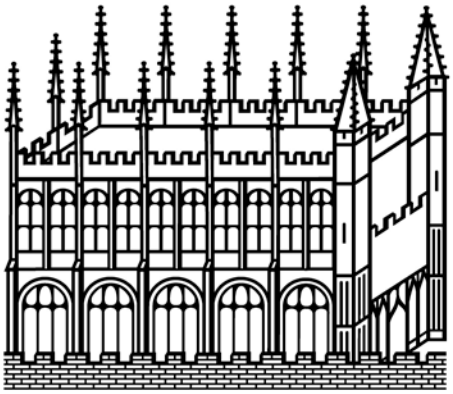

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SHRIMPTONS' POPULAR HANDBOOKS.

RAMBLES AND RIDES

AROUND OXFORD:

A DESCRIPTION OF

All the Localities within Eight Miles of Carfax.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

CUMNOR CHURCH.

"Antiquities, or remnants of history, are, as was said, *Pictures of a Wreck;* in which industrious persons by an exact and scrupulous diligence and observation, out of monuments, names, words, traditions, private records and evidences, fragments of stories, passages of books that concern not story, and the like, do save and recover something from the deluge of time."—BACON.

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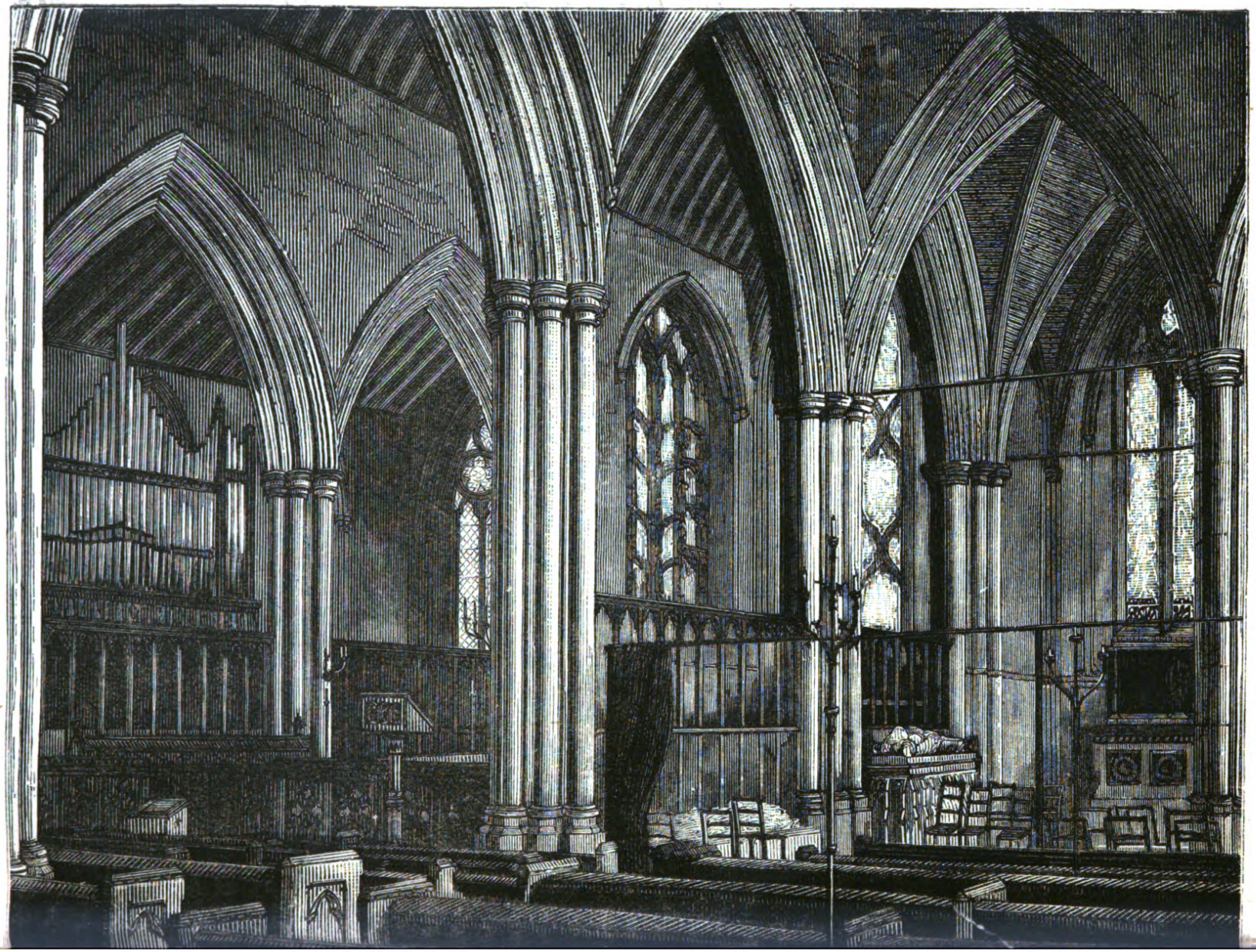

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PREFACE.

A CONCISE and reliable handbook to the neighbourhood of Oxford having long been a desideratum, the Publishers hereof issued, twelve years since, the first edition of this work.

To the present one several woodcuts have been added and the printed matter much extended; but a narrower circle, that of eight miles' radius, has been chosen, that a fair amount of information may be given on every spot without making the book too expensive for the series.

The compilation is avowedly incomplete; the subject is too vast, sometimes becoming abstruse and uninteresting to the general public.

A few attempts have been made to connect the history of the district with that of England in general. Wantage and Wallingford, outside our circle, and Woodstock and Dorchester, within it, open a grand field for such an essay.

The histories of hundreds, those of separate townships, together with the world-renowned writings of Wood, Hearne, Kennett, Dugdale, and his continuators, have been freely quoted. The Sandford *Lieger Book*, the publications of the Record and Rolls Commission, have contributed their share of information; a few private sources have been exhausted, and the notes of the Editor's own making during nearly thirty years have been incorporated.

To kind friends who have lent books or condescended to be bored by his questions; to the gentlemen who have so generously thrown open their mansions for inspection; and lastly, most important of all, to the authorities of the Bodleian Library, from whom every aid has been received, and by whom every interrogatory most kindly answered —to them and all others the Editor begs to return his sincerest thanks.

In the spelling of names no attempt has been made to modernize, the Æ of the Saxon has been written apart, and its *etch*, often misnamed *y*, has been represented by the modern equivalent *th*.

All suggestions for improving the book and all corrections will be most gratefully accepted, and should be addressed, 'Care of the Publishers.'

H. H[illegible]

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

* This should have been titled North Hincksey Church, and placed on p. 104.

TERMS USED.

Apse. Round end of a church.

Aureole. A 'glory' which follows the shape of the body.

Chauntry, or *Chantry.* Place wherein to chant masses for the dead.

Clerestory. Portion of church wall over the arches at side of a nave.

Cottar. A small tenant, lower than a villein.

Court-leet. See Yarnton.

Domain, or *Demesne.* See Wooton.

Hide. One family's estate; varied from 30 acres to 120 acres.

Legend. An inscription; a tale not Biblical.

Lieger. Referring to possessions and charters. See Sandford, Oxon.

Manor. A township with its rights, privileges, exemptions, &c.

Mere. Strips of pasture-land, often between 'furlongs' and fields.

Merc, or *Marc.* 16s. 8d.

Portreeve. Chief man of a town, afterward a mayor.

Preceptory. The abode of a preceptor, or chief officer of a military 'order.'

Sowes (p. 150). Ingots or lumps of metal.

Tun. House and courtyard of a noble; a village or parish.

Vesica. An oval with pointed ends.

Virgate. A yard-land, 15 acres to 40 acres.

Villein. A farmer of land under a lord, working out his rent by service.

Vill. See Islip.

GEOLOGY OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

THE oldest strata lie to the north-west of the county. As we go south-east we pass over newer and newer beds, till we arrive at the Chalk hills of Nettlebed. If we move north-east or south-west, we can, roughly, keep on the same bed of rock all the way. Our district commences by a strip of Cornbrash of the Oolitic series, noticeable at Bladon, where it is very full of fossils. This is a broad band of limestone about ten or fifteen feet thick. The oolites form a brashy loose soil of a reddish-brown hue, well adapted for the growth of wheat.

A curious row of what geologists term 'inliers' occurs at Islip, Charlton, Merton, &c. These are domed-shaped masses rising out of the dull level of the Oxford Clay, and it is noticeable how each one has been seized upon as a site for a village. The common fossil is the *Avicula echinata.* Below this, and taking its name from Oxford, is the clay bed or 'clunch,' a tough blue clay, which weathers well at the surface. It covers the greater part of our district, and affords most uninteresting scenery; as that of Handborough, Kidlington, and Otmoor, also at Hinksey and Wytham. At the last place a boring passed through 596 feet of this clay, while near Oxford it is 600 feet thick. This is worked for bricks at Cumnor, Summertown, Wolvercot, Marston, and Cowley. In a peculiar variety of this were made the noted discoveries below Shotover. In this bed are few fossils; *Gryphea dilata* is the characteristic one. This soil forms cold, stiff land, difficult to cultivate, and usually kept as pasture. Witness the district north of Wytham.

Coral Rag—that is, coral, shells, &c., bound together by a calcareous, siliceous, or other cement—is to be traced from Sandford-on-Thames round the east of Cowley, to Headington, Elsfield, Stanton St. John, and thence to Wheatley. This is the top rock, generally used for burning into lime. At Headington there are large quarries of this coralline oolite, and the stone has been much used in Oxford. Masons declare that one bed of this is durable—the one that is used to form gate-posts in the neighbourhood. Wadham College is perhaps the best example of this stone, which rapidly tones down to a rich brown-black; whereas the Tainton quarry-stone very slowly gets rid of a brick-like, orange cast. The lower bed, called calcareous grit, is about 70 feet thick, and the upper, or coral rag proper, about 50 feet. The theory of this formation is, that just as now coral reefs form rapidly under the equatorial sun, so the temperature of the muddy sea, from which the mass of clay

round Oxford was deposited, was favourable to the corals. As the sea cleared and became shallower irregular reefs of the corals, *Thecosmilia* and *Idastrea* especially, grew rapidly in the warm waters.

Next comes the Kimmeridge Clay, a stiff unctuous, shaley clay, with occasional bands of limestone nodules. It is well seen at Rodley and Bagley, and in the brick pits near Shotover Hill. It is about 100 feet thick in Oxfordshire, and forms the vales of pasture land between Sandford, Toot Baldon, Cuddesdon, and Waterpery. In it *Ammonites biplex* is rather common, and beautifully preserved. Selenite, or quarry glass, is of common occurrence, and *Ostrea deltoides* is very common.

The next stratum is the Portland Stone and Sand. Though 50 to 90 feet thick, it makes no great show in Oxfordshire. These are brownish sands, with masses of grit of strange forms—the Charles' marbles of the sand-pits on Shotover. The Chalk series generally overlaps this last. The stone of the Portland series is a white limestone, which is worked at Garsingdon. At Hasely it is about eight feet thick. It appears at Holton and Cuddesdon. There are Purbeck beds of four feet thick on Shotover Hill.

The Lower Greensand, highest of the Chalk series, occurs at Nuneham, Courtenay, and goes east to Chiselhampton. Outliers of it cap Shotover Hill, yielding those variegated sands we see in Alum Bay, and containing much siliceous iron ore towards the top, as much as 80 feet in depth. One of these sands is used for casting purposes. The north side of Shotover Road, towards Shotover House, has a fine pit of these sands. Fresh-water shells, as the *Unio* and *Paludina*, occur here. An outlier of this stratum north of Sunningwell forms a hilly tract there. This rock rots down to a dry, arable soil. A little blue clay, the Gault formation, makes the level tract at Dorchester, running past Stadhampton. It is one and a half to four miles wide. The whole of our area abounds in discoveries of primitive stone-hammers and flint weapons. They are generally of white flint, some bleached by age, cut into scrapers and celts; but whether they were employed five thousand years ago against the giant elephants that abounded round Yarnton, or the mighty mammoths dug up at Headington, we have no means of deciding. Some writers have thought they discovered circular British dwellings in and near Oxford. The alluvial deposits left by the Charwell and Thames are very considerable, fully one mile wide on the latter, and often three-quarters on the former.

We have on parts of Witham Hill, Bladon, and especially at Cumnor, a noteworthy drift of what is called the Lickey Sandstone—pebbles deposited there probably by masses of ice, and borne from Warwickshire, some forty miles north. These pebbles form quite a notable feature on the hill just before the Clump on Cumnor Hurst is reached from Hinksey way. Peat was dug in several moorland districts round Oxford about 1727, the scarcity of fuel being very great before the canal to Coventry was carried out.

THE RIVER THAMES

Rises near Cirencester, in Gloucestershire. From its source it runs southward into Wiltshire, and after receiving the Churnet from the north of Cirencester, and proceeding easterly by Cricklade, above which it is joined by the Swill from the north, it unites near Lechlade with the Colne from the north, the Cole from the south, and the Thames and Severn Canal from the west, and becomes navigable. The Lech also adds its tributary force. From Lechlade it flows first eastward, and then inclines to the north, through a country which is by no means pleasant. It now divides Oxfordshire from Berkshire, and receives the waters of the Windrush, and the united waters of the Evenlode and Glyme, from the north-west, after which it turns south-eastward along the border of Oxfordshire, by Oxford, where it receives the Oxford and Warwick Canal, and the united streams of the Cherwell and the Ray. Before the Thames reaches Oxford it divides itself into various small channels as it traverses the meadows of Wytham, leaving Oxford on the left; but these streams soon unite, and the river turns round the city towards the north-east and glides beautifully through the meads of Christ Church. The Cherwell, so popular with boating men, who in summer seek its shaded bosom for a quiet read, skirts the 'Maudlin' meadows, the Botanic Gardens, and the Christ Church walks, finally joining the Thames where the college boats are moored. Proceeding still south-eastward it flows toward Abingdon, where it receives the Ock, and then accomplishes its junction with the Thame near Dorchester. The Isis, Dr. Sibthorpe observes, may be considered rather as a poetical than a strict appellation, for that part of the river Thames which runs near Oxford. In the old MS. grants from the crown, the river there spoken of under the title of Isis, he tells us, is positively called the Thames; and he had in his possession a very ancient grant from the crown of the manor of Sutton, to the famous Roger Mortimer, giving him a right of fishery in the river Thames, and describing its boundaries by the names which they have yet retained in the parish of Stanton-Harcourt. From Dorchester the Thames continues to divide Oxfordshire from Berks south-eastward by Wallingford and Reading, and then turns north-east by Henley, being previously joined by the rivers Kennet and Loddon. Quitting Oxfordshire it divides Berks and Bucks, and after flowing by Windsor and Staines it then divides Surrey and Middlesex. Thence by Chertsey, Richmond, Brentford, Chelsea, and Westminster, through the metropolis, dividing Lambeth from Westminster, and Southwark from London. In the course from Henley to London it receives the waters of the Colne, Wey, Mole, the Grand Junction Canal, and the Brent. At Teddington it becomes tidal. From London it passes Greenwich, Woolwich, and Gravesend, dividing Kent from Essex, till it opens into its noble estuary, at the Nore, previous to which it receives the waters of several rivers; and, being

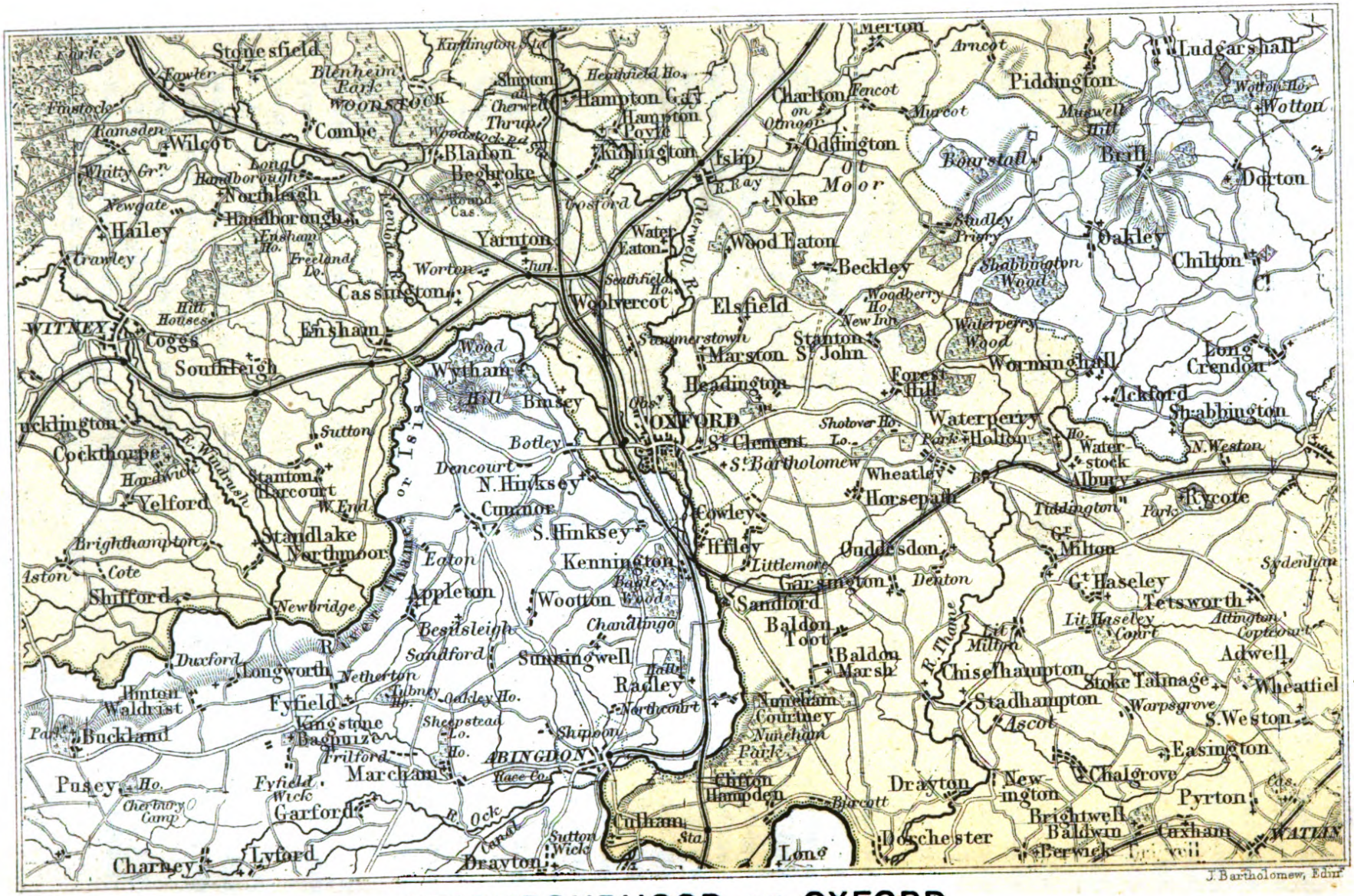
joined by the Medway, it is lost in the German Ocean. This 'monarch of England's rivers,' with its tributaries, drains about 5000 square miles of country, and has a mean velocity of two miles an hour. The fall of the main stream from Oxford to Maidenhead is about 25 feet in every ten miles; from Maidenhead to Chertsey Bridge 22 feet in every ten miles; from Chertsey bridge to Mortlake 16 feet in every ten miles: afterwards the fall diminishes more gradually till the river enters the sea. The distance to which the tides flow up the channel of the Thames twice in twenty-four hours, is nearly eighty miles. The length of the course of this river, from the point at which it first touches Oxfordshire a little below Lechlade, to where it quits the county near Henley, is about seventy miles. The distance from Oxford to Westminster Bridge is 114½ miles, and was rowed in 15¾ hours in a six-oared cutter, by six officers of the third regiment of Guards in May, 1824. The scenery on many parts of the Thames is very fine. The waters of this great river are silvery and clear, except when disturbed by floods, to which it is occasionally liable; and the edible fish produced by it, while it remains with Oxfordshire, are chiefly jack, chub, barbel, perch, eels, roach, dace, and gudgeons. The great quantity of the more valuable sort of fish formerly met with in this river is confirmed by the mention made by Dr. Plott of fifteen hundred jacks, besides other fish, taken, in the course of two days, during the annual fishing of the mayor and bailiffs of the city in 1674, from Godstow to Folly Bridge. There is a curious feature in the natural history of the river Thames, says a writer. It always *freezes first at the bottom*, a peculiarity found to prevail among rivers in Germany, but seldom met with in the more temperate of the European climates. Dr. Plott accounted for this circumstance by supposing that the waters of the Thames were more abundantly impregnated with salt than those of other English rivers; and that as salt naturally sank to the bottom, and as naturally inclined to a principle of congelation, the formation of ice consequently took place first at the greatest depth.

The twenty-fifth number of the *Philosophical Transactions* states that "the Thames water at sea in eight months' time acquired so spirituous and active a quality that upon opening a cask and holding a candle near the bung-hole, its steam took fire like spirits of wine."

The Thames was made navigable to Oxford by Act of Parliament, 21 James I., 1624. A steam barge of two hundred tons commenced plying between London and Oxford in 1838, but was soon discontinued.

In the year 250 the Thames was frozen over for nine weeks; in 695, for six weeks; in 923, thirteen weeks; in 987, seventeen weeks; in 998, five weeks; 1063, fourteen weeks; in 1420, ten weeks; 1683, thirteen weeks; 1739, nine weeks; and other periods more recent.

The first English Regatta was held on the Thames on June 22nd, 1775. Frost-fairs have been held on the river in 1684, 1716, and 1814; booths being erected, and at the last of these a printing press.



NEIGHBOURHOOD OF OXFORD.

AROUND OXFORD.

ABINGDON.

ABINGDON is an ancient town of much historical note. Wealthy by the affluence of its citizens, religious in its tone from the earliest times, and a royal residence upon more than one occasion, as well as being the natal-place of men of mark, it has attracted more than a moderate degree of notice. The derivation of its name, in common with that of many other places, has been a bone of contention between sages for generations. However, originally the town was not called Abingdon, but Seovechesham, or Seusham, or Senkesham. The old Saxon kings long made it a place of residence; but, for some purpose not mentioned in its annals, it was deserted by its royal patrons, until Offa, the Mercian and West Saxon king, paid it a visit accidentally, and became charmed with the picturesque situation of Andersey, an isle standing exactly opposite the Abbey, in the Thames. He thereupon desired to build a royal residence there, and offered to the rich monks of the Abbey-foundation the manor of Goosey, not far distant, in exchange for Andersey. The monks, nothing loth, accepted the offer, for the manor was more fruitful, and therefore more valuable, than the river swamp. Offa had the palace built and resided within its precincts for some period. His son, Egfrid, who suceeeded his father, also resided at Andersey Palace, and died there. The succeeding monarch, Cenwulf, took a dislike to the royal domain, using it only for his falconers' and huntsmen's residence. The nature of these dependants of the king being of a rough type, made them an annoyance to the monks, who entreated the king for their removal. Cenwulf complied, receiving in exchange the manor of Sutton-Courtney, and £120 in silver coin. The site of Andersey can still be observed in the first meadow without the town, on the eastern side of the bridge. Leland, in his *Itinerary*, mentions

the site of Andersey Palace as being occupied by a barn when he visited it. Rathunus was the head of the Abbey at the period when King Cenwulf made the exchange.

Some authorities give Bayworth, in the adjoining parish of Sunningwell; others Bagley Wood, as being the place of the Abbey's foundation. Records differ as to the founder of the Abbey, some giving the palm to Cissa (pronounced Kissa), ninth king of Wessex, while others note that the inhabitants built it for a holy Aben, who "stole away from the massacre of Hengist at Stonehenge, and lived here in retirement, where the people, flocking out to him to hear the word of God, built him a dwelling-house and a chapel in honour of the Holy Virgin, after which, he disliking their resort, made away to Ireland." Faring, Ræding, Wæling or Wylfing, and Abing, are clearly Saxon family or clan names, so that Abing-tun or dun, say some people, means the village of Abing; but the Rev. J. Stevenson thus puts it, in his *Chronicon. Monast. de Abingdon:* the town "derives its name not from the Abbey there founded—philology forbids it. The place was so called from Abba, one of the earliest colonists of Berkshire. He has left traces of his name in the localities following: Abban-crundle, Abban-byorh, Abban-wyl," which are places named in detailing the boundaries of estates quoted in the charters. Leland had not observed this when he wrote as follows: "Abbingdune, *i.e.* Town of the Abbey."

The Abbey of Abingdon was founded about 675 (two other dates are given—680 and 686), but possibly the first-named year (675) is the proper one. The monks were of the Order of St. Benedict, and twelve in number. Heane, the nephew of Cissa (spelt at times Cyssa), was appointed the first head of the house. The site of the Abbey was either between Bagley Wood and Bayworth, or at Chilswell (near Cumnor), where traces of monastic buildings have been seen. It is almost impossible, amid such conflicting testimony however, to fix the real site, yet the legend of its foundation from a Cotton MS., is worth recording, as the incident has been transferred to other churches, etc., in the neighbourhood. It is this: "Thus Heane began to build a monastery in honour of St. Mary and offices of monks upon the *mount* called Abendon, but to no avail, for whatever the stonelayers did in one day fell down in another; this often happened. As things went on in this fashion there came a certain hermit, who dwelt in the wood at Cumenor, saying to him: 'O Father Heane, this night I saw in a dream certain men carrying away the stones and beams from that place with their carts, to whom I said, "You are doing wrong in carrying these hence which have been collected for the honour of God and Holy Mary." But one of them replies, "We know it well enough, but go in the morning and tell Heane, the abbat, that it does not please God that the church should be built here, but let him go to a village which is called Sevekesham, and there he will find a sign where he shall build a church."' Heane heard this and was made glad. He and the hermit went

away to the aforenamed village and found, near the Tamisia, a foundation, in the fashion of a trench newly ploughed. Five years passed after he began to build upon Mount Abendon. At that time the uncle of Heane, the illustrious petty King Cissa, died, and was buried on the aforesaid mount of Abendon, but his body was afterwards transferred even to Sevekesham." Please note it is Tamisia; the Ise of Leland and the Isis nonsense has not been yet invented. Whilst on the legendary view of Abingdon, let us note what the same MS., *The First Founders of Abendon Abbey*, has to say about good King Ini: "Ini succeeded to the illustrious King Cedwalla; he took away and plundered the entire possessions which Cyssa and Cedwalla had bestowed on Abendon, but afterwards repenting, he restored and confirmed the same things which he took away and many other things; for he bestowed toward the building of Abendon and Glastonia three thousand seven hundred and fifty pounds of silver. In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, therefore, he left his kingdom for God, and, with his Queen, went to Rome, and there living a holy life finished his days; to whom succeeded Athelard, in whose time died Heane, the abbat, to whom succeeded Conan."

In the edition of Leland's *Itinerary*, issued from Oxford in 1770 (vol. ii. p. 42), it is stated that "the Abbey was first begon at Bagley Wood, in Barkshire, a two miles upper on the Ise than Abingdon now is, but the foundations and the workes there prospered not; whereupon it was translatid to Senkesham, and ther finished, most by the costes of King Cissa, that thereafter was buried; but the very place and tumbe of his burial was never known syns the Danes defacid Abingdon. I hard that ther was an holy hermite, kynne to King Cissa, that lyvid in the woodes and marisches about Senkesham, and that the Abbey, for his sake, and by his means, was builded there. Esthewolde, Abbate of Abingdon, and afterward Bishop of Winchestere, in King Edgare's days, did clerely renovate and augmented this Abbey, digging and causing a gut to come out of Ise by force, to serve and purge the offices of the Abbey." The foundation was confirmed by King Ceadwalla, who succeeded Centwin. The first building, 120 feet in length, was wholly destroyed by the Danes in one of their hostile incursions, when they completely overran Berkshire, laying waste much valuable property. This occurred in the reign of Alfred the Great, who himself completed the ruin of the monks, by taking from them the whole estate, because he considered he was not sufficiently rewarded for overcoming the Danes. Edred, grandson of Alfred, refounded the Abbey, and endowed it. He then offered it as a gift to St. Ethelwold, a monk at Glastonbury. He accepted the offer, and the building was removed to its present position, and consecrated by St. Dunstan with grand ceremonials. SS. Ethelwold and Dunstan presented also four bells to the Abbey, professedly cast by themselves. St. Dunstan was an adept in bell-casting, and it is related in the Abbey register, preserved in Dugdale's *Monasticon*, that he taught the art to St. Ethelwold. St. Ethel-

wold was hereafter raised to the See of Winchester. Ethelwold on coming to Abingdon, brought a few of his monks from Glastonbury with him, and when the Abbey was removed, the king laid the foundation-stone amidst much pomp. Ordgar, the successor of Ethelwold, completed the building of the Abbey in 963, and the munificence of subsequent benefactors placed it in the rank of the foremost monastic institutions of the country. It was raised to the position of a mitred Abbey, and its revenues, according to Dugdale, were, at the dissolution in 1542, about £1,876 10s. 9d. a year, equal to £37,521 at the present time. In the year 1100 the Abbey was presented by Henry I. to Faricius, a foreigner, but a man of consummate skill and learning. In 1107, the seventh year of Henry's reign, one Milo Crispin gave much land at Colebrook to the monastery "for the service which the saintly Faricius had rendered him in his sickness." Robert D'Oyley, the founder of Oxford Castle, also restored to the monks their rightful property at Tadmarton, of which he had despoiled them. This was owing to the influence of a dream. Holinshed, the historian, relates that Engelwinus (or Engelwin), Bishop of Durham, was imprisoned in the Abbey in 1073, and finally starved to death—possibly only one instance of many dark crimes committed within its walls. Geoffrey of Monmouth, the monkish chronicler, who has left such extended, surmised accounts of many cities (including Oxford), and which even now are often quoted as correct, lies buried somewhere within the Abbey walls; St. Edward the Martyr and Robert D'Oyley, the favourite baron of William the Conqueror, and many men of note, are likewise interred at Abingdon. Henry I. was left at the Abbey by the Conqueror in 1084. William had been entertained by the monks in right royal manner, and to show his reciprocation left Henry his son behind, in order that he might be educated by the monks, under whose tuition he acquired such proficiency, that the sobriquet of 'Beauclerc' was bestowed on him. In 1276 Henry III. held court at Abingdon amid great festivity. Abingdon Abbey has had many royal and other pageants enacted within its walls, but scarcely any of such magnificence as that of Henry III. In 1327 the Abbey was plundered by the inhabitants of the town, assisted by some scholars and townsmen of the neighbouring University of Oxford. Great damage was done; the Abbey charters and plate were destroyed, and other despoliation carried out, amounting to the cost of £40,000. Several lives were lost in the tumult; the prisoners in the Abbey cells were set free, and the inner and outer gates were destroyed. Twelve of the townsmen paid their lives as a ransom for this raid upon religious property; sixty more were condemned. Leland dilates upon the magnificence of Abingdon Abbey, as on many others, declaring there never was before such an edifice for beauty of proportion, grandeur, &c. Very little remains of the Abbey now. The gateway of St. Nicholas' Church, an ancient fireplace, with slender pillars on each side, and a few of the Abbey rooms, are the sole relics of the once palatial building—the home of kings and

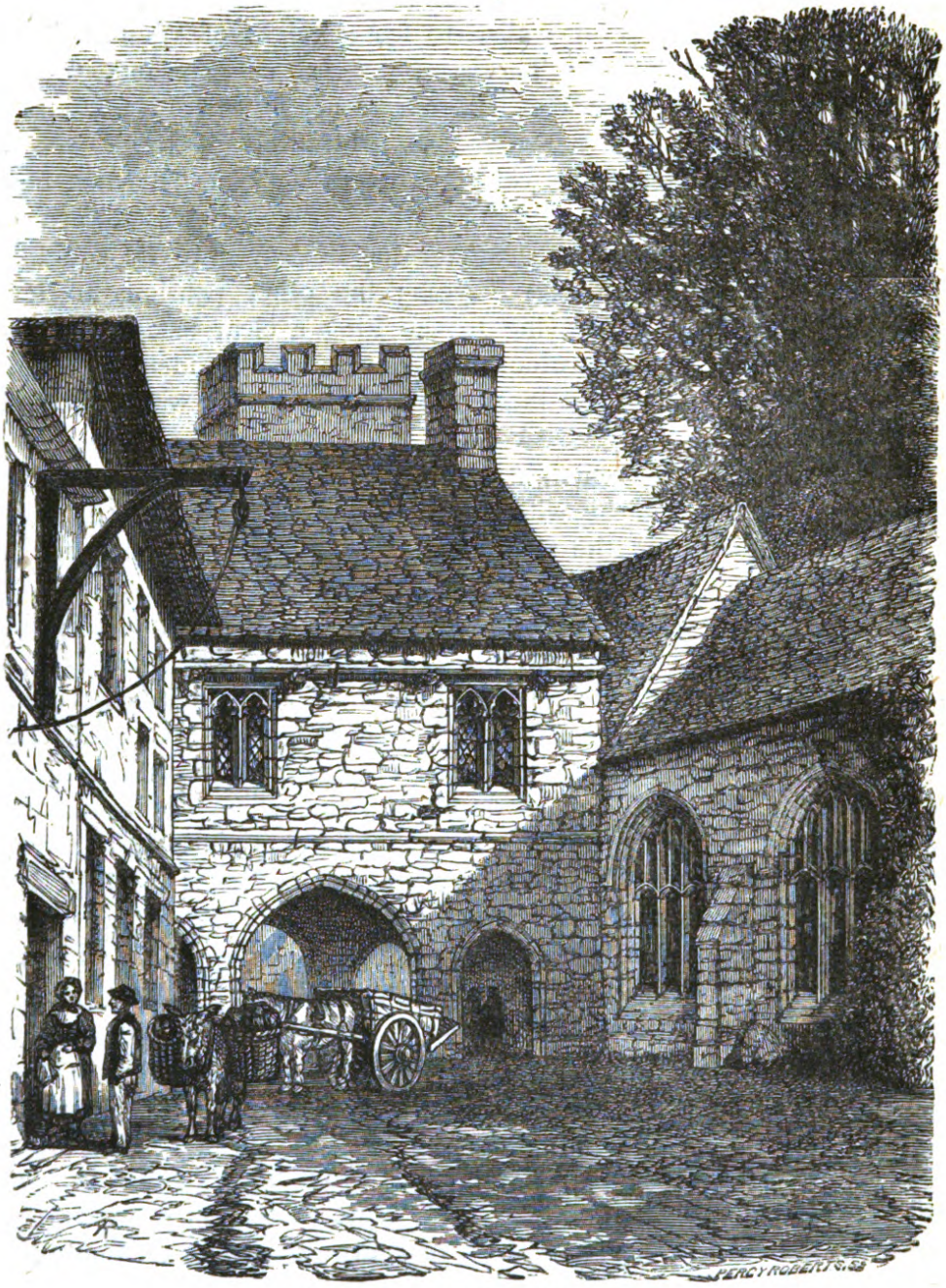
the delight of monks. A few dimensions from William of Worcester will give some of us an idea of the size of the chapel buildings: Length of the Nave, 300 feet; Chapel of the Blessed Mary, 60 feet; Choir, 200 feet; extreme width of Transepts, 350 feet; circumference of four tower columns or piers, 25 feet; thickness of walls, 10 feet; height of Western Tower, 100 feet. The last abbot was Thomas Pentecost or Rowland, who was foremost in the ranks of those who hastened to acknowledge the supremacy of that king who despoiled hereafter the institutions of those who had stepped forward to champion his cause, on February 9, 1534, when he was recognised as the Sole Defender of the Faith. Pentecost was rewarded for his treachery with the manor of Cumnor for life, or until he could have preferment to the value of £233 a year; the other pensions to monks amounted to £173 6s. 8d.; leaving to the king a clear balance of £1500 per annum. In estimating the value of this sum, we are bidden to remember that £5 per annum was a good income, for a vicar's diet was estimated at £1 6s. 8d. per annum.

The Abbey gateway, still remaining, has a large arch and a 'postern;' over the former is a canopied niche with a statue, and in the spandrels are the royal arms of England and the arms of the Abbey. It was once used as a prison.

Abingdon is one of those towns on which the name of Ichabod might be inscribed. Truly with the dissolution of the Abbey its glory departed, and although in state of material prosperity in this generation, possibly never again will it become the place of government of the reigning power, or the honoured town of knightly pageantry. Its chief business lies now in agriculture, and in the clothes' factory of Messrs. Hyde and Clarke, where the never-ceasing buzz of Elias Howe's invention may be heard at all hours of the day. Strangers would certainly not choose Abingdon for a place of residence did they delight in the busy scenes and amusements of life; but if, like melancholy Cowper, they seek for rest and quietude, then Abingdon will be the place. The situation of Abingdon is not very picturesque nor striking, and yet there is a pleasantness of scene, diversed to an extent. The junction of the small river Ock with the Thames takes place close to the town, the principal street being named Ock Street. The river Ock rises near Uffington, a village and railway-station on the Great Western main-line, from whence the branch to Faringdon diverges. The river flows over a course of about twenty miles, absorbing during its progress many tributaries. The pike in its water are extremely fine, and the disciples of Isaak Walton may always reckon on finding good sport for the rod and line.

The **Union House** is most spacious, and is extremely well adapted for its purpose. The **Roman Catholic Church** erected, it is said, chiefly at the expense of Sir George Bowyer, is a building of handsome proportions, the interior being most beautifully and chastely carved work. The services are

many in number. The sisterhood attached to the place numbers very many charitable ladies in its ranks—all honour to the sex that will sacrifice the comforts of an independent home for the sake of the poor and lowly.



REMAINS OF ABINGDON ABBEY.

Passing rapidly away through the Vineyard, the visitor will reach the Railway Terminus. This is but a small building, but sufficient for the requirements of the town—the line, a single-rail, only about a mile and a half in length,

joining the Great Western, Oxford Section, at Abingdon Road Station. It has been opened about fourteen years.

The edifices requiring notice in Abingdon are not many, and they will be easily found.

The Bridge, of six pointed arches, built in 1416, by John Huchyns; the stone being given by Sir Peter Besils, of Bessileigh. Upon its erection there was much rejoicing—the need for it being great. In the old Hospital are preserved some quaint verses in its honour, but no author's name is given—

"Kynge Henry V., in his fourth yeare,
He hath i-found for his folk a brige in Berkscheere,
Where cartis with carriage may go and come close
That many winters afore were marred in the myre,
For now is Culham Hythe (ferry) come to an ende,
And all the countrie the better, and no man the worse."

One of the windows of St. Helen's Church had this distich also inscribed on it for many years—

"Henricus Quartus quarto fundaverat anno;
Rex pontem Burford, super undas atque Culhamford."

And in the old Oak Hall of the Hospital of the Brotherhood of the Holy Cross is a representation of Geoffrey Barbour, one of the richest commoners of his time, giving John Huchyns money to build the bridge. The picture is a most curious one—the building of the bridge being shown as in progress.

St. Nicholas' Church was refounded about 1300. The exact date of the original erection is not known. It stands near the Abbey Gate. Nicholas de Colchan, an abbat of the Abbey, was the refounder. The building is most picturesque: the west front is surmounted by a tower, and has a good round-headed doorway, decorated with Early English mouldings and side arches. The arms of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, are emblazoned on one of the windows. The east end of the edifice forms part of the original church without question. Near the Thames

St. Helen's Church will be seen. This is a very fine building, forming four parallel aisles of equal length—a south chapel and three aisles. The chancel and nave are of similar breadth. A tower, surmounted by a lofty spire, rises at the north-east end of the aisles. In Turner's fine picture of Abingdon this church is beautifully delineated. Previously to the alterations, commenced in 1871, the interior of the church was blocked up, as many ancient churches are, with old-fashioned high pews and cumbrous galleries. These are now entirely taken away, and the building presents a most sightly interior appearance. The second aisle has a richly-painted roof, covered with figures of kings, prophets, and saints. This, according to local tradition, is a relic of the ancient Abbey, being preserved from the demolition of that building in 1544. The aisle was ceiled at the expense of Nicholas Gould (a

brother of the Holy Cross fraternity) and his wife Amy. At one time the following inscription could be read:

"In the worship of our Lady
Pray for Nicholas Gould and Amy."

There is also a tomb to the memory of John Royse, the founder of the Grammar School: and another tomb, having a large slab of Caen stone, covering the remains of Geoffrey Barbour. It has a brass, on which is portrayed his effigy, and an inscription recording his death on April 21, 1417. During the alterations in the church the tomb was removed to protect it from injury. There was in the gallery, before the removal, a portrait of a Mr. William Lee, accompanied by a genealogical chart, and an inscription, which stated that he died in 1637, "having been fifty-three years one of the principal burgesses, and five times Mayor of Abingdon, and had *in his lifetime* issue from his loins two hundred lacking but three." A goodly progeny truly for one man; but Dr. Plot far outvies this in his statement of Lady Temple, who, before she died, saw *seven hundred* descended from her. Probably the portrait of William Lee has been carefully preserved, and will be shown on application to the sexton. In 1644-5 the Parliamentary army, after leaving Wantage, used the entrance aisle of St. Helen's Church for their stabling. They were under the command of General Waller. There is a curious item of account preserved in the church-books of this affair. The entry is thus: "Paid T. Tompkins, parish clerk, and his boy, fourteen shillings for fourteen days' work, in ridding the church of the filth and lumber left by the Parliament army." On the north side of the church stands the building known as the

Hospital of the Brotherhood of the Holy Trinity, established about 1389, and incorporated in 1442, being endowed with lands to the value of about £14 per annum, to enable them to keep the road between Abingdon and Dorchester in repair, to maintain thirteen poor men and women, and to provide a chaplain for St. Helen's Church. Dissolved in the reign of Henry VIII., in common with other religious establishments, it was refounded at the request of Sir John Mason, who was a native of the town, in 1553, by special charter from Edward VI. The first sermon in aid of the restored institution was preached by Dr. Laud, not then a bishop, but in the infancy of his fame. The building is a curious old structure of timber and brick, decorated with texts on the interior of the cloister, and on the exterior with paintings representing the virtue of almsgiving—"He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord."

Abingdon Cross is now unknown, having been destroyed by General Waller, on May 31, 1644, to revenge a repulse which his army had received at Newbridge. It is described by an ancient authority (a manuscript in the British Museum) as being octangular, having three rows of statues—the first, six grave kings; the second, the Virgin, four female saints, and a mitred prelate;

the third, small figures of the apostles and prophets; the whole ornamented with coats of arms painted and carved. It appears that the Coventry people resolved to have a cross copied, in 1542, from this at Abingdon, but upon four steps, not eight as that was. From this we gather that the original "began in eight panes and changed into six, to the deformity of the same;" and we learn that the copy was "to be 45 feet above the top step, or higher if the Abington was higher, finished in all points as well, in imagery work, *pictures*, and finials, according to the due form and proportion of the said crosse at Abington." The cost of the copy was £197 6s. 8d. Aubrey narrates that it was at the foot of this Cross that Richard Corbet, the facetious Dean of Christ Church, and Bishop of Norwich, stood, when he performed the functions of ballad-monger. Says Aubrey, "The Dean being one market day with some of his companions at the taverne by the Crosse, a ballade-synger complayned that he hade no custom, and could not put off his ballades; whereupon the jolly doctor puts off his gowne, and puts on the ballade-synger's leathern jacket, and being a handsome man, and having a rare full voice, he presently vended a great many, and had a great audience."

The Market-House now stands upon the site of the Cross. It is a remarkable building of ashlar and rough freestone. There is a tower, and a hall with a high roof (used for sessions, entertainments, &c.), supported by arches and lofty pillars.

The Grammar School is nearly opposite. It has recently been much improved and enlarged. Originally it was founded by John Royse. The first scholar in the School (Thomas Teesdale) was co-founder of Pembroke College, Oxford. Scholars for this College were to be chosen from Abingdon Grammar School. Several eminent men have been educated within its portals, including Thomas Godwin, author of *Roman and Jewish Antiquities;* Archbishop Newcombe (born at Abingdon in 1729); Lord Chief Justice Holt, &c. Abingdon also possesses other buildings worthy of note, including a handsome

Congregational Chapel, at the top of Ock Street. It is well attended.

The Baptist Chapel, about half-way down Ock Street, on the same side as the Congregational edifice, but standing back. Many eminent ministers of this persuasion have laboured here. It is a neat and convenient edifice, having a baptistry for immersion. Previously to a baptistry being placed in the Oxford Baptist Chapel members of the body in the University city had to adjourn to Abingdon for immersion.

The Wesleyan Chapel is situated at the bottom of Ock Street.

It would be tedious perhaps to say more about Abingdon, but before the visitor leaves the town it will be well to note

The Public Recreation Ground, which is prettily laid out, and is a boon but recently conferred upon the inhabitants. There is a statue of Prince Albert on a pedestal in the grounds.

Charles I. established a garrison at Abingdon in 1644. It then became his head-quarters, and on April 17, 1644, during the civil war, the whole of the royal family went there. The Earl of Essex's approach, however, caused the Royalists to vacate the town, and the army of the Parliament entered. Efforts afterwards made by the Royalists to recover possession were futile, although on one occasion Prince Rupert managed to enter the Abbey and place five hundred men there. The cruel custom of this garrison, hanging all Irish prisoners without trial, made *Abingdon Law*, as it was called, a reproach.

Abingdon, says Leland, "standith by clothing." This was in reference to the large manufacture of cloth in those days in the place; but after the monastery's dissolution this commerce so decayed that Sir John Mason made a representation of the poverty of the place to Queen Mary, which induced her to grant lands to enable the town to pay its fee-farm rent, and to recover its former prestige. The large factory of Messrs. Hyde and Clarke bids fair to restore to the town the remark of Leland's, it "standith by clothing," for the firm, if not making cloth, employs many hundred hands, both within and without the factory, making clothes.

EMINENT NATIVES.—*Sir John Mason*, whose father was a cowherd, was born in the town. His mother was sister to one of the monks in the Abbey, who educated her son. He was sent to Oxford, gained the approbation of Henry VIII., and by a graceful and well-turned compliment on that monarch's visit to Oxford in 1523, he so pleased Henry's fancy that he took him back to court, and sent him to Paris to complete his education. Mason was so successful that he rose in the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth, to be Privy Councillor, Ambassador to France, and Chancellor of the University of Oxford. *Edmund la Riche* (generally called St. Edmund), Archbishop of Canterbury, his brother *Robert Riche*, and his two sisters *Alice* and *Margaret*, Prioresses of Catesby Nunnery, were likewise born at Abingdon. Archbishop Newcombe; Abbot, Speaker of the House of Commons; and Moore, author of the *Gamester*, also own the town as their natal-place. *Mr. Higgins*, "Jacob Omnium," of the London *Times*, whose trenchant pen was so successfully wielded against army and social abuses a few years ago, died suddenly at Abingdon.

If the visitor should be dry after his jaunt around Abingdon, perhaps he cannot do better than to take the advice inscribed on the signboard of the Beehive Inn, and noticed in Hotten's *History of Signboards*. The inn was kept by one William Honey, and thus ran the witty inscription:—

"Within this Hive we're all alive,
Good liquor makes us funny;
If you are dry, step in and try
The flavour of our Honey."

The population in 1881 was 7,807, and the extent 3,361 acres.

APPLEFORD

Is a place quite on the extreme boundary of our circle; fully eight miles by rail, and no shorter pathway. It can be best inspected by going to Didcot, and leaving that village by the north road, taking it on the way to Culham Station.

It is a chapelry belonging to Sutton Courtenay, but independent of it in parochial affairs; is in the hundred of Ock at present, once in that of Sutton. The chapel is a plain, little old building, the living attached to Sutton; the joint value being £148, in the gift of the dean and canons of Windsor. There is a school endowed by Mr. Edmund Bradstock, who gave a messuage and 36 acres of land for ever to support twenty poor boys—seven from Appleford and thirteen from Sutton. It has another charity of £11 per annum. Charles Eyston, Esq., is lord of the manor and chief landowner. The names Appleton and Appleford are no doubt to be connected with the fruit of that name; the indigenous apple being a small, bright coloured, streaky fruit, rather larger than a crab, and not so flattened; flavour pretty good, but the smell over strong.

In *Doomsday, circa* 1086, Appleford is put down as a possession of the Abbat of Abendone, and it is stated that it paid taxes for 5 hides, 120 acres to the hide in this neighbourhood, in the time of Edward the Confessor; . . . "the land is enough for 6 plows, in the domain is land enough for 2; there are 14 villeins and 20 cottars, with land for 4 plows. There is one slave and two mills worth 25s. annually; a fishing-right worth 10s. There are 60 acres of meadow, returning to the lord of the domain 21s. Robert holds 1 hide of the land, and the same has 2 cottars. The whole domain in the time of King Edward was worth £9, later on and now the same."

In 1100 we find Berner complaining to Wachelin, the Bishop of Winchester, and Abbat Athelelm of Abingdon, that he had lost part of his land at Apelford. The case was decided for him by the above, before the noted Rannulf Flambard, his brother Osbern and others. At about this period, Appleford is registered as being still in the hundred of Sutton, and being 5 hides in extent. We are told, by a document of the thirteenth century, that Appleford was granted by King Alfred to Deormod for faithful service at Essedune, one of his great battles in 878, and that he gave it to the Abbey of Abingdon. Appelford was part of the estate of the larderer of the Abbey of Abingdon, and the plumber there had 5 acres in Appelford, and the tithes of 4½ acres in addition, beside one pig at Christmas; these are exclusive of his board. The kitchener obtained thrice in the year from Cumenor, Bertuna, and Appelford, fish enough for the hall; he had the fines of the manorial court, pay from the praepositus at times, the mill at Ock worth 36s. 4d. a year, and a salary of £26 17s. payable quarterly. Faritius, of whom see at Abingdon, arranged

the supply of wood, and put down 40s. to pay the woodmen of Middleton, Appelford, and Wittenham. A hide at Appelford paid rent of 20s. annually to the kitchen of the Abbey. The valuation of the church lands in 1288 for Appelford was £12 6s. 8d. In 1501 a Rowland Richardson gave lands and tenements in this parish to Queen's College. In the valuation made by Henry VIII., previous to the dissolution of the monasteries, the vicarage of Sutton, with Apulford, was clearly worth per annum £18 13s. 4d., a very good income, considering the great value of money in those times. A short time afterwards the living passed into the hands of the Dean of Windsor. Its population in 1881 was, with Sutton, 1600, and the acreage of the parish is 831.

APPLETON

Is reached by the Oseney and Cumnor road, turning off by a pathway at Besilsleigh. It lies seven miles south-west of Oxford, and the Thames forms one of its boundaries. The Church, dedicated to St. Lawrence, is rather plain, but worth a visit; it has nave, chancel, and a square embattled tower. No village bears such a reputation for good bells and good bell ringing as this; its peal of ten is perhaps the most musical known. There lives in the village a Mr. White, a noted Church-bell hanger, bell-founder, and Church and Turret clockmaker, a man much esteemed in his special art. There is a manor house supposed to be of the time of Henry II.; but the moat has been of late partly filled up. The manor has been the seat of the families of Fitz-Warenne, Caston, Petyt, and Fettyplace. In 1604 a Sir R. Fettyplace endowed a school in the village for eight boys. Its lists of charities are considerable, amounting in all to about £50 annually. It has a hamlet called Eaton; the rectory is worth £307 per annum, and belongs to Magdalen College.

The village is frequently mentioned in the *Abingdon Chronicle*, the earliest reference being in the time of Edward the Confessor; but there exists a charter dating as far back as 942, by which Eadmund the king gives "to his theign Ermundslea and Appeltun with its pastures, fields, and woods, to possess and keep them eternally as long as this world shall keep on its course, and vital spirit dwell in corruptible flesh." The bounds of the property are usually appended to such charters and generally given in the Saxon language, to avoid too great a mixture of Latin words with Saxon local names; we insert a translation as it has the earliest mention of the Thames, six hundred years before the absurd idea of Isis being its name came into people's heads. They are as follow: "These are the bounds to Aermundeslea and another to name at Aeppeltune. First up by the Temese by the ditch at Doccanwood, then to that furrow that shoots through Haesellea to the beginning of the ditch that tends to Wasan, then along Wasan till it ascends at Tubban-ford, thence to the right till it cometh to the street; from the street to the ditch that points to the

headland, thence on the west side of the headland six yard-lands to the west of Yttingeslea, thence to the row, from that row to the Temese along that by the side of Temese back again to Doccan-dyke;" not very explicit, one must own, and requiring care in the beating of bounds on Holy Thursday. This estate Athelstan gave to the Abbey at Abingdon. It was a hamlet or member of Mercham in 965, with Freleford and Levie; the three comprising fifty hides. In the time of William the Conqueror, it is quoted as the land of Milo Crespin, and Berner his nephew or grandson; the hides were ten, plowland for ten plows, villeins seven, cottars ten, slaves four, former value per annum £9, later £6 10s., in 1086, £5 10s.; a decrease in value attributable to the war at that time just concluded.

In 1250 we have an illustration of the diligent care which the justices of the king had for regal rights, a Mabilia de Appelton holding of the king land to the value of 57s., is noted as not married, and the land of Galfrid of Appelton is described as being properly in the king's custody, and of the value of £5; the royal treasury would be profited when the lady married, and by the guardianship of the "infant" Galfrid. Another item informs us that William de Merton held the half fee of the village under Humprey de Videlupe. Thirty years later Appleton is quoted as being in the "honor" of Wallingford, implying that the owner of Wallingford counted it as one of the places for which he paid the fee for maintenance of a soldier, and from which he obtained a few court fines and fees.

In Edward III.'s time wool was considered a good staple for taxing, and at an enquiry on oath taken in the village the total value of the fleeces and lambs of the place was sworn to be twelve marcs.

In 1399 Johannes Fitz-Water died, possessed of the manor of Appleton as well as the Honour of Wallingford; and in 1560 the clear value of the Rectory of Apulton was stated by Henry VIII.'s commissioners to be £13 4s. 10d. A later notice, in 1619, is only worth notice as giving us two modes of spelling the name Apleton and Appleton.

The hundreds of Berkshire, as given by the Conqueror's scribes, omit Hormer altogether; roughly it seems that Merceham hundred, now Marcham, included Merceham, Hevaford, Newetone, Chingestune, Praxmere, and Apletone, while the hundred of Sutton included all the other villages of the present Hormer hundred.

Whitley farm, in the neighbourhood of Appleton, is described in *Doomsday* in these terms: "Feodric Aurifaber (or the Goldsmith) holds Witelei: Edward held it of the king, it formerly paid taxes for three hides, now for one; there is land for three plows: in the domain land for one, 2 villeins and 11 cottars with one plow. Four slaves there, twelve acres mead, a fishery worth 40 pence: the whole was and is worth 40s. per annum."

The population in 1881 was 573, and the area of the parish, including Eaton, is 1991 acres.

ASCOT

Can be reached by the road through Cowley and Chiselhampton, avoiding the Baldons on the right hand and Garsington on the left. Crossing the Thame just at the farther end of Chiselhampton there remains about three quarters of a mile to walk over before Stadhampton is arrived at; then the first turn to the left, and afterwards first to the left, and about a mile's walking lands one in Ascot.

We have but little to record of this spot, only the tenants' names of the hamlet, given in the *Hundred Rolls* of 1279 thus:

"ASCOT—The lord Jordan the Forester holds 1 knight's fee (£20 rental) of the Bp. of Lincoln, part of the manor of Thame, doing attendance at the Hundred of Thame and scutage. He has in his domain 360 acres and a mill; his tenants by service are 11 who hold rentals of 5s. and their work for their lord is estimated at 2s. 6d. There are also four cottars who pay rent of 18d. Wm. Quatremayns, below age, holds 120 acres belonging to the estate of Weston. His customary tenants are eleven who pay 5s. rents and their work is estimated at 2s. 6d. He has three cottars who pay rents of 18d. and their work is estimated at 6d."

Is now a hamlet of Little Milton.

BAGLEY WOOD.

AMONG the charters of Abingdon exists one said to be by Ceadwalla; its authenticity is open to doubt, but it should be borne in mind that in this abbey there was far less need of forged documents, as the Conqueror and the Abbat were on such friendly terms. The early spelling of the word Bacgelea in it seems to indicate the leagh or lea of someone called Bacga. In Henry I.'s time there are the same indications in Bage-lega, and another form Bacgan-leah. This supposition is somewhat confirmed by meeting with a brook as a boundary in the same part of Berkshire, whose name is given as Bacgan-broc. (See also Kennington.)

An old chronicler relates that in a wood south of Oxford, probably our Bagley, lived that recluse Aben, from whom Abendun takes its name; that there, among the wild beasts, he fed on herbs and roots, and when he had not water whereof to drink, the godly man prayed to his Maker, who gave him a spring, which can be seen to this day; *i.e.* some time in the twelfth century. That to him men crowded because of his sanctity; they built for him a chapel to St. Mary; but that this very saintly man disliking the crowding around him, left and retired to Ireland.

There is enough left us in antiquarian collections to make us believe that there really was a village in early times where now the glorious oaks of Bagley re-echo the plaintive voice of the nightingale, the best-voiced of all in England, if we may take Neale and Coleridge as authorities on the point.

Who knows if the lilies of the valley, growing wild over many a rood of that

forest, and the mass of single daffodils that deck the sylvan scene, may not be lineal descendants of the cottager's garden flowers planted there in days long passed? At all times pleasant, early June there is best for wild flowers and the nightingale. From the spring to the fall of the year it forms one of the most favourite walks of the citizens of Oxford, and from the summit of the hill may be obtained a magnificent view of England's Athens, that leaves "her praise unto eternal fame." "Some of my most delightful remembrances of Oxford and its neighbourhood," says Dr. Arnold, "are connected with the scenery of the late autumn. Bagley Wood in its golden decline, and the green of the meadows reviving for a while under the influence of a martinmas summer, and then finally fading off into its winter brown."

Spence's *Anecdotes* mentions an incident in the life of Pope, a man never famed for over-politeness, who when journeying to Oxford came up with a lady who had, near this wood, been thrown from her carriage, which lay overturned by the roadside. He generously gave up his carriage to the lady, and, bowing an adieu, himself walked on to Oxford. Hearne, the antiquarian, writes of "one Blake, who hung upon an oak in the way to Abingdon, beyond the half-way gate. This traitor betrayed three Christian kings, and would have betrayed the fourth, upon which he was hanged within two days after his design was discovered upon the said oak, which is still called Blake's Oak." The pleasantest way of reaching the wood is by the towing-path past Iffley Mill till Kennington Island is nearly reached, then a path across the meadows, and the railway on the right hand, conducts to the village of Kennington. Passing through the courtyard of a pretty inn the Abingdon Road is gained, then turn to the left till the insignificant church is reached, and then to the right, up a country lane, every furlong of which will introduce the traveller to new and increasing beauties.

Following this track our pedestrian will pass between Bagley and Radley Woods, in some parts by the side of a cutting, intended by a former owner of Radley House to be a canal to carry away the coals he was induced to believe existed beneath the Park. There grew on the walls of cottages here some years since a great abundance of the Trichomanes Fern. Alas! greedy souls have pilfered every frond. In Oxford we see far too much of this spirit; it has nearly cleared the "lillied" Cherwell of its sweetest adornment, and bared the walls of several villages around Oxford.

By going at first straight towards Radley College, and then diverging to the left, we can come again to the Abingdon Road as it passes Radley; then turning toward Oxford at the end of about a quarter of a mile, a cross path leads to Sandford Mill, whose chimney, all on one side, is a good guide to the path we speak of.

The wood from which we have in thought wandered is owned by St. John's College, and it is not, we believe, very difficult to obtain permission from fellows of the college to enter its boundaries.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S.

THIS little chapel and the remains of the almshouses are about half a mile from Magdalen Bridge, with a few trees around it, no longer the pleasant bowers and thick groves which, about the year 1126, so delighted King Henry I. as he went, probably to hunt in Shotover, from his new palace of Beaumont, in Oxford, that he resolved to build a chapel at a spot so suited to contemplation and devotion.

A hundred and fifty years later its early history is given thus: "The house of St. Bartholomew was founded by our lord King Henry the old, who married the good Queen Maud, and it was assigned for the receiving and sustaining of infirm leprous folk, and was appointed a convent of twelve brethren and one chaplain; for the maintenance of whom the said lord our King appointed £23 and five pence of silver to be paid out of the rents of the mayor and bailiffs of Oxon in weekly instalments, according to which sum every one of them may have an equal share," &c.

It had six acres of land from Headington manor apportioned to it, called Strowell, and two loads of hay out of the King's meadow behind Oseney. These the brethren kept till their hospital was given by King Edward III. to Oriel College.

There were plenty of benefactors to follow the royal example, and land flowed in from Stow, Iffley, Cowley, and St. Clements; but in Edward the Second's days times were bad, the Oxford authorities found it hard to pay so much money from their diminished income, the brethren had established a small museum of relics to entice visitors, and obtained from their bishop an important indulgence to all devout people who would visit the chapel; they had diminished the brethren to six, but all to no avail, its funds continued sinking, and its government became disordered.

In 1524 the mayor and corporation were £92 in arrears in their account with Oriel College for moneys due to the almsmen, and a small contest sprung up on the matter. It was finally agreed to settle it by arbitration, the city authorities paying £12 in lieu of all arrears, and keeping their right of nomination to vacancies, if they applied within sixteen days after one occurred. The account books of Oriel show that the college has often repaired the place, and in 1653 it was made a common pest-house; for the plague visited Oxford in that year. During the siege of Oxford the roof was taken off to make bullets; the buildings suffered terribly; and the grove, "a great ornament to the neighbourhood," was cut down. In 1649 the college again set to work and put the chapel and buildings in order, finishing in 1651, when the oak roodscreen was completed, as figures upon it now show. Nothing of the primitive structure remains, unless it is a portion of the wall which bears a dedication cross. There is one graceful window almost

Geometric in style, and one or two debased Perpendicular. The place for the bell in the west-end gable and the diagonally-placed buttresses form altogether a little architectural puzzle.

The last services here were held about 1667. There is little doubt now in the minds of all except those who are interested in other sites, that this should be the chapel of the new cemetery of which Oxford stands in such great need. There was, says Wood, an ancient custom carried out yearly at St. Bartholomew's. "On Holy Thursday lay fellows of New College did early in the morning frequent this chapel, decked for the occasion. The chaplain read a psalm and a chapter allotted for the day, then sang an anthem of five or six parts; then the second lesson of the day was read, and after it another psalm was sung, or else a collect of the day consisting of as many parts. Then the fellows went to the altar where stood a certain vessel decked with tuftes, and therein each offered a piece of silver, which was afterwards divided among the poor men. This ceremony ended, they walked to a well called Strowell, at the upper end of the grove adjoining, which was garnished with flowers, where they, being fixt after an epistle and gospel, they echoed out from the shady bowers harmonious melody, consisting of several parts—a kind of music then most in fashion; but for several times, about twenty-four years ago (*i.e.* 1637), they commonly sang an Oriana, or else one of Mr. John Wilbye's songs of five parts, beginning, 'Hard by a crystal fountain,' which being ended, each man departed home, as Hearne adds, 'by Cheyney Lane and Hedington Hill singing catches.'" The origin of this appeared to be traceable to the declaration of indulgence issued in 1336 by the Bishop of Lincoln. As to their relics, "they proved of so great value and respect, that Oriell College provided a means and conveyed them from thence, in the beginning of Richard II.'s reign, to their own church of St. Mary the Virgin, supposing that they would better become that church, where was greater resort, than their own obscure and remote places, which caused great complaints from these hospitallers."

It appears that in our times the last of the brethren will die out, the funds having been appropriated for other purposes, or become no longer available. This neighbourhood, formerly granted out of Headington Manor, was for many years extra-parochial, but is now connected again with Headington.

BALDON.

