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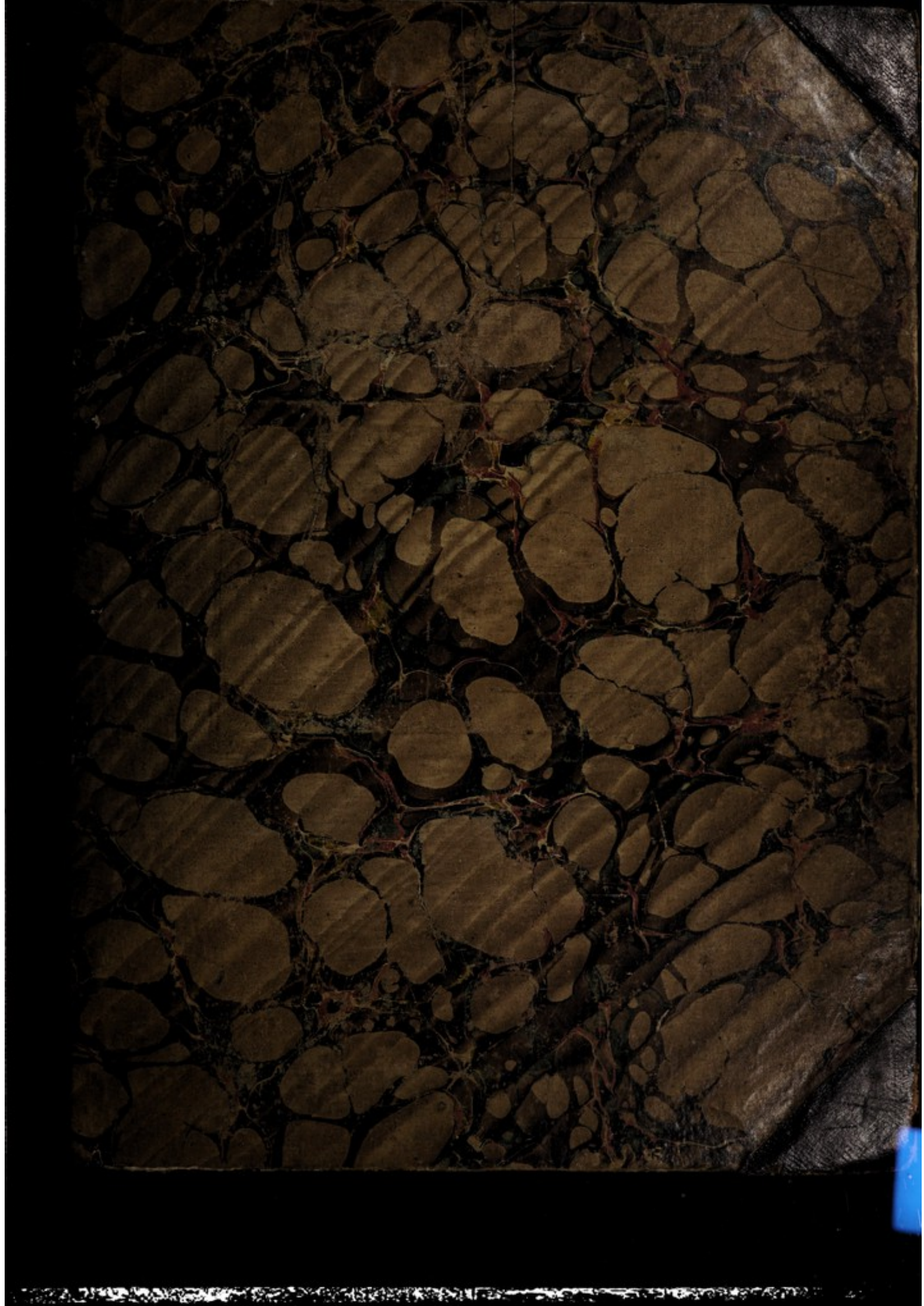
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TUNBRIDGE WELLS,  
AND  
ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD,  
ILLUSTRATED BY  
A SERIES OF ETCHINGS,  
AND  
HISTORICAL DESCRIPTIONS.





**TUNBRIDGE WELLS,**

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AND

**HISTORICAL DESCRIPTIONS.**



THE BRIDGE WELLS

THE VERNON ROAD

A SERIES OF ETCHINGS

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

HOWLETT AND BRIMMER, PRINTERS,  
FRITH STREET, SOHO.







Engraved by J. G. Thompson

# *Trinbridge Wells.*

London: Published by Edmund Lloyd, 25, St. Mark Lane, May 1, 1869.

Printed by J. G. Thompson



**TUNBRIDGE WELLS,**

AND

**ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD,**

ILLUSTRATED BY

**A SERIES OF ETCHINGS,**

AND

**HISTORICAL DESCRIPTIONS.**

---

BY PAUL AMSINCK, Esq.

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THE ETCHINGS EXECUTED BY LETITIA BYRNE.

LONDON :

PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM MILLER, ALBEMARLE STREET ;

AND

EDMUND LLOYD, HARLEY STREET.

THE BRIDGE WELLS

Chas. Hatchett





As the Author has not referred to his authorities in the body of his work, he deems it necessary to premise, that he has availed himself of the histories of LAMBARD, PHILLIPOT, and HASTED; and of the unpublished papers of Sir WILLIAM BURRELL in the British Museum. From several of the respected possessors of the different seats he has received assistance; and from all the most polite attention. To his kind friends, Doctor SATTERLEY and the Reverend MARTIN BENSON, he begs leave in this public manner to return his most grateful acknowledgements for the very useful information their long residence in the place has enabled them to give him.

*Tunbridge Wells,*  
*January, 1810.*

## LIST OF PLATES

As the author has not referred to his authorities in the body of his work, he thinks it necessary to provide that he has availed himself of the assistance of JAMES H. FARRAR, Esq., and HARRIS, one of the distinguished painters of the day, and HARRIS, in the British Museum. I have secured of the respective possessors of the different sets in the respective museums, and from all the most public attention. To his kind friends, Doctor FARRAR, and the Rev. Mr. HARRIS, he has been in this public manner to return his most grateful acknowledgments for the very useful information their long residence in the place has enabled them to give him.

London, 1810.

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## TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

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THE pleasant and much frequented hamlet of Tunbridge Wells may be considered as an object not unworthy of notice from several of its prominent features. Nature has eminently favored it by the salubrity of its air, the potency of its mineral springs, and the adjacent appendages of a gay, romantic, and pleasing scenery, which art has not presumed to spoil by attempts at refinement unsuited to its character. This combination of favorable circumstances holds forth the promise of pleasure and advantage in no ordinary degree. It has accordingly become, for a long course of time, the resort of the fashionable, the refuge of the invalid, and the never-failing resource of the inexhaustible tribe of listless wanderers, who seek a rescue from the ennui of a mere country retirement, when the gaieties of the metropolis have ceased.

The buildings, which constitute the hamlet of Tunbridge Wells, are dispersed partly through a valley, and in part over the adjacent hills of a wild forest aspect, with rocks of considerable magnitude. It is situate at the distance of thirty-six miles from London, in the three adjoining parishes of Tunbridge, Speldhurst, and Frant; the two former being in the county of Kent and the latter in that of Sussex: the whole collectively occupying a spot at the point of contact of the antient forests of South Frith, Waterdown, and Bishop's Down. This singularity



of position is to be accounted for by the different proprietors of the adjacent lands wishing to benefit themselves by a speculation from the influx of visitors to the neighbouring spring ; which, of course, gave the direction to the proper points for its exertion.

As its mineral water partakes of the nature of those of the German Spa, so it is observed that the character and general aspect of the place much resembles that celebrated and favorite rendezvous of the fashionables of every European country.

Of the hills, the most considerable in point of extent and accommodation is that which is called Mount Sion. Another, less populous, but more picturesque, is appropriately named Mount Pleasant ; whilst the highest, and that which affords the greatest range, overlooking the others, and combining with the intermediate common, enjoying from its greater elevation the salubrious and refreshing breezes from the Sussex coast, is dignified by the sounding appellation of Mount Ephraim. The valley which is formed by these surrounding hills (through which the small stream, whereby the counties of Kent and Sussex are divided, flows) contains the baths, the mineral spring, the public rooms, walks, and taverns ; and is pre-eminently distinguished by the comprehensive name of the Wells.

This assemblage of buildings, erected apparently without a plan or semblance of regularity, interspersed with trees, and aided by the wild aspect of the surrounding scenery, has a striking effect on a first view ; and, as it presents itself from the various points of elevated ground in the vicinity, affords an endless variety of pleasing objects to the invalid in his pursuit of health, and to the admirer of picturesque scenery in his more extended researches.

About the commencement of the last century, Mount Sion experienced a material accession of dignity and elegance from the bounty of John Earl of Buckingham ; the same who had, not long before, given the land whereon the chapel was erected. By a deed bearing the date of April 20th, 1703, this nobleman conveyed to a trust, for the amusement and recreation of the visitors to Tunbridge Wells, about four acres of land, covered with very fine oaks and beeches. It has ever since been maintained for this



purpose: and although it has never obtained the public sanction, as a place of fashionable resort, yet it affords a pleasant retreat to invalids in sultry weather; and, from its very fortunate position, adds materially to the general beauty of the place.

As Mount Sion has its grove, it must not fail to be recorded that Mount Ephraim also possesses a similar ornament; which, although it cannot rival the other, yet derives its origin from a circumstance which gives an interest in its history. Tunbridge Wells has at various periods been honored with the presence of members of the Royal Family. King Charles the Second, and the queen of his unfortunate predecessor also, were visitors to this spot. But the place was especially indebted for much of its early celebrity to the frequent visits of Queen Anne, previous to her accession to the crown. She was exquisitely fond of the place; and proved a liberal benefactor to it. She gave, as a lasting token of her bounty, the stone bason for the spring; from which circumstance it was afterwards called the Queen's Well. She likewise contributed an hundred pounds towards the improvement of the Walks; which, being in consequence paved with a baked tile, were thenceforth called the *Pantiles*. This name, however, (on the walks being, a few years since, handsomely repaved with stone, by means of a subscription among the inhabitants) has now been exchanged for that of the Parade.

On her accession to the throne, the inhabitants, wishing to perpetuate the remembrance of her many acts of kindness, planted, on that part of the common whereon she had usually been encamped, a triple row of birch trees; which from this circumstance has attained the name of the QUEEN'S GROVE. The spot, being one of the most cheerful, and partaking of the best air, not only of the vicinity, but perhaps of the whole kingdom, has become a general favorite with the visitors to the Wells. Here is always to be found a cooling breeze, and, till of late years, a comfortable shade. But time begins to prove that the projectors of this scheme were less wise than loyal. They selected for their purpose too perishable a tree: and it is much to be apprehended that the monument, far from being *are perennius*, will very speedily be lost, together with all recollection of the circumstance which gave occasion to it.



We shall now cursorily review its several divisions, with the intent of pointing out the improvements of the place, and noticing the individuals by whom they have been principally effected.

Mount Ephraim will here claim precedence, as comprising the greater number of objects worthy of notice. And here the first in point of beauty, comfort, and extent, is Bishop's Down Grove, the present residence of the widow of the late B. Gen. Yorke, of the Royal Artillery; who, in the year 1806, unfortunately perished on the coast of Brazil, when engaged in a military expedition destined against the Cape of Good Hope: an appointment to which his distinguished services, on its former capture, had principally recommended him.

This place was formerly the property and residence of Sir George Kelly, Knt. a physician of some eminence, who had settled here, and become possessed of considerable property in the neighbourhood. Dying in the year 1772, his property vested in three sisters his coheirs. The only male descendant from whom is Thomas Christopher Gardner, Esq. late Major in the 95th Regiment of Foot; in which corps he for some years served with the highest credit, in Holland, Egypt, and South America.

On the demise of Sir George Kelly, Bishop's Down Grove was purchased by Martin Yorke, Esq. who, during an occupancy of about twenty-five years, so improved the house, and beautified the grounds, as, in a great measure, to have constituted him the maker of the place. But in the recollection of those who knew him, who shared in his friendship, and partook of his hospitalities, he has left testimonies to his merits, far beyond what the works of art or the improved beauties of nature can record.

Another place on Mount Ephraim worthy of some remark, is that which was the property and residence of the late Sir Richard Heron, Bart. The original of this house (which has been added to and diminished till a very small part of the first structure remains) was built for the celebrated, or rather infamous, Judge Jeffries; and, in consequence, long retained the name of the Chancellor's House, though it does not appear that it was ever occupied by him. It was, till purchased about thirty years since by Mr. Heron, only a lodging-house. It was again let during his absence in Ireland as secretary to the Earl of Buckinghamshire. During his



residence there he was created a baronet ; and on his return, meaning to make this place his future Summer residence, he considerably enlarged it. A part of his improvements here was effected with materials brought from the magnificent seat of Sir Gregory Page, on Blackheath ; the doors, floors, chimneys, &c. having originally formed a part of that ill-fated mansion. It is to be lamented, however, that so little should have been done for the real improvement of this place, which affords capabilities equal to any in the vicinity. The ground is beautifully varied ; and the views towards Holmesdale, and the Kentish and Surry Hills, are various and extensive. On this spot was the original bowling-green (the ball-room and other accommodations being in the adjoining range of buildings, now occupied by the manufactory), and in later times, in the valley behind the house, were the fish-ponds ; a place of public resort for variety of amusements ; which have been discontinued since the property has fallen into private hands. In the valley between the house and the fish-ponds there is a well of the finest and purest water.

Immediately adjoining to this is a place upon a smaller scale, called the Castle House, now the property of Mrs. Sheridan, widow of Charles Francis Sheridan, Esq. who died in it, June 25, 1806, very soon after he had made the purchase of it. It was for many years the residence of Mrs. Byng, the widow of George Byng, Esq. M.P. for Middlesex, and mother of the present member. It is now let as a lodging-house.

This house was formerly the Castle Tavern ; and from the beauty of its situation, and the extensive view it commands in front towards the Wells, and behind towards the Kentish and Surry range of hills, was much frequented by occasional visitors to the place. About thirty years since it was brought into its present condition by Mrs. Johnson, sister to the late Bishop of Worcester, who retired to this place soon after her brother's death, making it her constant Summer residence.

Proceeding from hence along Mount Ephraim, we are induced to notice the elegant and hospitable residence of Mrs. Whittaker. It is small, but contains much that is pleasing in itself ; and from some points in the grounds affords the most picturesque views of the distant country, of any from this hill. This house was built by Sir Edmund King, physician to



Charles the Second, who made it his usual Summer residence. It may possibly have been owing to this circumstance that the place was indebted for the visits of the Court, and so many of the nobility, at this period. Before it came into the occupation of the present proprietor it belonged to Mrs. Boone, the widow of Governor Boone; and after her demise continued for many years to be the residence of her daughter.

To this account of the private residences on Mount Ephraim may be added two recently erected mansions, the property of Lord Viscount Boyne, and Sir George Buggin, Knt. adjoining nearly to each other, and constituting a considerable ornament to this part of the place. In these their respective owners reside during a great part of the year; and contribute largely to the comfort and benefit of the place, by fulfilling the most useful and respectable character of vigilant and active justices of the peace.

This part of the place, extending from hence towards the London road, though generally termed Mount Ephraim, is strictly entitled to the designation of CULVERDEN Row: and the point, at which the road separates, in the direction towards the Wells, is named the CULVERDEN GATE. Here doubtless was one of the principal entrances into the adjoining royal chase, which commenced at this spot. The name is very antient, and was probably derived from the resort of the CULVER pigeon to the DEN or grove of large trees which formerly grew on this spot; of which, until these few years past, many venerable oaks remained.

At the extremity of the Culverden Row is a handsome house standing in a large court, at a convenient distance from the road, and commanding from behind beautiful and extensive views. This was formerly called the Culverden House; and was probably the residence of the owner of the adjacent property. It has of late years been more generally known as Lady Huntingdon's House: not that it was ever owned, or indeed inhabited, by any of that family; though it owes much of its celebrity to their name.

Mount Pleasant, which next attracts our notice, contained originally but one house. About thirty years since, an indifferent lodging-house was enlarged, and the adjacent grounds extended and embellished, by



Elizabeth, the widow of Sir John Peachey, Bart. the elder brother of the first Lord Selsea. She made it one of the most desirable residences at Tunbridge Wells; and occupied it, in the exercise of an extensive benevolence and liberal hospitality, till her death. It has since become the property, and is the occasional residence of Sir John Fagg, Bart. of Mystole House, near Canterbury.

Still the great Mount Pleasant House retains its exclusive claim to that appropriate designation. It is now only a lodging-house; let as one, or divisible into two, as the circumstances of the tenants may require. Many persons of distinction have wished to become the purchasers of it, captivated by the beauty of the situation, and the capability of improvement in the adjacent grounds; but having descended to the present proprietor as heir at law, on the last possessor having informally bequeathed it to a Roman Catholic establishment, some doubts, as to the validity of the title, have been raised, which have hitherto proved obstacles to the transfer of the property.

The remaining parts of the place contain few residences of individual proprietors, worthy of notice. The three Grove Houses, so called from their vicinity to Mount Sion Grove, have frequently been occupied by the same families for several successive seasons. Two of them have recently passed into private hands, and have undergone very great improvements. The largest having been purchased by William Pigou, Esq. and that nearest to Mount Pleasant being occupied by the Dowager Lady Dering, on a long lease.

The former of these was, for several of the last years of his life, the constant Summer residence of the late Archbishop Moore. This venerable prelate afforded a singular instance of well-merited professional success; and he bore his high dignities with a singular moderation. He lived in times formidably threatening to the hierarchy; and it is no mean token of his administration that he left the interests of the church unimpaired. If he did not possess or display talents and learning equal to some of his predecessors, his temper, moderation, and vigilance, may be pronounced to have effected purposes as meritorious as higher qualifications would have ensured. This place witnessed the last scenes of his



active life ; and will long bear testimony to the amiability of his private character, and to the exemplary manners, whereby he recommended the duties which it was an object of his station to enforce.

The other Grove House, now occupied by Lady Dering, was, in years somewhat more remote, the residence of the late Earl of Guildford, better known to the world under the title of Lord North, who may indeed be classed among the number of those friends to the place, who contributed to the establishment of that social system which has recently grown into common usage.

In the vicinity of the Grove Houses, but higher on Mount Sion, Lieut. Gen. Murray has, for many successive years (except when diverted elsewhere in the service of his country), taken up his abode. Having long experienced the advantages of the situation, he has recently so improved it as to have actually renovated his dwelling ; and at the same time, from the taste displayed in the execution, made it a principal ornament to this part of the place.

Of the present state of the public amusements a few words may suffice. The Rooms are constantly open, on the usual terms of subscription, for balls and cards : and a small neat theatre has lately been erected. These afford a resource to those who choose to avail themselves of them. The terms of meeting are easy, and the forms regular. Occasionally a tea-drinking or concert varies the scene. But the prevailing spirit suggests ease as the criterion of enjoyment : and although the society of all be acceptable, yet none are compelled to meet in public contrary to their inclination.

The chalybeate water itself will form the subject of a separate article. The mere relater of facts will confine his remarks to the notorious efficacy of these waters : the daily recurring circumstance of renovated health, restored strength, and improved beauty, affords, even to the visitant in pursuit of pleasure, the purest and most gratifying sensations.

The spring remained in its original condition, surrounded merely by a rude wooden paling, until the year 1664, when it was enclosed by a triangular stone wall, at the expence of the Lord Muskerry : and in this state it continued until within these few years.







Engraved by T. Agnew & Sons

*The Bath House.*

London. Published by Edmund Lloyd, Stationer, Strand, May 1819.



About the year 1789 the old stone bason was found to be in a very decayed state, from the corroding of the mineral, at the aperture through which the water arose. On this occasion, the lady of the manor determined to replace it by a handsome marble bason: and it having been discovered, on removing the old bason, that much filth had accumulated beneath, from the exposure of the water, she was advised to add a fixed cover, to prevent such an inconvenience for the future. This was accordingly effected: and the water was drawn from the spout at which it issued from the bason. The work was handsomely executed; and the projector hoped to participate in the credit she so justly merited. On the arrival, however, of some old frequenters of the place, in the ensuing season, a storm arose, which had been as little anticipated as it was found difficult to calm. Not experiencing the same benefit they had heretofore received, and never heeding that themselves had advanced in years, and that a time will come when the most potent spells can no longer renovate, they imputed the whole and sole cause of their failure to the new marble cover: it had polluted or neutralized the water. Neither reason nor raillery could convince them to the contrary. Chemical experiments were made under the three different circumstances of the water, when extracted by dipping in the uncovered state, when caught from the spout in a state of exposure, and again, when thus taken in a covered state. No perceptible difference could be ascertained. Prejudice, nevertheless, as usual, carried the day: the cover was laid aside; and the triumphant party were indulged with the essence of the dipper's fingers, and the filtration from the accumulated filth beneath the bason.

In this state did the well remain till within these very few years.

Baths had frequently been demanded at Tunbridge Wells. There was indeed an excellent cold bath near Rust-Hall Common; which had formerly been an appendage on a place of public entertainment: but this was at too great a distance for invalids; difficult of access; and, moreover, in a very dilapidated and uncomfortable condition. Warm baths there were none. It was suggested that some benefit might be derived from baths composed of the mineral water, and a desire manifested



itself on the part of many of the inhabitants, to embark in an undertaking to this effect. Mrs. Shorey, however, as lady of the manor, put in her exclusive claim to the advantages of the undertaking; and, with a liberality and zeal for the public good, which, it is apprehended, can scarcely in point of profit have answered to herself, erected, about six years since, the present handsome edifice, on the site of the ancient enclosure. Cold and warm, vapour and shower baths are herein contained; all excellent in their kind and well appointed. The Well still retains its ancient situation, though better protected, in front of the building: but in a handsome room, facing the parade, the same water is supplied from a pump, for those who prefer that method of taking it. Over this pump-room and the baths, are various comfortable apartments; intended for the accommodation of invalids, with small establishments, who might wish to make constant use of the baths. They have not, however, yet been fitted up for the purpose.

