Mr. Cibber was over head and ears in love with Miss Chudleigh. Her admirers (such was his happiness !) were not jealous of him ; but, pleased with that wit in him which they had not, were always for calling him to her. She said pretty things—for she was Miss Chudleigh. He said pretty things—for he was Mr. Cibber ; and all the company, men and women, seemed to think they had



an interest in what was said, and were half as well pleased as if they had said the sprightly things themselves; and mighty well contented were they to be second-hand repeaters of the pretty things. But once I faced the laureate, squatted upon one of the benches, with a face more wrinkled than ordinary with disappointment. ‘I thought,’ said I, ‘you were of the party at the tea-treats—Miss Chudleigh has gone into the tea-room.’ ‘Pshaw!’ said he, ‘there is no coming at her, she is so surrounded by the toupets;’ and I left him upon the fret. But he was called to soon after; and in he flew, and his face shone again and looked smooth.

“Another extraordinary old man we have had here, but of a very different turn—the noted Mr. Whiston; shewing eclipses, and explaining other phenomena of the stars, and preaching the millenium and anabaptism (for he is now, it seems, of that persuasion) to gay people, who, if they have white teeth, hear him with open mouths, though, perhaps, shut hearts; and after his lecture is over, not a bit the wiser, run from him, the more eagerly to C—r and W—sh, and to flutter among the loud-laughing young fellows upon the walks, like boys and girls at a breaking-up.”

The system introduced by the great arbiter of public taste retained its local influence long after the days of Richardson; but, of late years, the generally improved state of society has imparted to the manners of the place a subdued, but a more rational



tone. Retaining its character for selectness and gentility of company, Tunbridge Wells is now as much distinguished by ease, and freedom from all undue restraint, as it was, a century ago, by an attention to idle ceremony and constrained, painful etiquette.

In more recent times, numerous eminent and distinguished characters — statesmen and warriors, lawyers and divines, men of science, scholars of every class and grade — have resorted to Tunbridge Wells, either as a permanent home or as a temporary retreat. Were the present volume a huge and splendid folio, as was the fashion in the “olden time,” instead of a humble *vade mecum*, what interest might be imparted to its pages, in biographical sketches, racy anecdotes, and brilliant repartees, belonging to and immediately connected with the frequenters of the Wells! but we can only mention a few names in addition to those already specified. Lord North, Colonel Barré, (both deprived of sight), Lord Mansfield, Lord George Germaine, the Lord Chancellor Rosslyn, Lord Sackville, the Duke of Leeds, Dr. Moore (Archbishop of Canterbury), Dr. Moss (Bishop of Bath and Wells), *cum multis aliis*.

Cumberland, the dramatist, not only resided for some years, but wrote many of his works, at Tunbridge Wells.\* In his “Memoirs,” (vol. ii. p. 182),

\* RICHARD CUMBERLAND, Esq., born in 1732, was the son of Dr. Denison Cumberland, Bishop of Clonfert (by Joanna, daughter of Dr. Richard Bentley, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge), and great grandson of the learned Dr. Richard Cumber-



he says, "I had tried the sea-coast and other places, but *in this climate only* could my wife breathe with

land, Bishop of Peterborough. After a school education at Bury and Westminster, he was entered of Trinity College, Cambridge, where, in 1750, he obtained his bachelor's degree. He was private secretary to Lord Halifax, when that nobleman was Viceroy of Ireland. On his return to England, he was made clerk of reports in the office of trade and plantations, and afterwards was appointed secretary to that board. In 1780, he was sent on a mission to Lisbon and Madrid; but was recalled in the year following—deprived of his situation at the board of trade—and subjected to much vexation, inconvenience, and loss.

After the close, as it may be termed, of his public life, Mr. Cumberland retired to Tunbridge Wells, where he resided many years, till the death of his wife, when he removed to London, and died there, on the 7th of May, 1811.

Cumberland possessed considerable literary talents; but he was a great egotist, and so extremely sensitive, that Garrick termed him "the man without a skin," and Sheridan described or caricatured him as *Sir Fretful Plagiary*, in "The Critic." He was a kind-hearted, amiable, benevolent man; yet so much of a courtier, as frequently to incur the risk of being deemed a hypocrite. His "Observer," a series of miscellaneous papers, deservedly ranks high amongst the British classics. His novels of "Arundel," "Henry," and "John de Lancaster," had "their day," but are now nearly forgotten. Of his numerous dramas, the best are "The West Indian," "The Jew," and "The Wheel of Fortune." The second (and it is said also the third) of these was written at Tunbridge Wells. *Young Bannister*—*Jack Bannister*, as we were wont to hear him called, though some time since he was announced as "*Old Mr. Bannister*"—was the original *Sheva*; a benevolent specimen of the Israelitish nation, contrasting curiously with Shakespeare's *Shylock*. In the same character, Downton, long a favourite actor at Tunbridge Wells, subsequently made his *début* on the London boards. Long before Kotzebue's vicious and demoralising play of "The Stranger" was known in this country, Cumberland



freedom, and experience repose." Sir James Bland Burgess, the coadjutor of Mr. Cumberland in "The Exodiad," also lived here, and was an officer in the volunteer infantry of the place.\* The Rev. Martin Benson (still living) was forty-three years the esteemed and revered minister of the chapel.†

had appropriated all its good, and rejected all its bad parts in his "Wheel of Fortune." They who have enjoyed the high intellectual gratification of witnessing John Kemble's *Penruddock* in the latter piece, will never forget the masterly, the finished, the exquisite effect of that performance.

Cumberland also wrote his "Calvary," an epic poem, containing many passages of great beauty, at Tunbridge Wells; likewise, in conjunction with Sir James Bland Burgess, "The Exodiad."

Mr. Cumberland was a great lover of sacred music. Camis, his valet, had a fine voice; and many anthems were well sung by him and a few other choristers at the chapel of the Wells. Cricket was another of Cumberland's favourite amusements; and after the threatened invasion of England by Buonaparte, Mr. Cumberland commanded the volunteer infantry of the Wells, and found his office a very pleasant hobby.

\* SIR JAMES BLAND BURGESS was well known as the author of "Richard Cœur de Lion," an epic poem, in the Spenserean stanza, and other works. He lived next door to Mr. Cumberland, at the Wells, and is thus characterised in the "Memoirs" of the latter:—"He was always a studious man, and his knowledge is very various: few men have read to better purpose, and fewer still can boast a more retentive memory, or a happier faculty of narrating what they remember."—*Memoirs*, vol. ii. p. 361.

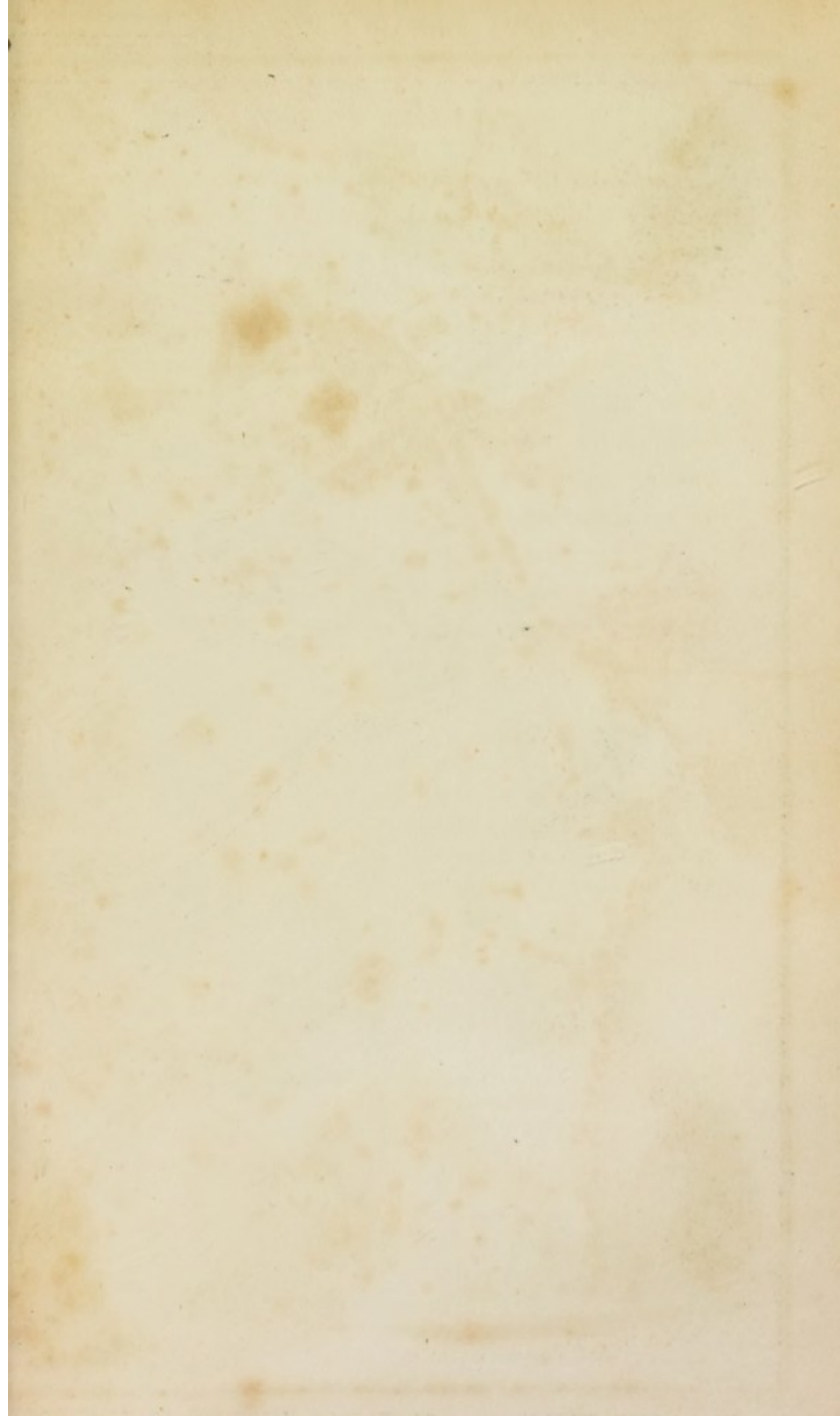
† During the time Mr. Benson officiated at Tunbridge Wells, his hearers were numerous and respectable. As a preacher, in energetic and impressive eloquence he has rarely been surpassed. Several of his sermons were published at the request of his congregation, earnestly and respectfully expressed, and numerous signed. On one occasion, he was solicited to repeat, on the follow-

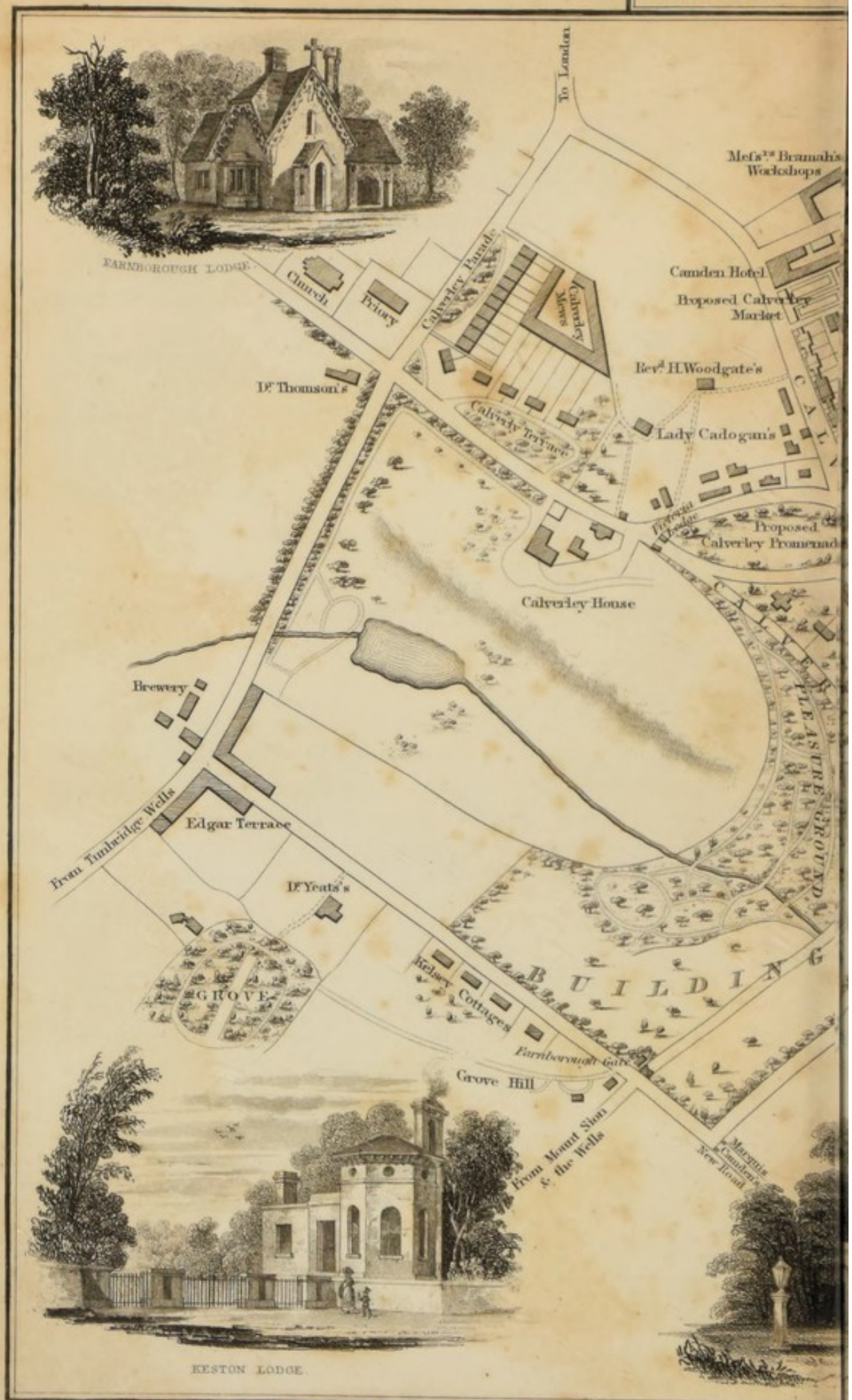
Amongst great and royal guests, who have occasionally honoured the Wells, may be named the beautiful, the amiable, the unfortunate Princess de Lambolle, the Prince and Princess of Orange and family, the late Duchess of York, the Princess Sophia, the Duchess of Kent, and the amiable Princess Victoria; and, for many successive seasons, that munificent patron of literature, that zealous advocate of public benevolence and universal philanthropy, the Duke of Sussex.

Having thus laid before the reader a short review of the rise and growth of Tunbridge Wells, it is intended to devote another Sketch to individual features and objects of the place.

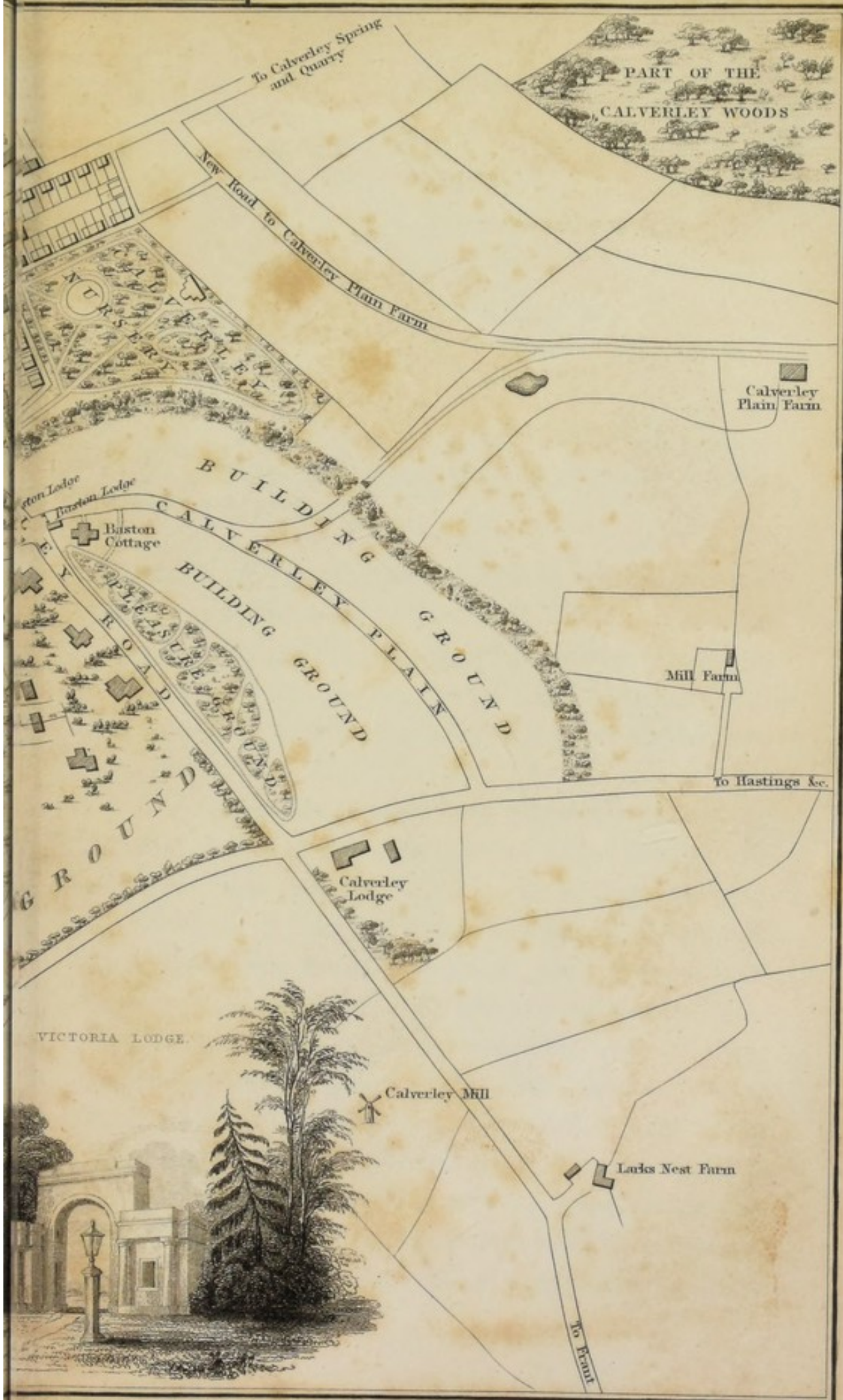
ing Sunday, a discourse which he had delivered from the text, "How old art thou?"—Pharaoh's question to Jacob. On leaving Tunbridge Wells, a valuable piece of plate was presented to Mr. Benson. His Farewell Address was published, and may be had at the libraries. It is generally believed that Mr. Benson wrote parts of Amsinck's volume on "Tunbridge Wells and its Neighbourhood."

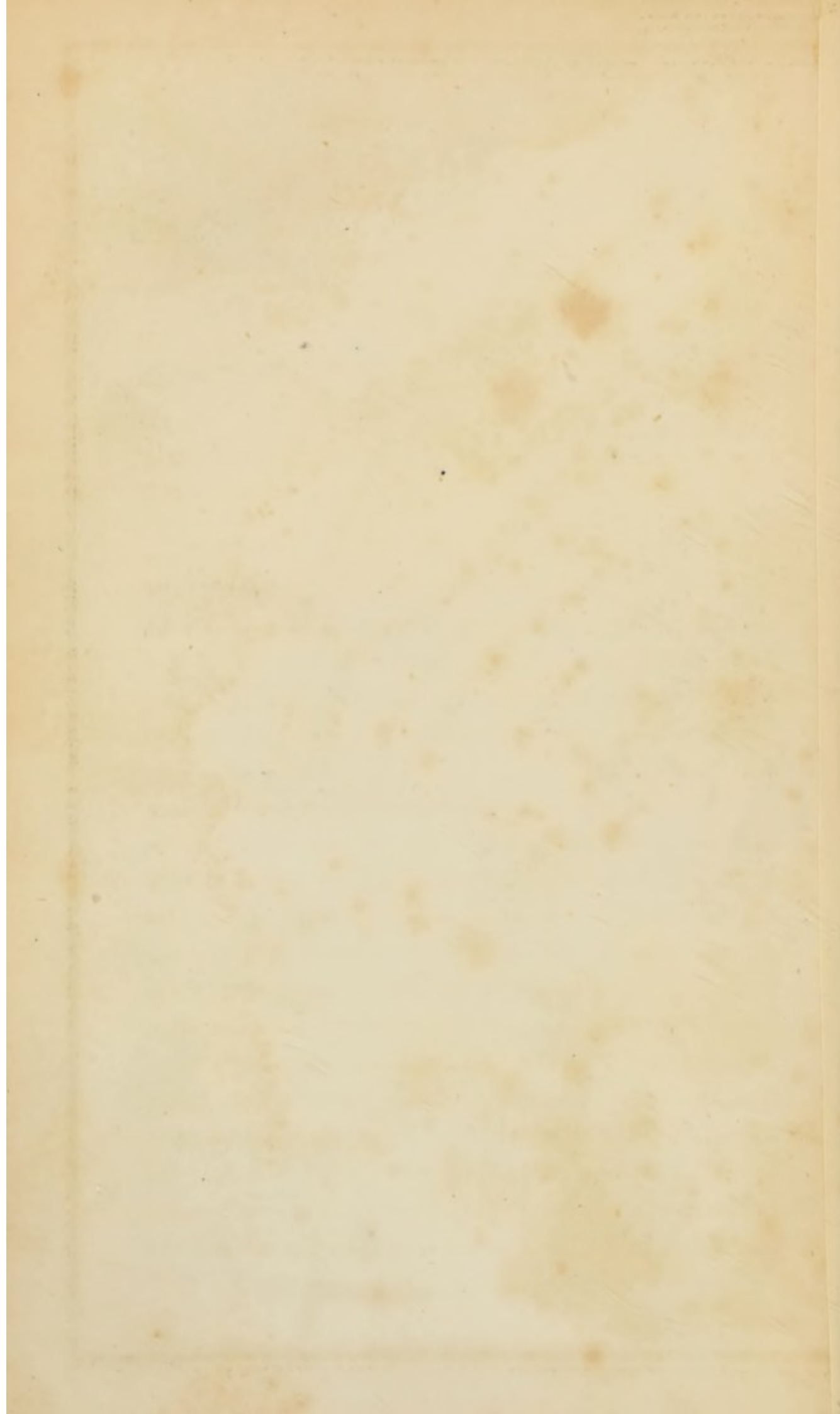














## SKETCH II.

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CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES AND OBJECTS OF THE OLDER PARTS  
OF THE WELLS—THE CALVERLEY PARK, AND OTHER MODERN  
IMPROVEMENTS.

HAVING, in the preceding Sketch, indicated the origin, growth, and such annals of the Wells as seem to belong to local history, it will be the object of the present to display, or at least point out, the distinguishing characteristics of the place at the present time.

The reader has already been presented with some notices of the scenic character of this summer retreat—of this singular hamlet. It is proposed now to delineate a few of those individual parts and details which contradistinguish this from other places of public resort. As already intimated, Tunbridge Wells originated in accident, and its augmentation, up to a very recent time, seems to have been rather accidental than the effect of any thing like plan or design. The Well, or Spring, being a sort of focus, was the nucleus for congregation and for habitations; but the projectors and builders of houses, instead of adopting any regular systematic mode in

placing them, were regardless of order, symmetry, size, shape, or position. There are scarcely two houses alike among the older buildings; and though several of them are ranged in a continued line or row, they are of varied sizes, heights, and materials. These are all occupied as shops, before which a covered way or piazza projects. This serves equally for shelter and for shade, and is, consequently, used as a place of promenade. In front of it is a paved walk of considerable width, bounded by a row of large trees. (See plate, marked No. 4 in the list, and the map.) In this row are the *assembly-rooms*, also the *public libraries*, with reading-rooms, belonging to Mr. Nash and Mr. Elliott; likewise various shops, among which are some entirely appropriated to the articles of Tunbridge ware manufacture, which are both numerous and beautiful. Formerly the walks were called the *Pantiles*, from being paved with red baked tiles or bricks. In 1793 these were taken away, and the walk paved with Purbeck stone. The whole length of the walk is 175 yards. At one side is an orchestra, where a band of musicians occasionally perform at certain hours in the day during the summer season.

On lower ground, running parallel with the walks, is the *Sussex Hotel*, a large, respectable, and imposing pile of building, adjoining which is the *theatre*, a convenient house, sufficiently spacious for the audience to see and hear players, and for the latter to shew whether they possess the feeling and judgment



to merit the title they assume.\* Near this spot is a small *market-place* for butchers' meat, fish, poultry, &c. On the stalls with the latter are seen, in the summer season, numerous *wheatears*, a delicious, small, fat bird, which frequents the downs, where they are entrapped by the shepherds. At the northern end of the walk is a house, with something of architectural pretension, from having pilasters, and an entablature, and vases or urns on the coping. This was built for a *pump-room*, and intended to accommodate the company, as at Bath and some other places. The company, the springs, and the *dippers*,† are, however, all exposed to the light and air of heaven—to the fluctuations of our ever-changing seasons; for the pump-room has been long occupied as a shop, and its windows and even walls covered with various articles for sale, spread abroad, and marked “*very cheap*.”‡ A narrow and inconvenient passage,

\* At this theatre Mr. Dowton performed for some years, and was here recognised by Mr. Cumberland, who introduced him to the London stage, where he personified many characters with distinguished success. His son, Mr. W. Dowton, has been manager of this theatre, with others at Maidstone, Canterbury, and Rochester, for some years.

† The dippers are elderly women, appointed by the lord of the manor, to attend at the Well and supply visitors with the water, which they dip from a large stone basin at the northern end of the parade. These attendants expect a fee from every water-drinker, as has been customary; but by Act of Parliament the spring is always open and free for the use and benefit of the public.