THE name of this group of villages seems to indicate the fact of its being on a *bold* down, and the first record of it spells its name Beald-dun. Had we not such variations in spelling as Baudendon, Bullenden, Baldindon, we should scarcely suspect that from this village the hundred of Bullingdon took its name, so that this instance is not like that of the hundred of Hormer on the Berkshire side, where the main estate, *mere*, or village, has disappeared from the page of history and tradition.

It is approached most easily by the Iffley Road, after passing Rose Hill, Littlemoor, Sandford, and Nuneham Courtenay. Still adhering to the turnpike-road the gates of Nuneham Park are seen on the right, and the place becomes wooded on both sides, a glorious home for squirrels. The first narrow lane to the left brings the traveller suddenly upon March Baldon Church, and by bearing steadily to the left Baldon-in-the-Row and Toot Baldon will be passed through. In the latter an old house with fifteenth-century doorway and a raised terrace is worth notice. It stands near to the angle made by a field road which would bring anyone to Blackfordleas Farm, not the shortest or best way to Oxford; it is as well to continue the village road till it meets the Chiselhampton one, and by it return through Cowley to Oxford.

The Baldons have one point in common, they all keep the festival of St. Lawrence as their feast-day, probably because Bishop Tota of Dorchester dedicated the first church here to that saint in 787. The lands of the possessors are described as being in Baldon field, and remembering the difference between leagh and feld, now ley or lea, and, most stupidly, *field*, we can see that much of this district was well wooded; its present condition would almost suggest this.

Marsh Baldon is a corruption of Mare's Baldon, spelt Mers-baldindon, from the fact of its being part of the estate of a Peter de la Mare or Mere (Saxon Mære), who built a chapel there to St. Peter. This little chapel is called even in 1341 a parish church, not subject to Toot Baldon.

In *Doomsday* we find Baldon considered partly in Bensenton hundred, partly in that of Dorchester. Svain, the sheriff of Oxfordshire, held 6 hides of the king. The Bishop of Lincoln held 7½ hides. In 1255 the hundred is called Bullenden, but the place Baudendon; the rolls of that time give us a minute account of the owners and the military services paid.

Of the names given us connected with the Baldons some are interesting, but others of people by no means worthy of our contracted pages.

In 1509 the manors were given by a fellow and the provost to Queen's College, and by Bambrigge, afterwards Archbishop of York, and at the time of Henry VIII. survey yielded about £18. Marsh Baldon Manor, though originally given to this college, is now in the possession of the Willoughby family. The rectory is valued at £93, and the population was 300 in 1846.

Marsh Baldon Church would make a pretty sketch, but scarcely repay one for a hurried inspection. The south porch, with bargeboards, seems of fourteenth-century work. The glass now in the north window of a nave aisle is of various dates. A St. Anne teaching the Virgin, a St. John the Evangelist; and the heraldic glass will please the student of county history. The three lions belong to the Giffards, the two lions to the Mares. A stone slab in the chancel, with a coat of arms of many bearings, is to John Danvers; whilst that of Bishop John Bridges, of Oxford (died 1618), is made up of the 3 nuns over the Oxford bull, for the bishopric, and 3 owls in a border, like that round

the Scotch lion, for his family. In going through these villages the part of the road which goes due north is, we are bound to believe, part of that vicinal road (which Plott was led to call Akeman Street) whose course is direct from Dorchester to the foot of Shotover Hill, and so onwards to a noted Roman camp at Alchester, to the east of the North-Western line at about a mile and a quarter south of Bicester. Whether in Cowley any part of it was the "regia via," of which we have mention in the Sandford *Lieger Book*, remains to the proved.

Toot Baldon Church is of the Clifton-Hampden and Islip type, a bell-gable for two bells at the west end. The nave is Early English in style, and on the soffit of one of the arches is a peculiar niche with trefoiled head, supposed to be for the ampulla for holy oil. There is a little chapel on the south side, a remnant or two of glass, some encaustic tiles, and in the churchyard a stone cross of Perpendicular character; the position, as usual with the early churches, well chosen on a hill. Of the two windows in the west end one is very diminutive, probably of that early period when a small parish like this could not afford glass for its windows.

The population of Marsh Baldon in 1881 was 300, and that of Toot Baldon 217. The area of the former is 570 acres, of the latter 2010.

BARTON.

THIS small hamlet of Headington is reached by going straight along the road which skirts the south side of Headington Churchyard; it has a few quaint fifteenth-century cottages in it. By continuing the above road, and following a footpath across the fields, a pretty watermill, Bayswater, is reached, along whose upper water is a glade of such surpassing beauty that many deem it the prettiest spot near Headington, itself a village abounding in charming views. The front of the mill-house is quite worthy of a visit from anyone with artistic tendencies. The first syllable of Bayswater by-the-bye is half of the name of the former owner, Bayard, and has nothing to do with a bay, as commonly supposed.

The path by which we come to Bayswater passes close to a small homestead and farmyard. The farmyard has a gate at each end, and would be unworthy of record had it not been the scene of the impounding of the Prince of Wales during his Oxford residence.

The incident comes to the writer in the Oxford dialect somewhat embellished as follows: "You must know, sir, as how Mr. G—— were a short-tempered-like kind o' man, and they young fellows from Hoxvut 'ad pretty nigh druv 'im mad with racin' and tearin' hover 'is turmuts atween this and the mill. Well, 'ee went to bed fixed to make the next an um pay for the mischuff, and next day as 'ee and 'is man Charley were a cummin' 'oam in the dusk what should they see but one of thay gentlem'n on a nicish-looking nag just a henter-

ing 'is lower geats; for you must know the Prince was alluz a foremust kind of a young feller up heear, and 'ad rode a 'ed a bit of the others. Sez he, as quick as lightnin', 'You run, Charley, and shut they upper geats, and I ull close the near uns, and then us ull know what their trespassin' meeuns.' Charley puts 'is best leg foremust, scouters round the yard, and bangs-to his geats right in front of the young gent, and up comes old G—— with, 'Now you, sir, don't you know better than to ride over farmers' lands a hocksin' and a kickin' the craps all to pieces? Is that what they larns you down in the city?' For, you see, if 'ee hadn't a bin so blind with rage he 'ud a known who he wus a speakin' too. T'other looked a little supprized-like, and begun to laugh a bit; then in a ticing sort a way says he, 'Now, my good fellow, I am sure that I never 'ntended to do your fields a morsel of 'arm; but please tell your man to unbar the *gett*, and I shall be happy to pay for any damage our party may have done to the land.' That was too much for old G——; he began to splutter like and swear. 'Blow me,' says 'ee, 'if I 'll let you out till I as summut for damages, or else, curse me, if I won't 'ave you afore the chancely court.' 'My good sir,' was the answer, 'I am the Prince of Wales, and don't——;" but there, afore 'ee could git another word out the passionate old fellow was down his throat with, "Who 's to know that? Any of you scamperin' young fellers can go and call 'isself the Prince of Wales. Do you think I am such a green un as to take your word for gospul? Not I; come now, sir, what 's yer name, and what collidge do you along to?' To make a long story short, old G—— had the hactual imperance to threaten to walk off with the Prince's watch, and just then some others of the party came up, and so they squared the matter hup by payin' a suvrin. There be some folks who says the Prince showed old G—— his watch to prove who 'ee was, and left it with him, a' tellin' him to call the next mornin' and return it, and then they could explain matters, and put all straight; and they go on with the tale that that night old G—— began to think 'ee 'd made a kind of a fool of 'isself a-pocketing a gentleman's watch in that fashion, and so felt uncommon uneasy-like 'bout it; but when 'ee fished out the Prince's lodgins (in Gammonses passage wurnt um?) 'ee felt a bit dumb-founded, and meahd no hend of happologies, and then 'njoyed a glass of sham so much that he olluz said that as he cum down them steears he felt as if 'ee were a tredin' on hair, 'ee was so uppish they say, and so glad 'ee wur out of the mess; but don't you take no heed to what they says, for I was close down below then, and heerd all about it in Barton just arter it 'ad 'appened."

Its name Oldebarton smacks of great antiquity, and may be connected with berton, which is used for a boundary. The only reference to it as yet discovered is in the *Hundred Rolls* of 1279, a compilation made by the king's order for the enumerating of landowners, tenants, and cottars, with all tenant rights that might infringe on the king's privileges. In them the ploughed land, according to one estimate, amounts in Headington to 392 acres, while this amlet has now 180 acres of arable land only. The eleven tenants had one

virgate or yard-land a-piece generally, and paid rents of 3s., 6s., in addition to which they each performed sixteen acts of husbandry on sixteen days for their lord, Hugo de Plessy. For the other hamlets of Headington we beg to refer the reader to that parish.

BECKLEY.

THE most expeditious and pleasant means of arriving at Beckley is by the fields across the Wick Farm. This path breaks off about half-way between Headington proper and Barton, to the left, and the farm is easily seen from the road. When in the bottom, or vale, a slight divergence must be made to the right, and then the onward and upward direction resumed. Should the road be preferred it is the old Roman one, which turns off to the left at some distance beyond the Union Buildings, about 3 miles from Magdalen; and then 3½ miles farther directly along this unswerving road will bring the pedestrian to Beckley; to collect the many historic associations of which place into a few sentences, without being allowed to dilate on the illustrious people therewith connected, is by no means a pleasant task.

The name of the place varies but slightly in its spelling, still less in its sound, and there is more reason for upholding the meaning *beech-field* than *brook-field*, as is clear from the consideration of the name Bekebrock in 1204 for Begbrook, and from the fact that the village has no particular stream from which to take the word Bec, a brook. The district around was well populated in British times; and the Roman road from Dorchester to Alchester passed by the wall of Beckley Park House, as Plott narrates, and so "across the moor where the stones yet found upon and about the ridge, and nowhere else along the moor, show that it was paved." Bits of Roman pottery discovered since have given a surer clue; and indeed the whole of it, from Bayard's water, now shortened into Bayswater, up the hill and into the wood, has always been regarded as Roman, though the bridge at the above mill was a later construction with not an old feature or stone about it.

When the Romans had left England this part of England was the scene of one of those Saxon outrages against British Christians, in which perished Donanverdh, whose shrine was a popular resort for centuries. Who this saint was we cannot tell, but that he was of some repute is clear from his being mentioned in the same list as SS. Edward, Alban, and Frideswide.

In the time of the Heptarchy, within Beckley existed an enclosure, or hall, used for the shiremoot, or some other great council, and it came into Egbert's possession as a royal domain of the Mercian kings after Beornwulf's defeat in 825. Alfred by his will (901), which is still extant, left it to a kinsman, Osserth. Wigod of Wallingford, somewhat of a traitor to the English, held it in the Confessor's time, and it formed, with the Barony of Oxford, the dowry of his daughter when he married her to Robert de Oily. This Robert "had one Roger de Ivery," the owner of Islip, Holton, Leigh, Horspath, Wolvercot,

and seventeen other manors, "that was exceeding familiar with him, and had been in the warres as sworen brother unto him, and had promised to be partaker of Robert's fortune," "bound by word and oath" is the phrase in the Oseney register. To De Ivery, then, Robert handed over this "honour," a term indicating something like a baronage, no doubt several rights, rents, and services from the sixteen hides of land in Beckley, Horton, Ambroseden, and Marlake; and this possession is afterwards termed the honour of De Ivery from the native place of these two hirelings of the Bastard. Robert had reserved two-tenths of Beckley and about eighty acres in Stodeley for his new Chapel of St. George within Oxford Castle.

The *Doomsday* account of the estate at Bechelie is: "There are six hides there; land for seven plows. In the domain two plows, six bondmen, eleven villeins, and six cottars; five plows. Twenty acres of meadow; pasture one mile long, two furlongs broad; wood one mile long, one half broad. It was worth a hundred shillings, now eight pounds;" an unusual increase in value. The Ivery family dying out, the estate in 1112 came back to the king, who bestowed it upon Guy of St. Walery, and the honour again is renamed. Reginald his son suffered for his partisanship of Maud the Empress; he figures at the counsel of Clarendon, and in an embassy to the Pope about Becket.

The whole family was wealthy, and we can with safety attribute to them the chace or enclosure of Beckley, and the entrenched mansion forming the court house of the honour; the moat and earthworks of which can still be seen near to the round pigeon-house; itself, perhaps, a round tower of the mansion, converted to that use in later days. One of the Valery or Waleric family, Reginald or Richard, gave the church of Beckele to the Templars "for the soul of Bernard his son, and for the souls of his father and mother, for the souls of the benefactors (to Saundford), and of those who desire to go to Iherosolimam with me," as the Sandford *Lieger Book* has it. Bernard was also charitable to the church—founding a nunnery at Stodle, near to Beckley; and on his way to the Crusades, in conjunction with his wife Alianor, laying the foundation of a Godstow nunnery on the borders of Normandy, on the river Bresten; the land on which the English Godstow was built was also his present to Henry II. The advowson of Beckley sometimes lay with the nuns at Stodley; sometimes with the lords of the manor. A later owner of this honour was Robert, Duke of Lorraine, who forfeited it for high treason in the time of Henry III., and the king then entrusted it to his brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall. Royal court had been held in 1100 and 1101 by Beauclerc in this village, and again by John in his multitudinous progresses, for in his book of current expenses, anno 1206, he bought, "at Beckele, of Peter de Stok, one silver plate of ten marcs weight for 14d.;" but the place was not large enough for the great wealth of Richard, now (in 1256) King of the Romans, and able to spend, says Kennett, "a hundred marks a day for ten

years, besides revenues in England and Germany;" he therefore enlarged the mansion, and enclosed a great park—the three hundred acres probably which still bear that name. Oxford readers need scarcely be reminded that Merton College, the earliest in Oxford, was founded "for the souls of Henry, formerly king of England, and of his brother Richard, the illustrious king of the Romans." In 1264 De Montfort's party took him prisoner at the "Mulne-post," near Lewes, and the honour of Beckley was, by the king's assent, taxed considerably for his ransom. At his death Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, succeeded to the estate, but as he died without issue, the titles and honour returned to the king, whom he also made heir to his personal property—the amassed treasure of Richard. Edward II. gave the estate first to his favourite, Piers de Gaveston, and afterwards to Despencer, at whose death a Sir John Handlo became lord of the manor, and by him (*circa* 1315) the church seems to have been nearly rebuilt. The St. Amand family were the next holders, and in 1352 the prioress and nuns of Studley appropriated the church by permission of their bishop, apportioning so much money to a vicar, with the oblations and Easter-offerings, while the tithes of Bekkelegh and the other villages were reserved for the prioress and convent. The payment was probably too little, for the vicars' names disappear from the Lincoln registry shortly after. An estimate in Henry VIII.'s time shows that the Studley income from this source was but £10 19s. 6d., out of which they paid £8 to to the vicar, 10s. to the Bishop of Lincoln, and money for repairs. When the prioress of Studley surrendered (the quiet phrase for "was robbed of") her possessions, the advowson of the vicarage was granted to Sir John Croke. The vicars, or rather perpetual curates, can be traced to 1637, but after that, Dunkin thinks, the living was so poor that no one took it, and the parsonage falling into decay, was taken down about 1750. The vicarage-house became, in the reign of Elizabeth, the property of the Shillingford family, and was made into a good habitation, thence it passed to a Master of Balliol, and so to the Rev. T. L. Cooke.

The manorial rights at the dissolution of the second series of monasteries fell to Sir John Williams, an ally of Thomas Crumwell, who, like many of the day, became affluent with spoils, and able to buy vicarages in the neighbourhood; Wyghtham and Botley were given to him. He seems to have been a favoured tool of his sovereign, being allowed a retainership of twenty gentlemen and yeomen. He was equally esteemed by Edward VI., being one of the Commissioners appointed over the colleges, chantries, &c., in the county of Oxford, to whom belongs the eternal disgrace of emptying Duke Humphrey's library. Next he became a staunch supporter of Mary, was made Lord Williams of Thame, was gaoler to Elizabeth at Woodstock, the blustering, cruel leader at Cranmer's martyrdom, the man who bade the poor bishop "make short, make short," his speech at the stake. He was once more a turncoat in religion when Elizabeth came to the crown, and

was made President of her Council. "On his deathbed," says Dunkin, "he tried to do some good with his ill-gotten wealth, by endowing a free school and almhouses at Thame." His splendid tomb there is one of the most interesting objects in the chancel of the church. In 1561 Lord Norreys and his wife, the daughter of Lord Williams, were summoned to show by what right they held the manors; they were able to give a satisfactory reply and the writ was not proceeded with. In 1641 Edward Sackville, Esq., held the manor; he was a firm Royalist, wounded at Newbury, five years afterwards taken prisoner at Kidlington by the Parliamentary forces, and finally stabbed in a cowardly manner by a soldier at Chawley, near Abingdon, from whence he was taken to Witham and buried. His widow Bridget carried the estates to Montague, Earl of Lindsay, who had commanded the Guards at Edgehill, and who, seeing his father wounded and a prisoner, surrendered himself that he might be near him. He was, later on, one of those noble three who offered themselves for their Majesty's safety, alleging that they, the king's councillors, were guilty, not their monarch. When Charles was beheaded he attended the funeral at Windsor. His son James was afterwards made Earl of Abingdon; he was Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire from 1674 to 1687, and was one of those who invited William of Orange, regarding him merely as a mediator between James and the people, and so refusing to declare the throne vacant. A court baron is held annually at Beckley by the steward of Lord Abingdon, who claims to be lord paramount of the seven Otmoor towns. The **Church** has by no means a usual ground plan; the side aisles—of the Decorated period—being carried up to the east wall of the tower form with the nave, a square of about forty-five feet each way. The clerestory is of the Tudor period, the tower and chancel of the fourteenth century, the remains of glass are considerable, wall painting well known; but the two things for which Beckley Church ought to be inspected are the stone book-stand over the font, and the stand for an hour-glass near the pulpit—the latter item reminding one of the anecdote of the long-winded preacher who, having preached for an hour on some abstruse theological point, used very often to invert the receptacle for sand, saying, "My dear brethren, let us have another glass upon this deserving subject." The tomb of Anne Faulkner, 1759, in the north aisle, is just worth notice, as is also the very laudatory one to Anne Croke. The Latin couplet to her, in English thus—

> "We follow thee, wife, with a step as equal as we can,
> Always aiming to lie in thy bosom,"

is, to say the least, more amatory than scriptural.

The parish register begins 1703, but there is little doubt that the MSS. at Boarstall would supply us with much extra information about this church and parish.

The total area of Beckley is given as 1910 acres, and the population in 1881 was 354.

BEGBROOK

Lies on the Woodstock Road, about six miles from Oxford, on the left, before reaching Langford Lane. The name is perhaps indicative of a brook by the beech trees, and not the word brook repeated in two different tongues. Wychwood is often spoken of as upholding the second idea of a re-echoing of the title, but Wych is Saxon for wood, and wood or wud formerly meant uncleared, broken ground. In the time of Doomsday Bechebroc (clearly the Norman scribe's method of spelling the Saxon Bécebroc) was held by Roger de Laci, and valued at £4. There exist here two fortifications—the round Castle, a double entrenchment near the church, and the Lineham Barrow between it and Pudlicot. Both these are supposed from their shape to be Danish, but nothing is known concerning them. The probability is that one or both were cast up in the autumn of 877, and from it, as a stronghold in Mercia just divided, the Danes may have made the memorable winter attack that drove Alfred into Somersetshire. The annals of Morgan, according to *Beauties of England*, speak of a battle here in 1069, but the parties are not mentioned. In 1279, we read, Richard of Lions holds one quarter of the village under Galfrid de Geinvile, and he of the king direct; it is of the honour of Lodelowe. In his domain are sixty acres and the advowson of the church. He holds it at the fee of half a knight's service £10, and does suit and service in the hundred court of Wotton three weeks at a time. The tenants paying service were fifteen, each holding twenty acres, for which they paid 5s. per annum, and were bound to work, give aid, and redeem their sons at the will of their lord. The prioress of Stodle held of Richard of Lions sixty acres, and paid 2s. 6d. for shield money. She had twenty acres in her domain, and also did service in the same hundred court three weeks at a time.

The parish church is quite worth a visit, if only for the stained glass, esteemed wonderfully good when Willement was believed in. The fabric is Norman in its main features, with Perpendicular additions. This statement so generally applies to village churches, that perhaps it is as well once for all to examine into the causes. It appears that the Norman style maintained its popularity very far into the period when Early English predominated, especially in rural districts, so that the apparently Norman period of architecture may perhaps be often extended to 1150 or 1200, and the simplicity of the round arch no doubt caused it to be adopted by repairers of churches even in the thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries. As to Perpendicular work, it was doubtless looked upon as the Gothic style to be copied by all conservative churchwardens after the Restoration, besides which the mania for admitting more light into the buildings caused many alterations in windows to be made when that style was most in vogue, roughly, the two centuries which followed the year 1350. At Begbrook, as in many Norman churches, we have signs of poor building, the chancel arch has gone quite out of shape, the foundations

too poor to stand the load put upon them. The south door here is a sweet little study in architecture, the recessed shafts differing in their ornamentation, a common feature in good Norman work, specially noticeable in Waltham Abbey; it will repay examination. There are two fonts here—a new one in the chancel, where it should not be, but near the entrance, and an old one under the Tower. A small window or two and the door indicate that the tower is Norman; its saddle-back roof is not a common feature in Oxfordshire. Tradition points out the tomb on the south side, with a coped cover as the founder's. In the churchyard is the footing of a cross with octagonal shaft, and late in character. The windows in the nave are clearly late insertions, and copies of those in the cathedral cloister at Christ Church. The area of the parish is quoted as 612 acres, and the population in 1881 was 68.

BESILSLEIGH

Lies about 5½ miles south-west of Oxford on the Cumnor Road, and most of the way is sufficiently picturesque to reward the pedestrian for his pains. Whether the village was primarily composed of two manors, one Bestlesford and the other Bestlesley, or whether the terminal leigh is really due "to the family of the Leighs being resident here, one of whom was high sheriff of Berks in 1431," as Ashmole's *Berks* has it, is a question not easily decided. It is a pity such hurried notes, not always correct, were ever dignified by so grand a title.

A charter in the Abbey of Abingdon series supples us with the first mention of this place in connection with Bradfield and Stretlea as part of a large estate given to the ardent converts, Hean and Ceolswitha, for them to found a monastery. One of those who signed the deed was the Archbishop Theodore (c. 687), the organiser of our present bishoprics, and originator of the parish system, without whose services England would have been out of the pale of Western civilization, with a hierarchy dependent on the intrigues of clan and tribe.

The land at Bestlesford, or Bestles Ford was about 1,800 acres, and this came ultimately into the possessions of the Abbey. The sisters' foundation was the first erected, and then shifted to Witham, the "village among the willows," as Sir John Ellis declares the word to mean.

A will of Sir Peter Besils, of the date 1424, bequeaths lands to the maintenance of the Bridges at Abingdon and Culham, and leaves £600 as a fund from which to make restitution for injuries done by himself, or any of his ancestors, to any one, and specifies that if the money was not required it should be given to the poor. His body was to be buried in the church of the Preaching Friars, in St. Ebbe's, Oxford, to which he gave £120 to make six windows in the north aisle. The manor here was in the possession of a William Besils in 1516. This name seems to be the same as the primitive Saxon holder Bestle,

implying a connection between a family and the manor enduring for more than 900 years. In 1516 the estate passed by marriage to the Fettiplaces, a family noted for their benefactions. The Lenthalls purchased it of them. William Lenthall, of this family, was member for Woodstock in the Short Parliament, and Speaker of the House for the Long one. He was an astute lawyer, reaping much wealth by his practice, profiting by his offices of Master of the Rolls, Commissioner, and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, suffering some slight rebuffs from the Protector, again Speaker in 1654, pardoned by Charles II., and sincerely repenting in his late years of all the violence and mischief his former partisans had wrought in England. Oliver himself is said to have been a frequent visitor to Lenthall, in the old manor-house near the church. The country tale about him there is not quite in accordance with historical truth; it represents him as generally hiding in a room, to which the only access was by a chair *or* basket let down and drawn up by ropes. Perhaps this account is meant to give us a vivid picture of the state of dread in which Cromwell is sometimes supposed to have passed the latter years of his life.

The Lenthalls are still holders of the manor, and own most of the land in the village. The inhabitants can send their children to the Appleton School, the foundation of the Fettiplaces.

The church is a small one, with one or two fine monuments. The population in 1881 was 105, and the area of the parish is 893 acres.

BINSEY.

THIS village is usually approached by the pathway across the south end of Port Meadow, which leads to the boats at Medley, and by going up the stream a hundred yards or two Binsey Green is reached. Directly across this Green is seen a gate, by which, a mile and a half due north, the church is reached. The road unfortunately beyond this is private, so that the pedestrian must return by the way he came. He can vary his after journey, though, by going southwards along the lane reaching to Botley, which issues on the Seven Bridge Road beyond Oxford station. This lane forms, in summer, a pleasant way back to the City. Binsey Green, one is forced to acknowledge, bears no trace of the roadway which antiquarians speak about as passing over Binsey Ferry, about the near angle to Oxford. The stones are believed in—those I mean which pave the ford—and as gravel takes the place of stone in that locality, perhaps they have noticed the peculiarity, or else believed their informers, who have obtained the account from Plott, Warton, or Skelton. The inn near the Green is a pleasant-looking spot; but advertisements are not for these pages. Passing along the road to the church, there occurs first a field road to the right (not hollow enough, one would think, for the ancient road), then to the left across the fields embankments, by which alone the church, a few years ago, could be reached in time of floods. A raised causeway across a meadow

brings us to the churchyard, as quiet a God's-acre as weary man could desire; but in former centuries the site of several buildings, abodes of confessors or chaplains, overtopped especially by one whose wide front had depicted upon it (if we can trust old accounts) a grand full-length St. Margaret. To the gateway beneath this picture of the patron saint, one can imagine to be pressing the halt and lame, paying at the entrance a small fee to support the superintending priest, or to contribute toward a light in the neighbouring sanctuary. We hear neither of this house nor of Godstow any of that levity and worldliness which Dan Chaucer pictures to us, and can well believe that such a lovely spot, one that won the admiration of St. Frideswide herself, was the scene of much earnest devotion, of many a holy vow and resolution of devotees for themselves and those they had near to heart. Frideswyde, the initiator of English Oxford sometime in the eighth century, so says the legend, was the daughter of Didan, a sub-king of the district. She being owner of this soil, near to an extensive village at that time, and taking great delight therein for its privacy and solitary shades, being then environed with woods, not only built this church, but also several other edifices adjoining, purposely that she and her sisters the nuns, who lived in Oxon, might retire themselves in times of distraction in the city and delight each other in peace. These she monastics enjoyed their abodes here and at Oxford no longer than the time St. Frideswide lived; for both became the possession of Augustine monks, who, re-edifying the church, and afterwards enlarging the buildings adjoining it, made of it a cell or place of retirement, and sent here stubborn monks to be punished. In another work we are told that the town of Seckworth—tun in Saxon means but village, by-the-bye—as well as Binsey was much enriched by pilgrims thither. As late as 1690 Hearne writes: "The inhabitants here will tell you that there have been many miracles wrought at this well, and that people hung up their crutches" within the church to testify to the cures that had been worked upon them. The north side is given as the residence of the attendant priest who ministered before a noted image of the patron saint, and even now (1884) some arrangements as for a lean-to on that part of the structure are supposed to be traceable. As to the well, there is very little doubt that the spot was recognized ten years ago and lovingly restored by the vicar, whose inscription over the same reads in English thus:

"St. Margaret's spring, granted, as it is told us, to the prayers of Saint Frideswide, long polluted and choked up, was restored to use by T. J. Prout, student of Christ Church, the vicar, in the year of redemption, 1874."

The water is not so pleasant as it might be, perhaps suffering from contiguity to the farmyard near to it. The church was beautifully restored, the chancel pavement—worn hollow, 'twas said, by the knees of suppliants at the altar—was taken up, the pretty font again made perfect, not renewed, and the walls stripped. The doorway and corbels to chancel arch are worth notice, as are the remains of glass in the windows—a St. Margaret and St. Frideswide should

be there, and some other good morsels—while on the outside the cot for sanctus bell is a very pretty one.

The house over the well was pulled down by Alderman Sayer about 1670. In 1690, a visitor says, "the well is a very despicable well now, and grown almost over with weeds;" he noticed too a beam across the chancel arch, as if for a rood loft. The church continued to be the property of the Priory at Oxford till the dissolution, was then given by Wolsey to his Cardinal College, and afterwards transferred to the cathedral body, with whom it still remains.

We will recur to the crowd of pilgrims that used to visit here when we come to Seckworth and its mysteries. The parishioners of Binsey, in the sixteenth century, as appears from the Oxford records, had some rights of commonage on Portman's Mead, which the mayor and council were anxious to define or else curtail. A sketch of this church in 1718 exhibits shutters to every window, and a wooden erection at the west of the bell cot; the former fact will account for some hooks still visible at the sides of a window or two.

There is current a joke against the people of this village, no doubt arising from the doleful aspect of the place when hemmed in by floods, and the change when bright with summer flowers. It is currently reported that if you ask a true Binseyite in winter where he lives, he will reply, with dolorous accent, "At Binsey; God help us." But if in summer, with an air of the utmost conceit, "At Binsey. Where do you think?" The joke is, it seems, applied to other villages, with the proper variations. The population here in 1881 amounted to 63. The area of the parish is 470 acres.

BLADON

Lies within half a mile of Handborough Station—Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway—to the east. It can be reached on foot by a pathway from Begbrook on the Woodstock Road.

It is a parish and scattered village two miles from Woodstock, and seven from Oxford. The living is a rectory with the chapelry of Woodstock annexed, of the joint annual value of £400, in the gift of the Duke of Marlborough, who owns nearly all the land of the parish, and has erected and supports a good mixed school. The population in 1881 was 613; the area is 1061 acres. The church, dedicated to St. Martin, is very plain, a failure, dated 1804, replacing a tumbledown edifice depicted by Skelton, that had apparently a Decorated window on south side of chancel, an early priest's door, a Norman south door, two Perpendicular windows in the clerestory, and huge square sash windows in the tower, whose angles had diagonal buttresses. The forts have been described under Begbrook, as being nearer to that village. There is a good piece of fifteenth-century domestic architecture in the parish—a house with two round chimneys and a dormer window, quite worth a visit.

We have no notes of the village previous to the time of Henry III., where

we meet with the very bald statement that the advowson and manor of Bladon are in the king's domain, belonging to Woodstock manor. In the *Hundred Rolls* of 1279 we have a very full insight into the tenure of the parish. It states that "Bladen is of the king's domain. The Lord John of London owns the whole village for his life. There is one manor, two hides of land, meadows, and a water mill, with free pool, one wood called Bladenwood, rent is £14 5s. 4d. Also John rents another wood, Boroule, for £1 4s. 6d. The king has the advowson of the Church. John has eight tenants who pay 3s. 9d. a year, and each of them is bound to work daily from the Nativity of St. John Baptist to the feast of St. Michael; *i.e.* all work days except sabbath days; and when they come to reap they shall have a sheaf as large as they can carry to their doors with their hook; they shall be paid during the reaping till mowing time (?) twelve pence; and when they come to reap corn they shall all have the separated sheaf called workcef, and every day they come to reap they shall have their horses tethered in the Lord's meadow for pasturage, and each one is to carry hay and wheat for the Lord during four days. Beside this each one must find a man for mowing the meadow below the park of Wodestok, which is called Lawe-med. They shall cart all of it within the walls of the same park, and have a bundle of hay daily. They shall do the three acts of husbandry in autumn with three men, boarding themselves; but during the one operation they shall be fed by the lord, with all their households. Each tenant shall have four sheaves of wheat to be put aside; they shall answer before their lord thrice in the year. And they ought to strew the branches for fodder below the park in Yeme for three days for the animals of the king (the deer no doubt), and each shall have a bundle of wood as large as he can raise with his axe; and if his lord wishes one of them, John le Cauc, to be driver to the king, then he shall halve his rent for him, and the same man shall have the driving of his master's carriage on days not sabbath days."

The same stipulation is made about Galf. le Cauc: "The same John had three cottars, each holding a cottage, for which they paid 1s. 6d. rent. 'They shall labour from the feast of the Nativity of St. John Bap: to that of St. Michael with one man, and have a sheep for each day they reap, at the dinner-of-the-reaping-of-the-lord they shall be fed by the lord with all their household. Each of them shall find a man to carry hay at Leggenacre, and each shall have as much as he can raise with his rake. They must stack the hay in the master's court of Bladen.' Richard of Chaldewell, who held one cottage, and paid 3d. rent, was also to find one man, and be at the dinner with all his household at his lord's board. 'Three free tenants each hold 1 cottage, and pay ten shillings rent. They must make three plowings with one plow as much as they all can do in a day. They are bound to help in carrying, with their cotenants, the meadow, which is called Langenacre, with two men, each, &c. They are to carry the hay of that meadow with one wagon for one day each in whatever place the Bailiff of the King shall wish outside the

Park. They shall do the three acts of husbandry, boarding themselves; but at the fourth the Lord shall supply the food, &c. They shall be told when they have the liberty of passage for their pigs; they shall not redeem their sons.' Wm. Pinnoc was bound to nearly the same service, and 'William the fisherman holds in the same place one messuage and three acres of land with a meadow adjoining, and the whole fishery from Bladen to Oseneyeswere, and also a small island belonging to it; rent nine shillings, and does only one day's fishing at his lord's boarding with all his household; the same to have a sheaf as the others do, and to be free from suit and service.'"

The next reference in the records of the kingdom is about the year 1300, wherein we find "Walter de Hanvill holds the village of Bladene of the gift of the Lord the King for the serjeantry of guarding the King's *birds*, and it is worth £7." Another tenant of the King in this hundred had eight pounds worth of rent of land bestowed on him for guarding the King's *hawks;* and a third "Robert fitz Alan holds of the lord the King 40 shillings of land for his sergeantry of bearing the banner of all the infantry of the hundred of Wocton by custom of that county, and the same Robert should have from the King's purse twopence for doing that service on each day."

A sturdy parson of this place, Dr. Matthew Griffith, showed his zeal to the Established Church and to royal prerogative by enduring seven violent assaults and five imprisonments from the Parliamentarians. He lived to the restoration, again resided in his rectory, and died in 1665 in his sixty-eighth year. He was one of those who fought in defence of Basing House, where his daughter courageously lost her life.

The usual mode of spelling the word seems to refer to den "a valley," and the scribe of *Doomsday* may have omitted a small dash in the subjoined:

"Ada holds of the Bishop (of Lincoln) five hides in Blade. There is land for seven plows—now in the domain for two plows, and 2 slaves and 8 villeins with 18 cottars have three plows freely. Two mills of 14s. and 125 eels and of . . . . 10sh: There are 14 acres of meadow, a wood 3 miles long, and 1½ miles broad. It was and is worth £6."

BOTLEY

Is on the road which passes under the Great Western Railway, called the Sevenbridge Road, said to have been converted from a horse road and footpath into a road proper by Sir John Williams, a large landowner in this neighbourhood, whose name often figures in the years 1540–1550.

There is nothing interesting in the village, except that the earliest mention of the place is in connection with the extinct village of Sevecurda, which would be touching it on the north.

The *Abingdon Chronicle* tells us that in the second year of William the Red, "at the time when Odo was defending Rochester," or, as we should now state it, when Odo was conspiring on behalf of Robert, and undergoing a siege in that castle, "some men from Sevecurda broke through a stream of water which they call Lacche at Botelea with illegal daring. Anskill led them, and when the matter was brought before the abbat he paid a fine of 10 shillings. The abbat secured that this should be esteemed Anskill's mill-place so long as he paid every year the sum of two ora;" *i.e.* 80 or 100 pence.

This Anskill, or Ansgil's fate we learn from another source was that of many an offender against royalty, in the reign of Rufus, who had objections to shedding the blood of men. "The King was so angry with him because of his delay in paying dues, that he put him in prison to starve; and failing from the unaccustomed severity, he died in a few days."

It will strike the reader that, perhaps, the word Lasher is a lineal descendent of the word Lacche; and it is a curious coincidence that a *bot* or fine occurs thus first of all in the history of Botley.

How the name became attached to the locality we cannot trace; but its meaning, "a field of fine, or compensation" is almost certain; no other spelling, like Botlesleagh, "field of the dwelling" occurs.

It was originally a part of Cumnor parish, as indeed it still remains, and is often enumerated in the *Chronicle* as such. In 1260 Boteley occurs in connection with Suthhenctesey and Northhenctesey as part of the abbat's possession. Such it remained till the dissolution, when the estate passed probably with the Henkseys to George Owen, the royal physician, and —— Bridges.

In the first year of Edward VI. they conveyed it to Sir John Williams, through whom it has descended to the Earl of Abingdon.

BULLINGDON GREEN,

Once an extensive common of the village of Cowley, is quite on a different subsoil to Cowley Marsh, the Bullingdon rubble, one of the healthiest kinds to dwell upon, as shown by the government report on the barracks.

It also was triangular, like Cowley Marsh, and almost of the same size, reaching from the east angle of the marsh, where the brook crosses the bridle road, nearly to the present Bullingdon cricket-field, then along the north wall of the barracks to the buildings near Open Brazenose, then following a bridle road, which parts Horsepath Green from Cowley, and returning nearly by the Horspath Road to the south side of the recreation ground to St. Kenelm's School.

Signs of cultivation were visible over about one-sixth of it, the part east of the central stone pit called Jacob's, the whole of it forming a most beautiful spot for horse exercise, as Bishop Wilberforce well knew. The large stone pit mentioned was the scene of a peculiar occurrence about 1800. A Dr. Stone, who used to drive across Bullingdon to Horsepath, was lifted in his gig in a

storm of thunder and hail safely into the middle of it from off the bank of some 18 feet in height. There he was found much alarmed, and his horse quivering with fright, and as he was not the most sober man on earth, and often spoke in strong terms of this wonderful incident, he gained a reputation for want of veracity, which similar facts that took place at Calne in the great hail-storm would now free him from. It was after this that the Rev. —. Talmage, of Horspath, caused a row of whitewashed stones to be erected as a guide for pedestrians to his village. Of him we shall have a little to say when speaking of Horspath. There are most unpleasant associations in the minds of some people connected with this pathway. After certain showers, in autumn especially, the worms came to the surface in such abundance that walking was rendered a most slippery as well as disgusting task; their number was so great, and they were so apparently insensible to noise or danger.

On the ridge of the Green, as anyone came from the Marsh, was a Roman barrow, which yielded a few remains, and at about 175 yards from where the Horspath Road cuts the Bridle Road, parting the two villages, are just visible two sides of a camp, called the Roman camp till about 1848, when some people who had studied Plott and Hussey decreed, correctly or not we cannot decide, that it was not so. It may result that the camp was really Roman, that the above authors omitted to notice it, and that it marks the point of divergence of a road which some suppose they trace again in the moors of Cowley, at the foot of Leigh Hill, and again in that small portion which is marked by the spring in the field at the back of Mr. Morrell's estate at Headington Hill, the field at whose lower end is Marston Lane, the road apparently intersecting the lane at the first milestone from Oxford. Bishop Kennett, following Plott, says that this branch of a vicinal road "crosses the Charwell north of Holywell Church with a stone pavement, is there called King's Swath or Way, goes over St. Giles's field (here it was interrupted by the military works of Charles's time) and Port Meadow, has an apparent trajectus over the Isis, now called Binsey Ford, being a few yards north of Medley Grove, runs through Binsey Churchyard, in which are the signatures of large buildings, winds up the hill toward the left, where stood the ancient village of Seckworth, signifying in Saxon 'military town' (*sæc*, war, battle), now reduced to a barn and a pound, once abounding in inns for the reception of pilgrims either frequenting St. Margaret's Well in Binsey Churchyard, or travelling to St. Edward's shrine at Gloucester." Two or three other authorities agree upon the piece of road crossing Marston Lane: as the solid wall-like foundation, mixed with broken pottery —and Roman pottery cannot be mistaken—affords very safe indications, it is surprising that the question has not been solved by digging operations. The former gravel pit facing the *Horse and Jockey* in St. Giles's, which yielded a few Roman coins about fifty years since, and a road-foundation in Mr. Morrell's South Park, near Cheney Lane, just before it begins to descend to meet the Headington Hill Road, seem to lie in the same track; but there are others

who think the branch came down the present Headington Road, and that the cutting now crossed by the pretty bridge is of Roman origin.

Returning to our subject, we will recall a few matches played on the Green. The Bullingdon Club and Wadham College had two beautiful pieces reserved and kept in order for them, one or both within the present enclosed space at the rear of the barracks. The best matches were usually played on the larger piece, the Bullingdon ground. The undergraduates' match there against the Magdalen Cricket Club was lost by eight wickets in 1843. The Bullingdon Club, with Hellyer, in 1845, secured a victory over the Magdalen Club, with 143 runs to spare. Cowley against Wadham will be referred to hereafter. A second match between them on the Green was won by the village in 1848, with eight wickets to spare. The scores of the Bullingdon Club do not unfortunately figure in Lillywhite's book.

There were cut in the turf of Bullingdon, in two separate spots, mazes formed of a pathway, about twenty inches wide, and spaces of six inches; they were very simple in their construction, and alike in the tortuous arrangement; circular in outline. The names given were Tarrytowns, or Troytowns. Why "towns" no one pretended to say.

We must not quit Bullingdon without noticing that just as the exterior of most of the fifteenth and sixteenth century buildings in Oxford were of the Headington stone, so the interior walls, with the trifling exception of a few brick ones, were formed of the top rock from Bullingdon, the greater part of it dug from the west side of the present Headington Road leading in front of the barracks, and generally carted in frosty or dry weather direct across Leigh Hill, towards the present Warneford Asylum, the marsh way being too soft for such traffic. There were indications of the road visible quite lately by the side of a small orchard and ruin in Leigh Hill, which, according to tradition, stood on *the* old way to Oxford. It would be strange if this road was part of the Roman one described a page or so previously.

That such a valuable piece of land should lie unploughed, for six centuries at least, is worth recording. As it would form a convenient rendezvous for the entire hundred; as it has always been called by such names as Billendenesgrene, about 1240; and later Bolendon Green, Bullendon, &c., not taking its title from the nearest villages; and as it was, according to tradition, a meeting-place for shooting with bows—it may have been kept as a common in the interests of the whole hundred of Baldon. The townsmen of Oxford were reviewed on it by Charles I.; and Thomas Smith, the Mayor of Oxford, was Colonel at the time. He lies buried in Great Milton Churchyard, if we may believe Delafield.

The Barracks, forming the centre of the 43rd Regimental District, are situated on the north side of what was the Common—a spot that must have been trod by the Roman legions in the third century, and by the Parliamentary troops marching from Sandford to Islip. The buildings enclose a space of

eight acres, and have a drill field of twelve more in the rear. The keep, on the left side of the entrance, is a fine tower built to contain the arms and accoutrements of the Militia and Volunteer battalions of the district. The view from it is very fine, not shut off on one side as that is from Joe Pullen's tree, and is quite worth the trouble of mounting the many steps to enjoy.

The arrangements are all that could be desired, the city waterworks giving a constant supply of water, which a small engine pumps up to two towers at the corners of the quadrangle, surmounted with tanks of five thousand gallons capacity. The buildings to the right of the entrance gate are the officers' quarters, arranged for ten occupants, and besides these there are quarters for thirty-one soldiers' families, provided with an infant school.

There was at first a great outcry about the danger of bringing the soldiers so near to Oxford; it was declared ruinous to the university and city, and dangerous alike to the morals of town, gown, and country folk. Such outcries fell upon deaf ears, and there was not a repetition of that folly which some years previous hindered Oxford from being a station on the main line of the Great Western Railway.

The buildings were first occupied on June 7th, 1876, and the health of the soldiers there has been exceptionally good.

CASSINGTON

Is best approached by the meadows, and a dry day should be chosen, otherwise one must go round by the Woodstock road, turning off at about the fourth milestone through Yarnton and Worton. If by meadow, the canal can be followed north for about four miles, till a branch—really a feeder from the Thames—is met with on the right hand. A red brick house by the Lock side, and a small shed for horses marks the spot; turning under the railway, and keeping close to the canal, and afterwards to the Thames, a path appears over a meadow, nearly a mile and a half long, straight for Cassington spire; this pathway continues through a row of pollard willows, and, crossing the Witney railway, brings the traveller into the village through a croft, with some deserted cottages in its corner. Passing into the road, and crossing it, there is a small lane by the side of a Methodist Chapel, which leads direct to the Village Green, from whence, turning down a paved path to the right, the church may be reached. The farthest tree on the Green is the stocks tree; these disappeared twenty years since. On the south-east side of the church there was, in Anthony Wood's time, a house with a moat round nearly the whole of it, the property of the Rainold or Reynold family; it would be best approached by the road which we crossed as we first entered the village, down which a wood-framed house of some pretension is also situated.

The Church is clearly of Norman character; four of the windows and two of the doors remaining untouched. Like Iffley, it has a bold corbel-table, to

which, in conjunction with the simple, fine spire and its well-chosen locality, much of the good general appearance is to be attributed. The corbel-table is on corbels of most disappointing execution; clumsy country work, with here and there a trifling exception. They were probably carved when the spire was completed, as they agree with them in character, and are decidedly not in the Norman style. The main fabric of the church is probably of Geoffry of Clinton's erection (*circa* 1155), though in a style of fifty or eighty years previous. The tower was erected by another Clinton, who took down the Norman one, leaving, however, its east and west arches. There have been many remains of paintings discovered in this church; two only are now left on east splays of the nave windows next to the tower, one clearly St. Barbara, beside a peculiar painting of the instruments of the crucifixion inside of the south porch door, facing one as one enters by the north porch. The string-course forming the base of this, a kind of *guilloche* ornament, no doubt once ran all round the church, as was customary. The chancel is groined in a simple Norman fashion; the ribs are round, and supported by plain shafts with cushion caps. The painting of this groining, judging from a description in 1842, must have been rather elaborate; somewhat in the style of the chapel over the shrine of St. Frideswide, in our cathedral. The north window of the chancel is full of stained glass; medallions of about eight inches diameter, set in a ground of quarries. The early thirteenth century medallions are on a tender yellow ground; one of our Saviour, with crossed nimbus and a plain white fillet across His forehead, deserves examination. One of them is a Dutch-like representation of the selling of Joseph (sixteenth century). The west window contains a good many such pictures, not very

CASSINGTON CHURCH.

interesting. In 1845 much of the painting of the soffit of the east tower arch was visible; since that time the portion under the tower has been fitted up with choir seats and wainscoat backs of Charles' time, probably a present from some building in Oxford. The font is that of the primitive church, large enough for immersion. Skelton gives some interesting details, and a sketch or two of the ancient paten and offertory basin of this church.

This village was, previous to 1155, part of the parish of St. Mary at Ensham; a few years afterwards we find, in the Ensham Abbey register, that a Clinton gave a virgate—a yard land, perhaps forty acres—to the church for the restoration of the tower, then likely to fall. At Headington Church, by the way, we have a Norman arch half perished, but saved by the twelfth-century workmen. In 1318 William of Montacute, ancestor of the earls of Salisbury, obtained leave of Edward II. to convert his mansion-house into a castle; this is no doubt the moated farmhouse, though the Clinton family are known to have lived there previously. Another illustrious family, the De la Poles, held the estate (c. 1450); William was a kind of a Despencer in Henry VI.'s time, and was beheaded in a boat off Ipswich. The value of the living, now belonging to Christ Church, was augmented by Jasper Maine, the archdeacon of Chichester, in 1672, being now worth £160. There is in the churchyard the foot of a cross, Perpendicular in character; and in the village a school for educating, clothing, and apprenticing ten boys. The Duke of Marlborough is lord of the manor. The population in 1881 was 335, and the acreage of the parish, including Worton, a hamlet on the Yarnton road, is 2990 acres.

A monument to Dr. Bruerne, Hebrew professor at Oxford in 1559, bears a Latin inscription in verse, and an outline of the vicar in a peculiar shrouding, which is referred to again under Oddington village. Of the meaning of the first part of the name Chersing, Kersing, Cassing, no satisfactory explanation can be given.

CHARLTON,

Though very little more than 8 miles from Oxford direct, is fully 9 by whatever path or road it is reached. One mode of access is by Marston, Suscot Farm, Woodeton, straight on to Noke, where a path leads across to Oddington, and so on to Charlton. If the railway to Islip is made use of, a road on the south side of that village, and a pathway, will, either of them, answer the traveller's purpose: it is a way easily found out.

Dunkin says that the name of the place is derived from Ceorl, a husbandman, and tun, and remarks that it never had a house superior to the parsonage. If we are really indebted to him for the first attractive notice of the beautiful screen in the church here, we can only be thankful, and lament that such a treasure of late Gothic art was so little esteemed.

There is nothing in the village worth notice, but the church with its

contents is a most interesting study; nor is its documentary history of great importance.

From *Doomsday* we learn that there were about 300 acres of land under plow, 69 families, 2 mills, that the royal income was £28, and that all the rest went to Westminster Abbey, having been given it by Edward the Confessor. Roger de Ivery gave the advowson to his restored monastery at St. Ebrulf, in Normandy; but by 1392 this alien monastery had to cede it to the Crown. Before 1279 it had become the property of the Prior of Ware, having been given as alms by Count Robert of Leicester. When Edward I., in 1294, found his dominions attacked by France, he confiscated the territory of the prior, but when the peace came, returned it. From an inquisition, made in his 22nd year, we find that land rented at 3d. per acre, some meadow land at 2s., cottages 3s. 4d.; but the blacksmith's forge stood at 10s. per annum, and the mill £2 6s. 8d. On four occasions, during war in the reigns of Edward I. to Richard I., we find the king presenting to the living, having made the abbat yield up his rights because he held his land under a monastery in a foreign country. In 1416 the king attached the church and property here to the monastery of Shene, in or near Richmond Green, and to their workmen we are probably indebted for the screen. With them it continued till the Dissolution, when the rectory was valued at £17 2s. 3d.

Attached to the manor of Charlton are a court-baron and court-leet. At the former it has been the custom of the lords of the manor from time immemorial to summon all the male inhabitants of the parish between the ages of eighteen and sixty, excepting apprentices, and to demand 2d. of each under the name of *head silver;* but about 1800 a clamour was made about it, and a quart of beer was given on receipt of the 2d.; from that time no objection has been made to the payment. In 1816 50 people paid it; in 1819 52, as appears from the books of Sir G. O. P. Turner in 1820. The oaths of the outgoing and incoming constable, jurymen, and hayward, are preserved to us in Dunkin; and he describes the main business of the court-leet as being about the ringing of pigs, branding of cattle, letting of commons, and such matters.

The nave arches, chancel arch, clerestory north side, font, east window of south aisle, lower part of tower, and probably all the walls, are Early English in style; the windows inserted at east of chancel and south are a late phase of Florid Decorated, the former, of four lights, is an unusual one. Buttresses of the same period (1380–1400), occur at the angles of the chancel only.

The rood-screen of thirteen compartments, five on each side of the door, is the most decided specimen of floriated almost flamboyant carving ever occurring in England; it might be looked upon as an importation from Germany. Panels of linen-pattern occupy the lower portion above them; twelve shafts twisted and foliated supporting the thirteen very pretty openworked arches. The groining bends over toward the nave, and the groining ribs abut on a cornice of carved work. The centre ornament of the doors is of peculiar workman-

ship. The gilding and colouring of the whole is easily detected, and is after the style of the beautiful screens in Norfolk. Devonshire alone supplies us with two or three more perfect examples, but not such elaborate ones; for this in its way is quite on a par with the reredos at All Souls College, though probably a little later in execution. At Charlton, the low rail in front of the platform, with its open panels and the rood itself, that is, the figure of Jesus crucified, with the attendant figures of St. John and the Virgin, are absent. In place of the latter, a cross of flowers and evergreens is placed above it on May-day, which is replaced by a fresh one every year. Dunkin gives us two crosses, one smaller than the other; perhaps the number has diminished from three to two, and now to one. The cover of the font here is peculiar, almost too Tudor-like in its stiffness: these objects, with the remains of glass in the heads of several lights, and the tiles in the chancel, will occupy some time, and decidedly interest a student of such matters. The cross in the churchyard may be Early English, but it is almost too much worn for the antiquarian to decide its date.

One of the former rectors, Thomas Lamplugh, is worth mention. In 1658, on the Restoration, he dexterously closed with the Royal party, and was appointed one of the commissioners for the reinstating of the members of the University of Oxford ejected by the Puritans of 1648. He was more zealous than all the rest, and so laid the foundation of his advancement. In 1676, when Bishop of Exeter, his exhortation to loyalty, delivered to the gentry and clergy at Exeter on the landing of the Prince of Orange, was marked by great loyalty to James, and soon after its delivery he hastened to James in London, represented his services, and was within a few weeks transferred to York. His loyalty did not last long; for in the same year he joined in an invitation to the Prince of Orange to assume the sovereignty, call a free Parliament, and deliver the nation from Popery; and when the Archbishop of Canterbury refused to assist at the coronation of William, no scruples debarred Lamplugh from taking his prominent part in that ceremony.

The population in 1881 was 503, and the area of the parish is 1864 acres.

CHILWORTH,

A hamlet of Great Milton, on the continuation of the Oxford, Headington, and Wheatley road. In 1279 a part of it was held by Edmund Earl of Cornwall. The item gives us two variations in spelling: "Chellesworth Gernun,—Edmund holds half a hide in Cumbe and Chulleworthe, with a meadow near, and half the fishing of the Thame. Symon of St. Luke holds it of him paying homage and service at the Court of Northosen (Rewley) for three weeks at a time at three weeks' interval. John Gernun holds the tenements of the above Symon." Chulleworth probably means the village of Chulle; and a wood called Chille, in the parish of Halweton, which appears intended for Halton

or Holton, was held by the same earl. In 1416 Joan, the widow of Sir Richard Camoys, had lands and tenements in Great and Little Chelworth granted to her.

CHISELHAMPTON.

THIS village lies about six and a half miles south-east of Oxford. The way to it is by the Cowley Road, past the Military College, at about three-quarters of a mile from which a field road from Littlemore comes in on the right as soon as the railway is passed; a few yards further and the field road forming the boundary of Cowley parish branches off to the left. Here there is a triangular field with a road on each side; the farthest and east one is the old Roman vicinal way, traceable to the south, with a few interruptions at Baldon, as far as Dorchester, and northerly about half a mile, distinctly again to be met with in the brickfields just at the west foot of Shotover, then becoming the road to Bayswater mill, mounting the hill to Beckley, and so across Otmoor. It is as well to make sure by enquiry which is the Chiselton road; and at about half a mile from the triangular field the Baldon road, which diverges slightly to the right, must be avoided. After such tedious notes upon the means of access, it grieves the writer to announce that there is nothing even in the parish church worth coming to see; but by going on a little further to the Thame an old bridge will prove of interest perhaps. The manor-house and church suffered removal in 1763. The latter is now dedicated to St. Catharine; but the former one, which contained the bones of a British saint named Hycritha or Hyeritha, was called St. Mary's.

It is usual to regard the first part of the word Chiselhampton as a variation of the word ceosl, meaning gravel; which is seen again in the Chesil bank in Dorset and at Chiselhurst, where the same geological features occur. But Anthony Wood has traced a family name, Chevacheeshull of Hampton, near Dorcheste (*circa* 1220), and he suspects that Chevacheeshull-hampton is the old form of the word.

The *Hundred Rolls* of 1279 supply us with the following: "Walter ad Pontem (Atbridge perhaps) holds of the said Bishop (Lincoln) one house and one virgate for five shillings, to plow in the lord's domain if he has a plow, to mow the meadows and carry the hay till it is all done, to find two men for three and a half days for reaping (not their food), and for two days at the expense of dinner at the bishop's cost. To carry his hay and his wheat till it is all carried; not to marry his daughter without licence (of his lord), nor sell an ox or fowl. Also to carry wheat at Tyngerst and to the markets at Oxford and Walingford at the will of the bishop, also to carry wood at the charge of fourpence." Nine more held land at the same service. There was some land here in the honour of Dodole, for which the owners did suit at Dorchester. Laurence de Leches (of the lasher?) holds waters which are called Thame, and they extend nearly to the lasher of Sepwas (sheepwash).

The parish has been united for centuries with Stadhampton, and after the Dissolution the two were leased for thirty-one years to a Thomas Reade, at a rent of £18 6*s.* 8*d.*, payable quarterly. By a deed dated May 2nd, 1534, the manor of Chiselhampton was granted by Sir Robert Poyninges and others to Joan, the relict of Sir Richard Camoys, in 1416. The D'Oyley family, so closely connected with early Oxford, had a branch resident here during the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries; a Sir John sold it, and it has passed to the Peers family. How this affected the curate of Chisleton we read in the parish register. Mem. March 20th, 1745. "I enter this to acquaint my successors that the stipend for Chisleton and Stadham curacy was ever till this day ten shillings a Sunday, and a Dinner for myself and care of my Horse. But now Sir John D'Oyley . . . has refused to give any more than twenty Pounds a year, and obliges me to take care of myself and Horse. . . . This I attest to be literally true. John Bilstone, Curate of Chisleton."

The present church was the munificent gift of Charles Peers, Esq. It is a most unchurchlike erection, as might be expected from the taste of the generation.

John Bilstone's meagre stipend has been increased by the same benevolent family to £135; and the living is now vested in their family, under the title of the Perpetual Curacy of Chiselhampton and Studhampton. Part of the income comes from four Oxford canal shares.

The acreage of the parish is 1210, and the population in 1881 was 103.

CHOLSWELL.

WE will suppose that this *is* a redoubled locality, at least it will amuse us to take notice of the pleasant, gossiping way in which old antiquarians handled a not very easy question. We catch, it seems, but one clear view of this former village or estate in *Doomsday*. Before that it is enveloped in the mists of antiquity, while afterwards it sinks into insignificance.

Thus then wrote the scribes in the Book of Doom: "In Sudtone hundred. Aiwold the chamberlain holds of the King Chersvelle: Edditha the Queen held it. It paid as for five hides now for one hide: land for two plows: are in domain four villeins, six cottars with one plow: nine slaves; a fishery of forty-pence (value) fifty-nine acres of meadow. It was and is worth four pounds."

We will for charity's sake suppose that Aiwold is not one of those "licentious knaves who were amazed at themselves, astonished at beholding themselves so powerful at having servants richer than their own fathers had ever been;" but yet we will in fancy drop a tributary tear over the hard lot of the *nine slaves*. Chersvelle is a sufficiently near approach to the present and older names to make one think we have the right village, and this is confirmed by the fact of

its being in Sudtone or Suttone hundred; for Hormer or Hornmere hundred is not applied by the compilers of *Doomsday* to the places in this locality. Edith's name looks like Eddida in the original; but the third d differs in shape from the former two, and is doubtless intended for the Saxon *th*. As to a fishery we cannot give the old boundaries of the place, and streams abound both east and west. Now for the historic mist. From an old chronicle Hearne picks out this item: "In the year of our Lord 821 was a terrible battle between Egbert, the king of the West Saxons, and Ceolwulph, king of the Mercians, between Abingdon and Oxford, in a place which is spoken of as Cherrunhul, Egbert being the victor." He proceeds thus: "There is no place answering to this except Chilswell Farm, at the west end of a great field, commonly called Hencksey field, on the west side of Foxcomb Hill, which, from some remains of military works thereabouts, and from the likeness of the name, I take to be the place noted in the fragment, which perhaps ought to be corrected Chessenhul, the Saxon r and s being hard to be distinguished in MSS. At this place, which was formerly part of Bagley Wood, was once a small abbey, as I learn, that was built by one of the nobles of Cissa, king of the *South* Saxons, but afterwards translated to Seukesham."

In another work he repeats the same tale, and then adds: "Dr. Leonard Hutten is pleased to take notice of this well, which he calls Childswell, saying it had a particular virtue . . . especially if the women addressed themselves to the chaplains that officiated there, in a chapel near, of which I have often heard mention, and it is said the remains were there lately (*circa* 1690.) The well is about a furlong east of the farm. The many wells round Oxford was one occasion of the place being formerly so very populous both in citizen and scholars. . . . I think the well takes its name from Cissa, a petty king of the *West* Saxons in the time of Cenwine. Cissa was overlord of Wiltshire and Berkshire, the uncle of Hean. This Hean, resolving to build a house of devotion, chose, in 575, Chilswell for the spot (then follows the Abendun legend, and he proceeds). This town Seukesham by degrees lost its name, and took that of Abendon; *i.e.* Abbey Hill, which is really the transferring of the name of the spot now called Chilswell, and so denominated from one Aben, son of a certain consul, who was one of those barbarously and treacherously butchered by Hengist, in the year 460, at Stanhegest, now called Stonehenge. Leland speaks of a camp Serpenhill, one quarter of a mile east-north-east of Abingdon. I look upon this as being the same as Cherrenhill or Chilswell (direction should be N.N.W., and distance wrong; but) this spot is three miles, but perhaps portions of it extended towards Abingdon. . . ." Again, "I am inclined to think that after the chapel began to be famous there were several houses here, notwithstanding the Abbey did not thrive, which made a considerable village. We know what destruction of towns there hath been in England, particularly about Oxford, in the time of Ethelred, in whose reign, I take it, the towns of Pinsgrove and Bagley (which latter lay S.E. one and a

quarter mile from Oxford, the former one quarter mile from Chilswell) were utterly destroyed. The name of the one remains in Bagley Wood, and the other in Pinsgrove Coppice, being the very place, without dispute, where the village of Pinsgrove stood. I have been told of large foundations of buildings that were found not long since near the farmhouse at Chilswell, . . ." We will not follow our author farther. He seems to have evolved the village of Pinsgrove from his inner consciousness; for the syllable grove indicates a wood, not a tun or village, and the Abbey *Chronicle* places Aben's abode near to Baiwrthe and Pinnesgrave, without an extra syllable, to indicate village, being attached to the latter. Chessun is too remote from Chils to be accepted, and hull or hill is certainly not well. Should the extensive foundations be hereafter discovered near Cholswell we will humbly apologize, and do hereby promise not to offend again in like manner. A tenant under Abingdon in the twelfth century was Richard of Chiefteswelle; this abolishes the Childeswell theory.

Cholswell is a very small hamlet in the tithing of Dry Sandford, occupying the north-east corner of it, and forms part of St. Helen's parish, Abingdon. The three small thatched houses on it seem to represent three old farm holdings. In earlier times there was probably a good reason for the name well occurring; for it is clear that there was formerly much stagnant water here.

Shippon Common was enclosed in 1842, and a homestead was erected near this hamlet; this is assumed to be part of the hamlet. It now forms part of Mr. Morland's Gosford estate. All remembrance of the celebrated well and abbey (once supposed to exist here) has disappeared.

ST. CLEMENTS.