The property of the spring is absolutely in the public; so defined and ascertained by Act of Parliament: whereby also provisions are made for its security. The emolument derived from the water is limited to the dippers, who serve it to individuals; these are usually selected from the wives or relatives of the inferior tenants on the manor; and are nominated to their situation by the lord.

Notwithstanding the spring which is now used, has for so long a time enjoyed an exclusive preference, it is said not to have been that which originally engaged the notice of the public. That is in an unfrequented spot, behind the Sussex Tavern, called the Folly. It yields a water apparently of equal power; but, from issuing more superficially from the earth, is supposed to be more liable to be affected by changes in the atmosphere, and by heavy rains. Neither is it equally accessible as that in common use; although, from its situation, it would present to many persons the recommendation of retirement and agreeable country scenery. About the middle of the last century, an attempt was made by Mr. Todd, then the proprietor of the Sussex Tavern, to bring this spot into notice; and even to make it the fashionable rendezvous for the company. At a considerable expense the ground was cleared, walks were laid out, new

plantations formed, and the muddy water put into new courses, so as to occasion what he meant to call cascades: but either the place was found to be inconvenient, or prejudices in favor of old haunts prevailed; for the scheme did not succeed; probably to the injury of the projector; inasmuch as it quickly obtained the name, which it still retains, of TODD'S FOLLY. It is now a complete wilderness; though the well is occasionally made use of.

The spring, although usually denominated from the neighbouring town of Tunbridge, is, in fact, situated in the parish of Speldhurst; as are likewise the walks, and the more populous parts of the place. Before we proceed to the notice of the several places represented in the ensuing plates, it may not be uninteresting to add a few notices on this and some adjacent spots, which will not otherwise engage our particular attention.

The parish of Speldhurst, like many others in this neighbourhood, was formerly respectably inhabited. The village is, and probably ever was, amongst the meanest and most obscure. Immediately adjoining the church, however, are still to be traced the remains of a mansion of considerable extent; formerly well inhabited, but now converted into a farm-house.

The church of Speldhurst is singularly placed at the utmost extremity of this very extensive parish, within two fields of Penshurst. Such extraordinary and inconvenient situations of churches are usually to be accounted for from a vicinity to the residence of the founder. The relative situation of this church and house would seem to render it probable that the former owes its existence to some ancient occupier of the latter.





*London Published by Edmund David, Harley Street, Nov. 1. 1869.*

This church, which was a simple gothic structure, with a most elegant timber spire, a singular ornament to the neighbouring country (having many years previously been deprived of one of its aisles), was, on the 21st of October, 1791, burnt down by lightning. Its place is occupied by a modern structure, in which a poverty of design and meanness of execution are the chief characters which distinguish it from its ancient predecessor. Over the church porch remains a memorial of the munificence of the Duke of Orleans—his coat of arms. The antiquary will lament that the original stone was not preserved. He will not be pacified, probably, when he is







*London, Published by Edmund Lloyd, Harley Street, May 1869.*

The inscription over the porch of the chapel:

D O M  
S  
OB FOELICISSIMVM CAROLI  
PRINCIPIS EX  
HISPANIIS REDITVM  
SACELLVM HOC  
D D  
16 I P 25



told that there is no ground for his lamentation. The original still retains its place : though, with a singularly active barbarity, the rust of antiquity has been carefully removed from it, that it might not disgrace the modern building.

In the hamlet of Groombridge, adjoining the mansion, and an appendage to the estate, is a chapel, in which the service of the Church of England is regularly performed ; apparently to the danger of the minister and his congregation, it being in a wretched state of dilapidation. This chapel, which was built in the year 1625, is whimsically dedicated by John Packer, Esq. the owner of this estate, in an inscription over the porch, to the happy return of Charles Prince of Wales, from his eccentric amorous expedition to Spain ; a singular mode of perpetuating the remembrance of a wild exploit ; which, however, if it is to depend on this memorial, will speedily pass into oblivion.

In a field in this parish, adjoining the turnpike road, several French gold coins have been lately turned up by the plough. They are of the date of the thirteenth century ; and of the value, by weight, of about thirteen shillings. It is difficult to account for their being found in such a spot. They are, however, possibly connected with the long residence of the Duke of Orleans in this parish ; the spot whereon they have been found being in the direct line between the place of his residence and the parish church.

The village of Frant stands in a south-east direction from the Wells. It commands a rich and extensive view over the wild scenery of Eridge Park, and the adjacent country. From the church steeple, it is said that the cliffs in the neighbourhood of Dover may be discerned ; but it does not appear that this point is satisfactorily ascertained. Dungeness, however, and Beachy-Head are clearly discovered from hence : for betwixt the former of these places and the church tower of Frant, was one of the bases in the trigonometrical survey of this part of the kingdom, carried on some years since, under the inspection of Lieut. Gen. Roy. This spot being celebrated for a pure air, and its commanding situation, has afforded inducement to many persons to establish their Summer residence in its vicinity : and within these few years a splendid mansion has



been erected on an elevated spot, within extensive grounds, by Charles Pigou, Esq. The view from it is varied and commanding in every direction; and the house itself an object of interest to all the surrounding country.

On the opposite side of the road leading to Bayham Abbey, on an eminence commanding extensive views towards the Wells and the Kentish hills, is a cottage, improved and decorated in a style of suitable simplicity by Sir John Macpherson, Bart. It has, of late years, been much deserted by its owner; and is consequently not in the condition which it formerly presented to the eye. It possesses, however, intrinsic beauties, which this partial neglect cannot obliterate; and when constituted the scene of entertainment, as was frequently the case to numerous visitors from the Wells, in the public breakfasts here given by the hospitable proprietor, no spot could be better calculated for jocund merriment, or scene more gay, than this cottage and its appendages.

The roads, which pass over Frant Green, soon after quitting it, branch off in different directions towards various places on the Sussex coast; and afford some of the pleasantest rides to the frequenters of the Wells. For the richness of the scenery they need not yield to any in the southern parts of the kingdom: and they have the additional advantage of generally conducting to some objects of curiosity at the termination of the excursion.

In an eastern direction, following the course of the roads towards the coast, is the village of Pembury. The Rye and Hastings road passes over what is called Pembury Green; the church and village being seen at some distance on the left. Leaving this Green on the left, and pursuing the road nearly a mile, the eye is gratified with some pleasing scenery, which once formed the park to a considerable mansion, one half only of which is now remaining. In its barbarously mutilated state it was not thought worthy of representation in a plate; yet it may yield a pleasing object in the course of a ride. It is called *BAY-HALL*: the present ruin is probably not a part of the original mansion, which, in remoter times, occupied this spot; inasmuch as the vestiges of moats and terraces seem to indicate themselves appendages to a much larger edifice, than this



would appear ever to have been ; though, in its perfect state, it formed no inconsiderable mansion.

Bay-Hall was formerly part of the immense property of the family of Colepepper ; which extended itself over great part of this county ; more especially on the western side of it. They were residents here in very ancient times : one of them, John Colepepper, having kept his shrievalty here in the reign of Edward the Third. The estate was alienated from this family in the reign of Henry the Sixth, to Humphry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham ; and after various other transfers, which it is unnecessary here to specify, it was purchased about the middle of the seventeenth century by the family of Amherst : Sergeant Amherst dying possessed of this estate in the year 1632. In his family, and its representative of the name of Browne, it has remained till within these very few years ; when it was sold, first to Thomas Streatfield, Esq. and since to Earl Camden.

The house, of which the moiety is still to be seen, was a handsome edifice, built of the stone of the country, and in a good style. It was begun by Richard Amherst, Esq. during the most violent times of the civil wars. He is said to have been a favorer of the royal interest ; but to have carried himself with so much prudence and address, as to have been enabled, whilst under the necessity of concealing himself, to proceed for some years with this building ; which he completed about the year 1664. It is said, that he would give his directions to his workmen and agents from the place of his retirement ; and occasionally, as he had intimations of probable safety, that he would avail himself of moon-light nights to take a survey of the progress of his building : and was fortunate enough to accomplish what he so ably planned and courageously executed.



A good iron-stone abounds throughout the country : and may be considered as the parent of the chalybeate, which has principally called the place into public notice. Until within these few years (when the smelting business has been carried on upon a large scale in cheaper countries, and where abundance of fuel, and the vicinity of navigations favor the undertaking) much business of this kind was done in the adjacent villages ; almost every stream in the vicinity furnishing its aid to some mill and furnace. This resource to wealth and industry has now altogether ceased ; not a single furnace being at this time in existence.

The same may be observed also of the clothing business ; which, in the country between the Wells and the Weald, was formerly so considerable, that the cloth manufactured here was designated by the name of the Kentish grey ; and still continues to distinguish the facings of the county militia. The deserted workshops in many places remain ; but scarcely a loom is at this time employed.

The prevailing ingredient in the soil, and that which forms the characteristic feature of the country, is a sand-stone of considerable hardness. Where this lies near the surface, as the light soil is washed away, various considerable prominences are presented to the eye ; which tend to vary the scene ; and when mixed with the verdure of intervening trees and shrubs, and enlivened with moving objects, present scenes highly fascinating to the admirers of the wild beauties of nature. In some places, where the inequality of the ground has favored more extensive failures of the adjacent soil, these protuberances are of considerable magnitude ; and the external surface of the stone having, from exposure, acquired hardness and a darker hue, they assume the majestic character of rocks. Within a short distance from the Wells there are three principal aggregations of them ; which are objects of notice and curiosity. The nearest are distinguished by the appellation of the High Rocks : the others, being named from the proprietors of the adjacent lands, are called Harrison's and Penn's Rocks : the former about five miles from the Wells ; the latter about a mile further in the same direction.

At a considerable depth below the surface, the sand becomes white and of a delicate fineness ; and is in such request for household purposes, that



# TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

17

it forms a tolerably profitable pursuit with poor persons to collect it for sale. The excavations for this purpose in one which is here represented, are so considerable, as to give them the character of caverns; and cottages having been erected among the rocks above, not only is the general effect



*Sand Rocks on the London Road.*

London: Published by Edward Lloyd, Harley Street, May 1819.



interesting, but between the increased pressure from above and the encroachments on the substratum, the idea of danger to the parties occupying either station, is so heighthened, as to make it a scene to be viewed with no inconsiderable apprehension.

The rock, whereof a representation is annexed, forms part of a collection in a valley adjoining Rust-Hall Common; which are not indeed so large as those already noticed, but no less remarkable for the singular shapes which many of them present. Here, with the aid of a little imagination, many counterparts of art or nature have been traced: and the walk through the valley is amongst the most agreeable in the immediate vicinity.



*Rock at Rusthall Common.*

*London, Published by Edward Lloyd, St. Paul's Church-Yard, May 1819.*







Engraved by L. Smith

Drawn by J. Smith

# The High Rocks.

London, Published by Edmund Lloyd, Stationer, No. 1, St. Paul's Church-Yard.



All these bear evident marks of the origin which has been assigned them. It would indeed require no great licence of imagination to induce the conjecture, that in all these instances they had formerly been the boundaries of some vast channel of waters. Their curved and serpentine directions, the edging of the valley, the fall of the ground, and the present existence of a small rivulet tracing its course through the intervening space, all seem to favor this idea. Yet is there no coincidence in the present circumstances of the country, which would establish the truth of such a surmise. But a minute inspection of the rocks themselves, an attention to the general regularity of their courses, and a partial irregularity of their component parts, together with the adverse and opposing directions of their strata, would seem to connect them with some great convulsion of nature, whereof we have only conjectural traces: and perhaps there may be more than fancy in the idea, that they are indebted for their origin to the very remote existence of overwhelming torrents and convulsions, of which so many parts of every known country bear such evident testimony, to the perplexity of the naturalist and the confusion of the historian.

These rocks afford a principal source of amusement to the frequenters of Tunbridge Wells. The walk to the High Rocks is exceeded in point of beauty by nothing in the country; whilst the greater distance of the others affords a pleasing variety to the riders. Adjoining nearly to the High Rocks, but nearer to Rust-Hall, is an excellent cold bath. It is situated in a beautiful romantic dell; and, for the coldness and transparency of the water, may be pronounced as excellent as any in the kingdom: the accommodation for the bathers is not, however, what it ought to be. When Rust-Hall was the principal rendezvous of the company, this was a place of much public resort; but on the failure of that, it has declined in its celebrity. At a still later period accommodations for entertainment were provided at the High Rocks; which induced many pleasant meetings under a rustic shed, at one termination of them; where romantic scenery, combining with the wish to please and to be pleased, tended to create an agreeable relief to that tedium which will frequently encroach on a place of fashionable resort. Of late years these



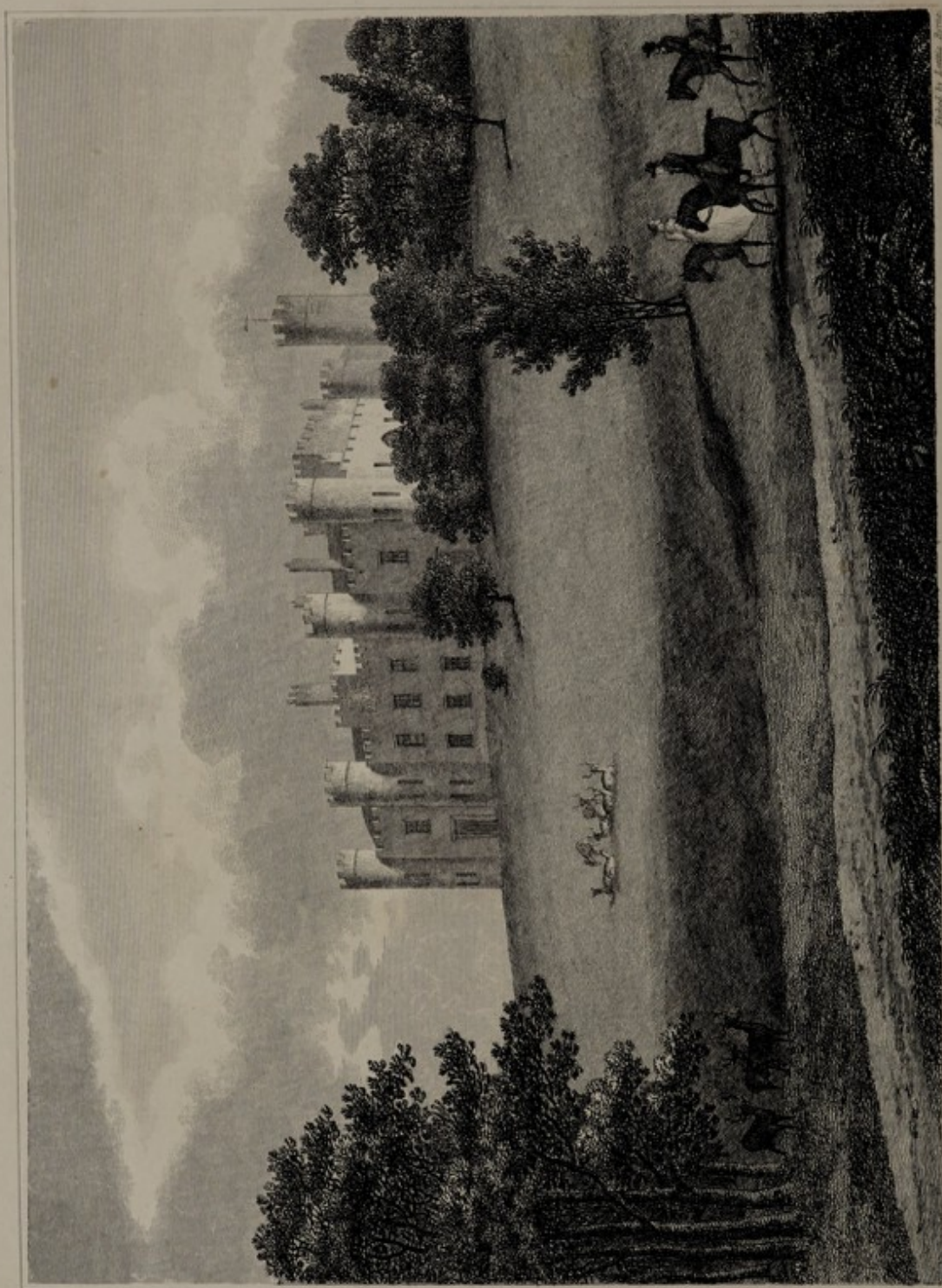
seem to have yielded to the superior attractions of a spot in the neighbourhood of Harrison's Rocks: where, by the side of a lake of considerable extent, the worthy and benevolent proprietor has erected some rooms, with which he accommodates the public on these occasional visits.

The naturalist will, amongst these rocks, find a source of much botanical amusement. Heaths of great variety and beauty; forest shrubs, and rock plants, abound. And that which is peculiarly appropriate, being denominated, from the spot, the *Trichomanes Tunbridgiensis*, is here found in abundance and perfection.









*Conde Castle.*

*London Published by Edmund Lloyd, King Street, May 1. 1819.*

*Engraved by J. Smith.*

*Printed by J. Smith.*







Engraved by J. G. B. B. B.

# Bridge Castle.

London. Published by Edmund Lloyd, Bridge Street, May 1840.

Drawn by R. B. B.



### ERIDGE CASTLE.

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ERIDGE CASTLE, the seat of the Earl of Abergavenny, is situate on the Sussex side of Tunbridge Wells, at a distance of about two miles; in the parish of Frant, and in the manor of Rotherfield. This manor is of very considerable extent, comprising, besides several subordinate manors, the great forest of WATERDOWN (described by Camden as one of the three great forests of Sussex), which reaches from north to south from Tunbridge Wells to Buxted; and from east to west from Stoneland Park to the parish of Wadhurst. Here was a park, or chase, even before the forming of the record of Domesday, surrounded by a pale fence, which the tenants of the manor were bound to keep good.

In the early part of the last century, William Lord Abergavenny, the grandfather of the present Earl, erected for himself a handsome mansion at Kidbroke, near East Grinstead, in which the family resided; and, till within these few years, considered it as their principal English residence; when the present Earl was induced to turn his attention towards this, the deserted and dilapidated mansion of his ancestors. There were yet considerable remains of the ancient house; but not sufficient to constitute a suitable place of residence. The park was unfenced, and had grievously suffered from the most wanton and lawless depredations; whilst all trace of garden and demesne was lost. The ancient site of the house, however, encouraged renovation; and the beauties of the adjacent country, now daily improving, invited to the re-establishment of the former honors of the place. The noble owner began, and was speedily induced to extend



his project: further improvements suggested themselves as he advanced. Having created an abode, worthy of his extensive domain, and of the ancestors he represents, he has been induced to part with the modern mansion of his family; and permanently to re-occupy the spot, where WARWICK has relaxed from his warlike toils, and where the princely ELIZABETH has partaken of the hospitalities of his ancestor.

The bold eminence, whereon this house is placed, its castellated appearance, the beautiful woods through which it is approached, a park well wooded and watered, consisting of nearly two thousand acres, and a demesne of near seven thousand, all tend to make Eridge a splendid and delicious residence. Nor can it be wondered, that with such advantages, together with an extensive and commanding range of manor, free chase and warren, the noble owner of the place should have been induced to re-establish his family on so desirable a spot. The house is a good one; calculated more for comfort than for ostentation; although the picturesque has been studied in its exterior. The new plantations have been arranged with taste, and nurtured with care; which they have amply remunerated by an astonishing growth. Within the park are a great variety of rides, which conduct to scenes of various kinds within; and occasionally embrace the most interesting objects in the adjacent country.

In Eridge Castle there is a portrait, which, if it were original, would be considered as a choice piece of antiquity. It has been handed down in the family as that of the great *king-making* Earl of Warwick. This certainly is the quarter wherein, if any where, to expect such a relic: but it will be with much hesitation that such pretensions can any where be admitted; and the exterior of this portrait seems to cast a doubt on its claims. It is, however, very probably a copy from a rude original, which has long since perished; and, if it can maintain that character, it is no inconsiderable curiosity.

In Eridge Park are the remains of a military station of the Saxon invaders of the country, which still retains the name of SAXONBURY HILL. It is on the high ground to the right, as the traveller passes from Frant towards Mayfield. On the summit of this hill (from whence the cliffs above Dover may be seen) are to be traced the remains of an ancient



fortification: the fosse is still plainly discernible, enclosing an area of about two acres, from whence there is but one outlet: the apex of the hill within is formed of a strong compact body of stone, brought hither from a distance; on which, doubtless, was erected some strong military edifice. This was probably one of the stations occupied by the Saxons under Ella, their famous chief, who, at the instance of Hengist King of Kent, invaded England towards the close of the fifth century. It is said that they settled in Sussex; whence they issued in force to attack the important British station of *ANDERIDA* or *ANDREDCEASTER*. Antiquaries are not agreed as to the precise situation of this military station: some imagining it to have been at *NEWENDEN*, on the borders of Kent; others, at *PEVENSEY* or *HASTINGS* in Sussex. It was within the district of the *Comes Littoris Saxonici*; which would seem to favor the vicinity to Kent. Whichever was actually the case, this would have been a favorable station for the project: more especially, as Ella's reinforcements are said to have landed on the Sussex coast. This whole country, from the borders of Kent to those of Hampshire, comprised what was called the forest of *ANDREDSWEALD*, now commonly called the *WEALD*; was full of strong holds and fastnesses; and was consequently well calculated for the retreat of the ancient Britons from before the regular armies of the Romans, as well as for the establishment of points of attack by the succeeding invaders, who coped with them on terms somewhat reversed. The attack of the Saxons on *ANDERIDA* was successful; and the consequence was their permanent establishment in Sussex and Surry: from which time they probably retained a military station on this hill.