‡ Among the quackeries and impudent deceptions of the present age, there are few more glaring and disgusting than those

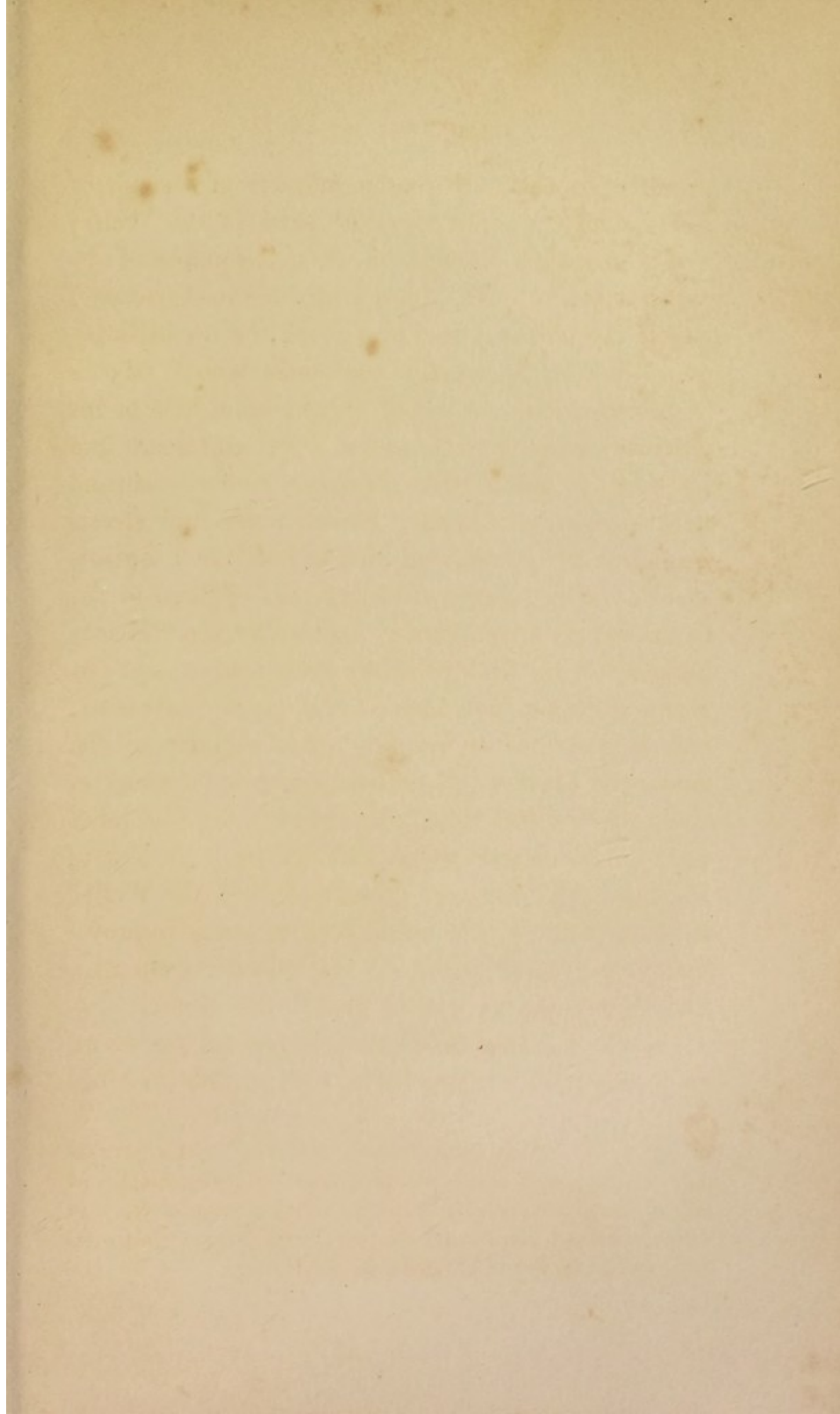


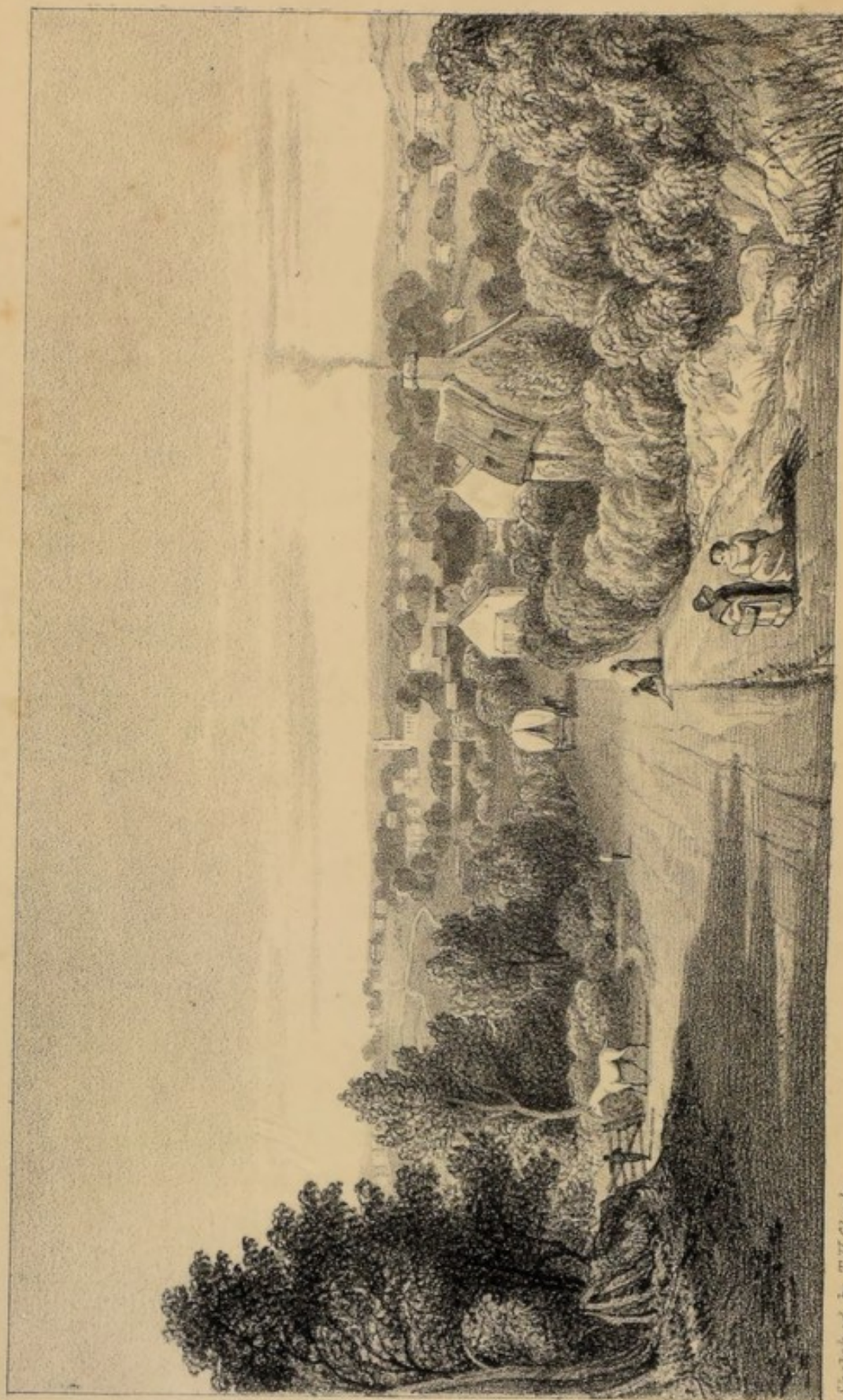
or alley, is the only thoroughfare from the northern end of the walk to other parts of the Wells; and this small passage is often incommoded by "goods and chattels," placed outside the shop-doors. Let it not be thought that I would be uncharitable or unkind to the worthy tradesman who "labours in his vocation." I would only restrain him in his officious endeavours to seduce a few customers into his shop, at the sacrifice of man's convenience and general accommodation. Public roads and streets belong to the public, and no one individual is justified in taking possession of any part of them to the detriment of the community. In London, the "Metropolitan Paving Act" prohibits every tradesman from occupying even one inch of the public pavement, and in many other respects gives security to the passenger against the nuisances and annoyances of those knaves and fools, who are regardless of other people's reasonable wants and wishes. An Act of Parliament for the local government of "the Wells" is much wanted. It would lead to many improvements, and tend to benefit the resident tradesman and gentleman, as well as gratify the visitor.

In the building called the pump-room are warm, cold, shower, and vapour baths, with suitable dressing-

of certain advertising linen-draper. Assuming a large partnership company, with showy placards, announcing exceedingly low prices, change of fashion, bankruptcy, quitting of business, &c. they force a rapid sale, injure and almost ruin the respectable tradesman, and create prejudice against all fair dealings.







*Sketched by T.H. Clarke.*

TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND CALVERLEY—FROM THE FRANT ROAD.

London, Published by J. BRITTON, August 1831.

*Printed by Engelmann & Co.*

*J.S. Templeton lith.*



rooms and other accommodations. At a short distance from this is the *chapel*, a large, irregular, and tasteless mass of brick building, in a low situation, and placed at the junction of two brooks, and two counties. Near it a road, called Neville Street, branches off to Frant and other places to the south. *Cumberland Terrace*, a row of respectable lodging-houses on the side of the hill, derived its name from having been a favourite walk of the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland during their sojourn here.

The eastern part of the Wells, called *Mount Sion*, as indicated on the map, contains several houses, scattered over the slope of a hill and on the higher parts of it. Burr (in his History, p. 103) describes these houses as “built in *regular confusion*; and so beautifully intermixed with trees and groves, that they cannot fail of having a pleasing effect on a stranger. At a little distance it bears the appearance of a town in the midst of woods, and conveys to the imagination the soothing idea of a rural, romantic retirement, while it actually affords all the conveniences of a city life.” Many of the residences are large, and were formerly occupied by noblemen and persons of distinction: hence they obtained the names of Bolton House, Oldenburgh House, Wellington Place, Bedford Place, Northumberland House, Cumberland House, &c. In one of these dwellings, Mr. Cumberland tells us in his “Memoirs,” that he resided “more than twenty years, cultivating a plot of garden-ground, embowered with trees, and



amply sufficient for a profusion of flowers, which my old servant Thomas Camis nursed and took delight in. Whilst I lived in town, I had hardly ever passed a year without a long and dangerous fever; but in *this salubrious climate* I never experienced so much indisposition as to confine me to my bed, even for a single hour." What a contrast! What an encomium on the Wells, and condemnatory philippic on London! The same author's anecdotes and comments on the characters of Lord Mansfield, Lord North, the Duke of Leeds, Lord Primate Robinson, Lord Chancellor Rosslyn, Archbishop Moore, Bishop Moss, Col. Barrè, Lord Sackville, Sir James Bland Burgess, and of several other public persons, are replete with interest. He says, "I followed Lord Sackville to his vault at Withyham, my lamented wife to her grave in the church at *Frant*, and there also I caused to be deposited the remains of Wm. Badock, the husband of my second daughter, Sophia." The next house to Mr. Cumberland was occupied by Sir James Bland Burgess, an intimate friend of the author of the "Observer," &c., and in conjunction with whom he wrote and published the "Exodiad," an epic poem of some length, which was much applauded by my good friend Dr. Drake, as well as some other critics, but which, like many productions of learning and genius, is lost in the overflowing torrents of modern literary works.\*

\* Among many local anecdotes appertaining to this part of the Wells, we may select two or three from our old loquacious friend,



Amidst the buildings on this part of the district is a very fine clump of old trees, called THE GROVE, which is a prominent, a public, and an important object and feature. It comprises four acres of land, which are wholly occupied by a grove or wood of luxuriant aspect. The history of this property should be reiterated in every account of Tunbridge Wells, and of the county of Kent; for the names and deeds of public benefactors cannot be too often called into popular notice to insure general gratitude. By a deed, dated April 20, 1707, John, *Duke of Buckingham*, assigned four acres of land, part of Inham's and Waghorne Forest, to the charge of four trustees,

Cumberland. The celebrated *Lord North*, who is immortalised in the political Letters of Junius,\* resided for some time, in the latter part of his life, in one of the Grove houses, and Colonel Barrè, his intrepid opponent, was a resident here at the same time. Both were blind; but the ex-minister, subduing all feelings of animosity and resentment against the old officer, facetiously remarked, that, "although no political antagonist had been more bitter against him than Colonel Barrè, yet there were no two

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\* The author or authors of these famed epistles, which created for a length of time much curiosity and notoriety, and respecting whom so much controversy has taken place, is or are still in the shade. The letters have been ascribed to the Duke of Portland, to Sir Philip Francis, to Lord Sackville, to Burke, to Horne Tooke, to Lord George Germaine, &c.; but if the names of Lord Shelburne, Dunning, and Barrè, were declared to be the *tria juncta in uno* who produced them, the truth would be nearer approached. It would be no difficult task to trace many facts, sentiments, and circumstances belonging to these letters, to Bowood, in Wiltshire, and Shelburne House, in London.



therein named, for the use and benefit of all the inhabitants, lodgers, servants, &c. of Tunbridge Wells. Through this ground there were to be one coach-road and two footways, and the whole planted and preserved as a grove, or place for umbrageous shade. In Dec. 1781 it was surveyed, and “about 200 oaks” counted, some of which were reported to “contain four or five loads of timber.” There were ten large beech-trees, sixty small trees of lime and sycamore, two fir, and two yew-trees. In 1782 twenty-six of these trees, said to be decaying, were ordered to be cut down and sold. They netted 130*l.*, a part of which sum was expended for repairs and improvements in the grove, and the remainder in-

persons in the world who would then be more happy to *see* each other.” One day, says Cumberland, “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 foot-path, and the steps about the chapel, I shall remember them in future.’”

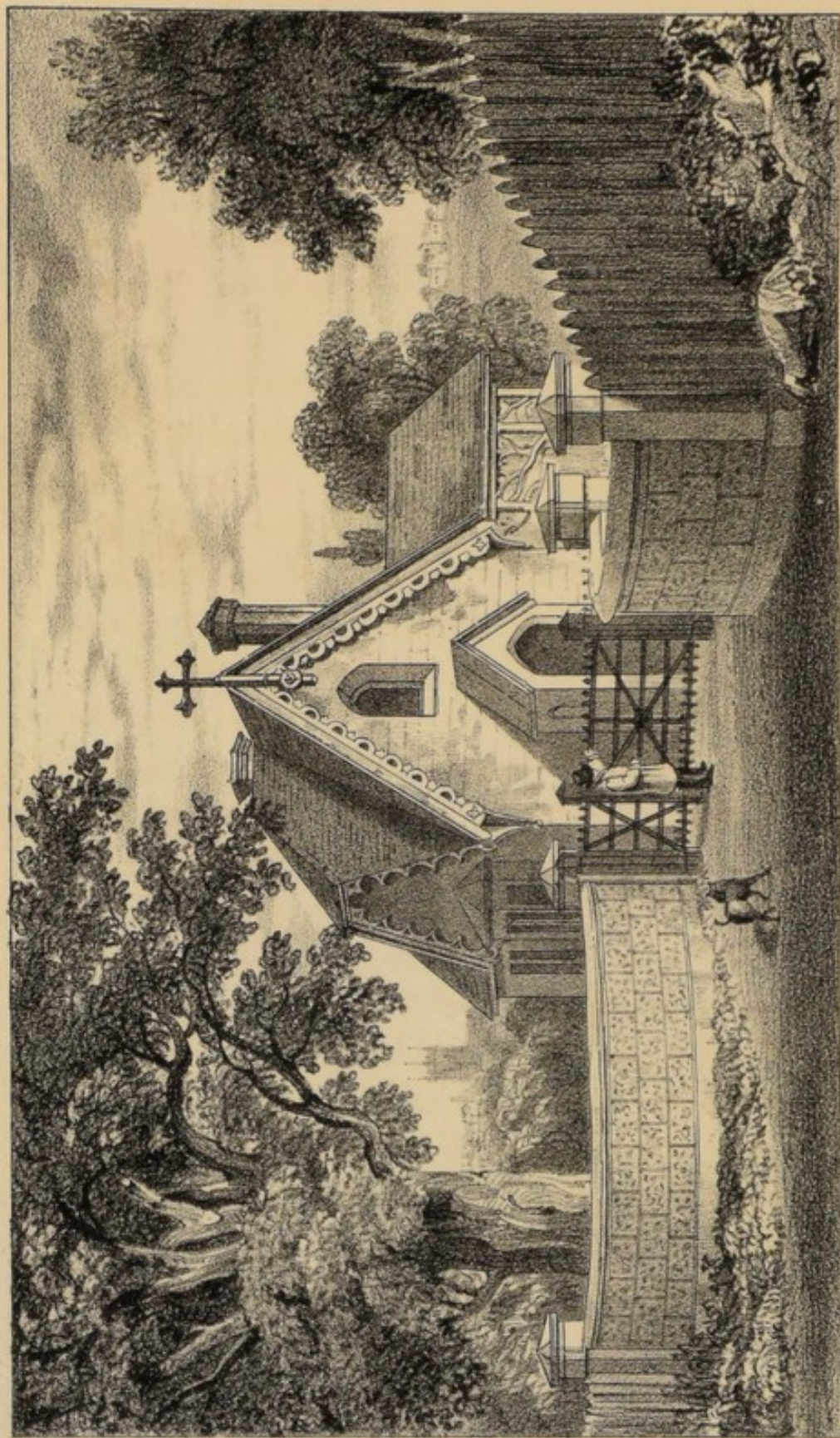
Of Mount Sion, the following ludicrous and irreverend story is related:—A man, named Okill, an eccentric character, kept a lodging-house on the hill, and was clerk of the chapel at the Wells. Whenever his lodgings were empty, he gave out the following stanza from the Psalm:

“Mount Sion is a pleasant place!”

This was certainly prostituting the sacred place to pun and jobbing, of which the clergyman should have prevented a repetition. Indeed, eccentricity of every kind should be excluded from places of worship. Such blasphemous nonsense as the Irvingite “gift of tongues” of the present time is an insult to every thing like religion and common sense.







*J.S. Templeton lith.*

FARNBOROUGH LODGE CALVERLEY PARK.

London Published by J.BRITTON Aug<sup>th</sup> 1831.

*Printed by Engelmann & Co*

*T.H. Clarke del.*



vested in Bank stock for future purposes. Like too many public trusts, this had been neglected, by the decease of some of the trustees and indifference of others. Disputes and litigation arose; but in 1782 four new trustees were appointed. These were the Right Hon. Sir Richard Heron, Martin Yorke, George Children, and Beversham Filmer, Esqrs.

As indicated on the map, there are villas, lodging-houses, and gardens dispersed around the grove. To the east is a pleasant villa occupied by Dr. Yeats, whilst to the south is another belonging to Dr. Mayo. Between these, 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 to Frant, Crowborough, and many other places. Near these houses is one of the entrances to *Calverley Park*, called *Farnborough Lodge*, a view of which is given in the accompanying print, and again in the map of Calverley Park. This map displays the extent and arrangement of the park, and of some adjacent places; also the situation of its roads and paths—of its lodges and villas. The latter, as there indicated, are detached houses, with lawns, gardens, plantations, and offices to each; and placed as they are in the midst of a park, which is most pleasingly disposed by nature and adorned by art, they



must be delightful. Facing the south and south-west, and having a most extensive tract of wild and cultivated country within their command, they cannot fail of being peculiarly cheerful, often very fascinating. In designing and placing these houses, the architect has evidently studied variety, but restrained his fancy to such simple forms and sizes as seemed best adapted to an economical expenditure. The villas hitherto built are rather suited for families of moderate extent, than for large and expensive establishments. This may be inferred from the *plans and views* of four of them, delineated on the accompanying plate. There is, however, ample space of ground and choice of sites for houses of larger extent within the area of the park. A carriage-road is conducted in a sweeping line through the grounds; and bordering the west, south, and north, is a public turnpike-road. Two other lodges, called *Victoria* and *Keston*, are placed as other entrances, and are represented on the map of the park. At the western extremity of this park is a large pile of building, called *Calverley House*, lately occupied by the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria. The lawn slopes gradually from the front of the house to a small valley, in which is a piece of water. It is described, in Sprange's "*Tunbridge Wells Guide*," 1786, as "a noble, modern brick house, built in a *genteel taste*, in an extremely *happy* situation." The Duke of Leeds resided in it for several seasons. This elevated tract of land was

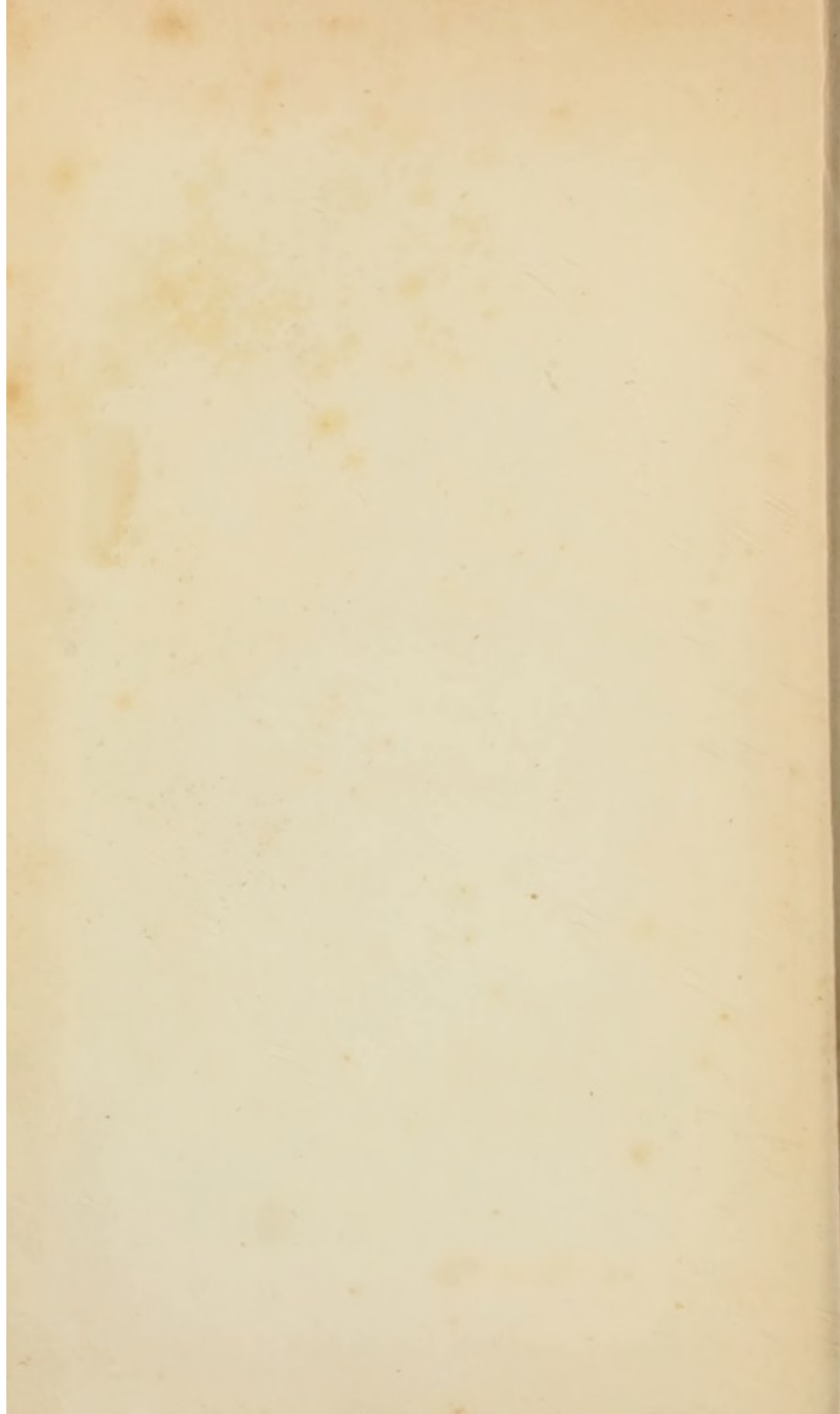




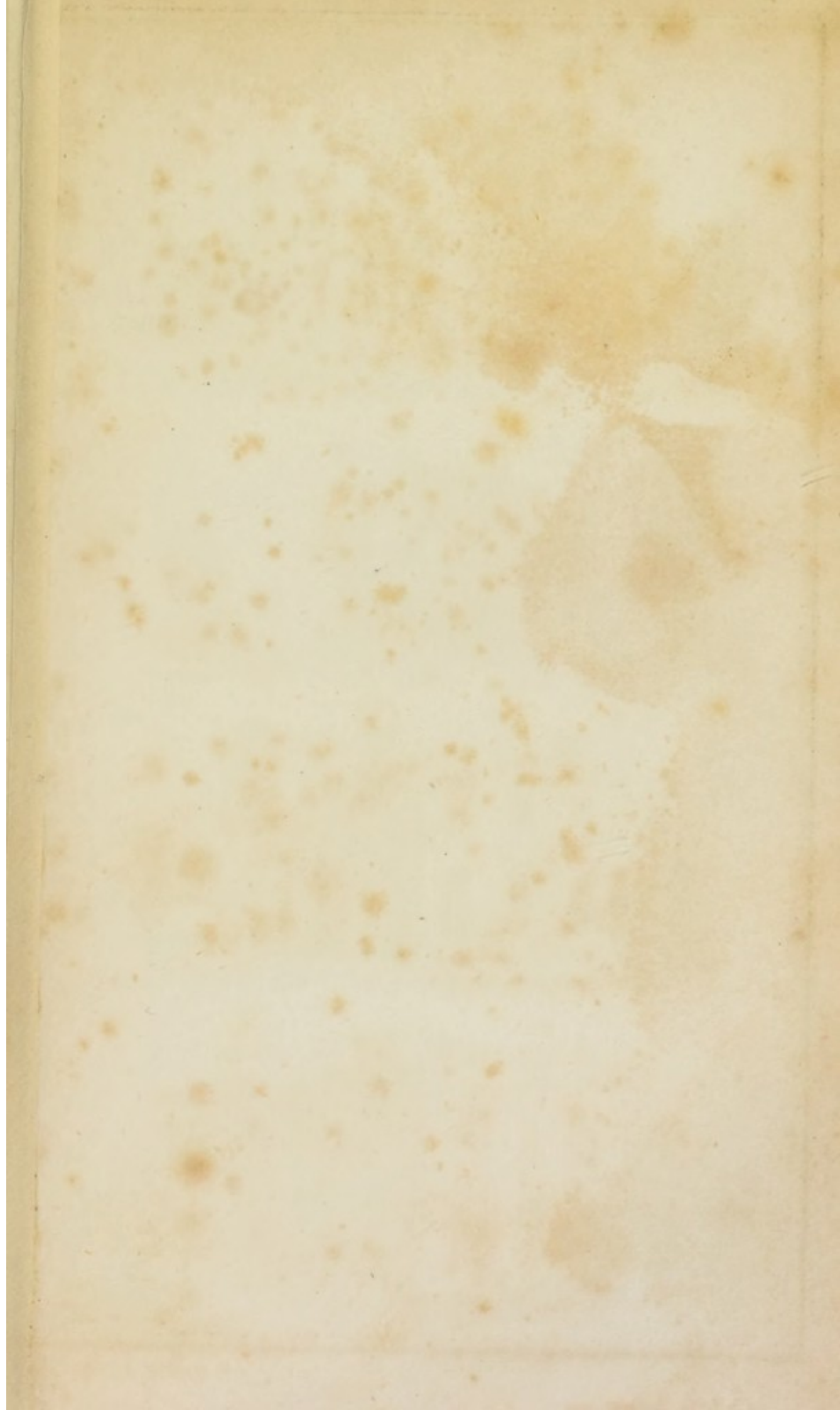
*Sketched by T.H. Clarke*

VILLAS IN CALVERLEY PARK  
London, Published by J.BRITTON Augs.<sup>t</sup> 1831.