THE history of this, of St. Bartholomew's, and even Iffley, has been generally joined to that of Oxford. With a passing protest against this system the writer intends to touch upon a point or two worth notice, both adjoining this parish, but actually outside its boundary. At the extreme end of St. Clements, at the foot of Headington Hill, used to stand a wayside cross, but the history of it is unknown. After crossing Magdalen Bridge a road branches off to the right, due south from old St. Clement's Church. The last house, not cottage, upon this road, which leads round to Millham Ferry, looks directly down the broad walk, and from its garden a bridge used to lead to the meadow. Near this bridge was a spring that attained a reputation some centuries ago equal to that of Binsey; but the tale is worth giving verbatim from Wood's notes, first of all noting that Millham and the south side of Magdalen Bridge lie within the parish of Cowley, and Professor Harcourt's house is on the field called Campus Pits, one of the old furlongs of that parish: "Neare to the ford called Millford, which leadeth into Cowley mead, was sometimes a well called Saint Edmund's well, consecrated to such a saint that was Archbishop of Canterbury, to which

was much resort of people in the reignes of Henry III. and Ed. I. I find it to have been made especially for the curing of wounds and recovery of maladyes and sicknesses, either by the drinking the water thereof or by bathing them, and soe great holyness besides was it reputed to possess by the working of miracles on the vulgar that the fame thereof was spread far and neare, at length cumming to the knowledge of Oliver Sutton, Bishop of Lyncoln, how strangely the people were besotted with a fond imagination of its vertues and holinesse, and that they did neglect to serve the true God by hankering after and worshipping this well (he) sent out his edict to the Archdeacon of Oxford, 1291, with a direful sentence therein of an anathema and excommunication to those that should resort thereto which partly speaketh to this effect: 'It hath come to our hearing by sure information, that certain persons, tossed about, as it were, by the wind, according to the unsteadiness of their minds, and thoughtlessly wandering from the worship of faith, do frequent, for the sake of an erroneous worship, and pretend to venerate as a sacred spot, and that, too, under the show of holy miracles they pretend are wrought there, and the same do endeavour, by enticing not a few people thither, to deceive them by these damnable inventions, and have of late presumed to introduce this sin of the gentiles among the worshippers of Christ, and by endeavouring, &c.' Thus the Bishop; but upon what account this well should have been thus frequented, whether at the said Archbishop's canonization about six years after his death by Pope Innocent 4, or upon any other event, I am in doubt: yet for a certaine, if it was not for that particular, it might arise from this; viz., that he, the said Archbishop, while he was a resident in Oxon, and courted by the greatest schollers of that age, both for his piety and learning, did often, according to his manner, converse in private with God, especially in his walks of recreation in the fields near Oxon . . . a special remark tells us that on a time as he walked in a meede or feild near Oxon Jesus Christ appeared to him, and soe probably from thence a spring or well might at that place burst forth, even as St. Margaret's well at Binsey did at the intreatyes and converse with God by St. Frideswyde. . . . This well of St. Edmund was open till Millham bridge fell down, and then by degrees for want of repairs was gradually stopped up."

The author puts as a marginal note to the passage regarding the appearance of Jesus Christ in the meadow a quotation from the *Polychronicon*, which shows the great respect paid in earlier days to the memory of this perfect archbishop, greatest of Oxford tutors, preceptor to the marvellous Friar Bacon himself, whom without idolizing we may even now, under conditions far removed, respect and copy, so that we may on *our* death-beds be enabled to say with him, "In thee, O Lord, I have believed: thee have I preached and taught. Thou art my witness, that I have desired nothing on earth but thee alone." The note is this: "The author saith there also that there appeared to him a youth fair to look upon, who said, 'Hail, dearest one!' and added, 'I

wonder why you do not recognize me, especially since I have been present constantly at your side both at lectures and elsewhere.'"

Millham Bridge, which we saw disappear last year, extended from what Peshall incorrectly calls Clement's Field across the Cherwell by two arches, then the road passed over Millham Meadow by a causeway, having in it six arches for the passage of floods, and then into Merton Meadow, near the end of the Broad Walk, by a second bridge, also of two arches, one abutment of which is still just visible.

Late operations have concealed the old causeway, but the traces of a square mound in the middle of the field are still there. Whether it was the spot where a roadside cross stood, or whether there was here, as well as at the Merton angle of the city wall, a small chapel, as has been asserted, cannot be easily decided.

Wolsey rebuilt both bridges to cart material over when building Cardinal College, and put gates up on the road—a pair "near St. Edmund's Well," a second "near our Lady in the Wall." After the college was built the use of carriages was forbidden, horses and foot-passengers alone being allowed. It remained in good and in indifferent repair till 1634, when the Cowley end of the bridge farthest from Oxford was forced down by the ice, and was allowed to fall into decay. At the beginning of the Revolution, 1641, it was quite demolished. In 1771 both were rebuilt as temporary bridges of wood to be used during the works at Magdalen Bridge close by. There is a record of the mill which gave the name to the meadow, and was called Boiemulne or Boimille in the Godstow registers; it was given to the nuns at Godstow by Roger, Bishop of Sarum, in 1138.

CLIFTON HAMPDEN.

THE walk to this place, though fully eight miles, is a most delightful one, by Iffley turn, Rose Hill, Littlemore, Sandford, and to the Harcourt Arms at Nuneham; through the yard of this inn a path branches off to the right, nearly touching the new church there, and leads to the side park entrance, close to some pretty ponds; and just before entering the gate it is as well to look back toward Oxford, up a most picturesque glen. The home farm and house lie as you enter to the south-west; but a course almost due south is the one that will conduct you to a corner of the park from whence, over a ladder-style, will be found the pathway to Clifton. Through the park is nearly two miles' walk, and the remaining part about three-quarters to the church.

Should the railway be preferred, the village lies about a mile to the east of Culham Station, and on the Dorchester Road.

Much of the property in the neighbourhood belongs to the Gibbs family, of whose generosity Keble College is such a splendid example; and to them the village is indebted for one of the prettiest and best-restored churches in

Oxfordshire. A lich-gate of handsome proportions and chaste design, marks the entrance to the churchyard; the church has many Transitional features, but several of the old windows, and the bell-turret, were Decorated. The porch, which is an addition, is also Decorated; and the whole bears witness to the good judgment of H. H. Gibbs, Esquire, and the excellent taste of Sir Gilbert Scott. The recumbent effigy of G. H. Gibbs, Esquire, at whose request the son undertook the restoration, is within the chancel.

Like most of our churches, an addition in the shape of a chapel occupies the end of an aisle; there seems to be no particular name attached to this one; the visitor will be struck with the absence of a chancel arch, and he should be told that the present open roof is a restoration of the old one, but the design rather more ornamental in parts.

The name Cliffton, or village on the cliff, is as old as the Saxons; but the addition Hampden is of about the Tudor time, to distinguish it from Hampton Ferry, on the other side of the Thames. There appear to have been two hamlets to this parish, Byrcote, Birdcote, or Brudecote, which most probably had a church, and Stoke. This neighbourhood is a favourite resort of such as are fond of piscatorial pursuits.

According to the *Hundred Roll* of 1277, it had twenty-five tenants; the chief of whom were Lord G. de Levekenere (Lewknor), who held ten virgates, and William of Baldon, who held land valued at two knights' fees. The Abbat of Dorkestr, in whose "peculiar" the living was, had a house there, and three virgates of land.

At the time of the Dissolution by Henry VIII., Dorchester Abbey held here and in Burcot, rents, farm, and court fees; in Byrcote worth £2 10s. 4d. The rectory farm at Birdcote, tithes, etc., worth £4 13s. 4d. Court fees and rents in Clyftonne £7 2s. 10d. Rectory of Clyftonne let at £9. The two rectories and churches, went first to Oseney and then to Christ Church. The Pollard family had rights by a royal grant in 1542.

At the time of the enclosure, 1775, the rectory was valued at £76 per annum; but it is now increased to £107, being a perpetual curacy, and no longer belonging to Dorchester. The extent of the parish is 1030 acres, and the population in 1881 was 347.

COWLEY.

THREE roads now diverge from Magdalen Bridge, the middle one of them leads to Temple Cowley. Another, called the Iffley road, also leads to Rose Hill, an outlying portion of Iffley parish. Between Temple Cowley and Rose Hill, lies Middle Cowley or Hockmore Street, parted from the other by a field named Between-towns; *i.e.* between the tuns or villages, and Church Cowley. A fourth, and far more extensive portion, has grown up within the last thirty years, at the end near Oxford, now portioned off into a separate church

district, under the title of Cowley St. John. Portions of this parish have been reviewed under the headings St. Bartholomew's, St. Clement's, and Cowley Marsh. To give in detail one quarter of the information discovered or printed about this double or quintuple village, is far from our present intentions. Its name when written Covelie—Covele—should with little doubt be pronounced Cou-e-ley, the very common methods, Coueleye and Couelee, confirm this idea; and the shapes of v and u in Norman and early English handwritings are often exactly the reverse of the present ones. Coflea seems, however, to indicate the idea of *Cov*, but that occurs in the parish accounts of St. Mary's, Oxford, alone. The Saxon dictionaries give no word Cov, and Cof seems to be confined to 'inner-room, den'—in fact, our present 'coop.' That much of the land in olden times would have been a good leagh, or field for cows, is little to be doubted; but still the meaning of the name is by no means certain. The division into Temple and Church Cowley dates back six hundred years. *Doomsday* book, which was completed in 1086, gives us the three landowners, thus:

"COVELIE.—Roger [d'Ivery] holds two hides and a third part of a yard land [10 acres]. His own land is 60 acres; these are in his domain, as well as 4 borderers and 2 slaves. There are 4 acres of meadow, and 2 acres pasturage. Was worth 60s. [per annum] now 40s.

"The Earl Eustache rents direct of the king three hides in Covelie, and Roger rents of him 150 acres. There are now in his domain 60 acres, and 3 slaves, and 6 villeins, who [together?] have 90 acres. There are 5 acres meadow, a wood, 440 yards long and broad. From the mill and 30 acres of land [the rent is] 25s. The whole was and is worth 40s.

"Lewin [no doubt 'servant of the king' as elsewhere] rents direct of the king land in Covelie, 540 acres; there are 10 plows there. In the domain 120 acres of Warland and 30 acres, 2 slaves and 20 villeins, with 5 borderers, have 240 acres. There is a mill of 40s. [rent], and two fisheries of 8s., and 10 acres meadow. A wood 880 yards long and 440 yards broad. Was and is worth 100s. The same Lewin held these lands freely in the time of Edward (the Confessor)."

Of these three landowners we referred to the first, at Beckley; of the second we should recall that he was brother-in-law, according to William of Malmesbury, of the Confessor; that his illtreatment of the Dover inhabitants, on his return to Boulogne, caused a disturbance there; that when Harold was bidden to appease it, he refused to punish the innocent citizens; and that a subsequent investigation proved how completely the king was subject to Norman influence. It is very probable that 360 acres of land in Cowley, in the king's gift, went as dowry to this Eustache of Boulogne—the man who thought that "England was already a part of Normandy." The third, Lewin, had received his estate from the Confessor as a free gift. From a consideration of similar divisions of parishes, we may conclude that these three estates in some way are to be connected with the triple division of Temple Cowley, Middle Cowley, and Church

Cowley. The mention of two mills, whereas the only one elsewhere known or recorded is that which gave its name to Milham mede and Milham bridge, is somewhat puzzling; and as Givetelei (Iffley) mill is not mentioned in *Doomsday*, we are led to believe that the confusion between Cowley and Iffley parish is of very old standing.

From the Sandford *Lieger Book*, containing copies of all the deeds relative to the Templars' possessions, and written about 1274, we learn that Matilda the queen, wife of Stephen, gave all her land to the Brothers of the Temple—this amounted to 360 acres or three hides, as is clear from the *Hundred Rolls*, and is the estate of Earl Eustache. In giving it, she says it is "for the soul of Earl Eustache, my father, for my own soul's safety; also of Stephen, the king of the English, my husband, and of my boys, my ancestors and successors."

When Matilda, the empress, was mistress over Stephen, she gave to them full pasturage of flocks, in wood and plain, in forest and waste land. These gifts were confirmed by Stephen. When royalty had shewn the way, and when the deliverance of the Holy Sepulchre was a foremost thought in the minds of all good churchmen, other gifts quickly followed, so that donations of land, amounting at least to 580 acres, and some fourteen tenements in this village, can easily be traced—given by men who regarded the act of presentation to the one Order which specially aimed at delivering the Holy City, as next in point of virtue to going themselves as crusaders to Jerusalem. From incidental notices in the charters, we glean that the chapel was dedicated to St. Mary; that Bullingdon was then a green; that several furlongs, with whose names people in Cowley are now conversant, had retained their titles since Stephen's day; that Cowley, like Iffley, had a royal way from Oxon toward London; and that beside Hokemere there was a Hokewell in the parish.

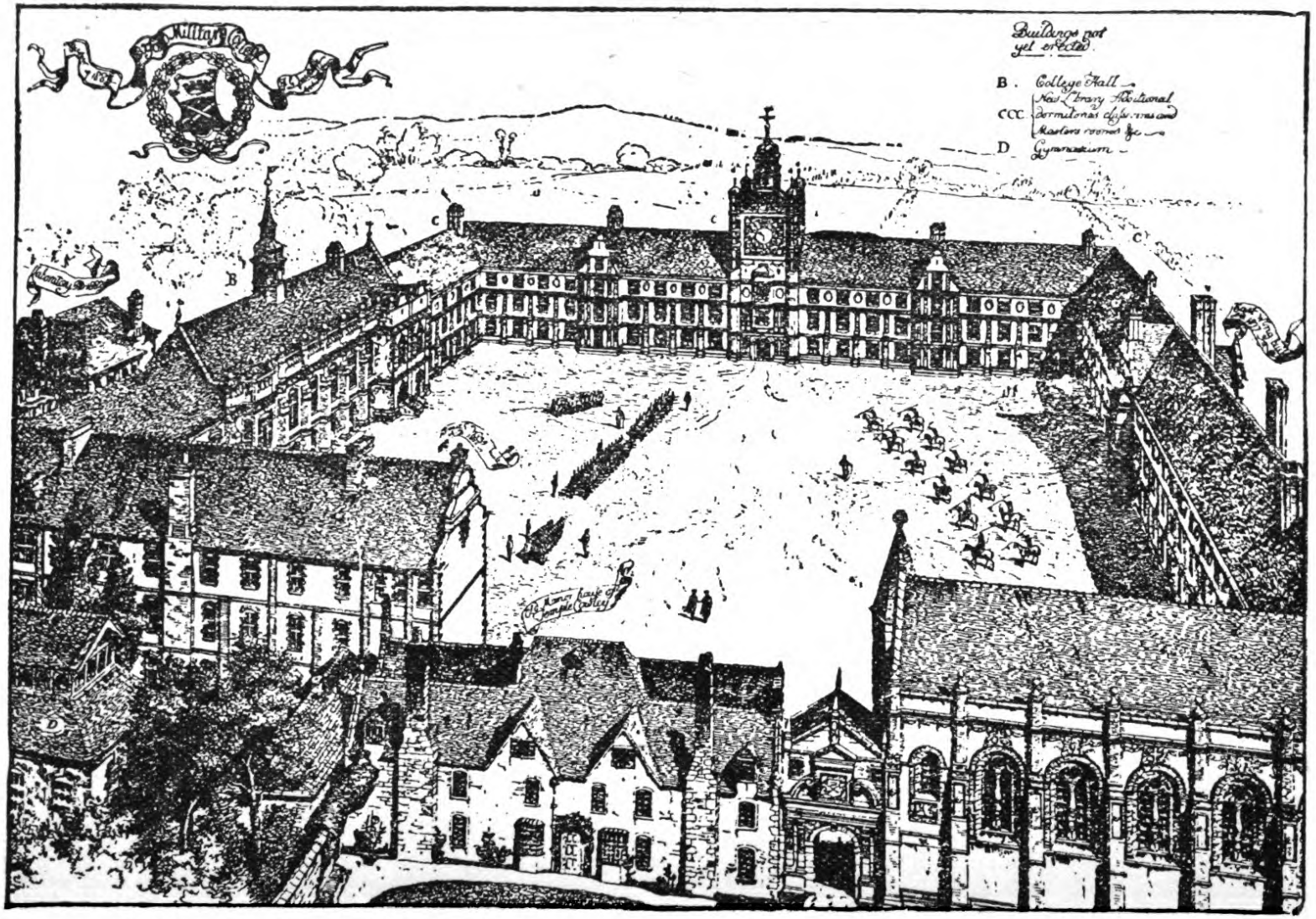
The position of this house of the Templars can be tolerably well guessed at from the fact that stone tombs form the foundation of the north porch to a barn in Temple Cowley, the one on the left hand, covered with blue slates, about half way from the stocks tree, toward the turn near a house called Quintain. A foundation too wide for a common barn, and the discovery of a skeleton in the little *cul-de-sac* just beyond the barn, conduce to this belief. Of the numbers of the knights no traces seem left, but that it had a full organization of chaplains, treasurers, accountants, is proved by several entries in the charters. A little after 1200 a Sir Thomas, formerly chamberlain to King John, became lord of the manor at Sandford, and when he turned Knight of the Temple the house shifted to Sandford, but still left the chapel for divine service, as we see William Burgan of Chirchecovel by one deed giving one and a half acres to maintain a light in the chapel of Blessed Mary at Saundford, and shortly after handing over two butts of land for lighting the chapel of Blessed Mary of Covele, and again afterwards making over to the brothers a rent of 12d., which he had hitherto received from land rented by Walter Hakemere for keeping a

luminary before the Blessed Virgin in the chapel of Covel. Hockmore is styled Hokemer and Hakemere indifferently in these deeds, so that the name is connected with a mere, not a moor, and because it is very early called a street, it may have been the Roman part of the parish. The family name Cock, to whose land several references are made, is clearly but another form of 'the cook.' The two houses of Cowley and Sandford were under one Preceptor in the year 1274, by name Robert de Escropp. The tenants of Robert Fitz Nigel, in Smal Iftelee, probably Hockmore Street, and in Couelee, were seventeen, we are told, and each had fifteen acres of land. For these they paid 3s., and were compelled to work with wagons and horses and families at their lord's will. If they work he remits the 3s. They are bound to carry for twenty leagues for their lord if he wills, and they will feed at his expense and be settled down on their return. If the King was making a progress through Cowley in those times during haymaking or harvest, the fate of these poor tenants, who were bound to transport goods to sixty miles distance, was by no means enviable. His seven cottars also are worthy of notice; for in addition to their rent, they were bound to collect the hay of their lord, and each of them was allowed for each day he worked to have one quantity of hay pulled together by the rake, "which in English is called Yelm, according to the practice of the manor, and they shall work in autumn at the three operations, and at the day's end each shall have a sheaf as large as can be bound round by its own straw, and they shall give chirshat, twenty-four cocks and hens, to the lord of Iffley." The Saxon *ciric-sceat* means church money or payment; but the matter is, to say the least, obscure. The jury of 1279 found that "Brother Robert Scrop, preceptor of Couele before noticed, took to himself the liberties of the hundred, and where there was service he does none, and where 7s. had been paid for hidage on the brother's estate, and 2s. for liberty of viewing francpledge, he pays nothing." They had also another complaint to make: "That the Templars had made a certain inclosure in Scottoure (pronounce Scottover) and keep it hedged in unjustly, that it ought to be common of the whole country (?)." The enclosure is called the porcorium of Chalmsleye. They wished this to be altered, and a charter for that common to be granted, like that for the common pasturages of Scottoure. Mr. Marshall, in his work on Iffley, thinks he recognizes a bit of land called Hog Common as being given in exchange for this place of shelter for the pigs at night when feeding in the forest by day. The order of the Templars was dissolved by the Pope in 1312 with due regard to all claims and pensions arising from it, not like Henry VIII.'s dissolutions, and the estates were handed over to the brethren of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, a society "likewise ordained and canonized for the defence of Christians and the Holy Church." Thomas of Thame, their prior in 1338, enumerates them all, and in their hands the property remained till 1512, when we find them detailed in the Rent Book of the Order; but in 1530 they are given or resigned to the

dean and canons of Cardinal College, Wolsey's foundation, now Christ Church, the manor of Cowley having been shortly before estimated at £31 2s. In this deed the Cowley manorial estate is described thus: "The manor or lordship of Temple Cowley with its appurtenances, that is to say, a capital messuage or mansion . . . three cottages, four hundred and ten acres of land and a half, twenty-six acres of meadow, six acres of meadow, four rents of one penny, and common of pasture for three hundred sheep in Temple Cowley." These the King afterwards bestowed upon the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, whose property they remain. A family of Burgan, in the thirteenth century, gave about thirteen or fifteen acres of land to the Templars. His residence was at Iffley, and the land lay in Hockmere. With regard to Church Cowley, we have but few particulars. It seems to have been the property of the Priory of St. Frideswide. Regarding the whole manor, we are told that there were not in it any rights of chase, of warren, nor water rights, nor any merchants, but that it had common pasture for animals to feed in the forest of Sotouer, for which was paid annually forty pence; and this Phillip Munekan, the head forester, received as belonging to his bailiwick.

Several rights which the Templars held in Temple Cowley were held by the Abbat of Oseney in Church Cowley. Pembroke College claimed manorial rights at the time of the enclosure as well as Christ Church.

The church is now made up of chancel, tower, nave, north aisle, and organ chamber; the two last added about eighteen years since by Street. In a thorough investigation at the time, it was pretty apparent that the original building had been a long, barn-like structure in the Late Norman style, but the Architectural Society of Oxford considered that there was nothing earlier in date than the small picture still apparent over the pulpit—a tall lady presenting a model church to a shorter one, and the head-dresses of these seem to date about 1260. Many remains of wall painting, including three dedication crosses, a Mary and Child, and a Jesus enthroned, were also uncovered, beside unique ornamentation round the square-headed windows of the chancel. Six poppy-heads of the early seventeenth century were lost, and so was all trace of the early windows of the nave. It is hoped that the Oxford Architectural Society will publish the paper upon this building, which was read before it some time since. The church had not in it a fragment of old glass, it has now too much stained glass of poor design and execution. Of late years the spiritual wants of the village have been attended to by the erection of a chapel-school at the extreme north-east of the village, and by two churches in the district of Cowley St. John. A vicarage has been built near the old church of St. James, and four or five schools in other parts of the village. The Congregationalists have also erected a fine building in the Cowley Road. The Cowley Fathers have a house in Marston Street of some pretensions to architectural beauty, and the new church near to the Magdalen cricket-ground bears the best of testimony to the earnestness of Father Benson, the generosity of Herbert Morrell, Esq.,



Oxford Military College, Cowley, Oxon.—(Sketch of existing Buildings and proposed Extensions.)

and the taste of Mowbray the architect. When its tower is complete, and the pretty cemetery near it becomes clothed with taller shrubbery, the east end of Oxford will be greatly improved in appearance. An enclosure near this church has within it the St. Mary's Home for Incurables, incomplete at present, but in the safest hands. The left or north side of the Cowley Road is not hemmed in by houses so much as the other, but lying well back, and beneath the trees of Mr. Morrell's South Park are the Oxford Union Buildings, an erection in red and white brick, this is also provided with a neat artistic chapel. One lane in this parish deserves notice from its peculiar name 'Cruel;' it is the one reaching from Church Cowley to Littlemore, and the origin of its name has been traced. It appears that a small skirmish took place here when Oxford was besieged; about fourteen men were killed and thrown into a disused pit, from which they were exhumed about 1852, with a few spurs, buckles, and watch-chains, which showed the times they lived in. The extremity of that lane towards Littlemore still bears the name of Cross Hedge, no doubt from one of the crosses incised in the turf, to mark the boundary of the parish; these were cleared out now and then, and in process of ages had become small circular pits about seven feet across and three feet deep, the crosses having all the arms similar in length. Stone crosses once abounded round Oxford, but there is no record of one being erected or seen on this road. Fairfax's route from Sandford ferry to Bullingdon was by this spot, and a little hoard of coins opposite to the Military College, about 1848, of Charles' reign, no doubt were left there at that time.

On the main road of Temple Cowley are the buildings of the Oxford Military College, opened in 1876 for officers' and gentlemen's sons of fourteen years and above, who may wish to compete for examinations for the military services. It has a managing body, comprising a governor, a secretary, head-master, and seven assistant and visiting masters. The success of the system adopted may be fairly gauged by the fact of their having passed 76 per cent. in the 'preliminary examinations,' compared with the average 44 per cent. from all other colleges, schools, and private tutors throughout the kingdom. Belonging to the college are an extensive drill-ground, bath, gymnasium, etc., on Bullingdon Green, while in the village stands their group of buildings, already imposing, made up of an old reputed manor-house, seemingly of about 1620; an ugly, plain addition made for the quondam Diocesan School, a neat Decorated chapel, a semi-Gothic structure at the angle, and two later buildings in concrete, brick, and terra-cotta. The folding plate at the end gives a bird's-eye view of the whole when it is completed. The oldest portion has been mis-named the Preceptory of the Templars; till further investigations have been made, we should not credit it with being the manor-house of Temple Cowley, referred to in Wolsey's time; its interior has been so much altered and modernized, that it has become uninteresting; the exterior, on the contrary, is picturesque and inviting.

A Mr. Carey, probably the translator of *Dante*, once resided in this house, but for several years it had been unoccupied, and so, as is usual, acquired the reputation of being haunted.

The village has now telegraphic communication with the post-office, and soon bids fair to lose its olden, tumble-down, picturesque beauty, in a mass of new buildings in modern taste.

The area of the two Cowleys is 940 acres, and the population in 1881 was 1786, but of the new district, Cowley St. John, 5923.

COWLEY MARSH.

To the cricketing world to speak of Oxford is to recall the glories of Cowley Marsh, or of Bullingdon Green. The former was till 1850 a triangular piece of common land, having one corner toward Oxford, the present Magdalen ground roughly indicating the dimensions of that end. The numerous cricket-fields on the road to the Barracks occupy what was once another angle of it; and the third, contiguous to a small croft, too thickly bordered by elm trees, called Shepherd's Close, is now parcelled out as allotments to the cottagers of Cowley.

Marsh indeed it must have been at one time ere the two brooks that intersected it were cut and the macadamised road to Cowley was made across it. The field adjoining the Marsh on the Iffley road side still bears the name of the Lakes, and such it generally became every winter till as late as 1850. It is the only spot near Oxford, the writer believes, where the goatsucker prowls for the moths that hover over the newly-blown wheat, or the flowery margins of the road and brook.

Previous to the enclosure but few portions of its surface were suitable for cricket, but there extended from Bartlemas, or St. Bartholomew's, along the northern boundary, a respectable gravel path as pleasant and passable as the present one is malodorous and filthy, thanks to the supineness of the parochial authorities, who could justly have insisted on the pathway being made as practicable as it had been ere the barracks sewer was sunk beneath it.

The question of an underground passage across the Marsh from Bartlemas to the quondam Templar house in Temple Cowley was decided by the discovery in 1852 (about) of a roughly-paved way, then uncovered in several places from the turf which had concealed it some 8 or 10 inches. As each of the Cowleys and Horspath had its road converging toward Oxford, on a piece of ground scarcely suitable for ploughing under earlier conditions, the origin of this common can be easily surmised. The oldest of the ways or roads, one of which may have been the *regia via*—the royal road—which entered the broad end, was the one which formerly was a direct continuation of Hockmere Street, the centre of the three Cowleys. On it stands the manor-house, a very substantial building, occupied for some generations by the Greening family;

while the deeply-sunken state of this road in its old eastern portion, combined with the name Hockmore Street, are quite enough to warrant this conclusion.

The present allotments once bore the name of the Milking-place; but we may rather dub it the bull-baiting place, for its beautiful turf was the annual scene of that disgustin amusement as late as 1835; Bicester and Garsington, in the same county, carrying it down a little later, if we may trust tradition.

The last bull-baiting seems to have been perpetrated on the other side of the road to that which had the Milking-place, and is memorable for the dispute of the curate-in-charge with the village constables about the point—some even say that he cut the cord which tethered the unfortunate quadruped—and also for the animal's getting loose.

As the custom was to pour a quart or so of strong ale down the creature's throat previous to the baiting, to make it show spirit, we can pardon the poor animal rushing with tail erect, maddened and bellowing, not at his brutal persecutors, but at a harmless old dame, who, clothed in scarlet cloak, stood behind her stall busily ministering to the cake and gingerbread demands of the youngsters around her, unmindful of the evils impending her frail tabernacle. In a few seconds the stall, apples, nuts, oranges, sweets, and gingerbeer were sent flying. The old lady was upset, soon with a scream to extricate her palpitating frame from the *débris* around her, and to thank God that no bones were broken.

As a 'bruck' (so called locally) intercepted some of the fugitives, and the bull's rage, already at a boiling heat, had gained strength from his past success, a small scene ensued—frightened men fearing for the little ones under their charge, and tossing the 'little master' across the brook from arms to arms like a ball safe out of harm's way.

Badger-baiting and pigeon-shooting were sports fashionable thirty years ago among the undergraduates who frequented the marsh; but the great amusement there in summer was cricket, with the old bent bat of club-like character, planned for lobs and hard hitting, in the hand of the villager, and the improved implement wielded by the nobleman of Christ Church. First, the spliced bat, a marvel to the country carpenter or cabinetmaker; then the ash-handled, to be followed by the cane-splice and cane-handled; whilst a smooth willow wand, with its green surface indented notch by notch, formed the veritable *score* before the fashionable book with all its minute details came into vogue.

What pleasure to the aspiring youth to sit all day basking in the sun on that glorious sward, knife in hand, scoring down the tale of runs made—'notches' was the term—and then, when the opponents took their place, to slice off by ones, twos, or threes the intervening portions of bark till one long white line all down the rod told how every notch had been made up!

The earliest matches of the Cowley eleven against Oxford are unfortunately lost—borrowed by a 'Lunnun gent' in all probability; but there still live

people to tell us how in the earlier games the village team was generally too strong for the Undergraduates, how on one occasion the celebrated 'lobber,' W. Humphries, in fulfilment of a bet, put out the whole eleven of them for seventeen runs, and how year by year that which had been a game for country folk gained that favour with all classes which it so highly deserves, and how as a consequence the extra years of cricket tuition undergone by the Oxford men soon told against their adversaries.

Cowley could boast of one of the best of the new-style of bowlers, followers of Lillywhite, in the person of David Burrin, whose skill was often the theme of conversation on the marsh. The Bacon family, strict devotees to the willow, were then all inhabitants of Cowley; these, with four of the Hurst, and two of the Hodgkins families, gave a great impetus to the game.

The pages of Lillywhite give us no earlier match than that of 1835—a defeat for the village, which was 104 runs deficient—Peter Bancalari, a well known umpire, heading the Cowley score; Mr. Pycroft—a name illustrious in cricket annals—played for the University. In 1843 a match on the marsh is memorable for the enormous number of byes, resulting from the tremendous speed of Mr. Marcon's bowling, a new Worcester man. In that year the Cowley match was renewed, the village losing by 17 runs. This was the period of John Hurst's accuracy and speed in bowling, and his respectable scores of 32 and 16 made a more even game of it. So easily do such matters slip from men's memories that, although five or six of the village players lived when Lillywhite's scores were published, it could not be decided whether any match had taken place between 1835 and 1843. The village was successful by five wickets in the latter year, when the contest took place on the Brazenose ground, Bullingdon Green—the bowling of Burrin and John Hurst, and the absence of four of the Oxford leading cricketers, giving this new turn to affairs. The marsh was the scene of a great defeat of the Undergraduates in the same year by the Lansdowne Club. The three brothers Hurst and W. Burrin, brother of David, assisted the Undergraduates against the Marylebone at Lord's also in the same year; and though John Hurst and Moberly succeeded in levelling 9 wickets for noughts, yet the home team beat by 45 runs. In 1844 the University were victors by 15 runs only; in the return match, however, by 4 wickets. The next year they beat by one innings and 54 runs, and in the next by 196 runs. In 1847 Wadham tried a game with the village on the Green, but was beaten by seven wickets; against the University, however, the same Cowley team were nowhere, beaten by one innings and 79 runs. Next year the Oxford city eleven escaped a beating by the village, the Burrins' bowling being too good for them; and in the return match, also unfinished, D. Burrin took all the wickets in Oxford's first innings. In 1850 the Undergraduates beat the village by 80 runs. In the exhibition year a sixteen of Oxford, including three from Cowley—W. Bacon, R. Hurst, and D. Burrin, began a most interesting match with an England eleven (on the Christ Church

ground), in which the sixteen won by many runs, though the rain deprived them of the first day's sport. In 1853 ten players engaged at Oxford, and R. Hurst, of Temple Cowley, won a match against the University eleven by 6 wickets; five of the Undergraduates were caught by one player.

This year too Oxfordshire played on Cowley Marsh against the Undergraduates, and were beaten by 7 runs; Mr. Cazenove took all the 10 wickets in the first innings, and assisted in polishing off 6 in the second. In August the same year Oxfordshire was victorious over Berkshire by 5 wickets.

To these matches on land must be added one or two in which eleven of the name Bacon contested a game with all-comers, and won easily; and, besides this, a noted match on the ice of Port Meadow, in which the present Warden of Winchester, then president of the Magdalen College Club, was captain of a University eleven, and W. Bacon of a team of Oxonians; in this the city was victorious by eight wickets.

CUDDESDON

Is arrived at by the Cowley-road through Garsingdon, taking the left-hand incline. When about a furlong beyond the Thame railway the road is pretty direct, and a pathway from Denton leads very directly into the village, being distant eight miles.

The palace, though prettily situated, and having beautiful gardens, decidedly yields in interest to the parish church—the connection of this parish with Abingdon, in the great church-building period of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, having left in its fabric some most noteworthy remains of the Norman and Transitional styles.

King Edwy would not have left this domain of his without a place of worship; but there are no Saxon remains at Cuddesdon, nor were any noticed in the thorough restoration, about forty years since. At that time the growth of the church, and the way it had been altered, were plainly indicated—it forms a little epitome of ecclesiastical architecture.

The tower arches, staircase to the same, the walls over the arcades of the nave, are in the Middle Norman style. There is one small window of more early character. The west door, a beautiful example of so-called Early English work, adapted to the Norman semicircular arch must, with the rest of the Norman work here, be attributed to the Abbat Faricius, of whom we read, in the *Abingdon Chronicle*, that he died in 1117; and "these are the Churches which Faricius constructed; viz., that of St. Martin of Oxford, and the church of Mercham, the church of Offentun, the church of Witteham, the church of Cudesduna, the church of Niweham."

The way in which the thirteenth-century builders inserted the arches each side of the nave, when they added the aisles, is worth a passing notice; and the peculiar feature of a transom across a Late Decorated window is, perhaps,

unique. The Perpendicular parts are the clerestory—some windows in the nave and the chancel. There is much here that will repay a visit, though from Wood's MSS. it is clear that some brasses and monuments have, as usual, been lost. Two bishops of Oxford lie entombed here—Charles Moss, deceased 1811, and William Jackson, deceased 1815. John Bancroft, a third, must also be buried here, who, when in 1640 "the Long Parliament began and proceeded with great vigour against the Bishops, was possessed with so much fear (having always been an enemy to the Puritans) that, with little or no sickness, he surrendered up his last breath in his lodging at Westminster; afterwards his body was carried to Cudsden . . . and was buried near to and under the south wall of the chancel of the church there, 12th February, 1640, leaving then behind him the character, among the Puritans or Presbyterians then dominant, of a corrupt, unpreaching, Popish prelate."

The restoration of this church was mainly done under the supervision of the late Bishop Wilberforce, whose genial behaviour and great power of language endeared him in a wonderful manner to the clergy; and still in the village may be heard little anecdotes, that indicate how attached the parishioners were to him.

It appears from Wood that Gloucester College had been intended by the king for the residence of the first Bishop of Oxford, but objections were found to that arrangement, and, consequently, there was no palace till the celebrated Dr. Laud persuaded Bishop Bancroft, above, to build one on the episcopal estate here, at the same time obtaining a handsome grant of timber from the king out of Shotover forest, 1634 or 1635. This palace was burnt down by Col. William Legg, in 1644, for fear, it was said, that it might become a garrison for the Parliamentary forces. The palace lay a ruin till Bishop Fell, at his own expense, and using timber which a former bishop had reserved for the purpose, rebuilt it, and completed it about 1680.

The parish green, near the church, has a fine elm, with the steps and part of the shaft of a village cross beneath its branches.

With regard to the history of the village, Edwy's charter giving it to his earl, Aelfere, specifies Cuthenes-dune, with twenty houses. This earl gave it to Abingdon, and to make assurance doubly sure, had the charter dated 956, signed by twenty-one distinguished personages. The method of signing is peculiar.

"I, Eadwy, king of the English, without reserve have granted.
I, Eadgar, brother of the same king, have briskly consented.
I, Oda, Archbishop, with sign of holy cross have confirmed.
I, Aelsmuf, Sheriff (?) have impressed the sign of holy cross.
I, Brihtelm, the Bishop, have strengthened it.
I, Oscytel, the Bishop, have acceded."

And so on, each one using a different phrase. The village Brighthelmstone, now Brighthampton, in Oxfordshire, probably takes its name from one of the above witnesses.

The present mill at Cuddesdon must be of some antiquity; for the Abbat's proceedings with a mill in the Thame gave offence, in 1065, to the men of the Bishop (Lincoln), and they began to destroy a certain sluice. The contest became serious. The king's chaplain, Peter, who was at that time *locum tenens* for Lincoln, came down with armed attendants, but the abbat Ealdred came only with a devout concourse of laymen and monks, bringing with them the relics of St. Vincent the Martyr. Miracles are said to have decided the abbat's rights; but considering the minute 'bounds' given with Aelfere's charter, we scarcely see the necessity of divine interposition. *Doomsday*, 1086, gives us this parish under the head of "St. Mary of Abendune." "The abbey holds Codesdone. There are 2160 acres, the [plowed] land is 540 acres. Of these 480 acres are in the domain, and therein four plows and eight bondmen; and twenty-four villeins with twelve cottars have eighteen ploughs. There are a mill and two fishing rights at 12s. There are sixty acres of meadow, a wood a mile long and a mile and a half broad [Combe Wood?]. It was worth nine pounds, now twelve pounds."

In 1146 Pope Eugenius the third was appealed to, as a safer granter than a king, by the abbat, and Cuthesdona Church had special privileges granted to it.

In 1279, in the *Hundred Rolls* we still find Abendon holding the manor; but another water-mill has been added, that on the stream which is called Cumbe Broke, and also a lasher called Cliffware. The wood Cumbegrave is now specified as outside the forest (of Shotover), and a second (Lawe) under the supervision of Sottor. An inclosure called La Vente, of 23 acres, granted by Henry III., is named, and Dentone and Watele are given as hamlets of Codesdone.

In later references Quodesdon and Cotesdon are given as names of the village, and it is worthy of remark that the Dune or hill of Cuthen never becomes a tun or village.

In the valuation of 1539, the mill, La Vente, Denton and Whateley are mentioned, and to their values is appended "the estate Halton [Holton clearly] tithes, worth 6s. 8d."

When the bishopric of Oxford was founded, part only of the spoils of Abingdon went to ecclesiastical purposes, Cudesdon parsonage alone, about one-ninth of the whole; the rest seems to have been given or sold to the family of Gardiner, from whom it has descended to the Earl of Macclesfield. A Sir Thomas Gardiner, we are told, during the great rebellion, burnt his own house on the south side of the church, lest the Parliamentarians should make a garrison of it, a strange example followed by Legge when he was governor of the garrison at Oxford, as has been mentioned before.

The area of the parish is about 2689 acres, and in the census of 1881 the population was, with Chippenhurst, 525.

The Theological Training College was founded by Bishop Wilberforce,

the thirtieth bishop of the see, April, 1853. It was opened on June 15th, 1854. Mr. Street, the architect of the new London Law Courts, about which so much discussion has been raised, was the architect of the Training College, as well as of many buildings in Oxford. The style is Decorated Gothic. It will accommodate about thirty students, and has a dining-room, common-room, chapel, &c. The students are those of theology, who must have been members of the Universities, and have passed their final examination, students of King's College, or graduates of Trinity College, Dublin, holding the Divinity testimonial. It is situated nearly facing the Episcopal Palace.

The paintings in the Memorial Chapel, executed by Messrs. Clayton and Bell in 1878, are worthy of notice, as the subjects are chosen with much skill and the whole effect good. The subjoined description is abbreviated from an authorized account.

In the ante-chapel, left hand on entering, St. Peter bidden to feed Christ's flock; right hand on entering, St. Stephen stoned; and, facing the entrance, The Conversion of St. Paul; the three subjects symbolizing the Priesthood, the Diaconate, and the Missionary vocation. On the screen, The seven gifts of the Spirit, and the text from the forty-third Psalm, "I will go unto the altar of God," &c. Entire length of the chapel, both sides, under the wall-plate, is the text, Rev. vii. 15–17, "Therefore are they before the throne of God," &c.; and below, dividing the pictures, part of the prayer for the church militant, "We bless thy holy name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear. Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest, and let everlasting light shine upon them." Text over east window, Rev. vii. 10. On north wall, large subjects—Old Testament ones, illustrative of the vocation to the Ministry: 1. Aaron made priest, Exodus xxix. 5–9—underneath the picture a text, Hebrews v. 4. 2. Moses called, at the burning bush, Exodus iii. iv—below it Exodus iv. 17. 3. The call of Isaiah, Isaiah vi. 6, &c.—below it Isaiah vi. 7. Same wall, commencing at east end—three typical sacrifices, from the Old Testament, in reference to the words from an Old English Communion Service, "To accept as Thou vouchsafedst, to accept the gifts of Thy righteous servant Abel, and the sacrifice of our patriarch Abraham, and that which high priest Melchisedech offered unto Thee." 4. Sacrifice of Abel; text, Hebrews xi. 4, "By faith Abel offered unto God," &c. 5. Sacrifice of Abraham; Genesis xxii. 7, "Behold the fire and the wood," &c. 6. The sacrifice of Melchisedech, Genesis xiv. 18, 19; text, Psalm cx. 4, "The Lord hath sworn," &c. South wall, large subjects, all from the New Testament. Opposite 4 is Christ in Gethsemane, St. John xviii. 11; opposite 5 is St. John pointing out Christ, St. John i. 29; opposite 6 is Christ instituting the Holy Communion, 1 Cor. xi. 25. Opposite 3, the purifying of the lips, is the washing of the apostles' feet, St. John xiii. 8—the two main figures from Fra Angelico. Opposite 2, the calling of the apostle, St. Matthew iv. 19, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Opposite 1, the clothing

of Aaron, is the Descent of the Holy Ghost, St. John, xv. 16. On north wall, smaller subjects, with a text below, Micah vi. 3, and below this two petitions from the Litany, "O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us, miserable sinners." Subjects 13–22, smaller series, "The way of sorrows." North wall—13. Pilate washing his hands; text, "Blessed are the pure in heart." 14. The cross given to Jesus—"Blessed are they which are persecuted." 15. Jesus falls beneath the weight—"Blessed are they that mourn." 16. Jesus allows another to bear His cross—"Blessed are the meek." 17. Jesus comforts the women—"Blessed are the merciful." South wall, same series—18. Jesus is stripped—"Blessed are the poor in spirit." 19. Jesus is nailed to the cross—"Blessed are the peacemakers." 20. Jesus dies in hunger and thirst—"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness." 21. Jesus taken down; and 22, Jesus laid in the sepulchre. Over these two, one text, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord." On the south side, the corresponding text is Lamentations i. 12; and below, on that side, "By Thy cross and passion, by Thy precious death and burial, good Lord, deliver us." On the east wall, north space, the Tree of Life in Paradise, Rev. ii. 7. South space, the Mystic Vine, Proverbs ix. 1–4. On the circular medallion, in centre, the Heavenly City, with angels around; those on one side bearing palms, crowns of victory, a chalice, a banner; on the other, the robe, the crown of thorns, the title, the hammer, the nails and spear—above them, angels swinging censers. The small pamphlet, from which we abridge, contains some sweet lines by Keble on subject 3, and a prayer of dedication of the pictures and offerings, beautifully illustrating the motives of those who devoted so much of their substance to this unique chapel.

CULHAM

Lies due south of Oxford, beyond Abingdon, and is fully eight miles distant.

The church is rather small, but of a cruciform plan, and therefore the identical church which the Abbats of Abendun built, and which we find certified to them by a Bull of Pope Eugenius III. (1145–1153), which allowed the monks to hold "by right and canonically their several possessions in the hundred 'de Hornimera;' and among churches those of 'St. Marie de Colum and of St. Martin and St. Aldadus in Oxenford;' also Chuleham and Cuthesdonam,' beside 20 hides in Gersendon."

The rent of part of the village consisted, about 1170, of three shillings from Culeham from the fishery.

A meadow here called the Otteneys was given to the Abingdon House in 821, and twenty houses in Cullanhaunna; this and later modes of spelling militate against the idea of its being a *ham* or home. King Edmund (940–946) confirmed this gift on condition that the Abbat Godescall yielded it to Aelfleda (?), "a certain matron of the Royal family," for her lifetime, "as

Kenulf granted it to his sisters who bequeathed this same village to the Abbendun House." It is added to this charter, that "Aelflida the matron was buried in that chapel which she had built in honour of Saint Vincent." The bounds of the estate, follow, which are curious, as they refer to "the five barrows" near Nuneham.

The church here is called St. Andrews in a confirmation by Henry I., in 1111, of grants made by the De Vere family.

The next mention we have of the village can only be explained by reference to local maps. "Vincent, Abbat *circa* 1125 devised," says Leland, "to turne the streme of Isis (should be Thamise), and at the last brought it on to the very Abbay side and partly thrwghe it. The chefe streme of Isis rane afore betwixt Andersey Isle and Culneham, even now where the southe ende is of Culneham." We read elsewhere that this was done for sanitary purposes. It seems to have been done by using a short down-stream piece of the Ock, into a down-stream of the Thames. In 1416, the Fraternity of the Holy Cross, and the commons of Abingdon, applied to the king for permission to build bridges at Burford and Culham. Letters patent to that effect were granted to John Hutchion, John Brite, and the commons there; and in 1430 an Act of Parliament was passed confirming the building of the bridges, and giving the width of the highway between them as four perches and eight inches between the 'ditches of the said way.' In the Hall of Christ's Hospital, Abingdon, exists on a board a rhyming account of the building, in English, prefaced by ten lines in Latin, to this effect: "When the fourth year of King Henry V. came round, the same king laid the foundation of both bridges at a twofold place called Borford and Culhamford, for the royal way, illustrious (?) goes between those two. . . . In the year numbered one thousand four hundred and six and ten, the gift of piety accomplished the work. Ye who pass be quite mindful of this fact, and by your prayers may its founder be relieved.

Of alle Werkys in this Worlde that ever were wrought
Holy Chirche is chefe, there children been chersid
For be baptim these Barnes to blisse been i brought.
Thorough the grace of God and fayre refresshed.
Another blissed besines is brigges to make,
Where that the pepul may not passe after great showres.
Dole it is to drawe a deed bodye oute of a lake,
That was fulled in a fount stoon and a Felow of oures.
Kyng Herry the fyft in his fourthe Yere,
He hath i founde for his folke a brige in Berkeschire.
For cartis with cariage may goo and come clere,
That many Wynters afore were mareed in the Myre.
And som oute of her sadels flette to the grounde
Wente forthe in the Water wist no man whare.
Fyve Wekys after or they were i founde,
Her kyn and her knowlech caught hem uppe with care.
Then the Commons of Abendon cryed on the Kynge,
Upon Dukés and Lordés that were in this londe
The Kynge bad hem begynne apon Goddés blissing,
And make it also stronge as they couthe with stone, lyme or sonde.

Apon the day of seynt Albon they began this game,
And John Huchyns layde the firste stoon in the kynges name.
Sir Peris Besillis knyght curteys and keend,
For his fadir soule and his frendes he dyd as he scholde.
He gaf hem stonnys i nowhe into the werkys end,
Also mony as they nedid, feche hem if they wolde.
Than crafti men for the querry made crowes of yre,
Weges and wayes, and mony harde howys,
Jeffray Barbour bad pay hem her hyre
Then must they have moolds to make on the bowys
They cockid for cartes, and cast for her chisyng.
They founde oute the fundement and layde in large stones,
They reysid up the archeys be geometre in rysyng,
With xi laborers lavyng at onys.
Ther was water i nowhe, stone lyme and gravél,
Werkemen als wise as they coude fynde any.
And ever bad the barbour pay for her travel,
Till a M. Marke be spende eche a peny.
Then the strengthe of the streme astoned hem stronge
In labor and lavyng moche money was lore.
There loved hem a ladde was a water man longe,
He helpe stop the streme til the werke were a fore.
It was a solace to see in a somer seson,
C C C I wysse workyng at onys.
iiii and iiii reulyd be reson,
To wete who wrought best were set for the nonce,
The peple preved her power with the pecoyse.
The mattok was man-handeled right wele a whyle.
With spades and schovelis they made suche a noyse,
That men myght here hem thens a myle.
Wyves went oute to wite how they wrought:
V score in a flok it was a fayre syght.
In bord clothes bright white brede they brought,
Chees and chekenes clerelych a dyght.
Then weren the dyches i diged in ful harde grounde,
And i cast up to arere with the wey
Sethen they were i set with a quyk mownde
To holde in the bunkes for ever and ay.
The gode lorde of Abendon left of his londe,
For the breed of the brige xx iiii fote large.
It was a greet socour of erthe and of sonde.
And yt he abated the rent of the barge.
An c pownde and xv li: was truly payed
Be the hondes of John Huchyns and Banbery also,
For the waye and the barge thus it must be sayed.
Thereto witnesse al Abendon, and many oon moo.
For now is Culham hithe i com to an ende,
An al the contre the better and no man the worse.
Few folke there were coude that wey wende,
But they waged a wed or payed of her purse.
And if it were a begger had breed in his bagge,
He schulde be ryght soone i bid for to goo aboute,
And of the pore penyles the hiereward wold habbe
A hood or a girdle, and let hem goo withoute.
Many moo myscheves there weren I say.
Culham hithe hath causid many a curse.
I blyssed be our helpers we have a better waye,
Withoute any peny for cart and for horse.
Thus accordid the kyng and the covent,
And the commones of Abendon as the Abbot wolde.
Thus they were cesed and set all in oon assent
That all the brekynges of the brige the towne bere schulde.
This was preved acte also in the Perlement
In perpetual pees to have and to holde.
This tale is i tolde in noon other entent
But for myrthe and in memory ty yonge and to olde.

Now every good body that gothe on this brige
Bid for the Barbour gentil Jeffray,
That clothed many a pore man to bed and to rige,
And hathe holpe to rentis to holde up this waye,
The wiche rentes right trewe men have i take on hande,
And graciously governed hem now a good while.
Who so have hem hereafter withe trewthe but he stonde,
It schal be knowen openly he doth hymselfe begyle.
I councel every creature to kepe hym from the curse.
For of this tretys will I no more telle,
And be not to covetous to youre owne purse,
For peril of the peynes in the pit of helle.
Now God geve us grace to folowe treuthe even,
That we may have a place in the blysse of Heven. Amen.

"Take the ferst letter of youre foure fader with A, the worker of wex, and I and N, the colore of an asse; set them togeder, and tel me yf you can what it is than.

"Richard Fannande Iremonger hathe made this tabul and set it here in the yere of Kyng Herry the sexte xxxvi^{e} (*i.e.* 1458)."

As there are many peculiar words in the above, please note that hem and her mean them and their, and that i founde is put for the earlier forms gefund and yfound and so for other participles. As to other words, the worst of them are put below with a figure to indicate the line. 1, works; 2, churched or christened; 3, by, children; 4, thoroughly renewed; 5, bridges; 6, in such places as; 7, dreadful; 8, made-white in a font-stone, companion; 11, easily; 12, mired; 13, thrown; 14, knew no man; 15, ere they; 16, their relations and acquaintance; 19, upon; 20, they knew (how); 21, St. Alban, June 22; 23, courteous; 25, enough; 26, as many as; 27, crowbars of iron; 28, wedges, hoes; 30, arches; 31, (?) heaped up, (?) turned up for chiselling; 32, foundation; 33, geometry; 34, levering or baling out at once; 35, enough; 37, labour; 38, a thousand, every penny; 39, astonished them much; 40, lost; 41, they much liked a lad who was; 42, to the fore, or clear in front; 45, ruled; 46, to wit, (those) who wrought best were set for this special job; 47, pick-axe; 51, to know how; 53, table-cloths; 54, nicely decked; 56, (?) ridge, level; 58, banks; 60, the breadth of; 62, and yet; 63, and fifteen pounds; 66, one more; 67, Culham boating-place or ferry; 70, (?) left a pledge; 71, bread in his wallet; 72, for to go back; 73, taker of the fares would have; 79, convent; 83, that all the breakings of the bridge the town should pay for; 88, pray for the; 89, (?) rige; 90, helped to give rents to support the way; 92, managed them; 97, too covetous. The riddle, Abindun.

The bridge was attempted to be broken down by Colonel Gage in Cromwell's time, and he was shot through the heart by a musket ball.

In the register for the year 1666, under the date October 10th, is a collection for the poore of London, disabled by a dismall and lamentable fiere, £1 3s. 8d.

The patronage of the Church was given to the Bishop of Oxford shortly after the see was established; the living is now worth £100.

The Bury and Cary families have monuments here, and there is a mass of

heraldry in some of the windows. There is a good Elizabethan manor-house near the church. The collegiate buildings standing out in the fields are those of the Training College for schoolmasters; a foundation by Bishop Wilberforce begun about 1853. They will accommodate about 130 students, and comprise a school, hall, chapel, dormitories, and principal's residence. They are of simple Decorated design from drawings by J. Clarke, Esq. The church is now called St. Paul's, and the population of the village in 1881 was 544. The area of the same about 1885 acres.

CUMNOR.

CUMNOR shall be introduced in the words of Sir Walter Scott, from his novel of *Kenilworth:*

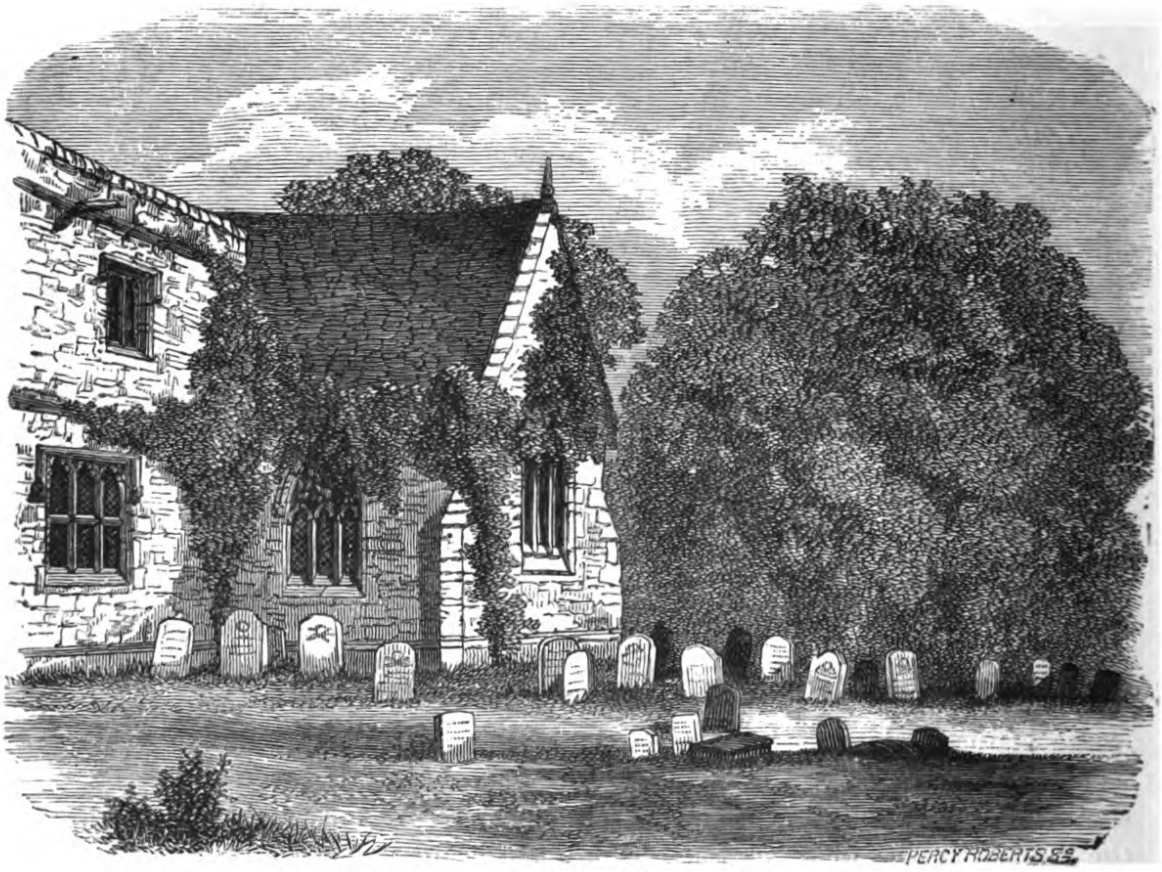
"The village of Cumnor is pleasantly built on a hill; and in a wooded park, closely adjacent, was situated the ancient mansion, of which the ruins may be still extant. The park was full of large trees, and in particular of ancient and mighty oaks, which stretched their giant arms over the high wall surrounding the demesne, thus giving it a melancholy, secluded, and monastic appearance. The entrance to the park lay through an old-fashioned gateway in the outer wall, the door of which was formed of two huge oaken leaves, thickly studded with nails, like the gate of an old town. A large orchard surrounded the house on two sides, though the trees, abandoned by the care of man, were overgrown and mossy, and seemed to bear little fruit. Those which had been formerly trained as espaliers had now resumed their natural mode of growing, and exhibited grotesque forms, partaking of the original training which they had received. The greater part of the ground, which had once been pastures and flower-gardens, was suffered in like manner to run to waste, excepting a few patches which had been dug up, and planted with ordinary pot-herbs. Some statues, which had ornamented the garden in its days of splendour, were now thrown down from their pedestals and broken in pieces, and a large summer-house, having a heavy stone front, decorated with carving, representing the life and actions of Sampson, was in the same dilapidated condition."

"The village of Cumnor, within three or four miles of Oxford, boasted of, during the eighteenth of Queen Elizabeth, an excellent inn of the old stamp, conducted, or rather ruled, by Giles Gosling, a man of goodly person and of somewhat round belly; fifty years of age and upwards, moderate in his reckonings, prompt in his payments, having a cellar of sound liquor, a ready wit and a pretty daughter. Since the days of old Harry Baillie, of the Tabbard, in Southwark, no one had excelled Giles Gosling in the power of pleasing his guests of every description; and so great was his fame that to have been in Cumnor without wetting a cup at the 'Bonny Black Bear' would have been to vouch one's self utterly indifferent to reputation as a traveller; a country fellow might as well return from London without looking in the face of

majesty. The men of Cumnor were proud of their host, and their host was proud of his house, his liquor, his daughter, and himself."

But Cumnor is not renowned only for mine host of the 'Bonny Black Bear,' or the 'Bear and Ragged Staff,' as it should have been named, but for its ancient manor-house, church, and the sad fate of Amy Robsart, the murdered Countess of Leicester.

The history of this village does not begin with the tale of Dudley and Amy Robsart, and one could wish for truth's sake that it had ended before Dudley



CUMNOR CHURCH.

was born. Ini the Good, the noted king of Wessex from 688–728, by a charter still remaining, granted to Abingdon five thousand acres in this part of his dominions; and Kenwulf in another charter, confirming this gift, specifies Cumanora. Dugdale gives one variety of the word Colmanora, which he says he met with in the *Abendon Chronicle*, and explains the name thus Colman-ora, "Shore of Colman, from the Scottish saint of the sixth or seventh century, the first church here built was probably dedicated to him." Border of Colman would be nearer the meaning, and for want of a better explanation we will assume that someone's border is intended by the name. In *Doomsday* we find the abbat holding three hundred acres in the parish

at a rent same as others, and it is added, "Two free tenants hold of him sixty acres. In the [manorial] domain are 30 acres, with one villein and three cotters. It was worth sixty shillings, now only forty. Rainulf holds 120 acres in Comenore at the rent of 1 hide as the rest. The land is 30 acres. It was worth 20s. now worth 10s."

Henry I., acting on his usual policy of pleasing the English, confirmed Abingdon Abbey in its possessions at Cumnor. When the illustrious Abbat Faritius arranged the internal economy of the abbey it was decreed that the tenths of the country farms at Cumnor should be £2 5s. 11d. in money, and that their farm there should return 3000 eggs, 136 fowls, and six hampers of vegetables The money returns from Oxford were rather larger; from their estate at Cudesdona one-half in each particular. The same abbat about the year 1180 obtained by a royal decree freedom from the forest regulations of the king,—how stringent and obnoxious they were is a well-known fact,—both in Bacchleia and Cumenora, and also the liberty of hunting kids, &c., in these words, "I entrust to their custody for ever the wood . . . and let them take all bucks they can find there; let them not take the does without my licence. I will give to no one except themselves the licence of hunting there; and all pruning, fencing, and lopping I give to them." The witnesses were Robert, Bishop of Lincoln; Ranulf, Bishop of Durham; Roger Bigod; Nigel de Oilli; David, the brother of the Queen; Roger de Oilli; and it is dated at Cornbery (beyond Woodstock). These rights were of so much importance that they received royal confirmation no less than three times, in which deeds the names change slightly to Baggelea and Cumenore. The next document we have shows rather hard treatment of the people of Cumnor by the abbat; it is this: "The King (Henry III.) to the Abbat of Abendon health. Our men of Cumenore have shewn to us that you are demanding of them customs and service which you ought not, and which were not wont to be rendered at the time that manor was in the hands of our predecessors the kings of England, and we bid you not to demand this custom and service. . . .

"Witness, the King: at Winchester 11 day July (1225)."

The whole hundred of Hornmere, in which Cumnor was then enrolled, seems to have been again (*circa* 1270) overtaxed by Alan of Farnham, the Abbat of Abbindon, these increased demands probably arising from the extensive additions made to the buildings of the abbey.

In 1403, the manor of Eton, near Comenere, Berks, was in possession of Almarus de Sancto Amando, Chivaler; he also held that of St. Helen styled *near* Abyngton.

In the fourteenth century the wealth of England could be pretty well estimated by its wool exports; on this the king laid taxes, or was allowed by Parliament, generally on conceding to it some royal right, to lay an impost. The returns for the year 1342, time of Edward III., show that the Comenor manor was expected to yield more than Tubney, Sunningwell, Appleton,

Fyfield, and Wytham put together; Sutton Courtenay being slightly in excess of this village.