There is likewise within the park a place called *DANE'S GATE*; this was doubtless a part of a military way: and, as it would happen that the last successful invaders would occupy the same strong posts which had been formed by their predecessors, this *Dane's Gate* was probably the military communication between *CROWBOROUGH*, undoubtedly a Danish station, and *SAXONBURY HILL*.

About four miles south of Eridge Park is the village of Rotherfield; so called from the river Rother, which rises in it; and thence taking its course in a south-east direction, through a beautiful and for the most



part a rich country, at last forms a considerable basin, somewhat to the east of the port of Rye. This village stands on an elevated spot; and its church, with its elegant and lofty spire, forms a conspicuous object



London: Published by Edward Lloyd, St. Paul's Church-Yard, May 1810.



throughout this part of the county. It is observable that a fashion prevails in particular districts with respect to churches. In some the massy square tower abounds; in others it is more elevated; and again, elsewhere, this will be decorated by a smaller tower at the angle, rising considerably above the battlements. In other countries, chiefly where timber abounds, the spire prevails. These spires are built of timber, and shingled on the outside, as those of Rotherfield, Crowborough, Mayfield, Hartfield, Pembury, and Wadhurst; all within a very small distance from the Wells. Rising from above the masses of wood, which here abound, they enliven the views, and add much to the picturesque scenery. They are, moreover, guides to the traveller, and landmarks to the stranger in his more confined rambles: we will hope, also, they sometimes may prove attractive to the pilgrim, in aid of his devotions.

Although Frant is the parish where Eridge Castle is situate, yet may Rotherfield in some measure claim a property in it. Frant was doubtless originally but a chapelry annexed to Rotherfield. It is now a vicarage, in the gift of the rector of Rotherfield; which consequently has somewhat of the character of a mother church. The whole constitutes a very valuable benefice; and is in the patronage of the Earl of Abergavenny.



## MAYFIELD.

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MAYFIELD, or as it was anciently spelt, MAIGHFEILD, was, long before the Conquest, among the possessions of the Archbishops of Canterbury. Eadmerus, a monk of Canterbury, in his account of St. Dunstan (who lived in the tenth century), records not only the occasional residence of the Archbishops at Mayfield, but the great care of his hero for this and other distant parts of his possessions. "Idem pater," saith the monk, "a Cantuariâ in remotiores villas suas, opportunis spatiis, hospitia sua disponens, apud MAGAVEDAM, sicut et in alliis hospitiorum suorum locis, *ligneam ecclesiam* fabricavit." The *ecclesia lignea* would not seem to convey any great ideas of a substantial establishment here; but it is to be observed that wood was at that time in the greatest abundance in this part of the country; and that it was rather an object to get rid of it; it is therefore probable that most of our early churches were built of that material. The church was afterwards dedicated to St. Dunstan; the patron saint of that which still exists. Considering his zealous attachment to monachism, it is probable that he formed some establishment of monks thus early here; the *hospitia* above-mentioned seem to confirm this idea: and the tradition, which fixes on this place as the scene of some of Dunstan's miracles, would justify the conclusion that he was himself an occasional resident. Mayfield, as well as the majority of the churches in this neighbourhood, seems to have been an appendage to the conventual





Designed by J. G. Knapton

Engraved by J. G. Knapton

*Mayfield Place*

London, Published by Thomas Long, Street near St. Paul's





establishment of Black Canons of SOUTH MALLING. This was a collegiate establishment in the neighbourhood of Lewes, of considerable note; and is said to have been as ancient as the time of Ceadwalla King of the West Saxons, who died A.D. 688. It is therefore probable that the monastic establishment of Mayfield was merely a cell from this of South Malling.

The palace, the ruins of which are represented in the annexed plate, is of a much more recent date than the time of St. Dunstan; although certainly very ancient. It became, however, one of the earliest residences of the Archbishops of Canterbury; and was apparently on a large scale, and much frequented by them: for many of their deeds and official instruments are dated from this place in very early times. In the years 1332 and 1362 provincial synods were held here; each on the subject of the number of church holy-days, and the suitable mode of observing them.

Whether the wooden church of Dunstan continued till the year 1389, or whether it had been repaired or renovated with the same material, it would appear that it was then so constructed; for in that year it is recorded to have been burnt down, together with nearly the whole village: and it is observable that Walsingham then records it as *Ecclesia collegialis Cantuariensis Episcopi*. It does not appear that the palace suffered. The present church probably replaced that which had perished on this occasion.

This palace, which was of considerable extent, surrounded by a park, and having a large domain, extending to and including the parish of Wadhurst, much patronage and large peculiar jurisdiction in the neighbourhood, continued in the occupation of the Archbishops of Canterbury till the reign of Henry the Eighth; when Archbishop Cranmer, with a view of silencing the clamours, and calming the jealousies, which then prevailed against the large possessions of the clergy; and in a vain hope, by sacrificing a part to be enabled to keep the remainder, granted the whole of this large domain to the King.

The palace of Mayfield occupies a considerable space to the east of the church and village. The whole stands on very high ground, and



commands a rich and extensive prospect in every direction. The ruins exactly represent what the palace was in its entire state: many of the apartments are totally dilapidated; and others, of large dimensions, are converted into storehouses and granaries for the use of the farmer: but these are sufficiently entire to admit the visitor, and to gratify the investigator of ancient manners. Others are in a perfect state; and are occupied by the tenant on the farm. But that which principally excites attention is the venerable ruin of the great hall. The walls are perfect, and the three magnificent arches, whereby the roof was supported, remain as entire and solid as when the building was in its perfect state. This hall, which measures sixty-eight feet by thirty-eight, was the ordinary dining room; and in the centre of the upper part, where was placed the principal table, is still to be traced in the wall the back of a chief seat or throne; doubtless the place occupied by the Archbishop.

The roof, it is said, remained on this hall within the memory of persons now living; which will account for the very perfect state in which much of the carved stone still remains. In the house are exhibited certain curiosities of the *rarest kind*—the anvil and hammer of St. Dunstan; aye, and the identical tongs with which he so uncivilly repulsed the Devil, when he assumed the amiable form of a fair lady. As the rustic *ciceroni* at the same time exhibits parts of *Dunstan's armour*, and as the legend no where intimates that the saint was a warrior, this incongruity may occasion doubt as to the genuineness of the whole: but still the presumption will be allowed strong; that, if the saint uncourteously assailed his tempter with any, these were as probably the tongs he made use of as any other.

Having lost the name of PALACE, under that of MAYFIELD PLACE, it was, till of late years, the residence of the proprietor. It is now inhabited by the farmer; and is consequently viewed to a disadvantage. But when it is considered that in its best days the domain appendant on it was extensive; indeed, that in some directions it extended as far as the eye could reach; that it was immediately surrounded by a park, and other aids to magnificence, conveniency, and enjoyment, it will readily be allowed that Mayfield was an abode well suited to its former dignified



inhabitants. None will lament that it has changed its owners. The most zealous advocates for our excellent establishment will admit that the metropolitical see is sufficiently endowed. But every one who treads this classic ground, will be induced to lament that, when this place passed into lay hands, it was not so fortunate as some other similar possessions of the church, which experienced in the lay proprietor a zeal to perpetuate what the clerical projector had so nobly established.

Stat nominis umbra.

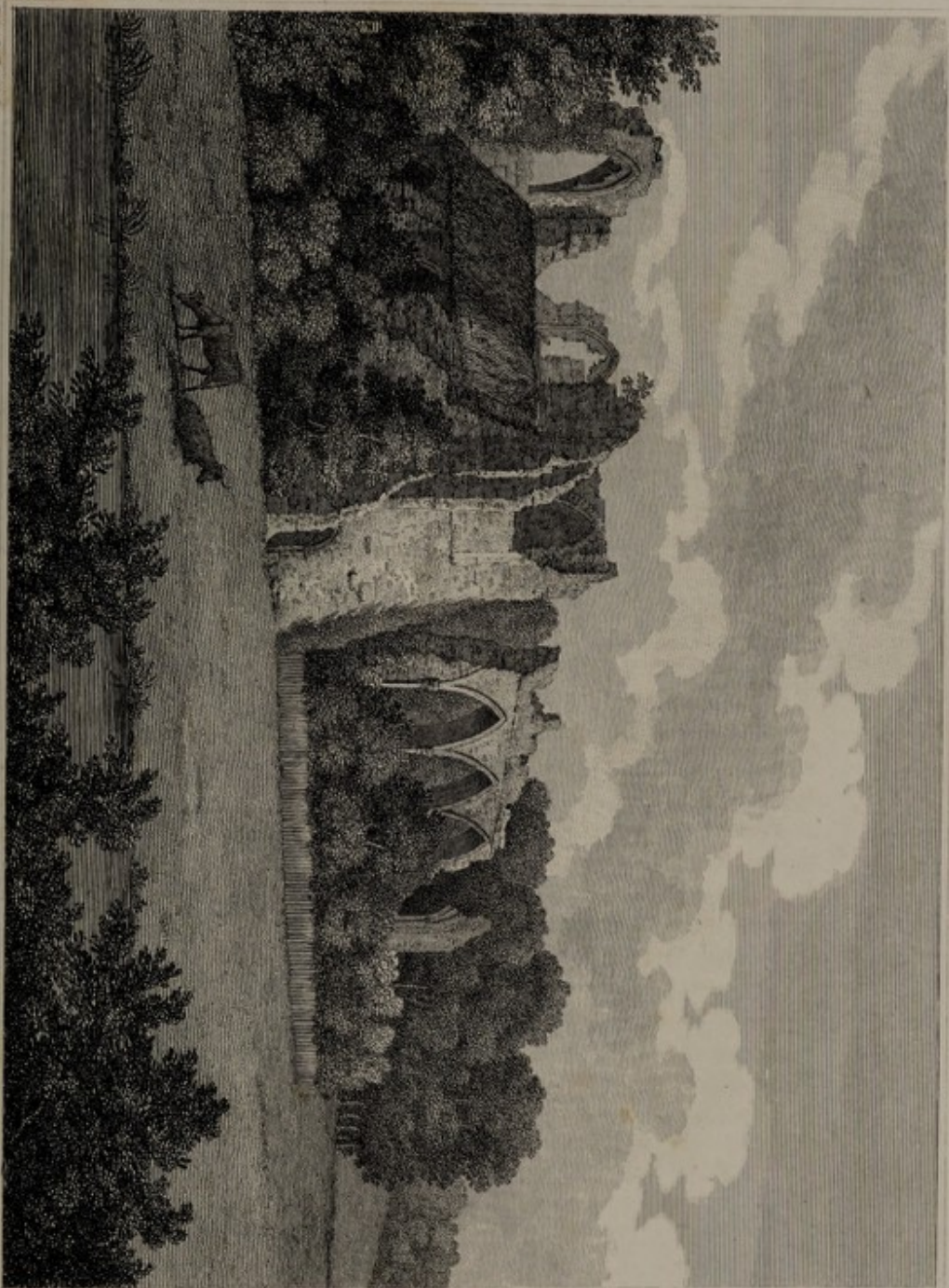


## BAYHAM ABBEY.

BEGEHAM, or, as it is now called, BAYHAM ABBEY, is situate partly in the parish of Lamberhurst and partly in that of Frant, in the county of Sussex; at the distance of about six miles from Tunbridge Wells, in a south-east direction. It would appear, on the authority of ancient records, that the monastic buildings formerly extended on the other side of the stream, which is the boundary of the county; consequently into Kent. For, from thence we learn, that this abbey was originally founded at a place in this parish called BEAULIEU; and that it was in both the counties of Kent and Sussex. This might very well have been the case; though it is possible that an allusion might in those expressions have been made rather to the extent of the domain, than to the actual position of the buildings.

Bayham Abbey is placed in a very delightful country; but, like most of the edifices of that description, is not in such a situation as, according to modern ideas, would have been deemed the most eligible. But our ancestors had their notions of comfort on this subject; whereon they seem uniformly to have acted. Shelter yielded them greater inducements than prospect: nor did they seem to have our apprehensions of damp. The abbey is accordingly placed in a low, flat situation, immediately surrounded by water; and enclosed on all sides by the rising hills. But the soil is tolerably dry, and the water consists principally of the stream which forms the boundary between the counties of Kent and Sussex.





Engraved by P. Howard.

Engraved by Lewis Jones.

*Dayham Abbey*

London: Published by Edmund Lloyd, Bishop, Great-Martin-Street, 1789.





With the materials, which were procured from many parts of these extensive ruins, a former possessor of the place has built a small commodious dwelling; which, from being placed too near the ruins, has neither the advantage of a good view of them, nor in itself contributes to the beauty or character of the scene. And the zealous antiquary or visionary poet would complain, that the too near approach of modern manners, and the over niceties of trim gardening, have done away the solemn gloom of antiquity, and tend to destroy the reveries, which, in such a scene, might be indulged with a pleasing effect. The surrounding hills, indeed, abound with spots which invite to improvement. It is said that the present proprietor, under the direction of Mr. Repton, has a project of building on one of these adjoining elevations. England scarcely contains a spot better calculated for such a purpose. Wood, water, varied ground, and picturesque scenery, are amply provided by nature: whilst the venerable ruin, introduced as a prominent and appropriate feature in the landscape, would well entitle the place to the restoration of its ancient name, Beaulieu.

With this attractive object at its termination, the ride to Bayham Abbey may well be supposed amongst the most favorite excursions from the Wells. At a short distance beyond the village of Frant it takes its course through a country deeply wooded, and of exquisite beauty; which has recently been opened to the public, through the munificence of the present Earl Camden. The former road, in this direction towards Lamberhurst, lay through the grounds of Bayham Abbey; taking a course somewhat more circuitous. This being inconvenient to the owner of the place, now a more frequent resident than his predecessors had been, an order was a few years since obtained to divert it, and open another in a course more advantageous to the public. The curious are still admitted to the ruins on two allotted days in the week; and have thus the advantage of a more commodious access to them. They have more; for in every direction this new road opens the view to the most exquisite scenery; to which Lord Camden's neat and comfortable accommodations for his farmers and inferior tenants afford a material and pleasing addition.



### SCOTNEY CASTLE.

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THE manor and mansion of SCOTNEY stand principally in that part of the parish of Lamberhurst which is in the county of Sussex ; and at a short distance from the great road leading toward Hastings.

This place derives its name from that of a family which was established here in very remote times. WALTER DE SCOTENI, a person of eminence, and of great wealth, held it in the reign of Henry the Third ; and although he was found guilty and was executed for the poisoning of Richard Earl of Gloucester, and William de Clare, his brother, yet did this property continue with his family for many years afterwards. In the reign of Edward the Third it was held by the family of ASHBURNHAM, of Ashburnham in Sussex ; whence it passed, after an occupation of about half a century, to HENRY CHICHELEY, the celebrated Archbishop of Canterbury, and founder of All Souls College in Oxford. The Archbishop, as appears from a mandate issued from hence, 1418, made Scotney (or as it is therein spelt, Scoteneye) an occasional place of residence ; perhaps only as he might be passing between his palaces of Otford and Mayfield, from the last of which it is not very distant.

There are but small remains of the ancient place ; which was a castellated mansion as early as the reign of Richard the Second ; and from what may be collected from the remains, the style of the building, as likewise from the characters of the various owners and occupiers of it, there is no doubt that it was a place of considerable consequence and extent. At each angle was a round machicollated tower, of which





Designed by J. G. Smith

Engraved by J. G. Smith

# Seehoy Castle.

London: Published by Edmund Lloyd, Stationer, No. 11, St. Paul's Church-Yard.











Engraved by J. Smith, Esq.

# Lochney Castle.

London, Published by Edmund Lloyd, Stationer, 21, St. Paul's Church-Yard.

Drawn by J. Smith.

only the southern remains; the other three were pulled down, and the materials employed in building the front of Mr. Morland's house, called the Court Lodge, at Lamberhurst. The gate-house was a strong building, with a guard-room over it; of which two uprights are standing; and the moat, with which the castle was surrounded, is still remaining. The modern house was built by the Darells, and is said to have been designed by Inigo Jones: it is reputed to be part in Kent and part in Sussex; the river Bewle, which divides the counties, having once run through the centre of the ground-plot upon which the house stands.



THE COURT LODGE,  
IN LAMBERHURST.

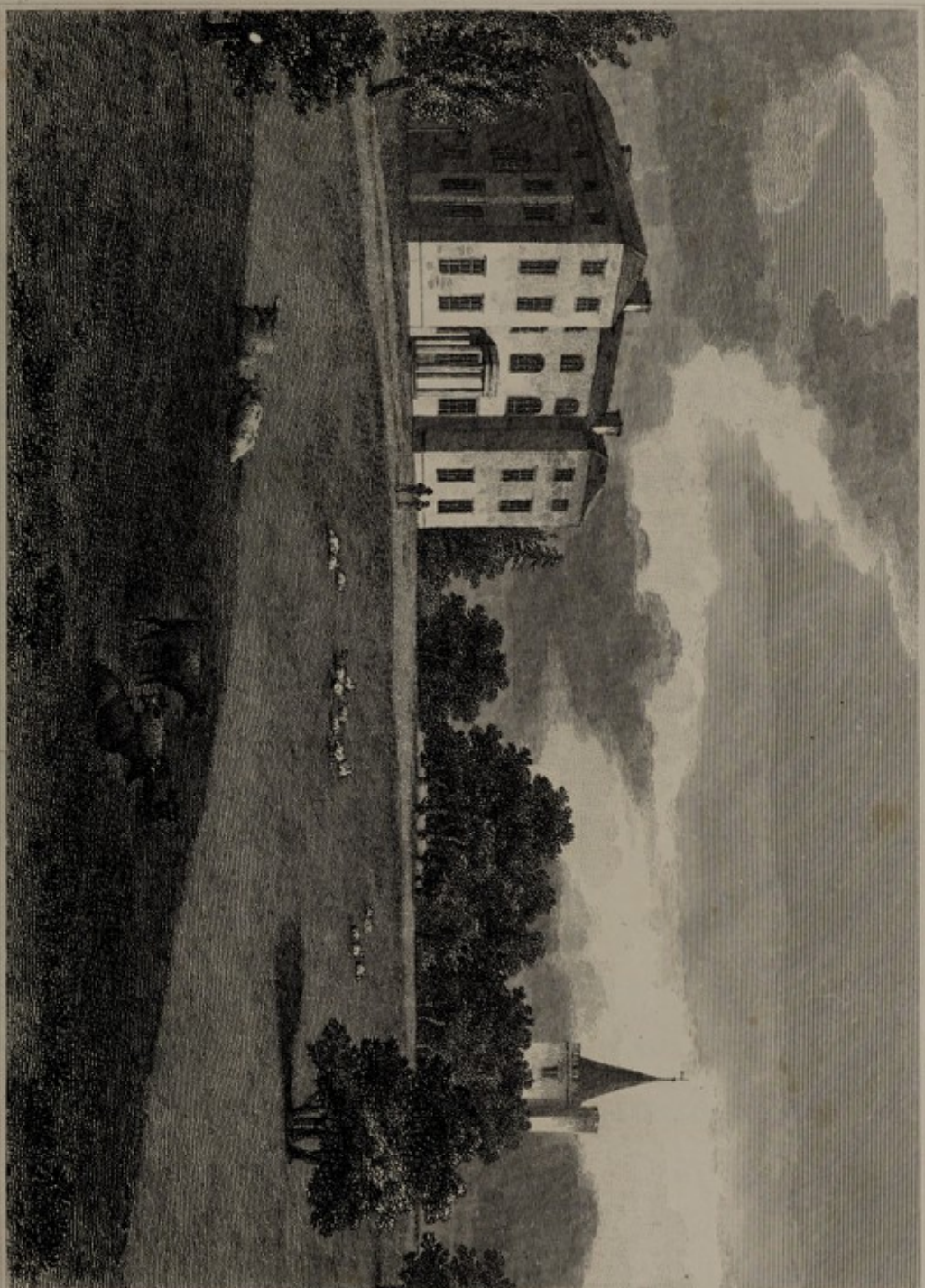
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THE COURT LODGE at Lamberhurst, the seat of WILLIAM ALEXANDER MORLAND, Esq., forms a conspicuous object, as the traveller descends the hill into Lamberhurst from the coast. The manor, to which it is the principal mansion, was anciently a part of the large possessions of the family of CREVEQUER; and was a limb of the Barony of Leeds. Of this manor *one part* was held of them by a family of the name of LENHAM. To these succeeded the CHIDCROFTS; who resided here for some generations. Thomas de Chidcroft died possessed of it 1327. The *other part* was held by a family of the name of KENITH; and in the reign of King John, it was given by Nicholas de Kenith to the abbot and convent of Robertsbridge; which gift (apparently including the other moiety) was soon after confirmed by Hamo de Crevequer, the principal lord.

Here the manor and estate remained till the suppression of the abbey in the reign of Henry the Eighth; when, by an Act of Parliament passed in the thirty-first of that reign, the abbey itself, with all its possessions, came into the king's hands.

The whole of this extensive property was granted by King Henry to SIR HENRY SYDNEY, the same person to whom his son Edward the Sixth afterwards granted Penshurst. In this family it remained, with some alteration in the tenure, till the 5th year of James the First, when





Engraved by J. Smith

Designed by James Wyatt

# *The Court Lodge*

London, Published by Edmund Lloyd Lloyd, 1801, No. 1, Pall Mall.