*J.S. Templeton. Lith.*







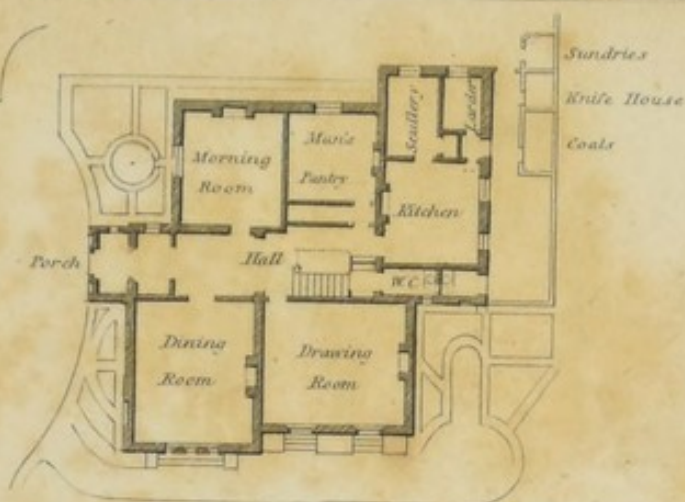
# VILLAS



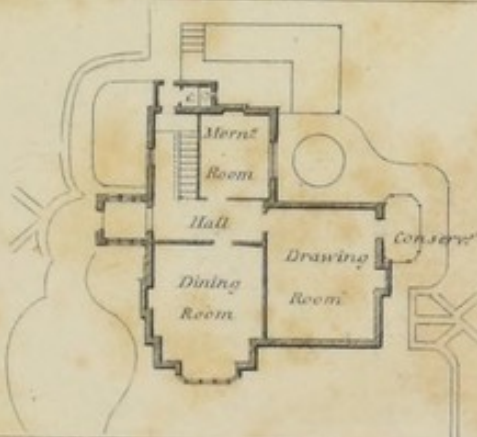


# CALVERLEY PARK.

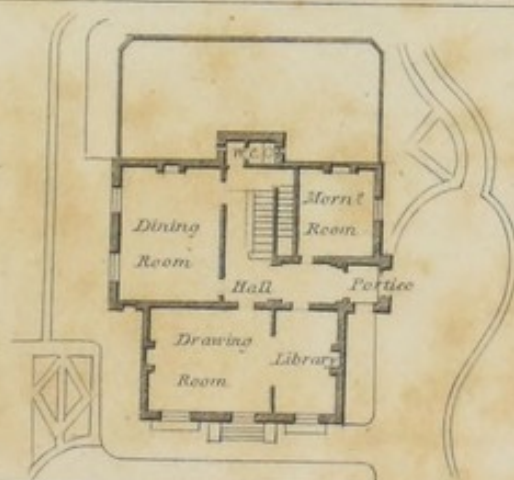
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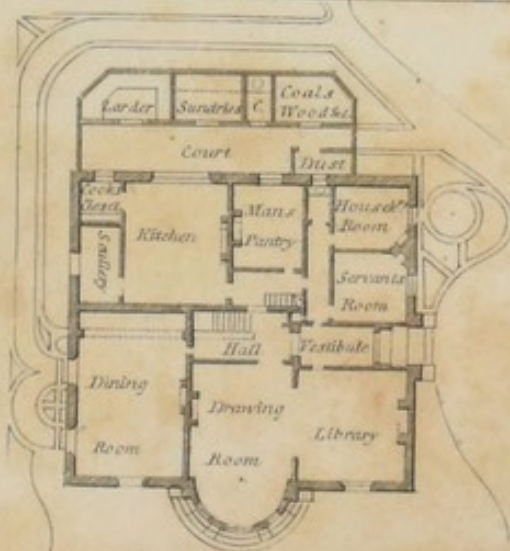
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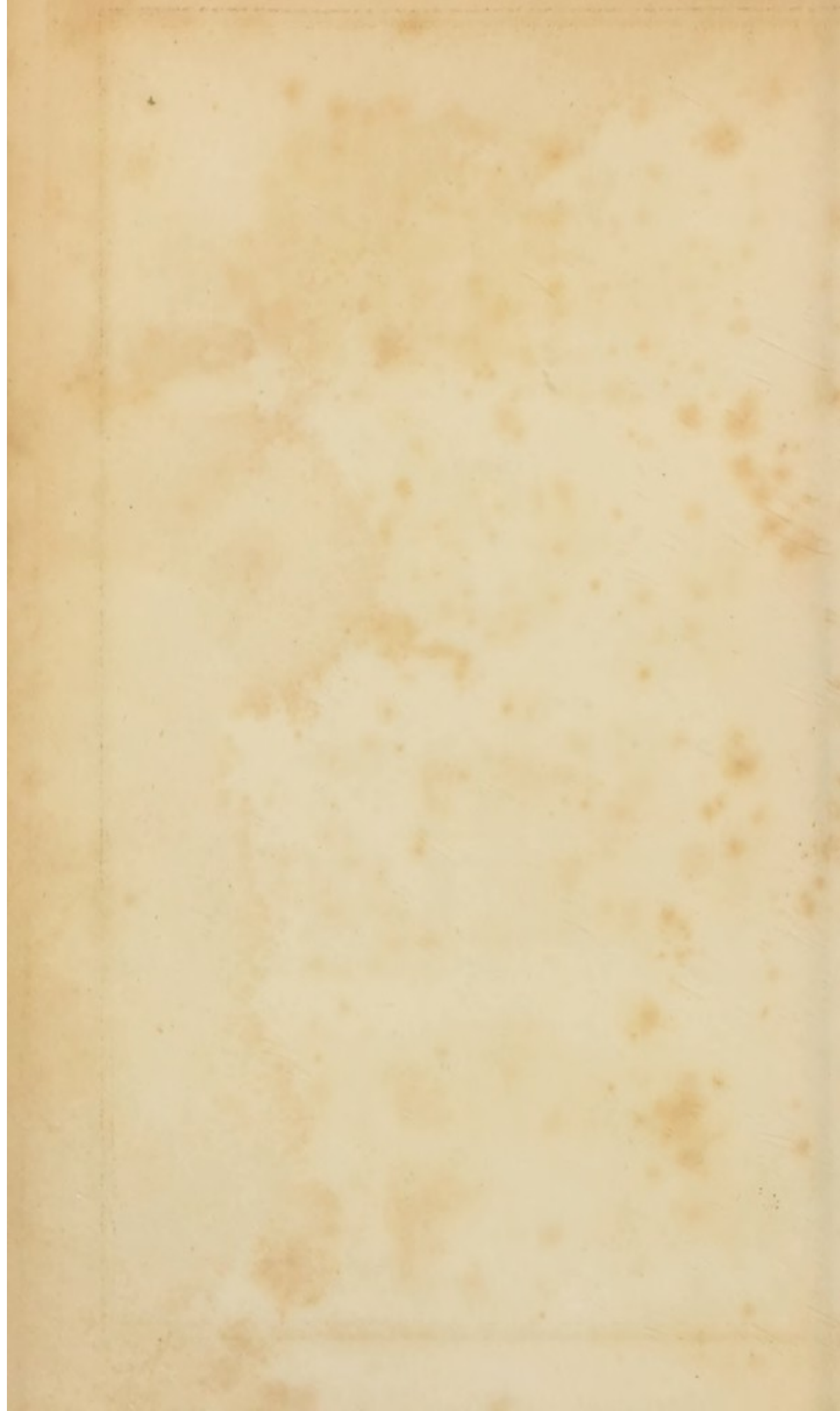


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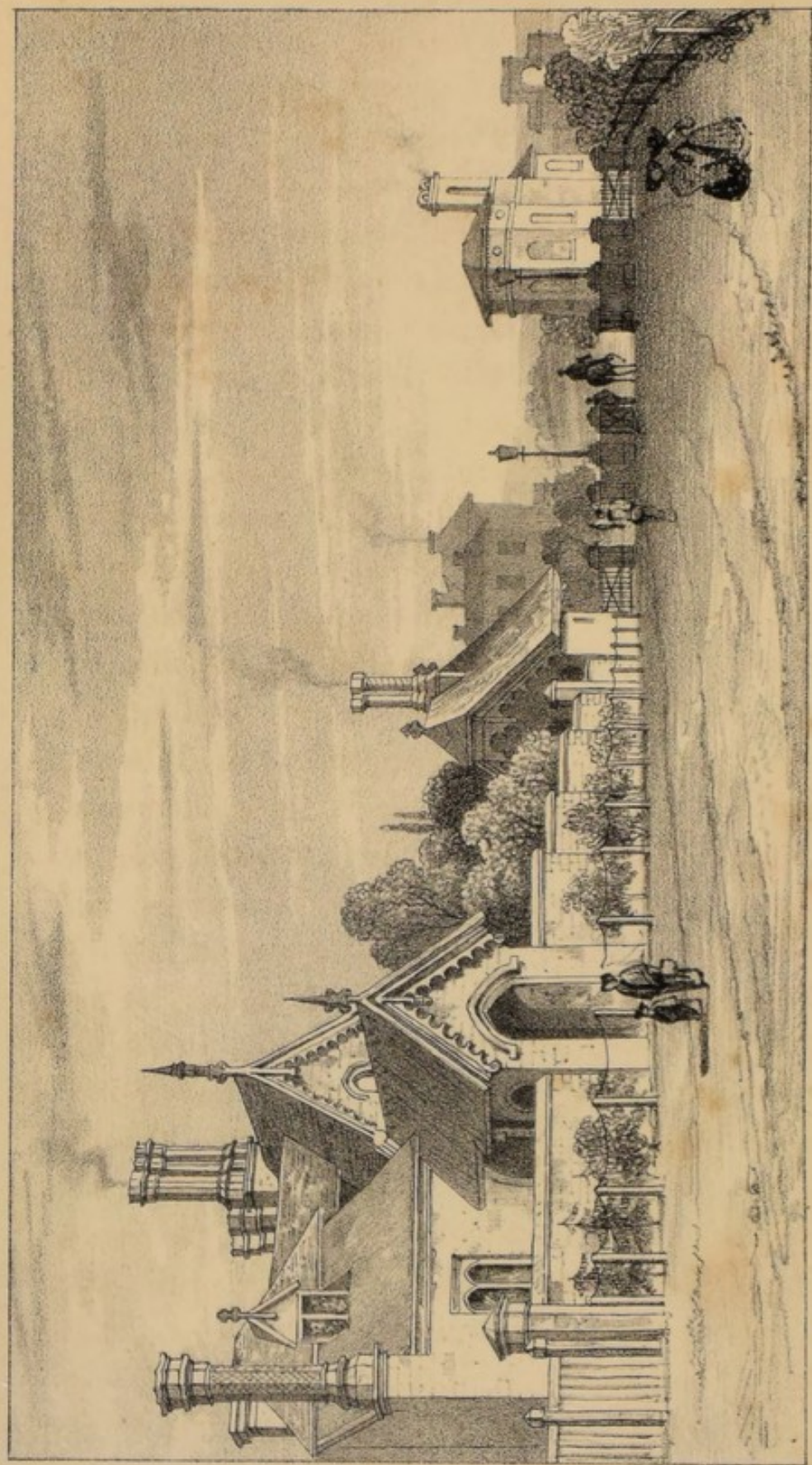
4.











Sketched by T.H. Gaskell

BASTON COTTAGE.

BASTON LODGE.

CALVERLEY PARK.

London, Published by J.B. RITTON, Augs. 1831.

J.S. Templeton Lith.  
KESTON LODGE.

Engelmann & Co. Lith.



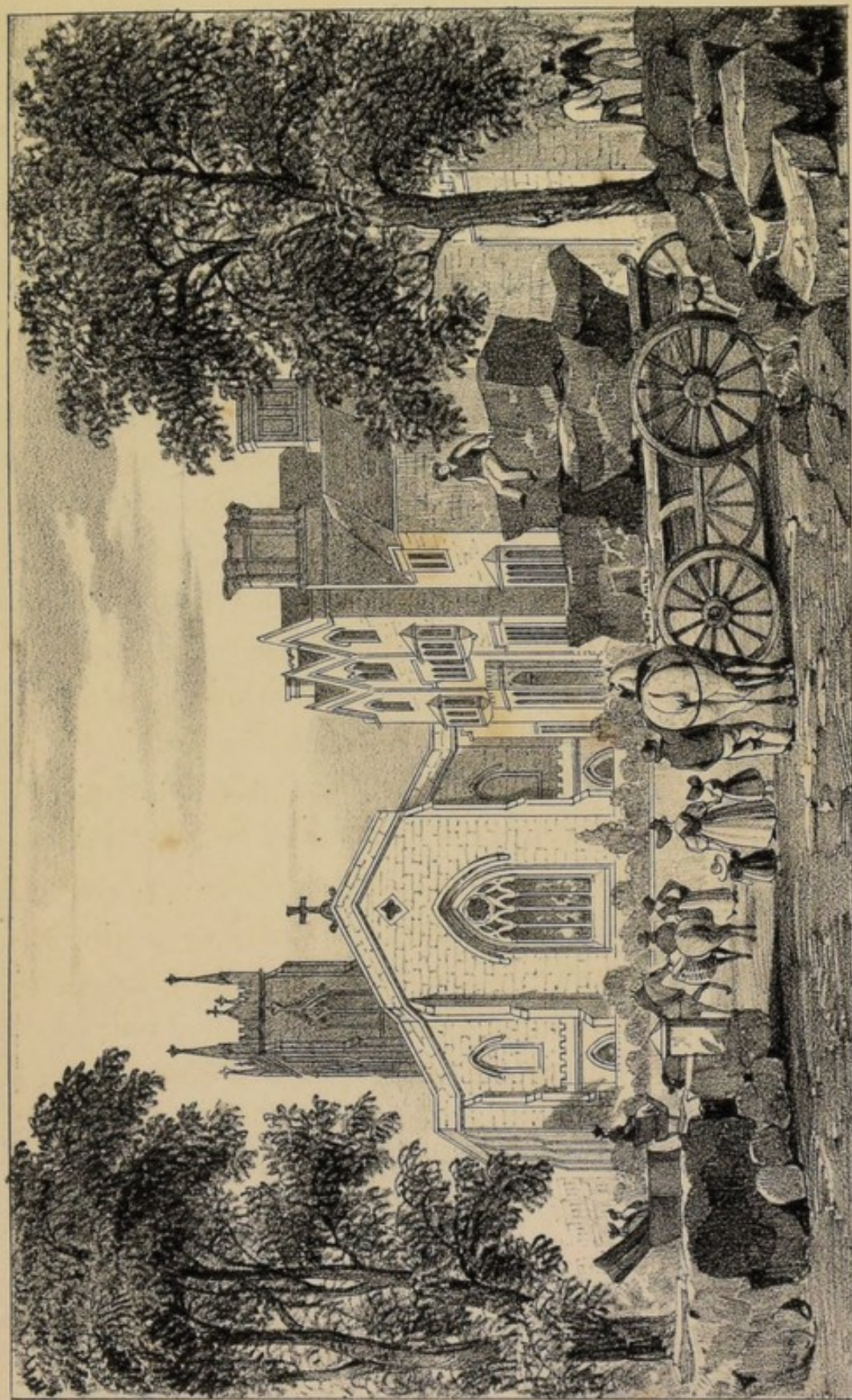
formerly called *Mount Pleasant*. As shewn on the map, there is a piece of ground north-east of the park, called *Calverley Plain*, which is laid out for the erection of villas; and connected with it is a beautiful pleasure-garden, adorned with various evergreens, flowers, &c. At one extremity of this ground Mr. Decimus Burton has built a rustic cottage for himself, a view of which is given on the accompanying print, and an elevation of another part of the house on the map of the Wells. Near it is a rustic lodge, connected with a private gate entrance to Calverley Plain. A large piece of garden-ground, walled in and well planted with all sorts of young trees, shrubs, and flowers, adjoins this lodge; and in the immediate vicinity is a modern *Market-place*—that essential appendant to all human habitations. As this part of the Wells is undergoing great improvements by modern houses, and preparations are made for others, and as it is nearly a mile distant from the old market, a new one, as well as shops, were required by the inhabitants. A new hotel (the Camden) has been lately built. In this district are respectable houses, occupied by Lady Louisa Cadogan, and the Rev. Henry Woodgate, the minister of the *new church*. The latter edifice is a conspicuous object from different parts of the Wells, and from distant stations in the country to the west and south-west. The accompanying three prints, marked in the list, page vi. Nos. 5, 10, and 11, shew the exterior features of this building, with conti-



guous objects. No. 11 represents the east end, with a group of three houses, called the Priory; whilst No. 10 is a view of the church from the south-west. The print No. 5 is a distant view from the common, with a mass of sand rocks in the foreground. South of the church, within an enclosed fence, is the house and grounds of Dr. Thomson, having a most cheerful and commanding aspect. Two rows of new houses to the east of the church, called Calverley Parade, and Calverley Terrace, have been lately completed. The latter consists of four detached double villas, each having its separate hall of entrance, &c. exterior of the ground-floor rooms. Calverley Parade contains twelve houses. In the front and rear of both these ranges are lawns, gardens, and shrubberies, with carriage-drives in front. From these buildings four roads diverge, east, west, north, and south: the first to Calverley Park, and to Woodsgate; the second to the common, and to Mount Ephraim; the third to Culverden, and the northern extremity of the Wells; and the fourth to the old part adjoining the Wells.

In adverting to the other parts of this place, I claim the reader's attention, first, to its northern extremity (see the map), containing several houses of various sizes and classes, some of which are large and truly respectable. One of these, called *Great Culverden*, has been recently finished, from the designs of Mr. D. Burton, and executed by Messrs. W. and L. Cubitt, for Jeddere Fisher, Esq. of Ealing Park,





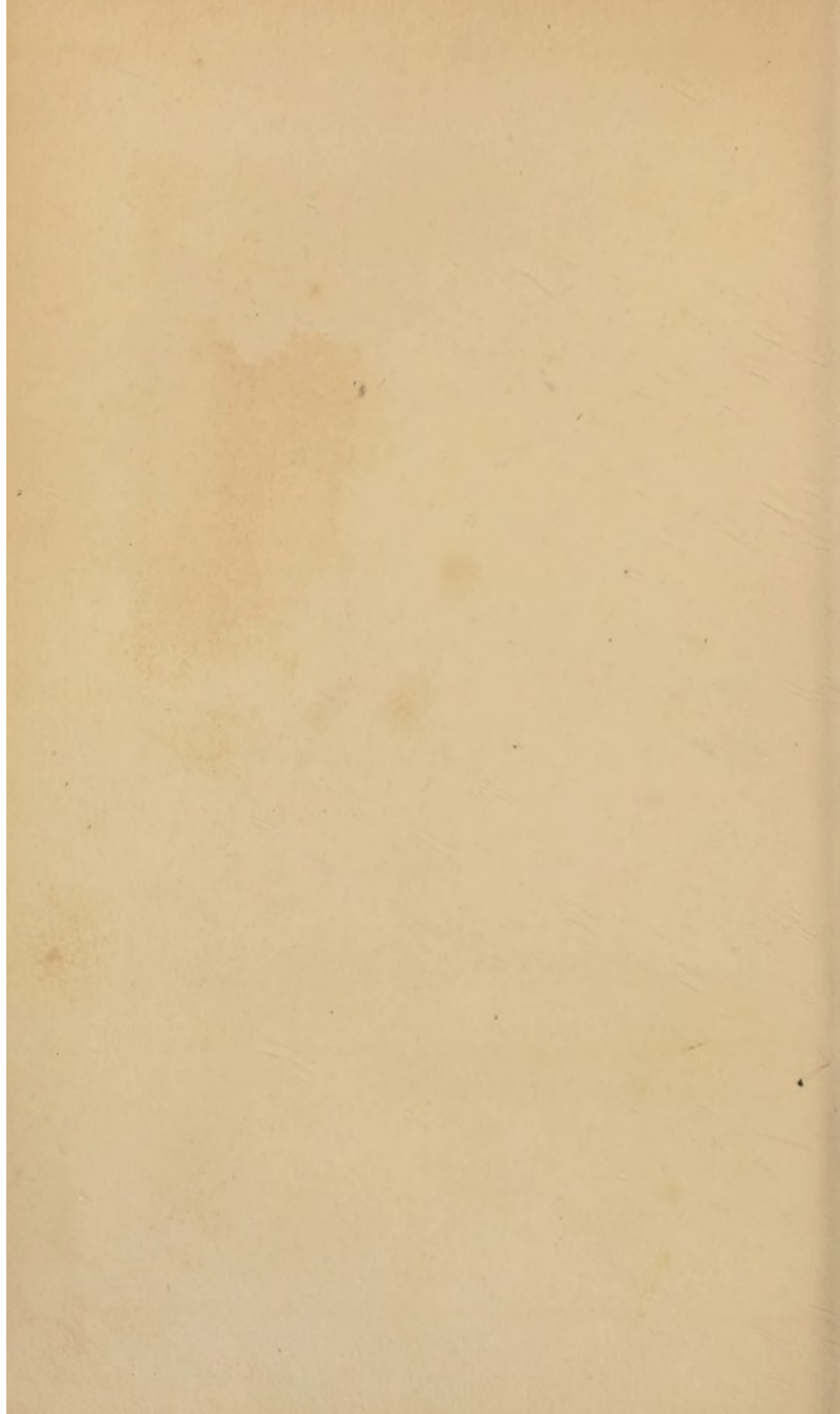
*T. H. Clarke del.*

E. END CHURCH & PRIORY HOUSES TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

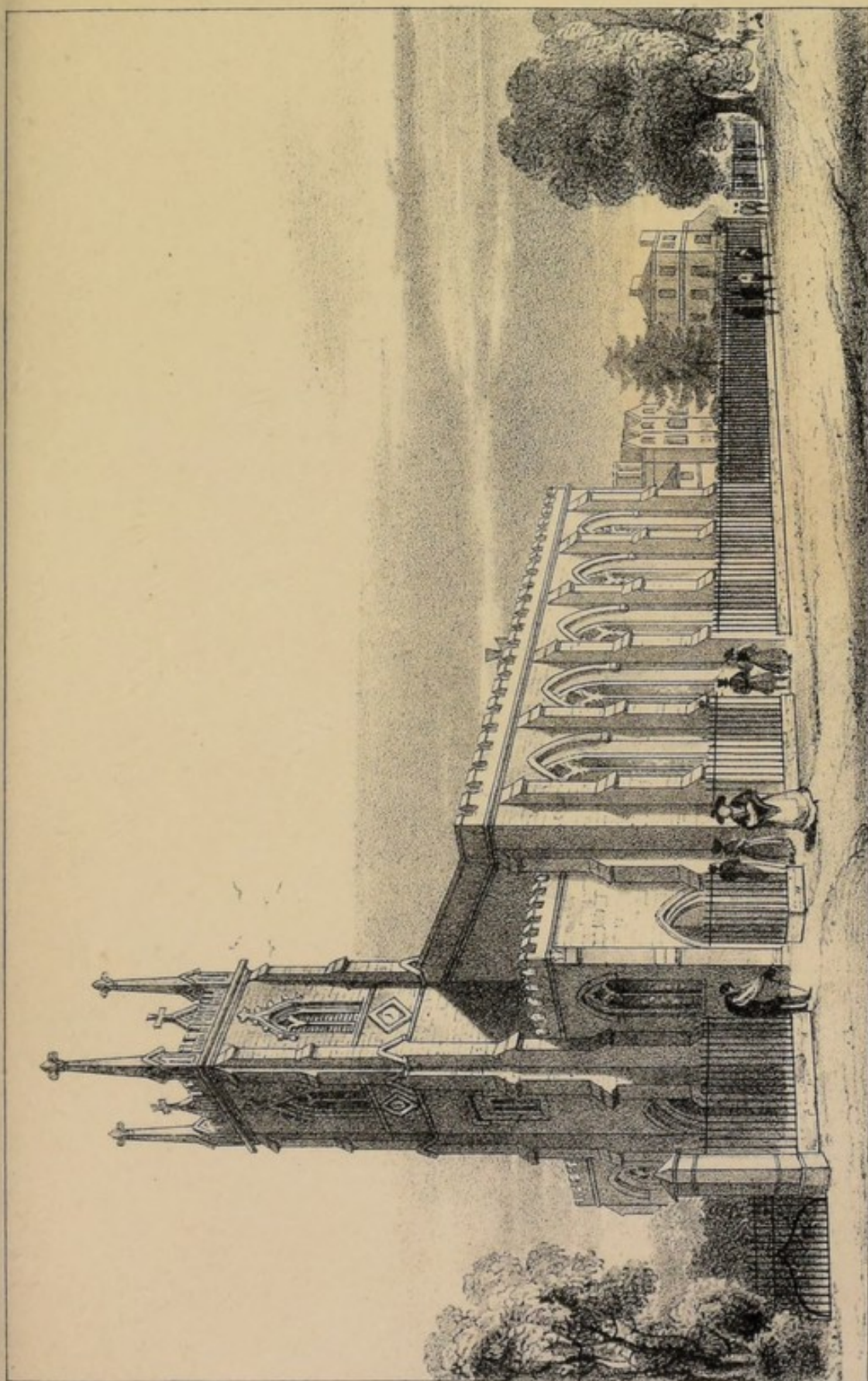
London. Published by J. BRITTON, August 1831.