Cumnor was the final residence of Thos Penthecost, *alias* Rowland, the last Abbat of Abingdon; and at his death it came into the hands of Anthony Forster, about whom the investigations of modern times, since Walter Scott wrote *Kenilworth*, have discovered many particulars. He proves to have been a gentleman esteemed as a most honest neighbour by folks round Abingdon. Controversies in Oxford, it appears, were submitted to his decision; he was a musician, a builder, a planter, and in his later days member of Parliament for Abingdon. It was in his days that Amy Robsart came to reside at Cumnor. Before we speak of her death, we will transcribe from a scrap among Wood's MSS. the following notice from a book by John Vincent. "Robert Dudley E. of Liecester married Amie sole daughter and heiress of Sir John Robsert of Gisberne in the county of Norfolk Knight: she had her neck broke down a payre of staires on Saturday 8th Sept: 1560 in Ant: Forster's house in Cumnore: burial obscurely at first in Comnore, afterward taken up and solemnly buried in St. Maria's Ch: Oxon at the upper end of the chancell." Next we will turn to his *Athenæ*, and note a small parenthesis. "There she died or rather was murdered in the manor-house, belonging to Anthony Forster gent:—was taken up and reburied in the ch: of St. Mary etc." We will approach nearer to the days of Sir Walter Scott, and in Ashmole's *Berks* we read of Robert Dudley, that, "It was thought and commonly reported, that, had he been a batchelor or widower, the queen would have made him her husband. To this end, to free himself from all obstacles, he commands and perhaps with fair flattering entreaties, desires his wife to repose herself here (at Cumnor), at his servant Anthony Forster's house; who then lived in the aforesaid Manor House. And also prescribed to Sir Richard Varney (a prompter to this design) at his coming hither, that he should first attempt to poison her; and if that did not take effect, then by any other way whatsoever, to despatch her. This, it seems, was proved by the report of Dr. Walter Bayly, sometime Fellow of New College and Professor of Physic in that University, who, because he would not consent to take away her life by poison, the Earl endeavoured to displace him from court. This part, says a marginal note, from the Doctor's grandson Walter. This man, it seems, reported for most certain, that there was a Practice (= design) in Cumnor to have poisoned this poor innocent lady, a little before she was killed, which was attempted after this manner. They seeing the good lady sad and heavy, as one that well knew by her other handling that her death was not far off, began to persuade her that her present disease was abundance of melancholy, and other humours, etc., and therefore would needs counsel her to take some potion, which she absolutely refused to do as still suspecting the worst; whereupon they sent a messenger on a day, unawares to her, for Dr. Bayly, and intreated him to persuade her to take some little potion by his

direction, and they would fetch the same at Oxford; meaning to have added something of their own for her comfort, as the doctor upon just cause and consideration, did suspect, seeing their great importunity and the small need the lady had of physic. Therefore he peremptorily denied their request, misdoubting, as he afterwards reported, lest if they had poisoned her under the name of his potion, he might have been hanged for a colour of their sin; and the doctor remained still well assured that, this way taking no effect, she would not long escape their violence, which afterwards happened thus. For Sir Richard Varney aforesaid, the chief projector in this design, who, by the Earl's order, remained that day of her death alone with her, with one man only and Forster, who had that day forcibly sent away all her servants from her to Abingdon market, about three miles distant from this place; they, I say, whether first stifling her, or else strangling her, afterwards flung her down a pair of stairs and broke her neck, using much violence upon her; but, however, though it was vulgarly reported that she by chance fell down stairs—but yet without hurting her hood that was upon her head—yet the inhabitants will tell you there, that she was conveyed from her usual chamber where she lay to another where the bed's head of the chamber stood close to a privy Postern door, by which they in the night came and stifled her in her bed, bruised her head very much, broke her neck, and at length flung her down stairs, thereby believing the world would have thought it a mischance, and so they would have blinded their villany. But, behold the mercy and justice of God in revenging and discovering this lady's murder: for one of the persons that was a coadjutor in this murder, was afterwards taken for a felony in the marches of Wales, and offering to publish the manner of the aforesaid murder, was privately made away in the prison by the Earl's appointment. And Sir Richard Varney, the other, dying about the same time in London, cried miserably and blasphemed God, and said to a person of note, who hath related the same to others since—not long before his death, that all the devils in hell did tear him in pieces. Forster likewise, after this fact, being a man formerly addicted to hospitality, company, mirth and music, was afterwards observed to forsake all this, and with much melancholy and pensiveness (some say with madness), pined and drooped away. The wife also of Baldwin Butler, kinsman to the Earl, gave out the whole fact a little before her death. Neither are these passages (= particulars) to be forgotten. That as soon as ever she was murdered, they made great haste to bury her, before the coroner had given his inquest, which the Earl himself condemned as not done advisedly; which her father, or Sir John Robertsett as I suppose, hearing of, came with all speed hither, caused her corpse to be taken up, the coroner to sit upon her, and further enquiry to be made concerning this business to the full; but it was generally thought that the Earl stopped his mouth, and made up the business betwixt them. And the good Earl to make plain to the world the great love he bare to her while alive, what a grief the loss of so virtuous a

lady was to his tender heart, caused (though the thing by these and other means was beaten into the heads of the principal men in the University of Oxford) her body to be reburied in St. Marie's Church in Oxford with great pomp and solemnity.

"It is remarkable when Dr. Babington, the earl's chaplain, did preach the funeral sermon, he tript once or twice in his speech by recommending to their memories that virtuous lady so pitifully *murdered*, instead of saying pitifully slain. This earl, after all his murders and poisonings, was himself poisoned by that which was prepared for others, some say by his wife, at Carnbury Lodge, though Baker in his *Chronicle* would have it 'Killingworth, anno 1588.'"

Such then is the tale on which *Kenilworth* is avowedly founded, and it is worth noticing how with a master's skill its author has turned it into "the most thrilling narrative ever penned." The melodramatic way in which the first inkling of the dark deed is given to the reader is contained in the following passage: "'Hast thou aught else to say?' 'I must crave your signet-ring,' said Varney gravely, 'in token to those of your servants whom I must employ, that I possess your full authority in commanding their aid.' Leicester drew off the signet-ring which he commonly used, and gave it to Varney with a haggard and stern expression of countenance, adding only, in a low, half-whispered tone, but with terrific emphasis, the words, 'What thou dost do quickly.'" The visit of Amy to Kenilworth had taken place ere this, passing as the wife of Varney; then follows the masque and the hurrying away of the poor lady. Leicester's confession, the queen's taunts, are then told, and the climax is reached. Amy is shut up by the two villains, Varney and Forster, in the strange room, with the concealed machinery of a trap-door at its entrance, which a 'mouse's weight' would carry down. Anthony visits the chamber later on, and recommends her not on any account to cross the threshold of her room until Lord Leicester should come, "which," he added, "I trust in God will be very soon." The countess's door was left unfastened, the catch-bolts quietly drawn back, and they withdrew to the ground-floor, hoping the poor lady would attempt an escape, and thus meet her death.

"'Perhaps she is resolved,' said Foster, 'to await her husband's return.' 'True, most true!' said Varney, rushing out; 'I had not thought of that before.'"

"In less than two minutes Foster, who remained behind, heard the tread of a horse in the courtyard, and then a whistle similar to that which was the earl's usual signal. The instant after the door of the countess's chamber opened, and in the same moment the trap-door gave way. There was a rushing sound, a heavy fall, a faint groan, and all was over. Varney called in at the window in an accent and tone which was an indescribable mixture between horror and raillery, 'Is the bird caught? is the deed done?'

"'O God, forgive us!' replied Antony Forster.

"'Why, thou fool,' said Varney, 'thy toil is ended, and thy reward secure. Look down into the vault, what seest thou?'

"'I see only a heap of white clothes like a snow-drift,' said Forster. 'O God, she moves an arm!'

"'Hurl something down on her—thy gold chest, Tony; it is a heavy one.'

"'Varney, thou art an incarnate fiend!' replied Forster. 'There needs nothing more; she is gone.'"

The sequel is short and as veracious as the rest of this romance of history. Varney poisoned himself, and after some years Antony Forster was discovered a skeleton stretched across an iron chest, imprisoned accidentally, and starved over the gold he loved so much.

Documentary evidence proves that Dudley was not Earl of Leicester till Amye was killed by a fall; that there was no exhumation; that she herself sent away the servants, all but two female attendants, to Abingdon fair; that Richard Verney was of the Verneys, of Compton Verney, in Warwick, a family now represented by Lord Willoughby de Broke, and was high sheriff of Warwickshire seven years after 1560; that 'Tony Forster was not "the unprepossessing scoundrel in leather dress, half-hangman, half-butcher" that we may have thought him, but such as described a few pages back, even if not so good and great as his monument in the church describes him. Forster too lived to be secretary to the Earl of Leicester six years after Sir Walter and his copyists make him to have died in that most uncomfortable position. The only suspicious matter, a speech which our Froude hesitated over, has been cleared up. Canon J. E. Jackson has proved that Dudley and Amye lived as honest man and wife on the best of terms, after a marriage which the dear boy Edward VI. witnessed and noted in his diary. What is more, he has completed the chain of evidence which connects all these misrepresentations with a work by the Jesuit Father Parsons. For all this, if one goes to Cunmor, perhaps the old legend may still be heard from the parish clerk: "Madame Dudley's Ghost did use to walk in Cumnor Park; it walked so obstinately that it took no less nor (=than) nine parsons from Oxford to lay her. At last they laid her in a pond called Madam Dudley's pond, and, wonderful to tell, the water in that pond was never known to freeze afterwards." The spot of her first and only burial is given as near the east end of the chancel of St. Mary's, but the tomb is said to be an erection near the west door of the church. There, poor soul, we'll let her lie in peace, and proceed with our narrative.

Much of the timber and stone of Cumnor Hall has been used in restoring Witham Church.

The inscription, visible in 1790, over a gateway there—"Janua vitae verbum Domini, Antonius Forster, 1575," meaning "The gate of life is the word of the Lord"—now does similar duty at the gate of Witham churchyard; the words "Anthony Foster" are absent, and the writer hugely suspects that 1575 is now

regenerate as 1372, incised on a sixteenth century slab, over a garden gateway, close by.

George Owen, physician to Henry, in 1546 exchanged two closes in St. Thomas' parish, the site of Rewley Abbey, and £301, for the lordship, manor, and rectorial tithes of Cumnor. In 1790, one corner alone of Cumnor Hall was inhabited, the only noticeable remains being a mantelpiece, with the monogram of Jesus, and the arms of Abingdon carved upon it; but Lysons provides us with a sketch showing it in ruins, which indicate a good domestic house of early fifteenth century work, with Tudor alterations.

The 'tithings' of the parish are Whitley, Stroud, Swinford, Hillend, Botley, and Chewley; and it measures, from Chiswell farm to Eynsham ferry, five miles; and from Botley to Bablock-hythe, about four miles.

Charities of £30 a year have been left to this parish under peculiar conditions. North Hinksey, South Hinksey, and Wooton, each pay to Cumnor sixpence a year, under the name 'smoke-money.'

There is a tradition, worth recording, that Cassington, on the other side of the water, was in old times a chapel-of-ease to Cumnor, and a portion of the parish.

It is said that, as late as 1690, the people of Cassenton used to claim a right of burying here; that they crossed the river with their dead at Somerford mead, where it is reported that the plank stones were seen by which they passed; that they thence came up by the riding in Cumnor wood, which they claimed as their churchway; and at a lane near a house called Blind Pinnocks began their psalm singing, and this lane was from that fact called Songer's lane till (1760) this day. It is a fact that there is a part of Cumnor churchyard lying behind the church, known by the name of 'Cassenton burying-place,' and a demand of sixpence per annum, in and about 1760, made of Cassington parish, was always complied with.

In an account-book, dated July 27th, 1635, is a memorandum of some interest to antiquarians. "The vicar in rogation week when in procession, is to have at the Ferry, by custom, a brown loafe, a bason of water, and a 'noble' of money paid him there.

"This sum of 6s. 8d. is always brought to the Vicar *in* the bason of water by the Ferryman, who attends him with a clean napkin; and after he has fished for his money and wiped his fingers, he is expected to *distribute the water* among the young people who come within his reach, as a token of remembrance of the custom. Here, likewise, the Vicar and parishioners go into the ferry(-boat), and crossing over to the Oxfordshire side, lay hold of the twigs or reeds on the bank, and conclude the ceremony with (reading) the gospel of the Ascension. By this act they would be understood to assert that the whole breadth of the river belongs to Cumnor." The processions on Ascension-day and the day after are regularly kept up, as, by custom, £1 13s. 10d. on the former day, and £1 2s. 6d. on the latter (moneys

appointed to be brought to set places on the boundary), are distributed in bread and cheese and beer, to those who attend the procession at the respective farms.

There are remains of several stone crosses in the neighbourhood. On Christmas-day, till 1760, we learn that it was the custom of all tithe-payers to resort to the vicarage, and be there entertained with bread and ale. They claimed on this occasion four bushels of malt brewed into ale and small beer, two bushels of wheat made into bread, and half-a-hundredweight of cheese. The remains of these were distributed next day among the poor after morning service. It appears that part of Cumnor parish has been the scene of some battle, arms and armour being often dug up in a field called Sandfield. Bradley farm in this parish belongs to Merton College. In the church are to be seen a curious old Bible chained to a pew; two tombs in the south transept, supposed to be those of two abbots of Abingdon; the long eulogistic monument to Forster, thus rendered by Ashmole or a friend—

> "Skilled in the softest notes that muses sing,
> Or on the harp to touch the sounding string:
> Pleased with the florist's tender-nursing care,
> Or architect, stupendous piles to rear;
> Read in the tongues the ancient sages taught,
> For learned works confess how well he wrote, &c."

The tomb is altogether elaborate, and one 'bearing' on Anthony's shield, two organ-pipes crossed, should be noted. There is another tomb to Dr. Benjamin Butler, a late vicar and author; while outside, in the churchyard, is the tomb of Richard Brown, a shepherd, aged 109. Francis Drope, author of a book on fruit-trees, and his brother, the physician and poet, were natives of this place. Cumnor Hurst, visible for miles round, and having a small clump of Scotch firs on its summit, watched by an old elm, which has suffered from south-westers, is a splendid place for a blow in March or October, and affords a lovely view. Rabbits and their foes dwell very thick about the base of the hill. The population in 1881 was 1011, and the extent of the parish 5703 acres.

DEANCOURT FARM.

PRETTILY situated on the road to Cumnor. The Dene portion of the word is probably in allusion to the valley it is in; but the court is worthy of reference, remembering that at Headington and Beckley it seems to refer to the curia, or court-house, of the manor, and that Sackworth is now always called Sea Court. As nothing has been discovered regarding an early history, perhaps Deneworth was its earlier name, corrupted in the same fashion as several places have been.

DENTON

Lies on the Cuddesdon road from Garsingdon, and is truly a village in a dene or valley, and a very cool and pretty valley in summer time. It boasts of one fine house, with extensive grounds decked here and there with ruins, or rather

mock ruins, made of portions that seem to have come from some collegiate building in Oxford. The place has been and is connected with Queen's College; but there does not appear to be any of the fine old front of that college shifted to ornament this splendid retreat. About a hundred years ago the Denton folk were looked upon as quite distinct in dialect from those at 'Gessintun and Whatelee;" but if this vale was really peopled by a tribe from the west of Berkshire, who maintained some of their old forms of speech, is more than the writer knows, or can discover. The *Hundred Rolls* of 1279 account for 750 acres of land in this parish, of which two hides (240 acres) belonged to the Abbat of Abendon. Thomas of Santford, in 1218, gave another two hides in Denton to the Cowley House; and these, with another hide at Watele, owed the annual fee of one knight for the custody of Windleshor Castle. The house is represented as doing service at the Bolenden court, but paying, in 1279, the scutage to the Abbat of Habindon. The spelling of the last word is given, as usual, *literatim*. The pronunciation can still be heard about here, and that confusion of hood with wood is still common, which once made a valiant bowman (or two) be called Robin Hood, not Robin of the Wood. A well-known livery stable-keeper in this city was informed by his man that "he put a *wood* on a certain mare, and trotted her to Bagley *Hood*."

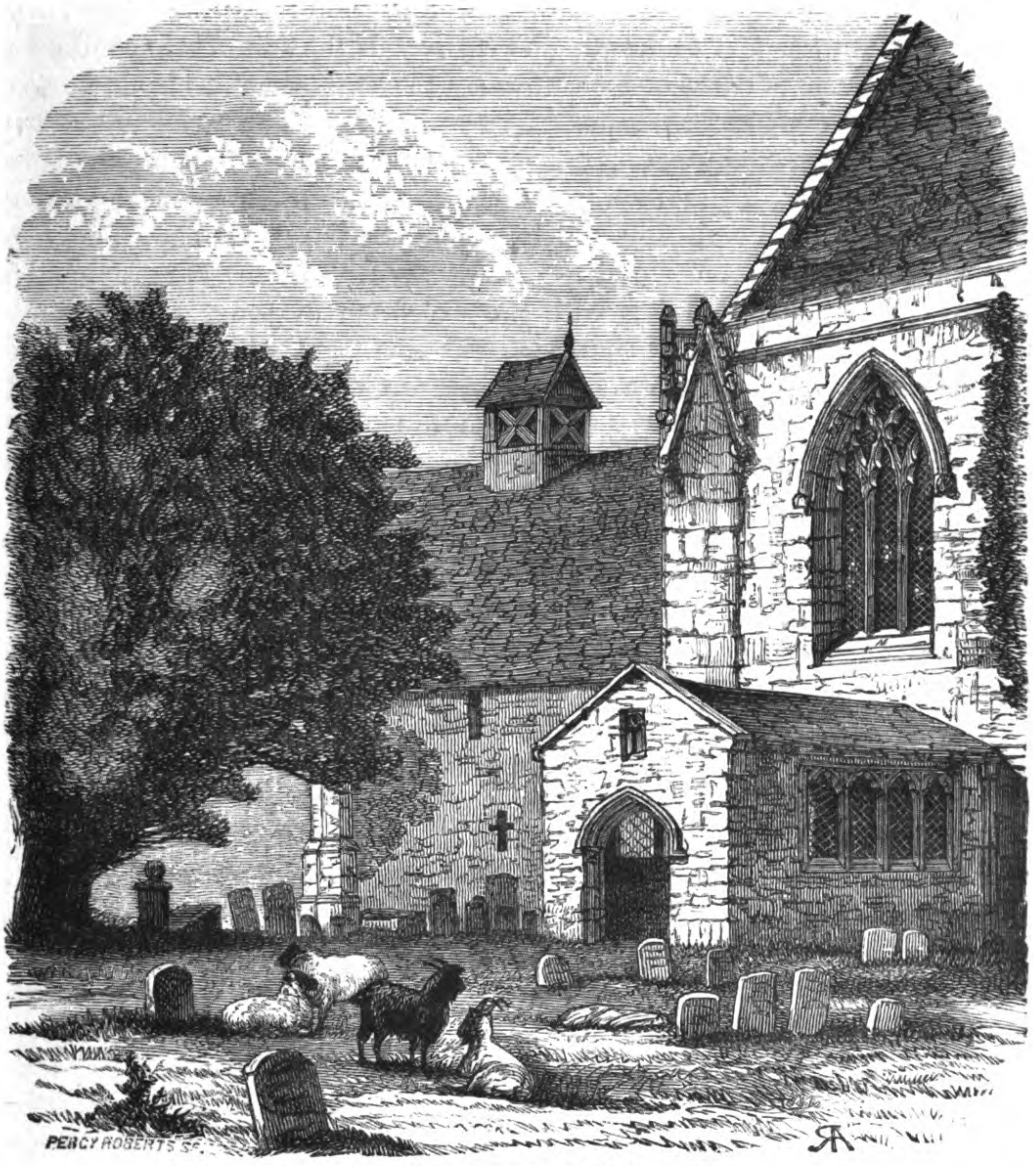
In 1250 we find the same two hides as part of the possessions of the Templars at Cofle. The returns made to Henry VIII. in 1539 state the rents, &c., paid to Abingdon from Denton as £10 9s. 8d. Whateley a little less. A Reginald de Gardinio, an owner of one hide in 1279, is probably one of the Gardiner family which secured so much at Cuddesdon at the Dissolution. John Peyrson (or Pereson), the eleventh provost of Queen's, in 1459 gave to his college certain revenues in Tutbaldington and Denton; and John a Pantre (or Pantry), the sixteenth provost, also was a benefactor, giving some possessions in Denton, in the parish of Cuddesdon, those he had purchased of John Brome of Halton (Holton), Esq., and of Thomas Everard, London. The area of the parish is given as 527 acres, and the population in 1871 was 159.

DORCHESTER.

POESY, always ready to immortalise every place and every event, thus speaks of Bede's *Civitas Dorcinia*—

"Free from the grip of Time, there yet remains
Dorchestria, famed of old, whose fertile plains
Give health and vigour to the native swains.
Here heavy heads denote a temperate day,
And frighten pallid Sickness far away;
Here too conjoins, of Poesy the praise,
Sung by our British bard, whose sweetest lays
Their bridal loves adorned, and claims the bays.
With friendly and with equal pace they go,
And, in their clear meanderings slow,
Water the neighbouring strands through which they flow."

The conjoining here spoken of is the confluence of the two rivers—the *Thames* and the *Thame;* and from this union the name *Thames* has been supposed to emanate, it being called by some during its course from the Cotswold hills through Oxford to Dorchester the *Isis.* But this is a fallacy; it is the *Thames* from its source to its termination at the Nore. The British bard is Pope.



DORCHESTER ABBEY.

DORCHESTER has borne many names, and is of great antiquity. Leland speaks of it as *Hydropolis*, the town of water. The town was at one period a first-class Roman station, and the largest bishopric in England, afterwards divided into the Sees of Bath and Wells, Hereford, Lichfield, Lincoln, Salisbury, Winchester, and Worcester. Here St. Birinus first preached the

gospel to the West Saxons in the seventh century, baptized King Kinegils, and founded the bishopric. Many events of importance have transpired in the locality, closely identified with our national history (refer to Macaulay, Hume, and Smollett, &c.). The whole neighbourhood abounds in Roman or earlier entrenchments and camps. The town is now but a large village, and is chiefly noted for its

Cathedral Church of SS. Peter and Paul, a lofty, spacious, and handsome structure 300 feet in length and 40 feet high, built between the years 1280–1300. Some portions of the edifice have been traced as far back, however, as 1180; these must be remains of a former building. The curious illuminated windows have attracted great attention, the most remarkable being the famous

Jesse Window, the mullion in the centre representing a genealogical tree set with figures, springing from the loins of Jesse the patriarch. The *font* is very curious—a Norman bowl of lead, having eleven figures moulded, supposed to be the apostles, with the exception of Judas the traitor. A similar font can be seen at *Warborough*, a village one mile north-east of Dorchester. The monuments and brasses are worthy of inspection. The See of Dorchester was removed in 1092 to Lincoln by Bishop Remigius. Of late years the church has been restored, and it is now one of the finest old ecclesiastical edifices in England, although shorn of its glory.

The Roman Catholic Church of St. Birinus, an elegant church, was erected at the expense of John Davey, Esq., and conveyed by him to the Jesuits—the Society of Jesus. The nave, chancel, and altar are splendid specimens of architecture. The south window of the chancel is filled with stained glass, representing St. Birinus baptizing the king of the West Saxons, Kinegils; the north window shows the Pope commissioning St. Birinus to preach the gospel in England. The eastern window is devoted to divine subjects—the Nativity and Crucifixion of Christ. There is also a small

Presbyterian Chapel in the village.

In the immediate vicinity, at the junction of the four cross-roads, stood the 'Golden Ball Inn,' where Jonathan Bradford resided, and where the murder of Mr. Hayes took place, for which Jonathan was tried and executed at Oxford, although not committing the deed. He went to the chamber so to do, but the servant of the murdered man had forestalled him. The servant confessed the deed eighteen months after when on his dying bed.

ELSFIELD.

THE road passing by the south side of Marston Church, the schools, and vicarage, leads down to a bridge; by following it about three-quarters of a mile 'dead-up-hill' the village of Elsfield is reached. Its picturesque appearance, the fine manor-house on the left, and the beautifully-situated church on the right, can scarcely be too highly praised. The name of the village is spelt

pretty consistently except in the *Doomsday* book, where the *l* has fallen out. Now there seems little doubt that the wonderful compilation of William's reign often goes wrong in names, and we may easily suppose that the grand gentlemen of law who wrote it down at first were not very quick at catching the Saxon sounds; secondly, that they would rather look down upon such barbarous terms, designing soon, maybe, to re-christen them 'after their own names;' and, secondly, when the work was done, there remained the fair copy or transcription to be done at Winchester, or perchance wherever the court was moving. Have we caught a copyist's blunder in this word arising from inattention? Was the name given as Elæsefeld, and the first syllable, growled by the sulky owner, not heard by the writer, and so Esefelde it stands, and hath stood some eight hundred years? Hestfeld, "because it overlooks the neighbourhood," is but a guess, and it is written but very seldom with an aspirate—once in fifteen times. 'Field of the hedgehog' is a reasonable supposition, warranted by practice, and the large estate reaching north from Mr. Herbert Morrell's to the road from Headington to Marston went by the name Brockley, or 'badger field.' This is put in, my good pedestrian, for you to rest and ponder upon when you have mounted the hill. Now for this—field in 1086. "Turstan holds of Robert de 'Oigli Esefelde. There are 600 acres. Land for eight plows. Now in his domain for three plows, and two slaves and eleven villeins with 6 cottars (*i.e.* hut men) and six others have for 5 plows. There are eighteen acres of meadow and twenty-three acres of pasture, a wood three furlongs long and three broad. Was worth £4 now £5."

About 1250 we are told that the Prior of St. Fresewith, Oxon, holds in Elsefeld, hundred of Bolenden, 120 acres of the estate of Doyly, in free alms, another instance of the beneficence of this Doyly family, who put the first walls round Oxford, and built several of its churches, and about the same time we learn from another source that John of Elseffeud, holds the other four hides of William of Stratford, and yielded for it service of one-half a knight's fee, while the Prior of St. Frideswithe yielded one-fifth. An undated roll of Henry III.'s time also gives us the estimate of one Wm. Tull, the royal forester of Sottour and Stowude, acting under the Justiciar of the King "as *it* is in the King's manor," fixing the value of the pasturage (and as a consequence of the share each parish would have to pay toward his salary) in Covele at 3s. 10d., in Forsthull 2s. 3d., in Watele 2s. 3d., and eighteen heaped bushels of barley, in Elseffeud 1s. 10½d., in Wodeton 3d. In 1279 Mistress Margery, of Bolehitch, was renting John's four hides at the nominal value of sixpence per annum, or one pair of gilded spurs, as long as she lives; there belonged to the manor 10 acres of meadow, and a fishery in the water of the Charnwell, and a mill near the same stream. The Prior of St. Frideswide's had "one-fifth of the lopped wood by permission of the lord, and under the oversight of the bailiffs," and of course Mr. Tull's successor. Enclosing had begun and quarrelling thereupon; for they find "there is a pasture of Riwrth which is unjustly closed to

the hurt and damage of the whole Parish, and it used to be free." The 24 cottagers there, tenants doing service, did work for their lord, and paid 1 quarter 5 bushels of nuts for all dues. All appeals and all rights over weights and measures went to Bolenden Court. William the miller held a house and croft of Mistress Margery of Rillehitch below the enclosure of Kowarth. He and three others did not work for their lady unless at the three fisheries in August time, and if they work below the enclosure of Rayworth, then it will be by their own punting (?), and if they pass the marsh and work beyond the domain of the Lord of Olsefeld, then they will labour for the lady or lord of Garsindone for the time being. Another considers that one-fourth of his rent, 2s. 6d. in all, is made up by the work of iron he does to the plows of the Lord; some, too, shoe two beasts of the lord's from their own iron, and with the nails of the lord. The two autumn shearings are bargained for with other tenants, the last, as usual, at the food of their lord, and then we conclude this quaint list of tenures with the injunction added; viz., "All the tenants by custom will ride over the last corn, properly to be measured and truly, riding on their saddles, and with bits and spurs. If any one is absent he will be fined his tools," probably plows, tumbrels, and such like.

The adventures of William Wyke, in 1363, we will reserve till we are beneath the shades of Stowe Wood; but in that year a jury of investigation decreed that Ellesfeld (query, Ella's field, or the quondam hedgehog's) was out of the Shotover forest, and had no rights there. In 1383 the vicar of Elsfield had a dispute with the Prior of St. Frideswide about his rights in the church, and in the account given of it, there is reference made to a deed by which the prior and convent had increased the former income of the church by grants of wheat and barley supplied thrice a year, while the seasons were so bad in 1293–95.

Three other churches at once occur to us, and perhaps more, certainly Clifton best of all, Forest Hill, and Woodeton, as having a west front of the Elsfield type; and fortunately we have preserved to us the exact date of the present one, from which we may judge those of the others. It came about in this way: Reginald, the Bishop of Cloyne, in Ireland, delegated by the Bishop of Lincoln, came in 1273 to dedicate the church, and made note of the receipt of his fee, as a good man of business ought to do, signing this document. "To all to whom these presents shall come, etc. . . . Reginald, by the the divine grace, Bishop of Clone, etc., know that we (in lieu of the venerable father, the Bishop, by God's grace, of Lincoln) have dedicated the church of Elsefeld on the seventh before the ides of July anno dom. 1274, and have received from the proctor to the rector of the said church two marks, under the title of administration of the office by reason of dedicating the church, etc." At Clifton a small turret and spire crowns the gable, while at Woodeton they have used the west wall as the west side of a late Decorated tower.

The church has been well repaired since 1820—the bell cot altered; and

the chancel is pretty much in the same state as it was originally built. Here, as in Binsey, Cowley, North Hinksey, and elsewhere, the south-west window of the chancel has an opening beneath it; at North Hinksey it looks to be Norman, at Binsey, Cowley, and here, it is Early English. At the last-named the hooks and catch for a shutter were revealed, while here at Elsefield we have a kind of bookshelf made of the lower part of the east jamb, supporting to some extent the theory of those who call these 'leper-windows,' and seeming to indicate that here the priest, in days when leprosy or cognate diseases were common in the country, laid his service-book while administering to or comforting the unclean one, whose presence inside the building was not allowed. The nave roof is an old example of timber work of simple and good construction. There were, a few years since, a screen and pulpit of Jacobæan design, and an hour-glass stand, remaining. One of the bells has an inscription—"Saint Margaret, pray for us"—in Latin; but the building is dedicated to St. Thomas a Becket. A tomb in this church is to be noticed, the inscription to "Brother John of Chiltenham, formerly abbat of this place," clearly brought here from Eynesham, of which he was abbat from 1316–30, in which a brass has been inserted to Michael Pudsey, who died 1645. This appropriator of another person's tombstone was of the same family as the noted Prince Bishop Puiset, de Puteaco, or plain Pudsey, who purchased the earldom of Northumberland from Cœur de Lion, when he was excessively anxious to make a little ready cash for his crusading affair.

History tells us how the manor descended from the Ellesfield family to the Berefords, to the Loundrers, and, finally, to the Hores; and how an Oxford undergraduate won the widow, Edith Hore's, affection, and married her; she previously having no issue. And this student's name was Rowland Pudsey, the son of Henry of Barford and Bolton, Yorkshire, lineally descended from the renowned archbishop. Sir George Pudsey, recorder of Oxford in 1685, sold the manor and estate to Lord North, and his descendant, Lieut.-Colonel J. S. North, is now patron of the living. Of the vicars, Francis Wise, the antiquary and Saxon scholar, should be noticed; Dr. Johnson visited him here, of which visit Boswell takes notice in his *Life* of the doctor.

The area of the parish is put down at 1280 acres, and the population in 1871 was 170.

ENSHAM

Lies east-north-east of Oxford, at about 5½ miles distance along the Botley road, which crosses the Thames at Swineford bridge, which is far more likely to have been Sweyn'sford than a pig's ford, considering how unapt they are at swimming; indeed there are curiosities farther up the river. Why should ducks want a ford at Duxford? Why should that fine old gentleman, Dudock, be forgotten there, and the name shortened? And why, above all, should a 'polliwog' need a bridge called Tadpole bridge?

Now let us hear Bishop White Kennett on Ensham's early days. "In this part of the country the Britons did long resist the encroaching Saxons." Most cherished of antiquarians, may we ask you whether the district was not better peopled, and whether the men were not of a finer type than those buried at Wheatley a little later? Were they such men as fill the Fairford graves, above 6 feet in height, or equals to those found near Holton Park—the Oxford side—men of 7 feet and more in stature and bony withal? "In 556 the Britons united all their strength . . . to regain the honour they had lost in 5 succeeding years. . . . They so well received the fury of the Saxons that when the night parted them the victory was still depending, and though the Saxon historians conceal it, the event (at Banbury) seems to prove a success to the Britons, who kept their fortified places in this county till 571, or, as some writers say, to 580, when king Cealwyn and Cuthwulph his brother fought with them at Bedford, and took from them their strongest garrisons"—Aylesbury, Benson, and Eynsham. On a brow of a hill not far from Ensham, and near your road, about half a mile from the bridge, a British earthwork may still be seen: it is British in its outline, and that is all that is known.

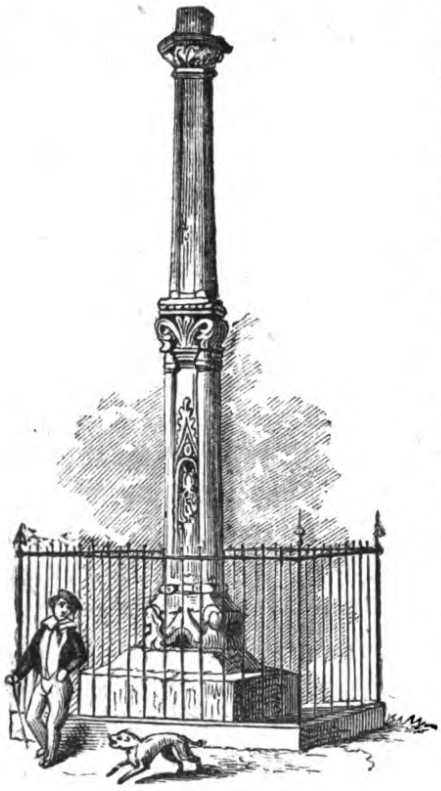
The new district required to be secured by the West Saxons; and so, we are told, frontier posts were established, one at Cirencester, the other at Ensham. The town comes into the realm of history with the establishment there of a Benedictine monastery by a nobleman, Ailmer, sub-king of Cornwall, who, after founding Cerne Abbey, in Dorset, acquired property for that purpose "in a noted spot, near to a river which is called Temis, and which among the inhabitants of that district is called Egnesham," among other endowments gave land at Yarnton. Oh, Oxonians, why have you corrupted such lofty titles as Chedlinton, Cheva-chees-hampton, and Erdintune, into such low-sounding names as Kilnton, Chiselton, and Yarnton!

King Aethelred confirmed these gifts in 1005, convinced no doubt of the mighty good wrought by these pioneers of civilisation in those early days. The abbey became the place of meeting for the large church council of 1009, graced by the presence of those two illustrious Archbishops, Alphege and Wulstan. Scribes of William the Bastard, did ye omit this glorious abbey in your parchment volumes? or has the keen glance of all antiquarians failed to find it, yea, even the dimmed vision of myself, the ignoble editor? We pass on. Ralph Basset, justiciar of England in 1109, with his grand presents to the abbey, nor David, brother to Maud, the Queen of England in 1118, with his royal gifts, shall stop us; but we will pause a little, for a bishop's corse is borne sadly from the park at Woodstock—'tis Robert's of Lincoln, a great benefactor to Eynsham. Oh, from sudden death, good Lord, deliver us! "Now it fell out on a Wednesday," runs the chronicle, "being Jan. 10, A.D. 1123, that the king rode in his deer park, and the Bishop of Salisbury was on one side of him, and Robert Bloet, Bishop of Lincoln, on the other, and they

rode there talking. Then the Bishop of Lincoln sank down, and said to the king, 'My lorde king! I am dying;' and the king alighted from his horse and took him between his arms, and bade them bear him to his inn, and he soon lay there dead; and they took his body with much pomp to Lincoln, and Robert, Bishop of Chester, buried him before St. Mary's altar. In 1184 Ensham was chosen as the place for another great church council, and two years afterwards for a third, which lasted eight days, the king attending each day, and returning every evening to Woodstock. In September that year we can imagine the concourse of Eynsham monks and Eynsham townsfolk trooping off to Woodstock to see the grand wedding of the Scottish King William the Lion, lately a prisoner over in Normandy, but now united, in the chapel near the present park gates, with grand ceremonial, to Ermengard, daughter of Lord Beaumont. The Archbishop of Canterbury, and no doubt the great Hugh of Lincoln were present; and there was much feasting for four days in the manor-house. The Abbat of Eynsham, as possessor of more land in the neighbourhood of the abbey than even the Lord of Wooton, has, in 1204, become possessed of a court of assize, and correction of weights and measures in *his* market at Eynsham. There were some pretty rides and walks over commons in those days between Oxford and Eynsham; and when Hugh, the saintly Bishop of the diocese, had given authority for grand processions, and other solemnities in Eynsham, Whitsuntide, 1230, many scholars from Oxford trooped over to see the festivities; but the countrypeople assaulted them, killed and wounded some, and put all to flight. The Bishop on hearing it, excommunicated the authors and abettors of this act, in all the churches of Oxfordshire, depriving them of all church benefits till the feast of Saint Bartholomew. The scholars also resented this injury so highly that they intermitted all lectures, and would not resume them till the offenders had undergone the severest punishments; and when they did the Bishop procured of the Pope a permission for the doctors and masters at Oxford to become lecturers and regents in any other University without an examination.

The abbey does not seem to have acquired much property in Oxford, its rents here amounting to £2 3s. 8d. in the thirteenth century, as compared with Oseney, £12 5s. 10d.; Godesto, £1 8s. 6d.; Littlemore, £1; but in the town and Tilgardes-leke or . . . le it held 1020 acres all in the domain, not sublet that is, beside a wood "within the overlook of the forest of Wychwood wherefrom he had liberty of housbote and heybote;" *i.e.* permission to cut as much timber and wood as was necessary for repair of buildings and fences, at the oversight of the foresters and verderers. We have in the *Hundred Rolls* of 1279 a variety of services imposed upon the tenants at Tilgardesle; but they are so similar to those at Bladon and Elsefield that we will past them over. There is for the next two hundred years nothing of importance recorded about the abbey; but in 1501 it was honoured by a visit from Prince Henry, afterwards Henry VIII., and in 1539 Anthony Kitchen, its abbat, the prior,

sub-prior, and thirteen monks gave up the house to the king upon the promise of an allowance of £135 6s. 8d. per annum; Kitchen became soon after Bishop of Llandaff. The revenues at the time of the suppression are stated in the *Monasticon* at £441 12s. 2d., which would represent about £8000 of our present money. Sir Edward Northe and William D'Arcy had the site, and afterwards Edward, Earl of Derby. It came into the Marlborough family by purchase, and still remains with them. The traces of the foundations can still be seen in a meadow to the west of the church. The cross, and a few remnants in the vicar's gardens, are all that is left to us of this magnificent foundation, the owner having in 1843 pulled down an elegant gateway with ogee head, and Decorated in style.



EYNSHAM CROSS.

A peculiar custom, perhaps connected with the housebote and heybote above mentioned, existed in the town till the close of the last century. The townpeople were allowed to cut down as much timber on Whit Monday as could be drawn by men's hands into the abbey-yard, the churchwardens having marked the timber by giving the first blow with their hatchets.

The parish church, St. Leonard's, is generally Late Decorated in style, having piers on each side of the nave of unusual section. The font and tower are early in the Perpendicular period, the clerestory looks somewhat later. The porch has one buttress placed diagonally, and one square with the wall; the south aisle has the same pecularity.

The cross is near the porch, and is a little more complete than its fellow at Yarnton. There are four small figures in low relief, under canopies, on the sides of each, somewhat like, perhaps identical copies one of the other.

In a London magazine of 1790 is to be found a peculiar account of a lass from this neighbourhood, who, willing to satisfy the demands of her betrothed's parents for £50, sacrificed to a "chapman in the Strand" her splendid tresses, delicate, long, and light, for £60—there being twenty ounces, and the value £3 per ounce—" with which money she joyfully returned into the country and bought her an husband."

The fishing round Eynsham is in good repute, and a stroll from Witham by the river-side to the town is very agreeable. The parish has been estimated at 5060 acres, and the population in 1881 was 1872.

Ensham has lately erected Board Schools for 300, at an expense of £3950.

About 3½ miles distant, north of Southleigh, is situated Ensham Hall, a large and handsome mansion, with extensive park-like grounds, fine timber and ornamental shrubs, beside a lake of sixteen acres in extent. The house commands delightful views as far as the White Horse vale.

FOREST HILL

Is situated partly on a spur, and partly at the foot of Shotover Hill, on its north-east extremity, and, like other parishes we have noticed, has the parish church commandingly perched on rising ground. The Headington Hill road leads directly to it, uninteresting only in its middle portion. It is about 4 miles from Oxford by this way, rather more by old Headington village, Barton, Bayswater mill, and so along the upper water; but far more inviting on a dusty day. From the field just beyond the church a pathway down to Shotover house strikes due south. After mounting Shotover Hill the traveller will find himself near to the ochre-pits of Horspath, and he can return either through that village, or along the crest of the hill following the "old" road, past the brick-kilns at Headington quarry, and along Cheney or China lane to Oxford.

A third and prolonged search through the fac-simile of *Doomsday* has resulted in discovering what the writer hopes will prove the earliest mention of this village. It is this: "Roger [d'Ivery] holds Fostel. There are 360 acres Land for three plows; now in the domain for one plow; one slave, three villeins, and two bordars occupy land for one plow. There is a wood 440 yards long, 220 yards broad. It was worth [in all] 40s., now 20s." This seems probable, as it comes near to the Beckley lands held by the same Roger; and Fostel, though much corrupted, is not so much unlike Forstul, as we meet with the name elsewhere. Forsthull again (*circa* 1240) is said to be a parish of the same dimensions, and to belong to the estate of St. Walery. In the *Hundred Rolls* last referred to, the prioress of Studely is given as owner of two of the hides, and the prior of Chaucumbe a third—both belonging to the Earl of Cornwall's estate; but then comes the conflicting item of two hides held by the Abbat of Oseney, belonging once to St. George's in Oxford castle, of the former estate of D'Oiley; but this is not the place for antiquarian questions. It appears, from later *Hundred Rolls*, that the Prioress of Littlemor, in 1279, held a house and 120 acres in Forsthulle, paying one penny to the lord for a certain rivulet running through the middle of her estate here—the mill-stream supplying Bayswater mill, in all probability.

The church was dedicated, July 6th, 1273, under the same conditions as that at Elsefield, the Bishop of Lincoln being infirm, and appointing the Bishop of Cloyne to attend to such matters. The buildings are much alike; but the slope of the ground at Forest Hill caused the architect to use two buttresses of greater dimensions to support the west wall. The bell turret too, or rather

cot, is pierced for three bells—a small sanctus one above the two others. The buttresses now existing no doubt take the place of the old ones, but they are not older than the sixteenth century; and what is more peculiar is, that the variation in their projection from the wall is nearly three feet. The Perpendicular window between them is rather too large. As this end seems to have been also interfered with in the Decorated period, as witnessed by the diagonal buttresses, we may infer that the buttresses were found quite necessary to support a wall in a bad position. Patchwork as it is, the effect from nearly every point of view is good—in fact, most picturesque. The porch too has a good doorway, Transitional arch mouldings, that tell better in our average English sky than any of the delicate curves of the Greek school can ever hope to do, unless under their own bright light of the sunny south. Of late years much has been done to make the interior neat and inviting.

Oseney Abbey came into possession of this, as of most of the property of the castle church in Oxford, and at the time of the dissolution Lincoln College obtained part of the estate and the patronage of the living, which they still hold. The register of the church contains the entry of the baptism, on January 28th, 1625, of Maria Powell, who became the wife of Milton, the poet. The house of the Powell family is partly destroyed; but in the west ends of two outhouses are some remains of ornamental plastering of the period in which Milton lived; and one of them seems to refer to the subject of *Paradise Lost*. If memory fails not, it is to this house that a quaint seventeenth-century gateway conducts. The village was the abode (not Wheatley) of another poet, William Julius Mickle, whose translation of Camoen's *Lusiad*, with all its interpolations and omissions, is a work deserving of the great praise it won for him. But his *Cumnor Hall* is much better known; while those who like the charm of his diction, and the accuracy of his rhyme, may spend a half-hour over some tombs in the churchyard here, to departed members of the Tomkins family. He married a Miss Tomkins of Forest Hill, and is currently reported to have composed the verses on the tombs mentioned. He himself lies buried on the north side of the church, without any memorial over his grave. The air of Oxford is often said not to be congenial to poetry, and the prize poems generally are instanced as a proof. Perhaps the present village is free from its depressing influence. Mickle spent some of his years at the Clarendon Press, but retired to a farm in the country to write his *Lusiad*. Had he also a knowledge of this peculiarity in the Oxford atmosphere?

The living of the church is a curacy of £85 per annum, augmented by private benefactions of £200, royal bounty £600, and a parliamentary grant of £500. The children are educated free in Mrs. Elizabeth Holford's school, at Stanton St. John. The area of the parish is 650 acres, and the population in 1871 was 170.

Should that talented organist, Frederick Archer, ever have his name inscribed on the roll of fame, it may be worth recording that this was the first church in which he took regular duty.

FRILFORD

Is a hamlet of Marcham, just eight miles from Oxford, where the Cumnor Road to Wantage intersects that from Abingdon to Faringdon: it is about one mile west of Marcham. The ford from which the name is derived is a little distance to the north, toward Tubney. There is nothing of great interest connected with this hamlet; but as the Richard Corbet, whose tomb is in Marcham Church, once held the land, and is recorded in the *Post-mortems* of 1405 in this fashion: "Robert Corbet, chivaler, held Kingsbromley Manor, Stafford (which?), Tubbeney Manor, in Berks, within the villages of Tubbeney, Frilford, Abyndon, and Ossynton," we can scarcely venture to omit the place.

This Robert's son, also of the same name, was a great landowner; but is not mentioned as being possessor of Kingsbromley at his death, in 1413.

The vicar has half the great tythes of Frilford, and the other half is held by Mr. Elwes, under St. John's College, Oxford. After the Corbets, the families of St. Elens, St. Amand, and Golafre held the manor in succession.

The President and Society of Magdalen hold a reputed manor in Frilford. Area, 1400 acres; the population included in Marcham.

FYFIELD.

This village went formerly by the name of Fifhide, but as there is another Fifhide or Fifield in Oxfordshire, we cannot now decide which of the two was granted by King Eadwy, in 956, to Athelnoth; it then contained thirteen messuages, and there is little doubt of the genuineness of the charter.

It lies quite eight miles from Oxford, beyond Besilsleigh and Tubney, taking the more westerly of the two roads when past Besilsleigh Church; it is in the hundred of Ock, and was formerly the property and seat of the family Golafre. John Golafre, Lysons tell us, was knight of the shire in 1337, and went on an embassy to France in 1389. He or his son (of the same name) died possessed of the manor in 1442; and in the same year, by royal licence, a chantry was founded here at the altar of St. John the Baptist, in pursuance of his will, in which he is called a servant of Henry V. and VI.; by it the chaplain of this chantry was to be called the master of the house of St. John Baptist at Fyfield. It was endowed with Fyfield grove, and the manors of Baldwin's court and Wyke in Charlton. The daughter and heiress of the last Sir John Golafre married John De la Pole, Earl of Lincoln, who lost his life at the battle of Stoke, and was attainted of treason. The monument of the

Sir John Golafre who died 144 is in the north aisle of the church: it is an open altar tomb, with his figure in armour on the slab above, and a skeleton carved in a shroud below it. The common people say it is old Gulliver when young and when reduced to a skeleton.

A Lady Gordon had the manor in 1527, when she died, and the estate was sold to Sir Thomas White, who gave it to the College of St. John, founded in 1555. Lady Gordon has been renamed Gorgon by the villagers. Golafre's arms are on his tomb and in a window; there are besides several windows to the White family, lessees of the manor. The tomb on the north side of the chancel, though the brass has been removed, is doubtlessly Lady Gordon's. There are also memorials of the Dale and Perrott families. Charles Perrott was member of parliament for Oxford three times; he died in 1686. The Lovedens had a seat at Fyfield in the time of Queen Elizabeth. The Norrisses of Yatlendon dwelt here for four generations, and one of them, John Norris of Fyfield, was knighted at Reading in 1601.

The church, dedicated to St. Leonard, is of mixed styles, mainly Middle and Third Pointed, with a tower comparatively modern. It is a perpetual curacy, worth £120 per annum, in the gift of St. John's College, Oxford. There are charities belonging to the parish amounting to £33 per annum. The measurement is given as 1620 acres, and the population in 1881 as 337.

GARSINGTON

Lies on the Cowley Road, five miles south-east of Oxford, and three south-west of the Wheatley Station; it is visible on the crest of the hill as soon as the Military College is passed. On the left-hand side of it, north, is a huge elm-tree called Pennyfarthing tree, also visible, and from tradition we may conclude that such was its real cost. If the elm is three hundred years old, it was rather a heavy price to pay, not a small one, as it appears to us, in 1884.

The name of the parish is commonly taken to mean Gorse tun, or village; but the *t* seldom occurs, so that Gersedune (grass hill) may be the meaning, unless it is a dialectical spelling of Georstedune = Gorsehill; the vulgar pronunciation 'Gezintun' is peculiar.

There is no trace of the village before the Conquest, unless we look upon a lady with the uncommon name Perchaia as an Englishwoman, who had left her name attached to the estate she lived upon ere the Normans came.

Again in Gersedune do we meet with a false number of hides as the total. In *Doomsday* perhaps the outlying boundaries did not for all purposes count as part of the village. The account is this: Gislebert holds of the Abbat of St. Marie of Abendon 7½ hides in Gersedune. There is land for six plows, now in his domain of two plows; two slaves and six villeins with nine cottars have three plows. There are 12 acres meadow, a wood 440 yards long and 220 broad.

Was worth £4 now £5. There is one hide enclosed which never paid (royal) tax; it lies between the land of the King in several pieces (or piece by piece). In the same village Sueting holds 1½ hides of the Abbat. There is land for one plow; he holds it in his domain with one villein and two cottars. It was and is worth 40 shillings." Henry I. and Pope Eugenius both confirmed this land to the Abbat Faritius and the Brethren, but the deeds do not give us the separate measures of the estates. About 1070 Gilbert Marescal, an ancestor of the patriot who drove out the French that were in England at John's death, held 7½ hides in Gersentune, and from about 1090 the patronage of the Church lay with the Prior of Holy Trinity, Wallingford, itself a member of the great Benedictine Abbey of St. Albans. From the *Sandford Book* we have no particulars worth alluding to, unless it is to discuss the old names of furlongs, or to note that Mr. Hugo Choch rented 30 acres of land for one pound of pepper.

About 1240 we have a complete list of the tenants, and the whole parish is put down at 10½ hides, which at 120 acres would make the estimate 970 acres short of the actual area of the parish, a difference not easily accounted for by roads and waste. Three hides and a half then pertained to the barony of Abendon, and warded the castle of Windsor for 17 weeks, another three hides and a half rendered service at the chamber of the Abbat at Abendon, 105 acres were land of the Abbess of Godstow, another 105 were held by Roger Choch (Cook of later days), and belonged to the barony of Abendon. Paganus de la Mere held a hide belonging to the manor of Hedindon, and the brothers of the Hospital of St. John outside the east gate of Oxford, another hide of the honour of Wallingford. This again, it will be seen, does not tally with the 10½ hides, and with this verdict the writer will not further trouble the reader with such matters. Philippa, Countess of Warwick, held a baronial court of Hedendon, Garsingdon, and the parish of St. Clements beyond the Small Bridge (Millham), twice a year in the time of Henry III. She claimed two cartloads of thorns and hazel from Sottour every week, rights of the manor of Hedendon; her land was worth £38 per annum, and the jury say "she ought to be in the rule of the King;" that is, under his guardianship. Of the tenants in 1279 we will name John de Fonte only, holder of 1½ hides belonging to Godstowe Nunnery, and the Prioress of Littlemore, who rented of Roger Choch a messuage and twenty acres; but one feels rather curious about a bridge called Mers-heme-brugg, and a way thereto from the village, lying in pasture, one-half of which the Preceptor of Cowley claimed. John de Mara, son probably of Paganus de la Mere—but how much grander does it sound than Mr. John Mears of our days!—owner no doubt of his father's property in Gersyndon, was in the expedition into Gascony in 1299, and had been in the Scotch war the year before. He was summoned to Parliament as Baron of Gersyndon in 1300, and again in 1314, unpleasant summonses we ought to remember; for parliaments met then only when the king wished to squeeze out a subsidy. The

year 1350, or somewhere thereabouts, witnessed a severe legal squabble between the rector and St. Frideswide's about the tithes on the north part of the manor. After a long contest it was agreed to refer the case to the Pope; but the Romish lawyers returned it to Canterbury, declaring the archbishop sole arbitrator. The archbishop decided mostly in favour of the rector, and a short time after history tells us that the Prior of St. Frideswide's was deposed for avarice and extortion. A deed of 1392 exists, which confirms, and does not grant, to Walingford the advowson and benefits of the rectory.

The wars of the Roses did not much affect the status of the village, but then came the Tudors and the dissolution of monasteries, and the living came into the hands of Sir Thomas Pope, who obtained further grants in order to found a college here to act as a place of retreat for the members of Trinity College when plague or illness drove them from the ill-drained precincts of Oxford. It will be remembered that several of the colleges found it necessary to have such abodes in the country. Brazenose College—on what grounds I am unable to say—derives its name from the house its foundation migrated to during these plagues and sweating sicknesses. Trinity College went to Woodstock in 1563, as the place at Garsingdon was not ready, but went there in 1577—two dangerous epidemics within fourteen years! The house is now occupied by the curate.

In 1646 Fairfax made this village his head-quarters for a short time, preparatory to the review of the Parliamentary forces on Bullingdon Green, and the locating of his troops round the north and east of Oxford.

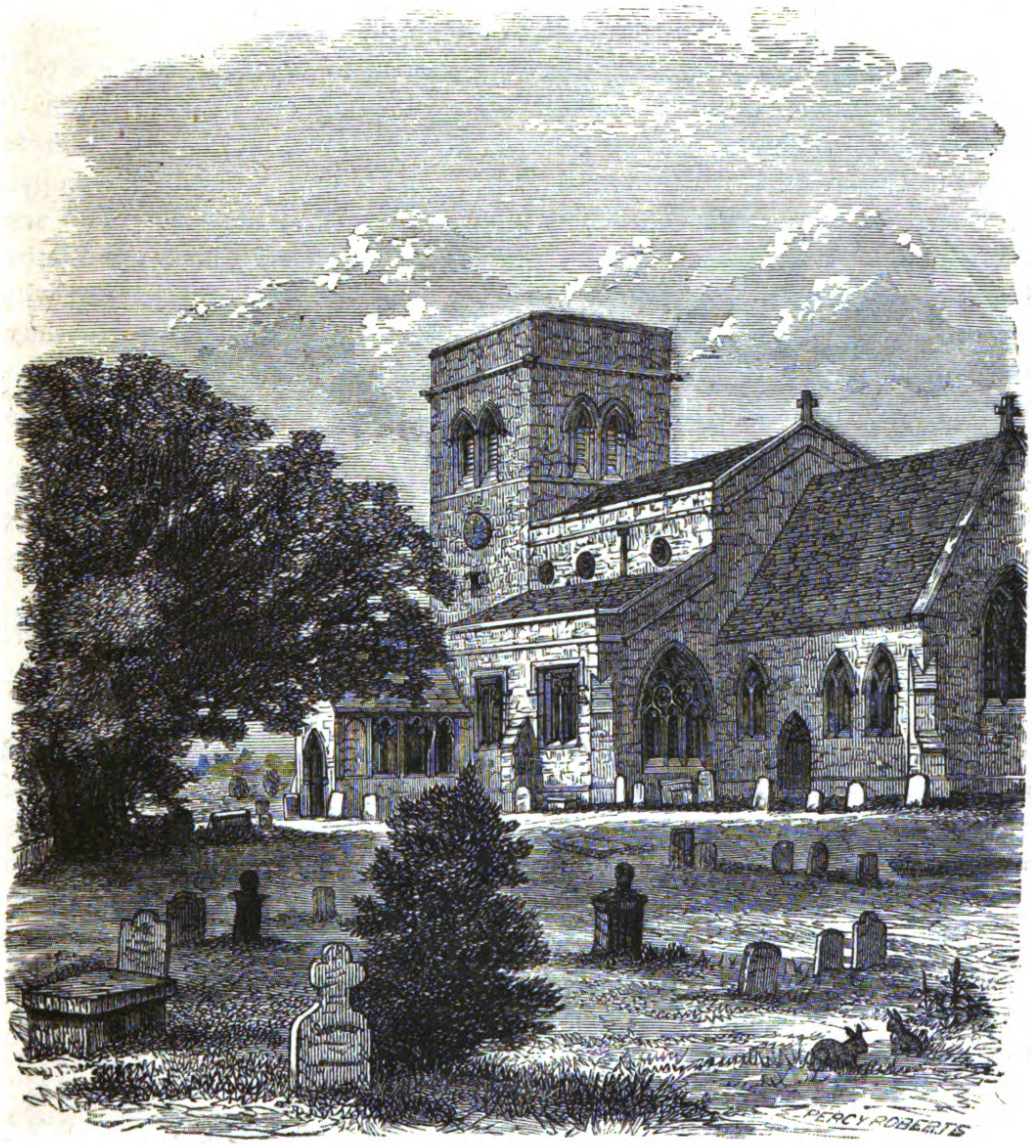
There appears to have been a large repair of the church in 1668, from a date on the east end of the north aisle, when the huge buttresses that disfigure the north door were put up.

The schools here are a good piece of building, and occupy a capital position.

The church tower has four small Norman windows, but as one of these is surmounted with a pointed arch, and as Transitional work predominates in the belfry, we may place the date of the whole as late twelfth-century. The pretty north door, which ought to be restored, the nave arches on the north, and that of the chancel, seem to be also of Transitional character; but the chancel and arches south of nave are clearly Decorated. This church should be noted as having all its chancel windows as they were originally erected, and without foliation, *i.e.*, the mullions run up to the head, or intersect each other, free from those expansions of the stone which usually convert a plain-headed opening into a trefoiled or cinquefoiled one; as a variety of Gothic it may safely be condemned by general assent. The clerestory has six of its Late Decorated windows remaining; the others have been interfered with. There are below both the south-west and north-west windows of the chancel the low side windows; this is an unusual occurrence. From the beauty of the east window of the south aisle, decorated with good flowing tracery, it may be supposed that this portion of the church was a chantry chapel. The

mouldings of the north and south doors deserve more than a passing glance, as does the iron handle of the later.

The church is reported to have a splendid old chiming apparatus out of order. The register books begin in 1562, and ought to reveal who L. B. and



GARSINGTON CHURCH.

F. F. were, who in 1668 had to do so much to the roof of the nave, In coming away by the north gate of the churchyard the appearance of the tower is stately and severe.

The living is worth £480, and a residence. The population in 1881 was 607, a diminution of 29 in the decade previous; and the area of the parish is given as 2,230 acres.

GODSTOW,

To the north of Oxford, a good two miles walk along the river Thames, but still not in Berkshire; for the Oxford Borough limit extends just beyond the limits of the old nunnery, as it is the Shire brook that divides the counties, not the river, in the district north-west of Oxford.

We shall hereafter pass along the Botley Road to Wytham, and see to the east of us a stream of some ten feet wide following our course; that is the Shire brook. Godstow, Binsey Church, Binsey Green, and Medley therefore belong to Oxfordshire. The boundary wall and a square building, occupying the corner of it, toward Oxford, is all that is at first noticed. The small building, if we may credit good authorities, proves to have been the domestic chapel of the abbess, and from it were dug two stone coffins—the one which the late Alderman Fletcher firmly believed to be that of Fair Rosamund, and the other probably that of the abbess of her time, said to have been buried beside her. In the former, the diligent and benevolent antiquarian now lies buried at Yarnton.

The enclosure, like the chapel, dates back to the fifteenth century. From its N.E. angle has vanished a large, handsome chapel, from within it, some cloisters, a library, and domestic buildings of pre-Reformation date, and a range of houses, built up in Elizabeth's or Charles' time. Two arches, of pointed architecture, remain, perhaps fourteenth century, carrying the enclosure wall over a brook that was connected with the bath—the one near the small chapel, the other by a cowshed to the south-west. In the exterior of the wall, at the north-west, is a four-centred arch, not before 1550 in style, and not far from it a diagonally-placed buttress—sole remnant of the nunnery buildings—of the chapel tower a truncated side stood as late as 1720. Between the gateway and the brook may be noticed a deep, square pit or two, either a spot whence gravel has been taken, or else the basin in which the waters of the brook were caught, that they might settle clear before they passed down to the bath—a goodly-sized one, to judge by drawings yet remaining. Between the pit and the bridge hard by, part of which may be fourteenth-century, there stood in Stow's time a cross with this inscription—

> "Qui meat hac oret; signum salutis adoret,
> Utque sibi detur veniam Rosamundæ precetur."

("Let him who wanders here pray; let him adore the sign of salvation, let his prayer be that the favour of Rosamund may be granted to himself.") Seeming to indicate that the erecter of it believed that lady to have at least died a true penitent, if not with a heaven-sent assurance of her acceptance hereafter.

From Stevens' remarks upon Godstow, we are bound to regard the nunnery as one of the best of those to which young ladies were usually sent in early

times to learn the accomplishments of those days, to be acquired only of the ecclesiastical body. We may conjecture that a royal foundation like this, patronized by the great earls and residents around, lying half way between Woodstock, the royal mansion, and St. Frideswides (already an abode of piety and learning), might well have been "a young ladies' boarding-school of great respectability;" and thus we find Walter Lord Clifford sending his daughter Rosamunda to Godstowe. But take, kind reader, Mr. Stevens at what he is worth. The nuns here "had all the liberty that was proper to be allowed, which brought great reputation to the place, as well as

GODSTOW NUNNERY CHAPEL.

satisfaction to the parents and relations of such as were educated and bred up there. They were not abridged even the privilege of spending one day in the year at Godstow fair; but then there was a particular caution used. Godstow in itself wanted nothing that was requisite for pleasure. Here were fine recesses and delicate walks; but then even the most exquisite things of this kind by degrees prove tiresome unless attended by variety. At times they omitted no kind of mirth that was innocent. This was a method that could not but engage people to enter into a religious course of life." And again, "For the further reputation of the nuns there, I shall observe that they

spent a great part of their time in reading good books. There was a common library for their use well furnished with books, many of which were English and historical. The lives of holy men and women, especially of the latter, were curiously written on vellum, and many illuminations appeared throughout, so as to draw the nuns the more easily to follow their examples. And for the same end several sacred stories were painted in the church, as the like were not painted in other churches and chapels; a thing which, if well considered, must have a very good effect. . . . The library seems to have been but a very little way from the small chapel that is standing on the south side of what remains of the tower of the church, and is about thirteen yards in length, and about eight and a half in breadth" (cloister by mistake?). "There was a private chapel for the nuns, the church being used on public occasions. There are still (1718) remains of old painting on the walls of the chancel of the chapel."

Rosamund's life at Woodstock is given in another work of this series, and after recalling the fact that a great authority records it as his opinion, that this is one of the places which had the prefix God—from being pagan sites previous to being consecrated to Christian worship—as Godmanham, Godney near Glastonbury, Godstone in Surrey, and others; and also giving time for Eleanor, the queen, to look for her ball of silk, we will once more take up her life for the last twenty years she spent on earth, in retirement on this quondam lovely spot. "It is argued from a comparison of various charters which record the donations of the Clifford family to the convent, that Rosamund became an inmate of the house, and lived here for twenty years in penitence and retirement until her death." "Upon her coming to Godstow (as she went thither frequently), the nuns who admired her conversation, as indeed all did that happened at any time to be with her, used to expostulate with her. . . . As they were once arguing with her, and talking of heaven and hell, and the danger she was in . . . she replied that . . 'yet she should be saved.' 'How shall we know that?' said some of them. 'Why,' said she, 'if that tree, pointing to one that had then green leaves thereon, be turned into stone after my death, then shall I have life among the saints of heaven?' The same answer also she returned at several other times, when the same kind of discourse was started. And 'tis said, that within few years after, this thing came to pass; and the stone was commonly showed to passengers at Godstow even till the house was dissolved." There exists among the Architectural Society's casts, &c., at the Ashmolean, a lovely little capital from Godstow, picked up out of the river there, a proof that the nunnery had in it some work of that Decorated period which rejoiced in clever adaptation of simple vegetable forms; and it reminds one that there is a legend about a nut tree near the little chapel, saying that it has no kernels because it grows where Rosamund was buried. A nut from it is never found to have a kernel within; but such trees are known elsewhere. Yet it will serve for a type, perhaps, of the tales about our heroine, "very fair at first view, but won't bear looking into."

We shall not be wrong in stating that Rosamund was buried before the grand altar of the church at Godstow; but if we venture to say that a certain couplet was cut upon her tomb some unpoetical writer in *Notes and Queries* will call us to book, and say they apply to Rosamunda, Queen of Lombardy, in the sixth century, who *was* poisoned.

The lines are translated most neatly by Speed, not later than 1641, who catches the original middle-rhyme—

> "This tomb doth here enclose the world's most beauteous rose;
> Rose passing sweet erewhile, now nought but odour vile."