Sir Henry's grandson Robert, who was created Earl of Leicester, alienated it to John Porter, Esq. who rebuilt the house at Lamberhurst, and resided therein. Till this time there was probably no considerable mansion here. Hence, by the marriage of an heiress, it passed to Sir John Hanby, of Lincolnshire, about the end of the seventeenth century : from whom it again, by the like channel, went in marriage to John Chaplin, Esq., of the same county ; whose grandson John, left three daughters his coheirs ; one of whom, Elizabeth, carried this estate to her husband Edward Ascoughe, Esq., the grandfather of the present owner of it. This family have, from the time of their possessing it, made it their chief place of residence ; and have likewise much improved and beautified it ; rendering it a very complete gentleman's abode.

As it is a principal object of the present work to bring to the observation of the reader all that is worthy of notice in the vicinity of Tunbridge Wells, the author cannot find himself at Lamberhurst, without recommending it, and the adjacent country, to a particular attention. From whatever quarter the town, or more properly speaking the village, is approached, it presents itself in interesting points of view. The road to it lies in every direction down a steep hill, and the main aggregation of houses, which constitute the village, are at the bottom of the vale ; through which runs the stream which divides the counties of Kent and Sussex. Yet on either side are objects, forming a pleasing variety on a different level : on the still lower ground is the rectory house, on a spot well wooded and agreeably varied ; and on the higher, much above the village, are the church, the vicarage, and, in a commanding situation above all, the COURT LODGE. But it is not for its own intrinsic beauties alone, which, however, are considerable, that LAMBERHURST is recommended to notice : it forms, as it were, a central point, from whence roads diverge in a variety of directions, all leading through a beautiful rich country, and most of them conducting to objects worthy of attention. From the separation of the road at the entrance, as you approach from London, a turnpike road breaks off to Goudhurst ; a small town on an eminence, from whence the view is rich and prodigiously extensive : at a short distance from hence are the ruins of MILKHOUSE Chapel and



those of **SISSINGHURST**, the former residence of the Bakers; whom Queen Elizabeth visited here, and conferred the honor of knighthood on the owner. At the other extremity of Lamberhurst, the roads branch off in three directions: that in a straight line towards Wadhurst and Ticehurst, a very agreeable ride, but not marked by any particular object. The turnpike road to the left is that which conducts to Rye and Hastings, and to that most eminently curious place Winchelsea.





Swerving a little from this road is BODIAM CASTLE, a very interesting ruin ; built by the ancient family of the Dalyngriggs ; the residence, in the time of Camden, of the Lewkneys ; and now the property of Sir Godfrey Webster, Bart. The third road, above alluded to, branching off from the high ground above Lamberhurst on the right hand, leads back toward the Wells, by Bayham Abbey, through Frant. This road forms the best approach to Bayham ; exhibiting the ruins from many elevated spots on the road to very great advantage. At a short distance from this road, on the right hand, is the spot formerly occupied by the GLOUCESTER iron furnace : a spot which now retains few traces of its former appropriation ; but which will always maintain a certain interest, from the circumstance which occasioned the appellation, viz. in honor of the Duke of Gloucester, the son of Queen Anne, who visited it, in an excursion from the Wells, in the year 1698 ; as likewise from its having had the honor of producing the magnificent balustrade which encloses the churchyard of St. Paul's, in the metropolis.

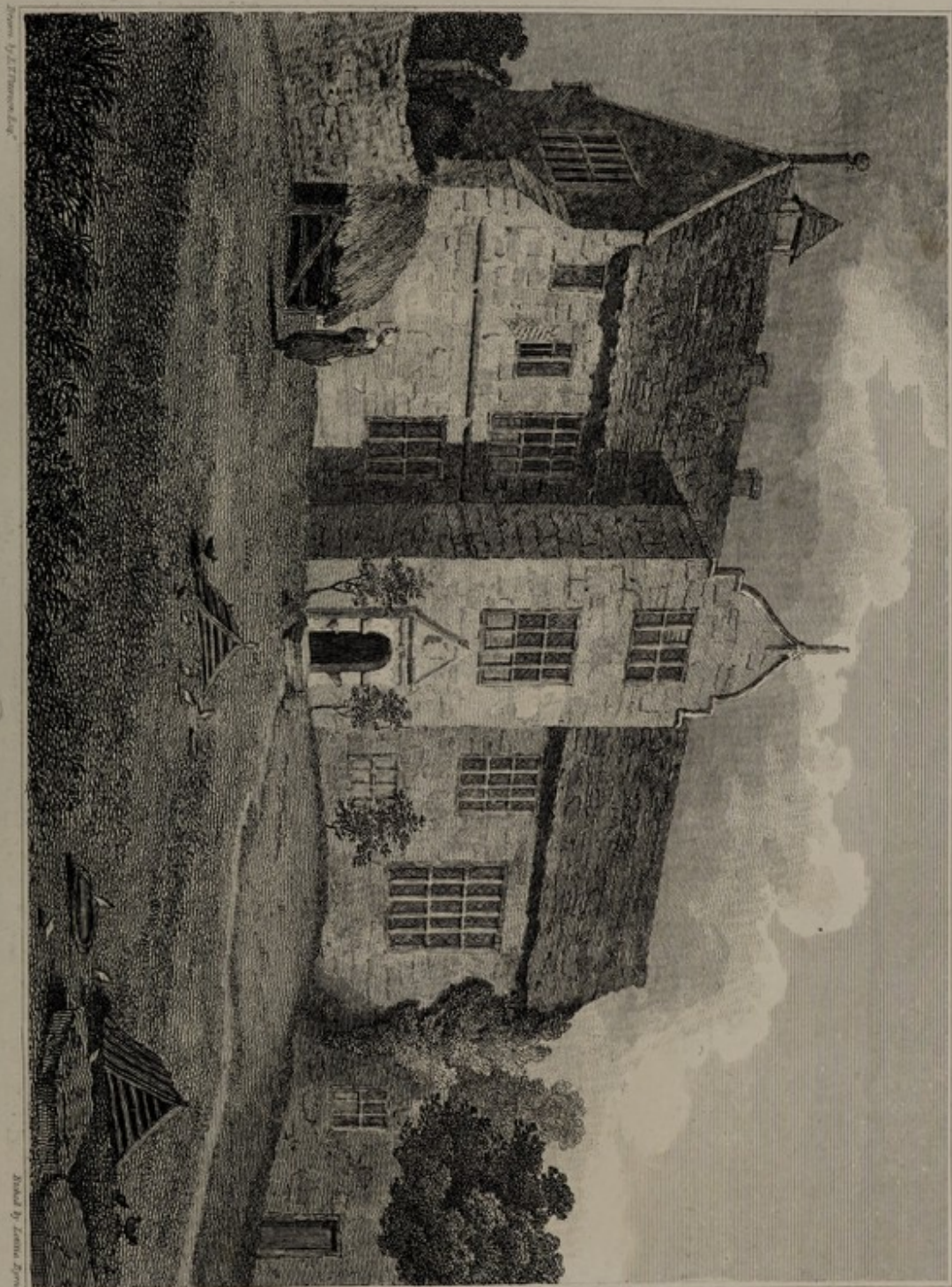


### COMB WELL PRIORY.

THE priory of COMB WELL was indebted for its endowment to the same munificent founder, ROBERT DE THURNHAM, as Bayham Abbey; and after running out the same course of years, was destined to experience a similar fate: having been surrendered under the Act of the 27th Henry the Eighth; its revenues not amounting to the specified sum of 200*l.* per annum. It was originally appropriated to canons of the order of St. Augustine: and is said at first to have been constituted an abbey; but to have been subsequently reduced to the inferior condition of a priory, from its revenues having been found inadequate to the maintenance of an abbot.

The building which is represented in the annexed plate, was that part which was reserved for the use of the farmer, on the demolition of the better apartments; and was probably the more ancient part of the priory. This also was taken down a few years since; so that at present no vestige remains of this ancient monastic establishment but that which is here preserved. The annexed estates, however, still remain in possession of the Campion family.





Designed by J. H. Thompson Esq.

Engraved by James Dyer

*Embankment*

London: Published by Edward Lloyd, 21, Mark Lane, near the Tower.











Engraved by J. Smith

Drawn by J. Smith

# Bounds.

London: Published by Edmund Lloyd, Bishop Street, May 1840.



## BOUNDS.

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THE ancient seat of BOUNDS is situate in the parish of Bidborough, and in the hundred of Wachlingstone, to the west of the London road, about midway betwixt the town of Tunbridge and the Wells. It is sometimes called GREAT BOUNDS, to distinguish it from another mansion somewhat nearer to the Wells, named LITTLE BOUNDS. It probably derived its appellation from the surname of its ancient proprietors; either corrupted from Boone or Bohun, (it being sometimes called, in old deeds, *Boone's tenement*,) or accurately from a family of the name of BOUNDE: John Bounde appearing to have been seized of it in the time of Edward the Third; and in the 20th year of that reign paid aid for it, toward conferring the honor of knighthood on the Black Prince. In remoter times it was held by the same proprietors as owned the castle of Tunbridge. Descending through families of the name of Chaune, Bounde, Palmer, and Fane, on the attainder and execution of Sir Ralph Fane, 6th Edward the Sixth, it was forfeited to the Crown. By Queen Elizabeth, in the first year of her reign, it was granted to her kinsman Henry Carey Lord Hunsdon; who, on his death, bequeathed it to his son George; whose only daughter, marrying Sir Thomas Berkeley, K. B. the eldest son and heir of Henry Lord Berkeley, carried the estate of Bounds into that family. About the commencement of the reign of James the First, it was purchased by Sir Thomas Smyth, of Sutton at Hone, in this county. In this family it remained, and became the principal place of their



residence, until the demise of the last male representative of it, Sir Sydney Stafford Smythe, Knt., Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, who, dying without issue in 1778, bequeathed this estate to his widow ; who survived him some years. Lady Smythe dying in the year 1790, by her will ordered this estate, among others, to be sold for the benefit of her nephews and nieces : whereupon John Earl of Darnley became the purchaser ; and for some years it was inhabited by his most respectable mother, the Countess Dowager of Darnley. Since her death, Bounds has become the residence only of a yearly tenant, and is at present in the occupation of the Marquis of Lansdown.

The principal part of the existing mansion (apparently the remnant only of one still more ancient) would seem to be of about the date of Queen Elizabeth's reign ; and was probably built by the Lord Hunsdon. On one end of the house, from which it would appear that some further building had been detached, are the arms of Queen Elizabeth ; as likewise those of Henry the Fourth of France, impaling those of Navarre and Bearn, and surrounded by the collar of the order of St. Michael. They were doubtless placed there by Henry Carey Lord Hunsdon, who was a near relative of the Queen's, and had been employed on several missions to the French court ; particularly to carry the ensigns of the order of the Garter to the predecessor of Henry the Fourth. They were probably placed here about the commencement of his reign ; which happened in the year 1589. If this conjecture be accurate, it would seem to fix the date of the present mansion at somewhat about that period. The house is not large, but venerable in its appearance ; and suitable to the present circumstances of the property. It stands in a park of beautifully varied ground, containing about an hundred and twenty acres. The late demand for timber of large dimensions has tempted the proprietor to rob it of some of its principal beauties ; yet does it remain one of the sweetest spots in the neighbourhood. Within so small a space, few, perhaps, contain so great a variety ; whilst its beautiful parish church, seated on an eminence, just beyond its boundary : the modern parsonage, removed to a short distance from it ; some larger and bolder objects somewhat further ; and the whole surrounding country, rich and varied in every



direction, present at every step a change of scene, which, without fatiguing the eye, soothes the mind, and exercises the imagination.

The poet will here, as at Penshurst, fancy himself on classic ground: for this was the residence of the celebrated Lady Dorothy Sydney; so passionately immortalized by the muse of Waller, under the poetical name of Sacharissa. She was married to the ancestor of the late Chief Baron Smythe, who was her grandson.

The admirer of eminent character will not be displeased at the information that this was the frequent resting-place, from the fatigues of the circuit, with the venerable Earl Mansfield; who, on that occasion, usually paid a visit here to his friend and associate the Chief Baron.



*London: Published by Edward Lloyd, Stationer, No. 10, St. Paul's Church-Yard.*



On the other hand, the intelligent observer of manners, and the accurate investigator of human intellect, will not pass over this soil without a commiserating sigh, when he is reminded that this spot witnessed the sad failure of a vigorous mind in its last proprietor ; whilst the religious enthusiast, with different sentiments, will hail the recollection, and place the deterioration in the scale of amendment.

So deeply had a religious enthusiasm preyed on this eminent character, in his latter days, that, unmindful of the prominence, and heedless of the peculiar influence of his elevated station, he was seen assisting at the conventicles of the most irregular sectarists ; not hesitating by his example to weaken the authority of that establishment which, by his office, he was bound to protect.

Characters of eminence become interesting in their rise, progress, or decline. Too frequently, however, is the last stage of life sadly humiliating ; and in that shape reads an awful monition to human nature :

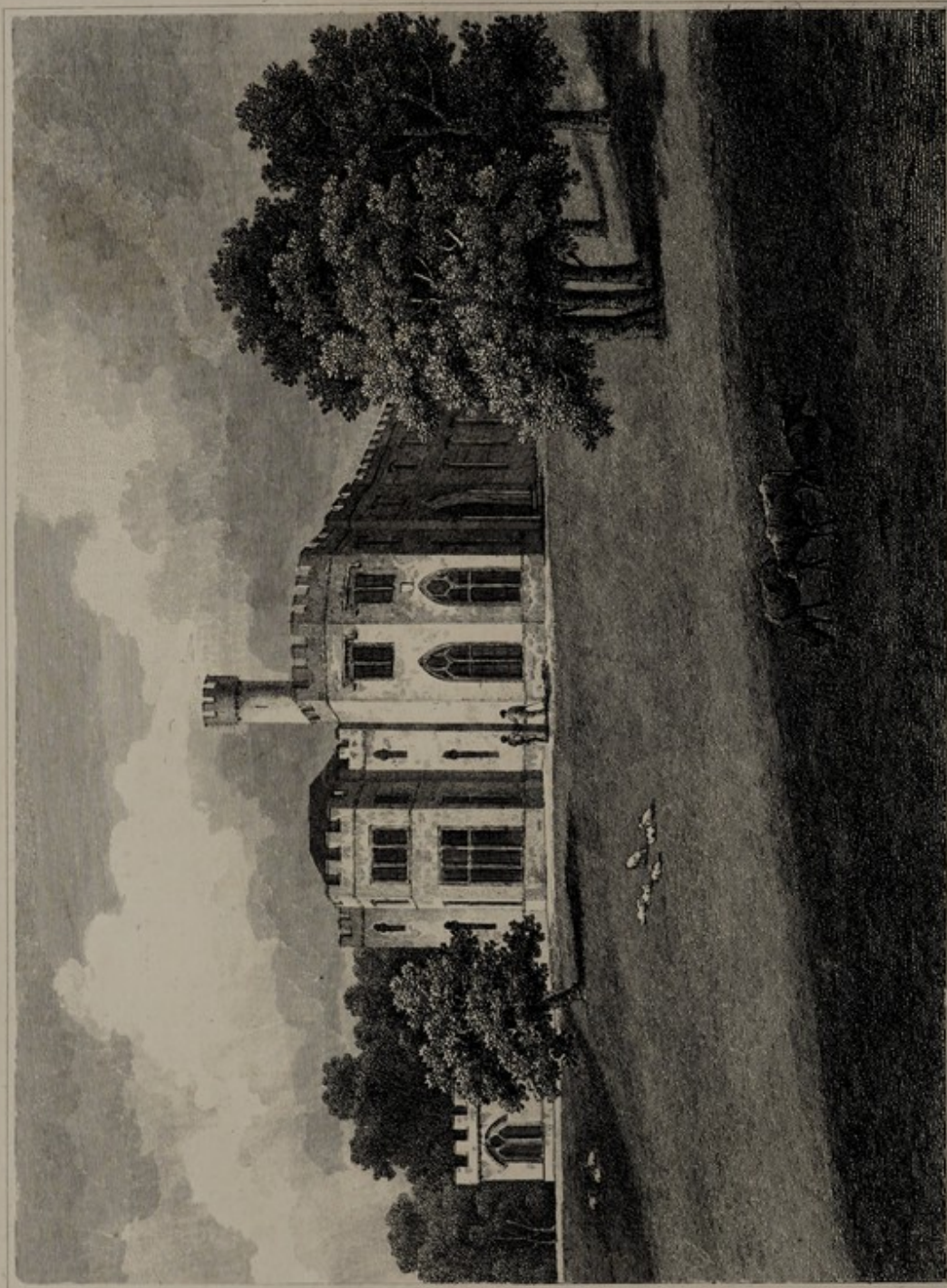
“ From Marlborough's eyes the streams of dotage flow,  
“ And Swift expires a driv'ler and a show !”

The case was the more to be lamented in this instance, as the former vigor of his intellect, his inflexible integrity, and, to the latest period of his life, his purest moral character, would appear to give authority to the irregularities which his example thus sanctioned. But his is not a solitary instance in the dark records of human nature, wherein a great name, under humiliating circumstances, may be adduced

“ To point a moral, or adorn a tale.”







Drawn by R. Smith.

Engraved by L. Smith.

*Malden.*

London: Published by J. Smith, 10, Strand, opposite the Theatre Royal.



## MABLEDON,

*THE SEAT OF JAMES BURTON, ESQ.*

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THIS elegant imitation of an ancient castellated mansion, situate on an eminence called Quarry-Hill, about a mile above the town of Tunbridge, in the direction towards the Wells, was built about five years since by its present proprietor. The site upon which the house stands, together with several excellent farms, and their appropriate buildings, were purchased by Mr. BURTON, and now constitute an estate of considerable magnitude. Its elevated situation gives it a command of view in every direction, and the beauty of the adjacent grounds will recommend it to the admirers of rich and varied scenery; whilst the well-conceived character of what it is intended to represent, produces an admirable effect to the whole country from whence it is viewed, and will probably impose itself on the stranger to this neighbourhood, for the genuine remains of an ancient edifice.

In fixing upon the style of Mabledon, it was very probably thought that neither the neatness, or rather spruceness, of the Italian, nor the elaborate elegance of the Grecian architecture, would harmonize with the bold character of the grounds. It was therefore determined to adopt the castellated form with a mixture of the Gothic. But, however antique the exterior appearance may be, the interior is of the most modern description.



The apartments are of good dimensions ; and are so disposed, that each of the principal rooms looks upon a different prospect. The stone, of which the house is built, was dug upon the premises ; having the property of hardening by exposure ; and is of a remarkably durable quality. It will be observed, however, that in some parts there appears a rust of antiquity, which gives a stamp to the building favorable to its ostensible pretensions ; this is produced by the use of some materials brought from Penshurst Place, part of which has been lately pulled down and sold. This circumstance cannot be reflected upon without considerable concern : consecrated as the temple of those arts they love, and those virtues they admire, the scholar, the patriot, the warrior, and the poet, must see, with emotions of poignant regret, the dismantling of an abode which contained within its walls the illustrious race of Sidney, and consider dilapidation sacrilege. Thus are castles and palaces, equally with their frail inhabitants, subject to the vicissitudes incidental to all sublunary creation.

In the notice of Mabledon it would be improper to omit an account of the improvement which has been made in the turnpike road since this seat was erected. It formerly passed near the spot now occupied by the house ; and the descent from thence to the town of Tunbridge, at all seasons unpleasant from its steepness and length of declivity, in winter was frequently dangerous. Mr. Burton, anxious to improve the access to his own place, and at the same time desirous of effecting a great public advantage, suggested the idea of cutting through the hill ; a labour almost herculean. The plan, however, was put into execution. The facility of travelling has in consequence been greatly increased, and the former perils of the road altogether obviated.







Engraved by J. Smith. From a drawing by J. Smith.

Engraved by J. Smith.

# Tunbridge Castle

London, Published by Edmund Lloyd, 10, St. Martin's Lane, May 1, 1810.



## TUNBRIDGE TOWN AND CASTLE.

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THE TOWN of TUNBRIDGE was formerly celebrated for its castle; a fortress of great importance in the feudal times; to which it was then only as a suburb. In modern times it has again been brought into notice, from its name having been accidentally, though very improperly, given to the celebrated medicinal springs in its vicinity. The increased thoroughfare on this account, the attraction of a well-endowed and flourishing school, the opening of a considerable navigation, and the general improvement of the adjacent country, have combined to give it an air of business and opulence, which entitle it to be considered as one of the principal places in this division of the county. Although, therefore, its castle is now become a ruin, the town, which is intimately connected with it, will necessarily engage some of our attention.

The castle doubtless gave occasion to the situation of this town: which is built on a spot intersected by five small branches of the river Medway; and from the bridges over these several streams it obtained its name, the TOWN OF BRIDGES. It stands in that part of the county which is called the *Weald*, at the distance of thirty miles from the metropolis, six from the Wells, and fourteen from Maidstone. Good turnpike roads pass through it, as well from London and Maidstone towards the Wells, as likewise towards various places on the Sussex coast. The town stands nearly in the centre of the parish, which is very extensive; and is surrounded by a district called the *Lowy of Tunbridge*, in old Latin deeds *Districtus Leuca de Tonebridge*, over which, in the days of its prosperity,



the lords of the castle held an absolute sway, and enjoyed considerable privileges.

Of this castle it is observed by that laborious and judicious antiquary, Edward King, Esq.; that it is "one of the noblest and most perfect structures of the kind, of any at present remaining in England." Its chief curiosity consists in its containing, as an ancient fortress, all the peculiarities of that obsolete mode of defence; and, as being one of the latest structures of the kind, all the improvements of the art; it likewise presents a perfect specimen of the mode of living in those rude times of our country.

The castle itself was built probably before the Conquest; enlarged perhaps by Odo; but improved and completed to its present state by Richard de Clare, Earl of Brienne; on the plan, doubtless, of the castle he had recently quitted in Normandy. But the great tower of the castle, the part now remaining most entire, was of more recent date, having apparently been erected about the commencement of the thirteenth century.