*Printed by Foulsham & Co.*

*J. S. Templeton lith.*







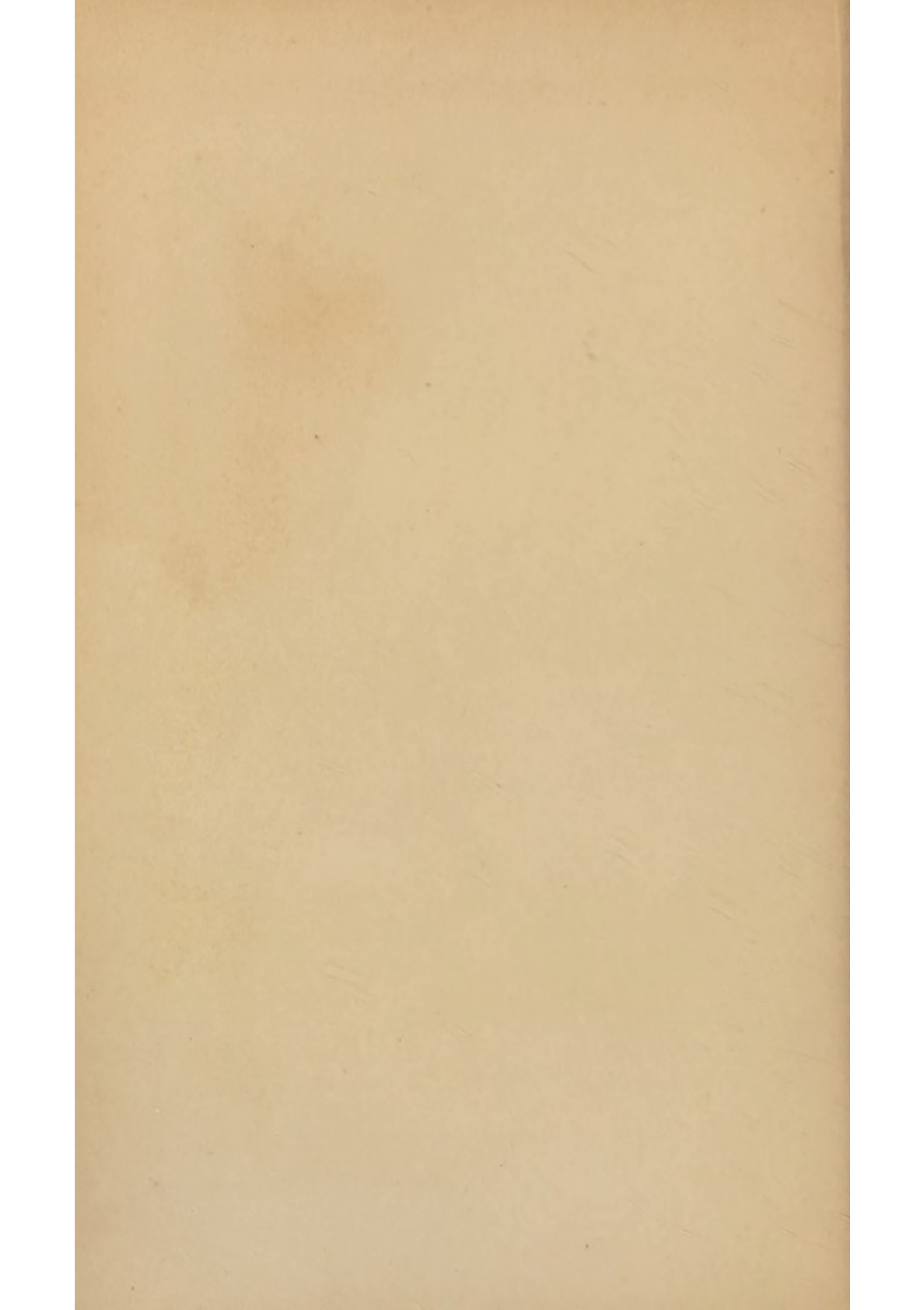
*T.H. Clarke del.*

*D. Burton Arch<sup>t</sup>*

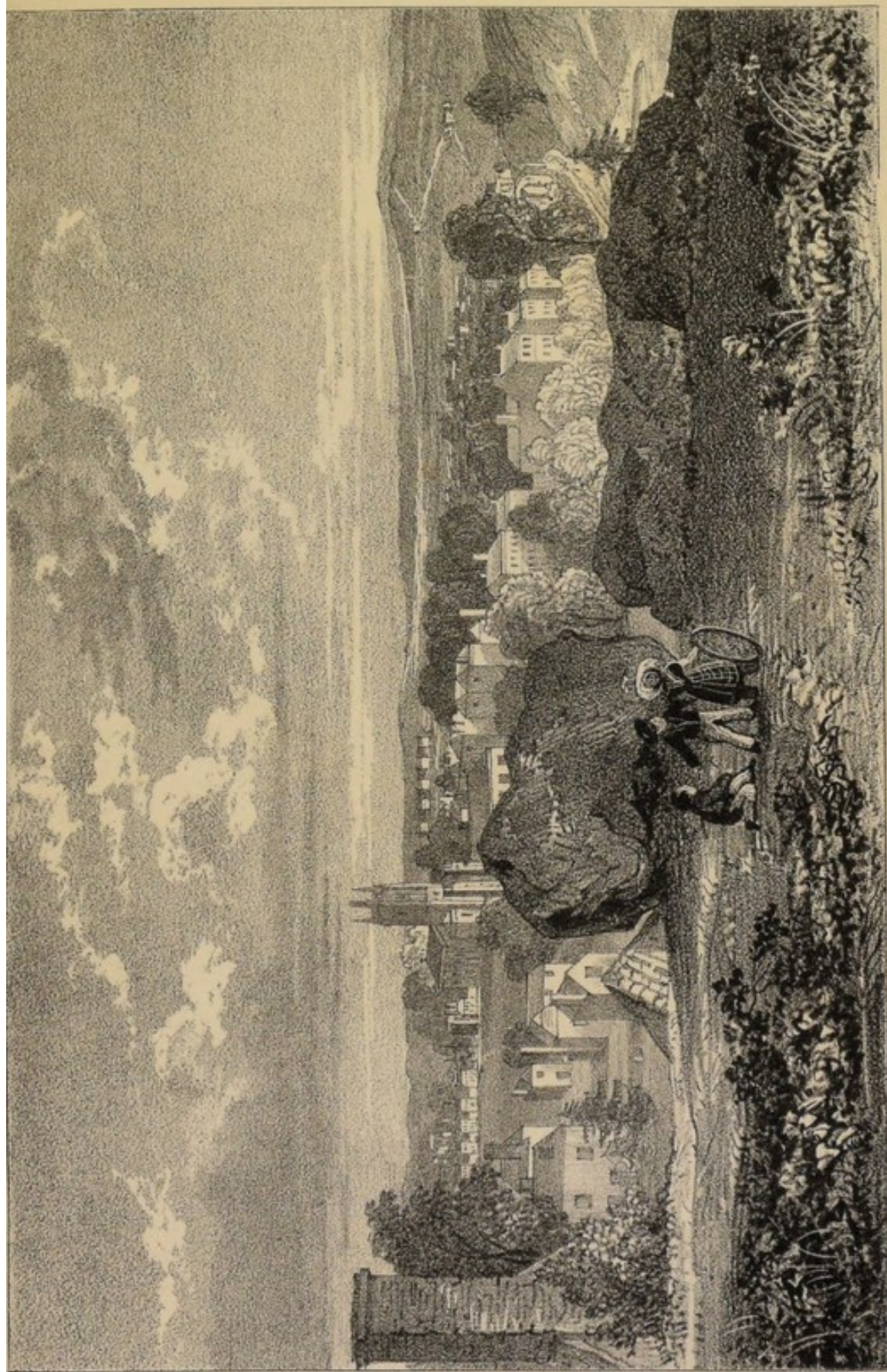
# CHURCH AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

Published by J. BRITTON, August 1<sup>st</sup> 1831.

*Printed by Engelmann & Co*







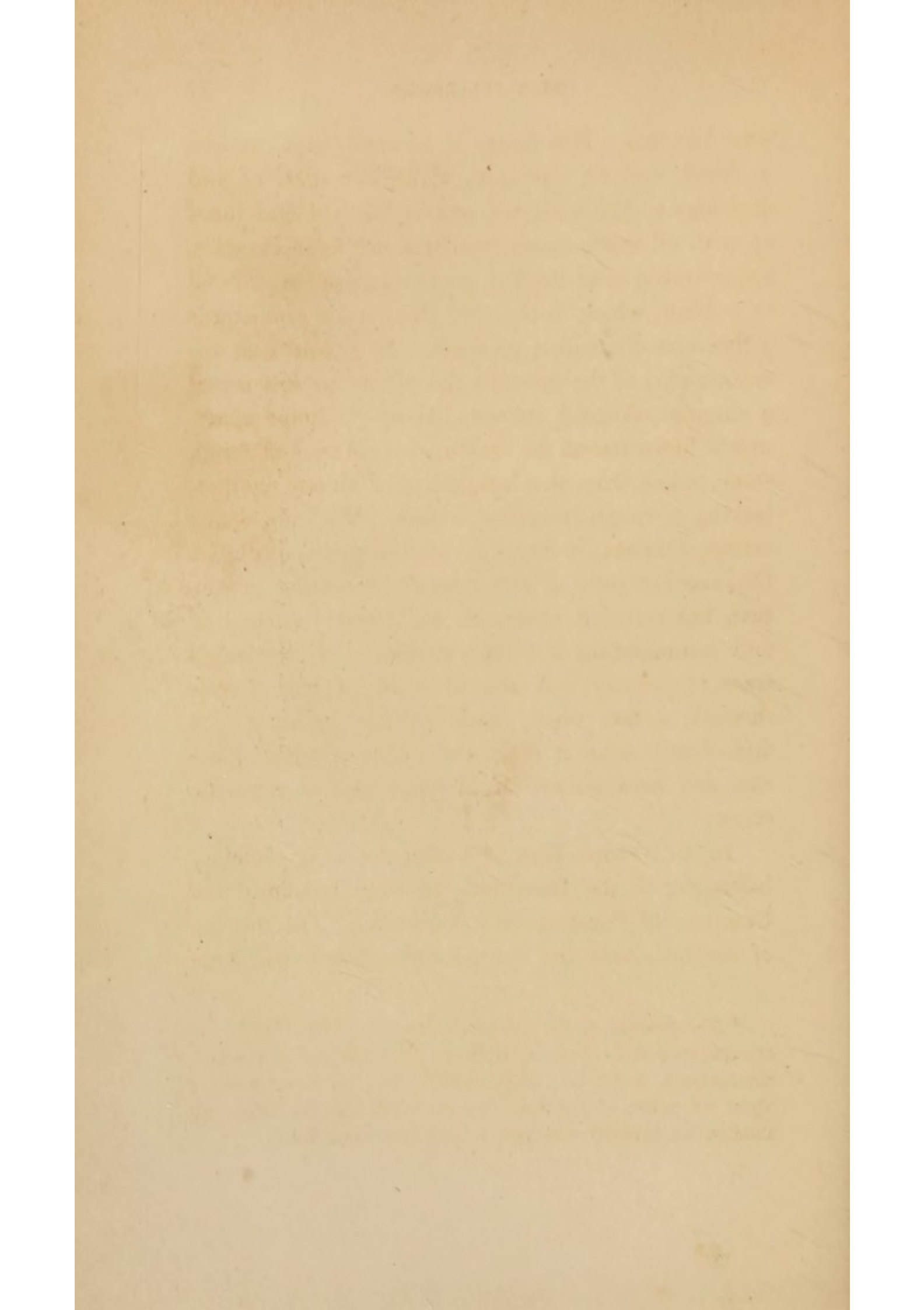
*J.J. Dodd del.*

CHURCH & CALVERLEY PARADY.

London Published by J. BRITTON, August 1854.

*Printed by Engelmann & Co.*

*J.S. Templeton lith.*





near London. This house is adorned with porticos in front, and on one side, with bold cornices and dressings to the windows, and is finished and fitted up with all the domestic comforts, and even luxuries, appertaining to an English gentleman's home. Seated in a lawn, which declines to the west, it commands a fine and diversified prospect. In a wild and romantic part of the grounds the proprietor has raised a singular, fanciful cottage, having its lower apartments hewn out of the sand-rock. Masses of rough stone, taken from this bed, are piled on one another, leaving a rough irregular surface. With its scenic accompaniment, it forms a most picturesque object. On another part of the grounds the same gentleman has raised a tower, on high land, overlooking and commanding a most extensive and diversified tract of country. A shaded walk of half a mile through a fine wood, leads to this building. A farm-house near it is in the midst of stone quarries and excavations, which constitute a romantic scene.

In Culverden Row is a chapel and a cemetery belonging to the Dissenters, in what is termed the Countess of Huntingdon's connexion. On the top of the hill, near the turnpike-gate,\* are two large

\* The charges at the turnpike-gates around the Wells are extravagantly and injudiciously high; but with good economical management, might be easily abated. For the short drive of about six miles, to Penshurst, by one road, and the return by another, the traveller will have to pay three high tolls.



ponds of water, near which is the villa of Hans Busk, Esq.

By reference to the accompanying map of the Wells, it will be seen that a succession of detached houses, on *Mount Ephraim*, is continued to the south of Culverden. This part of the Wells, says Amsinck, has “imperceptibly become a cluster of country-houses, belonging to several respectable families.” They are finely seated on the brow of a hill, with the open common in front, and the old buildings around the Wells seen crouching in a narrow valley below, whilst those of Mount Sion, Calverley, &c. are dispersed over the shelving slopes of hills at the opposite side of the valley. Beyond these are seen a succession of eminences, covered with wood and heath. But the varied and extensive scenery they command from the back fronts, as popularly called, renders this place peculiarly attractive and delighting to the generality of persons who can only occasionally exchange their abode from the metropolitan close streets to the broad expanse of rural scenery.

This was formerly considered the most fashionable, as it is, indeed, the oldest part of the Wells, and was provided with the assembly-room, a bowling-green, and taverns; but it is now almost entirely occupied by private houses for permanent residents, and others devoted to lodgings. A large hotel has recently been erected. At the western end of Mount Ephraim is Mr. Fenner’s manufactory of the Tun-



bridge-ware goods, where a great variety of very beautiful articles are to be seen in the show-rooms, and where the processes of turning, inlaying, polishing, &c., may be examined by permission of the proprietor. A house, now occupied by Wm. Congreve, Esq., on Mount Ephraim, was, about a century back, called the *Castle Tavern*, where a speaking-trumpet was kept to call for hackney coaches, at the back of the parade. Four or five of these were the number then used; now it is presumed there are fifty or sixty carriages of different sorts kept for the purpose of hire. A respectable, well-informed inhabitant of the Wells asserts, that the contrast is much greater respecting the number of legal gentlemen at this time, compared with fifty years back. Then there was only one lawyer, and no magistrate; and the former was considered poor—for clients were few, and their charges generally low.\*

One of the houses on Mount Ephraim, adjoining the Tunbridge-ware manufactory, formerly belonged to *Judge Jeffries*, a man who has rendered his name infamous in the annals of history by the cruelty and injustice he manifested in presiding at the trial of King Charles I. The house was afterwards the pro-

\* Happy would it be for England if her laws were less in number, shorter and more rational in contents, and *reformed* in all their surplusage and verbiage! The Statutes at large consist of such a mass of perplexing nonsense, that common sense and common honesty have but little chance of escape, if they once get entangled in the complicated net of litigation.



perty and residence of Sir *Richard Heron*, Bart., who greatly enlarged and improved it, by applying many doors, floors, chimney-pieces, &c. to it, which he had purchased from Sir Gregory Page Turner's once splendid mansion on Blackheath. The ground attached to this house, says Amsinck, "is beautifully varied, and the views towards Holmsdale and the Kentish and Surrey hills are various and extensive." Adjoining this is a respectable mansion, called the *Castle House*, formerly belonging successively to Mrs. Francis Sheridan and Mrs. George Byng, mother to Mr. Byng, one of the members for Middlesex. It was occupied for some time by Mrs. Johnson, sister of a bishop of Rochester of that name, who frequently entertained the *Lord Chancellor Mansfield* here as her guest. Of this distinguished person, and of the respectable party which often assembled at Mrs. Johnson's, some interesting characteristic anecdotes will be found in Cumberland's "*Memoirs*." Lord Mansfield possessed the admirable and enviable faculty of making every person pleased with himself. He delighted in the company of young people of intellect, and was a constant frequenter of the public rooms at this place, where he was generally surrounded by persons of wit, talent, and vivacity. "If there is one character which super-eminently interests in the decline of life, it is that of the great statesman, who seems to retire from his busy station, with a pure heart and an unruffled mind, to the placid contemplation of his useful labours, and the



self-satisfaction of an approving conscience." (Amsinck, p. 21.) Another house on Mount Ephraim was built by Sir Edmund King, physician to King Charles II., and whose frequent residence here probably attracted the court. It was afterwards the property of Mrs. Boone, widow of Governor Boone, a lady remarkable for religious eccentricity, blended with considerable talents and moral courage. Though attached to the Church of England, she promoted every discordant sect, and encouraged the fabricator of every novel creed, with religious enthusiasts, and sectarians of all sorts. She gave shelter to the indigent, and instruction to the ignorant; she would feed the hungry, and clothe the naked. In her drawing or sitting-room were portraits of every known reformer. Such representations of the past, mixing with the odd and grotesque sectarians who visited her abode—her own personal appearance, of a highly rouged face, and a sort of sackcloth dress, with a favourite monkey joining the party, rendered the scene often ludicrous, sometimes disgusting. The elegant and hospitable Mrs. Whittaker, who afterwards possessed the house, was a palpable and cheering contrast to her predecessor. She devoted every Wednesday evening to social conversation and cards; and thus assembled together the intelligence, the courteous feelings, the rational part of society. Such are the lights and shades of character—such the personages we meet with in life, to



render its current smooth and cheerful, or rippled and muddy.

Two other mansions, adjoining each other, were erected about thirty years ago by Lord Viscount Boyne and Sir George Buggin, Knt. A part of the common, west of Mount Ephraim, is called *Bishop's Down*, the northern border of which is adorned with some detached mansions, having gardens and pleasure-grounds; one of which, called *Bishop's Down Grove*, formerly belonging to Sir *George Kelly*, Knt.,\* from whose descendants it was purchased by *Martin Yorke*, Esq., of whom Amsinck has recorded some high testimonials of character; as "being among the first of those who, by fixing permanently their residence at the Wells, tended to give a new bias to the course of society." He resided above twenty-five years at this place, improved his house, beautified his grounds, and made his home "a constant scene of friendly intercourse and cheerful hospitality. He was the perfect example of a country gentleman, formed on the respectable stock of an active, brave, and honourable soldier." (Amsinck, p. 19.)

A shaded lane, through which are some delightful vistas, branches off from *Bishop's Down*, near *Ashburnham House*, towards *Hurst Wood*. The scenery here

\* This gentleman was a physician of some eminence, who settled and purchased considerable land here, about 100 years back. He died in 1772, leaving his property vested in three sisters, his co-heiresses.



is very romantic and wild; and Mr. Robertson, the proprietor of the wood, has placed several seats for the accommodation of visitors.

On Rusthall Common, a short distance west of Bishop's Down, the sojourner of the Wells will be gratified with some bold and truly grotesque rock scenery, with various views into the distant country. Among the rocks on the northern side of the common, is one mass, the upper block of which so much resembles a monstrous toad, that it is popularly called the *Toad Rock*. The objects around, *i. e.* broken ground, pig-sties, rude cottages, and small enclosures, are calculated to remind the traveller of scenery in parts of England very remote from the metropolis.

The opposite side of the Common, to the south, presents a different scene. There a perpendicular ledge of rocks terminates a piece of table-land, and thence shelves abruptly into a narrow valley. Amongst these rocks was formerly a famous *cold bath*. Near this are some *tea-gardens*, laid out by and belonging to an industrious gardener, who provides his customers with tea, home-made bread, fruits, &c. A narrow lane, down a steep descent, leads to the *High Rocks*, which have been already noticed, and will be again adverted to. A turnpike-road to the west conducts the traveller to the pleasant hamlet of *Langton Green*.

Although Dr. Rowzee, Dr. Saunders, Dr. Scudamore, and Dr. Thomson, have published their opi-

nions and comments on the properties and ingredients of the Tunbridge Wells waters, there is ample scope for learning and practical experience to add something to the present stock of information. It gives me much pleasure, therefore, to lay before the reader an original Essay, by a practical gentleman, who has had long experience at the Wells; and as it is the Sketch of a Professor, I cheerfully yield it a separate leaf in my portfolio.



### SKETCH III.

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SOME GENERAL REMARKS ON THE DISEASES OBSERVED AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS; ON THE NATURE AND QUALITIES OF ITS WATER, DOMESTIC AND MEDICINAL; AND ON THE TEMPERATURE OF ITS ATMOSPHERE. BY G. D. YEATS, M.D. F.R.S. FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, &c. &c.

As that fashionable watering-place, Tunbridge Wells, has long been remarkable for the salubrity of its air, the beauty of its scenery, and, in many cases, for the curative qualities of its mineral spring; and as it is yearly becoming a place of greater resort and of more permanent residence, from the increase of general population, and from the superior accommodation and handsomeness of its additional buildings, it is a matter of more than speculative curiosity to inquire, what is the nature of the diseases to which it is best suited, at what periods of the year invalids with particular diseases may visit it with advantage, and also what conditions of the human constitution, in a comparatively good state of health, may be benefitted or injured by a residence at or near it. I have been in the habit of coming to Tunbridge Wells in my professional character during the summer months, from 1815 to 1828. Since the spring of 1829, however, I have permanently resided at the place. I have had frequent opportunities, during this long



period, of noticing its habitudes, the local diseases of the country, and the complaints with which people are affected who come to this place to seek relief; and the effects which the local peculiarities produce upon persons in tolerably good health, have formed some part of my inquiry.

The situation of the Well where the waters are drank, with the line of buildings connected with it, is in a dell, or glen, surrounded by hilly country; but the mountainous parts are not so high as to produce generally a very secure protection against the cold winds from the north and east, which annually prevail at particular periods. As in all hilly countries, there is a good deal of rain at times during the year. About sixteen or twenty inches below the surface of the soil, in almost all directions, there is commonly a bed of marly clay, intermixed with a good deal of sand. There is a slaty and a yellow marl; and it has been ascertained by Dr. Burton, of St. Thomas's Hospital, that the former contains about eighty-four or eighty-five per cent of sand—the remainder clay, oxide of iron, a little lime, and a minute portion of sulphur. The yellow marl contains about eighty-five per cent sand—the remainder clay, oxide of iron, and traces of lime. After showers of rain, therefore, from this large proportion of sand, the ground is almost immediately dry, as is constantly witnessed in all directions, on the Common, on Mount Ephraim, Mount Sion, and in Calverly Park, rendering walking abroad agreeable and plea-



sant. In long-continued and heavy rains, the surface of the soil becomes of course more tenacious and muddy, the water accumulating more rapidly than it can pass away, from the admixture of aluminous with the silicious ingredients of the under stratum. This state of things, however, lasts but a very short time after the rain has ceased. Fogs sometimes prevail during the autumnal and winter months, chiefly along the lowest part of the glen, towards the first turnpike on the Uckfield road, but they are of no long continuance; and these fogs sometimes observe a very defined line, rising up the hill on either side to about the centre, leaving visible only the turret of the chapel and the tops of the trees in the vale, and then dispersing gradually with a waving motion, like the undulation of the sea, as the sun advances in the morning;—to a person on Mount Ephraim at the time, this natural phenomenon presents a beautiful spectacle.

By a comparative estimate of the atmospherical temperature of Tunbridge Wells with that of other places, as shewn in subsequent tables, it will be found that the thermometrical difference is not so great as has been generally believed. Moreover, since the purchase of the Mount Pleasant property by John Ward, Esq., and since the erection of numerous buildings there, to the north and the east, and in other directions, a diminution of cold has taken place during the winter months, as far as sensation can determine it; for as no thermometrical registers



were kept before these new buildings were erected, we cannot make any comparative thermometrical estimate of temperature of that time and the present ; but as these newly built houses are becoming inhabited very rapidly, there can be little or no doubt that Tunbridge Wells, as a winter residence for people generally, and certain parts of it for particular persons under constitutional peculiarities, will be as desirable as most other places in England, especially where an open and free circulation of air is required, for the warmth of places is augmented by the increase of houses and inhabitants. And if a local Act of Parliament could be procured for paving, lighting, watching, and for other parochial comforts, no place in all England would be superior to this fascinating spot, for health, comfort, and domestic sociableness of every description : but if speculative builders, to save ground, erect rows of connected, instead of detached, houses, they will injure the beauties and comforts, and lessen the attractions and healthiness of the place.