Let us take Higden as our authority for the style of her tomb or beryalle. "The beryalle of this Rosamunde is of a mervellous architecture; for conflictes of champions, flightes of bryddes, lepynge of fisches is to be beholden in hit, withowte the handeworke other (=or) the impulsion of man;" and we may add another version: "This wenche hadde a litel cofre scarsliche of two feet long, imade by a wonder craft that is yit iseyn there; therynne it seemeth that geantes fighten, bestes stertelleth, foules fleeth, and fisches meoven with oute manis hond-meovynge." Wench and brat, by-the-by, were not then terms of reprobation. We will turn to Hoveden to see the fate of this "litel cofre" at the hands of the celebrated Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln. He "making his visitations through the houses of the religious within his diocese, came to the abbey of nuns of Godstowe, which is betwen Oxford and Wudestoc; and when he had entered the church to pray, saw a tomb in the middle of the choir before the altar hung with silken hangings, and surrounded with lamps and tapers, and asked whose tomb it was; and it was told him that it was the tomb of Rosemunda, who had formerly been mistress to Henry, the King of England, son of Matilda, the empress, and how that he, for love of her, had done many good deeds to the church." And the Bishop replied, "Take her away, because . . . and bury her outside the church with the others, lest the Christian profession be polluted, and that other women warned by her example may take heed to themselves. . . ." It is scarcely possible to unravel the causes which may have led St. Hugh to act so summarily, and though much has been written upon it fresh discoveries have again mystified the matter. We now take up Stow's account: "The body being thus removed by the command of the Bishop, let us follow it out of the church, and observe the conduct of the nuns upon that occasion. The Bishop's injunction was of that force that they did not presume to act contrary to it, for which reason they did not venture afterwards to restore the body to its former place. But gratitude to herself as well as to her father, and respect to the memory of King Henry II., who for her sake had done extraordinary things for their nunnery, obliged them to take particular care of the body, so as to cause it to be bury'd in holy ground. Beside I do not see any reason to think that she did not die a true penitent. For which cause these chaste nuns, for they were famous for their continence, might judge it altogether proper to show great

regard to one who had been, as it were, a constant companion with them." Though, therefore, after her removal there were not the same ornaments about her as there were before, yet the nuns inclosed the bones in a perfumed leather bag, which they afterwards inclosed in a leaden coffin, over which a tomb, different from the former, was laid, being a fair large stone; I suppose in form of a coffin, agreeable to those times, on which was put this inscription, "Tumba Rosamundæ." Thus it continued till the time of the Dissolution, when it was taken up, as we are told by Mr. Leland in these words: "Rosamund's tumbe at Godstow was taken up alate; it is a stone with this inscription—Tomba Rosamundæ. Her bones were closed in Lede, and within that the bones were closyd in Lether. When it was openid there was a very swete smell came owt of it."

We have likewise an account of this spoliation of the grave by Mr. Thomas Allin, of Gloucester Hall, who died in 1632: "The tombstone of Rosamund Clifford was taken up at Godstow and broken in pieces. Upon it were interchangeable weavings drawn out, and decked with roses, red and green, and the picture of the cup, out of which she drank the poison given her by the Queen, carved in stone. . . . Many other things of antiquity were broken up in pieces after the same manner, which gave such offence to persons of true Piety and Devotion that public complaints were made thereupon." The above gentleman believed in the poisoning, historians dare not. If he saw a cup it might have been a chalice engraved to show that the lady had been a steady communicant; besides interlaced strap-work can scarcely accord with green and red roses. As to the one side of the chapel tower, which stood over forty feet high in 1718, Mr. Stevens remarks: "It is likely that it will be asked now how it comes to pass that *all* the tower of the church was not pulled down, but some of it left standing? to which I can return no other answer than this, that perhaps those that undertook to pull it down were much discouraged by some accidents that happened. I have heard it said at Godstow that, though many were employed to destroy this goodlisome nunnery, yet things did not succeed very luckily, but that many dismal effects followed upon the attempts." The last abbess was Catherine Bulkeley, "who, like the rest of that time, was by ill-usage drove into a surrender to avoid being turned out by force. That there was not the least pretence of ill-life in these nuns is confessed even by Dr. Burnett, who, after having raked together all the dirt he could throw at monasteries, could not but clear these virtuous ladies." We have a letter of this lady complaining of her ill-treatment by Dr. London, a visitor appointed by Thomas Cromwell, which shows us "what a vile wretch he was, and how fit to be employed to insult religious women; the instrument at Godstowe was fit for the work that King Henry and Cromwell had to do."

Edith, who founded Godstowe in December, 1138, was probably the wife of Robert d'Oilly. The legend concerning her is, that she was a very pious

and devout lady of Winchester, the widow of a knight named Sir William Lamelyne; and that she was commanded by a vision to repair to a place near Binsey, where a light from heaven should appear to her, and there to erect a religious house for women. This does not clash with the above supposition. King Stephen, and Matilda his wife, and their boy Eustace, were present at the laying of the first stone, and each gave a benefaction. Henry II. gave the whole village of Stanton Harcourt; John St. John gave the site, a mill worth £4 annually, in Wulvercot; and the presentation to St. Giles' was in its hands. The Beckley lord, Bernard of St. Walery, forfeited his estates about 1171, and in order to make peace with the king, gave up the manor of Wulvercotte, and his rights over Godstowe; these the king, for love of Rosamund, gave to the nunnery. The burgesses of Oxford gave to them Portmanseyt, as Maud the empress witnesseth in her charter to the abbey. Such are only examples of the benefactions to this famous spot, now an abode for the fluttering bat and hooting owl.

HAMPTON GAY

Can be reached most easily by going to the Woodstock Road Station, Great Western Railway, and returning about one mile and a half through Shipton-on-Cherwell. If approached on foot, by the Banbury road, turning to the right at Thrup, about the sixth milestone from Oxford.

It lies on the Cherwell, and makes its first appearance in the Records of England anno 1279. We are told, in the *Hundred Rolls* of that year, that the Abbat of Oseney had in this village, and in Otteleya, land paying half a knight's fee, and did service at the court of Oseney for it: *i.e.* at Richard Duke of Cornwall's court-house at or near Rewley. All the tenants went *once* a year to Erdington to the inspection of frank-pledges, and pay 2s.; whereas they were once accustomed to pay 1s. *twice* in the year. The Abbess of Godestow held 60 acres of the Abbat of Oseney. The Templars of Covele held 30 acres in free alms. There were five free tenants, holding from 15 acres to 30 acres. Two villeins bound to work and to harvest, and bring their sons at the will of their lord. Three of the free tenants had to appear at Oseney.

The affix Gay is a corruption of Gait, the pronunciation being no doubt the same. A Sir Robert Gait was patron of the living in 1140, and presented it to Oseney; the deed of gift being witnessed by Henry de Oily, and Robert his brother. Two years previous to this, the same Sir Robert had obtained leave of the Abbat of Waverlie to build an abbey at Ottendun, which he endowed. For the fate of this house, see Oddington.

In the last century the church was rebuilt, in the worst style of that debased age, having a little low tower; but in 1859 the whole building was altered into an Early English structure, in style that is, and for this cause is worth noticing, as it so well illustrates what can be done with such unsightly productions.

The living is a perpetual curacy, now in the gift of Wadham College, who have purchased the manorial estates. Near the church is a fine Elizabethan house with two gables and a porch front. The chimneypieces are elaborate and in good condition, but most of the rooms have suffered from neglect. It was, or is, only partially occupied.

The Viscount Valentia is a landowner here. The extent of the parish is put down as 725 acres, and the population, in 1871, 40, a decrease of 6 in the ten years.

HAMPTON POYLE

Is much nearer to Islip Station (North-western Railway), about one mile to the north-west. If by foot, it can be reached by turning off just beyond Watereaton and the fourth mile stone, to the right-hand, passing Gosford.

It has its church dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and within it are two tombs, that, together with the east window, will repay anyone for a visit. The church is oblong, with north and south aisles, into which two arches alone open. The pillars on the north are eight-sided—and the caps, four men's bodies down to the armpits, severe looking, and with little round caps and wimples or chincloths—none of that comical suffering under the weight of the walls, which may sometimes be noticed in this style of capital; those on the south are very good Decorated examples. There is a peculiar little piscina here, formed like a basin, held up by a hand. The font is round and capacious, perhaps from an earlier building. There is much good Perpendicular work in the roof. Perhaps by this time the old open seats are restored, and the carving on them, somewhat after the Kidlington examples, once more visible. The east window of the chancel is of that style, aptly named Geometrical—every curve being able to be struck by a pair of compasses. Merton College Chapel is a well-known example of the style; the new church in Cowley St. John is a nineteenth-century treatment of the same. Kidlington is an advance upon it, somewhat freer and far more pleasing. The two fine monumental effigies in the south aisle are thus described, in 1806, in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, being a proposal for a history of Oxford, alas! not yet written, nor much nearer accomplishment than heretofore.

"An effigy of a knight on a marble slab, six feet in length, mail armour, close, round helmet, head rests on lozenge-shaped pillow, and under it a cushion, supported by angels now mutilated. His surcoat is gathered round his waist by a belt. His sword is on his left side, the hilt neatly ornamented; a short, pointed shield, rather convex, suspended by a baldric from his right shoulder, covers his left arm. Below his knees are bands, as if to divide the cuisses from the greaves. The legs are crossed. The spurs, large rowells; at his feet a lion couchant." By his side, but once situated elsewhere, on another slab, "a lady habited in close coiffure, showing very little hair, and that in puffs about her ears; a wimple or neckerchief up to her mouth; gown close

about her arms and waist, falls thence in elegant folds. Over all a loose mantle reaching to her feet, and gathered upon her right arm; her hands, like those of the knight, clasped in prayer; the hands come out so as to leave her mantle almost close in front; beneath her head a lozenge-shaped cushion; at her feet a dog, collared." The knight is probably Walter de la Poyle, in the time of Edward I.; the lady's dress is fifteenth century, probably Catherine, relict of Edmund Rede, who died in 1489—lady of the manor, and a benefactress to the church. Anthony Wood speaks of a brass—picture of a man without inscription; but of this there was no remnant in 1806. Nearly opposite the south door are brasses to John Poyle, and his wife, about 1424; two shields from above them have gone. Wood has preserved nearly all the bearings. Below the figures is the inscription—"Here lie John Poyle, Knight, who died the last day of October, A.D. 1424, and Elizabeth his wife, on whose souls the Lord have mercy. Amen."

This place is styled Hantone in *Doomsday*, and it gave name to a family who held the manor for four centuries. It is thus described under the title of "Land of Richard and other servants of the king:"

"Gernio holds of the king 1200 acres in Hantone. Five thegns held it for five manors. Land of six plows, in domain three plows. Two slaves and seven villeins with three cottars hold land of 3 plows. There is a mill worth fifteen shillings, 60 acres mead. Wood half a league long, sixteen furlongs broad. Was worth £6, now £10." The mill was destroyed by fire about 1771.

The manor passed from the Hantones in 1267: when Stephen de Hantone's daughter and heiress married Walter de la Poyle in 1446, Catharine Rede was lady of the manor. It appears to have belonged after that to the Hungerford, Bury, and Croke families; but another authority says the manor belonged to the Wests, then to Sir Thomas Seabright; and in 1715 to Lord Anglesea. Queen's College has presented to the living since 1692. Among the lists of vicars is one in 1306, Thomas de la Poyle, presented by his mother, and styled acolyte—an office he had perhaps filled earlier in his life, though gifts of livings to juniors and non-clerics sometimes occur. The Abbat of Oseney possessed a small share of the parish in 1336, which has passed to Merton College. It was valued then at £1 0s. 8d. The rectory is now worth £250, and has some glebe and a house. Viscount Valentia and Tyrrel Knapp, Esq., are the chief landowners. The area of the parish is estimated at 830 acres, and the population in 1881 was 105.

HANDBOROUGH, CHURCH—

Is rather more than eight miles by road, but rather less by rail on the Oxford and Wolverhampton line. It lies south-west of the station quite a mile. From a hill in Bladon the three spires of our district can be seen—Church Handborough, Cassington, and Kidlington. For height the last-named bears the

palm, but Cassington is more cleverly united to the tower. Oxfordshire is said to have the best designed spire in England, the one at Bloxham, after studying which every one in Oxford and the neighbourhood appears, in one way or another, not to give satisfaction.

The manor of 'Haneberge' is given in *Doomsday* as part of the possession of Gislebert de Gand, or, as we may render his name, Gilbert of Ghent.

In 1147 the living and church were given to the Abbey of Reading by Simon of Sen Liz, Earl of Northampton. Kennett gives us the charter, from which it appears that Simon had received "the church of Hanebergha, its lands, its tithes, and all belonging to it, of Henry the King during his life." A patent of 1312 shows that a house and 120 acres of land here were held on the service of keeping the gate of the manor-house of Woodstock for forty days in the year during time of war. It seems to have been formerly a part of the honour of Woodstock, as of late years it has been included in the borough, and when the estate was made over to the Duke of Marlborough, and an enumeration made of all parts of the honour, we find that in Handborough horses were not heriotable. The value of the customs was estimated at £4 2s. per annum, and, like other villages in the honour, it had commuted the service of haymaking into a payment of 6s. 8d.

In 1334 the farmer of the king's manors of Wodestok and Hanebrugh was served with a notice to pay 53s. yearly to a chaplain celebrating divine offices every day within the manor of Wodestok, for which payment to Roger, the chaplain, he is to be reimbursed from the Exchequer.

In 1400 Geoffry Chaucer, the poet, died, and his son Thomas became a wealthy landowner. Leland says, "He was a marchant man, and had about £1,000 by the yere," and for some particular service done to the Queen-consort she granted him the 'farm' of the manors of Woodstock, Hanbrugh, Wotton, and Stonfield for her life. This was supplemented next month, March, 1411, by the king's granting them to him for his life. The queens may have been always ladies of the manor here; we find Margaret, the queen of Edward II., called so in 1316. These four manors were granted in 1436 to Humphrey of Lancaster, Duke of Gloucester, the Protector of England in Henry VI.'s minority. This is the Humphrey who founded our Bodleian library, and who figures in Shakespere's *Henry VI.*, part 2, as saying—

> "Brave peers of England, pillars of the state,
> To you Duke Humphrey must unload his grief;
> Your grief, the common grief of all the land."

The epithet 'good' has been given by the English to him, and to Elizabeth the white rose of York; the duke lies in a beautiful stone-fenced tomb at St. Alban's.

In 1459 the same manors were granted by letters patent to George Nevil, the future Archbishop of York, a Balliol man, Prebendary of Lincoln first, then made Bishop of Exeter in his twentieth year, and Lord Chancellor at twenty-

five. "His translation to York was celebrated by prodigious feasting," says Fuller; "but falling some years after into the displeasure of the king, Edward IV., he was slenderly dieted, not to say famished, in the castle of Calais." He was afterwards restored, but died *broken-hearted* at *Blyth* in 1476. The Duke of Marlborough still holds the manor, but the advowson belongs to St. John's College.

The **Church**, with a spire 132 feet high, its long aisles and chapels, is an important edifice. There are two Norman doors and some early-looking Norman windows, a very good north porch, a nave mainly Perpendicular, and a clerestory quite late in the style. The chancel arch is Early English, and has under it a screen, moderately perfect, of about 1460, to which period the pulpit and font belong. The tower arch is Early English.

A brass to Alexander Belsire (date 1567) had, according to Wood, an inscription in Latin, with this free rendering, also in English—

> "That thou art now, the same was I;
> And thou likewise shall suer dye:
> Live so, that when thou hence dost wend,
> Thou mayst have blysse that hath no end."

Some very loyal rector painted on the south wall of the chancel here a long inscription in the year of Charles' beheading:

"Sacred to the memory of the most holy king and martyr Charles. Stop, traveller. Lament. Be silent. Be astonished. Remember that Charles, first equally by name and for piety, king of Great Britain, who at first deceived by the perfidy of rebels, then stricken by their madness, still the unwavering defender of faith and our laws, yielded to the tyranny of Schismatics in the year of human salvation 1648, the first year of our slavery and of his happiness; robbed of a terrestrial crown, presented with a heavenly one. Let tablets that shall perish be silent too. Read through Charles' works—truly holy ones—in which so vividly he paints his memory more lasting than bronze. . . . The royal likeness." (Εικων βασιλικη.)

Long Handborough is a village reckoned with this, the combined measurement 2390 acres, and population 968 in 1881.

HEADINGTON,

Distant about two miles from Oxford, was a royal vill, scarcely a palace, at least as early as the time of Ethelred, *circa* 1009. To say that his children were educated here, and that it was his favourite abode, is more than is warranted by history. Court Close is still the name of a part of the village. The road south of the church abuts at its west end upon it; and the same road, as it leads round the corner northward, toward Marston, forms its boundary for some distance. In Court Close Saxon coins have been found at the bottom of a well; foundations are visible, but they have been disturbed very much in the last 300 years.

The account of the place in *Doomsday* gives a very small extent of land indeed, if Marston, The Wick, Barton, and Westend are included: it stands thus:

"The king holds Hedintone. There are ten hides [query twenty]. Now in the domain land for six ploughs [720 acres], twenty villeins, and twenty-four cottars, have 1680 acres [or fourteen plows]. There are two mills of 50s. [annual rent together], five fisheries of 20s. From meadows and pastures, £4. From first-fruits of the year, £8. From certain customs, £7 2s. 7d. The soc [jurisdiction] of two hundreds belongs to this manor. Richard de Curci keeps that of sixteen hides [in them] for himself. In the meanwhile the total returns are £60 by number [of the coins, and not by weighing the pounds of silver]. The two hundreds are those of Bullingdon and the one outside the north gate of Oxford." We see from this that the court fees in the two hundreds brought into the king's treasury above £37. We gather from an inquisition at Oxford (Easter, 1305) that the manor and jurisdiction over the two hundreds had been given to Thomas Basset and his heirs for ever for good services in war, by Henry II., but that he paid a rent of £20 in silver. Basset's family became extinct in the male line, and Hugh de Plessets came into possession by marrying a daughter. Hugh exchanged part of it with the king for Compton, so that it was again in royal hands. Again it was given, for eminent service in war, to Sir John Chandos by Edward III. in 1350. The rest was made over by the de Plessets in consideration of £200; but Sir John, neglecting to pay all the dues belonging to the estate, forfeited it, so that a third time it becomes a royal domain.

In 1399 it was let to William Willicotes by Richard II.; his family resigned it when the king pardoned Chandos's widow in 1415. Since that it has passed through the hands of the De la Poles, and the owners of Boarstall, Oxon.

The history of the living of Headington is not so clear; but it is manifest from old charters that there was a chaplaincy to the court here given to St. Frideswide's in 1132. This was converted into a vicarage (*circa* 1300) with rights of all offerings at the altar, the small tithes of all the parish except the tithes of lambs and of cheese which belonged to the lord's court, which items the Prior and Canons of Oseney reserved for themselves. The vicar was to have the house and 'curia' (court?) in which the chaplain used to reside. The vicarage was worth £3 6s. 8d. and more, and the whole church £13 6s. 8d.

From the style of the church we may say that it had been in existence before this, unless we hazard the conjecture that the Norman portions were transferred from the Court Close. We have the value of the living given at later dates (1291, 1341), and find that though given to Cardinal's College and to King's College in 1525, it was lost to that body under its later name of Christ Church, being, like others in the neighbourhood, "begged or purchased by hungry courtiers and others," as Anthony Wood remarks.

A third part of Headington parish requires a short reference. As Heading-

ton was the seat of authority in the neighbourhood, the supervision of the forest of Shotover and Stowood belonging to it, was endowed with a hide of land here as early as 1218. Sir John Handlo, of Borstale, acquired and entered on this estate, and the bailiwick of the forest, without the king's licence, and had to pay for a royal pardon in 1308; and Edmund De la Pole in 1418 increased this estate by marriage to three hides.

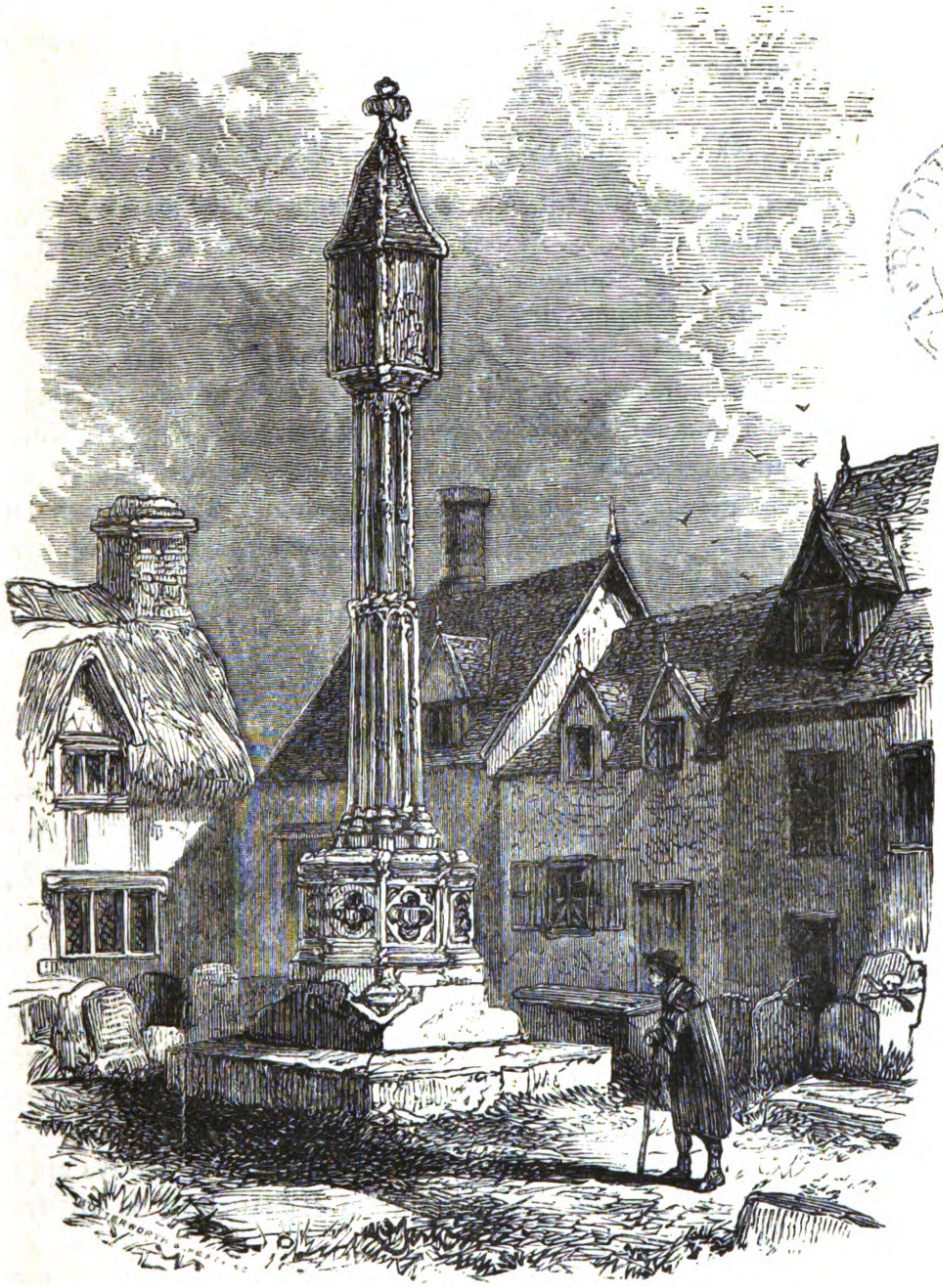
Regarding the two **mills**—the one probably at Bayswater, which was then a piece of common land, and the other called the old mill, at the end of the new walk called Mesopotamia—we have little information; but as early as 1218 the sheriff of the county acknowledged to the Exchequer 50s. for the king's milne in Headington received from Petronilla Fleccan; but as both the mills seem described in 1279 as on the Charewelle, and meadows are named as beyond the same river, the mill called King's may be that near Magdalen College; it was, moreover, held by the hospital of St. John, now Magdalen, in 1267. In the same year a half-hide is described as that which is called Derhyde, perhaps indicating a royal park in Headington. The peculiar **customs** of the village were, that every wagon and horse-load passing through the court gate at Hedindon should pay toll—twopence for the cart, and one penny for the horse-load. These amounts would be equal to nearly four shillings and two—a heavy penalty to pay for toiling up the muddy rough road from Marston—and that the bailiff of Shotover had to collect the hens at Christmas, the eggs at Easter, and furnish a pack of dogs whenever the king hunted here, as payment for right of pasturage. This bailiwick was then of some extent, reaching from the small bridge (Magdalen) at Oxford to the boundary-line separating the two counties of Oxon and Bucks. A chain of parks and woods can still be traced over the same locality, on the ordnance maps, and here and there along it, exist old oaks that were goodly trees when Philip Muneton or Munecan was the sturdy warder of the forest under King Henry III.

The **Church** is a good-looking building, but greatly extended and changed since the notes from which the writer is extracting were penned. The north wall of the old chancel looked very Early Norman; the south aisle and arcade were Early English—two lancets, nearly touching, yielding a grand harvest of mural painting, on the jambs especially. The chancel arch is rather Late Norman, with dissimilar shafts, one patched, and relieved by an Early English arch. Two Perpendicular windows have been inserted in the south wall of chancel, in one of which is a good early piece of glass. The tower is Early English in its lower parts, and Perpendicular above; it has a bold staircase, which has a good effect. The rest of the church is all modern, but in good taste. The curfew bells, both here and at Woodstock—two former seats of royalty—still sound their warning every evening; but at Woodstock not in summer months. An account of the paintings on the south wall of the south aisle was published in the local papers at the time they were uncovered,

before the wall was partly rebuilt; but that account failed to indicate the purport of four of the pictures in the series. Through the kindness of an unknown lady, the writer is now able for the first time to fill up that gap. We will omit the giant Christopher, nearly twelve feet high, and two other smaller subjects; and then, with a tribute of admiration to the beautiful imitative hangings that filled the lower part of the wall, will confine ourselves to the pictures on the jambs or splays. These were twelve, but since four of them, near to the heads of the window, were one-third-length figures of St. Peter, St. Paul, a Queen, and a Bishop, we have but eight which deserve a more minute account. The first is a Nativity, the ox and ass behind a font-like manger, in which rests the holy babe. The Virgin reclines on one of those beds, whose head portions are fully three feet higher than the foot—the kind of bed in which we read of the gentleman of the fourteenth century secreting the whole of his larder and a barrel of beer. Joseph sits at the foot of the bed. The second represents the going down into Egypt, and is much of the usual type; but the man or lad behind the ass is using his whip. The third represents King Herod bidding two soldiers, of villainous visage, go kill the children. The fourth, a countryman sowing corn from a seed-leap. The fifth has two dead children in the foreground, a mother kneeling to the left, and Herod, facing her, regarding a child impaled on a spear by one of the villains. This probably is Herod's own child, accidentally slain, according to one account. The sixth represents Herod and villain number two talking to a reaper. The seventh, thanks to an intruding gallery beam, was nearly defaced, but seemed to be Christ's triumphal entry. The eighth is Herod with the two spearmen, and another to whom he resigns his sword.

The sowing and reaping scene are explainable from a German carol, which narrates that Herod, not content with giving his orders, resolved to hurry after the Holy Family himself, who on their weary way to Egypt had received great kindness from a tiller of the soil. To confirm this farmer's belief in the god-head of the divine Infant, Mary had told him that a strange miracle should happen, that the seed they saw him sowing that day should be fit for reaping on the morrow; and she bade him be careful how he replied to any questions the King of Judah should ask him next day. The corn ripened before the morn, and the farmer had scarce cut a sheaf or two when Herod the king, with an attendant, came to enquire if he had seen a fair-haired damsel with a lovely child and an ass led by an old man pass that way. "Yes," said he, "I think I remember some such people passing here." "When was that, my good man?" exclaimed Herod, already dreaming of vengeance against the holy babe. To him the farmer replied, "Well, I am a bit puzzled to remember; but it was the very day on which I finished sowing this plot of ground." Herod's hopes were dashed to the ground, thinking, as any one would, that months must have elapsed: he turned away, and believing himself on the wrong tack went in another direction, and so the lovely child was saved.

Such pictures, one would imagine, must have greatly confused a child's ideas of Bible history; and this, it should be added, is not a solitary instance of this mixture of legend and Bible story.



HEADINGTON CROSS.

There were several other nice pieces of polychrome, but a large Christ, enthroned with a curtain on either hand, defied all attempts at uncovering; it was painted over the chancel arch quite regardless of the relieving arch that was and is there. In speaking of this painting, one cannot forbear to remark

that the architectural portion of it deserves to be restored, it was so unique and chaste: bare walls are not so very inviting.

The area of the parish, including the Wick and Barford, is 2384 acres; its population, inclusive of an immense outgrowth called New Headington, was in 1881 1712 people. It was, moreover, held by the Hospital of St. John, now Magdalen, in 1267.

HEADINGTON QUARRY

Lies at the foot of Shotover Hill, and can be approached by either Cheney Lane or the Headington Road. It has lately (in 1850) been formed into a separate parish to include Shotover Hill Place. The church is a chaste and pretty one of the Elsfield type, with bell turret and one bell. It is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and has a chancel, a nave, south aisle, and porch. The living is a vicarage worth £120 per annum, in the gift of the Bishop of Oxford. There is also a national school in the village. W. Peppercorn, Esq., is the principal landowner. The quarries about here are most interesting, and selenite lumps can generally be obtained of the men. The clay pits nearer the hill have supplied one or two pieces of Roman pottery, from the road which passes by there from Baldon to Beckley. The population of the Quarry in 1881 was 1172, and that of its adjunct, Shotover, in 1871 was 71; the total area about 957 acres.

HENSINGTON.

OLD Woodstock lay more to the North than the present town; so that Hensington, a genuine township, or chapelry, was once at a moderate distance. The growth of New Woodstock has almost made the two places join. Hensington is really the south-west continuation of the town.

We have nothing earlier than a charter (which, from the witnesses, must be between 1138–1144), stating that Turgisius de Arbince, constable to the king, gave to the Templars waste of land worth £10 in Hensintone, the which King Stephen gave to him, as also 40s. worth of land from his manor. Stephen the king confirmed this. In 1291 Richard de Hensington gave certain lands here to the Templars, and describes one piece as being "before the door of the chapel;" and a sidesman for Hensington is always appointed by the Easter vestries, besides which the term "chapelry" is of frequent recurrence in legal documents.

The *Hundred Rolls* of 1279 say that the king holds 120 acres there, formerly Roger Scorgeboeuf's, whose heirs occupy it, and receive timber for one wagon for the said land. The Templars hold ten hides and a half and five acres (1265 acres in all), given them by Ede of Tolence, and confirmed to them by Stephen the king. There seem to have been fourteen tenants holding forty-five acres to three acres, at rents of 5s. 6d. to 2s. 6d., and ten more of

another holding; their rents ninety acres, of whom one Thomas Kynne pays "one pair of spurs; *i.e.* 3d;" and lastly, twelve more of the estate of the Abbat of Oseney. All of the tenants to give to Thomas of Langeleye, the chief forester of Wichewod, 2s., for which they will have free way to the forest to collect sticks or spars for their vehicles, and old wood, without hindrance.

Robert D'Oyley the elder gave two parts of the tithes of 120 acres in Hensington to his church of St. George in Oxford Castle. This was about 1071; but about 1150 this and other gifts were transferred by his nephew Robert the younger to Oseney Abbey. To save the annoyance of collecting this, the rector of Bladon, on behalf of the township, agreed to give Oseney 5s. of good and lawful English money every year, and retain the tithe himself. Mr. Marshall, in his *Woodstock*, from which many of the above notices are taken, has given us, from the chartulary of Oseney Abbey, all those which relate to Hensington; and added to them is a memorandum, that they were not to make suit to the hundred of Wooton regarding their liberties here.

Hensyngton, when valued at the dissolution of Oseney, was reckoned at 15s. 10d. In 1541 Sir Robert Tyrwhitt and another (Kiddall) purchased the manor with others; and in 1546 Leonard Chamberlain purchased the rents and services of customary tenants and customary lands, valued at 16s. 8d., with other property. There still remained some fee farm rent, which, by an act of 1650, was to be sold, and that was valued at 1s. 8d.

The population is included in Woodstock.

HINCKSEY, NORTH.

As soon as the houses and church at Oseney are passed there is a field road to the right. This road has lately been extended across two or three streams into North Hincksey. It is very rough at present, with no footpath by its sides; but the old footpath to the ferry is a trifle farther down the meadows. Should the boat be on the farther side a bell is provided to call over the ferryman or ferry-lass; the handle to pull it is by a post to the right hand. Up through the garden brings us out almost facing the church, which is dedicated to St. Lawrence. On entering the **Churchyard** the remains of a good Early Decorated village cross will be seen, the upper part as usual deficient. There is a cross of very good character on the east nave wall, nearly perfect. Three things deserve notice on the south side—the very small Romanesque 'low window' below the south-west one of the chancel. Between this window and the porch an early Norman capital pretty high in the wall, yet not too high to have been undisturbed. Next, the very exquisite Norman doorway through the porch, with the shafts at its side still bearing traces of the red paint originally used to colour them. There are here, as at Cowley, evidences of the plentiful use of this 'washing' on the outside rough-cast. The tower is Late Decorated

with Perpendicular insertions; on the north side traces of a door and a projection clearly intended to carry the stairs to the rood loft. The wall of the nave parting it from the chancel was pierced about twenty years ago with a triple arch, a not uncommon feature in Sussex; but the ornamentation is of doubtful accuracy in style. There is in the church a monument often commented on, to William Finmore, a fellow of St. John's College, 1646. It begins, "Reader, look to thy feet; honest and loyal men are sleeping under them. . . ." Most incorrectly given in Ashmole, it is said.

On the walls are Scripture texts within imitation gold-beaded ovals, not very ornamental; but they should be noted as the kind of thing that Addison represents Roger de Coverley painting up in his church.

In some old maps of Berkshire, Ferry Hincksey has been wrongly engraved as Ivy Hinksey; this name never occurs in books or records. There are one or two interesting houses of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in the village, and on the hollow road from here to Botley, the base of a cross is to be noted, for two cottages contiguous to it have within them very good architectural remains—one a mantlepiece of Edward VI. time; the other in a bedroom, a beautiful ceiling of Henry VII. time probably. There are pretty bits of sketching down by the water—lovely rural bits, as artists well know. Where North Hincksey ends, where a few cottages are placed on a green, and where the pathway across the fields toward South Hincksey commences, a second path up hill quite to the right conducts to the water-tank which Otho Nicholson erected to supply the carfax (cross or) conduit with water. (See Nuneham.) It is a well-constructed edifice, about 18 feet square, with two good buttresses on the sides, no doubt to support the groining of a stone roof. There is an Elizabethan coat of arms over the door; but the building is locked, and the writer has found ere now that he was kept outside 'by the blacksmith's daughter,' as a young rogue of a shepherd boy remarked. The Hinckseys were enclosed in 1776. The Earl of Abingdon and Col. Harcourt are alternate patrons of the benefice. The latter has made a splendid road, and planned out a building site of great beauty among the hills at the back of North Hincksey Church. The population of North Hincksey and Botley in 1881 was 527, of South Hincksey 1325.

The area of the former 900 acres, of the latter 550 acres.

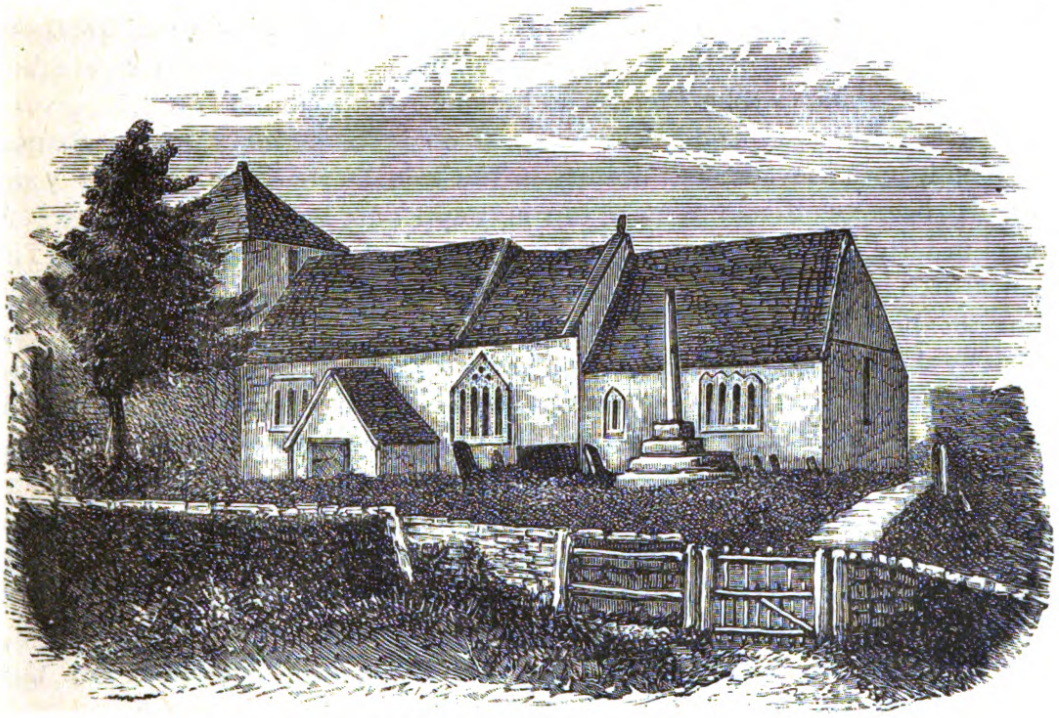
HINCKSEY, SOUTH.

THE pedestrian will be able to reach this second part of the village by following the path which leads diagonally from what may be termed Hincksey Green, to which allusion was made in the north portion. If at a fitting time of the year the hill-road to a beautifully situated farm called Hincksey Hill may be found, and the hill climbed, as it affords very good views of Oxford; if the foreground of the gas-works and neighbourhood is concealed the view is

much more inviting. Continuing the pathway over stiles of outrageous height and rubble paths of extreme roughness, an orchard occurs on a bank to the left. The pathway a few yards nearer, to the left, is not worth investigating; but the road to the right just before entering the village leads across the hills to Cholswell farm—

> "Where there be much to hear, but little to see,
> A rigmarole, long drawne historee,
> A chapiter quaint it wel may bee
> From some old, torne apocryfee."

This, like the other Hincksey, was with other places the gift of Ceadwalla to the abbey at Abendun, and confirmed by Coenwulf in 821. This charter was given at the royal town of Suthtun, as likely to be Southampton as Sutton



NORTH SOUTH HINCKSEY CHURCH.

Courtenay, Berks; there is 'nothing to militate against its acceptance' as a genuine document. A third one is so peculiar in its opening that we will quote it:

"The Lord Jesus Christ reigning for ever. To all who meditate thoughtfully on the study of wisdom, it is known that dangers threaten and grow thick round perishing things, that human knowledge like dew fadeth and goeth into forgetfulness, unless it is notified by some sure reasoning, because 'the things are not eternal which we see here, but earthly,' as the apostle says, imbued with the voice of the thunderer. . . .

"I therefore, Aedwig, ruler and governor of the English, and of all the British land, to my abbat, to whom alone this charter is handed, even Aethel-

wold, and to that lowly band which dwells under his rule, grant for eternal possession freely a certain portion of land, by estimation 2,400 acres, which is called in three places—at Hengestesige, and at Seofecanwyrthe, and at Wihtham, anno 952." (?) An older spelling is Hengestes-sie, and the isle of Hengest is clearly its meaning, but what Hengest we have no means of guessing. These villages, with others, were part of the manor of Cumenor, and were made to show their dependence by periodical gifts to it, and by paying suit and service in Cumnor Court, just as Cumnor did, to the Abbat. A survival of this service no doubt existed till within our own times in the sixpence called 'smoke money' paid by the village to the vicar of Cumnor.

With Cumnor it fell into the hand of the spoiler, and was handed over, not to church or scholastic purposes, but to Messrs. Owen and Bridges, whom we find conveying them, in 1547, to Sir John Williams and Sir John Gresham. It is now in the hands of the Earl of Abingdon. South Hincksey can reckon among its inhabitants John Piers, who became Archbishop of York.

The **Church** is a perpendicular erection of very good masonry, but the chancel was rebuilt in the seventeenth century in the true Doric style. Of late years there has been an attempt to make this ugly appendix look a little more ecclesiastical in taste, but large patterns and not very good contrast have failed. The chancel arch is perhaps the smallest that the neighbourhood of Oxford can show, being not above 6 ft. 5 in. in width, and low as well. Nearly opposite the entrance, which by the way has lately had a good porch added to it, is a memorial window, not strictly Gothic in style or execution, but so good in some portions that it makes the observer think whether we are not sometimes too archaic and too much inclined to follow old methods of glass treatment. There are many church windows on strict ecclesiastic lines which are far inferior to this specimen at South Hinksey. The few sixteenth-century houses of the village supply little for the student of architecture. A pathway along a raised causeway south of the village, straight towards the chimney of the waterworks, and across the reservoir, brings us into New Hinksey, a growing neighbourhood, and thus into the Abingdon Road over Folly Bridge.

The population in 1881 was put down as 1325.

HOLTON

Is best reached by the pedestrian, by following the Headington Hill Road round the entire curve at the back of Shotover Hill for six miles, and when the road is arrived at which surrounds the park, turning up to the left, the few houses that constitute the village lying at the extreme angle of the park. By train to Wheatley, and working round to the east side of the same enclosure, will also bring the visitor to the village.

The first syllable of this name is an instance of that tendency in the English to confuse *o* and *a*. There is very little doubt that the Elton of *Doomsday* was

the Norman way of spelling Alton, and later methods, Halweton, Halghton, and Halton, seem rather to point to the Saxon halig, meaning holy, which we retain in the words hallowed and halidom. That it was populated in British times is very evident from remains which have been dug up. Fortunately the owner of Holton Park sees to the preservation of every scrap of information, and every relic dug from the estate: he has a unique Phœnician bead from the neck of some British lord or lady, a little museum of Roman coins picked up mainly in a field of his called the 'Racks,' on the Oxford side of the park, and in the same field from a quarry there have been dug up the bones of a giant race of Saxons, one especial example being seven feet four inches in height, and the average being beyond those found at Fairford.

The account of the manor in *Doomsday* is this: "Hundred of Peritune—Godefrid holds of the King, Elton; there are 600 acres, land for 7 plows; now in the domain, for 2 plows, and four tenants on service, and ten villeins with 3 cottars have land for 4 plows. There are fifteen acres of meadow and twelve acres of pasture, a wood two furlongs, and one furlong and a half wide. It was and is worth £4." This is the only place we shall have to mention in Pirton hundred, and it is therefore worth stopping to say that it, with Binfield, Langtree, Lewknor, and half of Ewelme, were marked off in early times as a stewardship called that of Chiltern. Through Richard of Cornwall being allowed so much authority in those regions in the time of Henry III., the stewardship of these 4½ hundreds became joined to, and finally merged in, that of the Warder of Walingford. The legal description was correctly maintained till 1448; for then William, Marquess of Suffolk, was appointed constable of Wallingford, steward of the Honours of Wallingford and St. Walery, and also of the four and a half hundreds of Chilterne. Edward, Earl of Cornwall, held the manor in 1279, supposing, that is, there is no error about Halweton being the same place as Haltone; it passed in 1319 from him to Roger d'Amory under the name Halghton; male issue ceased in this family 1337, and Lord Bardolph obtained it by marriage. Thomas Lord Bardolph was attainted in the time of Henry IV., and the king gave the estates to his brother, Thomas Beaufort, but on the representatives of the Bardolph family petitioning the king, the estate was divided for a short time. It came afterwards to the Baldingtons; again male issue ceased, and the heiress married a Brome. This happened again when the heiress of the Brome family married Sir Thomas Whorwood. It was sold by that family in 1801 with the estate and advowson to the Biscoe family, in which name they still remain. A rector of this church was appointed in 1323, because the late one had joined the Order of Minors. The Quatermayne family had the presentation in 1479, and the Fowlers presented in 1494 and 1508; the spelling Halghton died out about 1400. The present vicar is the sole surviving branch of the Tyndales, the reformer's family.

The **Church** is a very pleasing little edifice, with everything in admirable order. It is now cruciform, and may have been so in Norman times. The

chancel arch has been virtually done away with; perhaps the Brome or Baldington family found it made the building too heavy-looking when they wished to put up a rood loft. In the north transept is a primitive-looking Norman window with a little thirteenth-century canopy painted on the glass, and the two south windows of the chancel have portions of the original grisaille remaining in their heads; very good examples, rather earlier than the neighbouring church of Stanton St. John. The impost of the north transept arch has small engaged shafts, matching in date with the north door, which is a pretty Transitional specimen. The dog-tooth ornament upon it has holes countersunk in each hollow, perhaps for effect, or more likely to give a relieving space for the chips as the carver operated upon it. The chancel roof has been opened, but the nave still remains ceiled; neither of the roofs is parallel, and the nave walls seem to have been chipped away to reduce the discrepancy between the widths at the two ends. In the Brome chapel or south transept are two very interesting brasses and a marble monument, which has been charmingly restored by the present owner of the park. There is an odd arrangement for gallery steps, by the tower, and the west door has been closed. The tower is Late Perpendicular, and the spouts for the rain-water are very good. Near the west end of the church is a fine specimen of the box tree, some thirty inches in circumference. There are several beautifully-grown trees all round the churchyard. The whole neighbourhood is wooded with splendid timber. Near the manor-house are elms of twenty-four feet circumference, and on the terrace stands a glorious specimen of an oak, whose hugh trunk, eight and twenty feet in girth, enwrapped with its ivy mantling, stands superior in the opinion of many, to any giant in the country. A careful estimate of the tree's age gives 820 years. It has witnessed the growth of the moated mansion, and saw it taken down in 1815. It has heard the masons toiling at the church, and caught on holy days the tinkling of the sanctus bell upon the roof, looked down on the pastimes of youth, the sports of soldiers and knights, the funerals, Catholic and Protestant, of former lords of Holton. To such a tree well did our present laureate speak when in his 'Talking Oak' he exclaims—

"But thou, while kingdoms overset
Or lapse from hand to hand,
Thy leaf shall never fail, nor yet
Thine acorn in the land.
May never saw dismember thee,
Nor wielded axe disjoint;
Thou art the fairest-spoken tree
From here to Lizard point.
Oh, rock upon thy towery top
"All throats that warble sweet!
All starry culmination drop
Balm-dews to bathe thy feet!
The fat earth feet thy branchy root
That under deeply strikes!
Nor ever lightning char thy grain
But, rolling as in sleep,
Low thunders bring the mellow rain,
That makes thee broad and deep."

The old mansion has been swept away, huge trees are rooted in the drawbridge path, the moat remains, the old, old spring still supplies the deep water, whereon the glorious lilies rock their perfumed chalices to sleep. Some small copper plates alone give us an idea of what it once was. They

generally give the front—the portion most patched by Perpendicular and Tudor hands.

Should there be time some stone pits near will repay a visit, and the return can be made over the height of Shotover, strangest of all geological freaks within our district.

The parish register of Holton has in it an entry often quoted, under WEDDINGES.

"Henry Ireton, Commissary General to Sir Thomas Fairfax, and Bridget, daughter to Oliver Cromwell, Lieut.-General of the horse to the said Sir Thomas Fairfax, were married by Mr. Dell, in the lady Whorwood her house, in Holton, June 15th, 1646."—*Alban Eales, Rector.*

The area of the parish is given as 1594 acres, and the population in 1881 was 224.

HORSEPATH.

THE roadway to Horsepath is that which turns off to the left at the Military College, and again to the right when just beyond their cricket-field; there is also a pathway, to be preferred in dusty weather, which commences near the south-east angle of the barrack enclosure branching off from a field road which leads to Open Brazenose. It is worth discovering, if the aim is to climb Horsepath Hill, an unusually large grass field on the Oxford side of the village, from which are some glorious prospects. There is an old timber-framed house and a sixteenth-century one in stone to be seen in the village, as also a beautiful spring, with a long inscription of thanks to the Creator of all things for this especial gift placed near it. The spring used to pass under the title of 'Mr. Talmage's Spring' some years ago; perhaps on enquiry and using that name villagers will still direct a traveller to it. The pleasant rusticity of the village, it is to be feared, has been destroyed by its enclosure.

The account of the *Doomsday* compilers is this: "Iselbert holds of Roger de Ivery [see Beckley] five and a half hides in Horspathan; there is [arable] land for five plows; now in the domain for two and a half plows; and two tenants by service, and seven villeins with six cottars have three plows. There are thirteen acres of meadow, a wood three furlongs long and two broad, was worth £4, now a hundred shillings." There is little doubt that in spelling the name the scribe used a 'd' for a 'th,' as in Eddida for Editha, and villages ending in 'wurd' for 'wurth' or 'worth.' If the same gentleman made no mistake about the last letter, we have handed down to us a false plural, 'pathan' for 'pathas,' like 'housen' for 'houses.' The change from hurst, a wood, to horse, is by no means uncommon, the most noted instance being Hurstmonceaux, called by the Sussex folk 'Horsemounces.'

We find that the earls of Cornwall, lords of the honour of St. Walery at Beckley, had a right of presentation to the living in 1229 and 1247. The parish is again described in the *Hundred Rolls* of about 1240 as having in it

seven and a half hides, of which the Templars at Coueley held five belonging to the estate of Richard of Cornwall, and in the honour of St. Walery. The priest is said to hold one hide and one virgate by gift of Richard Fitz John, and John of the treasury (some royal official) to hold one hide and a half; this discloses a discrepancy of thirty acres. Somewhere about the year 1270 one acre of Gersendun land is said to be within the field of Horsepath, called Drakehord Furlong. The Sandford *Lieger Book* tells us, without giving the extent, that Bernard Millet of this place gave all his lands to the Templars, saving only the church of Horsepath, "which belongs to the heirs of the Lord Thomas of St. Walery," and Richard Fitz John all his land as well. It has always been reported in Horsepath that there was an old Horsepath on the hill toward Wheatley, and the foundations of buildings were said to be visible around an ancient-looking barn. This tradition proves to be correct, and, what is more, the two sections of Churchorspath and Overhorspath existed at the same time. Edmund, earl of Cornwall, in 1279 held 240 acres in each, both let to the Templars' Order in England; the former for three pounds weight of silver and ten shillings, and attendance at Rewley court hall for three weeks at a similar interval; the latter for four pounds weight of silver and ten shillings with similar service, the land on the hill being more valuable. The same military order also had a wood outside the waste land, and beyond the supervision of the king, called Pirehale, by a charter from the king. This wood (Perill) was cleared about twelve years ago. This land and the wood went to Oseney before 1250, and the church, with its sixty acres endowment, to the hospital of St. John Baptist in Oxford, now represented by the low buildings of Magdalen College near the water, and near Magdalen Tower.

The **Church** is noticeable for having a peculiar and almost unique water stoup, or place for holy water, so like a small font that the villagers often call it one. It is on the west side of the door. Two corbels in the tower arch are said to commemorate a Thomas London and his wife, the donors of the tower, a benevolent bagpipe man; but this tradition scarcely accords with the fact of the same corbel figures occuring elsewhere—one not more remote than Wytham Church. In the chancel are remains of early thirteenth-century glass, a coarsely-executed St. Mary and St. John, as they are usually drawn in early crucifixions; the arms of Magdalen College are in a second window; and a third, in the nave, had a figure of a man holding a boar's head on the point of a spear. As this is the badge of Boarstall House, about two miles beyond Studley Priory, we may put aside all the queer country tales about it, and say that the window probably was a present from a member of that house. There is in the nave an incised slab of stone bearing a crozier, and surrounded with an inscription that defied reading for many years, but proved to be in English thus: "Here is placed an Abbat's dust, 'tis clearly that of John." It is in rhyming Latin, and much hacked

about; but what abbat of Oseney it represents cannot be said. The letters look as early as 1330. The south window of the transept or rather chantry chapel is very peculiar in its stonework, and the cross on the east end seems as if it had come from some village cross. During repairs to the porch here a coffin or cist of stone of a priest was accidentally broken in two; a small chalice and paten found with him were replaced. He seems to have been buried at the doorway in token of humility. Now and then a little trade is done by the villagers in Oxford ochre, once of much repute, and esteemed the best of all.

In 1830, when the rate of wages and the price of food were very much out of proportion, the agricultural labourers, headed by Jack Swing, resolved to put things right again, and their first objects of vengeance were machines (which, according to their logic, produced a sinful lowness of wage) and the users of them. In their visits of inspection they generally sent messages or letters ahead of them, telling an unfortunate farmer to provide on such or such a day food for so many men who would come to inspect the premises. Even such an outlying spot as Horspath did not escape them; but the method there adopted of concealing a thrashing machine, lately purchased, may interest us who live in times a little better. The farmer, who received such a missive as above referred to, got up about midnight and, by the help of relations and friends, moved the entire contents of one wing of a barn out into the stackyard, brought in the obnoxious machine, covered it up, and replaced the whole of the wheat or barley, and put things tidy, ready for their visitors' inspection, who perhaps, poor fellows, were more anxious to fill their empty stomachs than to do Jack Swing's unpleasant errand. The area of the parish is stated to be 1164 acres, and the population in 1881 was 324.

HORTON

Comprises a few cottages and a farmhouse or two on the south-east angle of Otmoor, and is by its position naturally grouped with Studley. It is a hamlet of Beckley, from which it is distant about two miles. The field-way across the Wick farm, Headington, already described under Beckley, or the road across Bayswater stream, will either of them conduct the traveller into the Woodperry road, and about three and a half miles from the mill the place will be found. The only precaution is not to take the *first* road that inclines to the right, but the second.

It appears once to have had a chapel, and a field is still named Chapel Close. The regulations drawn up by Sir George Croke in 1636 provided £20 a year for a clergyman, who should preach every Sunday, once at Studley or in the chapel at Horton.

In the *Hundred Rolls* of 1279, it is said that this hamlet is held under military service of the king *in capite*, that there are in it 1320 acres and eleven cottagers, and it is held by service to the earl (of Cornwall).

In Henry II.'s time Wacheline Hareng, who so held it, erected a chapel, which he gave to Ensham. The abbey there reserved a sum of rather more than 4s. per annum for endowing this chapel. It is not mentioned in any of the church valuations, and probably went to ruin in the fourteenth century. The inhabitants now go to the chapel attached to Studley House, about half a mile to the south.

There is a charity here, left by Margaret and Stephen Wheatland in 1764, for teaching ten children of Beckley and Horton.

The *Doomsday* account of Hortone gives Ada as tenant of three hides and a half a virgate (375 acres), "now worth 5s. There is land for five plows. Now in her domain for two plows. Six villeins and seven cottars have land for two plows and a half. There are two mills of 6s. 8d. [annual value] and 38 acres meadow. Was worth 40s., now 60s."

The present area of the hamlet is 1800 acres.

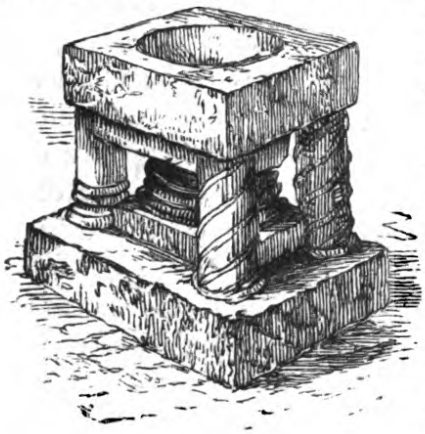
IFFLEY.

THIS village, distant two miles from Oxford, stands pre-eminent in our district for the multitude of ways in which it is spelt, no less than eighty-one. An analysis of these would be out of place, but they point to two grand changes or losses: first, of an initial consonant *g*, sometimes *y*, nearly its equivalent in Saxon speech, and at others a sound often printed as if *z*: secondly, to the loss of a *t* after the *f*, a sound lost to the word not before 1552. It may be that the very common pronunciation, as if it began with an *e*, is a survival of a sound, such as Eyfley of 1742 represents. As the disappearance of the first consonant of Giftelege, *the gift field*, is easily to be traced, the new theory connecting it with *efes*, a margin or edge, may be set aside as an unconsidered guess. The almost consistent presence of an *l* in the final syllable inclines one much more to the very common termination *ley*, meaning *district*, than to *ey* for *ige*, meaning *island*. The Rev. Edward Marshall's history of the village gives upon this and every other point all the information required. From his version of the Abingdon Chronicle we transcribe the first mention of the village. It refers to the large meadow opposite Iffley Mill, the most prolific perhaps in Fritillaries of any down by the water. "In the time of King Edmund there arose a quarrel between the abbot and monks of Abingdon on the one part, and the inhabitants of a village in Oxfordshire on the other, respecting a meadow called Beri, belonging, as the *Chronicle* asserts, of right to the church of Abingdon. To determine this the abbot and monks, after three days' fasting and prayer, sought divine help, and were moved, as was piously supposed, to adopt the following course in order to vindicate their right. Early in the morning they took a circular disc, on which they placed a handful of corn, and put on it a wax taper. The taper was lighted, and the whole set afloat on the river by the church; while a few of the brethren

followed in a boat. It went on before them and pointed out the lands of the abbey, going from one side of the river to the other, until it came to a stream near the meadow called Beri, at which the taper miraculously left the course of the Thames and made a circuit of the meadow between the Thamisia and Giftelisa, which meadow in the winter, and frequently in the summer, is surrounded by water like an island. Upon this the villagers, both the Oxfordshire and Berkshire ones, declared that the meadow belonged to Abingdon." *Doomsday* book speaks of Azor as holding the manor in the time of Edward the Confessor. Whether he died in battle or in his house, whether dispossessed or reduced to bondage, we know not. The item is this: "Earl Alberic held of the king Givetelei: there are four hides: land for six plows: five serfs and fourteen villeins with six cottars have for four plows: there is a fishery of four shillings: and twenty-four acres of meadow and one furlong of pasture, wood two furlongs long and broad: was worth one hundred shillings, now four pounds. Azor held it freely in the time of King Edward." It is said that Alberic held, not *holds;* for he seems to have been of retiring, unbusiness habits, and had turned monk previous to 1086. Two hundred years afterwards the Lady Juliana de St. Remigio was the owner, and she gave a small rent from Iffley Mill in 1279 to the Hospital of St. John, near the east gate of Oxford. The next owners were the Fitz Nigels, or Fitz Neels, of Boarstall, beyond Studley, who kept it nearly a century. A family (De Clintons) are connected with the parish, and had sundry disputes with the Fitz Neels, *circa* 1200. A deed which came into the possession of Magdalen with Waynflete's purchase of the Hospital of St. John names Reginald Basset as lord of Iftele. For this family see Headington. Male issue ceasing, the estate went to the Fitzgerald family, but returned to another branch of the Fitz Neels. In 1265 the owner of the property was killed at Evesham, and Walter de Merton received the estate for faithful services. The charter is dated October 26th that year, and specifies "all the lands and tenements which were of Robert Fitzneel, one of the enemies of, and rebels against us." Walter, who died Bishop of Rochester in 1277, left the property to a Robert Fitz Neel—growing crops, instruments, &c.—together with thirty marks to stock his lands.

The heiress of the Fitz Neels married a De Nowers, in whose hands the property remained till 1369, when part of it became royal property, part being sold to the De Coucys. It should be mentioned that the Lord De Coucy, Count of Soissons, was one of the hostages of King John of France for his ransom. In 1379 Richard was at war with the French, and consequently the estates were claimed by the king. They were entrusted among others to the Archbishop of York for the maintenance of the Princess Isabella, Countess of Bedford. On her death, in 1382, they naturally came into the king's hands again, and he granted them as dowry to his wife, Anne of Bohemia. She granted them to Sir Richard Abberbury, who had impoverished himself to aid

her when young. This chevalier was lord of Donington, near Wallingford, where he built a crenellated castle and founded a hospital, whose lands still form a portion of Cowley, Littlemore, and Iffley parishes. Omitting the further history of the manor, we turn to that of the **Church.** The De Clintons had founded the Priory of Kenilworth in 1122, and the grandson of the founder confirmed to it the church of Iffley and thirty acres in Cowley, which had previously been presented by Juliana de St. Remigio somewhere between 1175 and 1195. The building is evidently earlier than this, and Dr. Ingram supposes that it was the work of Cheney, Bishop of Lincoln, from 1147 to 1166, relying on the very vague and unauthenticated account of Warton in his *History of Kiddington.* There is a sagittarius on the south doorway, which marks it as being built in Stephen's time. About 1180 a dispute between Kenilworth and Oseney arose about the patronage, the Abbat of Oseney looking upon it as dependent on Cowley. The good Bishop Hugh, in 1195, settled the question for ever by making Kenilworth pay Oseney 13s. 4d. a year, and Oseney never again to move the question. Kenilworth appears to have presented vicars down to 1225, and since that date the archdeacons of Oxford. The Sandford *Lieger Book*, page 6, clearly refers to a chapel of the Templars in Iffley, date about 1230, hitherto unnoticed; and three acres of William de la Fennes paid rent 2s. 3d. a year for maintaining three lamps in Iffley Church by an old agreement. The church will amply repay a prolonged inspection, and lately a beautiful organ has been placed against the south wall—an embarrassing position, but well overcome. Dr. Warburton, about fifteen years since, had the rose window inserted in the west end, instead of a Perpendicular one that had been placed there. It was evident then that large tie beams of oak had been laid in the middle of the wall to avoid unequal settling or splitting of the fabric.



THE FONT.

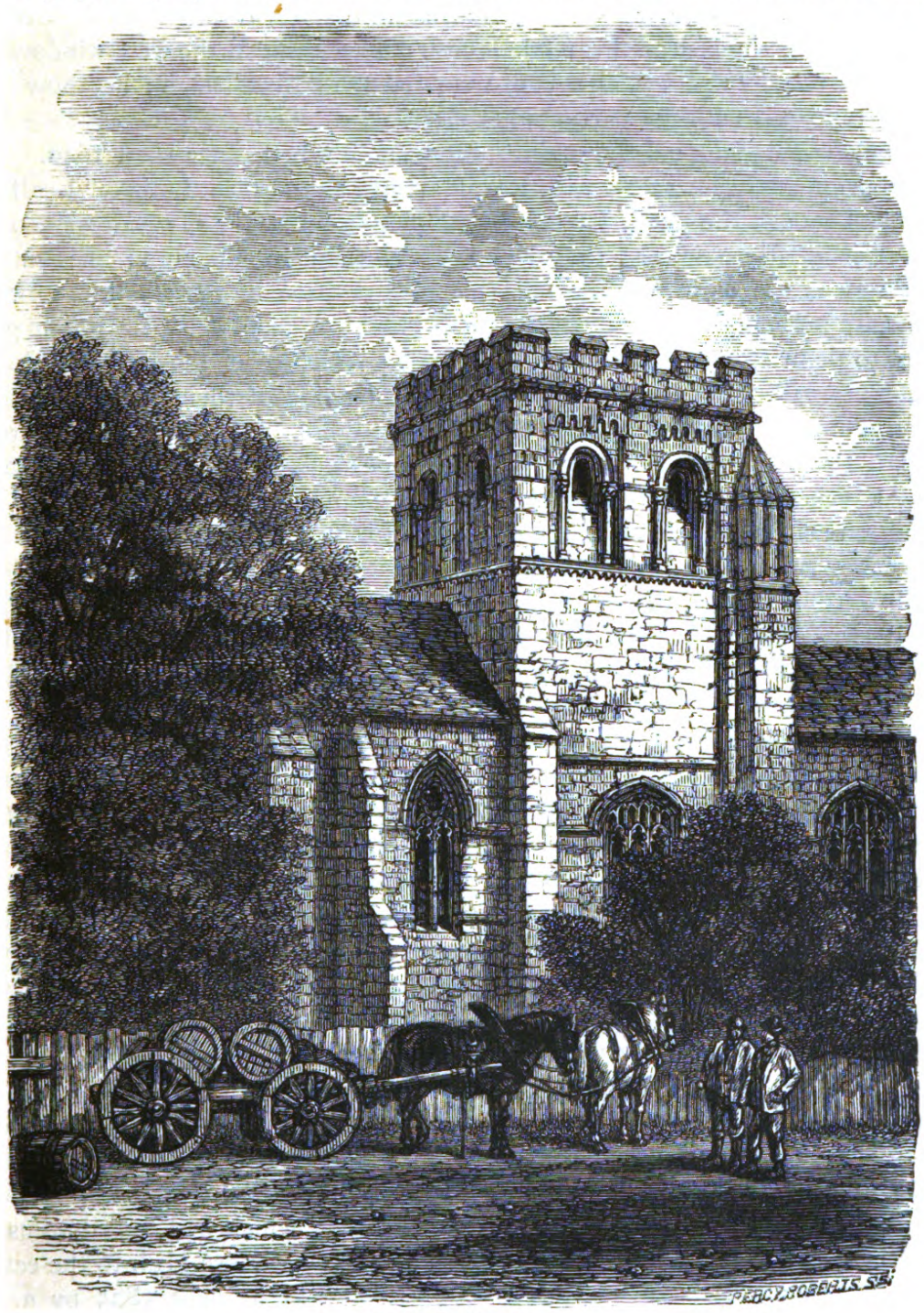
The font is a grand example of Late Norman work. The tower arches are more in the style of the Norman work of the South of France than any the writer has met with. Mr. J. Parker, whose judgment in such matters should be fully acknowledged, inclines to the theory of there being once an apsidal ending to the chancel. The variation in workmanship, &c., between its two compartments is very great. The rood-screen—a not very interesting Perpendicular specimen—has been taken away. It was not exactly one that would answer the description of Mr. Blind Ignorance in the dialogue—

"O hold thy peace che pray thee
The noise was passing trim
To heare the Friers zinging
As we did enter in.