The annexed view of the castle represents the entrance from the great tower into the interior court: and this may be taken as a guide in the proposed description.

The whole area of this fortress was enclosed by a strong wall, which, for the most part, remains; to which were added out-works to a considerable distance, with ditches and sluices, whereby the great fosse might be filled up to the very entrance. The approach was by the opposite side of the great tower, here represented. The fosse was passed by a draw bridge; on the right-hand side of which was a round tower or barbican, for its defence. This fosse, though now filled up, may, as well as the foundation of the tower, be still traced. The curious observer, as he passes through the long archway of this tower, will notice the various provisions and precautions to resist the advance of an enemy. The first object of this kind, which presents itself, is the groove for an immense portcullis, which descended from an opening at a little distance within the arch. In what might appear only ornamental projections over this arch, on the outside, are three machicolations, or openings, through which hot water, sand, or boiling lead might be poured down, in case the



enemy, having forced the drawbridge, was advancing to destroy the portcullis. Somewhat further within the arch was placed a pair of strong gates; and in the interval between them and the portcullis, are three more machicolations in the roof. In this space, moreover, are, on either side, loop-holes, whence an enemy, who had advanced thus far, might be annoyed by bowmen from within. At a considerable distance forward was another pair of strong gates; and in this interval also (from whence there were passages to the lower apartments, on either side, each however strongly defended) were machicolations from above. Advancing from this second pair of gates, at a short distance was another portcullis, not, however, so large as that at the entrance; and at the opening of the passage into the ballium or inner court, were again machicolations as at the entrance. From this detail it will appear how many ordeals an assailing enemy had to pass, before he could gain a footing within the interior of the fortress.

Having thus entered the court, the whole plan of the fortress presents itself in a clear and distinct form. This great tower of entrance constituted the state and best apartments of the lord: but was not the strong part of the castle. That, called the keep, was placed on an elevated artificial mound at a small distance on the right hand, connected with it by a wall and covered way. This keep was the strong hold of the fortress. The base of this mound, which was formed of the earth taken from the ditch, is about an acre in extent; and it rises about seventy feet above the area of the court, and an hundred above the bed of the river. On the point, whereon some fir trees now grow, was erected a strong oval structure, of the dimensions of eighty-six feet by seventy-six: the walls being eleven feet in thickness, and curiously constructed of wood and stone, so as to prevent any settlement of the building on the artificial ground. This tower rose majestically over the whole of the adjacent works; overlooking, threatening, and protecting the domain of its powerful owner. In the centre was a well; and various apartments around it.

As this keep constituted the main strength of the fortress, every precaution was taken to prevent surprise, and to secure safe ingress and



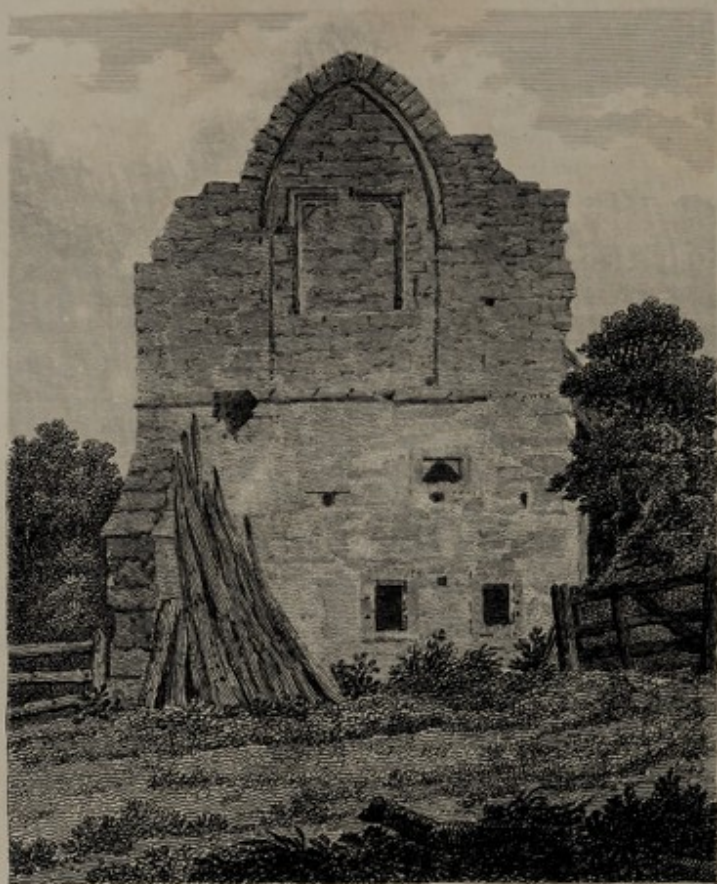
egress from it. A covered way from the upper apartments of the tower of entrance secured a retreat to the keep, in case of a successful assault on that part. But, besides this approach from the tower to the *interior* of the keep, there was another from a great round tower at the western angle of the wall toward the river, which conducted to the top of it. This was intended for the soldiers; whereby to throw succours into the keep. From this round tower they proceeded toward the foot of the mound by a covered way on the wall; whence they descended by a steep flight of steps to a square subterranean vault, and hence again they ascended to the lower rooms of the keep; but they had no further communication with the interior. From hence they mounted to the roof by a small winding staircase, formed within the substance of the wall.

At the eastern angle of the wall which surrounds the area of the castle, are traced the foundations of another round tower, similar to that from whence the passage above noticed proceeds; and in the wall which connects them, but somewhat nearer to the eastern tower, was a sally-port, with a flight of steps toward the river. The walls were in general about ten feet in thickness; and, as has been already noticed, entirely surround the area of the castle. These were again defended by a deep fosse or moat: the part toward the south being constantly filled from the river Medway; its channel having been diverted for that purpose: but the whole was capable of being filled with water, as occasion might require. Besides this, there was still another moat or fosse extending to a much greater distance, and enclosing nearly the whole area now occupied by the town. A spot in the vicinity is still distinguished by the name of the *POSTERN*; and was probably one of the outlets from this exterior boundary of the fortification towards the river.

Such is a general outline of this most curious and interesting fortress: the whole of which may be very distinctly traced at this time. The improvements which have been alluded to, as particularly characterizing this castle, and as marking parts of it as of a much more recent date than has commonly been supposed, are chiefly noticeable in the great tower, which contained the state and most commodious apartments of the governor. This is curious, as it elucidates the intermediate style of







Drawn by T. Agnew.

Engraved by L. Agnew.

*Tunbridge Priory.*

London. Published by Edmund Lloyd, Harley Street, May 1. 1849.

living between the mere rude castle of the coarse feudal chief, and the extensive castellated mansion, which succeeded with more prosperous and more civilized times.

Heretofore the keep itself, the main fortress, was the residence of the lord and his dependants: which the necessary provisions for annoyance and defence rendered but a comfortless abode. In this castle the keep retained this portion of its character; but it was only an occasional residence in cases of emergency: it was the body and last retreat of the citadel. In the great tower the provisions for safety and comfort were in some measure separated; and from its improved plan much attention was paid to the latter. We have already scrutinized the main passage of entrance; wherein defence was most minutely attended to. The lower apartments, on either side of this passage, were merely offices and store-rooms: beneath were vaults, and a dungeon, accessible only by trap-doors.

In the towers on each side of the gate fronting the south, were stone staircases, conducting to the several apartments and to the top of the towers. The rooms on the first floor are of the same dimensions as those below, 28 feet by 15 feet 9 inches; but here the space over the arch affords a third room. This part of the building, however, being within reach of the assailants, and likewise near enough to admit of annoying them with the cross-bow, was lighted only by the slender apertures of loops: the apartments consequently were gloomy, and, for any purpose but bedrooms, inconvenient. This, however, was completely obviated in the next story: the whole of the upper floor was laid into one apartment; which constituted the state-room; and the principal comfort of this species of building. This room was of noble dimensions; and being too high for any annoyance, was competently lighted by two very handsome windows toward the south. Here was a considerable advance towards amelioration in the system of living; and what always tends to the introduction of better habits, the attainment of comfort even in pursuits connected with warfare.

At a considerable distance from the castle, beyond the river, to the south of the town, stood the PRIORY OF TUNBRIDGE. This religious house was founded toward the close of the reign of Henry the Second, by



Richard, the first Earl of Hertford, proprietor of the castle and lowy of Tunbridge. It was allotted to canons of the Premonstatensian order; similar to those already described, as settled at Bayham Abbey. After this priory had subsisted in a prosperous condition nearly two centuries, it was totally destroyed, A.D. 1351, by fire. It was, however, soon restored, even with increased prosperity; and so continued till the fatal decree went forth, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, for the suppression of religious houses of a certain class. Tunbridge Priory, though competently endowed, fell within the description of those which were devoted; its revenues amounting only to the sum of £169. 10s. 3d. It was accordingly suppressed in the year 1524, and its revenues allotted to the support of the colleges which Cardinal Wolsey was then building at Oxford and Ipswich; but the grant not having been confirmed at the time of the Cardinal's disgrace, which happened soon after, the priory and its appendages became vested in the Crown.

It afterwards passed in the same channel as the manor and castle, until the death of Cardinal Pole; when Queen Elizabeth granted it to Sir Henry Sydney. Hence it afterwards passed to the Viscountess Purbeck; and on the dissipation of her large property, was alienated to a family of the name of Poley.

There are still traces of considerable buildings belonging to this priory; but very little in a perfect state. That, whereof a representation is here given, seems to have been the great hall or refectory. It is a handsome room; robbed, however, of every kind of ornament; and is now converted into a barn. There are, adjoining, some singular old brick and timber buildings, very ancient, though more modern than the priory. They bear a striking resemblance to those near Hever Castle.

In the year 1554, Sir Andrew Judde, a citizen of London, but a native of this town, founded a grammar school here, which is free for the children of the inhabitants of Tunbridge; and having amply endowed it, he constituted the master, wardens, and commonalty of Skinners, the governors. This school has subsequently received large additions to its revenues from other quarters: and has moreover attached to it scholarships and exhibitions in both universities. This school has always



supported a fair credit ; which has of late derived considerable accession from its present master, the Rev. Vicessimus Knox, D.D. a character too well known in the literary world to need any other specification than his name.

The school, a handsome building, admirably calculated for the purpose, stands at the north entrance to the town. Adjoining it is a commodious dwelling for the master ; which, by the munificence of the governors, has been lately considerably enlarged.

The river Medway, on which, as has been observed, this town is built, first becomes navigable here. The Act of Parliament, whereby the navigation is controlled, enables the commissioners, under certain circumstances, to extend it as far as Forest Row, near East Grinstead, in the county of Sussex. It is much to be lamented that those circumstances have not hitherto encouraged the extension of it as far at least as the neighbouring village of Penshurst. The public and individuals would thereby be benefited to a considerable extent : as likewise probably would the town of Tunbridge itself ; not only by an advance of trade, but it is conceived that such an opening to the channel, through the extensive and rich vale above the town, would be a means of preventing the frequent floods, which prove so great an inconvenience.

On the wharfs below the great bridge much and various business is carried on. Through this channel the whole neighbourhood, to a great extent, is supplied with fuel ; and the materials with which the London road is formed are conveyed to this point from the vicinity of Maidstone. The navigation extends to Rochester ; consequently connects this country with the Dock-yard at Chatham. Hence impoverishment to many an estate in the neighbourhood ; but accession to the strength of the nation. The facility with which large timber is conveyed from hence to the Dock-yard, has been the means of robbing the country of some of its greatest beauties ; and the late years of war have much tended to increase this havock. It is a misery to the eye intent on picturesque beauty ; yet is it a misery which brings with it its consolations. To the distressed proprietor, it is consolation in time of need : to every British heart it is consolation that our lost favorites float in another element to so noble a purpose.



## SOMERHILL.

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THOUGH now adorned with few appendages of magnificence, this place has, in truth, greater pretensions to notice than many in the neighbourhood, which can boast of more present splendor. It was originally the mansion to a very extensive domain; and has been possessed by persons of the first eminence in the kingdom, and honored with the presence of royalty.

The manorial estate, for whose lords it was the ordinary place of abode, was called the park or forest of SOUTH FRITH; which contained a wide range of forest or chase, extending in the southern district of the lowy of Tunbridge, as far as the Wells. This estate was among the original large possessions of the family of Clare, Earls of Gloucester and Hertford; owners of the castle and manor of Tunbridge.





Designed by J. G. Thompson

Engraved by T. Agnew

*Donnerhill*

London: Published by Edmund Lloyd Davies, Strand, W.C.











Engraved by James Ryman.

*Moreworth.*

London: Published by Edmund Lloyd, St. Mark's Street, May 1839.

Drawn by J. Russell.



## MEREWORTH HOUSE.

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MEREWORTH HOUSE, or as it is sometimes called, MEREWORTH CASTLE (having been erected on the site of a more ancient house, which was so denominated), the seat of Lord LE DESPENSER, is situate in the parish of the same name, at the distance of about a dozen miles from the Wells, on the great road leading from Tunbridge to Maidstone. It is in that division of the county which is termed the Weald; and in the hundred of *Littlefield*.

The present mansion was built about the year 1748, by John, the seventh Earl of Westmoreland; after a design of the celebrated Andrea Palladio, or rather in imitation of a villa, in the neighbourhood of Venice, designed and executed by that celebrated architect. All due credit will readily be given to the artist, as likewise to the builder; for it must be allowed to be well designed and admirably executed; and is in itself certainly a very great ornament to the country. The noble projector of it, however, when his taste was allured by its prototype in Italy, seems unfortunately to have forgotten that he was about to indulge his imitative vein in England; to which it is as inapplicable as the climates of the respective countries are irreconcilable.

The body of the house, consisting of a substantial stone building, occupies a space of eighty-eight feet square: the sides are uniform; each being similarly ornamented with a handsome doric portico; and the whole is surmounted by a well proportioned dome; to the centre of which the chimneys are conveyed. The house is entirely surrounded by a



moat; and is approached by a deep flight of steps, which forms, with a part of the portico, a bridge over the moat. The entrance to the house is through a small vestibule into a noble circular hall; from whence are the communications to the various apartments, all of which are of good dimensions, and communicate with each other.

In the gallery, which occupies the whole extent of the back-front, as likewise in the drawing-room, are many good pictures; some very curious for their remote antiquity: in the dining-room are some valuable whole length family portraits by Cornelius Jansen. It will, however, be lamented by the connoisseur, that through the ignorance of an artist who undertook to clean and varnish them, many of the best pictures have been considerably injured.

On either side, in front of the house, and at right angles with it, are two handsome buildings of corresponding architecture; the one contains the kitchen and other domestic offices; the other the stables and their appropriate appendages. The ground rises beautifully behind the house, is generally well wooded, and commands exquisite prospects over a well inhabited and richly cultivated country. In front is a stream which affords a tolerable command of water, and even in its present state, is a principal feature in the scene. The addition of a bridge, and a little judicious direction and enlargement of the channel, would add materially to the beauty of the place.

During the existence of the ancient castle of Mereworth, the church and parsonage-house stood in its immediate vicinity. These were such obstacles to the projects of improvement entertained by Lord Westmoreland, that he procured a faculty for their removal; when a new church was erected by him, in a situation equally convenient to the parish; which also forms a pleasing object from the house. It was finished and consecrated in the year 1746. The parsonage was not rebuilt till some years after.

A report is current, that when Lord Westmoreland suggested the removal of the church, he experienced a serious opposition from the prejudices of the inhabitants, whose relatives were interred there, against the desecration of the ancient cemetery. With a decision and magnificence



of spirit, which, in all his undertakings, characterised him, he met the difficulty and removed the objection: it is said that he excavated the whole of the ancient church-yard, and deposited the contents in a pit destined to constitute a part of the new one; thus assuring to the surviving relatives the future consolation of reposing in this rich compost of the remains of their ancestors;

——— si vera est fama ———  
 Tam ficti pravique tenax, quam nuntia veri.

The excursion to Mereworth is, on a variety of accounts, one of the most pleasing in this neighbourhood, and, it may be added, the most profitable. Here, indeed, is no gratification from rock or forest scenery; neither is the country so rich to the eye as those in the direction of Mayfield or Lamberhurst. The beauties here are all of a different cast; varied on comparison with each other, and of unequal character. About Hadlow the country is flat and dismal; noticeable only for the richness of the soil: from thence, by the Peckhams to Mereworth, it is gay and inviting; being agreeably studded with many comfortable dwellings, and ornamented by some handsome mansions. On the left hand is Sir William Geary's, at Oxenhoath; and Mrs. Masters', at Yokes Place: and on the right Sir William Twysden's venerable old place of Roydon Hall.

But that which creates the greatest interest in this excursion, is the good specimen it yields of Kentish farming; which is still further exemplified if the ride be extended a little towards Maidstone. Throughout the whole course many spots might be selected worthy of notice. The first object, at a very short distance from Mereworth, is the pleasant village of Watlingbury; highly cultivated, and eminently picturesque in every part. At its elegant vicarage, on the right hand, the patriotic traveller will pause, to notice the summer retreat of a character to whom all England is indebted—the active coadjutor of his venerable father on a great and anxious occasion,—the Rev. Dr. Thomas Willis. But another, somewhat further on his road, will be especially recommended to the agriculturist, as of peculiar prominence; viz. Teston, the seat of Lord Barham. The house and grounds are worthy of notice for their singular



beauty; but it is his farm which is the chief object of attention. This is about two miles beyond Mereworth, in the direction of Maidstone; and, for the general excellence of cultivation, his various precautions for all the exigencies of the undertaking, the extent and utility of his buildings, the neatness of his stacks and fences, and the appropriation of every inch of ground to some useful purpose, it presents a picture even to the unscientific eye: those who are competent, and would justly appreciate, must examine more minutely. Having done so, and having deduced pleasure and improvement from the inspection, their general applause will be enhanced by the reflection, that these are the dignified amusements of a veteran of the British navy; of one who, having ploughed the main to the advantage of his country, and by his councils enabled the hero of Trafalgar to complete, in that memorable day, his glorious career, here ploughs his native soil to individual profit, we will hope; but more especially for the benefit of those who may improve from his judicious examples and costly experiments.

But the feature which most excites admiration, in this excursion, is the extensive cultivation of hops. The specimen here afforded is the very best in the kingdom. A soil well adapted to this capricious plant, aided by large capital, much industry, and incessant care, generally produces a favorable return. In a propitious season nothing can exceed the beauty of this quick succession of plantations, which, for the height of the poles and luxuriance of the growth, can no where be exceeded. It may be admitted that it is but a short portion of the year in which the hop can be said to be ornamental; but during that time nothing can rival it; especially when, as in this tract of country, it is interspersed with crops of grain of most exquisite weight and quality.

But here the hop has a collateral advantage, which to be tasted must be explained. To those who have long known this interesting part of the country, there is nothing more striking than the recent additions and improvements of the buildings which every where ornament its surface. These may all be considered as the production of hops; the tests of successful enterprise and persevering endeavours. In many instances this success has enabled the tenant to become the purchaser of the soil.



To a stranger, these are pleasing exemplifications of that boasted and honorable character, the YEOMAN OF KENT.

In a return toward the Wells, the gratified eye experiences a wearisome mortification in witnessing the diminished, cankered, withered produce of the same plant, and the still more meagre crops of grain by its side. Hence a proof of the folly of attempting what is impossible. The great success of the neighbouring large capitalists, in a favorable soil, has tempted the needy farmer of the wilderness to adventure in the same pursuit. He starves and impoverishes all his farm to pamper an acre or two of hops; which may, in a favorable season, yield him a small return, at the certainty of losing crops in every other quarter. It were a wise precaution with the landlords in the immediate vicinity of the Wells, with a very few exceptions, absolutely to bar this species of cultivation. Their tenants would quickly experience a permanent remuneration in the improved crops of grain; whilst the landlord and the country would be repaid by the quick conversion of barren heaths into pleasant verdure, and unproductive acres into smiling fields of corn.



## KNOLE,

### *THE SEAT OF THE DUKE OF DORSET.*

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THE manor and estate of KNOLE, like many other places, in the early and unsettled periods of our history, very frequently changed their proprietors. Between the reign of King John and that of Henry the Sixth, a period of little more than two hundred years, we find them passing, sometimes in regular and peaceful transfer, often by attainder or coercion, between families of the greatest consequence. Amongst these occur the distinguished names of BETUN Earls of Albemarle; MARESCALLS of Pembroke; FULKE DE BRENT, a notorious character in the reigns of King John and his successor; BIGOD Earl of Norfolk; GRANDISON; SAY; LEGHE; and FIENNES. From the last named family this property took a course wherein it maintained a more cognizable shape; and thenceforth became a place of decided consequence in this division of the county.