There is a peculiar balminess in the air of Tunbridge Wells, which is not easily described, but universal testimony affords unequivocal proof of the gratifying sensations it produces ; and this feeling is not merely a gratification of sense, for the air possesses a directly stimulant and salubrious quality, which is not only of itself a restorative under simple debility, but, in many complaints, comes powerfully in aid of medicines, when drugs may be necessary. Upon what



this salutary peculiarity of the air of Tunbridge Wells depends, it is difficult positively to say. Great as is its purity—by purity, I mean its freedom from the suspension or solution of noxious particles—the grateful effects it creates are not derived from that source alone; for other places, the air of which is equally exempt from injurious qualities, do not cause the same sensations. I am inclined to believe that, in addition to its purity, it is also indebted for its salutary influence to the actual presence, in suspension or solution, of the effluvia or aroma from the plants, particularly the broom and the heath on the extensive downs of what is called the Forest, and on Crowboro' Common,\* situated to the south and west of Tunbridge Wells; for it is from these points that the breezes bring the grateful feelings alluded to. Highly charged as the land all about Tunbridge Wells is with iron, it is not unlikely that the air may receive some quality from this mineral, which we know possesses a very stimulant property, perhaps arising from the iridescent pellicle upon the surface of the water of most of the springs in the country, and from the ferruginous precipitation on the soil through which these springs pass; in this

\* Broom—*Spartium scoparium* of Linnæus. Heath—*Erica*. There is a species of the *Erica*, called *Baccifera*, or *Empetrum*. Berry-bearing heath, or Crowberries; hence, probably, Crowberry Common. The heath cocks in the north feed much upon these berries. The plant is dioicous, and grows upon the tops of wild mountains, where the soil is peaty and full of bogs.



precipitate the iron is in a most minute state of division, being a carbonate, which readily passes off into the air, perhaps in the form of a hyper-carbonate of iron; in like manner as the particles of the muriate of soda (common salt) are ascertained, from experiments, to be contained in the air of the coast. It is well known, too, that the respirable part of the air, called oxygen, *that* which supports life and flame, is found in equal quantity, in the same bulk of air, on the Downs of Wiltshire and in the centre of the smoky town of Birmingham. How then is it that the air of large cities is not found to be so wholesome as in the open and campaign country, seeing that it possesses, bulk for bulk, equal quantities of the oxygenous, or vital principle? The question is easily solved. In large cities, the foul impregnation which the air receives from the soot, the smoke, the effluvia from different manufactories, &c. &c. prevents the full salutary impression of the oxygen upon the lungs, becoming injurious not only in this negative way, but by the substitution of directly noxious qualities. Hence it is that every body feels a freer respiration immediately after a heavy shower of rain in large towns, which beats down for a time the accumulated unwholesome ingredients of the air. The air of Tunbridge Wells has not only none of these difficulties to contend with—being not extensive, at a considerable distance from any large or manufacturing place, and the houses being built in such an insulated way, as to insure a perfectly free circulation



of air—but, as I have suggested, is also actually impregnated with salutary particles, which aid its purity, and render it more beneficial to the constitution.

It has been ascertained, in the progress of the Trigonometrical Survey, that Crowboro' Common, at the Beacon, about seven miles south of Tunbridge Wells, is 804 feet above the level of the sea at low water. This height I have no doubt influences the quality of the air blown from that quarter. It is well known that all febrile infectious diseases abound most, and generally take their origin, in low damp situations, and that when intermittents and other fevers are prevailing and proving destructive at the bottom of mountains, inhabitants high up on their sides often escape entirely : so strongly, indeed, is this circumstance of locality marked, that persons in the upper stories of a house are frequently free while those below are attacked by infection. The people who dwell in the Campagna di Roma, in Italy, are well acquainted with this fact from fatal experience with respect to malaria, and dwell as much as they can on the higher grounds. It seems, then, that the febrile poison is of a very ponderous quality, which induced the late Dr. Beddoes to believe that the infection of fever might be the carbonated and phosphorated hydrogen gases, as they are very heavy, and are very common in low and marshy situations. Whatever, therefore, the specific nature of febrile infections may be, it is an established fact that they are most prevalent in low grounds, and are readily



wafted along comparatively level surfaces in an undiluted mass by the winds,—and wo be to the man who first inspires them ! The pure air, then, blowing from such a high surface, from the south and west, comes to Tunbridge Wells uncontaminated by any of those poisonous impregnations, which assists to account for its salubrity and for the light and agreeable feelings experienced from it.

The nature and medicinal qualities of its *Mineral Spring* are well calculated to aid this very salubrious property of the air, as it holds iron in solution in its purest and simplest state of combination, that of a carbonate, with very little other foreign ingredient, and with a sufficient quantity of carbonic gas to render it a grateful and wholesome stimulant to the stomach. The water from this spring proves highly beneficial in all cases of simple debility, and in such debility as is complicated with sluggish movements in the glandular system, where no inflammatory action or serious obstructions exist ; for, to my repeated knowledge of the fact, dangerous errors have been committed upon this point in both sexes, by taking for simple debility *that* which arises from, or is connected with, a high derangement in the functions or structure of some organ. There is not a more fertile source of trouble to the profession, of suffering to the patient, and of the discredit which at times attaches to many very excellent remedies, than the indiscriminate application of the same medicines to the same sensations of different invalids. It is in this



way that popular books of medicine often do great harm. In like manner, too, some injudicious practitioners, without discrimination, and perhaps half-educated, bring odium upon the profession; for it is absolutely impossible, with the present state of our knowledge, even improved as it is, to lay down any general rules applicable to cases of an apparently very similar nature in the multifarious varieties of the human constitution. The physician who does this acts as dangerously and indiscreetly as the pilot who, with the chart of one river, would steer his vessel up another, similar in appearance, by the directions of it; for, infallibly, the patient in one instance, and the vessel in the other, would be destroyed in the storm.

Knowing, then, the stimulating qualities of the air of this place, and of its medicinal spring, I may state generally what kinds of invalid constitutions would be injured by them, especially by the latter. It is an opinion which very commonly prevails, founded upon correct facts, that the waters of the mineral spring have a peculiarly salutary effect upon the uterine system, and that the effect is a stimulant one; and hence it is that the number of visitors preponderate, I believe, largely on the female side. But in proportion as the powerful effect of these waters is founded in fact, so is the danger great in indiscriminately resorting to their use. Many ladies come to this place under feelings of considerable debility, and with a sense of weight and weakness in the *bas ventre*. Referring these sensations to the uterus,



which is correct, but which are erroneously attributed to debility only, they commence drinking the waters. They find to their cost that they are wrong, for the necessity of applying for medical aid is soon apparent, when it is discovered that additional mischief has been produced. I recollect at this moment one lady who was confined to her sofa for months in consequence of an injudicious proceeding of this kind. The fact is, there is often a peculiar irritability of this organ (like what frequently occurs in any other), accompanied by a preternatural turgescence of its vessels, which renders the use of the waters totally inadmissible, and at times dangerous. To this description of females the air of this place is very advantageous, as assisting a judicious attention to other matters.

There are some kinds of cough depending upon tubercles in the lungs, in which the waters are positively injurious, and I have great doubt whether the air of this place is well suited to such people; but as tubercular consumption is almost every where fatal, I do not know that I ought to blame the air of this place more than that of any other. Consumption, however, is a disease of no unfrequent occurrence in this district, and so are glandular obstructions, particularly a swelling of the thyroid gland, producing that enlargement on the throat called *goître*. How this disease is produced it is difficult to say; but there is one fact which is indisputable, viz. that it prevails most in hilly countries, as in Derbyshire,



&c., and very rarely in the plains. The Alps and the Pyrenees are the fruitful sources of its production in its most disgusting forms. During the seventeen years I resided in Bedfordshire (which is a flat country), ten of which I was sole physician to the County Infirmary, this complaint was very rare. I must observe, that it is among the lower ranks I have noticed its prevalence: probably, the different mode of living of the rich may destroy the seeds of the disease, which a mountainous country seems to produce.

Gout, too, is a disease of frequent occurrence, comparatively speaking, and with that class of people among whom we do not usually find it. I witnessed a severe fit of pure inflammatory gout, in the winter of 1829, in a poor old man who was receiving half-a-crown per week from the parish; and I knew him to be very steady in his conduct. Persons with irregular atonic gout are unequivocally benefited by a residence here. I do not know any place which is more free from local diseases than Tunbridge Wells.

Occasionally the measles, and the scarlet and low typhus fevers, make their appearance, but they are always in the confined and dirty cabins of the poor, whose condition and mode of life bring diseases in any district, however gifted with the most healthy atmosphere. Chronic rheumatism has been said to be frequent here. I cannot say that I have observed such frequency; neither have I often seen cases of acute rheumatism. These diseases do, however, attack people, as in other places, during cold moist weather.



There is one species of complaint, however, which is of more common occurrence than I have usually observed elsewhere, viz. affections of the brain of the congestive kind; and this might be supposed, *à priori*, would be the case, considering the habits of the country.

This is all I have been able to remark with accuracy as to the diseases which may be said to be connected with the nature of the country and its atmosphere. I meet with innumerable cases of dyspepsia, a rife disease every where; but I attribute its prevalence in this neighbourhood partly to the poverty of diet. In this consideration, however, we must not lose sight, with those especially who can afford a proper diet, of the morbid condition of the digestive organs induced by habitual costiveness, to which persons are here very liable; the direct influence of this constipation, immediately acting upon the liver, will alter the function of that important organ in producing healthy secretion. Those affections of the head which I have mentioned, arise, I think, unquestionably, from the chalybeate nature of this district. These complaints generally occur in the robust, to whom steel is particularly injurious; for a great deal of the water here used for culinary purposes is impregnated with that mineral, which produces costiveness, congestion in the liver, and, ultimately, preternatural fulness in the brain, with its consequences. Such people, residing here, should particularly abstain from drinking water with this mine



ral impregnation, should be very attentive to an open state of bowels, and should not accustom themselves to very full living, particularly if only a little exercise be taken. Persons with such constitutions, if not attentive to rules of this kind, had better avoid Tunbridge Wells as a place of constant residence.

The influence which water, the most universal solvent and the basis of all liquids, has upon the health of the community, makes it necessary that, in a sketch of this kind, something should be said on that which is used in Tunbridge Wells as a domestic drink in every way. Several years ago I published, in the 14th vol. of the Royal Institution Journal, a mode of purifying the water of this place. The following is an extract, with some alteration, adapted to an increased knowledge of the subject.

As almost all the *common water* which is used here, as far as I know, is more or less impregnated with iron, it becomes a matter of moment to procure it free from this active and salutary, but, when improperly used, in certain conditions of the constitution, dangerous mineral. Upon sinking a Well on my premises at Tunbridge Wells, I found the water, which did not appear till the depth of sixty feet, hard and chalybeate, and totally unfit for domestic purposes; for it curdled soap, caused iron-mould on linen in washing, and rendered tea black and disagreeably rough to the taste. Upon reflecting in what manner these inconveniences could be remedied, it occurred to me, as the iron was dissolved in the water in the



state of a carbonate, that, at a comparatively moderate expense, and without any difficulty, if the hardness of the water was owing solely to carbonic acid, both the iron and the carbonic acid would be got rid of, and the water thus rendered perfectly useful and good for all purposes. I felt satisfied, that if the water was suffered to remain for a time in the cistern, the carbonic acid would be dissipated in its usual state of gas, and that the oxide of iron, thus rendered insoluble by being freed from its acid, would be in the greater part precipitated, and whatever small portion was suspended, would be removed by filtration, and I should thus obtain a pure water for every purpose, provided I was correct in my opinion as to the cause of the hardness. I took some of it, which had remained in an open cistern twenty-four hours, and poured it into a stone filtering jar. Upon mixing soap with some, after filtration, I was pleased to find that it had become quite soft. This shewed that the inconvenient degree of hardness was owing to the carbonic acid. Desirous that an able and experienced chemist should, in a more scientific way, ascertain the ingredients of the water thus filtered, some of it was sent to Mr. Faraday, of the Royal Institution, to analyse, and he very obligingly sent me the following satisfactory answer :—

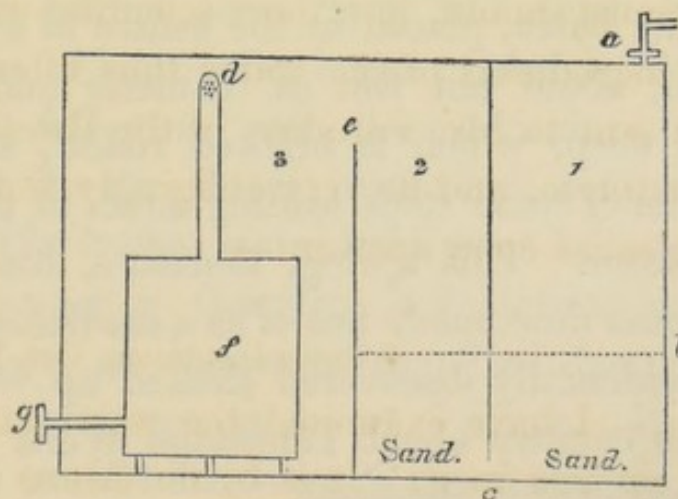
“ Royal Institution, Oct. 10, 1822.

“ SIR,—I have examined the water attentively, and find *no iron* in it. It is by no means abundant



in saline matter, containing only a little muriate and sulphate of soda and lime. There is no carbonic acid or magnesia in it. I am, &c. &c."

Upon ascertaining the important fact, that the hardness of the water depended upon the carbonate of iron, from which it might be readily freed, I had the water forced into an open cistern in the house, where it would remain for some time before it was drawn off from the pipe inserted in the bottom of the cistern, and ending with a stop-cock. In this way, no water could be used before time was allowed for the escape of the carbonic acid, and for the precipitation of the iron; but as the iron, in being precipitated, would readily pass off with the water drawn from the conveying pipe, and render it thick, and therefore unfit for use, I have contrived a purifying cistern, by which it is filtered, and freed from all noxious ingredients. This cistern, described below, is infinitely better than the cone-shaped instrument mentioned in the Royal Institution Journal.



The cistern is divided into three compartments, 1, 2, 3.—*a*, the funnel, communicating with compartment 1, into which the water drips from a pipe connected with the cistern above, filled from the pump in the yard. It is about one-third filled with sand to *b*, and so is compartment 2. The water filters through the sand downwards in No. 1, passes under the division at *c* into the second compartment, about half an inch of space being left at the bottom for that purpose, and rises gradually through the sand till it comes to the height at *e*. It then falls into the third compartment, again filters into the filtering stone *f*, and is drawn off when wanted at the cock *g*, of the purest and most excellent quality. *d* is the air-pipe, communicating with the internal part of the stone cistern.

There is a spring, called Burnt House Spring, situated in a little dell, in a romantic spot to the right of the road leading from Tunbridge Wells to Pembury. It is a good chalybeate, and the iron is in a state of carbonate. This spring rises rapidly into a stone basin, placed in the centre of a circular excavation, about ten feet in diameter and six or eight feet deep, which is bricked round, and with the remains of stone steps leading down to the basin at the bottom. This spring, therefore, has clearly been, at some time, made use of as a medicinal water. It was accidentally discovered choked up with rubbish. The country about Tunbridge Wells abounds with springs of this character.



I believe all the water in and about Tunbridge Wells, with some few exceptions perhaps, to be as pure as any water in England, when freed from the iron: it is, nevertheless, a proper precaution to guard against the introduction of lead into the water used for culinary purposes, as it is apt to imbibe it in its passage through pipes and in cisterns of that metal. If none of the lead in a state of oxide be dissolved, some will be in a state of suspension, which, by thrice filtration as above described, will be totally removed. With a view of lessening the chance of the admission of that poisonous mineral into the water, either in suspension or solution, when used, it is advisable to have slate cisterns, such as are now constructed by Mr. Struthers, of Parliament Street. They possess the advantage, too, of not yielding to frost, as the brick cisterns, lined and coated with cement, do. I have one in the open air which holds 300 gallons, and which was proof against the severe frost of the hard winter of 1829-30, without the slightest crack. From the want of a proper attention to this subject, when new leaden pipes were laid down in 1814, many cases of lead colic, a most painful disease, occurred the following year, the particulars of which are stated in the Royal Institution Journal above quoted. The leaden mains have since been removed, and the danger is, therefore, considerably obviated; and, in fact, no disease of the kind has appeared since their removal, as far as I know. It appears more than usually necessary to guard against the pre-



sence of lead in water, when that water happens to be impregnated with the carbonate of iron; for the bottom of a leaden cistern which I have, and into which water of this sort is received, had become so corroded in many parts of it as to wear the appearance of a honeycomb, and the water leaked through. I think this may have been produced by a galvanic influence, caused by the contact of the lead with the precipitated iron. The bottom of the cistern has been since painted, and it remains sound. Did any acid from vegetable matter in the water facilitate this galvanic effect between the two metals? or was it produced by the carbonic acid from the precipitated iron?

Observing, then, the stimulant nature of the air and waters of Tunbridge Wells, it is no difficult matter to ascertain what persons, labouring under particular maladies, would be most benefited by a residence at this place, either permanently or for the season. All that class of diseases which has general or local debility for its basis, finds a ready relief from the salutary stimulus of this renovating air. Some species of asthma, coughs arising from a particular state of the stomach, weaknesses and irregularities in young females, sick headaches, irregular atonic gout; that degenerated state of the constitution, with a depression of spirits, produced by a sedentary life with mental exertion, so common to our city merchants, who neglect their health in a laborious search for the accumulation of wealth; and also the dys-



peptic state of the literary student, panting for fame and distinction in his secluded study, will receive benefit at this place. The catalogue of ills which arise from these causes is too extensive to be specified; and it will depend upon the degree to which they have arrived, and upon their complication with constitutional ailments, whether the invalids should trust to the benefits of the air only, or joined with the tonic power of the mineral spring. It will happen, and very often too, that nothing is necessary but the advantage of the air, with suitable hours and regimen. It is not an unfrequent occurrence, under such circumstances, that the addition of the waters will be injurious. When these waters are proper, their effects are powerfully promoted by the air. It is not always so, however, with the waters when the air is found beneficial. It is necessary to draw this distinction correctly in some cases, in order that all the benefit which this place affords may be derived from it; and this discrimination depends so much upon constitutional peculiarities, and upon the causes of the debility, that it is quite impossible to draw a rule of proceeding applicable to all cases. One instance will exemplify this. A person may arrive here with a cough, reduction of flesh, some feverish irritation, an indifferent appetite, restless nights from irritability, great variableness of mind from debility of the brain and nervous system, caused by mental exertion and agitation in the student, the senator, or the merchant, in their too ardent pursuit



of worldly acquirements, or in the devotee of fashion, who comes with hectic fever from the nocturnal orgies of London. In such cases as these, and they are often met with, no man of discretion and judgment would lay it down as a rule, that, as the cause is debility, the waters are to be drank as a tonic. But how often is this the case ! It is much better to trust to the renovating powers of the air, with moderate diet, exercise in the beautiful scenery of the country, and to such medicines, at times, as mildly excite the bowels ; and yet, in such a case as that just described, the invalid becomes impatient to return to his pursuits of worldly acquirements or of pleasure, drinks the waters as a short road to health, and finds he is thrown to a greater distance from it by his hasty imprudence, their qualities being unfriendly to some organ in his diseased state. The same observations will equally apply to young women, who labour under similar symptoms, from twelve to eighteen or twenty years of age, but from a very different cause, though great debility is present in both instances.

*On Temperature, with Thermometrical Tables.*

The period from the end of October 1829 to April 1830 was one of the most extraordinary seasons experienced in Europe for a long series of years. It is singular, that almost the only parts which escaped the severity of the cold of that winter were Scotland and the north of England, where the weather was



mild and beautiful, and where there was scarcely any frost or snow. In the county of Northumberland the nobility and gentry had only began to fill their ice-houses in the first week in February, while in the southern and south-western parts of the island, in the preceding months of December and January, the thermometer was often much below the freezing point, with repeated heavy falls of snow. At Penzance, which is 282 miles w.s.w. from London, and  $53^{\circ} 10' \text{ N.}$ , the thermometer averaged  $41^{\circ}$  for December 1829, and  $36\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  for January 1830, which was the coldest month the inhabitants had experienced for ten years. At the same place the thermometer stood higher than in any other situation, except at Mount Stewart in the Isle of Bute, which is  $55^{\circ} 45' \text{ N.}$  While in this northern region the thermometer ranged so comparatively high, the cold was so intense in the southern parts of Europe, that at Turin ( $44^{\circ} 50' \text{ N.}$ ) it was  $14^{\circ}$ , and at Marseilles ( $43^{\circ} 18' \text{ N.}$ )  $18^{\circ}$ , below freezing. In the early part of the winter the weather was more severe in Italy than in any part of England. At Rome ( $41^{\circ} 53' \text{ N.}$ ) the average point of the thermometer, at 8 A.M., was  $29^{\circ}$ , from the 15th to the 24th of November, and on the 17th of that month the ice at Florence ( $43^{\circ} 47' \text{ N.}$ ) was sufficiently hard to bear skaters.

During the severe weather of this very extraordinary season, the Marquess of Tavistock resided at Torquay, in Devonshire, and kept a regular account of the thermometer at that place. Accounts were

also kept, by his Lordship's desire, at the following places, viz.—Oakley, Woburn, Endsleigh, Milton Abbot, Newmarket, Hastings, Belgrave Square (London), and Carton, near Dublin,—whilst I kept an account at Tunbridge Wells. All the thermometers had a northern or north-eastern aspect, and were noted between half-past seven and half-past eight A.M. daily. I was honoured by the Marquess with a correspondence during the whole of the time, and to his Lordship's liberality and regard for science I am indebted for the thermometrical registers kept at the above places, as well as for the remarks respecting the weather of the North, as likewise respecting Italy, Rome, Marseilles, and Turin. By his Lordship's kindness, I am enabled to give the following comparative tables, which may be of use, too, in making estimates of temperature at other places.



## No. 1.

*A Daily Account of the Thermometer kept at the different Places mentioned at the Head of each Column,  
from January 29 to February 16, 1830.*

1830.	Torquay.	Oakley.*	Woburn.†	Endsleigh.‡	Milton Abbot.	New-market.	Hastings.	Belgrave Square.	Carton,   near Dublin.	Tonbridge Wells.	Royal Society.
Jan. 29	33	33	34	29	35	35	35	33½	32	32½	35·3
30	35	33	34	31	40	35	32	32	34	31	35
31	30	19	20	30	35	32	26½	21½	34	16	22·6
Feb. 1	27	18	19	31	28	26	22	21	31	19	22·6
2	26	18	17	26	25	19½	14	19½	31	15	20·3
3	21	21	20	15	17	22	19	21	30	19	22·3
4	23½	25	25	17	20	20	20	25	30	22	26·8
5	27	20	21	26	27	20	18	17	29	18	22·3
6	28	8	11	27	26	20	17	17½	28	15	19·6
7	40	27	38	40	39	29	30½	28½	37	29	30·7
8	44	42	42	44	43	34	41	45½	36	45	44·8
9	42	37	38	43	40	36	41	42½	35	45	45·2
10	37	30	35	36	36	45	39	31	29	36	36·6
11	37½	29	32	30	35	38	36	33	40	33	36·7
12	41	32	37	42	44	33	36	35½	45	—	37·7
13	38	33	35	40	42	34	35	33	37	33	34·7
14	35	36	36	38	34	35	28	29½	40	25	32·3
15	35	28	31	31	32	33	33	33	40	—	33·7
16	36	33	30	30	32	32	32	31	27	32	34·8

\* Seat of the Marquess of Tavistock, near Bedford.

† Seat of his Grace the Duke of Bedford, near Tavistock, Devon.

‡ Seat of his Grace the Duke of Bedford, Bedfordshire.

|| Seat of his Grace the Duke of Leinster, near Dublin.

## No. 2.

*Monthly Average for December 1829 and January 1830.*

	December.	January.
Royal Society .....	34.1 .....	32.5
Torquay .....	36 .....	31
Woburn .....	31 .....	28½
Tunbridge Wells.....	32 .....	28
Endsleigh....	34 .....	28½
Newmarket.....	33 .....	31½
Hastings .....	35 .....	31
Belgrave Square...	32 .....	30
Carton .....	34 .....	31
Howick .....	39 .....	34½

At all the above places, the degrees were noted at the hours already mentioned ; except at Howick, near Alnwick, in Northumberland, the thermometer being marked there at ten A.M., and at the Royal Society at nine A.M. Howick is the seat of Earl Grey.