"And then to zee the rood loft
Zo bravely set with Zaints,
And now to zee them wanting
My heart with zorrow faints."

ANON. (*circa* 1632.)

There have been four Perpendicular windows inserted in the tower and nave of very good proportions, and from one or two points of evidence we may



IFFLEY CHURCH.

conclude that they were the work of John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk (*circa* 1480), and Elizabeth of York, his wife. Their arms occur in the south-west

one—the lion rampant with forked tail, gold colour, belonging to that family. John's mother was granddaughter of Geoffrey Chaucer; his son Edmund was attainted, and his estates forfeited, and his third son was killed in the battle of Pavia (1525), the last of this noble house. There was in the west window the shield of the Fettiplaces, to whom we referred at Bessilsleigh; but how they were connected with the parish is not clear.

The characteristic old tower does not contain a bell older than 1642. Dr. Warburton had one recast with an old motto round it in Latin—"I call the living, I mourn the dead, I break the thunder's force." The staircase to the tower is of deep interest to students of Norman architecture; the outside stone steps are quite modern (1844). The position of the roodloft stairs is evident, both inside and outside; there is also a small window which gave light to them still to be traced. The bosses which carry the corbel-table are still uncarved, with the exception of an ox on one of them. On the south side are many beautiful tombs, a churchyard cross, or Palm (Sunday) cross, as Dr. Rock prefers calling it, with a new head designed by Street in 1857, and a venerable old yew, older than the church by estimation, as old by tradition; it served as a small workshop for the carver during one of the repairs.

Edward Thwaites, the Anglo-Saxon scholar, was buried in the chancel here in 1711; his contributions to the history of Saxon coins, &c., are valuable, and he gave a small crucifix, dug up in one of the gardens near the Cathedral, to the Bodleian.

The walls of the old church still bear much of the original rough outside coating—rough-cast, as masons term it. Just about the time Iffley Church was erected this fashion was in full force, and no building was complete till painted within with figures and ornament, and without a white or sober red. Picking out the joints and pointing them was not the fashion in the twelfth century. The variations in the shafts of the three windows at the west front should be noticed, and as the visitor leaves the churchyard with a heart thankful that the corrupt taste of the last two centuries has spared us such a valuable relic of Norman architecture, he should take note of an *archway*, not twenty yards from where he is treading, built up of beak-headed and zigzag voussoirs and similar remains; and to one piece of a shaft, though it may be a peculiar capital, he should devote especial attention, as it seems to be portion of a pillar enwrapped with foliage, indicating a still more ornamental treatment than any shaft now remaining in the church. These remains were mostly found in the churchyard, and there may still be portions which will reveal to us the truth about the vexed question of an apsidal ending. Rose Hill, to the east of the parish, takes its name from a house erected here about 1825 by a Mr. Ireland, a most successful medical practitioner, a self-styled M.D., the last gentleman in the neighbourhood to sport a pigtail and ruffles at his wrists. He did his utmost to have his newly-built or altered house so called, and the

term has been extended to all built on the same plateau as far as the King of Prussia, called more correctly by the villagers Proosia. The chief road to Church Cowley once traversed the turnpike-road at this spot, and passed across to the blacksmith's shop, and by two cottages visible in the direction of the Industrial School. Iffley boasts a splendid elm, under which stood the stocks; the most picturesque old Elm-tree tavern has given way to a more modern erection. The parish of Iffley in 1630 was noted for a quarrel regarding tithes of wool on sheep sold before they were shorn. In 1830–31 grand preparations were made to oppose the rioters under Swing—special constables were sworn in, staves provided, and the rectory-door pierced for firing; but the rioters did not appear. In 1644 there was a little skirmishing, 'singly' between Royalists and Roundheads. The area of the parish is 679 acres, and the population in 1881 was 493. The parish has undergone and will undergo great changes by a recent arrangement. (*The archway removed*, 1885.)

ISLIP

Has a station on the North-Western line, but if the road is preferred, it must be the Banbury one, as far as the fourth milestone, then a sharp turn to the left to Gosford, and a pathway across to Islip.

Some old forms of the name Gights-lepe, Ghistlepe, Gistlepe, Ighteslep, clearly point to the leap or waterfall of Ghight, but Ystelepe and Ietelepe (in the *Doomsday* book, not Letelepe) incline one to yst, gist, or jest and laeppa, portion, the 'east portion,' probably of the Woodstock or Whychwood district. Aethelred was much in the neighbourhood of Otmoor it seems, and his first wife, of whose name we are ignorant, is the predecessor of that Matilda whom Henry I. married to please the English; but his second wife, Emma of Normandy, was the mother of Edward the Confessor, who was born here. That such is the fact we glean from this original charter to Westminster Abbey: "Eadward, king, greets Ulsy, bishop, and Gurth, earl, and all my thegns in Oxfordshire friendlily; and I say to you that I have given to Christ and Saint Peter at Westminster that small village that I was born in, by name Githslepe, and . . . free from payment and free from rent, with all the things that thereto appertain, &c." Islip was therefore a royal vill, like Sutton, Beckley, and Headington, scarcely to be designated palaces, as they formed the temporary abodes of the English kings before the Conquest, or even later, to which the produce of the kings' neighbouring domains was brought, and at which they remained till the supplies were consumed. The rent-in-kind could not by reason of bad roads and such difficulties be carried far away to larger abodes of the sovereign, and therefore he came to receive them at convenient *vills* in the different neighbourhoods.

This quasi palace at Islip stood on the site of a small inn near the centre of the village, and till 1800 traces of primitive walls six feet thick were seen

there. It was the court-house till 1320, when Abbot Curtlington moved it to his manor-house. A small building, called the Royal Chapel, stood in the yard of that inn till 1720, converted into a barn. To look at Hearne's drawing of it, one would say it was Early English in style, with buttresses like the chancel of Cowley, but somewhat taller. A font, out of this, figures in many local references as the identical one in which the Confessor was baptized, and we are told how it was taken out of the building, and placed in the inn, where, after being desecrated many years, it suddenly asserted its sanctity by spoiling the turkey-meat deposited within it. Speaking from a careful drawing of it, one would say that its form and dimensions cannot be of Saxon date, while the panelling on it, seemingly original, is quite Late Decorated. Some possessor had been so impressed with the tales about it that he caused to be engraved on its stem—

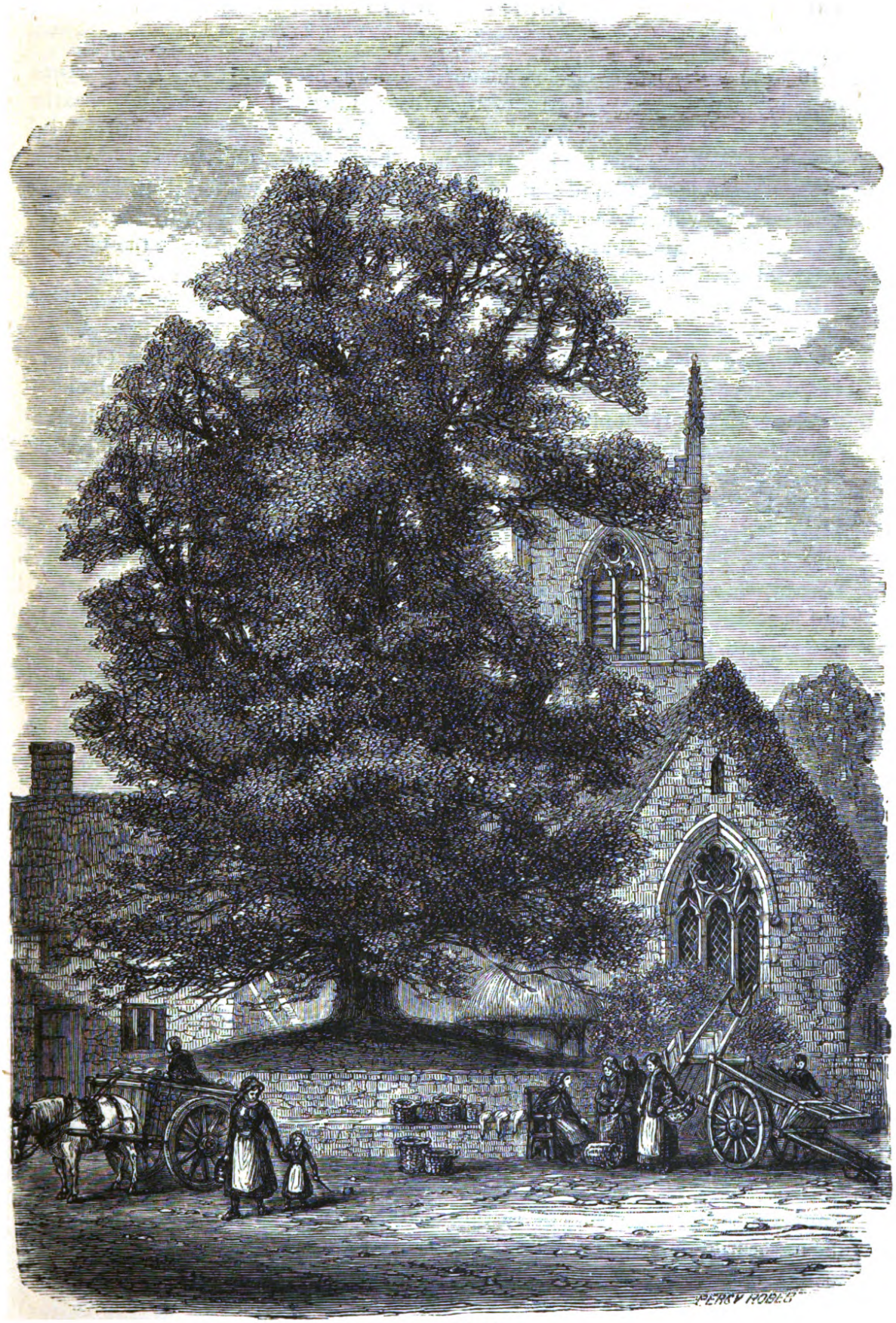
> "This sacred Font Saint Edward first receaved
> From womb to grace; from grace to glory went
> His virtuous life. To this fayre isle bequethd
> Prase . . . and to us but lent.
> Let this remaine, the trophies of his fame,
> A king baptizd, from hence a Saint became."

After many journeys the font has been restored to its proper use, presented by Lady Jersey to the Church of Middleton-Stoney. The presentation to the church was in the hands of the Abbat of Westminster down to the time of Henry VIII., and the arrangement was not interfered with by him or his family.

Perhaps the Conqueror looked upon the charter we have quoted as one of the 'forged' ones, which was his way of viewing such as he wished to be abolished, or such as were not drawn out with the strict niceties prevalent in Norman law. However the case may be, he seized the property, and gave to a valiant knight of his, Hugh de Grentemaisnil; who gave it as a marriage portion to his daughter, the wife of Roger de Ivery. Hence it is entered in *Doomsday* book in this manner:

"The land of the wife of Roger de Ivery.

"The wife of Roger de Ivery holds of the King five hides in Ietalipe. Of these, three hides never paid tax. There is land of fifteen plows. Now in the domain for three plows; and two bondmen and ten villeins with five cottars have three plows. There is a mill of 20s. [annual value], and thirty acres of meadow. Pasture 660 yards long, and 440 yards broad. Wood three miles long and one and a half broad. In King Edward's time it was worth seven pounds, now ten pounds. Godric and Alwin held it freely." We shall meet with possessions of Roger in Holton, Southleigh, Horspath, Hampton Gay, The Berton (near Abingdon), and Wolvercot. About 1089 the mill was bestowed upon the Abbey of Bec, and the king took it to himself in 1091. The estate was in the king's hands in 1173, and the Abbat of Westminster appealed, and finally procured it restitution. In 1216 a charter gives it back to the abbey after it had been taken away by John on the 'rumour of the Abbat's death.'



ISLIP CHURCH.

In 1320 a new and handsome manor-house was erected by William of Kirtlington, in the north-east part of the village, the moat to which was nearly filled up in 1823; and in 1720 many loads of lead were dug from this moat, seeming to indicate that the house had been burnt down. Queen Isabel, having made a grand inspection of Oxford in 1327, in order to awe the Royalist party who held it, withdrew to Islip, residing there several weeks with the young Duke of Acquitaine, in fact till fright or underhand treating made the Oxford party subservient to her wishes.

It was a market town at that time, having received a charter at the end of that year, as well as liberty to hold a fair on the day of the translation of the Confessor, and the two following ones. In 1493 the plague visited Oxford, and the men from Merton, instead of going to Cuxham, their usual place of residence during these oft-recurring epidemics, went to Islip. The St. Alban's men did so in 1503, and acting carelessly, neglecting the simplest rules of health, were attacked by the plague. Several of them died, and were buried either here or at Noke. Henry VIII.'s valuation, in 1534, of the income which Westminster derived from Islep is, for rents, £44 7s. 10d.; for the water-mill, rent, £7 0s. 10d.; for fees in the court, £2 1s. 5d. William Boston, *alias* Benson, was the unlucky person who was driven to surrender the abbey. He had been appointed to that post in 1500 by Henry VII., and lived long enough to complete, in conjunction with Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, that gem of Late Perpendicular work, Henry VII.'s Chapel. In 1634, when Charles was trying to make money in every possible way, a herald's court visited Oxford, and summoned but three persons from Islep to register their names, &c., among the gentry of Oxford, and of course to pay the costs thereof. One only of them, Henry Norreys, complied; the other two answered, "We are no gentlemen."

Islip, in 1642, was occasionally occupied by the Royal forces, and as soon as they were withdrawn, visited by flying parties of the enemy; but it was not till '44 that Captain Temple contrived to take three hundred and seventy Royalists here, and eighteen bales of serge, which had come from Exeter. The three troops of the kings then retired upon the main body, who had taken up a position between Oxford and Woodstock. May, this year, found the Parliamentary forces in full force, from Bullingdon Green to Islip; and a skirmish took place, from which the Royalists carted away eight loads of their dead, beside what they buried. "It was signified," the *Diurnall* says, "that of men killed, wounded, and runne away, the king lost at least two thousand that day;" the Parliamentary loss but forty killed and many injured. This skirmish, which took place at 'Arslow Bridge, a mile and a half from Islip,' made the king concentrate his forces at Oxford; and on June the third, at nine in the evening, he escaped from thence to Worcester. In 1645, about April, Fairfax met four regiments of Royalist troops near Islip Bridge and defeated them, securing, among other trophies, the queen's standard, a beautiful ensign with a cross above a crown, and the groundwork embroidered with gold

fleurs-de-lis. Two hundred Royalists were taken prisoners. In June that year, when the siege of Oxford was relinquished, the Parliamentary forces were ordered to collect at Islip, where they remained for a night.

The **Church** here is well worth a visit, having in the north aisle a Late Norman shaft, with four small engaged shafts around it, and a peculiar seventeenth-century lectern. The chancel was the work of Robert South, S.T.P., in 1680, and is of a debased kind of Gothic. There were, some years since, several mural paintings visible, but these have probably vanished. Dean Buckland lies buried in the churchyard, and a beautiful window has been put up in the church in memory of him. The tower is a pretty example of a Perpendicular village church tower. The Ashmolean Museum has a peculiar iron stirrup enwrapped with gold, which was dug up near the bridge over the Ray in 1876. The rectory, an admirable example of seventeenth-century work, and the school here are both due to the same Dr. South; and the illustrious Dean Ireland was once vicar of the parish. Dean Swift asked for the benefice at Dr. South's death.

The area of the parish is put down as 1960 acres, and the population in 1881 was 600.

KENNINGTON

Is situated on the Radley Road to Abingdon, about three miles from Carfax. A pleasanter way of approaching it is by following the towing-path beyond Iffley and under the railway, till the island of St. Michael's, commonly called Kennington, appears on the left, and then breaking off to the right-hand over a brook, and the Didcot branch of G.W.R., and so up into the roadway.

A charter of Edwig in 956 grants Cenigtun to his faithful priest, Byrhthelm, to go to any heir he chooses. In giving the bounds of the estate it is called Kenitune; but the usual spellings, Kening, Kenin, Cening, seem to point to the meaning of Kening's or Cening's town. The bounds are only interesting to us from the fact of their mentioning Bagganwurthe, the homestead or street of Baggan; and as the last part of the word so generally became applied to a village, it is another small link of evidence regarding a lost chapelry or tunship in the locality of Bagley Wood.

In King William's days Raimbald held 360 acres in Kenitune, and Wuillelmus de Wancy held land worth one-fifth of a knight's fee; *i.e.* a rent of four pounds in Kenintone; the former of these turned monk, and became Abbat (*circa* 1090) of Abingdon.

Byrhthelm's charter would not be in the Abingdon list unless the property had come into the abbat's hands, and accordingly we trace it, rather disguised as usual in the spelling, given in *Doomsday*.

"The Abbat of Abingdon holds of Warin six hundred acres in Sonningwell and Chentoun." We have also, "Alwin holds a hundred and twenty acres in Genetune. Six English held it, and *they* could not *go away from* the church.

Land for six plows and pay with other hides. There are three plows: seven villeins eighteen cottars hold one hide. There are five slaves: a hundred and ten acres of meadow. [The whole] worth £12 now £10." This is not very intelligible; the word *they* perhaps refers to the acres; the words are rendered literally.

A Thomas Barre is given in the *Testa de Nevil* (*circa* 1250) as holding land rented at £5 at Keninton, Berks; and in 1266 Ebulo de Montibus (Mr. Hills may now represent this family so grandly named) seems to have held some or all of the land in Kenington, Berks, on behalf of the chapel of the tower of Windesor. Later references the writer has not met with. The sole remains of an ancient church or chapel once existing here are in the rockery of the large farmhouse, whose Jacobæan archway can be seen by every passer-by. They are of exquisite Decorated period, superior to anything except Kidlington, perhaps, in our district, probably the work of some Abbat of Abingdon, who had good taste in architecture. In the same house is a room with a good Tudor ceiling, the beams having a current ornament in plaster-work of pomegranates, the badge of Catharine of Aragon, also well worth inspection. The little chapel-of-ease, St. Swithun's, now in the parish is very plain, it is upon the old site; its predecessor fell down not long before 1790, so that we trust some more information will transpire regarding it. In 1631, we learn from Lysons, the manor was in the Lyon family; it is now the property of the Earl of Peterborough. The parish was enclosed in 1802, when land was allotted to the rector of Sunningwell in lieu of tithes. The parish extends over 480 acres, and the population in 1881 was 141 people. The Island forms a most picturesque spot for picnic parties.

KIDLINGTON.

A FIVE miles walk on the Banbury Road will land the traveller at this village, or by taking the N.W. train to Islip there remains but a mile and a half to the west; or again, should the Great Western suit him better, a one and a half mile walk to the south.

Doomsday speaks of the place in these terms:

"Richard, a servant of the king, holds 300 acres in Cedelintone. The plough-land is for two plows, and it is in his domain, together with four tenants by service and two cottars: was and is worth £2. Siward, the huntsman, holds of the king 300 acres in Cedeilntone: lands for two plows, these he holds in the domain with one tenant by service and three free cottars: three acres of meadow. Was and is worth £2. The same Siward held it freely in the time of the Confessor." The first of these occupiers probably supplies us with an instance of a change of estate equal to that which Hearne speaks of—

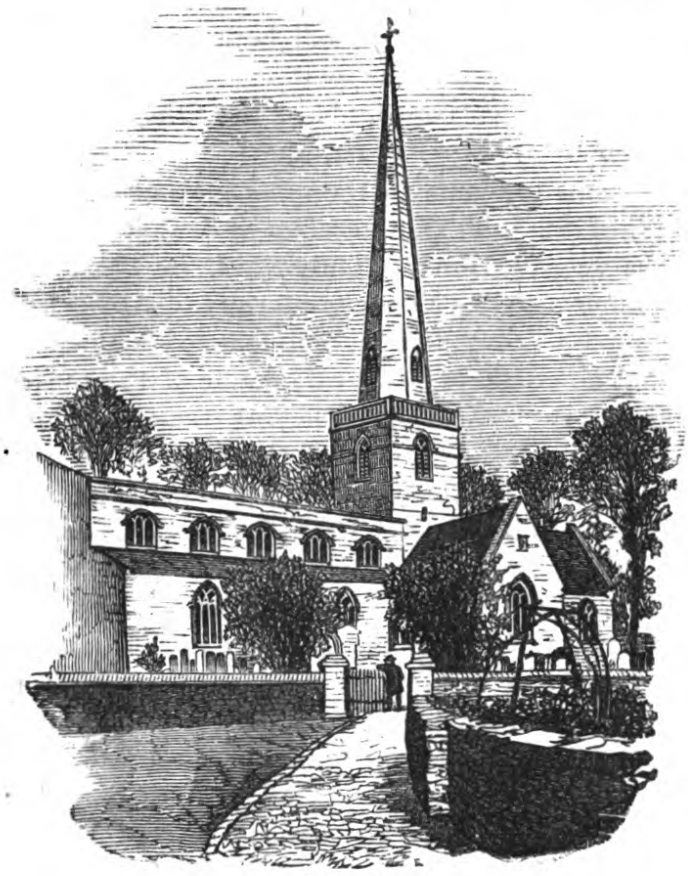
"William de Conigsby
Came out of Britany
With his wife Tiffany,
And his maide Maufas,
And his dogge Hardigras."

The second is the only instance we have in our district of an English free tenant keeping his land; perhaps he was of sufficient value in Woodstock or Wychwood to have his services retained.

The manorial rights were part of the possession of Robert d'Oily, the friend of the Conqueror, who erected Oxford Castle and built the church of St. George within it, giving Kidlington Church as part of the endowment. Nigel, his brother, who succeeded him, gave two-thirds of the tithes and the perpetual advowson of the church in 1149. Robert, the son of the last-named, transferred all the endowments to Oseney in the same year, and jointly with his son founded a sisterhood of St. John of Jerusalem at Gosford, not a mile off to the south-east. The second Henry d'Oilly gave, in 1232, the enclosure of their garden at Kidelinton to the Oseney fraternity. As he had no son the estate passed to Henry, Earl of Warwick, who married his heiress Margery. Their son Thomas had no children, so that the name of the owner again changes. John de Plesset inherited it by marrying their daughter Margery. Plesset's father, a mere domestic servant of the king's, had also secured a heiress, Christina, daughter of Hugh de Sandford, thus laying the foundations of an illustrious family. John, created Earl of Warwick, had by his first wife, for Margery was his second, a son Hugh, whose residence was at Kidlington, and who in 1284 built the church there: his wife was of the great Basset family. (See Headington.) We trace the manor in their hands till 1350, when it passed, perhaps by marriage, to John Lenneyseys and to his son John. Here there occurs a great break; for it is not till 1436 that we meet with an owner's name, and that is Thomas Chaucer, probably the poet's son. Alice, his daughter, married William de la Pole, duke of Suffolk; and they had a son, John de la Pole, the husband of Elizabeth, who was sister of Edward IV. Their eldest son, John, created earl of Lincoln in 1467, married the heiress of the Golafre family, and died without issue in 1487. This long bit of family history has connected five of the greatest families in our circle; alas! the noble owners of Kidlington all went away about 1540, when a Smith obtained it. It has been acquired by the Marlborough family since Blenheim was built.

The **Church,** of which the presentation belongs to Exeter College, dedicated to St. Mary, is a very beautiful one with a tall slender spire, and contains some of the best Decorated work to be met with out of Oxford, beside a vast collection of old and good glass, which has been transferred to the east window. It is to be hoped that something useful will be done with these beautiful remnants. There is also some good and indifferent heraldic glass in the south window of the chancel. The north door of the nave and some of the early glass are the only untouched remains of Hugh de Plesset's work. The east window of the south aisle and a piscina there, together with the south door and the porch, are Decorated additions. There is a good deal of Perpendicular and earlier woodwork in the building, to which period the roof and clerestory belong. The arches on the south side of the nave, if measured,

will be found to increase gradually both in height and width as they approach the chancel; the reason of this strange arrangement is not very clear. No one can admire the lack of impost to the arches, what they may have appeared when coloured by the fourteenth-century painters we cannot say. The font is simple and round, but the mouldings of the base point it out as genuine Decorated in style. In the south porch is a peculiar arrangement of the hood moulding; it is carried up ogee-fashion to form a pedestal for the figure that should occupy the niche; both in the south door and this porch door the absence of an impost or capital is to be noticed. The niche above and the doorway below are a good illustration of skilful ornamentation by means of the ball-flower ornament, the great redeeming feature of our squat and rather clumsy spire of St. Mary's in the High. This other St. Mary's is spoilt by the work at the junction of the spire with the tower; its height, however, gives it a decided character. To the extreme top of the weathercock is 173 feet 7 inches, and the entire inside length of the building is 111 feet.



KIDLINGTON CHURCH.

There is close to the church a small almshouse "for three poor men and three poor women that are impotent and decrepid, single persons, and whose labour and work is done," founded in remembrance of a dearly-loved wife by Sir William Morton in 1671. The inhabitants are to be termed 'Lady Ann Morton's almsfolk.' The house of sisters, established at Gosford, was removed in 1180 to Buckland, and came afterwards into the hands of the Hospitallers, who built a chapel here about 1234.

The advowson of the church remained in the hands of the Crown after Oseney was dissolved, and it was not granted till 1565, when Sir W. Petre had it from Queen Elizabeth. From him it went direct to Exeter College.

The area of the parish, inclusive of Gosford, is 4860 acres; and the population in 1811 was 1394.

LITTLEMORE.

THIS village is about three miles from Oxford, on the Iffley and Rose Hill road. On arriving at the church the visitor should turn to the left if he wishes to see the low blue-slated building called the College, and then going to the right, down by it, pass by a field-road and a footpath following a small brook, under the Thame railway, and thus come directly upon the *Mynchery*. From thence following a path by the side of a brook which runs toward the Asylum, he can have an enjoyable walk to Sandford, provided the odours of the Oxford sewage-farm are not prevalent; he will then come out opposite to the church field there, on the turnpike road from Dorchester to Oxford.

The back of the houses called **Mynchery** is slightly more antiquated than the front; but as they now stand, the buildings appear like a sixteenth-century erection, not a remnant existing that would recall the fact that there was once here a nunnery of some dimensions, whose origin may perhaps have been in times before the Conquest, whose possessions in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries were very extensive, whose occupants held the little church at Sandford for their own use, and were rich enough to build a grand conventual church dedicated to St. Nicholas with a chantry in it, probably dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

On issuing from under the Thame railway, a long open shed of modern erection will be noticed, which, according to Hearne, occupies the site of the church. Even till 1851 there were, at the west end of it, three coped tombs with crosses slightly foliated along them, and a portion of a fourth, all more or less cracked, and lying in a heap of nettles. When they came into the hands of the Oxford Local Board, or perhaps of the preceding occupier, they were not cleared of their rubbish, pieced together, and preserved as interesting Christian memorials, but hacked to pieces to form part of the wall to a cart shed.

Of the parish we glean considerable items of information from the *Hundred Rolls*, commencing in the reign of Henry III. Four hundred and eighty acres of land here were held by the Templars at Couele, given to them by Roger de St. Andrew, and forming part of the honour or barony of Leicester. Amabil of Saunford is the first 'priorisse' of whom we have mention left to us, and it is in connection with a gift to these Templars at Sandford in 1218, probably before the Cowley preceptory had been shifted there. The nunnery, like many at the time, became very popular, and possessions in Oxford and the villages round were soon acquired. The most memorable of these is the premises now called St. Alban's Hall and a hall (demolished) touching it. With the increase of wealth came the desire of having a larger church, and it is thus that we have left us the original Bull of Pope Innocent IV., 1244, addressed to faithful people in the dioceses of Lincoln (their own), Ely, and Salisbury, granting sundry relaxations to all who should aid the Prioress and Convent of

the Benedictines at Lytelmore in rebuilding their church. The church seems to have perished a little before 1600.

As the Prioress of Littlemore was in receipt of 8s. annual rent, specially devoted "for the soul of their benefactor, Roger of St. Andrew," we may safely argue that a chauntry chapel existed in the conventual church, unless there was a chapel near the spot where the present church was erected. The latter supposition would account for the presence of four skeletons found in digging the foundations in 1835 with the feet turned to the east.

In 1279 we read that the customary tenants cultivated 600 acres of the land belonging to the preceptor and brethren of Couele, paying the small rent of 10s. 1d.; but they had to work for their masters gratis during autumn, and were fed at their expense. It is added that they will give Peter pence—*i.e.* 1d. per annum for each hearth—toward maintaining the English college at Rome, but, later on, regarded as tribute money to the papal throne. Being under the Templars, they enjoyed freedom from toll everywhere in England in the villas of the king. (See Headington.) They claimed to pay service to no court except that of the Templars and to the judges itinerant; *i.e.* those judges who were sent round on circuit to see that the Court of the Exchequer was not defrauded by the Baronial and Hundred Courts.

The nunnery held 27 acres of wood in Shottour, that is, in Shotover Wood, no doubt a royal grant to supply them with the very necessary article of fuel. In 1524 the nunnery was one of the small houses suppressed by the Pope's Bull, and given to Cardinal Wolsey toward the erection of his college at Oxford. It was, after Wolsey's disgrace, part of the endowment of the same building under the name King's College; but it was exchanged to George Owen, Esq., and John Bridges, for other lands before the college was called Christ Church. From these two it passed to Sir John Williams of Thame, and he sold it in 1549 to the Powell family, owners of Sandford. It remained in their family for several years, and finally passed by purchase into the hands of the Duke of Marlborough. At its suppression the income of the place was valued at not more than £33 6s. 8d. per annum. Its wealth then was not very great, certainly not enough to give countenance to the traditions about a builder in the neighbourhood having become wealthy by the discovery of a barrow-load of silver while working on the spot; another tale to be classed under the head of 'the flock of black crows.' There has always been a confusion about the parish of the Minchery among antiquarians, and as early as 1272 we have a record which seems to imply either a second nunnery in Sandford or a mistake in the parish. We read: "Moreover a certain priory of nuns has been founded in a certain pasture which is called Cherleyham, and belongs to the manor of Sandford, which the Templars hold; and it was founded by Robert of Sandford, who gave that pasture to the nuns. The place which then used to be called Chirleham is now called Chaldewelle." An Isabella of Hendred, nun of Saumford, was elected to be Prioress of Saumford in 1229. If, as a

friend suggests, Chaldewelle has been corrupted to Choldeswelle and Choswell, this nunnery was, as Dugdale thinks, at the Minchery; for there was destroyed there four years since a certain Cholswell spring, said to have had marvellous curative properties for the eyes, and probably not without reason.

Littlemoor has acquired an almost world-wide reputation as the scene of the Rev. J. H. Newman and Dr. Pusey's labours from 1834 to 1838. The former was incumbent of St. Mary's, Oxford, and the hamlet partly belonged to his parish. He witnessed the erection of the nave of the church, his mother laying the foundation-stone (a tablet in the church commemorates this); and even now the cardinal sometimes visits the spot to see the completed fabric, with its beautiful chancel and other accessories. Dr. Pusey was with him three years or more, and during that period some farm buildings were converted into a set of rooms for the brotherhood and others, the confraternity of reformers from whom issued the *Tracts for the Times*, whose stirring notes roused up the Church from a lethargic indifference of more than two hundred years. The **Church** was really the first effort of the Oxford school to follow out a Gothic design; and to Willement, then esteemed the great authority in stained glass, was entrusted the filling of the lancet windows with a series of medallions. Considering his knowledge and the materials he had, the effect is good, but not worthy of all the honour then heaped upon it. At the request of several visitors, and because abbreviated Latin in a gothic text of the thirteenth century is not the most legible character, the writer has ventured to insert the list of subjects, cautioning the reader that one medallion in each represents the giving of the window, and is not a biblical picture.

No. 1. The maidens have dedicated this window to God and the church. The Annunciation—"Hail, thou that art highly favoured." The Salutation—"Blessed art thou among women." The Nativity—"And she brought forth her first-born son." The offerings of the wise men—"And when they had opened their treasures." The Circumcision—"And when eight days were accomplished." The Purification—"They brought him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord." The flight into Egypt—"He took the young child and his mother by night."

No. 2. The bachelors have dedicated this window to God and the church. The holy innocents—"Then Herod sent forth and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem." The journey to Jerusalem—"And when He was twelve years old they went up to Jerusalem." Jesus in the temple—"They found Him in the temple sitting in the midst of the doctors." Jesus blessing little children—"And He took them up in His arms." Jesus teaching humility—"And Jesus called a little child unto Him." Jesus glorified by children—"Children crying in the temple, saying, 'Hosanna.'" Jesus charging Peter—"He saith unto him, Feed my lambs."

No. 3. The good wives have dedicated this window to God and the church. The women bringing offerings to the sanctuary—"And there came both men

and women, as many as were willing-hearted." Hannah presenting Samuel—"I have lent him to the Lord." Abigail and David—"Go up in peace to thine house." The Queen of Sheba—"And she gave the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold." Esther suing for her people—"Let my life be given me at my petition." Judith dedicating spoils—"Judith also dedicated all the stuff of Holofernes." Dorcas raised by St. Peter—"Peter, turning to the body, said, Tabitha arise!"

No. 4. The good men have dedicated this window to God and the church. Abraham entertaining three angels—"And lo! three men stood by him." Isaac meeting Rebecca—"And the servant had said, It is my master." Jacob blessing the sons of Joseph—"God make thee as Ephraim and Manasseh." The people bringing offerings—"They brought the Lord's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation." Boaz and Ruth—saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves." The jailor converted—"He washed their stripes and was baptized, he and all his straightway." The good Samaritan—"When he saw him he had compassion on him." The other windows at the sides have no subjects, but the east one is a very beautiful one. Some small windows in the chancel are splendidly executed, and those under the tower are reproductions of some early ones at Woodpery. Grisaille windows, like the last, are clearly the most suitable for narrow lights like those in the nave. The stonework of the west window is a copy of one in St. Giles, Oxford. The fine yew tree on the north side is an instance of rapid growth in that species, having been planted here not more than fifty years.

The lunatic asylum has always merited the high praises bestowed on it by the visitors. Within the last year there have been added a house for the medical attendant in lieu of rooms within the building, and a chapel. The extensive gardens are worked on a system of surface drains for sewage, which yields immense supplies of vegetables; and they have their own gas works. The water supply is stored beyond the Oxford sewage farm. Two or three of the fields at the back of the Minchery prove to have been earthenware works of the Romans, the vessels mainly manufactured being flattish dishes, with broken pebbles, like coarse sand, imbedded in their upper surfaces. In these, by the help of a pebble, the Roman soldiers ground up their corn, which was served out to them in the grain. A few small cooking pots were also discovered, a well and a coin or two, besides large heaps of charcoal ashes.

There are two or three very nice residences in the village; and a farmhouse, nearly facing the west front of the church, is an example of a timber mansion of the fourteenth or fifteenth century, encased with stone, one angle timber alone being now visible, the nearest to the church.

Several alterations have been made lately in the bounds of the parish; but the extent in 1871 was 1090 acres, and the population in 1881 was 1253.

In the part of the village near the railway is a little chapel, by which goes a path that makes a very enjoyable walk to Iffley Church.

Whether the name indicates Little Mere or the Little Moor is rather doubtful, analogy rather inclines to the former. The reference to Jordan de Saunford's four acres, which look toward the moor, in the Saundford Book, may refer to this parish.

MARCHAM

Is fully eight miles from Oxford to the south-west, and about two and a half from Abingdon Station. The branch of the Abingdon coach-road which mounts the hill, just after South Hinksey is passed, and runs on the north side of Bagley Wood onwards to Broom Hill and Cothill, is a pretty direct one.

There are, strange to say, no great variations in the spelling of this name; it is almost invariably Merc-ham, which would be pronounced Marc, as now written. There have been no suggestions published regarding the first part Merc; its near approach to Mersc, a marsh, no doubt gives the clue to the meaning.

Being the court-town of a hundred in the Early English (Saxon) period, it was fixed upon very early in history as the site for a monastery; indeed from the wording it almost seems that the village was but an appendage to the monastery; for it is stated in this way: Ecgbert gave to Abendun "the monastery of Mercham of fifty tenements with the consent and unanimity of all the nobles." Half the numerous fines of those times were to go to the abbey, and half to the king; the charter is dated Easter, 835, at Dorkecestre.

In an enumeration of the abbey's possessions, about 1070, Ansgil is quoted as holding 129 acres (we have made his acquaintance before at Botley and other places), and the daughters of Uuilelm Grim as holding land of £4 rent at Marcham and Uuestuuike, no doubt a hamlet at that time.

In *Doomsday* we have an estimate in these words: "The abbey itself [Abendon] holds Merceham, always held it. It is in Merceham hundred. In the time of the Confessor it paid taxes for twenty hides, now for ten hides. There are 1200 acres, in the domain are 360 acres; eighteen villeins and ten cottars have 10 plows. There are a church and six slaves, a mill of 15s. (annual value), and a hundred acres of meadow. Of this land Anschil holds 120 acres; Alwin holds it of the abbat in that domain 1 plow. The whole in the time of King Edward was worth £12 10s., now just as much." It is but seldom that these lawyers went out of their way to specify churches, as they brought no income to the king. In passing it may be as well to quote these villages as forming the old Merceham hundred in the Conqueror's days. Merceham, Hevaford, Newetone (?), Praxmere, Apletone, and Chingestune, the last clearly Kingston, now surnamed Bagpuze.

About 1090 it appears that the abbat had lost the mill at Marcham, and no wonder in those disorderly times; but he adopted strong means for recovery of it, and some land at Frigeleford (Frilford). He issued a writ of excom-

munication against all who were infringing the rights or stealing the rents of his abbey, St. Mary's, whereupon they all began to bring in the money.

Mercham seems to have been a nice possession of the abbey's, and we see that (*circa* 1090) Rainald, its abbat, gave it to his son, who had been born to him before he had turned monk; for he was one of the six or seven we have to note within our district who preferred the quiet of monastic-life to the turmoil of those troubled times.

About the years 1160–1190 the allowances made to the abbey servants were arranged or altered; and we learn that Robert, who took care of the baskets, had rations of two loaves and cheese in the hall, and 'something to eat with it' in the larder, and his allotment of land was four acres in Mercham, beside a young pig at Christmas.

About this time their possessions here were ten hides, and in the two hundreds 246 hides; while there annually went from the place fifteen shillings and elevenpence, rents; three thousand eggs, a hundred and thirty-six fowl, and six baskets of vegetables. It was also bound to supply three men with horses, to go at their own expense—long distances or short—for the abbat thrice in the year. There were fifteen holdings of the same kind. The abbey tailor also had his ground at Mercham—four acres of it, and from the hall he was allowed the food assigned to other servants—two loaves daily, with 'something to eat with it,' and at Christmas a new side of bacon.

The church mentioned in *Doomsday* was rebuilt by the noted Abbat Faritius, who died in 1117.

We have no further information worth notice till Pope Nicholas had his assessment drawn up of all the churches in England, 1291. In the deanery of Abendon, Marcham Church is put down as worth £52 10s., including Garford; Appelford being about one-quarter of that, and Sonnyngewell about one-tenth. The names of a few occupiers we will pass over, and come to Henry VIII.'s valuation, in which Marcham is stated at £14 15s. 6½d.; while St. Helen's, Abingdon, is but £29 11s. 1d.; and Cumnor, with its great hamlets, £24 17s. 1d. After the dissolution it was granted to William Box, and in 1646 we find it owned by the Pigots. After being purchased by a Calvert in 1691, it again changed hands, being bought by Robert Meggott in 1717, whose son John took the name of Elwes on succeeding to the large estates of Sir Harvey Elwes in Suffolk. His son George Elwes succeeded to the property, and resided at Marcham, gaining for himself the name of Miser, and being looked upon as most peculiar in his disposition.

The reputed manor of Upwood in this parish belonged to Sir Charles Saxton, Bart. The great tithes belong to Christ Church, who are the patrons of the living. To Marcham belong the chapelry of Garford and the townships of Cothill and Frilford. They are all now in the hundred of Ock. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is a capacious building in the Perpendicular style, and was rebuilt in 1837. Within it are the tombs of Sir Robert Corbet, who died

1403, with his figure in brass; and that of Edward Fettiplace, who died 1540. Phillip Duffield, Esq., is lord of the manor, and he maintains a school there. The population in 1881 was 958, and the extent of Marcham with Frilford is put down at 4940 acres; of Garford, about 1000 acres.

MARSTON.

THERE is a ferry road to this place, about a quarter of a mile beyond St. Margaret's Road on the Banbury Road, available in dry weather, and pleasant enough. Should the way over Magdalen Bridge be chosen, it is necessary to follow the road by St. Clement's Church, turning with it to the left, at about a mile from the bridge; the church is about another mile and a half on the road where a second one turns down hill previous to mounting to Elsfield. A small duck-pond will indicate the spot. Just behind the pond lives the parish sexton, a kind and obliging labourer, from whom the keys may be obtained. A few feet from the angle of the wall near the duck-pond, and facing down the road to Oxford, there is cut in a fine stone in the wall a cross rather carefully executed. About 1830 there stood in front of this a village cross; but as it was in the way of the waggons, and a good elm narrows the passage a little down toward the brook, the cross was taken away, the best of the stones used to make some granary stairs, and the others broken up to mend the road.

Continuing the Oxford Road beyond the duck-pond, will land the traveller at what was once a fine mansion of the Croke family, after that a parish poor-house, and now partly a cottage and partly a comfortable-looking residence. The chimney with a sun-dial on it, the fine gateway into the garden, and remains of better days, indicate that it was once a goodly abode. The villager you may perhaps talk to, will tell you of a chamber in the attic with a strange backway to it, now destroyed or blocked up, in which King Charles hid himself; but will scarcely believe you when you say that it was in a room there that the Commissioners of Charles and the Parliament met to agree about the surrender of Oxford.

From Dugdale we gather that Henry I., in 1132, granted the manor to St. Frideswide's, whose possessions here were augmented in 1156 by the tithes of the estate of Hugh de Plagenet, a large occupier here.

In 1279 Marston we find was counted as a hamlet of Headington, occupied by forty tenants, who tilled 135 acres, and each was bound to perform sixteen acts of husbandry per annum on sixteen days. To make the matter more precise, it is stated that the acts of husbandry in twenty-six instances were to extend over thirty acres. At the same time there were dwelling in Marston four cottars of Headington who had "to appear at the great park of the lord with one man [each], and they are at the ferry [?] of the lord of Hedindon. Two men of Oxford hold the fishery of the Charwell from Hugh de Plessy at 6s. 8d.; for the ferry they pay 2s. John of the Mill holds a mill called Scite-

pilche, of Hugh de Plessy, in Marston, at 11s. rent. William, vicar of Marston, holds of the same a piece of land called Budelcroft."

Unton Croke, a branch of the noted family, married the heiress of Richard Hore of this parish about 1630; it is his house about which we have spoken above. He was a firm upholder of the Parliamentary party, and was recommended by Owen, the Dean of Christ Church, for the office of judge, which he did not obtain. Shortly afterwards, however, he was appointed one of the Commissioners for trying offenders for treason against the Protector, which they could do without making use of a jury, a liberty quite in opposition to the just liberty of the subject. He became justice of the peace, and as such performed the duty of celebrating marriages during the great rebellion, as the parish registers show. These are in admirable preservation, and are more interesting than usual. Marston also possesses an old piece of altar plate, which has given some little trouble to connoisseurs. In the chancel is a brass to Serjeant Croke, as well as a large monument on the north wall. The north-west window of the chancel is partly filled with some admirable glass of the thirteenth century worked in a simple pattern, with a few lovely roundels of ruby and blue. In the east window is part of a St. Peter, and small portions of the Creed are scattered about in other windows. There is also a peculiar quarry of a lutist of the early part of the fifteenth century. Most of the windows have a bit or two of glass, and one head portion of early thirteenth-century design well deserves notice. As the **Church** is dedicated to St. Mary a peculiar monogram of her name occurs several times in the foliations of the lights, and also in the returns of the exterior hood mouldings. The bases of some of the shafts in the nave are Norman or Transitional in style, and the two arcades are probably late in that style; the rest of the work seems of about the time of Henry VII. All the exterior carving is worth inspection, especially the apex of the east window, which is very unusually treated. There were many remains of encaustic tiles, some with inscriptions never read, and probably incompletely executed at first. About fifteen feet from the porch-door, on the east side of the pathway, stood the second cross, demolished in 1830, when a kind of hut and school combined were banished from the churchyard into which they had trespassed, and the base used to complete the churchyard wall.

The whole of the church has been admirably restored during the last year, the vicar, architect, and builder each striving to retain all that was valuable within the building; the former chancel roof was simpler than the present, almost too rustic in fact, and the screen in very correct taste takes the place of one demolished in the seventeenth century.

Next to the loss of the tombs at Littlemoor, one must deplore the Vandalism which destroyed these two crosses; we will hope that some sketch of them may yet transpire to give us some idea of their character. Alderman Fletcher does not seem to have noticed them in his time.

The area of this parish is given as 1,212 acres, and the population in 1881 was 515.

MEDLEY

Is at the south end of Port Meadow, a short walk up Walton Street, and turning to the left across the railways; but nearly a two-mile drive, first on the Botley Road, and then on its first branch to Binsey. It is a favourite resort of boating men for trips on the upper river, especially to Godstow.

There appears good reason for calling the solitary house in this hamlet Medley Manor, if the tradition of other residences being formerly around it is sufficiently to be trusted. An old quarto, which the writer has failed in obtaining, would give further information than do the subjoined extracts from Wood and Hearne, that suffice only to whet the appetite. It was given to Ouseney at an early date, and presented to the nuns of Godstow; but when or how we cannot say. There are two corbel heads near a gateway to the lawn, and seven or eight key-stones, over windows on the west side, of such peculiar character that they may be of any date, from Early Norman to the seventeenth century. The west front is clearly of late sixteenth or early seventeenth-century, but much patched; and the gateway before mentioned seems about the time of Henry VI. It has a hood-moulding, with a centre boss forming an angel, with wings extended, a chain to a shield round its neck, and is holding out a shield, on whose third quarter the royal lions are traceable. The hood-moulding is square, not returned, but terminates in the heads of a bishop and a king. The arch is four-centred (no straight portions), and the spandrels are decorated with carvings of flowers; in the sinister one there are besides the letters T. E. V. or T. L. U., much injured. The key-stone is formed of a grotesque head, a later insertion. The jamb-mouldings, which are numerous and good, cease half-way down at an elaborate 'stop.' This peculiarity may indicate that it was once a river gateway, and that the designer esteemed it unwise to expose his moulded work to be damaged by boats; or it may be altogether patchwork from earlier remains. In the orchard, at the rear of an extraordinarily large elm, which overshadows the river, is a long bathing-pool with oval ends, supposed by competent judges to have belonged to the nunnery from earliest times. Even Henry II., fair Rosamund's constant admirer, may have bathed in it. As the house has had two or three fires pass over it, we need not be too severe upon Anthony Wood, nor impute carelessness to him.

From the quarto volume above alluded to was photographed a former Medley House with a fine river front and superb iron gateway. The style was about 1640; and half-way between the river and the entrance stood a statue of a nun with a cross held over its head, or a crown upon the head, and holding a crucifix. The garden was of stiff geometric plan. This front has wholly disappeared, but a huge chimney and portions of the rear may have formed portions of it. In the garden is the largest sycamore perhaps in the midland counties. The walls do not bear a trace of early work, nor did they before

the present occupier commenced to cover them with their beautiful coats of ivy.

George Withers' only allusion to this spot is contained in the oft-quoted lines—

"In summer-time to Medley
My love and I would go,
The boate-men there stood ready
My love and I to rowe:

"For creame there would we call,
For cakes, for pruines too;
But now, alas! sh 'as left me—
Falero, lero, loo."

The boatmen are still there in good numbers; for it is a spot much frequented by those who love to "dip the glittering oar" or "spread the snowy sail." There is in Binsey Churchyard a tombstone to a Mr. Thomas Crutch, a former inhabitant of Medley, "of whom," says Hearne, "all the inhabitants still speak with special respect." It is of very laudatory character, and terminates with the best of advice.

Wood's notes have these references to Medley:

"After the monks had this place given to them, they built there a fair house and an oratory in it, where to this day [probably 1721] is a place for holy water and a pedestal for an image or two. This place I suppose to have been a place of removal or recreation for the Abbat of Ouseney." Hearne remarks: "One of the places where the nuns used to recreate themselves was Midley or Medley, a large house between Godstow and Oxford. . . . It is in some writings called the Townlet or Township of Medley, whence I gather that there were formerly more houses than one. It belonged to Godstow, being given to the nunnery by Robert de Witham in Henry II.'s time; and Robert had three daughters, who were nuns there [at Godstow]. . . . It was no religious house . . . there never having been so much as a consecrated oratory there, that ever I could hear of. Yet the nuns had their private devotions here in some particular room set apart for them, if they happened to stay longer than ordinary, which might be now and then by unforeseen accident."

MILTON,

Though just within our radius, taken directly, is more than eight and a half miles by the Headington Road. Should the visitor elect to go by train to Wheatley, there still remain three miles, two and a half on the road named, and about half due south from Chilworth.

In *Doomsday* we have the parish divided into two unequal portions, but it would not be safe to conclude that such a division was the origin of the terms Great and Little. It is not easy to say why the term *Middle*-tun was first given to the village unless it was bestowed when the road from Walingford to Bicester passed through it. The account is this: "The same Bishop of Lincoln holds Middeltone. There are 4800 acres. Of these he has in his own farm [?] 3720, and his knights the others. Arable land is 3120 acres: now in the domain 600 acres: and twenty-four villeins with thirty-four cottars

and a priest. They have 2280 acres. There is a mill of 15s. [annual value] and a meadow of 10s. In the time of the Confessor and afterwards it was worth £18 now £30." "In Mideltone, Aluric holds of the bishop 720 acres and 90 acres of land. There in the domain are 240 acres, and 10 villeins with four cottars and four slaves. They have 480 acres. There is a mill of 8s. The whole is worth £6." "Rannulph flanbard holds [of the land of the Canons of Oxeneford] 480 acres of the king in Mideltone. There is arable land 480 acres. Now in the domain 120 acres, and two tenants by service, and four villeins with two cottars. They have 120 acres. There are 6 acres meadow: pasture two furlongs long, and a half a furlong broad. Was and is worth £3."

In 1279 Sir John de Clifford held land of the rent of £40 of the bishop, including the mill; Oliver, the prebendary of the church, 360 acres of the bishop, the same which Alexander, a former bishop, gave to the cathedral; and the Abbat of Dorkecestria 30 acres paying scutage, and 20 acres free.

Delafield considers that a grange of the Benedictines of Abingdon stood on the south side of the church at Great Milton about 1272. In 1291 the church here appears taxed in the deanery of Cudesdon.

"The prebendal church of Milton, £42. The vicar of the same, £6. The prebend, consisting of the Lay fee of the same, £46 13s. 4d., and was held by Master J. de Munemuwe." We have a clearer idea of this division from Henry VIII.'s valuation, which is very minutely stated. Both the prebends were from Great Milton parish, the one, having the appropriation of the church held then by Thomas Baddell, who is called rector, was worth annually £33 18s. 6d. The other, which had no ecclesiastical possession, included the manor farm of Romeyns Court and all lands that were copyhold, was held by Dr. London at the beginning of the valuation, and by James Courtop at the end of it. The tenant in possession at Great Milton was Robert Edgerley, who had a lease for sixty years. The vicar's total receipts were £15.

Delafield appears to have been misled by Leland regarding the Abingdon house, and it is believed that the 'foundations of great buildings' which Leland saw were those of 'Monsier de Louche's House,' whose tomb is thus described by him: "In the Chirch of Miltun is an highe Tumbe of Fre Stone with the Image of a Knight and a Lady, with an Epitaphie in Frenche, declaring that Richard de Louches Chivalier and Helene his wife ly buried there." Wood saw this tomb about 1662; but it is now lost, probably hacked to pieces at the time of the great Rebellion, for Milton was a favourite residence of Thurloe, the secretary of Cromwell, who also visited the place several times. The Louches were a family of some importance, and held most of the parish at the time when the church of Great Milton was built, the most perfect example, though by no means florid, of the Decorated period that we shall meet with. The Camoys, Danvers, Bray, d'Ormer, Grene, Black-

hall, and Long families have held this manor in succession. Milton's ancestors took their name from this parish. There is no deed or register to prove this, but their house is still pointed out, with mullioned windows and pointed roofs opposite to the village well; it was occupied later on by the Wilkinsons. Of Thurloe, Cromwell's secretary, there are many traditions; as also of Michael Dormer, the rich woolstapler of Thame, Lord Mayor of London in 1541; and more especially of his descendant, William Dormer, whom they picture as so magnificent in his notions that the binders (tires?) of his carriage wheels and the shoes of his horses were of silver. He married a daughter of Edmund Waller, the poet, and died in 1683.

The Stonor arms, Baron Camoys, are on a corbel in the south aisle, commemorating no doubt the fact that Sir Richard Camoys was a benefactor; he was lord of Great Milton 1416, to which date the shield belongs. A field in this parish goes by the name of the Monkery or Monks' Farm, probably something to do with a Lincoln priest's house. Romeyns Court to the north-west of the church still retains its name. Of late years an Act of Parliament has taken the revenues of the two prebends at Lincoln—those of Milton Church and Milton Manor—away from them, and given them to the vicar, thus severing almost the last link which connected the present diocese of Oxford with the old and more extensive one of Lincoln.

In the **Church** is an interesting tomb of Purbeck marble with a floriated cross upon it, about the year 1340 in style. There is beside a brass plate commemorating the Eggerly family (*circa* 1546); two figures alone remain of the four spoken of in the inscription. Next, the most enormous superb and unchristian one to the Dormers—Sir Michael and Dorothea—with two long Latin inscriptions. Another monument is worth notice (A.D. 1654), which contains an enigmatical distich, often quoted as illustrating a great amount of religious assurance—

> "Here lie mother and babe both without sins;
> Her next birth will make her and her infant twins."

In the churchyard is a monument said to be to Thomas Smith, Esq., mayor of Oxford, the colonel to the city forces when reviewed on Bullingdon Green by Charles I. in 1644.

The use of niches on the face of buttresses and the ogee curves to their heads, with the diagonal position of the buttresses themselves, should be noticed, as the especial features of the Decorated style. The chancel arch and the north doorway are remains of the earlier church.

The entire extent of Great Milton is 4402 acres, and the population in 1881 was 685. The living is valued at £248, and is in the gift of the Bishop of Oxford.

Little Milton is a perpetual curacy worth £150 per annum, and also in the gift of the Bishop of Oxford. It is a parish taken out of Great Milton in 1844, when the new church was built, in the Early English style. It has a

village-school for poor children. The area, including Ascot, is 1887, and the population in 1881 was 382. M. P. W. Boulton, Esq., is lord of the manor.

Among notable residents of Milton before its division should not be omitted Vice-Chancellor Young, who was a prebend of Westminster in 1572, and, lastly, Bishop of Rochester in 1577. When at Westminster he caused to be carved at the cost of 18d. the quaint inscription, 'O rare Ben Jonson,' which marks the place where the poet was buried. A Sir John Young is buried in the chancel of Great Milton Church. Delafield thinks from some papers he saw that a family of Eustace in Milton in 1819 was lineally descended from Eustache of Boulogne. There is an important charity belonging to the place—£1574 12s. 7d. in the three-per-cents—left to the village by Mr. John Kent, a surgeon; part of the interest is spent in clothing, the remainder is devoted to the increase of the stock. The chapel yard at Little Milton has proved to have been a former place of burial.

NOKE.

WHEN at Woodeton the pedestrian has but to follow the road in a north-easterly direction for a quarter of a mile, then take the first turn to the left, and the first to the right. As the whole road is not very direct, Noke will be found quite five miles from Oxford.

The old modes of spelling Oke and Ake no doubt refer to some oak-tree of celebrity. We still spell oak-corn as if acorn and the first letter of Noke may have shifted, as it has in a newt which was once an ewt or eft, the name once being probably Atten-oke for At-oke, changed into Noke. Similar things have occurred in people's and place-names in other districts. It lies in the hundred of Ploughley, at 1½ miles from Islip Station, east-south-east, and has the river Ray for its north boundary.

There seems no record of the parish previous to 1220, when we are told that the Lord Samson Foliot held 300 acres of land in the village of Oke of the Count de Lisle at a rent of 5s. It had no doubt previously been considered as part of Islip, and the reference to it in *Doomsday* may have escaped the writer. Foliot was Sheriff of Oxon and Berks in Henry III.'s reign. The ownership of the manor, and advowson of the church, in 1322, was in the hands of Henry le Ties, in 1366 of a Berkley, and later, of the Earl of Warwick. After a considerable gap it appears to have passed through the families Fermours, Winchcombe, Hall, from whom it was purchased by the Duchess of Marlborough. From the *hundred rolls* of 1279 we see that a "Richard de Wilamescot held 150 acres of the Abbat of Westminster, part of the Islip estate, paying rent 30s. and giving two attendances at the Court of Yistlep, and there were eight sub-tenants who held 15 acres to 30 acres, and 6 cottars, who held 6 acres, each paying 3s. rent.

The church is small, Early English in style, and not very interesting, some-

thing like the old St. Clement's church is represented in the sixteenth century —a small bell cot at the west end, a nave, south porch, and chancel, the chantry built by the Winchcombes in Elizabeth's time having vanished. It had once a 'fair raised altar-tomb' of black marble, with a recumbent figure of a man with his head on a cushion for Benedict Winchcombe, who died 1623. He left money to keep the church in repair; but the chauntry chapel was let go to ruin, and his own trunk dismembered of its stony members, in which state it now lies within the chancel. Above this is a small brass to Johanna Bradshawe, and two husbands, anno 1598, who left a charity of £3 6s. 8d. per annum to the parish, £3 for the poor, and 6s. 8d. for the trustees. There was an old black letter Bible in the parish chest when the writer last visited the church. The manor-house was pulled down by the Marlborough family soon after the purchase. The rectory is worth about £100 a year, and is in the gift of the Duke of Marlborough. The area of the parish is 794 acres, and the population in 1881 was 118.

NUNEHAM.

THE village is reached by the Iffley Road, lying about five miles from Oxford. It is singularly uninteresting, the houses nearly all to one pattern along a straight road; but the box-hedges which border some of the gardens are real curiosities to the botanist and general observer. The beauty of the spot is centred round the glorious park and gardens of Baldon House, and that picturesque spot—the cottages by the river. The *Doomsday* account is this: "Milo Crispin holds Neweham. There are 1200 acres: land for sixteen plows. Now in the domain for four plows, and nine tenants by service, and thirteen villeins with ten cottars, have 600 acres. There are eight acres of meadow, a wood six furlongs long and three broad. It was worth £12, now £15. Ingelri held it" (before the Conquest). As this compilation is but a transcript, we may perhaps be correct in supposing that a mark over the second vowel has been omitted, and consequently that Newenham is the correct spelling (it is Niwanhaem in 1050). Later on in the book we have: "Richard de Curci holds of the king Neuham. There are 1920 acres: land for ten plows. Beside the enclosure he has 270 acres of land of the villages. Now in domain three plows and thirty-five villeins with three fishermen have fourteen plows, and pay 30s. rental. There are seven tenants by service, and a mill of 20s. [annual value]. There are forty acres of meadow and ten acres of pasture, a wood two furlongs long and one broad. In the time of the Confessor, afterwards and now, it is worth £13. Hacon held it free." In the twelfth century the Abbat of Abendun had ground here rented at 12s.; and among the Sandford Charters is one regarding four acres in the territory of Newenham beyond the ditch of Grimsdic, and another about a croft reaching to the Royal way—a term applied to a road or roads passing through Nuneham, Iffley, and

Cowley. Grimsdyke—perhaps some old boundary of Mercia—is mentioned in connection with Nuneham, Baldon, and Dorchester. In 1250 we have mention of Gundreda of Waren as requiring to be under the king's guardianship, and having land at Niweham in the hundred of Bulenden and of Soteleu; the last word being puzzling in the extreme. The *Hundred Rolls* of Henry III. give the extent of Niwenham as ten hides (1200 acres), and says that Baldewin holds the whole, who "is in guard of the king." He holds it direct, paying one knight's fee (£20); that his manor is worth £30, and he did not follow the hundred. Elsewhere we are told that Emma de St. John held the view of frank-pledge in Stanton manor, and Regina held it in Newenham. The jury of 1279, who witnessed to the Rolls, laid information that a certain Cecilia de Cant (query Ghent, corrupted) had made an enclosure on the Royal road at Newenham to the damage of the Royal way. The manor at that time was held by the doing of the service of chamberlain to the king, the lord thereof "having the third key of reception of the lord the king." The jury report that the king gave the manor to William de Curcy, and that it has descended from heir to heir; that Robert Agulun now holds it; that it has many liberties, right of view of frank-pledge, jurisdiction over thieves taken in the hundred, a gallows, viewing of the assize of weights and measures, jurisdiction in cases of open murder and secret; in fact all but the king's special ones. That he had rights of warren, a park, water rights in the Tamisia, with bank rights from Bunsesloke, even to the mill of Stokgrave (or Stokewood); that Galfrid de Curcy gave to the Abbat of Habendon and the convent the advowson of the church of Neuham and two-thirds of all the tithes of hay, thirty acres of land called La Wike, with water and meadow, and (pasturage of) a certain meadow called Koumede from Hokeday (second Tuesday after Easter) to Lammas; that it afterwards reverted to the lord of the manor; that the Abbat gives to the reapers on the day they reap the lord's meadow elevenpence, and on that day they claim by right from the lord the better wether and the better cheese; [then follows the clause about haymakers] that Robert Colmer rents thirty acres of Lady Margaret de Riparijs by paying a bunch of giliflowers, he holds too one piece which the same lady gave to her bath-woman, who sold it, &c.; that Rodlandus de Barle held of Robert Agulun (Angoulême) six acres and pasturage for sixty oxen with sheep, at the rent of one pound of cinnamon; and that Agnes la Passeresse has free passage (over the water) by paying eight shillings to the Lord Robert Agulun. There were also cottars, in number seventeen, at the lord's will, who paid in all forty-four hens and 6s. 2d. rent. Margaret de Ryparijs, the Countess of Devon, died in 1292, possessed of the manor of Nyweham, Oxon. Seventy years before this, Mary, the youngest daughter of the de Ripariis family, had married a Robert de Courtenay of Okehampton, and there is reason to suppose that from this alliance came the second name of the village—Courtenay.