Few places have been the residence of more persons of distinction, or of extraordinary character, than Knole. It may be added, there is scarcely a place in the county on so large a scale, or, according to the ancient system of domestic habits, so well calculated for the accommodation of such persons. It is recorded of Thomas, the first Earl of Dorset, and the first of that family who resided here, that during the fifty-three years, in which he was married to one wife, for thirty of them his family consisted, in one place or other, of little less than two hundred persons;





*Shute.*

*Engraved by Samuel David Harvey, from the original.*

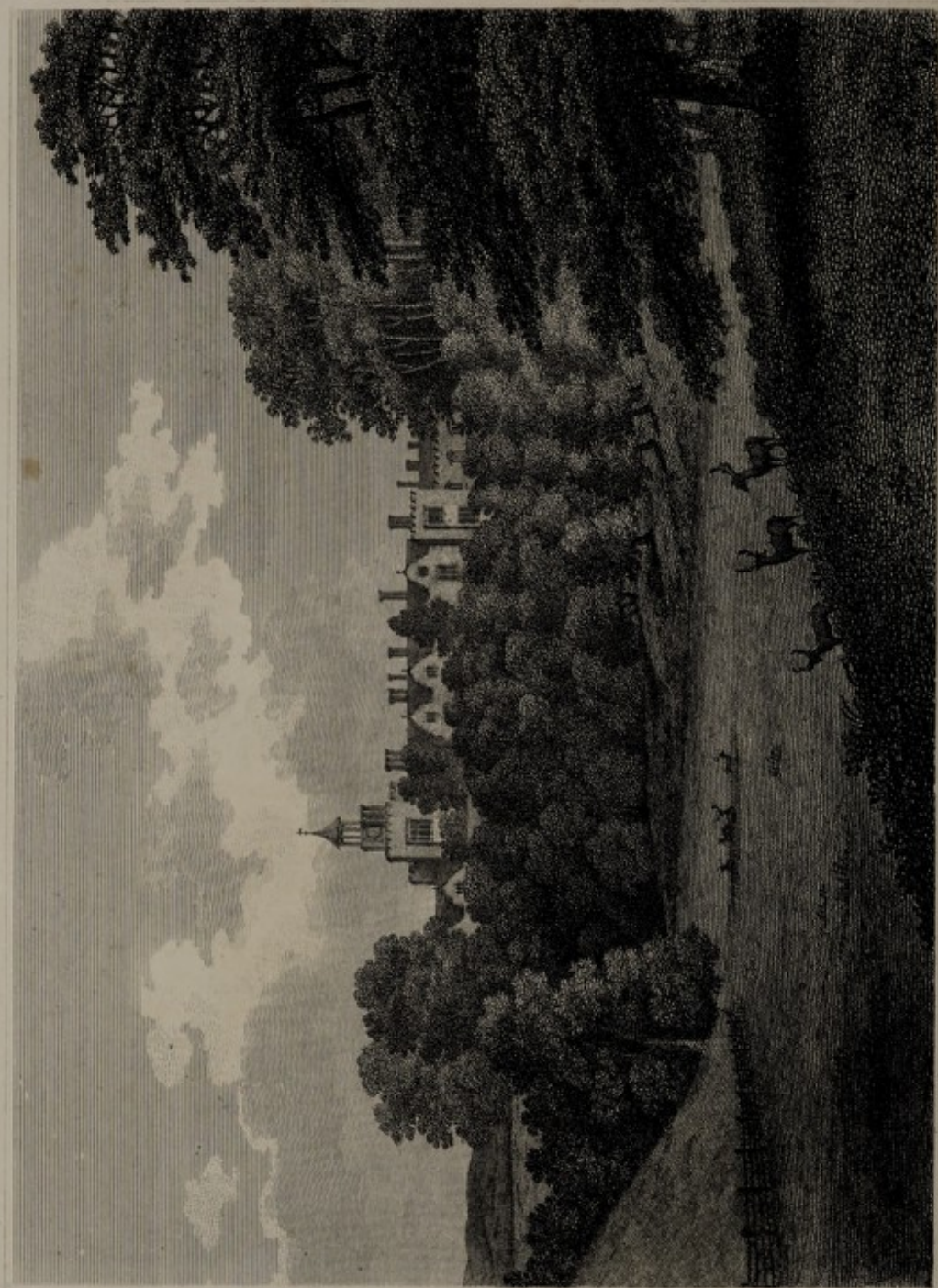
*Printed by James Dwyer.*











Printed by T. Agnew & Sons

*J. Knole.*

London. Published by Edmund Lloyd, Bishop Street, May 1. 1817.

Drawn by T. Agnew & Sons



and for more than twenty, besides workmen and others hired, the number was at least two hundred and twenty daily. For such an household large space was requisite; and the present appearance of Knole justifies the record of such a retinue.

The house, which presents a noble and conspicuous object from the London road, is well placed, on an eminence, in a beautiful and well-timbered park. It is in the parish of Sevenoaks, at about the distance of half a mile from the town. It occupies a very considerable extent of ground; consisting of three regular courts, surrounded by buildings; besides offices of a more irregular form. The whole, as well as the park and a considerable extent of pleasure-ground, are kept in good order.

The connoisseur will here be gratified by many excellent pictures of ancient and modern masters; particularly with the portraits of eminent characters; which are here found in great abundance, and are in good preservation.

The visitor who approaches this place, expecting to be gratified with a view of fine architecture, noble apartments, splendid furniture, or a house calculated for modern ideas of comfort, will probably be disappointed. Knole was built for the system of living which prevailed at the time when it was erected; than which nothing can be more inconsistent with our ideas of enjoyment. The great hall was the chief scene of hospitality; and as hospitality then consisted in the feeding of numbers, space was the object chiefly to be obtained. The hall at Knole is accordingly a handsome room, of suitable proportions, and in a good style of architecture; but, from the alteration in the mode of living, it is become of little utility, and of much positive inconvenience. In general, the house constructed on this plan affords no adequate substitute elsewhere. In Knole there are galleries of considerable dimensions, and some tolerable apartments: but none splendid; and few, if any, cheerful. It is the number, the range, and perhaps the inutility of them, which excite notice. When the houses of this description were planned, the revenues of their projectors were princely; and every apartment had its use and its inhabitants. The times have altered; and the means of the owners, however elevated their rank, are rarely inadequate to the original purpose. The greater part of



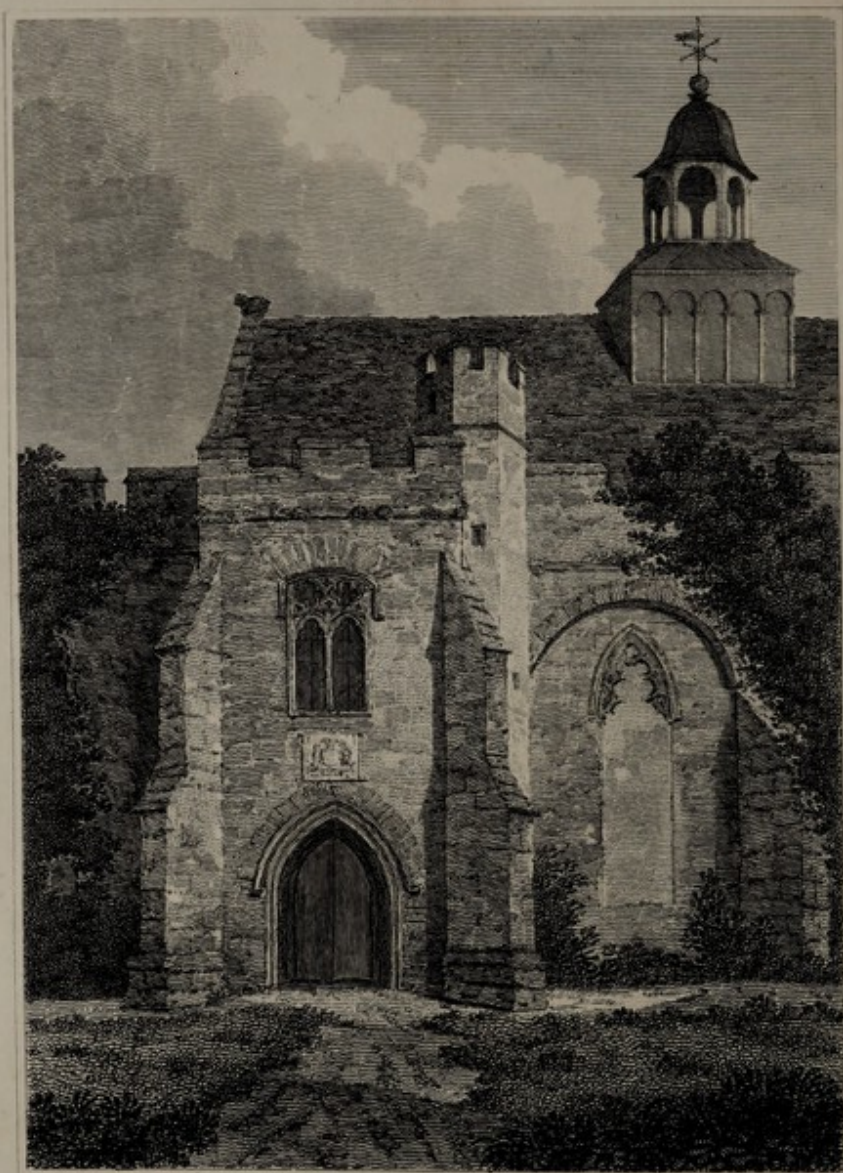
them consequently is deserted by the proprietor, who for comfort shrinks into a corner of it, which, as a libel on his ancestors, he modernizes ; and the unwieldy pile is considered as an incumbrance on the estate ; or seems to be retained only that it may be exhibited as a memorial of obsolete grandeur. This, however, is not said as peculiarly applicable to Knole ; it is the train of thought which will generally intrude, as we pervade any of these gloomy labyrinths of ancient English magnificence.



*Sevenoaks Church*







*Drawn by P. Amis.*

*Engraved by L. Smith.*

*Penshurst Place.*

*London: Published by Edmund Lloyd, Harley Street, May 1809.*





*London, Published by Edmund Lloyd, Fleet Street, May 1. 1794.*

## PENSHURST.

FEW are the places in the county of Kent, perhaps in England, which will be approached with greater reverence, or quitted with more melancholy impressions, than **PENSHURST**, the ancient seat of the **SIDNEYS** Earls of Leicester. It is from the high dignity, and the real worth and talent of its various members, that this family has stamped celebrity on this place, rather than from its remote antiquity: for, when compared with the Sackvilles, Nevills, and some other families in the neighbourhood, the Sidneys are but of recent date. This house, however, still magnificent, though in decay, is a dignified memorial of them. It has witnessed their prosperity; it attests also their decline: and having



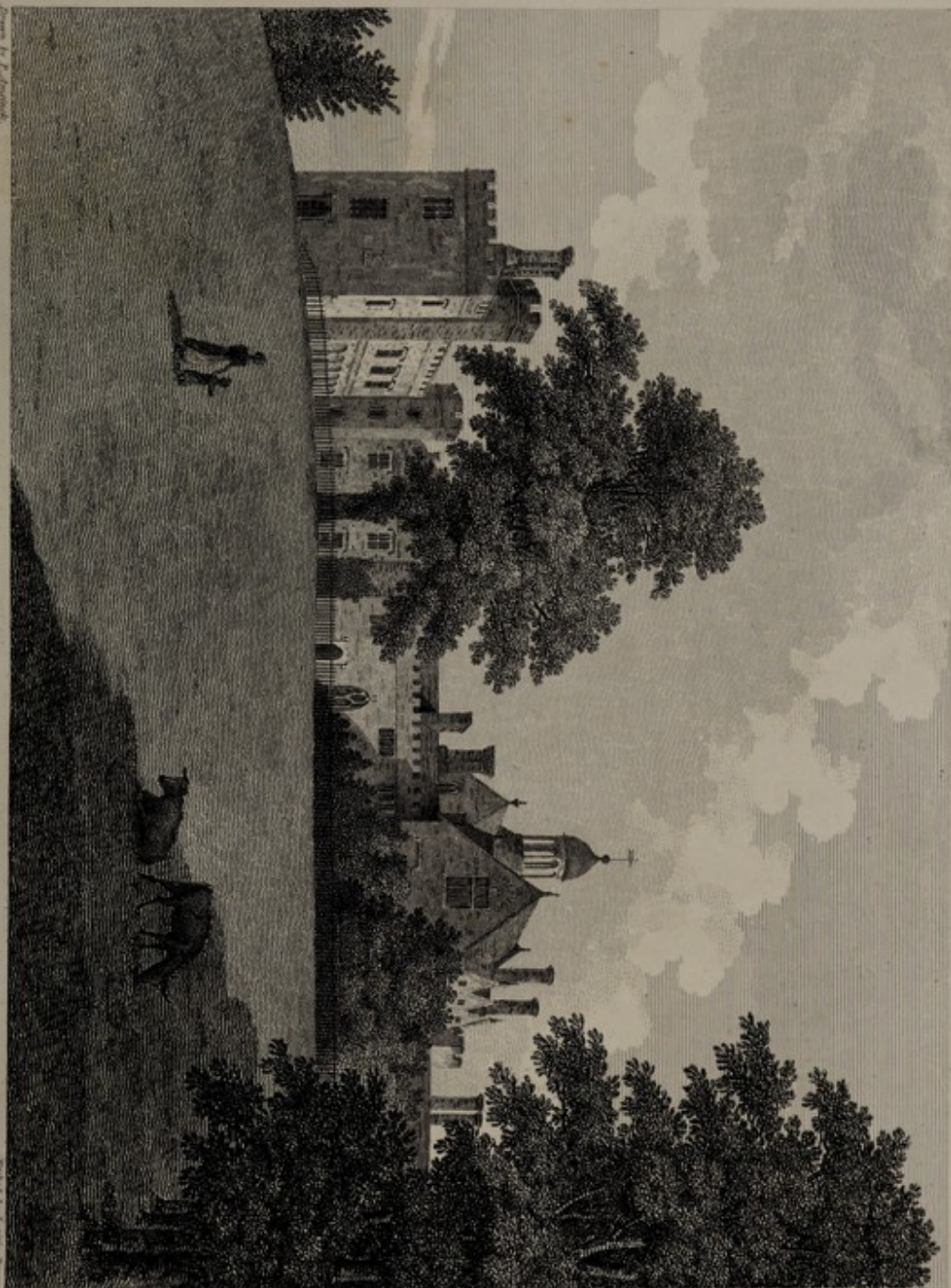
seen its last male branch tottering under disgrace and imbecility, it seems, as it were, to sympathize, and hasten to a rapid decay.

PENSHURST is situate at the distance of six miles from the Wells, on the banks of the river Medway (above the town of Tunbridge), which is here but an insignificant stream ; and in that part of the county which is termed the *Weald*. From its situation it has probably derived its name ; which signifies *the head of the wood* : the parish being placed in this direction, at the commencement nearly of that vast forest, which constituted the *weald* or woody part of Kent and Sussex.

It was anciently the property and residence of a family which bare the name of the place ; Stephen de Peneshurste, or Penchester, owning it in the reigns of Henry the Third and Edward the First. This Stephen, whose rude monument still exists in the parish church, dying without male issue, the estate passed, on the death of his wife, (2d Edward the Second,) to JOHN DE COLUMBER ; by whose son it was sold to Sir JOHN DE PULTENEY, a character celebrated in those times for his magnificent spirit, his large and extensive charities during his life, and his munificent bequests, for similar purposes, at his death.

PENSHURST PLACE, the ancient residence of this family, is a very noble mansion, situate at the south-east extremity of a very extensive park, immediately adjoining the village and church. It consists of a large irregular pile of buildings, erected at various times ; but containing a range of handsome apartments, and seeming, in its entire state, to have possessed more principles of comfort than the generality of houses of the same description. The plan (as far as plan may be expected in a work of many hands) is similar to that of most buildings of the same date. The principal entrance is through an handsome gateway, into a court, not of large dimensions, which conducts through a passage to the great hall ; having the kitchen and buttery opposite. At the left-hand corner, at the upper end of the hall, is the staircase, leading to the council chamber, the state apartments, and the gallery ; at the opposite corner is the passage to the chapel, and lower rooms, in common use. The hall is a noble room, and, till the barbarous hand of modernization fell upon it, was complete in its appropriate costume. The writer of this memoir





Drawn by T. Agnew.

Engraved by James Agnew.

# *Donchurst Place.*

London, Published by Edmund Lloyd, Harley Street, May 1849.





not many years since remembers when the fine timber roof was entire, when the side walls throughout were covered with pikes, lances, and match-locks, and the upper end and piers with entire suits of plate armour. That of Sir Philip Sidney was pointed out to the spectator; possibly spurious: but the cheat was allowable, and a very little enthusiasm was wanting to give it reality. At the time alluded to, when the great gate creaked on its hinges, for the admission of a stranger, as he advanced, the responses of deep toned blood-hounds echoed through the house; and by the time he reached the hall, he was prepared in imagination to meet some ancient knight of chivalrous notoriety: he viewed the place *con amore*. A paltry attempt at a perspective deception, yet unfinished, has been the occasion of mutilating the handsome timber roof, and of abolishing the ancient armour: and all pleasing deception has vanished.

The classic antiquary will further lament, that, whilst this marring hand was at work, a simple but characteristic feature of this style of building should heedlessly have been done away. In the upper part of the hall, on the side immediately opposite the door conducting to the staircase, was a small window. Amongst the recent *improvements* this window has been stopped up. It was an index of ancient manners, which merited a better fate. This was the window, in palaces, of the council chamber, or rather of a closet annexed to it; in mansions of less dignity, of the lord's room of business; whence he could look into the great hall, the usual place of attendance, and summon to him whomsoever he wanted. In this room it was that the council were sitting (as represented by Shakspeare in his play of Henry the Eighth), whilst Cranmer was doomed to wait

“ Among boys, grooms, and lackeys,”

in the hall. Dr. Butts sees him there with indignation, and proceeds to the council; whence from an upper window,—this very important window,—he exhibits the strange sight to the King:

“ I'll shew your Grace the strangest sight,

“ I think, your Highness saw this many a day:

“ There, my Lord ——



(pointing to the scene passing in the hall below)

"The high promotion of His Grace of Canterbury ;

"Who holds his state at door, 'mongst pursuivants,

"Pages and footboys."

These are pleasing illustrations of ancient manners, which it is to be lamented that heedless and indiscriminate innovation should ever obliterate.

The ancient park of Penshurst was of very considerable extent, containing no less than one thousand and fifty acres. In consequence of the division of the property, it is now reduced to little more than four hundred: and, from necessity, it has been further abridged of some of its greatest beauties. Yet does it contain much good timber; and has the advantage, not often found in this country, of water. The tree, which is said to have stood

"—— the sacred mark

"Of noble Sidney's birth,——"

will be sought for in vain; having proved more perishable than the fame of him, whose birth it was intended to commemorate: which, by a singular reverse, now records the former existence of the tree. The park, however, still retains one lasting memorial of the ancient splendour of the place: in the lofty beeches, on the highest ground opposite, but at a considerable distance from the house, is a large and well frequented *heronry*; now a singular curiosity, it being the only one remaining in this part of England.

The gardens still retain their original form of terraces, and multiplied divisions: but they are neglected, and indeed form a perfect wilderness.

Within the house are many excellent pictures: a few, by eminent masters, now only show what might once have been their pretensions; scarcely any of them having escaped the effect of the damp, to which they have been lamentably exposed. The loss is the more mortifying, as it chiefly occurred from the improvidence of those who had the management of the property during the minority of the present owner. A very few chaldrons of coals, judiciously expended, would effectually have remedied the evil. They are now, however, perished, past recal.



But the great treasure of the house consists of family portraits, and others of eminent characters in English history : and these have, in many instances, suffered less than others of a more general value. Many of these are eminently worthy the attention of engravers. Similar approbation will not be adjudged to an immense display of blue and gold silks and satins, which ornaments one side of the transept of the gallery : being *fac similes*, no doubt, of Mr. Perry and his family : who, in fat citizen-like apathy, seems to be drawing a contrast, very soothing to himself, between his own finery and the homely appearance of his ancestors. It is a little surprising that it has not long since been consigned to a garret. But contrasts have their advantage : and the disgust occasioned by this fine and busy group, leads the admirer of ancient worth to return with increased delight to his sober and chaster favorites ; though he be constrained to view them in the melancholy garb of decay.

Here and there, dispersed through the house, are some remains of antiquity, which Mr. Perry is said to have collected in Italy, but nothing of any value. It has been reported that, amongst other articles of curiosity, he brought from the Continent a curious ancient sarcophagus ; which was eventually destined to a singular appropriation. On opening the family vault many years since, for the interment of one of its deceased members, a stack of coffins was found to have fallen, in consequence of the decay of one which occupied the lowest place. On replacing them it was found that the one which had thus occasioned the fall, was that of Algernon Sidney ; thus, even in death, hostile to aristocracy. Curiosity led to the inspection of the corpse ; which is said, on the first opening of the lead, to have retained a perfect appearance ; the ribband which covered the separation of the neck still being of a vivid blue, with the marks of the blood on it. The leaden coffin, containing the corpse, is said to have been afterward deposited in Mr. Perry's antique sarcophagus. The vault has been long since closed : consequently evidence is wanting to this part of the report, which is very probably unfounded. The fact, as far as it is applicable to the discovery of the body, has been accurately ascertained.