## No. 3.

*Weekly Average from November 21, 1829, to January 9, 1830.*

	Week ending							
	Nov. 21.	Nov. 28.	Dec. 5.	Dec. 12.	Dec. 19.	Dec. 26.	Jan. 2.	Jan. 9.
Torquay .....	38 6	38 4	44 4	38 5	36 6	30 6	27 2	33 2
Oakley .....	30 2	35	39 4	33	33	26 4	—	—
Woburn .....	32 4	35 1	40 2	34 1	34 5	27 2	—	—
Tonbridge Wells	—	35 2	41 1	31	35	28 2	24 2	32 4
Endsleigh.....	—	—	43	40 3	35 4	27 6	21 2	28 6
Milton Abbot ...	—	—	—	39 3	33 4	27 5	21 2	30 3
Newmarket .....	—	—	40 6	32½	32 1	26 3	—	—
Hastings .....	—	—	44	35 4	39	30 5	27 3	—
Belgrave Square	—	—	40 5	34 2	34 3	28	26 4	33 5
Carton ..	—	—	—	43 1	35 1	28 6	27 1	—



## No. 4.

*Weekly Average from January 29 to February 11, inclusive; being the coldest Period from November 1829 to April 1830.*

	From Jan. 1829 to Feb. 4.	From Feb. 5 to Feb. 11.	North Latitude.	Miles distant from London.
Torquay .....	28 1	36 3½	Deg. Min. 50 30	About 214 w.s.w. County of Devon.
Oakley .....	23 1½	27 4	52 15	54 N.N.W. County of Bedford.
Woburn .....	24 1	30	52	42 N.W. by N. Ditto.
Endsleigh .....	25 4	35 1	50 30	Near Tavistock, Devon, which is 204 w.s.w.
Milton Abbot .....	28 4	35 1	50 30	5½ N.W. by w. from Tavistock.
Newmarket .....	27½	31½	52 20	61 N.N.E. County of Cambridge.
Hastings .....	24½	32	50 50	64¼ s.E. County of Sussex.
Belgrave Square .....	25	30½	51 30	London.
Carton, near Dublin..	31½	33 3	53 20	About 330 w. by N. Ireland.
Tunbridge Wells .....	22½	31 4	51 5	36 s.E. by s. County of Kent.

*Temperature of Places.*

From an examination of the foregoing average tables we shall be able to take a tolerably accurate view of the comparative temperatures of the different places where the registers have been kept. It is generally believed that Tunbridge Wells is a very cold place in the winter—much colder than most other places in England—and I was one of those who assented to this idea; but the thermometrical registers, kept at the situations and during the periods mentioned in the tables, do not by any means prove this to be the fact. If we look at Table, No. 1, which gives a daily account of the thermometer at about eight A.M. in eleven different places, we shall find that the thermometer at Tunbridge Wells, on several days, stood higher than at Hastings, particularly on the 2d, 8th, and 9th of February; while on several other days the quicksilver was precisely at the same point at both. It stood, also, higher on some days than in Belgrave Square. It was superior to Oakley for almost half the time, and to Woburn on several days;—also to Torquay on two days, and

Endsleigh on six days;—equalled it on two days, and was superior to Milton Abbot on four days. In looking, also, at the monthly average for December and January, in Table No. 2, it will be found that Tunbridge Wells was equal to Belgrave Square, superior to Woburn, and not much below other places, except Torquay, Hastings, and Howick, for



the month of December; while, for the month of January, it was within half a degree of Endsleigh, and not much inferior to the other places, except Howick; but it is scarcely right to include the latter place, as the thermometer there was not noted till two hours after the other places. The weekly average, too, of Table No. 3, from November 21 to January 9, shews also that Tunbridge Wells does not range so low in temperature as has been generally imagined, which the reader can very easily ascertain by examining it. In Table No. 4, we have the weekly average of the different places for two weeks, one in January, the other in February, being the coldest periods of the season. In the first of these weeks, Tunbridge Wells averaged lower than any of the other places, being full five degrees below Torquay, three below Endsleigh, six below Milton Abbot, and two below Hastings; but in the second, that is, in the week of February, the temperature of all the places, on the average, rose considerably, but higher in proportion at Tunbridge Wells than at any other place, except Torquay, for they both rose very nearly the same number of averaged degrees from the point at which they stood in January. In the week of February, we find Tunbridge Wells superior to Oakley, Woburn, and Belgrave Square, and nearly equal to Hastings and Newmarket.

Such, then, being the comparative estimate of the temperature of Tunbridge Wells, it becomes a matter for consideration, how far it may not be



better adapted for the residence of persons under severe consumptive symptoms, who require, in almost all situations *wherein they may be*, to be housed during the extreme severity of the weather which often occurs in the winter season. Recollecting that the temperature of Tunbridge Wells is not so low as has been generally supposed, and that in very bad weather, *any where*, consumptive people must confine themselves to the house, I now believe that, in several sheltered spots at Tunbridge Wells, where the houses, with a south-west aspect, are protected from the north and easterly winds, such people may safely find an asylum here during the winter months. The following remark of Dr. Young is very apposite to the subject : \* — “ The frequency of consumptions is decidedly greater in cold than in hot climates ; but not by any means in exact proportion to the depression of the mean temperature.” As far as my own experience goes, consumptive cases are always worse in extreme cold, or extreme hot weather. There are also other adventitious circumstances, besides temperature, which are detrimental in consumptive cases, or in coughs which mark a disposition to that fatal disease. The moisture or dryness of the air must have a considerable influence in modifying the effects of temperature. In saying, therefore, that I believe consumptive people may safely winter at Tunbridge Wells, I must be under-

\* “ Medical Literature,” p. 571.



stood as meaning that a consideration must be given to the individual case; for there is certainly no climate universally beneficial to every apparently consumptive case, any more than there is a general panacea for the same disease in every person. I should say, too, that advantage is to be derived from change of air, by going from one place to another—from the place where the disease attacked a person to some other situation; for there are beneficial circumstances connected with change of locality with which we are not well acquainted; and therefore, although I would advise persons with some kinds of coughs to reside here, I should, without any contradiction of principle, send a person similarly diseased, a native particularly, and whose disease commenced here, to some other place. I am unwilling to specify particularly what kinds of coughs would be benefited by a winter residence at Tunbridge Wells, lest I might mislead; but certainly the hard and dry cough of the dyspeptic character, where the disease seems disposed to fix its fangs upon the lungs, and quit the digesting organs, would be benefited here,—the same domestic care, with respect to clothing, temperature, diet, and exercise, when the weather will permit, being strictly observed as in a genuine consumptive case. I believe that the purity of the air here, combined with the attention just alluded to, will materially assist such patients. The fact is, that these and similar cases are too often neglected, till extensive depredations are committed on the

lungs, when patients may go to Nova Zembla, or any where else, as well as to the south of France, or to Italy, where they are often sent to, under the false hopes and expectations of recovery, but where they are destined to close their eyes, deprived of the consolation of friends and the comforts of their own homes. A system more congenial to the sufferings of patients, and more alleviating to their distresses, is now adopting, from the knowledge we possess of a better discrimination of disease, and of local situations in our own island, where temperature and other adventitious circumstances can be readily and beneficially attended to.—The narrow limits within which this little sketch must necessarily be confined prevents me from entering more largely into this very interesting subject, and of benefiting in my observations by the valuable publication of Dr. Clark,\* late of Rome, but now of London; and of the useful work of Dr. Harwood,† of Hastings.

\* “Influence of Climate on the Prevention and Cure of Chronic Diseases,” &c., by James Clark, M.D.

† “The Curative Influence of the Southern Coast of England,” &c., by William Harwood, M.D.



## SKETCH IV.

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THE GEOLOGY OF THE COUNTRY AROUND TUNBRIDGE WELLS :  
SEATS, SCENES, AND ANTIQUITIES IN THE VICINITY.

EVERY sojourner at the Wells, whether he be destined to continue for a short or long time, will be induced to make occasional excursions to different places in the vicinity. These little daily or morning tours constitute an essential source of amusement, and, indeed, of healthful exercise, to persons who leave the gay and active metropolis to take up their abode in a new place, with every thing novel and strange around them. In such circumstances, curiosity is excited by each fresh scene and varied object, and the mind naturally seeks to obtain information and acquire knowledge—for ignorance is hateful. To a person naturally inquisitive, every form and feature of creation, every work of art, every incident in the pilgrimage of life, is a matter for admiring contemplation, or philosophic reflection. Whilst the geologist explores the stratification, and apparently heterogeneous compound globe on which we live, the astronomer looks to and investigates the phenomena of the countless globes which continually

revolve around him. The zoologist examines the animal creation which daily courts his study, and which are almost infinite in number, in size, and attributes; whilst the botanist, the agriculturist, the mineralogist, alike find something to claim their attention and court their study in every new country they visit, in each separate district wherein they may be placed. The artist, the antiquary, the historian, the philosopher, will be little entitled to deserve their respective appellations if they cannot meet with objects congenial to their favourite study in any and every part of the world. If we have not yet started any game for the antiquary within the precincts of the Wells, he will find some fine preserves in Mayfield Place, Bayham Abbey, and Penshurst Place; in the castles of Tunbridge, Hever, Scotney, and Bodiam; in the old mansions of Brambletye, Knole, Summer Hill, and in several other places within a day's journey of the Wells. Each and all of these will afford him much rational sport; and if he be properly *qualified*, he will be sure of obtaining a courteous reception rather than a repulse from the respective lords of those manors. Having been for many years rather a bold and impertinent trespasser—almost a poacher—I can speak from experience; and having derived endless amusement from the pursuit, I am induced to urge others to adopt a similar course. The whole of the British Islands abound with sport of this kind, and the pursuit is conducive at once to health of body and of mind.



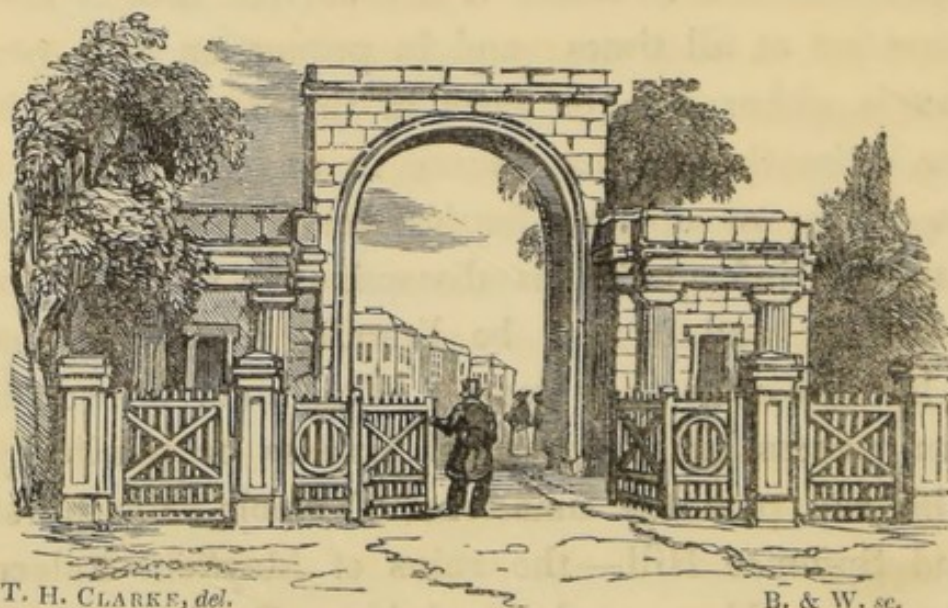
As an old and experienced sportsman, I wish to impress on the minds of those who are beginning their career, the necessity of exploring beyond the surface—of looking further than the mere stones, mortar, carvings, doors, and windows of ancient buildings, for the philosophy of archæology—for the elements of art and science. Antiquaries have been stigmatised as a dull, insipid race of triflers, and there are some who deserve this reproach, but there are many bright and redeeming exceptions.

Whatever may be the partialities or habits of persons, it seems an almost incumbent duty on them to obtain some degree of information respecting places and persons of public fame, in their own immediate neighbourhood at least: it is a current coin of conversation at all times; and in proportion as a person is either rich or poor in this article, will be the estimation he may secure in society. There is no excuse or apology for ignorance in the present day, for information is disseminated all over the country; and it may be literally said now, that “he who runs may read.” That man or woman can possess but little of either sense or sensibility, who can pass the mansions of Knole, Penshurst, and Summer Hill—the ruins of Mayfield Palace, Bayham Abbey, and Tunbridge Castle, without stopping to survey some of their features, and making some inquiry respecting their histories. Each of these buildings is a theme for an extended essay, for each is connected with public persons

and events, of varied and extensive interest. On the present occasion I can only furnish a few hints or notices of these, and of other distinguished places; but the references which will be given will direct the inquisitive reader to sources of further and more detailed information.

The following interesting letter cannot fail to gratify the geologist; nor can it be read without advantage by any person inspired with laudable curiosity.

#### VICTORIA GATE.



T. H. CLARKE, *del.*

B. & W. *sc.*



*A Notice on the GEOLOGY of the Environs of  
Tunbridge Wells;*

BY GIDEON MANTELL, Esq., F.R.S. &c.

[In a Letter to the Author.]

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*Castle Place, Lewes, April 16, 1832.*

MY DEAR SIR,

You have requested me to furnish you with a sketch of the *Geology* of Tunbridge Wells, and I assure you it would have afforded me much pleasure could I have complied with your wishes; but my time is so entirely occupied by professional engagements, that it is out of my power to do justice to the subject, and I can only offer you a few desultory remarks on the stratification of the delightful spot on which that town is situated, and a slight and imperfect notice of the geology of the surrounding country.

The physical structure of the environs of Tunbridge Wells is in every important particular analogous to that of the adjoining division of Sussex; with this difference, that the general dip or inclination of the strata in Kent is to the north-east, while in Sussex it is towards the south-west.

The North Downs, stretching from the Surrey hills through the county, and terminating in Dover

Cliffs, point out the course and extent of the *White chalk*, which presents a bold escarpment to the south, and is based on the *Grey marl* that appears on its southern edge, and also in many of the deep valleys of the Downs. Beneath the *Grey marl* is an arenaceous bed, of a greenish colour, which in some localities passes into sand, (*Chlorite, or upper green sand*), and in others into a stone fit for building (*Firestone*); while in many places it is altogether absent, the grey chalk marl reposing on the strata next described.

A stiff blue marl (the *Folkstone clay*), which in some places is called *Galt* or *Malm*, succeeds; beneath which is a thick deposit of sand (the *Shanklin sand*), enclosing beds of chert and sandstone (the *Kentish rag*), and which, rising to the surface on the southern side of the Galt, composes a tract of country of considerable extent. It is this lowest member of the chalk that forms the chain of hills situated between the southern escarpment of the Downs and the Weald. The deposits above named, viz.

1. The White Chalk, comprising the upper or flinty chalk; and lower, or chalk without flints;
2. The Grey Marl and Upper green sand, or firestone;
3. The Galt, or Folkstone clay; and, lastly,
4. The Shanklin sand with chert and Kentish rag—

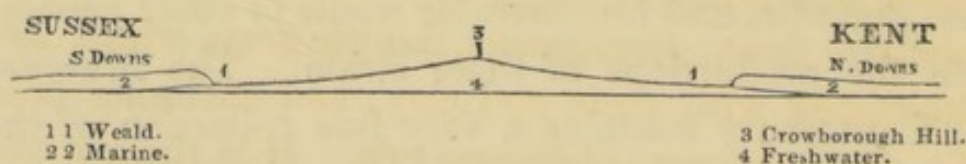


are all included by geologists in the term "*Chalk Formation*," because they are intimately related to each other, contain marine remains of the same zoological characters, and have manifestly been deposited in the basin of the same ocean. The organic remains of the chalk are very numerous, and are nowhere more interesting, perfect, and abundant, than in Kent. The pits at Northfleet and Gravesend have long been celebrated for the beautiful corals, echini, and shells, with which they abound; and in the cliffs at Dover the bivalve shells and corals occur in great perfection and variety. At Charing, bones and teeth of reptiles and fishes, together with the usual marine shells, have been discovered. In the lower divisions of the chalk, the fossils found in Kent are unrivalled. The Folkstone Cliffs are known to all the geologists of Europe, as furnishing the most splendid specimens of ammonites, hamites, and other shells, with the pearly coat, or nacreous covering, still remaining in as beautiful a state as in the recent animals. In the sands beneath, the marine remains are equally abundant, as the admirable collection made by Mr. Hills, of Lymne, amply testifies. Hamites of immense size, ammonites not less gigantic, and innumerable shells of other genera, are the productions of these strata. The Museum at Canterbury contains a very fine collection of the fossil productions of the county, and which, owing to the indefatigable and scientific labours of Mr. W. Masters, of that city, are arranged and displayed



in a manner that would do credit to any metropolitan museum.

I must now proceed to notice the deposits constituting that part of Kent, which occupies the interval between the southern border of the sands above described and the county of Sussex; and it may be well in this place to remark, that while the inhabitants of the former district reside on the bed of an ancient ocean, those occupying the tract of country under consideration live on the débris brought down by an immense river (some ancient *Ganges*), and deposited in its course, or in an extensive lake or estuary. These strata arise from beneath the chalk, and were formerly covered wholly, or in part, by that formation, and owe their present situation to those disturbing forces, whose effects are visible on every part of the earth's surface;—forces by which “the fountains of the great deep are broken up;” continents sunk beneath the sea, or converted into groups of islands; and the bed of the ocean elevated into lofty mountains and plains, which, in after-ages, become the abode of the human race. The following diagram will explain the relative situation of the strata between the North and South Downs.



Immediately beneath the lower sand of the chalk formation, a thick bed of tenacious clay, generally



of various shades of a bluish grey colour, appears : it is called the *Weald Clay*, and forms the subsoil of the wealds of Kent and Sussex. It contains beds of a limestone, composed of the petrified remains of a spiral shell-fish, allied to a species of *river-snail*, held together by a sub-crystalline, calcareous cement. It forms a marble, which in some localities is sufficiently compact and hard to bear a good polish. This marble was in much request in ancient times for the columns of religious edifices and sepulchral monuments. It is generally known by the name of *Sussex*, or *Petworth Marble* ; but it occurs throughout the wealds of both Sussex and Kent : at Bethersden, and other places, it is still quarried. The fossils of the weald clay and its associated limestones are not only entirely dissimilar to those of the chalk above mentioned, but are, without any exception, the remains of animals that can exist in fresh water only ; and the reader will at once perceive how impossible it is such creatures should have lived in the same fluid as the marine beings whose exuviae are entombed in the chalk. This fact at once offers a line of demarcation between these deposits and those which we have above described. Beneath the weald is a series of sands and sandstones of various colours—fawn, ferruginous, bluish grey, white, &c. alternating with shale and clay, and enclosing beds of a very compact calciferous grit. It is these strata which occupy the area between the wealds of Kent and Sussex. They rise to their greatest altitude (804 feet) at Crowborough Hill, form the country



immediately around Tunbridge Wells, and extend to the coast, where they constitute the line of cliffs from Bexhill in Sussex to Winchelsea; the weald clay occupying the marshes of Pevensey, Romney, &c.

To this extensive series of deposits, the name of *Wealden* or *Hastings formation* has been given. With the exception of the Isles of Wight and Purbeck, no other localities of these beds are known, although traces of somewhat analogous strata have been lately observed near Beauvais, in France. Their fossils are of a most extraordinary character, and are, as above remarked, exclusively either of fresh water or terrestrial origin. They consist of the bones and teeth of *crocodiles*, and of several other kinds of reptiles, so gigantic as almost to exceed belief. One of these monsters, the *Iguanodon* (so called from the resemblance of its teeth to those of the iguana, a lizard of the West Indies), whose teeth and bones have been found in the stone near Horsham, must have been from 60 to 100 feet long! for its thigh and toe bones are larger than those of the largest elephant! With these beings of an early period of our planet are associated the mineralised remains of plants allied to tropical ferns, &c., fishes and shells of various kinds, and the bones of birds. These fossils are figured and described in the works that have been published on the organic remains of Tilgate Forest, in Sussex.\* I must content myself

\* "Illustrations of the Geology of Sussex; containing Figures and Descriptions of the Fossils of Tilgate Forest;" one vol. royal 4to, with numerous plates.



in this brief notice with the expression of my conviction, that the environs of Tunbridge Wells would, by a little perseverance and diligent research, be rendered as productive as the most celebrated localities in Sussex.

The hills and vales around the Wells have been produced by the displacement which the strata have suffered during their emersion from the depths of the waters. This elevation was in all probability not sudden, but gradual; and in the changes here contemplated, some of the highest peaks would first appear above the waves, and constitute a group of islands, which, from the accumulation of fossil fruits, &c. at Sheppey, appears to have been soon clothed with a vegetation that could not exist in our present climate. During this process valleys would be scooped out by currents, the sharp edges of the rocks rounded by diluvial action, and accumulations of débris be formed in the undisturbed depths of the ocean. This action would go on during the gradual elevation of the land, the difference of level creating different systems of valleys, till the whole of the south-eastern part of England was elevated above the ocean, and presented the picturesque surface by which it is now characterised. That romantic spot, the *High Rocks*, the favourite resort of the visitors to the Wells, is not less attractive to the geologist. It is manifestly an ancient shore—a line of cliffs that for ages bore the brunt of the waves, when the valleys of the weald were



filled by the waters of the ocean, and the forest ridge was an island in an extensive archipelago. In many other parts of the county, the escarpment of the sandstone presents a similar appearance. But I must not dilate on this most interesting and inviting subject. Mr. Lyell, in the third volume of his "Principles of Geology," now in the press, will do it ample justice, and to that work I would refer the reader, whom these hasty remarks may render desirous of further information.\*

As a guide to such visitors as may wish to collect fossils from the strata near Tunbridge Wells, I will mention some localities in which, during my few and hasty visits, I observed organic remains; at the same time I must do justice to my young intelligent friend Mr. Jansons, late of Dudley House, now of London, and acknowledge, that to him, several years since, I was indebted for the first fossils I had seen from the Wells.

SOUTHBOROUGH. A quarry on the left of the road, leading to Tunbridge, contains ferns like those of Tilgate Forest (*Lonchopteris reticulata*), scales of fishes, teeth of crocodile.

\* If the reader be wholly unacquainted with the science, he should consult Mr. Bakewell's "Introduction to Geology," which is decidedly the most popular, lucid, and philosophical work on this subject in the English language. For the ladies, Mrs. Maria Hack's "Glimpses of Geology" is best calculated; it is alike elegant, interesting, and instructive.



HUNTLEY'S QUARRY. Ferns; stems of an equisetum (*E. Lyellii*); teeth and scales of fishes.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMON. In sandstone, casts of spiral univalves (*Paludina vivipara*); teeth of crocodile; teeth of *Megalosaurus*, an enormous lizard, whose remains occur also at Tilgate Forest, and at Stonesfield, Oxfordshire; minute teeth and scales of fishes.

LANGTON PITS. Immense quantities of casts of bivalves (fresh-water) in iron-stone.

JONES'S QUARRY. In a bed of Tilgate grit, bones of reptiles, broken and water-worn; teeth of crocodiles and megalosaurus; scales of fishes.

GROOMSBRIDGE QUARRY. Casts of fresh-water bivalve shells.

HOLLOW-FIELD QUARRY. In grit, bones of reptiles in fragments.

WITHYHAM. My respected friend, the Rev. Sackville Bale, dug up a grit, resembling that of Tilgate, on his estate, which contained fragments of bones of reptiles.

ROCKS IN ERIDGE PARK, contain lignite, and traces of ferns and reeds.

In the above hasty sketch, I have not noticed the strata denominated "*Tertiary*" by geologists, which have resulted from the partial destruction of the wealden and chalk formations, and were deposited in hollows or basins of the chalk during the period when these last named deposits were being elevated,

as they do not occur in the immediate neighbourhood of the Wells: for the same reason I shall not describe those alluvial beds of a later period, which contain the bones and teeth of elephants, mammoths, and other mammalia, and of which Herne Bay has afforded so extraordinary an assemblage.

I cannot conclude, however, without mentioning that a few years since the lower jaw and fragments of other bones of the *Hyena* were discovered in a fissure in the sandstone at Boughton quarries, near Maidstone; and I would earnestly recommend gentlemen who reside in that neighbourhood, and have taste and leisure for the task, to follow up the inquiry, since it cannot fail to lead to the most interesting and important results.

I am, my dear Sir,

Most faithfully yours,

GIDEON MANTELL.

*To J. BRITTON, Esq. F.S.A. &c.*



## NOTICES OF PLACES AROUND TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

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ERIDGE HOUSE, sometimes called ERIDGE CASTLE, two miles from the Wells, the seat of the Earl of Abergavenny, is a large, irregular pile of building, having turrets and embrasures on the parapets. The country around is greatly diversified and abounds with woods, among which firs are the most predominant. As already noticed (pp. 17, 23), this place was a small hunting-seat at the beginning of the seventeenth century; and when Burr wrote his volume, it was "reduced to a plain farm-house:" yet the same author calls "it an ancient Gothic structure." Aaron Hill, in a letter to David Mallet, describes "the park as an assemblage of all nature's beauties—hills, vales, brooks, lawns, groves, thickets, rocks, water-falls, all wildly noble, and irregularly *amiable*!" Strange words! and intended by the author to have some meaning, but which it would puzzle a critical grammarian to understand.

This estate or manor is very large, extending over at least 7000 acres, and comprising other subordinate manors. It formerly included the forest of Water-Down. From its early possessors it may

be inferred, that it was in old times a lordship of consequence. These were Godwin, Earl of Kent, the Earl of Montaigne and Cornwall, the Earl of Clare, Sir Edward Neville, afterwards Lord Bergavenny. In the latter family, with the name altered to Abergavenny, the property has continued to the present time.

The house stands on an eminence, in the midst of a park of about 2000 acres. On a lofty knoll are the remains of an ancient encampment, called *Saxon-bury Castle*, and, from its name, ascribed to the Saxons; whilst another spot in the park bears the name of *Danes' Gate*, supposed to be part of an old track-way or military road, between the earth-fortress of Saxonbury, and another on Crowborough Hill. On *Eridge Green* continued, for many years, a curious *mortar*, or large gun, said to have been the first made in England. The tradition is, that it was cast at Buxted furnace, about twelve miles north of Lewes. It is preserved in the British Museum; and some account of it, with a print, is given in the "*Archæologia*," vol. x. p. 472.

FRANT is a truly romantic village, on the brow of a very high hill, two miles south of the Wells. From the church, and its yard, are very fine and extensive views; and the former is a conspicuous object from many distant places to the north. A new tower was built to the old church in 1819, and immediately afterwards it was found necessary



to pull down and rebuild the church. The Earl of Abergavenny contributed the greater part of the money towards the building. The end of the south aisle was built and fitted up by the Marquess Camden, as a family pew.