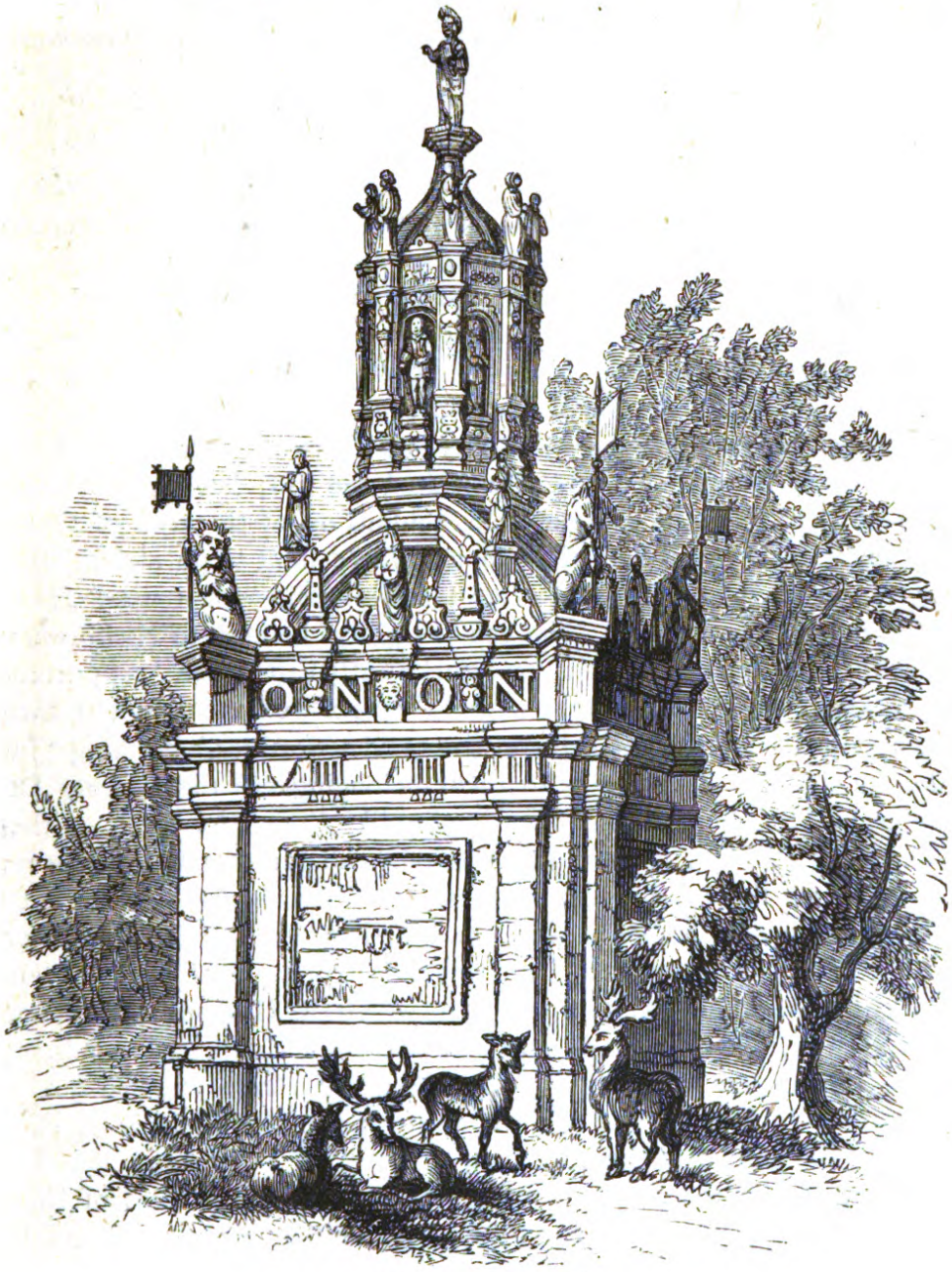
Sir Simon, Earl Harcourt, says that after this came the Pollards, originally a Devon family; and after them Sir — Audley, of the Court of Wards, called the rich Audley. From him the estate passed to Robert Wright, Bishop of Lichfield, whose son sold it to John Robinson, a merchant, in the time of Oliver Cromwell, who was knighted in 1660, and made lieutenant of the Tower. From the Robinsons it went by marriage to the Earl of Wemys, and he in 1710 sold it to Simon, first Lord Harcourt, Lord Chancellor of England. This lord was the one who removed the village from the neighbourhood of the house and the old church. Much has been done for the tenants of the estate, and lately a new church of great beauty has been built for them to take the place of the strange erection in the park, which Simon, Lord Harcourt designed, and Stuart slightly corrected.

THE COTTAGES, NUNEHAM.

The grand entrance to the house is from the Dorchester Road, and that unfortunately so conducts the traveller that he seems to find it placed as it were in a hole—an impression thoroughly effaced by the view on the other front of the house. In its first state everything had been sacrificed to a magnificent set of apartments on the first floor; additions have made it a pleasanter residence, but it has no pretensions to beauty: the age and not the noble earl must be blamed for this.

By river or by rail is the usual method of reaching Nuneham. Tickets permitting you to land must always be obtained previously, by writing to the steward, Nuneham Courtenay; and the days for visiting are, at present writing, Tuesday and Friday. The route from Radley station is given under

that head. Having arrived at the cottages, with a mind filled with the beauty of the river scenery and Nuneham woods, and having refreshed oneself—for nothing is so unwise as to attempt sight-seeing upon an empty stomach—we



CARFAX CONDUIT.

work our way toward the house up through the wood. As soon as the park is reached the Carfax Memorial, otherwise Otho Nicholson's Conduit, is visible on the left. Here stop and bear your testimony to Walpole's words—"It is a park in which are scenes worthy of the bold pencil of Rubens, or to be

subjects for the tranquil sunshine of Claude de Lorraine." The beautifully diversified nature of the ground, the bold spurs thrust forward from the table-land above toward the river, the giant elms, the sturdy oaks that cap the brows of these, and the peaceful meadows below, with some white sail or brightly-coloured array of visitors floating down the silver-like bosom of the Thames, combine to make a scene that dwells on the minds of most for many a day. Whether one looks far off upon the Wittenham Hills, the Chilterns, those above the vale of Whitehorse or Shotover, or contemplates the City of Spires in the mid-distance, and St. Helen's, at Abingdon, nearer still, one must acknowledge that Nuneham is one of the sights of dear old England—of 'her most renowned vale.' The **Conduit,** or water fountain—though 'upon extraordinary occasions' wine used to issue from the round holes in its sides, when it stood, very much in the way, at the top of the High—deserves more than a passing glance. Otho Nicholson—hence the O and N in the embattlements—was a gentleman of Christ Church, who became treasurer to James I., and he erected this as a present to the city, which some years afterwards gave it away in order to show how it appreciated the gift, having previously let the empress Maude's noble charger—the fabulous ox of the arms of Oxford—get very shaky on its pins, and allowed the whole of it to go almost to ruin, so that the work of repair was a most costly affair when Earl Harcourt re-erected it here about 1787. The sun 'in glory' belongs to Nicholson; the figures at the four corners are what are technically called the 'supporters' of the royal arms, at three different periods. Next we have the four cardinal virtues, and in the supported octagon the 'seven worthies,' and king 'Jamie' to make the eighth. The names to them belonging are these—king David, Alexander, Godfroi de Bouillon—that's rather like French for broth, by-the-bye—Arthur, Charlemagne, Hector, Julius Cæsar, and James, whose name recalls the 'mutton' for the broth. Above these stand two figures back to back, to represent Janus; still higher a vane and then a cross. A few mermaids, obelisks, and naked figures make a strangely picturesque object, but tend to obliterate Maude and her ox, up through the which the Hinksey waters once did flow. We have lingered enough, and will pass on. Continuing our first path we follow a drive over undulating ground for about a mile past the house and past the stables. Just beyond them is a turn to the left, and a road of some length. At the gate near the end of it, and on the right hand, is a bell to summon your gardener attendant, through more than thirty acres of beautiful scenery. He may give you time to admire the brilliant parterres, the foliaged giants, the glorious ailanthuses, the deodars, the picea pinsapos, the magnolias, the valleys of rhododendrons, and the marvellous hollies; but neither he nor your humble servant can recount the store of beauties through which you pass. To one elm—famed in village tradition, growing near the church—we will devote a minute or two. Some years since it was known by the name of Bab's tree. It was planted and nurtured by Barbara Wyat, and she was so much attached

to it that, when the village was removed, she earnestly entreated that she might remain in her cottage by the side of her favourite tree. The request was complied with, and her cottage not pulled down till after her death. Whitehead, the Poet Laureate, has celebrated her in verses, now engraved on a small monument near the elm, and thus describes her—

"Though Thames before her flowed, his farther shores
She ne'er explored, contented with her own;
And distant Oxford, though she saw its towers,
To *her* ambition was a world unknown."

He concludes thus—

"Ye learned in arts, in men, in manners read,
Who boast as wide an empire o'er the mind,
With reverence visit her august domain;
To her unlettered memory bow the knee;
She found *that* happiness you seek in vain,
Blessed with a cottage and a single tree."

There is a noted oak, with far-extending branches resting upon the ground, called Lady Harcourt's Oak, near the Corinthian Arbour. The flower-garden was formerly entered by a Doric gateway, inscribed most appropriately with this sentence from J. J. Rousseau, in French, "If the Author of Nature is grand in mighty things, He is equally grand in the smallest ones." There is a large artificial cavern approached by an arched rock covered with ivy, and near it on a slab of marble are the lines from Milton's *Comus*, beginning—

"Musing meditation most affects
The pensive secrecy of desert cell."

And near to this, on a slanting stone, an inscription to the earl's much-loved gardener, Walter Clark, who died suddenly near the spot in 1784. Its words are these—

"'Twas here he fell; not far removed
His earth received him in her breast;
Still fast beside the scenes he loved
In holy ground his relics rest,"

of which the last two lines are perhaps the neatest—

"Tradition's constant, favourite theme
Shall be—Poor Walter has been here."

The little rustic arbour near to the gate by which visitors are 'emitted' is perhaps the most picturesque of all the spots within the grounds. Just round to the left is a broad glade designed to catch a view of Oxford, and branching from it, again to the left, is a little gem of a peep-hole, through which the conduit can be seen.

Charming Nuneham, with its statues, its tablets, its poetic inscriptions from Lucretius, Metastasio, Chaucer, Marvel, Milton, and from the earl's close friends Whitehead and Mason, surrounded by all that the skill of renowned gardeners could create, is a spot frequented by visitors from the far antipodes. Perhaps its merits are best put forth by Nathaniel Hawthorne, the American author, in his *Our Old Home*—"Of the whole place I will not be niggardly of my rude transatlantic praise, but be bold to say that it appeared to me as

perfect as anything earthly can be, utterly and entirely finished, as if the years and generations had done all that the hearts and minds of the successive owners could contrive for a spot they dearly loved."

It is as well that ere we allow the beauties of the spot to fade we should recall the pictorial treasures the 'plain, rude casket' of the house contains. These are not shown except by special favour. It is quite enough that so many are allowed to intrude to the extent now practicable on the privacy of its much-respected occupier. The catalogue is contained in the third volume of the Harcourt papers, and is given, not as the compilation of the present colonel, but of the Honourable Horace Walpole and Sir Joshua Reynolds, for George Simon, Earl Harcourt, in 1806, who was himself, it should be remembered, a delightful etcher on copper-plate; but the great interest attached to the catalogue is in the honest, sharp criticisms of the editor. A cursory glance over it shows that there is really a most varied, if not most precious, collection —a good example or two of Bellini, Berchem, Angisciola, Cowden, Barocchi, Decker, Both, Guido, Gainsborough, Van Goyen, Jackson, Kneller, Lely, Opie, Lawrence, Vandyck, Mignard, Mirevelt, Watteau, Hanneman, Le Soeur, Reynolds, Rubens, G. Poussin, Titian, Van der Neer, Ruysdael, beside historical and antique china, miniatures, a bit of needlework by Mary Queen of Scots, which Queen Anne ordered to be mounted, the pane of glass from Stanton Harcourt which tells that—

"In the year 1718
Alexander Pope
Finished here the
Fifth volume of Homer,"

(note, it does not say translated), beside some renowned drawings and old watches, trinkets, &c.

The new church, dedicated to All Saints, and completed a few years ago, lies to the right along a narrow road at the bottom of the vale beyond the 'Harcourt Arms Inn.' As an example of good proportions and severity of style it is quite worth a visit, especially as the same lane conducts the visitor to one of the sweetest and most picturesque nooks in the whole neighbourhood. A semicircular projection on the south side, and a bell-turret incorporated with it at the south-east angle of the nave, answer admirably in breaking what would otherwise have been a monotonous length of roofing. The churchyard is extensive and beautifully kept; it has four or five groups of rhododendrons planted on its margin, and flower-beds edge the way to the church door. These latter at Christmas-time are made gay by inserting slips of variegated ivy and laurustinus. Within the simple elongated nave and chancel, the comfortable but severe-looking seats parted by a wide pathway up the centre, the long stretch of open-timbered roof, circular in the chancel and hexagonal in the nave, and the regular masonry throughout, combine to form a *beau-ideal* of what a late 'Early English' village church should be. There is no distinction of seats, for all are alike in God's house; the utmost order and simplicity

reign throughout. The organ is partly on a bracket below the bell-turret, and must strike everyone as of most beautiful tone. The same indeed may be said of several organs in the neighbourhood; their quality of tone and flute-like eloquence of sound often stand out in strongest contrast to the overpressed, harsh, and grating quality of the choirmen's voices, especially of those one or two who, in almost every choir, aim to do the work of half a dozen. Perhaps training with harmoniums has been at the bottom of this defect. It is to most ears very marked, and might soon be remedied. The east window is a triplet of somewhat unusual type, filled with splendid glass. The west window is a double one, surmounted by a third of vesica shape; the others of a style which just preceded the Decorated.

The area of the parish is quoted as 2079 acres, and its population in 1881 was 261.

ODDINGTON

Lies between Islip and Charlton, and about a mile north of Noke. The road has been marked out previously under Watereton and Marston. Should the rail be preferred it is about two miles and a half to the north-east of the station.

Adeline, the widow of Roger de Ivery, possessed her husband's lands in Charlton, Otendon, and Islip in 1079. In 1138, as Kennett informs us, Sir Robert Gait, one of the family which gave Hampton Gay its second name, owned a fourth part of the village of Ottendon, about 350 acres, and obtained leave to build an abbey of the Cistercian order, which he did at his own expense, and endowed it with 150 acres of land. It appears that Ottendun must have some connection with a wood near thereto at that time called Ottelei, and perhaps we have here the key to the word Otmoor. The monastery founded here was moved afterwards because the site was so exposed to floods, and Bishop Alexander, of Lincoln, gave the monks the park of Thame. Thither they removed in 1138, and regarded Alexander as their founder.

In 1279 we have it recorded that William le Pauper held of old inheritance ninety acres here belonging to the Abbat of Westminster, and had to give two attendances at Yistlep Court. The **Church** is a very plain Decorated building, very early in the style, but has in it a brass of some interest as exemplifying the taste of the middle ages, who could gaze on skeleton figures on tombs, at pictures of queens, with their flesh rotting off them, and even at the grim portraitures in Holbein's 'Dance of Death' without that squeamish sense of abhorrence which they now elicit. Here we have outlined in brass, about three feet high, a portrait of the rector, Radulph Hamsterley, quondam fellow of Merton, enrolled in a cere cloth tied at head and feet, and pulled open that we may see worms feasting on his eyes, his mouth, chest, legs, and ankle-bones; and all this ghastly picture devised by the good clergyman's wish, as is pretty manifest by the legend which issues from his mouth; two rhyming lines in Latin to this purport, in English: "Thus am I given to the worms, thus I am to show

that as I am here laid out, so all honour is laid aside," the same word in Latin doing duty for 'laid out for burial,' and 'put away.' The date of his death and the day of the month have never been inserted. There is a shaft of a cross in the churchyard.

The living held by Trinity College is worth £350 per annum, with a residence. There is a day and Sunday-school supported by Charles Sawyer, Esq., who is lord of the manor. Cassey mentions two mineral springs here, not found by the writer. The extent of the parish is 1317 acres, and the population in 1881 was 150.

OSENEY.

WE shall not do better than take Leland's summary of the D'Oily family as an introduction to this celebrated spot, then taking a peep into Wood's MSS., and return to him for a picture of what he saw there in 1538, before Thomas Cromwell and his party had the fingering of its revenues, before a Tudor usurper sat upon England's throne.

"Robertus de Oilleio, that cam into England with Wylliam Conqueror, had given hym the Baronyes of Oxford and Sainct Waleries. This Robert made the Castelle of Oxford, and, as I conject other [besides], made the waulles of Oxford or repairid them. This Robert made the chapelle of S. George, in the Castelle of Oxford, and founded a college of Prebendaries there. This Robert dyid withowt issue, and wher he was buried it is not very certeinly knowen. This Robert had one John de Eiverio [Ivery], that was exceeding familiar with hym, and had beene in the warres as sworen brother onto hym, and had promised to be partaker of Robert's fortune. Whereapon he enriched hym with possessions, and as sum think gave hym S. Waleries. Robert Oilley had a brother callid Nigellus, of whom be no verye famose thinges written. Nigellus had a sunne caulled Robert, that provid a very noble man. This Robert the 2. had a wife caullid Edith Forne, a woman of fame, and highly estemid with King Henry [the first], by whose procuration Robert weddid her. This Robert began the priorie of Blake Chanons at Oseney, by Oxford, emong the isles that Isis river ther makith." "The place where it had its situation though low yet very pleasant both in respect of the chinking rivulets running about it, as also fore the shady groves and walks encompassed with; and so enticing a place was it for pleasure, that it often gave occasion to a noble lady of the city called Editha Forne, wife of Robert de Oilley (a woman given to no lesse superstition then credulity), to recreat and solace herself therein when she lived at the Castle, who more particularly, as upon an evening she with her attendance walked by the river's syde, saw a great company of pyes gathered togeather on a tree, making a hideous noise with their chattering, which shee perceiving did with slight notice pass it by for that time; but the next evening walking that waye againe with her maidens as she did afterwards the third tyme, found againe the pyes on the same tree, and

makying the like noise as before, seeming as twere to direct their chatterings to her, with which being much perplexed [she] wondered what the meaning might be, and returning home againe sent for her Confessor, who was one Randulph, a Canon of St. Frideswide's, and relating all the particulars that had severall times hapned to her in this place, demanded of him what the reason of their chattering might be. He told her he could not directly resolve her at that time, but if she would walke there againe the next day he would wait upon her and view the matter himselfe, and then give her an exact account. That time being come, they all walked the same way, where they found the pyes again as before amaking the like noise. Radulphus seeing all this seemed at that present to be amazed, but after mature deliberation told her upon her ofte demands for resolution. 'Oh, madam,' said he (the wiliest pye of all), 'these are noe pyes, but soe many poore soules in purgatory, that do begge and make all this complaint for succour and releif; and they knowing you to be pittyfull, and one that will have regard of their condition, doe direct their clamours to you, hoping that by your charity you would bestow somthing both worthy of their relief, as also for the welfare of your and your posterityes soules, as your husbands uncle did in founding the college and church of St. Georg.' These wordes being finisht, she replied: 'And is it so indeed? Now, *de Pardieux*, if old Robin, my husband, will conceede to my request, I will doe my best endeavour to be a means to bring these wretched soules to rest.' And thereupon relating the whole matter to her husband, did soe much, by her continuall and frequent importunityes to him, bring the business about, that he, a little while after, with the consent of Theobaldus, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Alexander, Bishop of Lincolne, in whose diocess this place then was, founded this monastery near or upon the place where these pyes chattered A: Dni: 1129, dedicating it to St. Mary, and alloting it to be a receptacle of canon regulars of St. Augustine, and made Radulph, before mentioned, the first priour thereof, as shall be spoken off anon. The foundation being laid in an island which is called Oseneya, outside the castle of Oxford, by the said Robert de Oilley, who was constable to King Henry I., [and] did, with the consent of Edith his wife, Henry and Gilbert his sons, for the health of the king and safety of the whole kingdom, endow and enrich it with churches, lands, tithes, tenements, and other demesne; that is to say, all the land in the island, the houses thereon, and the mills near." At or soon after the foundation the second Robert D'Oilly offered the next mead to the west of Oseney; and later Philippa of Warwick gave them the Ham Close; and another Henry D'Oilly, a man of very great possessions, property in Weston, and a mead called Eld, also west of Oseney, Alan of North Oseney, land and building toward St. Nicholas Chapel (afterwards St. Thomas' Church). Twenty years later, in 1149, Robert handed over the Church of St. George, and all its endowments.

Starting later in the race for popularity among the kings and nobles than

Abingdon, by some hundred of years it soon outstripped it, and as from Abingdon had begun a great reform of the monasticism of early times, so here from Oseney sprang up, in 1133, one "Master Robertus Pulein, a man who began to read the Holy Scriptures which had grown out of use in England, whom afterwards, when his doctrine had profited both the English and French churches, the pope summoned to Rome, and made chancellor of the Church." Next to Paris for intellectual progress in those days stood Oxford, and Oseney men were the teachers. The restless activity of mind and burning zeal for fresh studies, which marked the period of the early Crusades, resulted in crowding Oxford with men whose foreign travels and experience 'of men and things' made the city a leading one in the kingdom. We have in the first year of King John a charter granted by him, enduing the Abbat and Canons of Osinney with great privileges, followed in the next year by a right royal gift—lands in Beinton, Beinsinton, Heddon, and the stream Aldeware, near Oxford. In 1204, but four years later, the abbey was sufficiently grand to entertain the king twice in the year, and it should be remembered that the court of the Exchequer moved at this date with the sovereign. A little later we find the abbat Clemens making a small present to the Templars at Couele, and that is followed by an agreement of mutual aid between the two houses. We have spoken elsewhere of their possessions in Foresthill and in Sottoue Wood. Beside these the *Hundred Rolls* of 1279 show us that they had a horse-mill in St. Nicholas parish, a goldsmith's shop in St. Ebbes, and fully forty houses in the city, making a rental equal at the least to £318 of our money, nearly one-half of all the rentals pertaining to religious houses taken together.

The abbey buildings were large and handsome, the chapel of great dimensions elaborately painted, and it had within it no less than twenty-four altars. Pages of description can be found; but, alas! no good view of the whole has been handed down to us. One precious drawing of the ruins still remains in the window to Bishop King at Christchurch, which his sons put up to him, and their descendants contrived to hide from the Puritans when they possessed Oxford. To the Bishop's right is a tall tower five stages high, Transitional in style, with stilted Norman arches decorated with zigzags in the third stage; and to his left a grand Norman gateway recessed in five arches, again ornamented with zigzag ornamentation, and something like flying buttresses in the upper stage. Wood, who devoted some considerable time to the study of Oseney, says that the space covered was equal to that of all Christ Church as it stood in his days, without Peckwater and the new buildings. The large campanile or bell tower remained till after 1644, the time of the rebellion. The peal of bells was noted in history; even a Scotch historian goes out of his way to remark that "no bells are thought to be better than those at the Abbey of Oseney, in England." The old names are given as Hautclere, Douce, Clement, Austin, Marie, Gabriel, and John; but when they were recast for Christ Church, Mary, Jesus, Meribus, Lucas, New Bell, Thomas, Conger (?), Goldeston, and

then three more were added. The original Thomas, after two or three mischances, was suspended over the gateway, and appears to have been considered a fine bell by Trisham, who, when with Bishop Jewel, exclaimed of it, "Oh, beautiful and sweet harmony! oh, beautiful Maria (for so it had been renamed in honour of Queen Mary), how beautifully she sounds, how melodiously she echoes, how marvellously she pleases the ear!" He was so fond of its sound that he offered to get the Mary bell of Bampton put up by its side, and thus make the best peal in the kingdom, if they would only come to mass. But we have gone on too fast, and will hurry back to Oseney Mead. Wood tells us that this campanile at the west end (probably the one in Bishop King's window), and the other, where nave and chancel met, were "magnificent with rows of pinnacles that adorned them, so grand and pleasing that strangers far and near, at the report, came to make draughts of it." His long description of the arrangement of the buildings we will omit, and step inside with Leland, and gaze at the things which struck him most. "The cumming of Edith to Oseney and Radulph waiting on her and the tre with the chattering pies," writes he, "be painted in the waulle of tharch over Edith tumbe in Oseney Priorie. There lyith an image of Edith, of stone, in thabbite of a wowes (vowess), holding an hart in her right hond on the north side of the high altare."

"Henry d'Oilly lyith buried in the veri midle of the presbyteri under a flatte marble stone, whereapon is a flourid cross porturid. Ela, Countes of Warwik, a woman of very great riches and nobilitie, lyith buried at the hedde of the tumbe of Henry Oilley undre a very fair flat marble, in the habite of a woues, graven yn a coper plate. Ela gave many rich jewelles to Oseney, but no landes. Ela gave sum landes to Royle Abbay by Oseney. Ela gave riche giftes to the abbay of Reading. On the north side of the Presbyteri is buried undre an arche John Saincte John, a famose man, in an high and large tumbe of marble. [See Stanton St. John.] S. John's wife lyith under a flat marble by her husbandes tumbe. Beaufort, a knight, lyith in the quier at the head of Countes Ela. This Bewfort and an Abbat of Oseney buildid the body of the chirch now standing at Oseney, and ther be porturid their images in the volt of it. There be very faire doble isles on eche side of the body of the chirche. There is buried at Oseney yn our Lady chapelle a noble man of the Placetes [Plessets, Plescy, see Kidlington], in a fair tumbe, with an image. One Thomas Kidlington, borne at Kidlington in Oxfordshire, Abbate of Oseney, builded many yers sins the chapelle of our Lady, on the north side of the presbyterie of Oseney Chirch."

To the abbey we are indebted for the first Oseney bridge, mentioned in 1467; the stone road made by Lord Williams, *circa* 1547, must have existed before in a more primitive state as a causeway with wooden bridges, as the author of the *Life of John Daymond* in 1530 writes: "Who knows not, Botley so small, thy bridges constructed in a long line in the midst of a meadow."

The records of Oxford supply us with the lease granted by Oseney in 1530 of five halls, now absorbed by Brasenose College, "to the Principall of Kinge's Hall and College of Brasennose;" and in 1546 we have the following disbursements by the city, then combining with Wolsey to demolish the abbey and build a grand cathedral at St. Frith's.

"To Poppyng Jaye the joyner, takyng down the stalls and sydes of the quire and hye aultar, 8 days, 10s.; for takyng downe the roffe of the churche, 18d.; and two servaunts agayn upon the quere, 7s. To Syngleton, settyng the gable rope to pull down the bells, 4s. John Wesburne, takyng down the bell, 3 days, 2s.; chief carpenter takyng down the bells, 6 days, 4s.; and his men one day in the steple abowt the great bell and his frame, 3s. Wellbye of Ensham, for caryege of the great bell to Fryswids, Sep. 26th, 20s. Geffrey Vyne, 4 day[s], about takyng downe the battlements of the church and upon the porch, 2s. 7d. Mr. Raynold, meltyng of the leade of the churche and castyng into sowes, £16 8s. 8d. Wm. Plummer, takyng doune the leade of the cloyster and castyng hit into sowes, £4 4s. 2d."

The items for bringing in Mr. Stumppe's mill work to fill the vacated buildings we omit; but the same records give us a specification of what the city leased him, which is worth our attention, as it is the only documentary evidence of the number of buildings undestroyed in 1546. It should be remembered that a chapel or part of the chapel was in sufficiently good order for mass to be celebrated here in Mary's reign. The buildings specified are: "Gate howse, howses near, Mr. Bysley's lodgyng, Mr. Lynche's lodgyng and his long stable, dove howse, Mr. Deane's lodgyng and those annexed and chapel kytchyn and stable, mill howses with all other howses in that reawe, Mr. Belsyre's lodgyng, Mr. Day's lodgyng with the backhowse [bakehouse] stables, slawghter howse with other in that reawe, the great high howse with a lyttel howse annexed, Mr. Hayne's lodgyng with the great hall above and the great parler beneath, the scole howse, howses at the north end of the dorter [dormitory], Mr. Dyar's lodgyng, the fraters and the dorter, the great barn." Leland tells us that Stump was a rich clothier, who had bought the Abbey of Malmesbury of the king, and fitted up all the offices with looms to weave cloth.

In Oxford, no doubt, the dissolution had thrown out of employment hundreds of labourers, who had been employed at Rewley, Oseney, St. Frids, and elsewhere; the builders at Cardinal College had brought with them men from their own shops, thus creating what may be called a labour panic. It occurred to the worthy mayor and his council that if they could induce Mr. Stump to establish mills for the employ of two thousand people, by letting him the extensive premises at Oseney for the moderate rent of £18, they would be doing a good thing "for the succour of the cytye of Oxenford, and the contrey abowt yt." For all we know the experiment was a failure. As to the present remains of Oseney, there is a bit of a wall, the lower part of a building near Oseney Mill, distinguishable by a very pointed roof, which can be seen from

the towing-path, and had in our younger days traces of a cill of a window, fourteen feet long and six feet high, and that perhaps is all: three hundred and forty years of spoliation have done their work. Some of the stones no doubt went to build St. Thomas a Becket's Church, and some of the grave-stones were removed thither and have since been defaced, the rest has been a quarry for mending roads and patching bridges.

We will leave modern Osney and its handsome new church to the editors of the *Oxford Guide*. The population of the parish, St. Frideswide's, is 2146.

PORTMEADOW.

THE traveller by railways northward, and the pedestrian to Godstow, must equally be struck by the very long piece of pasturage which lies on the east side of the Thames above Medley. It has belonged to the mayor, council, and freemen of Oxford for at least eight hundred years, as the account in *Domesday* shows. "All the burgesses of Oxford have in common without the wall a pasture returning [to the Royal Treasury] 6s. 8d." Wharton supposes that it was comparatively a new gift to Oxford at the time, either from the D'Oillys, or from the king himself. Certainly the phrase, "they always held it," is absent; and it is generally conceded that the ill-will which the conqueror is supposed to have borne to Oxford (Oxonium) should be shifted to (Exonium or) Exeter. Without entering into a long etymological disquisition, it is worth remarking that the word port in Saxon was soon shifted from the idea of a haven and haven-town, to any city or town; that the portgerefa or portreve was the mayor before that Norman term was borrowed; that early in Henry I.'s days Faritius of Abendon laid a case against Ermenold, a citizen of Oxford, for arbitration before the council of the Portmen (the portmannimote) at Oxford—clear evidence that port relates to an inland town; that Portmans-mede is the full form of the word; and lastly, that the word ports is still used for streets, in the phrase, 'in the ports of the daughter of Zion.'

It is clear that in the Empress Maud's time there were portgraves in Oxford, as they are mentioned in that charter of hers, in which she speaks of her being besieged here. In 1138 Oxford followed the fashion, in assisting the nunnery at Godstowe, by making over to it Portmanseyt—some eyot near Godstow Bridge; and this was followed by the Wica—perhaps a second meadow, as Wood thinks, perhaps the farmhouse—in Portmanseyt, presented in 1170. One of the Abbesses of Godstow was called upon to show why she had tried to make her portion of Portmede separate. In the fourteenth century the Binsey men said that their right of common had belonged to them in Stephen's and King John's time, *before Godstow was built!* Sometime in the fifteenth century we meet with Black John's Pitt, near Binsey, a name which may have been shifted to Black Jack's Island—the only thing like an enclosure in the entire meadow. The whole surface is flat, very flat; but

there are slight indications of a road from the Black Bridge toward Medley Weir. The road by Walton Well has always been the common entrance to the meadow. The town council, in 1554, were implicated in a lawsuit with Mr. Owen, King Henry VIII.'s physician, to whom he had given Godstow. It lasted till 1562, when some mere stones were put up, to limit the Godstow drift, we may suppose. In 1565, and the next years, the council had always to consult the Bynsey and Wulvercut parishes before they could carry out their arrangements. In 1579 the idea of enclosing it, or part of it, was seriously entertained, through the suggestion of Mr. Owen. Now and then it became necessary to give the meadow a month's rest; sheep have been banished for three hundred years, the regulations of 1565 do not mention them. By that code the mayor was allowed to have eight beastes, every alderman six, every baylye four, every chamberlain three, every commoner one; but any of the above having no animals might lett oute his common, but only for half the number—the chamberlain and freeman for one. All this was "condycyonally yf Bynsey and Wulvercott may be brought to some reasonable order."

Nearly halfway along the length of the meadow is an elevated mound with a huge stone upon it. It is said not to be a barrow, as someone dug into it to see. Its use is not very clear; history seems silent on the point. The area 400 acres, and population very numerous on race days and reviews.

RADLEY

Is bisected roughly by the railway to Didcot. If arrived at by rail, the road to the west will conduct to the church and park; that to the east past one or two old houses—one having a moderately old timber framing, with a peacock on the fence, clipped out of yew, and another with a little pargetting over the porch, are almost worth the walk. By pursuing this road about half a mile the towing-path may be reached, and by inclining considerably southwards down a long meadow that part of the towing-path will be arrived at which runs near to Nuneham Island. The church, vicarage, and a blacksmith's shop under a huge willow will afford two or three delightful sketches. The roadway to Radley is the Abingdon one through Kenington. The church can be reached by a direct footpath, commencing at the first meadow beyond Sandford Lock.

The church, dedicated to St. James, has very little early work in it. The chancel is Decorated in style; the outside of the whole so much covered with ivy that it is difficult to judge of its probable date. At the Reformation this manor was attached to the Abbey of Abingdon; early in the twelfth century it was customary for Radley to send wax for the altar, and for the repairs of the fabric of the church of the abbey came the tithes of the men of Norchote and of Radeleye, parts of the Bertune estate, otherwise Berton, the

north part of Abingdon. In 1250 we read, "The Abbat of Abendon holds among other places Radeley." In 1385 we find by the *post mortem* returns died Thomas Hanneye, parson of the church of Langeworth, who had held on behalf of the abbat and convent of Abyndon, Comenore, Radley, Wynderberton, and Abyndon in all 4 houses, 14 tofts (? ruined houses, or sites of

RADLEY CHURCH.

houses), 420 acres of land, and 58 acres of meadow, and a rent of 18s. 6d. Beside this he held the commission of guarding the park of the same village, a share of the court fees of the Hornemere hundred and the wood tenement. Henry VIII.'s valuation terms the chapels of Raydeley and Drayton parts of the vicarage of St. Helen's, Abingdon, and puts down the three at £29 11s. 1d., a little in excess of Cumnor with its subordinate chapelries. After the Dis-

solution the manor was purchased by George Stonehouse, Esq., one of the clerks of green cloth to Queen Elizabeth. His second son, Sir George, having distinguished himself on the Royalist side in the time of Charles I., was obliged by the Parliamentarians to pay a large sum as a composition for his estates. The register begins 1599, and contains entries of the deaths of various soldiers who served in Cromwell's army. In 1792 the estates passed to Captain George Bowyer, made baronet for his services in a sea-fight 1st June, 1794. Sir George became admiral of the blue, and died at his seat of Radley, December 9th, 1800, his son Sir George succeeding him. Lugworth, in this parish, was once a considerable hamlet, now depopulated. The manor is now Sir George Bowyer's. Kennington is partly in this parish. Thrupp and Thrupwick form a liberty of this parish with a small population. There is a portion of an inscription on the glass of one of the windows, south side, in Latin—"Pray for the welfare of John Sant;" and another, "Of Adam Maude and Denys his wife;" and the arched monument on the south wall of chancel is very noticeable. It has the figure of Sir William Stonehouse in armour, with his lady near him; on the sides are sons in long mourning-cloaks, four young children in their swaddling-clothes, and five daughters. It was put up by his son in 1631. The beautiful old house of the Bowyers has now become a college, named St. Peter's, of which the Bishop of Oxford is visitor. They have a warden and nine assistant masters beside two visiting ones. The total occupants of the building are 117. They make a formidable crew on the river.

The area of the parish is put down as 2994 acres, and the population in 1881 was 531; that of Thrupp and Wick hamlets being 34.

SANDFORD, BERKS.

DRY SANDFORD, in contrast to Wet Sandford, or that on the Thames, is best reached by the Abingdon Road, and continuing that break in it which occurs below Hinksey, two miles south of the city. It goes south-west considerably up-hill at first, and, after travelling three and a half miles, the village lies to the right hand.

There does not appear to be anything of antiquarian interest remaining in the place. The church is of modern erection, built in 1854; but the village is a very pleasant one. It has a school with the endowment of £20 per annum, left by a Mrs. Mutrie.

The place is mentioned very early in the *Abendun Chronicles*, being given by Coenwulf to it in 821, with Wudton, Sunnigawelle, Cumanora, and other places, to be held 'even as Ceadwal gave them,' thus carrying back the first mention a few years—to 686; and though this seems extravagantly early, the safest authorities affirm that there is nothing to militate against the acceptance of the charter.

It was in the hands of the abbat about 1120, the tenths of the villeins' estates of Sanford, estimated at 20s., being devoted to different condiments for the table. About 1340 we are told that Simon de Dichelye of Ledewell was allowed, for 60s., licence to have certain land here, in Ledewell and Welcombe Grove.

When Peter Besiles, knight, died (in 1425), he was in possession of the manor of Buckland, several fisheries in Thamis, three acres of meadow at Comenore, some rent from Abyndon and Sandford in Berks. This Sir Peter was the builder of the Abyndon and Culham bridges. (See the latter.)

The population of this village was 272 in the year 1881. It has now a church, and the living is worth £178.

SANDFORD-ON-THAMES,

So called because a second one exists in the direction of Woodstock, and a third near Besilsleigh. It can be reached most pleasantly by the towing-path, if the weather is dry, by the Iffley Road or by the train to Littlemore Station. There are two houses beside the Manor Farm worth notice, and a small, nicely-fitted church, the last of which is in the one side of a field called Church Close, of which the Manor Farm occupies the other side. The village must always be interesting as being, in the thirteenth century, the grand preceptory of the Templars; but it has a history commencing much earlier than that. As early as the time of Athelstan, before 930 A.D., there is mention made of it in the *Abingdon Chronicles;* but, because of one or two discrepancies, men of the Colenso type have suspected this charter. The next one, however, dated 931, is undoubtedly genuine, whereby the same king grants fifteen houses and land at Sanford, free from all services except the usual three in those days—of military service, of restoring bridges, of restoring castles; and it concludes in the following quaint fashion: "If any one imbued with a thievish spirit, in a presumptuous manner shall attempt to violate or change this gift, and shall not repent and give satisfaction before his death, let him be punished eternally in the fires of hell with Judas, the betrayer of Christ." Edwig's grant of 956 mentions the town under the name Stanford in one version, Sanford in two others. In 1054 King Edward the Confessor granted to Abendun four houses on common land in this village, the same which Godwin had granted four years before.

Doomsday makes us acquainted with four owners: 1. Ada held in Sanford 1920 acres, a mill worth 30d. per annum, 100 acres of meadow, pasture land half a mile long and three furlongs wide, the whole worth formerly £10, but then £20. 2. Wenric, a tenant under St. Marie's at Abendon, holding 1200 acres, a wood twenty-eight perches by thirty, two fisheries, the whole worth in the time of the Confessor £8, afterwards £5, now only £3, and the which Blacheman the priest occupied. 3. Robert and Roger, who held 120 acres.

It was worth 15s., but now 20s., the which Siward held, and it could not leave the church. 4. Wenric, tenant under the abbat, 480 acres, and 10 acres of meadow, which was and is worth £2." Having promised not to trouble you about measurements, we will take it for granted that Ada's land did not lie at Sandford-on-Thames, and that consequently all the village was owned by Abingdon. Leave out also the partners above named, and the acreage will be correct. It is supposed, and perhaps proved, that the item we read in the *Hundred Rolls* of 1279 refers to a date soon after the Conquest. If so, the very early Norman window in the chancel is vested with some historical interest. It is this: "The prioress and nuns of Littlemor hold, for their own use, the church of Sandford. It was founded on the estate of Raderus de Sandford. He who founded the church was called Gerri de Planastre, and he held that land by old inheritance." Robert D'Oilly's gift must be some time before 1160, as his son is mentioned as consenting. They gave 120 acres to the church in Oxford Castle, which became transferred to Oseney. In 1216 the presentation was in the hands of the king, the Abbat of Bayeaux being excluded as an alien. In 1218 commence the long series of gifts to Cowley Preceptory by Thomas de Saunford and his family. From the Close Rolls we may conclude that this nobleman was an important personage in the palace of his sovereign, King John, acting as Chamberlain, and taking care of the wardrobe, jewels, and Royal purse. He became an ardent convert to the crusading ideas then prevalent, and so earnest was he that he gave up the manor lands to the charge of the Templars, whose aims he so much approved of. To their extent we have no clue. His son, also of the same name, followed the example. Robert de Saunford too bestowed 30 acres, Raderus some trifles, and Jordan let land to them, the united gifts of the family amounting to 430 acres, beside the manorial domain and the land of Robert. The Count of Pembroke William Mareschall, Hugo de Plessy, and the Abbess of Littlemoor, assisted in endowing the Saunford Preceptory. The rapid and extraordinary growth of this branch is but a type of what had been going on since 1118 throughout Europe. Their fall (in 1307–9) was equally rapid, brought about probably by the cupidity of the kings of France and England, upon accusations issuing from recreant members of the brotherhood, men whose dispositions chafed at the stringent regulations imposed on them by St. Bernard—of English parents, by-the-bye—who took so dolorous a view of his very wicked times, and bequeathed to us that most marvellous rhythm from which the Lutheran, Anglican, Scottish, and American Churches, and even the Swedenborgian ministry, have selected, as hymns, such portions as—

"The world is very evil,
The times are waxing late."

Or, "Brief life is here our portion,
Brief sorrow, short-lived care."

Or, "Jerusalem the golden,
With milk and honey blest."

Another fraternity took their possessions in England, that of the Knights of St. John, the famous Malta Knights, and the records of Sandford show that the

king of England aimed to deal justly with the unlucky pensioners of the order. There appears to have been none of the brutality and neglect which called down the curse of God upon the sacrilegious herd in 'Bluff King Harry's' days.

When Brother Robert le Estropp, in 1274, moved his household from Couele to Saunford, he most prudently caused to be made a fair copy of all charters, &c., referring to his Preceptory, and the book has come down unharmed to rest in peace on the Bodleian shelves, bought by our oft-mentioned Oxford antiquarian, Anthony-a-Wood.

A tradition three hundred years ago gave the **Manor Farm** as the place of the Preceptory. The remains there are too scanty to prove the fact—a jamb of a window and cill at the east end of a long barn, and two pieces imbedded in a garden wall near a lovely gateway. The former has been much patched in later styles by the Knights Hospitallers; the latter comprises first an inverted shield, with a templar's cross upon it; secondly a charming bit of thirteen-century carving that speaks well for the ornamentation of the Templars' abode. Church-field, naturally a quarry, may also have been a quarry of demolished walls of ancient buildings. Within the memory of man the manor-house had on its northern side the usual accompaniment of a large fishpond; and an ancient weeping willow, which once marked the limit of the pool, has just given up its existence. It boasts besides of a magnificent chimney, with a small compartment inside its capacious funnel, and to the north gable is still attached a remnant of barge-boarding, dating before the Reformation.

The garden gateway is said to be dated 1614. On the east side of it are the early remains; on the west some Perpendicular remains from a neighbouring parish. Charles I. visited this house, and left behind him a hat and letter, now in the British Museum; they were found strangely secreted about forty years since. The late thorough cleaning the brook has undergone has revealed nothing of interest, thus inclining one to the belief that the church field is the more likely spot.

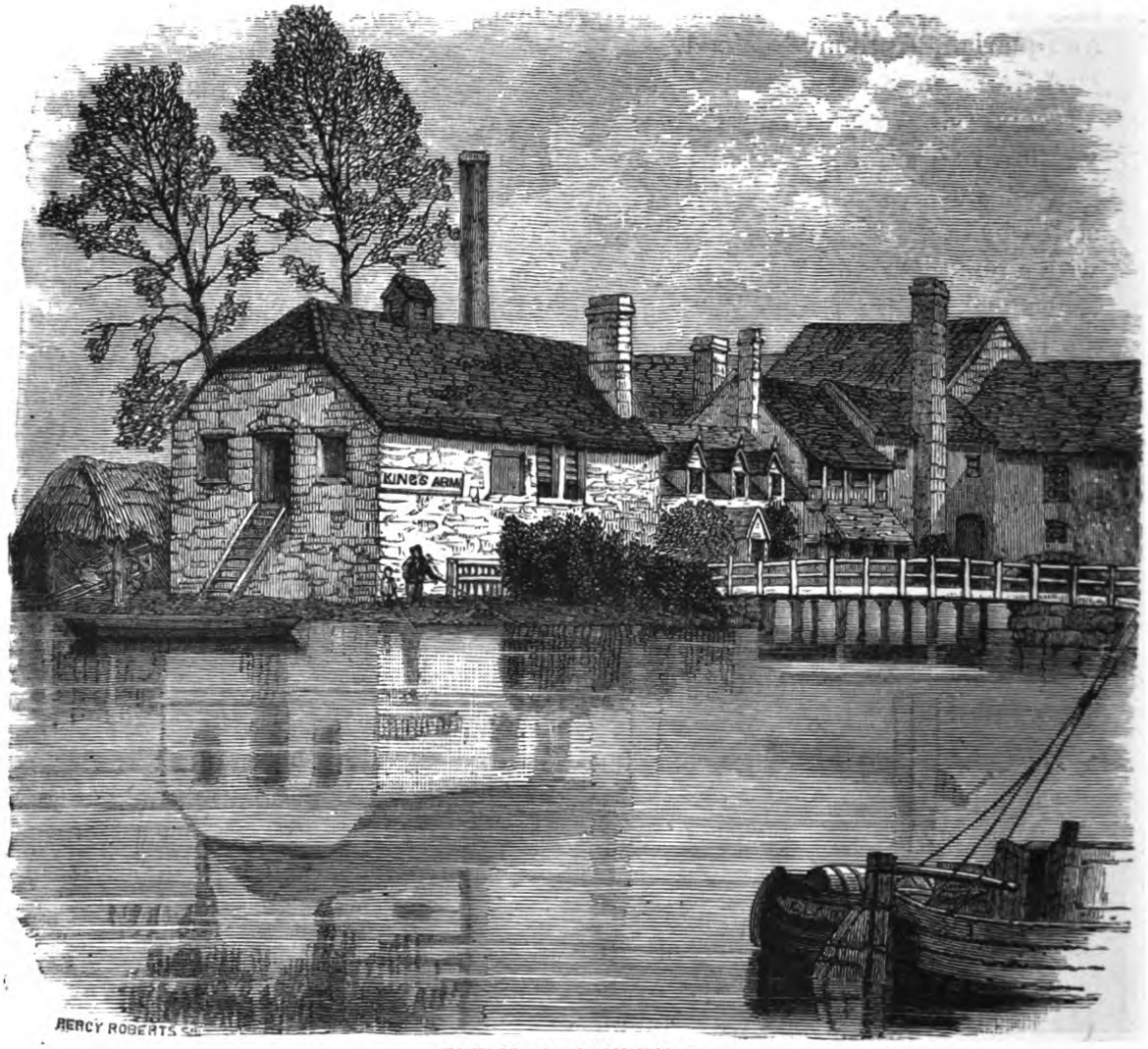
The Powells, who occupied this house, the Mynchery, and bought Friar's entry, and the tenements about there, are connected with Mary Powell, Milton's wife.

From the occurrence of the words Chasterway and Chesterwey Furlong in old records, we may look with some confidence for a fort or castle in this parish, and no spot gives better hope than a peculiar round hill between the church and Nuneham; a 'doune' and a moor also occur.

Among peculiar **holdings**, in 1279, were seventeen tenants, who paid heriots and marriage dues; "*i.e.* to make redemption for son and daughter;" were not to make their sons monks, nor sell heifer or ox without licence." The jury then complain that the Preceptor of Couele, Robert Scrop (before 1274), took to himself the liberties of the hundred, where there was service did none, and when there was once 7s. paid for hidage and 2s. for frankpledge, paid

nothing. The fishing rights were 'three miles long and more,' and they had two watermills and a fulling mill (?). Four sub-tenants of John of Nelesbyre, each holding thirty acres, were bound to supply one man one day for reaping and for harvest, and if any of them brewed for sale they paid a halfpenny tax. The nuns held 270 acres in Sandford (? Littlemore, which see).

In 1512 the Prior of the Hospitalers sent a commission to Sandford to take account of their rents, and from their report it appears that the Prior paid



THE MILL, SANDFORD.

4s. 8d. for land annually to the Abbat of Abyngdon, and 2s. 8d. for a meadow called Turret, under the term Castellwarde, payment *i.e.* for soldiers to attend at Windsor. In 1661 Wood tells us that he saw the ruins of an old priory, and of a chapel adjoining. The Powell estates are now in the hands of the Duke of Marlborough.

With regard to the **Church**, we know that the tower was erected in 1840 by the same architect that rebuilt the chancel arch, and put the stone altar.

The south door and two little windows are good Early Norman in style. There is a small altar tomb in the chancel used as a credence table, and a much later one on the south side. To the south wall of the chancel is affixed a Virgin Mary, surrounded by an aureole, which follows the shape of the figure, which six angels resting on clouds support, while two below are supporting or opening a reliquary. It was dug up in the churchyard, probably came from the chapel of the Hospitallers, which was dedicated to the Virgin, and still bears traces of colour and gilding.

The porch is inscribed: "Mistress Eliza Isham built me in the year of Grace, 1652." The porch of the patroness—

> "Thanks to thy charitie, religiose Dame,
> Wch found mee old, and made mee newe againe."

Very much has been done to the church (St. Andrew's) during the last forty years, and last year a vicarage was built.

The **Paper Mills** here, now the property of the Clarendon Press delegates, deserve notice because they employ a good share of the population, but more particularly because during the last year the turbine principle of water-wheel has, for the first time in this neighbourhood, been introduced as a motive power, a principle destined to obliterate the older and wasteful systems.

The living is a donative, in the patronage of Mrs. Hussey, worth £15. The extent of the parish is 1680 acres, and the population in 1881 was 318—a decrease of thirty in the ten years.

SEACOURT,

An extra parochial hamlet, camp, or chapelry on the borders of Berkshire, adjoining to Binsey on the east, and Botley on the north.

When the road from Abingdon and Oxford to Ensham, previous to the time of 'Williams of Thame,' passed along the south-west margin of Wytham Wood, by a road now private, but still called the Old Ensham Road, it was but natural that a branch from it should be made toward Binsey, and onwards to Binsey Ford and North Oxford. Binsey at the time was a larger village than now; and the district where Wolvercot, Summertown, Medley, Binsey, and Walton Manor now are, was sufficiently well-peopled to be apportioned as a separate hundred, under the title of 'The hundred outside the North Gate of Oxford;' the hundred of Plowley, Ploudhlegh, Pohdlegh, Poghdele, or Pathou, for it has gone by all these names, not reaching in the fourteenth and previous centuries as far as the walls of Oxford.

On this branch road was till lately an extra-parochial district—Seaworth, or Seacourt. Its northern boundary is a small brook on the Botley and Witham road. A fence (its northern boundary) has been lately dug up, but extended nearly to Tilbury Farm, and the south lodge of the park. There is now a barn and an enclosure for haystacks still called Seacourt Farm. Assuming

the genuineness of the Abendon charter of 952 (under Hinksey) we should look to Seof-ecanwyrthe as the orthography most likely to clear up its derivation. If the name was Seof-fecan-wyrthe, and that is virtually the same as the manor last mentioned, the meaning would undoubtedly be, "Village at the seventh distance;" that is, at the seventh mile's distance from Abingdon: this it really is. Such an explanation destroys all those attempts to derive it, first, from Sec-mans-worth (warrior-man's-village), which adapts itself perhaps too neatly to the theory of the West Saxon camp being here, to check the action of the Mercian post at Bladon or Begbrook; and secondly, from Seccan-worth; *i.e.* warrior's village. It is as well to remember that Seofecanwyrthe is placed in the charter between Hengestes-ige (Hincksey) and Witham, its true topographical position.

Seckworth in some documents approaches so nearly to Sugworth, also a depopulated chapelry towards Radley, that care must be taken in investigating its history hereafter.

In 1089 there seems little doubt concerning a village here. (See under Botley, 'men from Sevecurda.') The name has certainly undergone a great change, but it is a usual one, on the Faringdon and Farndon principle; and yrthe has become urda, against which there is no reasonable objection. Its further history is this: That the manor of Seacourt or Sekecourt was granted in the time of Edward II. (1307–1327); that it was called Manor of Senkeworth in 1342; that the Countess of Arundel held it at her death in 1375 (Edward III.); that it was granted in 1539 to Sir John Williams by Henry VIII., having become his (?) by the dissolution of Abingdon; and that among the University Archives of the year 1542 is a report of a commission concerning the free chapel of Seckworth, chapel perhaps meaning chapelry. Coming to Anthony Wood's *Notes* we meet with statements which are not clearly supported, his references not being always intelligible. "The town of Seckworth was enriched, as also Binsey, with pilgrims that came to be cured of their blindness, lameness, &c." "Binsey to Seckworth is two miles to the south." "Probably the king of the west Saxons in Berkshire, &c., might keep his pallace at Seckworth, being upon the frontier of his kingdom." "At Seckworth there is abundance of the plant danewort, and near Kermington, in Lincolnshire (a well-known Danish locality), danewort also grows."

Next come Hearne's statements, about 1700—"Having lost this strong fort of Benesingtune, Kinewulf, it seems, set about building another at Wightham, where he frequently resided as he did at Seckworth, situate between Botley and Wightham. Which town of Seckworth was once so considerable that 'tis reported there have been in it above 20 inns, as Mr. Wood observes . . . The highway came through it from Ensham [roughly so], and Cumenor and other places to Oxford, passing over the water at Binsey, which was the old Ford from whence Oxford, which formerly stood more towards the north-west [??], had its name. Indeed many of the inhabitants of Binsey talk of this

town of Seckworth as a very notable thing, and the foresaid Mr. Wood tells us that the ruins thereof were lately to be seen [*i.e.* 1680–1690], that there have been many loads of stones brought hence to build withal, that it was formerly a parish of itself, but that in his time it was so desolated that there were only two or three hovels for corn and cattle there standing, and paid tithes to no parish, which is what is true of it at present (except that a house has been built for the servants of the owner of the land to lye at, upon occasion), and the people of Botley and Binsey say, that if it be in any parish 'tis in the parish of Windsor. Its name in the Saxon tongue confirms what has been stated [!]. It being looked upon as a thing of consequence, it was destroyed by the adverse faction, I believe, with the castle of Wightham in the days of Ethelred, father of Edmund Ironside; and although the castle was not re-edified, yet this village soon revived again, particularly in the reign of Edward the Confessor, when there was great resort to Oxford, that glorious king being pleased . . . to show particular favour, not only to Islip, where he was born, but to Heddington (with which his queen Editha was much delighted), and to other villages round about." A little later Warton ascribes the position of "the castle on the mount of Witham" in the *Abingdon Chronicles* to the present abbey, and says, in very guarded terms, "It seems to have been connected with Seckworth, a desolate town adjacent, the soldier's town in Saxon." It appears that they all made up their mind that it was a town, though worth is the term applied. Warton candidly acknowledges that after a frequent and deliberate search he was not able to discover any mounds or trenches on the summit of the hill. The writer has visited each of the mounds that seemed probable—one having a spring near it, and feels obliged to agree with the opinion of the Earl Abingdon's head keeper that there is nothing of the kind covered by the brushwood or lying open, and he is one thoroughly acquainted with every yard of the ground. The account of the oldest of the woodmen and labourers, most of whom know the round hill at Blaydon, is just the same. The tale among the labourers that live nearest to the probable site of this mysterious place is that their grandfathers, they think, did dig out some foundations like fireplaces. This would perhaps correspond with the making or remaking of the road to cart materials from Cumnor. 'South of Binsey,' occurring in two or three extracts, is not a very explicit or correct expression; the barn stands about three furlongs west of the church at Binsey, across the Shire brook. There is no reason why the Binsey ford should be *the* ford whence Uskford, Ouseford, or Oxford should take its name; the name is British, we may rest assured, and has no connection with the animal. The ford at Binsey has on neither side the well-worn tracks or deep old roads to warrant the idea; and though Roman coins and bits of pottery have been, according to Skelton, dug out opposite the 'Horse and Jockey' in Woodstock Road, we require something more definite before we yield to the Binsey and Seckworth theory. The reference to Windsor may be accounted for in

this fashion. The village was connected with Abingdon; the tenure on which that abbey held several of its possessions was keeping watch and ward at Windlesore. Men who had been to that magnificent fort would come home full of the grand things they had seen, and gradually any outlying spots of this character within the abbat's district would assume that they had to ward Windsor as part of their tenure, and then that they owned the lord of Windsor as their head. More may be discovered about the spot, one would imagine, from the deeds and maps at Wytham Abbey: they would at least give us the extent, the population we know—*nemo*.

SHIPPON

Lies north-west of Abingdon, about three-quarters of a mile. A short essay from an Abingdon paper, written by J. Williams, Esq., who has devoted some years to the study of the neighbourhood, mentions two furlongs in this parish, bearing the respective names of Old Gore and Barrow, which local traditions point out as the scene of a bloody battle. They are separated by a swamp that has had a stone road across it, many loads of stones having been carted away from its course. The people call it 'All Gore,' and Mr. Williams inclines to the belief that there was an encounter of Alfred's at or near here a little before his retreat to Athelney.

SHIPTON-ON-CHERWELL.

A parish and small village lying six miles and a half from Oxford, almost north. It is the first turning to the right on the Banbury Road, after passing Kidlington and Langford Wharf.

The church is small and plain, the only old portion remaining being the chancel. With its old bell turret and former nave, it formed a pretty sketch in Skelton's time; and the picturesque situation it occupies, on a small cliff near the Cherwell, will still well repay one for a sight. The chancel is Late Decorated, and has a sepulchral arch on the north side, under which is a stone tomb, coped, with a cross upon it. There is an old cross in the churchyard, with its head complete.

The living is a rectory worth £310, with a residence, the gift of V. J. Turner, Esq., who is lord of the manor, and supports a school.

The extent of the parish is given as 1109 acres, and the population in 1881 was 115.

SHOTOVER AND STOW WOOD.

THESE, together with a few houses at Littleworth, are now made a parish, having been extra-parochial for eight hundred years. The hill is very remarkable, geologically speaking, producing the renowned Oxford Ochre, and a good iron ore, on its apex; showing the varied sands of Alum Bay on its

Oxford side, with those peculiar spherical and rounded stones, called by the people King Charles' marbles—an error no doubt for the Carl's marbles or countryman's—and emitting a most peculiar yellow pulp in front of the barracks, at the upper angle of Cowley Moor. The field between it and Headington Quarry Church was the scene of the exhuming of one or two ichthyosauri by Dean Buckland.

As more felds (or fields) were made, and more land cultivated, wood became scarcer for firing, and Shotover, then one huge forest, joining Woodeton to Combe Wood, served as the wood-pile, from which many villages and the quondam hospital at Magdalen drew their supply. We cannot indeed point to acres of old pollards, half-rotten with age, as they can at Epping and some other forests—proof in our times of the lopping process of centuries—but here and there along the boundaries such an old fellow can be met with, hoary with lichen, or clothed in a mantle of ivy. On its slope toward the Quarry Church grow Bee Orchids in great abundance.

Wharton makes some extraordinary statements about "the indistinct and perishing fragments of a few barrows (Danish) dispersed about the hill." To a diligent observer for nearly forty years there is but one mound at all likely to prove such. Going up the hill from the brickfield, and passing the field-gate of the sand-pit, still following the road, its width suddenly expands into a broad surface of greensward, and a second gate appears to the left; near that gate, half-hidden by gorse, just where two fences meet, is a mound, which seems to be rather more than an accumulation of rubbish. On arriving at the beech trees, at the other end of the 'riding,' there is a pretty view down into a farm; and to the right, past the beech trees, lies the ironstone quarry—one could easily imagine as he gazes upon it that he was transported to Derbyshire, it is so unlike Oxfordshire formations. Regarding the barrows, it should be remarked that there is scarcely a hill in the district but what bears traces of habitations by early races in the flint period, or of their entombment. The Danish attack upon Oxford (but from the Chiltern direction) took place in 1010; and there are perhaps no traces of the history of the hill for two hundred years. In 1221, Gunilda, daughter of John Marescall, received from her father eight or nine acres of land, dispersed about Cowley; and one is described as toward the wood of Schottouer, for so it must be read, not Schottover.

Other modes of spelling give no indication of Château d'Hiver, which philologists—on what grounds they do not say—affirm is the primitive name of the hill. Here are some of the modes in chronological order: Shottore, Schottouer, Sottour, Shottour, Sottouere, Sottore, far more indicative of the Saxon Scot-tor, Payment Hill, or Shooting Hill—payment seeming the more probable, as we know that the warder of this forest was partly remunerated by payments of various kinds from all the villages round. The *Hundred Rolls* of about 1240 says that the jury declare the wood of the king at Sottour is well

kept, and nothing laid waste except what the Lord Richard (King of the Romans) took to make a pile at Oxford Castle. A few years later the forester, who guarded the bailiwick by order of the justiciar of the king, because 'it is of the king's manor,' reported that the pasturage in the forest in Couele returned to the Treasury 3s. 10d. per annum; in Forsthull, 2s. 3d.; in Watele, 2s. 3d., and eighteen heaped bushels of barley; in Elseffeud, 22½d.; and in Wodeton, 3d. In 1259 the nuns of Littlemore had 27 acres of wood in Shottour Oxon, a requisite to an institution when wood was burnt in such wasteful methods; but whether acquired as a gift, purchase, or exchange, we have no record. No doubt at this time the forest of Woodstock was maintained entire, but this one given away bit by bit. About 1277 we have, among other rights pertaining to Hugh de Plesencio, lord of Hedindon, two-thirds of the pannage or pannage-money, when it took place in the wood of the king in Sottouere, and in Stowode in the name of the king, as it belonged to the manor; and two loads of thorns and hazel, such as are grown in Stowod, on Monday and Wednesday, and attendance (?) about the nuts in Stowode on one day by one man of each house. He had free pasture throughout the year in Sottoure and Stowode with all animals except sheep and pigs except in the closed month, and had to attend (?) to the cattle at a fit season at the bridge Witslepe, and thus to Claydon, and from Claydon returning into Hwilak, and thus descending to the bridge at Harpisford, then to the (stapellum) market of Dorkcestre, and so ascending unto the small bridge at Oxford (Magdalen). In 1279 we find mention of the hospital of St. John, at the East Gate of Oxford, as taking daily two loads of wood from Sottore, by a gift from the king; but as this led to too great a destruction of wood from the Royal forest, the matter was rearranged at Sottour. From Kennett we obtain the following information of the year 1364: "The jury declare that the underwritten villages are outside the forest, and have no common right in the forest, yet place their pigs in the woods of the Lord the King; viz., the village of Oke, 12 pigs, price 18s.; villa of Islep, 20 pigs, 32s.; village of Wodeton, 6 pigs, 9s.; Ellesfeld, 8 pigs, 12s.; Beckley, 10 pigs, 15s.; Forsthull, 10 pigs, 18s.; Whatele, 10 pigs, 15s.; Horspath, 18 pigs, 27s.; Couele, 12 pigs, 18s." —affording some clue to the relative extent of the farms in the above. And again: "The Prioress of Littlemore has cut down her wood at Shottore, contrary to the 'Assize of Forest,' and they say that where the foresters were wont to get their food at the Manors of the Lords of Codesdon, Forsthull, Couele, Horspath, Islep, Wodeton, Beckley, Ellesfeld, and Oke, their meals are taken from them, and that they were wont to have these of olden custom. Also they say that . . . the trees were chopped down for the expenses and for the hospice of the King's sons at Abingdon." As to the value of acorns, we can conclude, from a Woodstock account of 1254, that a man could collect a shilling's worth in a week, nearly equal to 25s. of our times; they were therefore an important item in the forest accounts. Very often at the building

of a new chapel, church, or hospital, we have a mandate issued, by which the forester allowed the timber to be drawn away; the lord did not take his toll, and the tenant farmer was bidden to supply men and horses for the job. In 1308 Sir John de Handlo of Borstale, having bought of the possessor the bailiwick of the forest of Shotover and Stowode, with appurtenances in Hedingdon, and having entered on the same without the king's licence, was forced to obtain a Royal pardon. In 1427 we find what the appurtenances were; for Edmund de la Pole died possessed of 360 acres of land in Hedingdon, because of his service of keeping the forests (or forest). The villagers of Headington still think they have rights over Open Magdalen; for about five years ago, when the tenant grubbed up some of the gorse to turn it into arable land, they lopped the branches of several oaks. The tenant felled the oaks thus lopped, and in revenge the villagers fired the entire wood, causing a bonfire which lasted for nearly two days. Before the enclosure of Cowley the villagers were allowed to carry from Open Brazenose, the second of three old projections from the forest of Shotover, a man's-load of furze, bushes, or brake, but not to take a cart within the boundary. The third old projection—Perihull, or Perhill—has been disafforested about fifteen years. It was part of Horspath parish.