This account of Penshurst might still occupy many pages, as the place



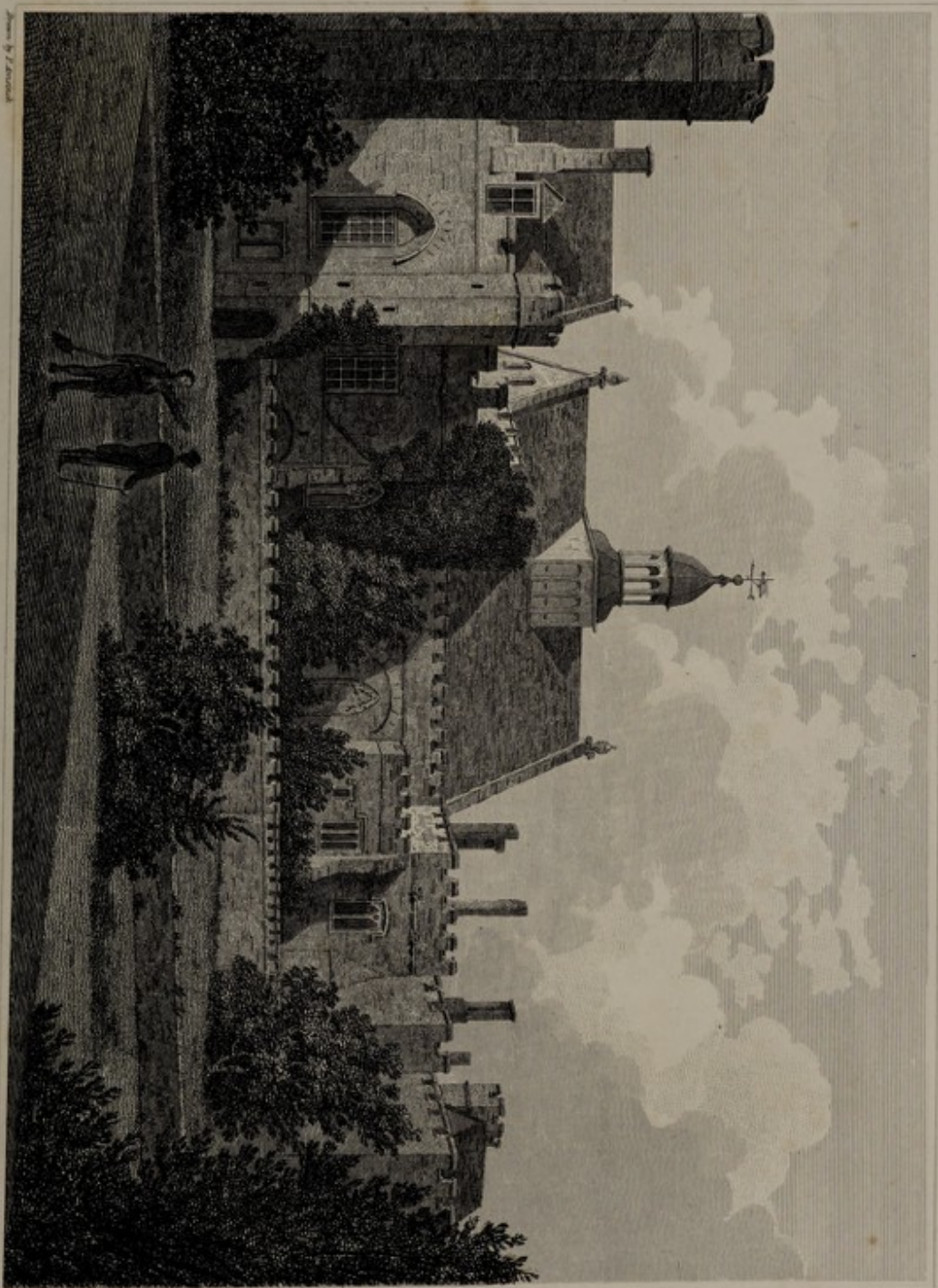
itself will always interest and delight. It will only be allowable further to notice the present condition of the house. The annexed plates represent parts which have not heretofore been engraved. The motive to which selection has been, that as all is tending to decay, all may at least live in the collections of the curious. Many of the out-buildings and domestic offices have long since been in a very dilapidated state; and about two years since, the entire range from the great gateway to the left was taken down, and much more must speedily follow. The parts thus destroyed were amongst the most curious; as exhibiting the ancient systems of domestic life: but from altered habits they were become altogether useless. It will be lamented that the chapel should likewise have been destroyed to make room for a modern staircase; more especially, as it occupied a part of the house which will probably stand the longest.

In thus adverting to the present circumstances of a place like Penshurst, venerable, though in decay, it is difficult to repress feelings which its history and the ancient celebrity of its owners inspire. If those feelings have been sometimes warmly expressed, let it not be supposed that they were intended to wound, or convey censure. Circumstances, wherein the present proprietor had no share or control, have created imperious necessities, which must involve the ruin of this place: every one who views the diminished edifice will sympathise with him; and unite in the hope that the great name which he retains, may long survive the perishable monuments of his family:

*"Semper honos, nomenque tuum, laudesque manebunt."*

The ancient house which is here represented, stands in the parish of Penshurst, near a place called POUNDS-BRIDGE. It is no otherwise worthy of notice, than as it affords a good specimen of the old timber buildings of this country; and is situate in a singularly wild and romantic dell. The ride to it, in the direction of Speldhurst, may be recommended as one of peculiar beauty. In front of the house are the initials W. D. with the date of the building and age of the builder. It appears to have been erected by William Darkenoll, a former Rector of Penshurst; who





# *Penhurst Place.*

*Engraving published by Edmund Spence, New York, June 1, 1859.*





died July 12, 1596. His family were, in still remoter times, considerable landholders in this parish; Walter Derkinghall, as the name was then spelt, holding an estate therein, called Salmans, above a century before A.D. 1490.



*House at Pounds Bridge.*

London, Published by Edward Lloyd, No. 17, Street, near St. Dunstons.



## SOUTH PARK.

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THE spot on which this elegant villa is erected was formerly part of the domain and park belonging to the Earls of LEICESTER, the owners of Penshurst Place. On the division of that property between the coheiresses, on the demise of Joceline the last Earl, in 1743, SOUTH PARK formed a part of the moiety which came to the share of Mary, the younger sister; who married Sir Brownlow Sherrard, Bart. of Lowthorpe, in Leicestershire.

Lady Sherrard, having survived her husband, died without issue in 1758, and by her will gave these estates for her life to Anne, the widow of Sir William Yonge, K.B., with remainder to her son Sir George Yonge, Bart. of Escot, in Devonshire. In the year 1770, they joined in the sale of a considerable part thereof, comprising, amongst others, this of South Park, to Richard Allnutt, Esq. who built this house and resided here till his death in 1789. He was succeeded in this property by his grandson Richard, being then a minor: who, on his coming of age, established himself here; and has since enlarged the house, and considerably beautified and improved the place.

South Park is in the parish of Penshurst, in Sussex; and is situate on the opposite side of the turnpike road; and, within a small range, consists of much pleasanter ground than the larger park, to which it formerly belonged. The house is admirably placed on the rising ground; forming a pleasing object to the whole of the adjacent country; commanding a view over the village and grounds of Penshurst, and a fine





Drawn by F. Howard

Engraved by James Fenn

# South Park

London: Published by Edmund Taylor, Bookseller, No. 10, St. Martin's Lane.





rich country in all directions. The projector of this place had advantages which very rarely occur under similar circumstances. Numerous spots presented themselves for the house ; from which he seems to have made a judicious choice ; and instead of the hopeless toil of obtaining shelter and ornament by new plantations, his only task was the exercise of a prudent forbearance in levelling a sufficiency of the existing woods to admit of prospect and to give relief to his grounds. In the valley before the house, a branch of the river Medway holds its winding course : it is not navigable here, though it flows with a tolerable body of water ; and, chancing at this point to fall over a shallow bed of stones, by a natural cascade, adds materially to the beauty of the place.

The excursion from the Wells to Penshurst is very pleasantly varied, by returning in this direction. In that case, the traveller passes close to South Park ; when he will be gratified by a nearer view of so pleasing a spot. The contrast will strike ; and possibly he will be induced to lament an alienation of property which has occasioned the decline of the venerable parent mansion. The aristocratic enthusiast may, perchance, cast an eye of reproach on the modern villa, which seems to smile contemptuously on its lordly predecessor, now falling and tottering beneath its own weight. But the real patriot who contemplates the advanced state of our country, the energies which it has demonstrated, and the immense exertions of which it is proved capable, will hail, in these scions from overgrown possessions, the means whereby these effects are produced, and the proofs of an ameliorated state of society.



## HEVER CASTLE.

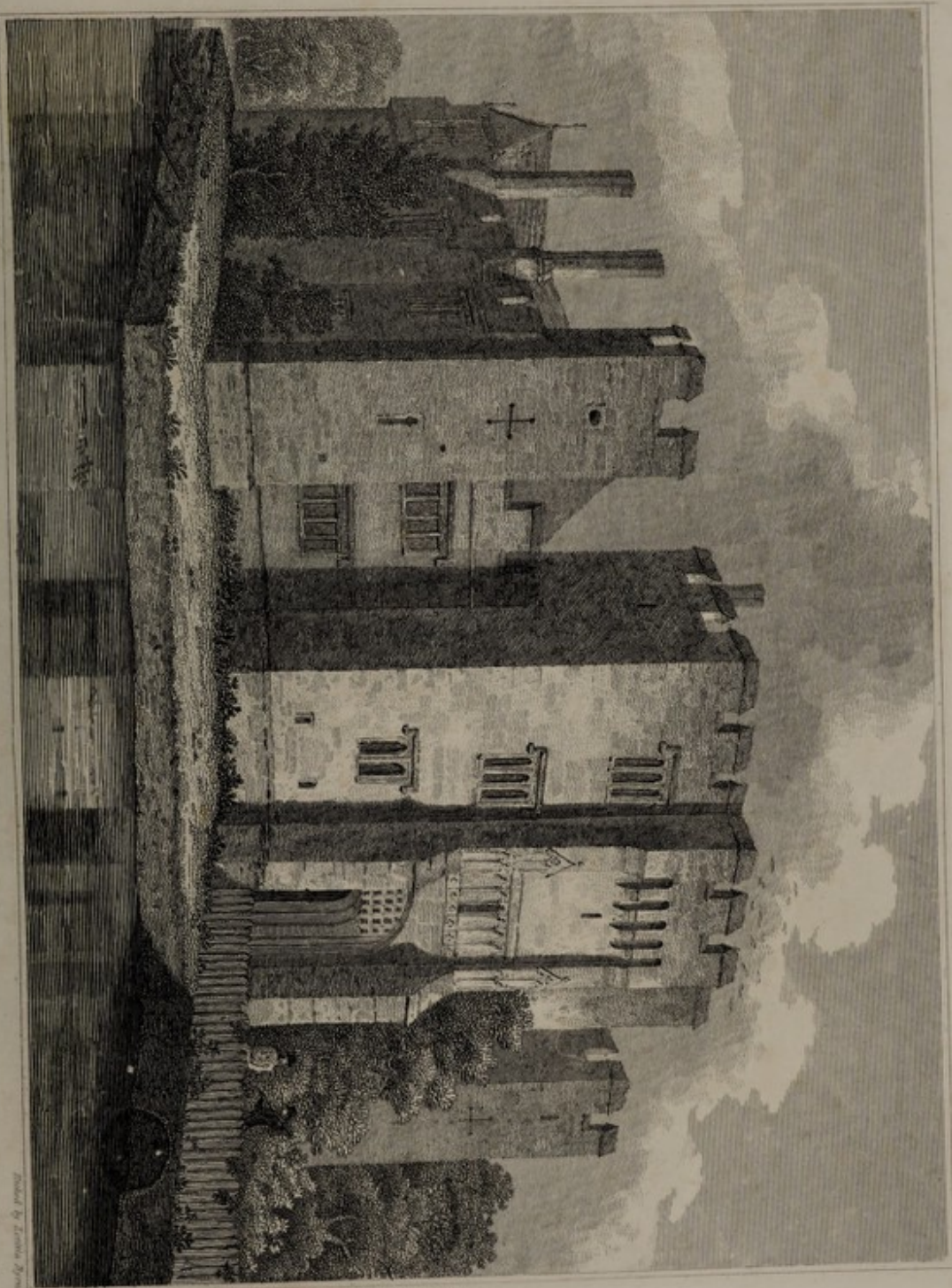
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This mansion, manor, and estate were possessed in remote times by a family of the same name, to whom the parish itself probably owes its designation: since it appears, that in times still more distant, they resided on property in the parish of Ifield, which from them was called HEVER COURT; from whence they removed to this place about the time of Edward the First; in the second year of whose reign WILLIAM DE HEVER served the office of sheriff for the county of Kent. In the reign of Edward the Third, another William, his descendant, rebuilt this mansion, and had licence to embattle it; thereby laying the foundation for its claim to the distinction of castle, although it does not appear that it actually obtained that designation so early.

It is chiefly to the Bullen family that this place is indebted for its celebrity. The first owner of this name added considerably to the house, which had been erected here by William de Hever; and his grandson completed it to the state in which it appears at present; and, having given it a more castellated appearance, named it HEVER CASTLE.

There are few places in this neighbourhood which will be viewed with greater interest than Hever Castle: not, however, for the beauty of its situation or the magnificence of its buildings. It is far from large, nor could it ever have been splendid: its situation is bad; the adjacent country being low, wet, and dirty. It is now, indeed, viewed under the disadvantage of having become merely the residence of a farmer, the





Designed by T. H. Marshall

# *Dover Castle*

London: Published by Edward Lloyd, 10, Strand, 1845.

Printed by T. Agnew





tenant of the estate : somewhat better it might have been, when free from the unsightly objects which now surround it ; when encompassed with its park, and suitably inhabited. But, according to modern ideas, it never could have been an inviting place of abode. The house, however, was a good one, substantially built, surrounded by a moat, which is supplied by the river Eden, and approached over a bridge, through a gateway, embattled and machicollated, in which the portcullis still remains.

But the chief interest in this place arises from the view which it presents of the residence, in a very entire state, of the mere country gentleman of the fourteenth century. Of those of the higher nobility we have many perfect specimens on the grandest scale : of those of the inferior orders there are few remaining ; and this is complete in its character and condition. In going over it, and noticing all its particulars, we are enabled to form a very accurate idea of the mode of living appropriate to this class in society at the time alluded to.



## BUCKHURST.

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BUCKHURST, or BOCKHURST, with its appendages of manor, mansion, and park, has been the property of the family of SACKVILLE for above six hundred years ; and was previously held by the De la Denes, whence it descended to them by marriage, from the time of the Conquest. It is situate in the parish of Withyham, in the county of Sussex ; and on the northern boundary of the ancient forest of Ashdown. If remote and uninterrupted possession by a family, consisting of a long succession of warriors, statesmen, and literary characters, will give interest to the spot on which they have heretofore resided, Buckhurst will arrest the attention of the visitor ; will interest and delight, even though it can no longer exhibit the spacious mansion wherein these characters have figured in their respective ages. It still, however, displays marks of its former celebrity ; and under its present owners promises to revive, and possibly to attain a portion of its ancient importance.

At what time Buckhurst House was built, is matter rather of conjecture than of certainty. The Sackvilles, who first allied themselves to the family of De Denes, are known to have made their principal residence at Sackville Bergholt, in Essex : yet is it probable that what had been the abode of the De Denes was theirs also occasionally. This probability is further strengthened from their having made Bayham Abbey, in this neighbourhood, their burial place ; and such was the case with them for several generations.

The circumstance, however, of selecting Bayham as their place of





*Drawn by F. Anstitch*

*Engraved by Letitia Byrne*

*Buckhurst.*

*London Published by Edmund Lloyd, Harley Street May 1849.*





interment argues little in behalf of their having possessed any large or principal establishment at Buckhurst; although in concurrence with other circumstances it might be valid. The superstitions of those times attached important advantages to burial in certain places. The De Denes and Sackvilles were founders and benefactors of this monastery; and consequently had, in the pious services due to a founder, a manifest interest in depositing their remains within its consecrated ground. And this would have prevailed even though they had resided at a considerable distance. But when a family altered their burial place from a conventual to a parochial church (and that the church belonging to their manor), and regularly continued it; the presumption becomes strong, that from the time of such alteration they had made the adjacent mansion their chief place of residence, and consequently had enlarged and improved it to a state suited to their condition.

Queen Elizabeth is stated, in the course of her progresses, amongst other places of note, to have visited Buckhurst. It would appear to have been an object of much emulation among the nobility to receive, and suitably to entertain the royal guest; though the tax imposed on them in consequence must have been enormous; and none but houses on the largest scale could have been competent to receive her retinue.

The only part of this immense pile which still remains, is the tower, evidently built by Thorpe towards the latter part of the sixteenth century. It is composed of good masonry, and besides his initials, has the arms of the Sackville family in three shields, and the old crest, the battering ram, which is the most appropriate to their motto, *aut nunquam tentes aut perfice*, inscribed over the gateway. To what object this tower was appropriated is not so obvious. The door, though large, is not of sufficient capacity to admit carriages; and although it was detached from the house, the intervening space was not sufficient to constitute a court. It might possibly have been intended for a porter's lodge; or a tower for observation, to which purpose it seems to have been well calculated. It constitutes a pleasing object to the neighbourhood; and whatever might have been its former uses, it now only proclaims the spot whereon the lordly Buckhurst once stood.



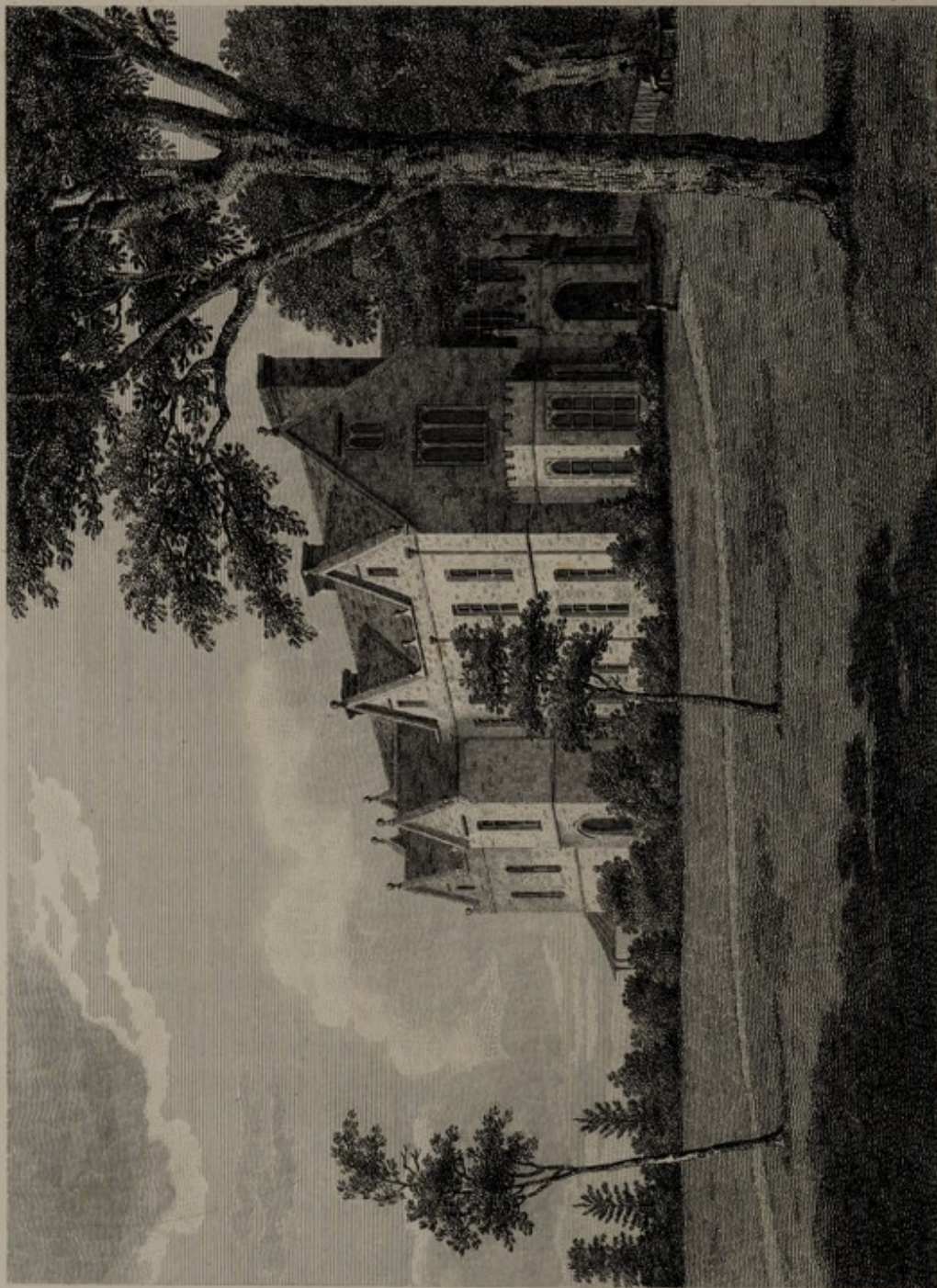
As early as the time of Edward the First there was a park here ; in somewhat later times two. The evidence to the existence of the former is, that in the 22d of that reign a commission issued to hear and try, from Andrew de Sackville, certain malefactors who had entered and driven his park at Buckhurst.

These parks consisted of what was properly called Buckhurst Park, and that of Stoneland, which now remains. They are only divided by a road. It is noticeable that they bore the relative proportion to each other, in point of extent, of five to three ; a circumstance which is corroborated by an appropriate distinction in the will of Thomas the first Earl of Dorset. This will is in itself a volume ; some particulars, beyond that alluded to, may amuse the reader, and will not be inapplicable to the matter under investigation. He bequeaths to his wife " all his stock " of cattle, &c. about his mansion houses of Dorset House, Knole House, " Buckhurst House, Southover House, and Horsley House ; as also his " best carotch, his best coach, his litter and his waggon, with the furniture " to them belonging, together with four mares and twelve geldings out " of his stock of horses. He likewise bequeaths and grants unto her " during her life, eight bucks and eight does yearly out of his two parks " of Buckhurst and Stoneland ; five out of the one and three out of the " other." He left moreover ten marks per annum, for ten years, to mend the roads : the inconvenience of which he appears sensibly to have felt and lamented.