A short distance south of the church is *Shermfold Place*, a large and handsome mansion, erected by Charles Pigeon, Esq., and now the property of Lieutenant-Colonel By. The house stands on high ground, and commands very extensive and diversified views.

*Saxon-bury Lodge* is a modern Gothic villa, built by Daniel Rowland, Esq. It stands high, and overlooks nearly the whole of Eridge Park, and a wide expanse of country.

MAYFIELD, at the distance of eight miles south of the Wells, on a hill, demands our notice and veneration, from having been honoured with a noble provincial palace of the Archbishops of Canterbury, and which afterwards belonged to that civic philanthropist, Sir Thomas Gresham. The manor was possessed by the see of Canterbury before the Norman Conquest of England. Provincial synods are said to have been held in 1332 and 1362: but Johnson (in "Ecclesiastical Laws," A.D. M.CCC.XXXII.) thinks there is some "blunder or fraud" on this subject. Many deeds and official documents bear date at Mayfield. The archbishops Messham, Stratford, and Islip, died here. The latter fell from his horse



into a dirty slough between Sevenoaks and Tunbridge, which occasioned the palsy, and eventually his death. The palace was of considerable size, seated in a large park, and that surrounded by an extensive demesne, all of which was surrendered to Henry VIII. by Archbishop Cranmer, to propitiate the monarch and the people in behalf of the then unpopular clergy. Sir Thomas Gresham is reputed to have lived here in a most sumptuous style; and it is presumed that Queen Elizabeth visited the civic knight during her "Progress in Sussex."

Of this once famous palace the remains are inconsiderable, and these in a very ruined, mutilated condition. The side walls, and ends of the great hall, are standing, with some of the ribbed arches of the roof. It measured about 68 feet in length, by 38 feet in breadth, and, like most of the baronial dining halls, was open to the roof. Connected with this are other apartments, now occupied by a farmer, in one of which is a chimney-piece with the date of 1371. Among the curiosities of the place are the anvil, hammer, and tongs, which are traditionally said to have belonged to the noted St. Dunstan, and who is also said to have used the last instrument most ungallantly, and even brutishly, in twinging the nose of Old Nick, who tempted the immaculate prelate in the form of a fine lady!! North of Mayfield, on an eminence, is an encampment, called *Stockbury*. *Thomas May*, who translated Lucan's "Pharsalia," and wrote a continu-



ation, with other pieces in prose and verse, was a native of this place, where he was born in 1595.

BAYHAM, or BEGEHAM ABBEY, about six miles south-east of the Wells, was a monastery of some extent and consequence in former times; but, like many other old catholic edifices of the country, is now a confused mass of ruins. It appears from Tanner's "Notitia," that a community of Præmonstratentian Canons were settled here in 1200, at the instigation of Sir Robert de Turneham, who conferred on them all his lands at Begeham. Pope Gregory the Ninth granted these monks considerable privileges and exemptions in 1266; and King Edward II. conferred on the abbot the liberty of free warren over his demesne lands. It is inferred from these and other facts, that the abbey was of great extent and consequence; yet it is classed among the smaller monasteries in the 17th Henry VIII., when its revenues were obtained by Cardinal Wolsey towards the foundation of his two famous colleges at Ipswich and Oxford. The estate, however, appears to have reverted to the crown, on the cardinal's disgrace, and became successively occupied by several different families. In 1714 it was purchased by John Pratt, Esq., afterwards Chief Justice of the King's Bench, from whom it has descended to the present Marquess Camden. This truly patriotic nobleman has a small mansion adjoining the abbey ruins, where his lordship occasionally resides; but



his principal seat is at the Wilderness, near Riverhead. The remains of the abbey buildings, though extending over a broad area of ground, are so much dilapidated and overgrown, that it is almost impossible to ascertain the original appropriation of the different parts, and their architectural features. The form and extent of the church are apparent. It had a long narrow nave, with a staircase-turret at the north-west angle, and a small entrance door-way in the west front. The nave extends 170 feet in length, by 24 feet in width, and was lighted by windows high in the walls. In the third division, from the west end, on the north side, is an entrance door-way, and in the wall of the opposite side are two door-ways to the cloisters. On the north side of the nave are some small apartments, and on the south side are several others, which appear to have had communication with the church, cloisters, and abbey buildings. There was a transept between the nave and the choir, in the centre of which appears to have been a tower, supported on four bold piers, ornamented with several columns.

On the eastern side of the transept are four small chapels or chantries, separated from each other by walls. East of the transept was the choir, terminated by three sides of an octagon, having three large windows. The whole extent of the church is 252 feet. There are some mutilated monumental slabs among the ruins. On the east of the cloisters are two columns, with parts of walls and buttresses,



which appear to be the remains of the chapter-house, branching out from which, to the south, are fragments of walls, enclosing a parallelogramatic space, apparently the refectory. On the southern side of the cloisters are ruins of vaulted rooms, part of the domestic buildings of the abbey. 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."

That general accompaniment and cause of architectural ruin, the *ivy*, has grown here to an amazing extent. It has not only covered nearly the whole surface of the building, but insinuated its treacherous branches into the joints and crevices of the masonry. The wood has grown to great size, and displaced columns, mouldings, mullions, &c., and thus overturned and destroyed the very objects it was intended to adorn. At the time I visited these ruins, it gave me much pleasure to see its noble proprietor giving directions to the gardener to cut down and check the progress of this very fine but dangerous plant.

The grounds around the abbey are greatly diversified by bold swells and narrow valleys, and finely adorned with old timber trees. To the north of the house is a fine lake, skirted by hanging woods.



About two miles south-east 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., part of which was built from the materials brought from Scotney Castle, in the neighbourhood. Near it is the village church, in the vicinity of which is the rectory house, pleasingly embosomed in trees.

At the south-eastern extremity of this parish is SCOTNEY CASTLE, partly ancient and partly a modern edifice. A fortress of considerable extent appears to have been erected here as early as the reign of Richard the Second, and is said to have consisted of four round towers, with intermediate buildings, surrounded by a moat, which still remains. Three of the round towers have been taken down; but one, with a bold, machicolated parapet, still remains. Connected with it is a mansion, supposed to have been designed by Inigo Jones. This seat, with the adjoining property, was in the possession of the Darell family for above three centuries, up to the year 1774. It is now the seat of — Hussey, Esq.

The antiquary, when in this part of the country,



may be induced to extend his tour to Bodiam Castle, Winchelsea, Battle, Pevensey, and Hurstmonceaux, each and all of which places will afford him objects of varied and deep interest. The CASTLE OF BODIAM is still a fine, imposing mass of feudal military architecture, although it has suffered much by the spoiler Time, but more by assailants. It surrounded a square area, and consisted of four round towers at the angles, with other square towers projecting from the intermediate walls. Some of these towers have bold machicolated parapets, particularly those flanking the entrance-gateway. This approach was guarded by a drawbridge and portcullis, and the whole building was environed with a watered moat. The surrounding "country is lovely beyond description."\*

BATTLE ABBEY, now the seat of Sir Godfrey Webster, Bart., was founded by King William the Conqueror on the spot where, as "fame reports," Harold was killed, when contending against the Norman invaders. It was amply endowed by the king, whose sword, coronation robe, and roll of his principal soldiers and followers, were preserved here. Leland, in the time of Henry VIII., saw and took a copy of this roll, which Dugdale contends was interpolated, and altered by the monks to serve their own purposes. Battle has long been famed for its

\* Note 1 to "Bodiam Castle; a Poem, in Six Cantos." 8vo. 1818. "A Graphic and Historical Sketch of Bodiam Castle;" with plan and views, has lately been published by Wm. Cotton, Esq. M.A.



gunpowder. This part of the island and county is truly historical, if not classical; for the Norman invaders landed on this coast, and contested the supremacy of the kingdom with the Saxons: here they became victorious, and thus changed the British dynasty. The battle of Hastings, the Bayeaux tapestry, Battle Abbey, &c. are all memorable in the annals of the nation, and are all associated with this district.

The ruined and almost deserted town of WINCHELSEA will furnish the antiquary and topographer with abundant matter for observation and inquiry. Gough, in his additions to Camden's "Britannia," says, "the grass which grows in the streets, though paved frequently,\* lets for 4*l.* a-year, and little more than the skeleton of a regular and handsome town remains. The streets stand all at right angles, and are divided into thirty-two quarters, as they are called. The stone work of three gates is yet standing, and a number of fine vaults, formerly used for warehouses." Here was formerly a large and curious church, of which the chancel part only remains, and contains some interesting old monuments. About two miles distant from the town, on the sands of the sea, is a castle, called *Camber*, one of the fortresses built by Henry VIII. to guard the south coast.

\* The punctuation and wording of this sentence make it false and absurd. The writer meant to say, that though the streets are paved, the grass grows in them, and frequently lets or sells for 4*l.* a-year.



PEVENSEY CASTLE is a very extensive mass of ruins, surrounding two enclosed courts of about seven acres, and consists of several round towers, with intervening curtain walls. It is said to be of Roman formation, and some of its masonry certainly appears of Roman workmanship. It is also related that the Normans landed at this place. In the Bayeux tapestry the word *Pevensæ* occurs. This fortress deserves, and will reward the careful study of the antiquary. About three miles north-east are the remains of

HURSTMONCEAUX CASTLE, a fortress very unlike the former, and more peculiarly interesting to the architect. It is built entirely of brick, and was erected by Roger Fiennes, who was treasurer to King Henry VI., and who, like the Lord Treasurers Burley, Audley, &c., must have secured ample funds from their offices to raise stately mansions for themselves. The building occupied a square area of about 206 by 214 feet. Its angles and side-walls are adorned with towers of varied forms and heights, some of which are octagonal, and surmounted by very bold machicolated parapets. The towers (78 feet in height), flanking the entrance-gateway which was guarded by a portcullis and a drawbridge, are particularly grand and imposing: they are semi-octagonal in the two lower divisions, and circular in two others: they rise to a considerable height above the embattled walls. The whole was surrounded



by a moat.\* Adjoining the building is a well-wooded park.

About four miles north-east of the Wells is SOMER-HILL, or SUMMER-HILL, the seat of J. Alexander, Esq., M.P., who purchased the estate in November 1816, from the descendants of William Woodgate, Esq. We have already had occasion to notice this place, in the time of King Charles I. (see p. 23.) Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, obtained this "chase, manor, and appurtenances" from his patron, Queen Elizabeth, who afterwards conveyed the same to Frances, Countess of Essex, widow to the high-spirited and unfortunate Earl of Essex. This lady had previously been married to the accomplished Sir Philip Sydney, and subsequently wedded Richard de Burgh, Earl of Clanrickard, who was created Baron of Summer Hill, Viscount Tunbridge, and Earl of St. Albans. It was this nobleman who erected the present mansion at Summer Hill, soon after 1600. Some of the leaden spouts have the dates 1611 and 1613 on them. As then constructed, the house must have exhibited a large and fine specimen of the fashionable architecture of James's reign; but it has lost much of its pristine character by the alterations of subsequent occupants. The present possessor has fortunately

\* A very interesting series of plans, elevations, and details of this castle, are given in Pugin's Second Series of "Examples of Gothic Architecture." 4to. 1832.



consulted a professional gentleman of skill and taste (Mr. Salvin), who is making such improvements as will tend to preserve its original style, and adapt its interior to the comforts and luxuries of an elegant establishment. The house stands in the midst of a well-wooded park, on the brow of a commanding eminence, overlooking the town of Tunbridge and the broad valley in which it stands. Internally, the ground-floor consists of a large hall, 23 by 47 feet, on the right of which is a staircase, also a drawing-room 22 by 25 feet, and a noble library, adorned with five bay windows, and eight columns: it has three fire-places, and extends the whole depth of the house—nearly 100 feet. It is executed from the designs of Sir Jeffry Wyattville, and is highly creditable to that gentleman's taste. On the northern side of the hall is a spacious dining-room, measuring 22 by 33 feet, adjoining which are private rooms communicating with the domestic offices.

ON QUARRY HILL, about one mile south of Tunbridge, is *Mabledon House*, a handsome modern mansion, erected, about twenty-five years back, by James Burton, Esq. 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. The house occupies the apex of a lofty hill, a great part of which is adorned with grand masses of wood. The grounds are very abrupt and diversified. Part of the exterior walls

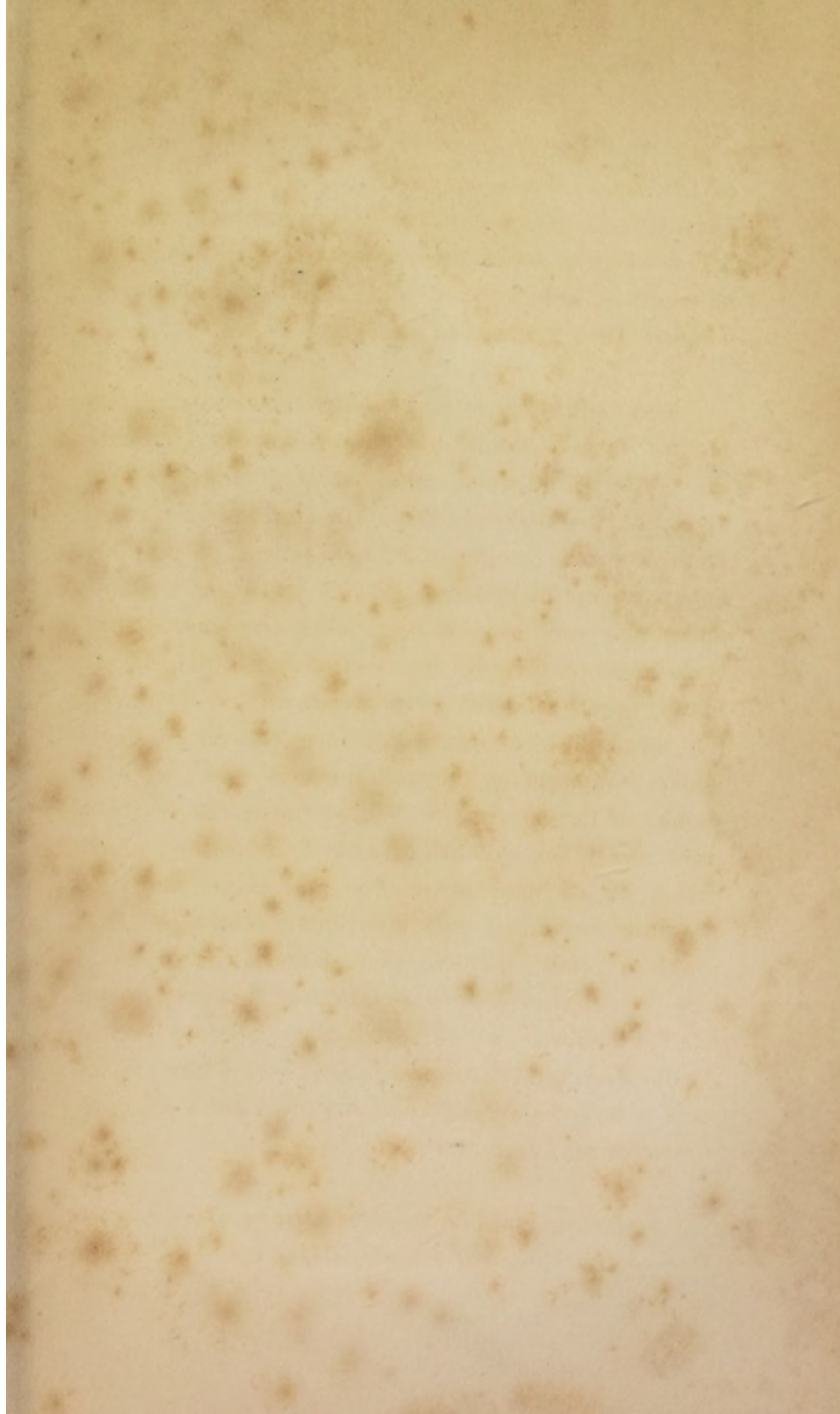


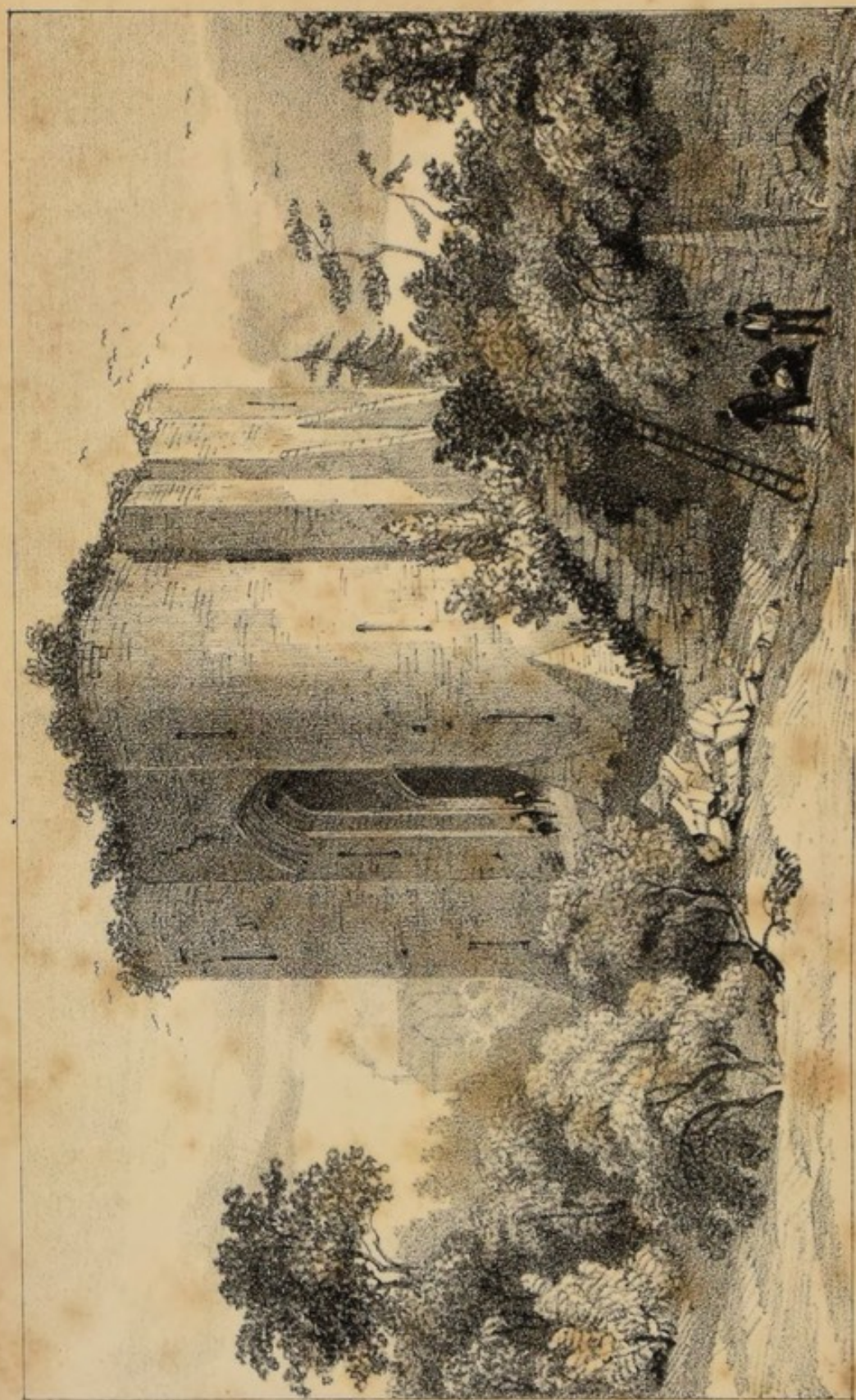
of the house was brought from the ruins of Penshurst Place, and the new walls have been stained and worked to match the old materials. The interior is spacious, and finished and fitted up with every comfort for a gentleman's family.

SOUTHBOROUGH is a pleasing scattered hamlet, having its houses and new church dispersed around the border of an open common, or green, on which are some very fine old oaks. The church, finished in 1830, from the designs of Mr. D. Burton, is a plain, neat edifice, manifesting, by its unpinnacled, and apparently unfinished tower, the limited funds that were appropriated for its erection. In this, as on many other modern sacred edifices, is displayed the mistaken economy of modern church builders, when compared with the emulous and patriotic monks of former times. Whilst the works of those have stood for centuries, and secured the admiration of all men of science and taste, many of the new buildings will not remain entire for one hundred years, nor will they deserve the praise of any impartial critic. The architect, however, is not always to blame on these occasions; the error belongs to the uninformed commissioners, who fancy cheapness to be economy, and who too often put a straight-waistcoat on talent and taste.

Adjoining Southborough is GREAT BOUNDS, the seat of the Rev. Sir Charles Harding, Bart., who







*Drawn by J. J. Dodd*

TUNBRIDGE CASTLE\_KENT

London, Published Jan 7 1832, for J. BRITTON'S, sketches of Tunbridge Wells.

*Drawn at a distance (1832) by J. J. Dodd*



purchased it very recently of Lord Caledon. Part of the present mansion appears to be of the age of Queen Elizabeth, whose armorial bearings are affixed against one end of it. Henry Cary, Lord Hunsdon, who was a relative of the "Maiden Queen," obtained Great Bounds from that monarch, and bequeathed it to his son, George. Whilst it belonged to the late Chief Baron Smythe, it was often visited by the venerable Earl Mansfield, of whom some notice has already been taken. The grandfather of the baron was married to Lady Dorothea Sydney, of whom Waller wrote some frivolous verses, addressing her by the name of Sacharissa. A few years back it was occupied by Lord Henry Petty, now Marquess of Lansdowne. The house has several very large bay windows, and a gabled roof. It stands in a park of about 120 acres, which exhibits various scenery, and commands some extensive and diversified prospects. At the western extremity of the grounds is the truly rural church of Bidborough, seated on the brow of an eminence. In the churchyard is a sarcophagus, executed by Bacon, to the memory of Baron de Roll, who died at Bounds, Aug. 27, 1813.

The town of TUNBRIDGE, with its castle, school-house, priory, church, &c. would detain and occupy the topographer for a considerable length of time, were he to enter into the history of each, and attempt to narrate the most essential facts belonging to all. It must suffice, on this occasion, to remark, that the



town most likely grew around, and was subordinate to the castle, and that Ricard de Tonebridge held the whole at the time of the Domesday Survey. He was a Norman, a kinsman of the Conqueror, came into England with the invaders, and was bountifully rewarded by his uncle, who created him Earl of Clare, and settled several lordships upon him. Dugdale, in his "Baronage," (vol. i. p. 207), asserts, that De Tonebridge exchanged his lands at "Byon" in Normandy with the Archbishop of Canterbury, for a tract of equal extent at Tunbridge. Here, it is said, he erected a castle, and congregated his retainers and vassals. These were all called into active service soon after the death of William I., for Earl Richard espoused the cause of Robert Curtoise, in opposition to William Rufus, who had seized the crown. The latter immediately marched an army to Tunbridge, to compel obedience and allegiance of his relative, and the earl, after a short struggle, was compelled to submit. Frequent contests occurred between the lords of this castle and the prelates of Canterbury, from the time of the haughty and tyrannic Becket till the reign of Henry III., when it was agreed that the Earls of Clare should hold "Tunbridge and its Lowy," *i. e.* liberty, or certain district round the town—"by the grand sergeantcy of being chief butlers and high stewards at the instalments of the metropolitans, and grant them wardship of their children." On such occasions the butler was to receive seven robes of scarlet, thirty gallons of wine,



fifty pounds of wax, for his own lights at the feast, the livery of hay and corn for eighty horses for two nights, and the dishes and salts placed before the prelate at the first course of the feast, &c. These services and conditions remained in force till the fourteenth century, when they were compounded for a sum of money, generally 200 marks. Up to the time of Henry VIII. this office of steward was held by Edward Duke of Buckingham. These circumstances serve to exemplify some of the customs of former times, and intimate the connexion and dependence subsisting between Tunbridge Castle and the metropolitan see. The history of this fortress embraces accounts of sieges, burnings, sappings, slaughter; events belonging to and characteristic of times when a sort of demi-civilisation prevailed—when the ecclesiastics and barons were contending for supremacy over each other, and when the bulk of the people were enslaved and impoverished.

Of this once proud, commanding castle, only some dilapidated and almost undefinable fragments remain. These are seated on the northern bank of the river, which was formerly made to flow not only around the whole in a broad moat, but also around the base of the keep-tower. The exterior walls enclosed an area of about six acres, within which was an outer and inner ballium, surrounded by various buildings, appropriated to the garrison. Part of the outer walls remain; also the lower portion of the water-tower, the mound of the keep, and the towered entrance



gate-house. The latter still displays some fine and interesting features of the ancient mode of fortifying the baronial castles of former times. Flanking an arched gateway are two large massive towers, with walls of great thickness, and having no other exterior apertures than long, narrow slits, with circular holes at the bottoms. These were called *oilets*, and were used by archers, through which to discharge their arrows. Three, four, or more of these were generally formed in each room, to command the approaches from the centre, and also laterally, whereby the occupants might annoy assailants, either directly in front, or flanking the walls. In front of this entrance there was formerly a drawbridge thrown across the moat, and raised at pleasure, when it constituted a strong door, closing up the archway. This opening was again guarded by two portcullises, let down from above, and two thick doors extending across the entrance. Beneath the archway, and about mid-way between the exterior and interior faces of the towers, are doorways, having portcullises communicating to apartments in each tower. The towers appear to have been divided into four stories or floors, the lower being dungeons or prisons, and the upper formed into a large and noble hall, extending the whole width and depth of the two towers. It was lighted by two large windows, with pointed arches and mullions, towards the inner ballium. It had communications with two staircase-turrets, and thence to the flanking walls, keep, &c. From the style of



these windows, and architecture of the towers, Mr. King contends that this part of the castle was raised in the time of King John, or Henry III. There is not any appearance of glazing to the windows, but they had iron bars. There was a fireplace and chimney in the hall, between the windows. The floor of this room was of immense strength, as was the ceiling above, which, Mr. King says, was three feet thick, to carry war-machines and soldiers. There were four narrow loop or arrow apertures through the walls, two towards the front, and the other two laterally. The portcullis which guarded the exterior archway, was drawn up to and had communication with this floor. Branching off from the tower-entrance are curtain-walls, to the right and left; the first extending to and up the side of a lofty conical mound, which sustained the keep-tower, or chief residence of the baron. To this, it is presumed, he retreated when other parts of his castle were taken by an enemy. The upper area of this mound measures about 76 by 86 feet. Another wall, with stairs in it, descended hence to a circular tower, and thence continued at right angles on the bank of the river to another circular tower, where there is an obtuse angle in the wall, which returns circuitously to the entrance gate-house.