Having thus investigated the rise and decline of Buckhurst, a more pleasing part of our task remains to be performed, in the notice of what may be termed its renovation. A second house had, even before the destruction of Buckhurst, occupied a very beautiful spot in Stoneland Park. It is said originally to have been designed as a residence for the steward ; and there is reason, as well from the style of building as from other evidence, to believe that the original part of it was built by the architect mentioned before, J. Thorpe. The house was, however, on a small scale ; and as it was not intended, so was it little calculated to become the residence of this family. It received, however, considerable additions from Lionel the first Duke of Dorset, who made it a place of







Engraved by J. Smith

Designed by T. Agnew

# Stoneland.

London. Published by Edmund Lloyd, Harley Street, May 1849.



occasional summer retirement. His son, Lord George Germaine, who was afterwards created Lord Sackville, had, in the year 1765, a lease of Stoneland granted him for his life; and constantly resided here during the summer season, much respected by the neighbourhood, till his death in 1785.

STONELAND HOUSE has now for some years been adopted as the country residence of Lord Whitworth and the Duchess of Dorset; who have much improved the house; and, having re-united to the park a portion of what once constituted that of Buckhurst, have also restored to the whole the name of BUCKHURST PARK.

Those who view it in its present state will readily admit its many natural beauties and attractions. The entrance on either side is striking; and although very different, it is not easy to say which is the most pleasing. The bold eminence on which the house is placed, and the various points in which it presents itself, with the opposing beauties of wood and water, render altogether the approach on that side eminently delightful. The well-directed road through the gloom of the woods, singularly varied by the straight mottled stems of some well-grown beeches, and the most extraordinary and magnificent contortions of others, is on a grander scale. Such is the character of the approach from the Maresfield road; where a lodge has been recently erected, in so strictly chaste a style as might cheat the antiquary into the persuasion that it was an original cottage of the time of Queen Elizabeth.

As much has been said of WITHYHAM in the preceding pages, it is presumed the reader will not be displeased to be made somewhat further acquainted with it. This parish is situate on the high road to East Grinstead, at the distance of seven miles from Tunbridge Wells. It is of considerable extent, well cultivated and inhabited; and contains much picturesque scenery, but has no village. The church and parsonage, with the immediately adjacent lands, present some of the choicest scenes. The parsonage is chiefly the work of the late incumbent, the Reverend Sackville Bale; and has recently been greatly improved, as well in the house as in the gardens and grounds, by his son and successor of the same name. Few are the spots, of a similar description, which afford a parity



of advantages ; and, it may be added, there are very few individuals who would possess the same taste, and even, if so far favored, the requisite spirit to have so well accomplished the task of embellishment.

The church of Withyham is situate on an eminence near the parsonage ; at no great distance from the spot formerly occupied by Buckhurst. A circumstance which clearly proves that a mansion existed there previous to the foundation of the church. From the style of the most ancient part of this building, it seems to have been erected in the fifteenth century ; and was probably founded by the owner of Buckhurst, about the time when the national contentions between the Houses of York and Lancaster began to subside.

The original church was destroyed by lightning, June 16, 1663, but was speedily rebuilt ; the dates of 1666 appearing on the font, and 1672 on the porch. To the ancient church there was a spire, as appears by a rude drawing of it in an old map of Buckhurst Park ; and it will be lamented that the favorite ornament of this part of the country should not have been restored. It likewise contained a north, or, as it was then called, from being dedicated to the Virgin Mary, a Lady Aisle. In this was the seat belonging to Buckhurst House ; and apparently the accustomed place of interment for the Sackville family. This also was not rebuilt ; at least not in a distinct form, as one roof now spans the whole fabric. The church is, in its present state, a handsome and commodious building ; and is kept in the best order. On the north side of the chancel a building has been added, which is called the Dorset Chancel. This was erected in the year 1680 ; and contains a large vault, wherein all the Earls and Dukes of Dorset have been buried.

In this chancel there is a sumptuous altar tomb, representing Richard Earl of Dorset, and Frances his Countess (daughter and heiress of the Earl of Middlesex), in great grief, on each side, lamenting over a youth, their thirteenth child and seventh son, who died in his thirteenth year. It is a fine piece of art ; but has not the sculptor's name. A mural monument, by Nollekens, has lately been erected to the memory of John Frederick, the late Duke, by his surviving Duchess.

It is to be lamented that Pope's beautiful epitaph on Charles, sixth





Drawn by J. G. Smith

Engraved by James Heath

Woburnham

London Published by Edmund Lloyd, St. Dunstons, May 17 1819





Earl of Dorset, said, in all the editions of his works, to be in the church of Withyham, is not found here. As involving a specific character of a celebrated individual, and an elegant compliment to the family at large, it may here be introduced, as an appropriate conclusion to this article.

“ Dorset, the grace of courts, the muse’s pride,  
“ Patron of arts, and judge of nature, died ;  
“ The scourge of pride, tho’ sanctified or great,  
“ Of fops in learning, and of knaves in state ;  
“ Yet soft his nature, tho’ severe his lay,  
“ His anger moral, and his wisdom gay :  
“ Blest satyrist ! who touch’d the mean so true  
“ As show’d vice had his hate and pity too ;  
“ Blest courtier ! who could king and country please,  
“ Yet sacred keep his friendship and his ease.  
“ Blest peer ! his great forefather’s ev’ry grace  
“ Reflecting, and reflected in his race,  
“ Where other Buckhursts, other Dorsets shine,  
“ And patriots still, or poets, deck the line.”



## BOLEBROKE.

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THERE are few circumstances which tend more plainly to demonstrate the habits of our ancestors, and the great and selfish sway of the higher orders among them, in the feudal times, than the frequency of the places wherein the great families were established in the country, with all the discouraging appendages of park and extensive domain. In the cursory view which has been taken of the small district in the vicinity of Tunbridge Wells, this is a striking peculiarity. In a country, which now indeed presents a considerable population, but upon the whole certainly very inefficient agricultural improvements, it would seem that a very great proportion of the soil was formerly allotted to park and chase; and consequently to pursuits little calculated to the furtherance of agriculture. A superficial enquirer would be somewhat puzzled to discover how the population of such a country could have subsisted. But that population was probably small: indeed, from many features, which are yet noticeable, it would seem that it consisted principally of the dependants on the several families which owned and occasionally occupied the larger portion of the soil.

Bolebroke House is said to have been built about the middle of the fifteenth century; consequently by the Sackville family. Much of it still remains; whereby the original plan may be traced. The two turrets, now covered with ivy, form a picturesque object, and afford a specimen of the style of building. Most of the large edifices in this neighbourhood were built of stone; Bolebroke was of brick. Of the cause or precise



*Drawn by F. Ansell.*

*Engraved by Lewis Byrne.*

## *Bolebrook.*

*London. Published by Edmund Lloyd, Harley Street, May 1813.*





period of its decline no authentic account is to be traced. Whatever might have been its origin, it was probably enlarged and improved on the destruction of Buckhurst; since it is stated to have been the occasional residence of Richard Earl of Dorset, after that event had taken place. On his demise it became the property of his eldest daughter and coheiress, Margaret, then a minor, but afterwards married to John Earl of Thanet. It does not appear whether Lord Thanet ever resided here: but a petition presented to Parliament at the instance of Anne Countess of Pembroke, the widow of the Earl of Dorset, in behalf of the other coheiress of her late husband, who had a contingent remainder in the estate, would seem to point out that the decline of Bolebroke commenced with its transfer into that family.

Bolebroke, then, presents one more instance to the long list of places of much former respectability, which are passed into a state of decay: but it differs from most of them in the circumstances which occasioned the failure. Generally the decline of the ancient proprietor has accelerated the ruin of the mansion. Here the case is reversed. The family of its former owners still remains with affluence and increased honors; and Bolebroke seems to have failed only from an alteration in the times and the system of living. Great personages now no longer migrate from one abode to another, either for the purpose of field sports, or of consuming that produce of the soil which it were difficult to convey or impracticable to sell. Modern habits are more social, and modern mansions more convenient; fewer, consequently, are necessary, and the superfluous are neglected and suffered to pass into decay. Thus, where the feudal chief formerly revelled, and appropriated an extensive district to the unprofitable pleasures of the chase, a tenant now exerts his industry, and labors to feed a population which the improved system has created; and where formerly barren wilds gave a sombre magnificence to the stately mansion which seemed to command their sterility, the smiling vallies now wave their corn, as it were in triumph, and laugh at the tottering ruins, which in decay are made accessory to the improvement.



## KIDBROOKE.

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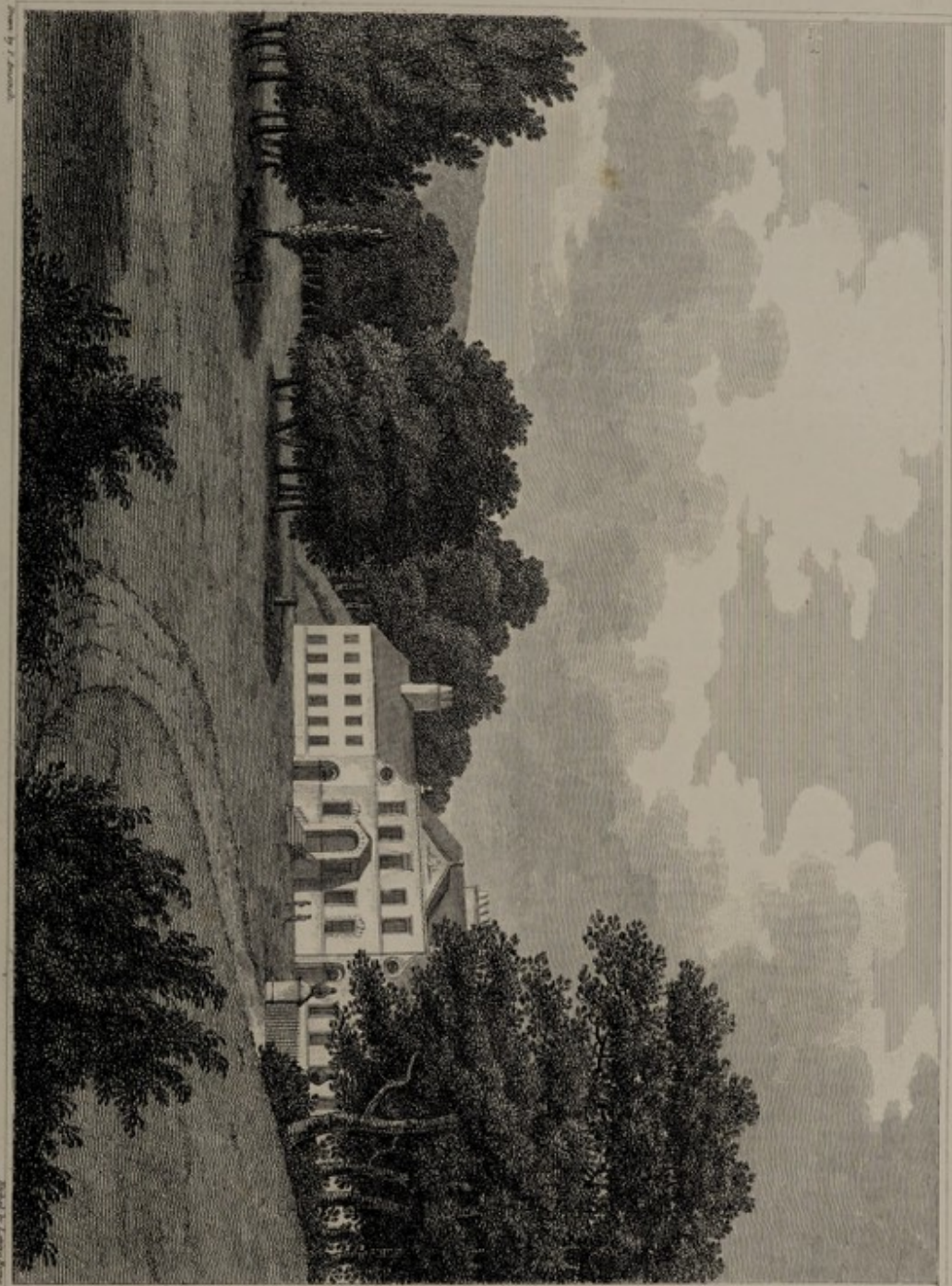
THE residence of the first Commoner of England, the rural retreat of the Speaker of the House of Commons from the continual press of public business, from the fatigues of the senate, and the control of angry orators and self-opinionated politicians, to calm domestic happiness, to literary recreation and philosophical research, is an object which will interest every lover of his country and every admirer of eminent merit. These are amongst the attractions which will induce the visitor to extend his excursion to KIDBROOKE.

This respectable mansion, with its verdant and well-timbered park, is situate near Forest Row, on the great road leading from Lewes towards London, in the parish of East Grinstead; and at the distance of about twelve miles from Tunbridge Wells. It was formerly a seat of the Earl of Abergavenny; the place having been formed, and the house built, by the grandfather of the present Earl.

A few years since, the present Earl, having in some measure restored Eridge, the ancient and long-neglected seat of his ancestors, to a condition suitable to become his future residence, and being intent on the laudable undertaking of improving a valuable property in its vicinity, availed himself of the powers which a recent act of the legislature gave him, to alienate this distant and insulated part of his property, that he might relieve his other estates from the operation of the land-tax.

On this occasion it was purchased by its present proprietor, the Right Honorable Lord Colchester, formerly one of the representatives for the





*Madras*

London: Published by Edmund Lloyd Lloyd, Strand, May 1, 1819.





University of Oxford, and Speaker of the House of Commons in three successive parliaments. In this transfer each party may be said to have been fortunate; for scarcely could the place have passed into hands whereby future improvements would be better effected; and it cannot fail being pleasing to the late noble owner to witness what his ancestors projected, so judiciously extended and improved. The country by which it is surrounded, principally the ancient and extensive forest of Ashdown, is well calculated to exhibit, by contrast, the fine verdure and handsome trees of Kidbrooke; whilst the improvements, lately undertaken by the scientific directions of Mr. Repton, promise to render it, at no very distant period, one of the most desirable residences in this part of the county of Sussex.

The house, which is a structure of large dimensions and in a good taste, occupies a site more consistent with the notions of our ancestors, than with those of modern improvers; wherein, however, it may be doubted whether the true principles of comfort were not more efficiently studied by them than by ourselves. Although, in the judgment of many persons, the situation of the house would be condemned, as too low, it is perfectly dry, and free from every inconvenience which might be apprehended. It was built by Mr. Milne, the well-known architect of Westminster Bridge. The views of the rising grounds covered with judiciously arranged and flourishing plantations, are eminently pleasing. The range within the park and domain is well varied; and the growing beauties from the recent improvements are of a nature at once to please and interest those who have witnessed the progressive advancement in picturesque beauty.

The approach to the house was formerly by an avenue in a direct line from the great road. The nature of the ground, falling toward the house, was ill calculated for this species of approach; and the effect was bad. The present entrance has given a new feature to the place. Beauties are brought into notice which were before concealed; and a proper use is made of one eminent advantage—a rarity in this part of the country—water.



### BRAMBLE-TYE.

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THIS is our last and most remote object: yet it is far from being the least interesting or important of those which have been represented in this work.

BRAMBLETYE, or BRANBERTIE, as it occurs in Doomsday, is the ancient designation of the manor and estate, to which the house, here represented in decay, (or rather one more ancient, which also accompanies this statement,) was the principal mansion. It is situate in the parish of East Grinstead, in the county of Sussex; at the north-west extremity of the forest of Ashdown, and at a distance of about thirteen miles from Tunbridge Wells.

The present verdant appearance of this place, and the well-cultivated lands whereby it is surrounded, would seem to contradict the assertion that it ever formed a part of the forest. Such, nevertheless, is the case, as well with respect to this place, as others in the immediate vicinity. The altered appearance may be accepted as a pleasing testimony to the improved circumstances of the country and of the times; and may be urged as an encouragement to the present owners of the soil to undertake similar improvements elsewhere. Not that it is to be inferred, because a place is said to have once constituted a part of an ancient forest, that it necessarily partook of the meagre and desolate appearance of its parent. The forest was a district containing great variety; and embracing many privileges, extremely valuable in those times. It is noticeable that all the places above alluded to were at the extreme verge of the forest. They





Drawn by T. Sturt

Engraved by J. Smith

# *Downside*

London, Published by Edmund Lloyd, No. 10, Strand, May 1840.





were probably always amongst the best parts ; recommended as the site for dwellings from some local advantages, or selected for improvement from their natural fertility : and whilst the bare forest afforded the means of exercise and amusement, these contained all the inherent principles of profit and comfort.

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

The part of the house which attracts the notice of travellers consists only of the two turrets and the principal entrance. Little more remains of the superstructure ; though the site of the house, which was on rather a large scale, may yet be traced ; and the vaults, which are extensive and admirably constructed, are well worthy of notice. The principal parts of the house were standing within the memory of many persons still living in the neighbourhood, who report that the walls and timbers were taken down and carried to distant parts for purposes of building and repairs. There are at present no traces of park or pleasure ground ; it is doubtful, indeed, whether the former ever existed here. When, however, the mansion was in its perfect state, Bramble-tye was doubtless in itself a place of considerable beauty, and highly ornamental to the adjacent country. It is now a mere ruin, and decks the spot, as an interesting object, which, in the days of its prosperity, it ornamented and improved.

We have, in the course of these our various excursions from the Wells, had occasion to notice many places in a state of decay ; and some which, though renovated, have materially departed from the views of their original projectors. We have seen respectable monastic establishments in a state of absolute ruin ; the palaces of archbishops and dignified prelates lost to the church, and become the abodes of laymen or the mere habitations of farmers ; we have viewed also the old baronial residences of our ancestors, divested of their threatening aspect, exhibited only as ruins, or the appropriate ornament of a spot which figures in our national history. MAYFIELD, the scene of Dunstan's munificence and impositions, and KNOLE, a fruit of the liberality of later prelates, by Cranmer's unsuccessful policy transferred into the hands of a tyrant ; taking different courses



on the tide of time, in one instance become a ruin, in the other the still flourishing abode of a prosperous and noble family. BAYHAM, in venerable decay, ornaments the spot which it once protected and fed. The lordly castle of TUNBRIDGE no longer threatens and frowns over the adjacent domain; but testifies, by its failing battlements, that internal security no longer demands a fortress to awe or defend a loyal and flourishing population. HEVER, the birth-place of an unfortunate queen, and the scene of an unprincipled monarch's revelry, has withstood the ravages of time. It retains indeed no splendor; it has lost its ancient consequence: but it serves to point and illustrate an interesting tale. In the above cases we were sometimes induced to moralize, to lament the change, and to heave a sigh at these existing proofs of the mutability of human affairs. Yet was there commonly a something involved in them which reconciled us to the change. In most, a partial decay was the result of a much improved order of things; and in all, the establishment had answered its end, and was brought to somewhat of a natural close. The *tempus edax* had enjoyed his full meal and was satiated.

With Bramble-tye the case is different. It is not even yet two centuries since the design of it was conceived by its loyal projector: during more than one of those it has existed only as a ruin. A fruitless labour always conveys a sense of disappointment. He who builds, although but a cottage, labours for posterity: but he who erects a mansion, means to perpetuate therewith his name and family. It is too frequent a case, in the present day, to see the mansion, erected by a respectable parent, alienated by a spendthrift heir: but in such cases the transfer is not unprofitable to society; and even the transit of the worthless individual from his mansion to a gaol will scarcely excite the sigh of commiseration. But no such concomitants occur to reconcile us to the fate of this place. A mystery hangs over it; and that mystery seems connected with fruitless labours in an honorable cause; with fair exertions unaccompanied by success. If the troubles of a ruthless rebellion lay the foundation for its decadency, the loyal will sympathize, and lament that such should prove the consequence of exertions in a noble cause. If, falling with the other possessions of an alien adherent of a tyrant, grasping at absolute

power over a people free by principle and nature, it experienced decay, in consequence of his failing fortunes; we shall again lament that a superstructure so prosperously and laudably founded should have been doomed to totter with a bad cause: but we shall hail it as a monument of its decline, and a remembrancer of the eminent blessings whereby it was succeeded. Thus may the ruins of Bramble-tye be considered at once as a memorial of the Restoration and the Revolution; those two great events in our national history; whereby a limited Monarchy was established on just principles, and Tyranny, Papacy and Despotism fell in Great Britain to rise no more.



*Manor House at Bramble-tye.*

*London. Published by Edward Lloyd, Harley Street, May 1789.*



## CONCLUSION.

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WHEN this work was first taken in hand, much less was intended than has now been performed. The Author is therefore enabled to present to the public subjects more deserving of their notice. He trusts, moreover, that he shall have made good his assertion with respect to the attractive objects with which he stated the place and its neighbourhood to abound. It formed no part of his intention to present the casual frequenter of the Wells with a Guide; he rather wished to bring into more prominent notice places connected with the history of our country, and others interesting either from local circumstances or peculiar beauty of situation. It was his desire to make known to the public all the attractions of this ancient and still flourishing public place; and he trusts he may have succeeded.

In the execution of his plan he has confined himself, with one or two exceptions, to the distance of about ten miles; the probable extent of a morning ride: and his arrangement has been such as to guide the stranger into a proper channel for his several excursions. It may be added, that the subject is far from being exhausted; for, by a small extension of distance, much yet remains to be done.

On the manner wherein the work has been conducted, the Author wishes to observe, that he advanced to it with the attainments only of a person using his pencil for his amusement: he does not therefore challenge perfection with the professed artist; nor the depth of research, or nicety of discrimination, with the experienced antiquary. He has delineated with fidelity; and has described interesting scenes as he has felt them: he has recorded events and unfolded the history of places, according to

## CONCLUSION.

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the documents within his reach (having always authenticity in his view), in such compass and terms as he thought would best aid the visitor to the spot, to taste the scenes he represented, and to view them with some improvement and enlargement of mind. In matters of taste, be it remembered, as there can be no general rule, so the dominion of the mind is perfectly free. On these, and on every other particle of his work, the Author can confidently assert that he has not

“ set down aught in malice.”



*The Chapel & Baths.*  
London: Published by Edmund Lloyd, Hatley Street, May 1839.





