Of the *Priory* at Tunbridge, only a small fragment remains. The *Church*, though large, and in a respectable state internally, has little of architectural character or beauty to engage the antiquary. It contains many monumental memorials, some of which,



and the persons commemorated, are entitled to the respectful notice of the topographer; but want of space prevents my dilating on these topics at present.

The celebrated *Free Grammar School* of Tunbridge is an object of too much public and local importance to be passed without record, and some comment. A large mass of building, partly new, but assuming the olden style, attracts the curiosity of the traveller as he enters the town from the north. It is the school-room, the master's house, the dormitories for scholars, &c. This school derives its establishment and chief support from the bequest of Sir Andrew Judde, Knt., a native of Tunbridge, who, living in an age when activity, honesty, and perseverance, were generally, if not always, rewarded with fortune, was advanced to the mayoralty of London, acquired wealth, and bequeathed part of his riches to found and support a public academy at this place. By his will, dated Sept. 2, 1558, he devised certain lands there, with others in the parishes of St. Pancras,\* and mes-

\* The land of this parish being his "croft of pasture, called the *Sandhills*, on the back-side of Holborn," which probably let for a few pounds at the time of the testator's decease, is now wholly covered with houses, the ground-rents of which amount to several hundreds a-year. The writer of this volume occupies a small piece of it, measuring 144 feet wide by 54 feet deep, for which he pays a ground-rent of 25 guineas yearly. At the expiration of the present leases, about 70 years, the rental of this estate alone will amount to above 20,000*l.* a-year—a vast income for a public school! Many of the streets on this estate are named from places at and near Tunbridge,—such as Tunbridge Place, Judd Street, Bidborough Square, Mabledon Place, Speldhurst Street, Leigh Street, &c.



suages in Allhallows, St. Lawrence Pountney, St. Peter's, and St. Helen's, in London, in trust to the Skinner's Company, for the perpetual maintenance of the school and masters, and for the free education of boys of the town and adjacent country. The company was to call in the aid of the warden and fellows of the college of All Saints, Oxford, "to make wholesome statutes, touching the school and its revenues, the salaries of masters," &c.\* According to a statement of the clerk of the Skinner's Company to the Parliamentary Commissioners, a few years back, the annual rental of the school estates amounted to 4578*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*: with this fine income, however, only six boys, upon an average, have been educated for the last fourscore years. The Rev. Thos. Knox, D.D., son of Dr. Vicesimus Knox,† is the present head master. A well-written "Account of Tunbridge School," in 8vo, at 2*s.* 6*d.*, was published in 1827.

\* The scholars of Tunbridge have the following *exhibitions* and *fellowships*:—A *fellowship* to St. John's College, Oxford. *Sixteen exhibitions* of 100*l.* per annum each, tenable to any college, at either University. *Six exhibitions*, of 10*l.* per annum each, in like manner. *One scholarship*, of 17*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* per annum, to Brazen-nose College, Oxford. *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, at St. John's College, Cambridge.

† This amiable man, learned scholar, accomplished writer, and judicious preceptor of youth, was master of the school for some years, and gave it at once fame and usefulness by his talents and exertions. His treatise on "Liberal Education," his "Essays Moral and Literary," his "Winter Evenings," and other published writings, are evidences of a highly cultivated mind, of



About six miles N.W. of the Wells is PENSURST PLACE, the memorable, the once splendid, but now sadly dilapidated mansion of the Sydneys. This seat has been the natal home of poetry, romance, patriotism—the theatre of sumptuous hospitality—the abode of chivalry, and the resting-place of virtue and of honour. Charlotte Smith, the plaintive and pathetic novelist and dramatist, thus apostrophised Penshurst Place in 1788 :

“ Ye towers sublime, deserted now and drear !  
 Ye woods deep sighing to the hollow blast !  
 The musing wand’rer loves to linger near,  
 While History points to all your glories past.

\* \* \* \*

The spoiling hand of Time may overturn  
 These lofty battlements, and quite deface  
 The fading canvass, whence we love to learn  
 Sydney’s keen look, and Sacharissa’s grace ;  
 But fame and beauty still defy decay,  
 Sav’d by the historic page — the poet’s tender lay.”

Other poets, essayists, and topographers, have poured forth their feelings and sentiments on this place ; for

an amiable heart, and of genuine benevolence. Such a man was calculated to awaken and call into action all the latent energies of Edm. D. Clarke, his pupil, and to deserve the following tribute from the “ Edinburgh Review,” (No. 87). Dr. Knox was “ a man to be praised as often as he is named, for his literary accomplishments, and yet more to be respected for the rare independence of mind which he ever displayed, and his steady adherence through the worst of times to the cause of liberty.” Such men tend to ennoble the human race ; they reflect honour on their families, connexions, and country, and have done more to promote the real welfare of their country than all the generals and prime ministers that ever lived.



the abode of talent ever awakens sympathy: living genius loves the haunts of its departed kind; it is, however, the attribute of genius never to die—Literature renders it immortal. It is a melancholy but spirit-stirring pleasure to review and examine all the varied features of a large mansion, like Penshurst Place—to call up and bring before the mental mirror, in personal, moral, and intellectual review, the worthies of past ages—the “observed of all observers”—the gallants, the heroes, the beauties—the chivalrous, the high-minded, and the heroic, who won and wore the garlands of conquest—the encomiums of poets—the confidence and esteem of princes. Such are the characters belonging to Penshurst; and to do common justice to them, and to the local history of the place, would occupy a larger volume than the present, whereas I can spare only a few pages.

The manor was possessed by the Pencestres, or Penchesters, early in the Norman dynasty, of whom was Sir Stephen de Penchester, who was constable of Dover Castle in the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I. He caused the muniments of that famous fortress to be fairly written in a book called “*Castelli Feodarium*,” from which Darell composed his “History of Dover Castle.” In the 15th of Edward II. Sir John de Poultney, the then possessor of Penshurst, obtained a license to embattle his mansion. He was four times lord mayor of London, and was noted for his public charities, magnificent house-



keeping, and splendid buildings. This property, after passing through different families, became vested in the Regent Duke of Bedford, from whom it descended to Humphry the "Good," Duke of Gloucester. From him it devolved to the king, who granted it to the Staffords. Edward Duke of Buckingham being attainted, Penshurst and his other property became forfeited to the crown. Henry VIII. retained this estate for some years, and extended the park. It is presumed, that whilst residing here he became acquainted with Anne Bullen, then living with her father at Hever Castle in this neighbourhood. King Edward VI. granted Penshurst to Sir *William Sydney*, one of the heroes of Flodden Field, who had been the prince's tutor, chamberlain, and steward of the household, from his birth to his coronation. Dying in 1553, at the age of 70, his property descended to his son and heir, Sir Henry Sydney, a learned and accomplished knight, in whose arms the youthful monarch expired. Grieved at this event, he retired to Penshurst, where he sheltered and protected his ruined father-in-law, the "great and miserable John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland,\* and his family. He enjoyed the confidence, and was employed by Queen Elizabeth, and died at Ludlow Castle, whilst president of the Welsh Marches. His body was conveyed to, and buried by the queen's

\* Lodge's "Illustrious Portraits," in which is a portrait and a very interesting Memoir of Sir Philip; also, others of Algernon Sydney, and other members of the family.



order at Penshurst. He left three sons and a daughter, of whom Sir Philip, Sir Robert, and Mary, are distinguished in the historic and poetic annals of the nation. Mary became Countess of Pembroke, and is celebrated in Sir Philip's "Arcadia," as well as in the often-repeated epitaph on her by Ben Jonson. Sir Philip was a native of this place, where he was born Nov. 29, 1554, and of whom my esteemed friend Mr. Lodge says, that "his spirit was too high for the court, and his integrity too stubborn for the cabinet. Elizabeth, who always expected implicit submission, could not long have endured such a servant; yet he occasionally advised her with the utmost freedom, and she received his counsel with gentleness." Sir Philip was author of several works, which have been collected into three volumes octavo, of which the 14th edition!! appeared in 1725. They consist of the "Arcadia," the "Defence of Poesy," "Astrophel and Stella," the "Remedy of Love," "Sonnets," &c., the "Lady of May, a Masque," &c. Oldys, in his MS. additions to Winstanley's "Lives," asserts, that he could "muster up 200 authors who had spoken in praise of Sir Philip Sydney." Walpole speaks slightly of his talents, and few critics of the present age will be likely to read many pages of his writings. Dr. Zouch wrote a "Life" of Sir Philip, published in 4to, 1808. At the battle of Zutphen, Sept. 1576, in the Low Countries, he received a mortal wound; and it is related that, whilst in the agonies of death, he perceived one of the com-



mon soldiers also in a dying state, and calling out for water, when he ordered the cup to be taken from his own lips, to allay the parching thirst of the exhausted private.\* His brother, Sir Robert Sydney, succeeded, and obtained from King James the title of "Lord Sydney, of Penshurst," and was afterwards created Earl of Leicester. Robert, his son and heir, succeeded in 1626; and after spending some time in foreign courts, settled at Penshurst, where he died in 1677, in his 82d year. Among his fourteen children was the celebrated *Algernon*, who was implicated in the Rye-house Plot, and illegally put to death in 1683. One of his daughters, afterwards Countess of Sunderland, was the famed Sacharissa of Waller. Penshurst continued to be inhabited by the Sydneys up to July 1743, when Jocelyn, the last Earl of Leicester of this family, died without legitimate issue, and disputes and litigation afterwards ensued. Lawyers and heralds may endeavour to reconcile and settle the relative merits and virtues of illegitimate progeny and questionable genealogy, but such subjects shall not occupy any of our pages. Sir John Shelley Sydney is the present proprietor of the place, by female line. In Jan. 1782, a trial on "a writ of right" was decided in the Court of Common Pleas relating to the property and title of the Sydneys.

The mansion of Penshurst has been a very large

\* The late Mr. West painted a very fine picture of this scene.



and imposing pile of building, bounding three sides of a square court, and with other courts enclosed by walls. It is evidently of different eras of construction, part being as old as Edward II., when Sir John de Poultney obtained a license to embattle this mansion. There are other parts of the building as late as King Charles's reign, and considerable alterations and additions have recently been made, and are now making, from the designs of Mr. Rebecca. Inscriptions and armorial bearings on different parts of the building, point out the respective ages of those several portions. Over the principal entrance, towards the north, is a coat of arms, with an inscription, stating, that Edward VI. "*gave this house of Pencester, with the mannors, lands, and appurtenances, unto Sir William Sydney, Knt. Banneret.*" To commemorate which event and monarch, "*Sir Henry Sydney, of the most noble Order of the Garter, &c. caused this tower to be builded, A.D. 1585.*" On a wall near the north-west angle is another coat of arms, with an inscription, recording the titles of Sir Henry Sydney, and the date of 1579. Other armorial bearings and inscriptions are inserted in different parts of the walls; for Sir Henry Sydney was ambitious of leaving some permanent record behind him of his titles, alliances, &c.

Without a ground-plan, it will be impossible to convey to the reader any correct idea of the arrangement and extent of the present mass of buildings, or define what the mansion was when in its greatest



magnitude and splendour. It has covered a large area, and has evidently been the designs and workmanship of different periods. Mr. Carter, who visited Penshurst in 1805, said, he could readily recognise the architectural characteristics of the reigns of Henry II., Richard III., Henry VIII., Elizabeth, James I., and Georges II. and III. The designs of the first three monarchs have their distinct and specific features and characters, whilst those of the last four have such grotesque and fantastic anomalies, that they lose all style, date, and congruity. A long range of rooms extends east and west, with a northern aspect, in which was the principal front, and near the centre was the entrance gate-house, or porter's lodge. This communicated to a quadrangular court, having a raised terrace to the west, where the chapel and some other buildings are said to have stood. On the opposite side were the domestic offices, most of which were taken down about twenty-five years ago. The south side of the court is occupied by the fine old baronial *hall*, which, though disfigured and mutilated, is still an apartment of magnitude and architectural interest. It measures about 60 feet in length by nearly 40 in width, and at least 60 in height. It is open to the roof, where there was an open louvre or lantern, for ventilation. Beneath it, on the floor, is the original fire-hearth, with a large and-iron for sustaining the blazing log. At the upper end of the hall was placed the lord's table, on a raised dais or platform, with



an oriel at the side, which has been converted into a staircase to upper rooms. At the opposite side of the room is a screen and a minstrel's gallery, beneath which is a corridor, and three arched doorways to the kitchen, buttery, parlour, &c. Exterior of this corridor is a vaulted porch, with a beautiful door-way, and a large old door. A circular staircase communicated with the gallery, roof, and a room over the porch. On each side of the hall are lofty and beautifully formed windows, with a stone mullion in the centre, and with singular but well-disposed tracery in the arch. The sills of these windows are very near the floor, an unusual occurrence in such halls. The floor is composed of small bricks or tiles, and beneath the whole is a very fine crypt or vault. At the upper end of the hall is a silly painting, representing on the wall a continuation of the room.

A house that has been so long deserted by its masters must exhibit various evidences of ruin and decay. Not only walls, roofs, and timbers, but the interior furniture and ornaments are assailed by moth, rust, and other destructive operations. There were formerly some curious and valuable pictures, books, and manuscripts; but whilst part of these have been taken away by unlawful hands, others have suffered by the slow, but certain effects of time and neglect.

In the park is a heronry, and also a fine large old oak-tree, said to have been planted at Sir Philip



Sydney's birth. Its bole measures about 28 feet in circumference.

When Mr. Carter visited Penshurst, in 1805, the house was unoccupied, and its interior shewn to visitors by an old servant, who lived at a cottage in the park. Such was also the case when I examined the building and its contents in 1831. That such a mansion, of whose inmates some had been decapitated, some slain in the field of battle, and some experienced untimely deaths, should be associated with ghost stories, is but reasonable and appropriate. The human mind, whether cultivated or illiterate, seems prone to indulge such fantasies. They serve to embellish, and give a sombre, thrilling charm to the realities of decay—to dilapidations—to the ruins of former ages.

On the south side of the house is Penshurst Church, a clean, respectable edifice, with a handsome tower at the west end, a chantry chapel, and vault, at the south-east angle, appropriated to the Sydneys. Several members of the family have been interred here, and tresses and monumental tablets record their names, and dates of death.

At the northern extremity of Penshurst Park is RED LEAF, a seat formerly belonging to the Spencers, from whom it was devised to the Harveys, of Tunbridge; and was purchased a few years since by William Wells, Esq. This gentleman, partial to works of art, has a valuable collection of ancient and modern paintings.



SOUTH PARK, about one mile from Penshurst, is a modern house, built on a commanding eminence in the midst of a well-wooded park.

At POUND'S BRIDGE, in Penshurst parish, is an old timber-house, with gables, barge-boards, &c., which, by a date on its front, appears to have been erected in 1595.

HEVER CASTLE, about four miles north-west of Penshurst, claims the attention of the historian and antiquary, from the public incidents and personages connected with it, and also from the architectural character of the domestic fortress, which still remains. It consists of a large mass of building, with buttresses, square towers, embrasures, square windows, and a watered moat, all of which are evidences of its former appropriation. This castellated mansion was built in the time of King Edward III., by William de Hever, who obtained a license from the monarch to embattle and crenellate it. In the reign of King Henry VI., Sir Geoffry Bullen, a merchant of London, became possessed of the place. His grandson was father of the unfortunate Ann Bullen, or Boleyn, one of the murdered wives of that royal Nero, Henry VIII., whose name and memory must be held in eternal contempt and abhorrence. He not only married this unfortunate young lady, but obtained the castle and estate; and, strange to say, he granted them to another queen, Anne of Cleves, whom he repudiated, in the thirty-second year of his reign.



Sir Edward Waldegrave afterwards purchased the estate of the crown. It is now the property of Miss Waldo ; and Mr. Robinson, architect, of London, has fitted up some apartments in the castle for that lady's residence.

In the vicinity is a mansion, partly new and partly old, at CHIDDINGSTONE, belonging to Henry Streatfield, Esq. The village exhibits a series of very picturesque cottages, with beautiful scenery around.

In the parish of Hartfield, about eight miles west of the Wells, is BOLEBROKE HOUSE, or CASTLE, formerly a seat of the Sackvilles, who had their chief mansion at Buckhurst, in the vicinity. This edifice at Bolebroke was built about the middle of the fifteenth century, and was constructed almost wholly of brick. Two semioctagonal towers, surmounted with cupolas, flanking an arched entrance, still remain, and also other parts of the edifice.

BUCKHURST, formerly a magnificent seat of the Sackvilles, like many other ancient residences of the old nobility, has lost nearly the whole of its once noble and dignified character ; its park being divided and farmed, and its mansion nearly levelled and desecrated. A solitary tower-gateway remains to indicate the style of the house ; and a ground plan of the whole is preserved among a collection of drawings, by John Thorpe, in the possession of Sir John Soane, by which the extent and arrangement



may be understood. It appears from this to have been a large square mansion, covering an area of about 250 by 200 feet. It was placed at the edge of a steep hill, having a moat with a bridge, and a broad terrace on one side. In front was a tower-gateway, with lodging for the porter; and on each side were several apartments for noblemen's lodgings, with galleries over them,—one side being appropriated for “my lord” and the other for “my lady.” The whole surrounded a square court, and there were other smaller courts. At the four corners were staircase-towers, and square bay-windows projected from the walls. One end was devoted to the great hall, the chapel, the kitchen, with pantry, butler's lodging, buttery, &c. A garden and orchard occupied this and another side of the house. The history of this place, and of its illustrious occupants, with the various biographical and public anecdotes connected with them, would lead us into an extensive narrative, were they to be detailed: suffice it to remark, that Buckhurst attained its zenith and decline in the time of the first Earl of Dorset, lord treasurer to Queen Elizabeth, who, according to Camden, being “equally eminent for prudence and nobility,” found it incompatible with his public duties to travel so far from London as twenty-eight miles, through “fowle ways,” and therefore obtained from his royal mistress a grant of Knole, in Kent. He continued to possess Buckhurst with the new seat; also Horsley House, in Surrey; Lord's Place, in Lewes; and Bolebroke. Buckhurst being deserted, the greater part of the



house was taken down, and its materials conveyed to East Grinstead, where a college, or hospital, was built by Richard, the third earl of Dorset. In the church of *Withyham* are some monuments of the Sackvilles, eminently entitled to the notice of the antiquary and artist. The scenery of the surrounding country is peculiarly picturesque and interesting.

In this parish is STONELAND PARK, or BUCKHURST PARK, one of the seats of the Sackville family. The house assumes the Elizabethan character, and is said to have been built from the designs of Thorpe, the architect of the mansion already named; but this is not very likely.

Whilst in this part of the country, the devoted antiquary and lover of the picturesque may be induced to extend his tour to

BRAMBLETYE HOUSE, a mansion and country rendered highly popular and interesting by the vivid descriptive pictures which Horace Smith has perpetuated, in his fascinating historical novel of "*Brambletye House*." Of this once noble mansion only some dilapidated walls and towers remain; but these serve to mark the architectural style of the building, which was raised by Sir Henry Compton, in the time of King James I. "Within two hundred years the mansion has been erected; by turns the seat of baronial hospitality and civil feud—the best and basest feelings of mankind—the loyalty of cavaliers, the fanatic outrage of Round-



heads, and ultimately of wanton destruction. The gate through which Colonel Lilburne and his men entered was blocked up with a hurdle; and the court-yard, in which he marshalled his forces, covered with high-flourishing grass: the towers have become mere shells; but the vaults, once stowed with luxuries and weapons, still retain much of their original freshness. What a contrast between those few wrecks of turbulent times and the peaceful scene by which they are surrounded,—a farm and two water-mills; on one side displaying the stormy conflict of passion and petty desolation, and on the other the smiling attributes of human industry!”\* On this subject, and the wildly romantic scenery of Ashdown forest, I could gladly dwell, and indulge in creating contrasted pictures of past and present events.

\* “Cameleon Sketches,” by J. Timbs, the eloquent editor of the weekly periodical, “The Mirror,” who, in the little volume referred to, has evinced a truly literary mind, united with a good heart.





In a preceding part of this volume (p. 11), I promised some account of KNOLE PARK, and very much regret that I cannot indulge myself in writing such a history and description of this very interesting mansion and demesne as the subject demands. The whole is replete with historic fame; as embracing a review of the manorial descent, through many distinguished nobles, prelates, and commoners; biographical anecdotes of some of these, with accounts of the arts, customs, manners, &c. of remote times; also, a description of the mansion, and of the fine park in which it is seated. Two volumes have already been devoted to the annals of this seat;\* besides copious accounts in Hasted's "History of Kent," and in the "Beauties of England," by my old friend and literary partner, Mr. Brayley. These accounts inform us that the manor was possessed, in the reign of King John, by Falcatius de Brent, and that it was successively transferred to William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, Otho de Grandison, *temp.* Edward I., Sir Geoffrey de Say, *temp.* Edward III., Raufe Leghe, *temp.* Henry VI., who sold it to

\* These are: 1. "Biographical Sketches of Eminent Persons whose Portraits form part of the Duke of Dorset's Collection at Knole, with a brief Description of the Place, embellished with a front and east view of Knole." 8vo, 1795. This was written by Henry Norton Willis, Esq., and contains accounts of thirty-nine persons. 2. "An Historical and Topographical Sketch of Knole, in Kent; with a brief Genealogy of the Sackville Family. Embellished with Engravings. By John Bridgman." 8vo, 1817.



the Fienneses, Lords Say and Seale, the second of whom again disposed of it, for 400 marks, to Thomas Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury, with "all the tymbre, wood, ledde, stone, and breke, lying within the said manor at the quarry in Seale."\* Henceforward it continued for some years the chief seat of the archbishops, and was visited by Henries VII. and VIII. Cranmer relinquished this, with other property belonging to the metropolitan see, to the monarch, and Knole was subsequently granted to the Protector Somerset. John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, was the next possessor. Queen Mary granted it to her kinsman, Cardinal Pole, and Queen Elizabeth conferred it on Robert, Earl of Leicester. Thomas Sackville, Baron Buckhurst, afterwards created Earl of Dorset, who became its proprietor in 1603, was a poet, an ambassador, and a statesman of great fame. He died whilst sitting at the council-board, in 1608, having previously made great alterations and improvements at Knole. It is said that he constantly employed 200 workmen. The leaden spouts and the carved screen in the hall, have his arms, and the dates of 1605 and 1607. His grandson Richard, the third Earl, who married the celebrated Anne Clifford, wasted his fortune by extravagance, and sold Knole, with other property. Richard, the fifth Earl of Dorset, re-

\* "Hasted's Kent," 8vo, vol. iii. p. 65. From this passage in the deed, it seems that the Lords Say and Seale had intended to re-edify the mansion at Knole, which was afterwards executed by the Lord Archbishop.



purchased this place, which has ever since continued in the same illustrious family.

The mansion of Knole, seated on high ground, in the midst of a noble and greatly diversified park, is an immense pile of building, said to cover an area of five acres. The buildings surround three square courts, and are divided into numerous small apartments, as was the fashion in former times. By modern alterations, some handsome and spacious rooms have been formed, and fitted up in a style suited to a ducal mansion. Although there is an apparent unity and symmetry in the whole design, it is evidently the workmanship of different and remote dates. The greatest part is of Archbishop Bourchier's time (about 1480); but there is some portion which the author of "Biographical Sketches" says is of the age of the "Marshalls and Bigods," whilst the latest is of the time of James I., by the first Earl of Dorset.

Knole has long been distinguished in the annals of the fine arts for its extensive and interesting assemblage of pictures, several of which are from the fascinating pencil of Sir Joshua Reynolds. There are, however, others by the most eminent Italian, Venetian, Flemish, and Dutch artists. The dining, or *poet's parlour*, is adorned with a series of portraits of the most eminent English poets, among whom "the immortal William Pitt" is very strangely associated. Some of these are by Sir Joshua, others by Gainsborough; and whilst they excite our admiration as



works of art, they awaken the warmest feelings of sympathy and esteem for the literary worthies they portray.

The extent of the household, as well as the appropriations of some of the rooms at Knole, from the year 1613 to 1624, may be learnt from the following enumeration, as contained in a domestic catalogue of that date.

“ At my lord’s table,” there were 8 persons.

“ At the parlour table,” 21 persons; among whom are “ the chaplain;” my “ lord’s favourite,” the steward; “ the gentleman of the horse,” auditor, secretary, &c.

“ At the clerks’ table, in the hall,” 21 persons; including clerks of the kitchen, master cook, and other cooks; yeoman of the buttery; ditto of the pantry; pastry man; usher of the hall; slaughterman; groom of the great chamber; brewer, baker, gardeners, caterer; groom of the wardrobe; a French boy, &c.

“ The nursery” contained 4 persons.

“ At the long table in the hall,” there were 48 persons; including attendants on my lord and lady—Scrivener; a master huntsman; a falconer, armourer, coachman; 3 grooms of the great horse; chief, and other footmen; groom of the hall; huntsmen; the armourer’s man and his servant.

“ The laundry maid’s table,” 12 persons; among whom we find “ Goodwife Burton”—“ a black-amoor.”



In the kitchen and scullery were 6 persons :—making in the whole 116 persons.

The apartments generally shewn to visitors 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. Mytens, &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 END

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