Connected with Stowode is an old division of Stanton St. John's called Sto-forde, and sometimes Staford and Stawforde. There are no accounts of messuages in the same, but it had an area of 420 acres. A fact like this will often clear up difficulties in the apparently false areas of parishes in *Doomsday* and later books. The east edge of Stow-wood is part of the Roman road across Otmoor, called in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries 'The great road.'

Between Forest Hill Church and Horspath is a pathway, from which a pleasing view of Shotover Lodge can be obtained. Shotover and Littleworth together had a population of seventy-six souls in 1871.

SOUTHLEIGH

Is more than eight miles by any road except the railway. It now has a station on the Witney line, which is near the church. The Wesleyans pay frequent visits here, because it was the place where John Wesley, the Charter-house boy, Commoner of Christ Church, and Fellow of Lincoln, delivered his first sermon on October 16th, 1726, and the pulpit is still kept untouched from which he preached. The two Leighs were not divided at the time of the Conquest, so that it is not possible to say which fell to Roger de Ivri, and which to Godefrid; but the account of the latter stands thus in that compilation: "Godefrid holds of the King Lege, there are 1200 acres: land for ten plows [arable]. Now in domain two plows, with one tenant by service, thirty-three villeins, and eight cottars, have twelve plows. There is a mill

worth 12s. 8d. annually; a hundred acres of meadow, ten slaves; a wood four and a half miles long and three miles broad. It was and is worth £10."

We have in addition to this the information that the chapel was, in 1147, given by Richard de Camvil to the Abbey of Rading (Reading), and the rest of its history is a blank.

Who built the manor house near the church, and ornamented it with oak panelling and fireplaces—who put up the cross on the village green, the memory of which alone now remains, we know not.

An early doorway to the chancel is of such primitive construction and decoration, that we may safely ascribe it to the period of the Conquest. The Transitional remains are the north side of the chancel, and an early-looking bracket standing out of the wall on a shaft, somewhat akin to the Horspath stoup.

Most of the windows in the church are Perpendicular, and one in the chancel is so queerly treated under its hood moulding that it ought to be noticed.

The chancel arch, though very plain, seems to be Early English. There are remains of glass in the foliations of several windows, much like the work at Marston. The south door and porch—good Perpendicular—should be inspected, as also the door and the west side of tower. A few years since (in 1871), on taking off the whitewash, the mural paintings were found so complete that C. Sibthorpe, Esq., kindly undertook to have them restored. There is no set within the midland counties that can compare with them; prejudice and ignorance have destroyed so much of the decorative work of our ancestors on the walls of churches.

On the north side of the chancel are two figures representing archangels, with their feet upwards, and blowing trumpets. The saved are on the right, and the lost on the left-hand side of them. The naked figures are the saved, who are rising from their graves. One of them has a coronet and another a mitre upon his head. Above them appears a pope with a triple crown. Probably there was formerly a figure of our Lord in glory at the top, immediately over the centre of the arch, but of this there is no trace now. On the south side of the arch is a brown devil presenting his fork to one of the figures at the right. Here is also a devil pushing down into hell a number of miserable beings whom the angel has endeavoured to draw up with a rope which he has fastened around his waist. On the north-east end wall of the nave is a figure in good preservation, at the gates of Paradise, with a key in its left hand. It is vested in a black cope. Besides this there are two or three naked figures with crowns on their heads, apparently risen from the grave. Above them are represented angels looking over a parapet of a castellated building. In the north aisle is a full-sized figure of St. Clement of Rome. It is in good preservation, and appears as though in the act of benediction, standing in a

canopied niche, boldly sketched, vested in a flowered chasuble, with episcopal gloves, a crozier in its left hand over its left shoulder, &c. In its right hand is a rope which is attached to an anchor, the symbol to indicate that he met with his martyrdom by drowning in the sea, near the Crimea. On the south wall is the mouth of hell, and a tremendous devil with horns and hair something like a Durham ox. There is an old fresco-painting also on the south wall of the nave. One of the figures it contains is that of the Virgin Mary, and the other that of St. Michael the archangel. Between them stands an angel with half-spread wings, holding a balance in his hands, in one scale of which is a devil with horns and tail. On the north side of the chancel is a saint preaching, and holding a processional cross in his hands. Paintings have also been discovered in the chancel on the east wall. The chancel is a very old one, probably of the fourteenth century. On the west end of the north aisle is a painting representing the open mouth of hell, with the vices issuing from it. Over their heads their names are labelled—Envy, Slothe, &c.

The area of the parish is 2074 acres, and the population in 1881 was 359.

Almost touching the church is a handsome brick building—St. James College—erected by the present vicar as a school for the sons of clergymen and others, from eleven to fourteen years of age. It stands very high in its class, and has most abundant accommodation for forty boys.

STANDLAKE.

THE junction of the Windrush and Thames is effected within this parish, and that fact will sufficiently account for the word *lake*, sometimes applied to a water-deluged district; whether *stand* means simply stan or stone we are not told. The village by the road which passes Cumnor, the rustic scenery of the ferry at Bablockhythe, and West End, is about eight miles from Oxford, and it lies nearly six miles to the south-west of Ensham Station, through Sutton, near Stanton-Harcourt.

The manor here was partly held by Sir John Maudut about 1240, under the Countess of With; he had a park here, paid £5 rental in lieu of military service, had the liberty of a market on Wednesday and on the feast of St. Aegidius, our present St. Giles, Sept. 1st, the patron saint of the church, beside fishing rights valued at 7s. 8d.

In 1279 John du Boys appears to have held the same land and fishing rights in addition to 120 acres of his own, and Isabel de Grey also held another 120 acres with similar fishing rights. The names of some of the subtenants are peculiar: Duns, Orri, Bus, Flexeneye, Cu, Deoms, Swelle, Bock, Edrich and Le Cu, and Vacca; many, perhaps all, of these have died out of Oxfordshire.

Between the two streams of the Windrush, east of the church, are the remains of a mansion that has always gone by the name of John of Gaunt's

house ; it is worth a visit. The church is a quaint old structure, mostly Early English, with an octagonal tower containing five bells. The living is a rectory, worth £373 with a residence, in the gift of Magdalen College. There are one or two Dissenting chapels in the village. W. Strickland, Esq., is lord of the manor, and has a fine seat here.

As the traveller proceeds from Newbridge to Witney, past a high field which was a common till the year 1856, and is about half a mile north of the church, he stands close to the site of the best known British village in England. It was pretty well investigated at the time it was first discovered by noticing certain circular patches of corn maintaining their greenness when the rest of the field was ripe. In reality but one third of the area was explored, three more sides seem to be untouched ; the whole has such an important bearing upon the modes of life of the British just when the bronze period encroaches on the flint, about 2500 years B.C. as some say, that it certainly should be thoroughly cleared out, as an antiquity of far greater importance to us English than Pompeii or Herculaneum, and when uncovered, the area, which is not very extensive, should be covered with glass, or the weather will break down the friable gravel materials of the walls. The spot was chosen north-east of a well-known spring—Chadwell—two furlongs east of another called Rawpit, and the same distance south-west of several others called the 'underdown' springs, which latter flow into the Windrush after a course of about 200 yards. No doubt information can be obtained from a mill close at hand as to the exact spot, supposing that the entire traces have ere this been done away with by the plow.

There are in the field 13 very circular trenches, of diameters 76 feet to 124 feet ; the widths of the entrenchments are 10 feet to 15 feet, and the depths 3 feet 9 inches to 5 feet 6 inches ; each cut with the nicest care, and have since been filled up !

One of these circles, used for burials, lies square off the road at 40 yards distance, W.S.W. ; but the village is 200 yards in a straight line beyond that. The circle named was the scene of the discovery of eighty-three urns, full of human bones, irregularly placed, some even in the trench. So fragile were they—made of untempered clay and most ungraceful in their outlines—that but eight would bear removal out of the eighty-three distinguishable. Many theories for their disorder have been started. From one of the urns fell a well-shaped flint arrow-head, barbed and burnt—one barb was afterwards lost—and a coiled bronze finger-ring of about three spires. Four pots unemptied are still in the Ashmolean Museum, and there is beside these an admirable model, to scale, of the adjacent British village. From the model we may gather that a space 62 feet by 60 feet was well searched, that sixty circular dwellings with their adjoining kennels and granaries (perhaps) were unearthed. The larger habitations have often others contiguous to them, a stepping-down hole on one side, and three to five store chambers, not so deep, made in com-

plete or partial circles. The holes are 7 feet to 4 feet across, and 4 feet to 2 feet deep. The gravel would make a good floor, and there were a few signs of clay plastering in one larger pit. Of the probable low walls on the brinks of these pits and of the roofing there was not a vestige discovered. Reeds are generally supposed to have been used for the conical roofs, so that the village must have presented the appearance of an overgrown apiary with giant beehives scattered about irregularly. Intersecting the houses, and in some cases passing through apparent dwellings, are trenches of some depth; whether pathways, once covered, or drains for the rainwater is not apparent. A saw of flint has been saved from a neighbouring barrow at Brighthampton; and from the present village came a tool, if it is so, of a gravel nature, that may have been used to loosen the material, unless perchance the ladies performed that rough operation with their finger nails or pointed sticks. It may result that the other circularly-entrenched areas were used for burials; it may be that the one with the urns was the latest of a series, when rough clay pots had become the fashion, taking the place of earlier and simpler modes of disposing of the burnt bones of the deceased.

No one should leave Oxford without seeing the model, and those who can, should urge that means be taken to make inspection of the actual spot an easy matter. In Denmark or Switzerland it would never have been covered up, but protected by government.

The area of the parish is 2245 acres, and the population in 1881 was 708.

STANTON-HARCOURT

Is not very directly accessible by vehicles; the easiest route is by rail to Ensham, then striking south-west to the hamlet of Sutton by road, and then by a field road across to the village. Another route is through Botley, continuing the road for about half a mile further, then turning up the hill towards Cumnor, from which a footpath leads to Bablockhythe Ferry, whence a walk of one mile will bring the visitor to his destination.

Matthew Arnold writes of Bablockhythe in the following strains:

> "Thee at the ferry, Oxford riders blithe,
> Returning home on summer nights have met,
> Crossing the stripling Thames at Bablockhythe."

This village is described in *Doomsday* book in these words: "The Bishop of Bayeaux holds Stantone. There were 3,120 acres there, which paid tax in the time of King Edward. There is ploughed land for 23 plows. Now in the domain 150 acres beside an inclosure, and there are five plows and 12 tenants by service, and 55 villeins with 28 cottars have 17 plows. There are 3 mills of 40s., and two fisheries of 30s., 20 acres meadow, and as many pasture, a wood three miles long and a mile and a half broad, with its burdens worth 25s. In the time of King Edward, and afterwards, it was worth £30, now £50 freely. Alnod held it freely. Ilbertus holds of the Bishop 11 hides," and one

of these may be outside the Bishop's possession. If not, we have the wonderful fact of the estimate of acres in 1084 and at the present time coinciding.

The Harcourt family are the possessors of the village and manor of Stanton-Harcourt. The original ancestor of the family is said to have been a younger brother of a Saxon king, and second in command to Rollo, when the band of northern adventurers, in the year 876, invaded France, and got possession of a province to which they gave the name of Normandy. For the services of this chief there was assigned to him the signory of Harcourt, on the banks of the Seine, from which the family took their name. Here they were seated in the middle of the eleventh century, when a younger son of the then chief (Robert de Harcourt, surnamed 'the Strong') accompanied Duke William in his memorable expedition to claim the Crown of England, fought with him at Hastings, and having many manors granted to him for his bravery, became the founder of the English Harcourts. Robert, his great grandson, by marriage with Isabel de Camvile, obtained the estate of Stanton, in Oxfordshire, which thenceforth received the name of Stanton-Harcourt. The manor of Stanton-Harcourt was confirmed to Robert de Harcourt and Isabel, and their heirs, by King Stephen and King Henry the Second. It was held of the Crown by the following service: "That the Lord of Stanton Harcourt should find four browsers (woodmen) in Woodstock Parke in winter time, when the snow shall happen to fall, and tarrye, lye and abide, for the space of two days; and so to find the said browsers their browsing, so long as the snow doth lye; every browser to have to his lodging every night, one billet of wood the length of his axehelve, and that to carry to his lodgings upon the edge of his axe. And the King's bailiff of the demesnes, or of the Hundred of Wootton, coming to give warning for the said browsers, shall blow his horn at the gate of the manor of Stanton Harcourt aforesaid, and then the said bailiff to have a cast of bread, a gallon of ale, and a piece of beef, of the said Lord of Stanton-Harcourt aforesaid; and the said Lord or other for the time being to have of custom yearly out of the same Parke, one buck in summer and one doe in winter. And also the Lord of Stanton-Harcourt must fell, make, rear, and carry all the grasses growing in one meadow within the Parke of Woodstock, called Stanton and Southly Mead, and the fellers and the makers thereof have used to have of custom, of the King's Majesty's charge, sixpence in money, and two gallons of ale."

Many chivalrous and heroic deeds are recorded of successive Harcourts. Sir Thomas Harcourt represented the county of Oxford in Parliament in the fourteenth century. Sir Robert was appointed High Steward of the University of Oxford in 1446, made a Knight of the Garter in 1463, signalised himself in the wars of Henry the Sixth and Edward the Fourth, and lost his life in the service of the latter, being slain by the Staffords of the Lancastrian party, 14th November, 1470. His remains were buried in Stanton-Harcourt Church, where is a **Monument** (on the south side of Harcourt Chapel), sur-

mounted by the effigies of himself and wife. He is represented in his hair, a gorget of mail, and plated armour strapped at the elbows and wrists; a large hilted sword on the left, and a dagger on the right; belt charged with oak leaves, and hands bare, and a kind of ruffle turned back at the wrists; shoes of scaled armour; Order of the Garter on the left leg, and over all the mantle of the Order, with a rich cape and cordon; his head reclining on a helmet, with his crest, a peacock; at his feet a lion. His lady is in a veiled head-dress, falling back; has a mantle and surcoat and cordon; long sleeves fastened in a singular manner at the wrists, and the Garter with the motto, in embossed letters, above the elbow on the left arm, emblazoned upon it; her feet partly wrapped up in her mantle. On the front are spread hexafoils, or six-foils, containing shields with the following arms: Harcourt impaling Byron twice, and twice Marmion, which Maud Grey, his grandmother, bore in right of her mother, heiress of the Marmions. At the head of the monument two shields: on one Harcourt and Byron, encircled with the Garter; on the other Harcourt, single. The figure of this lady is extremely curious, from her being represented with the Garter, and is one of the only three known examples of female sepulchral effigies having been decorated with the insignia of that Order. According to Mr. Ashmole, Constance, daughter of John Holland, Duke of Exeter, first married to Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, and secondly to Sir John Grey, Knight of the Garter, and Earl of Tankerville, in Normandy, was thus represented on her tomb. The other similar example is the effigy of Alice, daughter of Thomas Chaucer, wife of William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, on her beautiful monument at Ewelme, in the county of Oxford, still in perfect preservation; but on the last-named figure the Garter is worn above the wrist, and has no motto. Sir Robert Harcourt, grandson of the former, was standard-bearer to Henry VII. at the battle of Bosworth, and Sheriff of Oxfordshire in the eighth year of that reign. Sir Simon Harcourt served the office of Sheriff of Oxfordshire and Berkshire, and was knighted by King Henry VIII. Sir Robert Harcourt (born in 1574) was one of the most considerable adventurers with Sir Walter Raleigh in his voyage to Wiassero, Guyana, &c., in America. Sir Philip Harcourt represented Oxfordshire in Parliament in the seventeenth century; and his son, Simon Harcourt, was constituted Lord Chancellor in 1713, and was raised to the peerage as Baron and Viscount Harcourt. He had previously been Lord-Keeper, and on his elevation to the Chancellorship, a congratulatory poem was addressed to him, embodying the following lines—

"The enraptured muse to a glad nation sings,
First the great race from which our Harcourt springs:
Noble his blood and ancient his descent,
E'er since to Norman yoke Britannia bent."

He died, aged 66, in July, 1727, immediately after the accession of George II., and was buried in the family mausoleum at Stanton-Harcourt.

"There are twenty of Harcourt's barons bold
Lie buried within that proud chappelle."

The chancellor's son (a most accomplished and promising young man) died prematurely, and the following lines upon his tomb are from the pen of Pope, who was for years a visitor at Stanton-Harcourt, and an attached friend of the family—

> "To this sad shrine, whoe'er thou art! draw near,
> Here lies the friend most loved, the son most dear;
> Who ne'er knew joy, but friendship might divide,
> Or gave his father grief, but when he died.
>
> How vain is reason, eloquence how weak,
> If Pope must tell what Harcourt cannot speak,
> O, let thy once-loved friend inscribe thy stone,
> And with a father's sorrow mix his own."

The chancellor's grandson (Simon) was created an earl by George II., and he was succeeded by his son Simon, who, dying in 1809, was succeeded in the earldom by his brother, General William Harcourt, long honoured with the intimacy of King George III.—a not unfrequent visitor at Nuneham Park. Upon the death of William Earl Harcourt in 1830, the title became extinct, and the Oxfordshire estates passed to the Most Rev. Edward Vernon, Archbishop of York, maternal nephew of the first Earl of Harcourt, who assumed the name of Harcourt. He was succeeded by his eldest son, George Granville Harcourt, Esq., M.P. for Oxfordshire from 1831 to his death in 1861, a man distinguished both as a polished gentleman and a scholar. His only child (by his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of the Earl of Lucan) was married to the Earl of Abingdon; and the Rev. William Vernon Harcourt (next surviving brother to George Granville), succeeded to the estates. They are now held by Colonel Harcourt, a son of the Rev. W. Harcourt.

There are some curious fragments of a mansion, constructed by the family at an early period, still in existence. These consist chiefly of the domestic chapel, and a few chambers in a fine tower, about fifty-four feet high; the curious old kitchen, and the gatehouse, which was the most modern part, now converted into a vicarage house.

The chapel occupies a part of the ground floor of the tower, and above it are three chambers, in the uppermost of which Pope finished his translation of the fifth book of Homer, and hence it is called Pope's Study. The poet passed a part of two summers in the deserted mansion, his noble friends, the proprietors of the domain, residing meantime at their neighbouring seat, called Cokethorpe. There Gay was their visitor; and he was nearly the only person who presumed to break occasionally on the translator's retirement.

The ancient **kitchen** is on a construction of which there is only one more example remaining in England—the kitchen formerly appertaining to the Abbey of Glastonbury. The walls are three feet thick, the room is square below, and octangular above, covered by a conical roof, which is surmounted by a griffin holding a vane. The fires were made against the walls, and the smoke, climbing up by the walls without any funnels, or disturbance to the cooks, was stopped by a large conical roof at the top, and escaped at loop-

holes on every side, which were opened and shut according to the direction of the wind. The height of the walls to the spring of the roof is thirty-nine feet. The roof rises twenty-five feet in the centre; the outer walls are surmounted by a battlement. The date of the building is not known. The kitchen is some distance from the chapel, the principal part of the mansion having stood between them. Some of the out offices adjoining the kitchen have been converted into a farmhouse. The Harcourts chiefly resided here till about 1638; after which the mansion fell into decay, and the greater part of it was destroyed about the year 1770.

The **Church,** dedicated to St. Michael, is a fine ancient structure, cruciform in plan, with an embattled tower containing five bells, in the centre. The nave appears to be a part of the original structure. It is among the most noticeable of the many beautiful churches of Oxfordshire, having lancet windows grouped by threes on the north side of the chancel, a well-proportioned triplet at the east end, and a stair-turret to the tower of beautiful design, commencing square in section, then worked into an octagon and capped by an octagonal stone roof. Through one of the doors the men have entrance, while the women enter by another, in accordance with "a custom established here from time immemorial." Parts of the interior are of early date, the oak wood-screen being considered the oldest, of wood, in England. A small monument with a beautifully Decorated canopy over it should be noticed; it was probably used as an Easter sepulchre, and the glass in the adjoining window is often quoted. A small chapel of rich but late Perpendicular work contains the dust of many of the Harcourts—a race honoured and esteemed, without exception, from the founder of the family to its present representative.

The Harcourt chapel here affords special delight to such as love to contemplate

> "Tombes upon tabernacles, tylde opon lofte
> Housed in hornes, harde set abouten
> Of armede alabaustre, clad for the nones,
> Maad opon marbel, in many manner wyse.
> Knyghtes in ther conisante, clad for the nones,
> Alle it semed seyntes, ysacred opon erthe
> And lovely ladies ywrought, leyen by ther sydes
> In manye gay garnemens, that weren gold beten:
> Though the tax of ten yere were trewely ygadered
> Nolde it nought mak that hous, half, as I trowe."
>
> PIERS PLOWMAN'S *Crede.*

In a field near the house John Hewet and Sarah Drew, two lovers, were struck dead by lightning in 1718. Gay, in a letter, thus describes this melancholy event: "John Hewet was a well-set man of about twenty-five. Sarah Drew might be called comely rather than beautiful, and was about the same age. They had passed through the various labours of the year together with the greatest satisfaction. Their love was the talk of the whole neighbourhood, for scandal never affirmed that they had other views than the lawful possession of each other in marriage. It was that very morning that they had obtained

the consent of their parents, and it was but till the next week that they had to wait to be happy. Perhaps, in the interval of their work, they were now talking of their wedding-clothes, and John was suiting several sorts of poppies and wild flowers to her complexion, to choose her a hat for the wedding-day. While they were thus busied—it was between two and three in the afternoon—the clouds grew black, and such a storm of lightning and thunder ensued that all the labourers made the best of their way to what shelter the trees and hedges afforded. Sarah was frightened, and fell down in a swoon on a heap of barley. John, who never separated from her, sat down by her side, having raked together two or three heaps the better to secure her from the storm. Immediately there was heard so loud a crack as if the heavens were split asunder. Every one was now solicitous for the safety of his neighbour, and they called to one another throughout the field. No answer being returned to those who called to our lovers, they stepped to the place where they lay. They perceived the barley all in a smoke, and then spied the faithful pair; John with one arm about Sarah's neck, and the other held over her as if to screen her from the lightning. They were struck dead and stiffened in this tender posture, not the least signs of life were found in either. Attended by their melancholy companions they were conveyed to the village, and next day were interred in the churchyard." The poet Pope, who was then staying at Stanton-Harcourt, wrote an epitaph on the pair; but it was not simple enough in Lord Harcourt's opinion, though the concluding lines will always be admired—

> "Hearts so united the Almighty saw well pleased,
> Sent his own lightning and the victims seized."

A second attempt "had as little of poetry in it as Hopkins and Sternhold." The epitaph on the Hon. Simon Harcourt is by Pope; it begins—

> "To this sad shrine, whoe'er thou art, draw near,
> Here lies the friend most loved, the son most dear."

But the one on the Huntingdon tomb is by Congreve; it begins—

> "This peaceful tomb does now contain
> Father and son together laid."

The Devil's Quoits, three large monumental stones, are a short distance from the village of Stanton Harcourt: their history is dependent upon conjecture. Warton[+] holds the opinion that they are the memorials of a battle fought between the Britons and the Saxons, when Kynegil and Kwhicelon slew 2000 of the British warriors. It is also related that the devil played here with a beggar for his soul, and won, by the throwing of these huge stones.

Plott says they were eight feet high, and seven feet broad at the base. "The barrow exists no more. The removal of it was begun by a former tenant some years before 1794; but when about half the business was completed, the whole town was alarmed by a most violent storm of rain,

+ Hist. of P. 55.

thunder, and lightning, which caused the labourers to desist from the work, and operated with a superstitious influence against the renewal of it. The remaining half of the barrow continued until this few years. When the tenant had permission to remove it" no vestiges of burial were seen.

The vicarage, with South Leigh annexed, is valued at £136, the patronage being with the Bishop of Oxford. The area of the parish is 3554 acres, and the population in 1881 was 541.

Sutton in 1279 was a hamlet of the village and Suley, which is perhaps now West End.

STANTON ST. JOHN.

THE road indicated under Horton hamlet, across the brook at Bayswater Mill, will bring the pedestrian about two-thirds of his way. He should then take the first incline to the right, after he has mounted the first hill. The whole distance is nearly five miles. From Wheatley station it lies about three and a quarter miles to the north-west.

The village is named Stantone in *Doomsday*, among the possessions of the Bishop of Bayeaux, payment no doubt for money or men lent to William when he went to Christianize England, or make it put its liberties under the foot of Rome. Maude the empress bestowed the church on the abbey of St. Mary, Reading, a place much cherished by her father Henry I., and the place also of his burial. In the reign of Henry III. the St. John family obtained possession of the manor. They came from Surrey, and held the place till 1558. John St. John granted the church to the abbey of Ensham; and St. Hugh, the Bishop of Lincoln, confirmed the grant in 1184. St. Mary's had no doubt exchanged it with some priory in Normandy, and having been forfeited in time of war, it returned to the king, and then passed to St. John. In 1229 Roger St. John, resident at Stanton, made a formal gift of his rights at Weston, near Thame, over a mill, and 150 acres of land there.

In 1254 Lady Emily of that family held the manor. It was valued at £20, and was 'under the name of dowry,' beside 1200 acres. The Loveyn family had it in 1390, and were followed by those of St. Clare and Vaughan. The rectory came into the possession of New College shortly after the Reformation, and two gentlemen of the college bought the manor to go with it in 1534 and 1535.

Its connection with Reading may be the cause of the very nice chancel it has —a most characteristic one, and rendered still more so by a remarkable east window—a unique example, in the writer's opinion. The side windows look like good Early English, but the inside ornamentation soon corrects that idea; and even on the outside the mask-like terminations of the hood-mouldings have undergone a characteristic change. The grisaille work in these windows deserves the utmost attention, as it forms the third variety—the most scarce

and the freest—of geometrical design. There is also a bold treatment of a pattern made up of about three-fifths of circles, inexplicable by the pen. Some good coats of arms—a clever adaptation of a French design of the late thirteenth-century school, wonderfully effective—in the east window, and the well-known 'subject' in the south side, deserve a prolonged inspection. The subject referred to is a square medallion in the south-west window. If a Bible subject, it is either the priest falling down because he touched the ark, or else the death of Ananias and Sapphira; but if not, it may represent two people—one prostrate, the other falling down so, before a shrine supported by two superior figures. The worshippers, or white figures, are not two-thirds the stature of the other two. It seems to be about 1280 in date, and the border of yellow castles and white *fleurs-de-lis* harmonizes with that period. There is an arch for a founder's tomb on the north side of the chancel, some good woodwork in the pulpit, and a very unusual set of eight poppy-heads toward the tower end. The human heads are well illustrated in Mr. Parker's *Guide to the Neighbourhood of Oxford*, but the horses' heads and grotesques must be seen to be appreciated. Two little heads on the exterior angles of the chancel, just at the meeting of the duplex buttresses, are probably by the same hand. Under the tower arch is a screen—but memory fails the writer whether it was originally a rood-screen—it bears in the foliations of the arches pomegranates and roses, indicating Arragon and the Tudor family. The Perpendicular tower and the screen may be of the same period, the tower following an early model. The position of the octagonal staircase to the tower is uncommon, and the whole church is kept in superb order. The late rector saw to the restoration of the glass—the grand feature of this beautiful fabric.

There stood, a few years since, a quaint rectory-house on the south of the churchyard, near the road, but it has been taken down. Across the road are some cottages with Tudor doorways. Lady Elizabeth Holford, in 1717, gave £500 in support of a school for the children of this parish and of Forest Hill. This has accumulated to £1550 stock, which produces about £46 10s., enough for fifty children. "Let us admire, let others copy," is no bad motto for such benefactions.

The area of the parish is given as 3290 acres, and the population in 1881 was 548.

STUDLEY.

THE road to this interesting spot has been indicated under Horton Hamlet, and it is about the same distance from Oxford, being also a hamlet of Beckley parish, yet lying partly in Buckinghamshire.

According to Dugdale, Estodeley was the property of Ailmer, Earl of Cornwall, and was given in exchange to a Godwyne in 1005, for land at Ensham, who upon it built an abbey of the Benedictines.

It fell to the lot of Robert D'Oilly, at the time of the Norman invasion;

and he gave sixty acres of it towards endowing St. George's Church in Oxford Castle, which land, of course, passed over to Oseney; the remainder of the estate going to the Ivery family. About 1160, Bernard of St. Walery, lord of the manor, founded a nunnery, dedicated to St. Mary, and gave as endowment sixty acres of land.

In 1279 Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, held this estate along with Beckley, and a great district around; but his estate here was but 300 acres, and it is described as in the hamlet of Esses, a part of Holton. The occupier at the time was Nicholas of Esses, who paid service to the earl at Northosene, *alias* Rewley.

The Prioress of Stodleye and the **convent** held then four of the eight hides of Forsthulle in villeinage, and a wood called Hynhale; and Richard de la Wode held half of it under her (240 acres) freely.

The interest attached to the history of the nunnery centres round its brutal suppression, as told to us by Dunkin. Sir John Williams had obtained the post of prioress for a relative, and by his management Studley alone survived the first assault—that upon the lesser religious houses; but in 1540, five years afterwards, he visited them with the deed of surrender ready drawn up in his pocket. He called the house together, and frightened the prioress into attaching their seal to the document. His relative was pensioned off with £16 5s. 8d. per annum, the sub-prioress with £2 13s. 4d., and the other nuns with the average of £1 6s. 8d.—not a very large amount; but the last was just the sum for which a country vicar could supply his table in Henry VIII.'s reign for a year. "As soon as the king got possession the doors were closed, no charity or hospitality was ever administered at those gates, where heretofore the orphan, the widow, and stranger had come, confident of finding relief. After the suppression the poor were involved in the deepest distress, and perished by thousands." Humanity has indeed instituted poor-laws; but in order to enrich the pockets of a few friends, and Henry's own—exhausted at the time by foolish, extravant expenditure, and secret-service payment—an unjustifiable robbery was committed; and the fearful incumbrance of the poor-laws has been left as the legacy to the nation. Studeley, like Godstowe, had an untarnished reputation; but money must be had, and the nunneries perished.

The Croke family came into possession of the buildings and estates; and the illustrious antiquarian of the family has given us, in the history of his family, some details of the destroyed chapel. The house has been altered and partly rebuilt, now presenting the appearance of an Elizabethan mansion of great beauty, and exquisitely situated. The chapel, used by the villagers of Horton and Studley, is a wing to the house, erected in 1639, and exists very much as the builders left it. The style of the exterior is that compound of debased Gothic and attempt at Greek which goes for want of a better name by that of Elizabethan: taken with Yarnton Manor, a fair idea of a

country mansion of the sixteenth century can be formed from even the limited area we are discussing. The doorway is flanked by Doric pilasters, and surmounted by shields of the four families into which the Crokes married. Over these is the motto *Virtutis amore* (By love of virtue). The pediment or gable portion has a rose and crown, with the initials of Edward VI. at the sides, and the inscription—"Fear this glorious and fearful Name, THE LORD THY GOD. Honour the King."

Some of the walls are seven feet thick, showing their connection with the early work of the priory. It is one of the handsomest mansions to be met with, and has most beautiful views from the front rooms.

The acreage is 660 acres, and the population in 1881 was, with Horton, 292.

SUMMERTOWN.

A HAMLET about one mile and three-quarters north of Oxford, lying between the Woodstock and Banbury roads. It has made great strides within the last twenty years, and is now provided with a large and handsome church, near which are commodious village schools. A few years since there existed a diocesan training school, the precursor of that at Culham, under the Rev. — Thorp. Its visitor was the late Bishop of Oxford, and the interest he took in it, and the well-known diocesan school at Cowley, were sufficient proof that he saw before others the great requirement of the diocese. Of late years one of the finest schools in the kingdom has been erected here—St. Edward's; its magnificent buildings, generally of brick, but the chapel entirely stone, form quite a landmark in the neighbourhood. They are carried out in the Geometrical style, freely treated, and reflect the greatest credit on the enterprise, taste, and skill of the warden.

There appear to be two references to this village in *Doomsday*, though the name is generally regarded as a fancy one first used by some Oxford inhabitant or other, who had created for himself a summer retreat in this spot. They are: "Rainaldus (but over it the name Wadardus is interlined) holds of the Bishop of Bayeaux Sumertone. There are nine hides [1080 acres], land for 9 plows. Now in his domain for two plows, with one tenant by service, and 17 villeins with 9 cottars have 7 plows. There is a mill of 20s., and 400 eels and 40 acres meadow; 156 acres pasturage. Was worth £9, now £12." And, "Rainaldus holds of Milo Crispin, in Sumertone, 120 acres of land and 30 acres; it was and is worth 20s. Brictric held it." The juxtaposition of the two names probably implies a change of tenant during the collection of the material for the *Doomsday* report.

Summertown was formed as a separate parish out of St. Giles in 1834, and is now a vicarage valued at £116.

SUNNINGWELL

Lies on the Abingdon road, south of Oxford, about four miles. If approached by the rail *viâ* Radley station, there is probably a path directly across the park; if not the traveller must come northwards toward Oxford nearly a mile, till he arrives at Radley Wood, then follow the road to the right, and by keeping fairly well in the same direction about a mile and a quarter will arrive at the village. It was for centuries part of the large possessions of Abendon, but the time of its acquisition is not specified. In the twelfth century Hugo of this place contributed 2s. annually to the kitchen of the monks, but this would not be the total rent of the 240 acres the abbey possessed there from the year 1070, or earlier. In 1342 Thomas Croke, under the Abbat and Convent of Abyndon, held 30 acres of land in Bayworth and Sonyngwell with the view of frank-pledge in Bageley village. It appears in the Valuation of Henry VIII., 1536, the rectory being down as worth clearly per annum £12 14s. 5¼d.

Doctor Fell, rector of this church, canon of Christ Church, and afterwards Bishop of Oxford, put up here a monument to his wife and three children, *circa* 1653. He was the author of a splendid paraphrase of St. Paul's epistles, lately republished, and the rebuilder of Cuddesdon palace, a bishop who expended the whole of his income in works of charity and piety. During the time that he was canon of Christ Church he had a refractory student named Brown, facetiously called 'Tom Brown.' He was threatened with expulsion because of his larking propensities, and this offended him so that he gave vent to his feelings in a paraphrase of one of Martial's epigrams, a version oft-quoted, and very familiar, but its origin often forgotten. It is this—

"I do not love thee, Dr. Fell,
The reason why I cannot tell;
But this alone I know full well,
I do not love thee, Dr. Fell."

The Bishop was born at Longworth, Berkshire, not here, as Wood and others say.

The Baskervilles obtained possession of the manor after the Dissolution; the Stonehouse family purchased it of them in 1720, from whom it descended to the Bowyers. There is a monument to Hannibal Baskerville, lord of the manor here, dated 1668.

Bayworth, a large hamlet near, once had a chapel-of-ease, which fell into decay; it was much resorted to for private marriages before the Marriage Act was passed.

Lysons say the manor was given to Abingdon in 1329, and quote the *Patent Rolls*. The passage must refer to manorial rights of some kind. The registers of the parish date from 1543. The living is a rectory in the gift of Sir George Bowyer, of the annual value of £319, with a residence. There is a charity of about £80 per annum, arising partly from money in the funds, and partly from

land called the Poor Man's Charity; also a small one of £1, called Beezley's, and given by the churchwardens on Good Friday to the poorest inhabitant. The church is dedicated to St. Leonard, and has an octagonal porch built by Bishop Jewell. Sir George Bowyer is the principal landowner. The area of the parish is 1298 acres, and the population in 1871 was 370.

SUTTON COURTENAY

Lies a little over two miles south of Abingdon, and nearly the same west-south-west of Culham station; but the road thence first goes due west for Abingdon, and afterwards turns south across the river.

Whether Hook Norton represents the great Nor-tun of the earliest English period, as some think, we cannot wait to question; but here we have a Sud-tun, or south village, or rather villa of the king, of great importance, and an entire hundred, following the west side of the Thames, named from it. As the first mention of Botley arises from an attack made on the Abendon property; so here we have no earlier incident to recite than a well-merited chastisement administered by the abbat with his pastoral staff on a prefect of Suttun. The incident referred to is this:

"In the time of William the first, a certain tun-reeve of the royal vill of Suttune, near to this church [Abingdon to wit], named Alfsi, frequently compelled loads to be dragged on routes already royally arranged for, collecting in an outrageous manner the cattle and men from all parts, and ordered as much firewood as he wanted to be cut from the woods Bachelei and Cumenor. Whose bold bearing the abbat of that time so checked that there arose no copyist of it from that day. For, in the first place, when the town reeve, on a day, yoked the abbat's beasts to draw some lead to the court house of the king at Suttun, he underwent a shameful beating with a stick, which the abbat by chance had in hand, the lead was scattered, the oxen led off. In the second place, when the reeve was going from Bachele Wood with some laden carts, and the abbat was taking the same sort of load near a mill that is close to the bridge of the river Eoche, he compelled the reeve to wade the stream and get wet up to the shoulders, not daring to make for the bridge for fear of the abbat. But when a complaint was lodged by the tun-reeve about this wrong done to him, before the queen, in place of the king, then over in Normandy, for he had given her the administration of justice at Wildesore in such cases as were at hand, the abbat, nothing loth, straightway underwent the royal investigation and paid the money for what had been done to the king's officer. Beside that he delivered posterity from the exactions of the town reeves; for in that royal assembly, on the investigation and testimony of many wise people, he obtained that the Abbendon Church ought never to suffer in this wise, but possess its ancient liberty."

When *Doomsday* was completed, only a year or two before the Conqueror's

death, this was the description of Sudtone: "The king holds Sudtone in his domain as 2760 acres in Sudtone hundred, 120 acres outside. It paid taxes in the time of Edward the Confessor, now none. There is land for twenty plows. In the domain are three plows, forty-eight villains, twenty-one cottars with seventeen plows, two slaves, three mills of 50sh: 300 acres of meadow. Wood to feed forty pigs." The same book seems to point to a church existing therein: "Aluui the priest holds in Sudtun 120 acres of the abbat. His father held it, it paid same taxes as now. He holds there sixty acres arable the cottars on which are six. It is worth 20s."

Henry II. gave the manor to Reginald de Curtenay, and Robert his grandson finally agreed with King John to hold it freely, no service being named. Yet in 1276 an enquiry of the jury of the hundred declared that they knew not by whom it was alienated from royalty, nor at what time, but that Nigel of Mandervill, in the same county, seized the manor of Sutton, after the death of John de Curtenay, and took from the men of Sutton eleven shillings, and that they—the jury—were delayed there six weeks, showing that when such monarchs as Richard and Edward were away fighting, the affairs at home were, to say the least, a little out of order. The Courtenay family (memorable in history because an archbishop of that family was the great opponent of Wicliff and the Lollards), owned the manor till about 1430, when Thos. ap Ph. Vaughan became possessor of it. About 1450 the Countess of Devon followed. The earliest portion, however, of the manor-house is usually ascribed to the fourteenth century.

In the year 1218 the Curtenai family must have forfeited the estate, as a royal order entrusts it to the sheriff of Berks, John de Wigenholt, and bids him pay Robert de Curtenai's debts owing to Stephen de Cray. An inquisition regarding the ninth fleece of wool, ninth lamb, and ninth sheaf throughout the kingdom, taken in 1342, places Sutton far above Comenor in those items of produce.

Lysons say that Rethunus, an Abbat of Abendun, gave this manor to King Kenulf in exchange for the site of an ancient vill in Abingdon, where the king's hawks and hounds were kept, to the great annoyance of the monks. They trace the manor to Sir Richard Hyde in Elizabeth's reign. It came into royal hands at the time of the attainder of Henry Courtenay, Marquis of Exeter; was sold by Charles I. to certain citizens of London, and was purchased of them by the first Lord Craven; it is still the property of his descendants. In 1547 occurs the gift of what was probably the rectorial manor to Lord Wrothesley, which was afterwards given to Windsor, under whom it has been held for many generations by the family of Justice. The rectory is built of older materials, perhaps those of an infirmary or retreat connected with Abingdon; some of the rooms retain their original form, and most of the windows are ancient. The monuments of the Justice family are mainly at Appleford.

The church here, dedicated to All Saints, is a very fine structure, comprising a nave, chancel, side aisles, and a square tower; the roof was repaired in 1846. The living is a vicarage worth, in conjunction with Appleford, £150; in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Windsor. The abbey is occupied by T. Theobald, Esq., tithe lessee under Windsor. There are almshouses here for six poor widows. Mrs. Bird is lady of the manor. There are large paper mills, which give employment to a considerable number of persons. The extent of the parish is 2934 acres, and the population in 1881 was 1600, including Appleford.

THRUP

Is a small hamlet about six miles along the Banbury Road beyond Langford wharf. The old spellings of the word Throp are clearly variations of Thorpe, Saxon for a village; but regarding the difference between tun and thorpe nothing has come to light.

This place occurs twice: once in the list of post-mortems of Henry III.'s reign, year not given, in which Nicholaus de Haversham is stated to have been owner of the manor; the second time in the *Hundred Rolls* of 1279, in which we read: "Nicholas of Kingeston holds one-third part of John Brun of Norton, under the Earl of Cornwall, and it is in the honour of St. Walery: he does service at the court of Northosneye [Rewley] at intervals of three weeks. He has ninety-five acres with meadows adjoining. Adam Palmer holds 15 acres, and six more the like amount; all of them were to work, pay taxes, and redeem their boys at the will of their lord. John of Haversham also holds one-third under similar conditions to Nicholas above; and John the miller holds 10 acres of land, one-third of a mill, and one-third of the fishery of the Charwels, reaching by the side of the land of Throp, worth in all 3s. 8d."

It has a small school-chapel, in which is held one service each Sunday. The population in 1881 was 139.

TUBNEY

Is a village seven and a half miles south-west of Oxford, straight on the Cumnor Road.

Part of this village was occupied by a tenant (Ansgil), under the Abbey at Abendun, in 1070 at a rent of one knight's fee, about £20. It was probably the 120 acres of *Doomsday* book. "Rambald holds of the Abbat of Abendun 120 acres in Tobenie. Norman and Aluric held in the time of King Edward, and now it pays for 120 acres. The land is 720 acres. In the domain no land. There are two villeins, sixteen cottars, with six plows. There are eleven tenants by service, and 15 acres of meadow. In the time of the Confessor and afterward it was worth 40s., now £4." In 1240 no less than 1200 acres are put down as possessed by Henry of Tubeney, who paid 20s. to the

Exchequer; and he is said to hold Tubbeney, Uffington, and Frilford of the abbey. We have two references to the place as being in the hand of the Corbet family, and gather from other sources that it passed through the Greville hands into the Leynham, or Lenham, family. William de Waynflete bought it of a Margaret Lenham for his college of St. Mary Magdalene. There are extensive woods in the parish, though none are given in *Doomsday*. The old church fell down, and scarce a vestige of it remained in the early part of this century, and when a new vicar was inducted, divine service was performed in the open air. The living was for many years a sinecure, in the gift of Magdalen College; but in 1848 a small Early English church of great beauty was built, but not on the old site. The living is worth £120. There is a school for boys and girls. At Mr. Kimble's house—Tubney Warren Farm—is some ancient and beautiful tapestry.

The area of the parish is given as 1144 acres, and the population in 1881 was 140.

WHEATLEY

Has a railway station and a good turnpike road beside the 'Old Road' over Shotover Ridge. There was a Roman house discovered here about thirty years ago. It was on a hill called Castle Hill, a mile east of Wheatley, near a footpath to Cuddesden, on a field sloping toward the Thame, now filled up. Last year was discovered a large Saxon burial-place nearer to Wheatley. As it is purposed to make further searches, a body having been found some distance off the first spot, it will be as well to point out the direction. If the traveller crosses the line at about one-quarter of a mile beyond the station and bears to the right, he will come to a large field with a clump of fir trees in one angle, and a barn a few yards farther on, up the fence of an adjoining field. Then if he breaks off to the left when past the clump of trees and a disused pit or well for about 150 yards into the field, he will find himself in the burial-place. Sixty skeletons have been dug up here carefully, the usual accompaniments of Saxon burial found with them—beads, fibula, small Roman coins, tweezers, and ornaments for the women, broken pieces of earthenware, a little glass, a few spear-heads, and the short iron knives from which some think they took their name. They were buried with their feet to the north, ready to accompany their northern god to lucky hunting-fields in other worlds. Their skulls were well formed, and their noses small but high at the bridge—so experts tell us—compact little men were our ancestors of the fifth century. A well-populated district like Wheatley no doubt was exposed to attacks from the Danes, but no reference in the *Saxon Chronicle* can be said specially to refer to the district. The Norman period gives us the first historical allusion in the *Doomsday* book, which runs thus: "Anschtallus [with the word *grai* written over it] holds Widelie. There are 240 acres, and they are in the domain except 30 acres. There is land for two plows. This he has in his

domain, and three tenants by service with two cottars. There are 12 acres of meadow. It was worth 40s., now 50s." In 1070 among the tenants under Abingdon is mentioned Richard Gernun, who held one-sixth of a knight's fee in Watelie. One of this Gernun family gave a second name to Chilworth Oxon, which stands in the *Hundred Rolls* of 1274 as Chillesworth-Gernun. In or about 1250 Matthew de Wateley was a tenant under the Abbat of Abendon, and he in his turn of the king, his service being the warding of Wydelesore, and William Gernun had succeeded to the estate. In 1218 Thomas of Sandford gave the Templars a hide of land in Watele on condition of discharging the military service of custody of Windleshor; and in the same book John de Wately agrees to take one hide at a rent of 2s. paid to Sandford, and 10s. to the nuns at Littlemore. In the *Hundred Rolls* of 1279 Watele stands a hamlet of Codesdon, and so it existed till 1850, and the occupiers are these. "The Abbat of Abendon holds 810 acres, and his sub-tenants ought to work at the will of the abbat. Hugo de Choch 45 acres, John Eustace, and others. A field of arable land belonging to Abingdon is called The Dune." Is this the hill where the corpses are? Henry de Watele paid for his grazing rights by service—three weeks at a time—to the forester of the king at Sottore, and paid beside 8d. at the Bolendon Court at the inspection of frank-pledges; and Hugh the Cook for his 180 acres paid annually 2s. 11d., scutage for a hide and a half for grazing rights to the king, 6d., beside keeping watch at the chamber of the abbat at Abendon. John Eustace for his 120 acres paid one-seventh of a knight's fee, did ward at Windlesore, paid scutage, and paid 2s. to the Preceptor of Couele. The farther account of the landholders is not clear. Wheatley, a few years since, had one of the ugliest little places of worship possible; it now has a very beautiful and capacious one. The living is worth £250 a year, with a residence that has been erected on the glebe land. To the vicar belong the tithes of Denton, and a farm at Charlton on Otmoor, given by the Bishop of Oxford. National Schools were built here in 1858; they have an endowment from Bishop Moss. What is more, it has drained its streets at the cost of £1000, and has emerged from the lethargic state it existed in for centuries. The 'Cross Inn,' Wheatley, has some very nice beams in it. A house lying to the left as you go to Holton has some oak panelling said to have come from the old house at Holton Park, and there are several good buildings of past days in the east part of the village.

The acres in the parish are 970, and the population in 1881 was 1020.

WICK AT HEADINGTON.

THE term wick is so very common that we have no less than three in our district. To this one we devote a line or two, as it is a pleasant walk from Oxford, and has the remains of an old house of late Jacobæan workmanship. An old cap to a garden gate below the farm, in the Greek fashion, is worth

looking at, as is a peculiar 'bath' in the farmyard, with a domed elliptical roof and two oval windows well up in the wall, and a small square one in the stone roof. A fire about forty years ago burnt down part of the house, but enough is left to show that it was a fine mansion about two hundred years ago. The turning off, from the road which goes from Headington to Barton, is at about two hundred yards after the trees terminate on the right-hand, the late Mrs. Ballachi's house.

WOLVERCOTE

Can be arrived at either by the water side, Godstow way, crossing Godstow Bridge, and walking north-east (which is the shortest way to the paper mill) by the canal, or by the Woodstock Road, past Summertown, the shortest way to the church.

The earliest modes of spelling Ulfgarcote and Wlgaricote (wl put for wul as is commonly done) give us a safe derivation of its name—the cot of Wulfgar. The account in *Doomsday* is this: "Godefrid holds of the king in Ulfgarcote 600 acres of land; six plows. Now in domain 120 acres; and 13 villeins with 6 cottars have 480 acres. There are 120 acres meadow. Pasture six furlongs long, three and a half broad. It was and is worth 100s." This was about 1084, and before fifty years it must have passed into the hands of the St. Johns, lords of Stanton; for it no doubt came into Bernard of St. Walery's possession by his marriage with Avoris, daughter of John St. John.

The tithes of the village were possessed by Robert D'Oilly, and were given in the foundation charter of Oseney, by him to that house. As St. Peter's in the East holds Wolvercot as a chapel-of-ease, and as Henry III. gave in 1266 the former to Walter de Merton's College, Wolvercote also went to them, and remains to the present day.

When Godstowe Nunnery was dedicated, in December, 1138, John of St. John, beside the site, gave a mill of £4 annual value in Wulvercot, two houses, and a parcel of land before the gate of the church, in the island between the two rivers, and half a meadow near; Robert D'Oilly giving the other half. In 1171, Bernard of St. Walery, of Beckley, contrived to fall into the displeasure of that strict and not very amiable monarch Henry II., and to have his estates seized, his rents paid into the king's exchequer. He seems to have obtained peace from the king by yielding to him the manor of Wulvercotte, and his right of presentation to the nunnery at Godstow. The king having obtained them gave them to the nunnery—one of his many presents to that place. We have, in 1279, a complete account of the tenants of Wolgaricote, which is described as a hamlet to the Abbey of Godestowe; the abbess holding both in capite (direct) of the king as alms. In this hamlette she held in her domain 960 acres of land, with meadows and pasture near. Her tenants by service were thirty-two, holding from fifteen to thirty

acres each, at a rent of 4d.; and being bound to work, give aid, and redeem their sons at the abbess's will. The list of the tenants is worth recording, as an instance of the growth of second names or surnames, especially as the village has always had two distinct sections—on the hill, and on the meadow. It includes Robert, Richard, Henry, and another, with the quasi surname of Oppehulle (up the hill, or Uphill), Richard, Simon, Cecil in the lane (not yet Lane, simply), John and Henry ate Stile (not yet Styles), Agnes in the Wytheyes (withies), Richard Aten-orchard, Galfred Aten-elme, Nicholas le Rat, and two Brids (Birds).

The **Church** has a stone-roofed tower, the only one in the county, formed by two or three plain ribs or arches of stone, which support large stone slabs. The pulpit is very good Tudor in style, and should be compared with Charlton screen for tracery and linen-pattern panels. Most of the work is Perpendicular, and there is a north chapel, with a very perfect monument of Charles II.'s time. It is to John Walter, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, &c. The screen is a very fair example of its date.

The living is worth £100. There is a good parish school, with an income of about £90, and a dwelling-house free. The mill here supplies occupation to about 60 women and 40 men and boys, and is devoted entirely to superior papers, such as the thin-paper editions of the Oxford Bibles, &c. The output is about 15 tons per week; the masses of pulp when prepared present a beautiful appearance that must be seen to be appreciated, and the amount of electricity developed in the rolling process is exhibited in an astonishing method by the obliging attendant. The mill is driven by both water and steam power.

The area of the parish is 1,600 acres, and the population in 1881 was 756.

WOODETON

Can be reached by the Marston road, which passes by St. Clement's Church, and inclining to the left near a small coppice, about one mile on the road, Marston will soon appear in sight. Passing nearly through the village, the traveller will, at a small duck-pond near the police-station, break off to the right down hill to the brook; this he will not cross, but follow the road to the left, which has a turf wall on one side, and the brook on the other. The walk is monotonous, but very soon Elsfield Manor House appears on the right, and some beautifully hilly country is visible. Walking steadily to the northward brings him to a small common on which two roads intersect; he will take the north one, through a gateway in front of him, and passing up a pretty avenue, arrive at the church.

There is another way of reaching Woodeton, practicable in dry weather only, by going quite through the village, bearing to the left all the way, through Suscot Farm, and then coming out at the small common above noted.

Woodeton seems to mean nothing but Woodetun, village of the wood; perhaps the middle syllable has acquired undue importance, because there are Wootons within twelve miles of it.

The spot was well inhabited by the British, if we regard the multitude of flint weapons as a fair criterion; by the Romans, as is evident from the remains on Middle Hill Field at the back of the park. There too is an old oyster heap, now in its diminished proportions, causing some wonder how it came there. Even now it is eight feet or more across, and fully five feet deep—years of plowing have levelled it with the ground.

Woodeton is mentioned in the twelfth century as belonging to the honour of St. Walery, the chief centre of which was Beckley, about a mile and a half distant. The Abbat of Eynesham had land here in 1291.

The manor of Woodeton was estimated by Henry VIII.'s agents at £13 7s. 1d. 'clere.'

The **Church** here is beautifully embosomed in trees, and stands on the south side of the village green, which still has a village cross, imperfect, standing in the midst, beside a village pond, pound, and well on its lower margin. To the east of this green, near a farmyard, may be seen, in the middle of spring, a golden elm, as yellow as a field of ripened corn; and on the opposite side is a water tower of the seventeenth century to supply the house. The east window of the church is placed very high in the wall, to make room for a reredos probably; the rood-screen is Late Perpendicular; and the tower, Late Decorated, is contrived by using the west wall to support one side of it, and raising two piers for three arches to support the other three sides. The effect of the arrangement cannot be judged; the church at the west end is too much like a timber-yard. On the exterior it can be seen that the south-east pier has sunk so much as to make the safety of the tower rather doubtful.

The visitor, after admiring this exquisite little village, should pass northward a little to catch a glimpse of the farther side of Beckley, which is very picturesque.

Among the notable men of Oxfordshire, Richard Taverner, a resident of this village, deserves a high place. He was one of the learned men whom Cardinal Wolsey invited to his new institution, Cardinal College. In 1534 he was introduced at court, and became the friend of Thomas Cromwell, the principal Secretary of State. He was imprisoned later in that reign, nominally for slandering Anne of Cleves, in reality for being a 'Gospeller.' He was a staunch reformer, and, in order to promote the Reformation, undertook a new translation or edition of the Bible in English, "recognized with great diligence after most faithful examples: 1539." For this, when the Six Articles were stoutly maintained, he suffered imprisonment, but only for a short time. He was restored to the king's favour; and was so much esteemed by Edward VI., that, though a layman, he had special licence to preach anywhere throughout the king's dominions. The remarkable commencement of

a sermon of his, in Elizabeth's time, at Oxford, affords an interesting example of a style of preaching then much in fashion. "Arriving at the mount of St. Mary's in the stony stage where I now stand, I have brought you some fine Biskets, baked in the hoven of Charity, carefully conserved for the chickens of the church, the Sparrows of the Spirit, and the sweet Swallows of Salvation." He wrote several books, and translated Bishop Grosseteste's *Prayers on the Psalms*, a task which speaks well for his doctrine.

After the Taverners the Nourse family held the manor, and now the Weylands.

The area of the parish is given as 639 acres, and the population in 1881 was 67.

WOODPERRY

Is on the Horton road. (See Horton.) It is very peculiar that both the manor and the church have gone from this quondam parish.

We learn that in making search for the church and village, sometime about 1820, the parts near Ashen Close were wonderfully abundant in Roman remains, especially in tiles, pottery, and good Samian ware, in trinkets of bronze, and in coins of Domitian, Hadrian, Constantine, and others.

The first historical mention of the place is in connection with the first Robert D'Oilly, who endowed his church of St. George, Oxford Castle, with two-thirds of the tithes of the village. The manor is often mentioned as part of the Honour of St. Walery. (See Beckley.)

In 1240 the *Hundred Rolls* tell us that 480 acres in Wodepir were of the estate of St. Walery, and held by Roger de Aumar of the Earl of Cornwall, and half that amount of land was held by the Abbat of Oseney of the D'Oilly estate. In 1250 Roger de Aumar paid 13s. 4d. for his estate of the Honour of St. Walery, of Beckeley. In 1279 he still held the manor. In 1288 occurs the first mention of the church. The Abbat of Oseney is put down as possessing so much from the tithes, and then the church is put as a separate item worth £6 13s. 4d.

The owners of the manor were the Amori family—John of Eltham, who became in 1330 Earl of Cornwall, and in consequence lord of the Honour of St. Valery; the celebrated Sir John Chandos, who was slain in 1370 over in France; the Willicotes of Gloucestershire in 1401; Emily Blaket in 1446; and then it disappears, for New College bought it as a lay rectory of Sir John Brome, of Halton Park, about 1520.

Hearne believed in the existence of a church here, as far back as 1716, and his ideas were verified by the accidental unearthing of a skeleton in felling a tree in a field, which tradition pointed out as the site of the old church. Later investigation revealed three coped tombs—two with crosses on their lids, surrounded by encaustic tiles, bearing the badges of the lord of St. Walery—Richard, Earl of Cornwall. Tradition says that the village was

burnt down, and the great quantity of charred wood among the various foundation of houses since uncovered, seems to support that idea. A pattern of each of the encaustic tiles has been placed in the Ashmolean museum; the spread eagle of the Roman Empire, and the lion rampant of the Duchy of Cornwall are easily recognized. Woodperry House, the only thing worth seeing in the village, was built before 1730 by a partner of the Childs' Bank, and some initials in the iron-work on the gate are supposed to give his name J. or T. Morse.

WOOTTON, BERKS,

Lies five miles off Oxford, going round by the Cumnor Road, and turning to the left when just past the hill, or four and a half miles by a road which branches off to the right near North Hinksey as one goes from Botley towards that village.

The name is clearly a change from Wod-tun, the wood village, and is the same as Woodeton, in Oxfordshire.

As it has been till the eighteenth century a branch of Cumnor, it was no doubt part of the abbat's land at Abingdon. As such we find it first entered in the *Testa de Nevil* about 1250: "The Abbat of Abendon holds Wooton in his domain and pays no scutage," domain implying home estate or farm in his own cultivation. And again, same book, but the county given only on the authority of the printed index: "Wooton Berks—Gilbert Malesmeins holds 300 acres in the village of Alvereicuth; 480 acres in the village of Wooton of the dowry of his wife, worth £20, does not go with the hundred or else excuses himself."

Its history is not further published, and is probably accounted for by its being considered part of the Cumnor holding.

Wooton was made a separate parish by Montagu, Earl of Abingdon, some time about 1720. The Lord Abingdon of 1820 sold the manors of Wotton and Boreshill in 1820 to William Walker, in whose family it remains.

The extent of the parish is 1529 acres, and the population in 1881 was 369.

WYTHAM

Can be reached either by the river, Godstow way, and then going west from the nunnery about one mile, or by the Botley Road, turning due north at Botley itself, proceeding nearly three miles, most of it beside Wytham Wood, and passing Seckworth Farm on the route. The road from Godstow to Wytham is supplemented by a raised path, and here and there a planked way some two feet higher than the road, to provide against floods.

The nunnery so early established here carries the history of this village back to the seventh century. The apostle of Sussex, Wilfrid, founded a mission at Selsea under Centwine's protection. A viceroy of this king was one Cissa, who had rule over Wiltshire and much of Berkshire. His nephew and niece, two converts by monks from Selsea, by name Hean and Cilla, or Ceolswitha, resolved to show their regard for the Saviour they had found by founding monasteries. Hean sold all he had, and led a life of humility and poverty. Cilla followed his example, and they together obtained a grant of land in the 'South of Oxfordshire;' they added to it their own inheritance and began their labours. Cilla first founded a nunnery, which she dedicated to St. Helen, on a site hence called Helenstow, about 680. Hean dallied for twenty years, and Ini revoked the charter. At Cilla's death the sisters moved up the Thames to Wightham (689), where they continued for about a century, until the war which broke out between Offa of Mercia and Kinewulf of Wessex expelled the inmates, and the convent was dispersed once and for ever. Hearne labours hard to prove that Kinewulf established a strong fort here just where the nunnery had been, that this was destroyed in some of the wars between Mercia and Wessex, and that out of the ruins grew a village—Wightham. A fort here may have been deemed necessary to counteract the effects of those at Bladen, near Woodstock. One thousand two hundred acres in Witham were most probably granted, as an Abingdon charter states, by King Athelred to his venerable and dear Prince Athelwulf, and by him given to Abendon. The place at this time bore the name Withtham, as if Withey-ham, 'an abode among withies,' says Ellis; but Wihtham is the spelling in 952, and the derivation is doubtful.

Doomsday book thus describes it: "The abbey [of Abendon] holds Witeham, and always held it. In the time of the Confessor it paid taxes for ten hides, now for five hides: there is land of six plows. In the domain are 240 acres: eleven villeins, nine cottars, with three plows. There is a church, and a mill of 10s. value, three acres meadow. In the time of the Confessor it was worth £15, afterwards and now £12." And, "In Suttone Hundred Walter Gifard holds Witeham; his father held it as a feod of the king. The land paid for twenty hides, now for thirteen hides, and thirty acres: there is land for sixteen plows. In domain are three plows, twenty-nine villeins, and sixteen cottars with nine plows. There are six slaves, 163 acres of meadow."

In 1199 King John conferred on the Templars most excessive rights—the manor of Witham, the market there, the half hundred, and other favours. In 1284 Hugo de Plesses was summoned to Windlesore to be asked by what warrant he held assize of weights and measures among his men at Witham . . . and a gallows and cuckingstool in the same village; he said he had these liberties from William Marescall along with certain tenements. John of St. Helens also came at the same time and place, and returned same answer.

A son and daughter of Richard Wygtham lie buried in the church; the

brasses to them seem late fifteenth-century by the costume. In 1540 Wytham was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir John Williams. How it came into royal possession is not apparent. His daughter and nieces conveyed it to the Norreys family, from whom it passed to the families of Ray and Bertie. About 1800 the ancient manor-house was repaired and partly rebuilt by Montague, Earl of Abingdon, who was born in 1784.

The **Church** probably belongs to the same period, the old one being almost demolished. It is well known that Cumnor Hall was stripped for materials to rebuild this and the 'abbey,' but the few remnants of early work to be found here cannot be ascribed definitely either to the old church or the chapel at Cumnor. There is a corbel of a piper on the north side, something like a Perpendicular one, whether a copy or shifted is not clear; but the roundels of glass or small medallions are worth inspection; they are all Perpendicular in execution. On the north side in the tracery is a shepherd, with a sheep between his legs; over his shoulder a crook of unusual shape; in the lights below a Virgin's head, with nimbus and a saint, the workmanship of which is well worth study. On the south side are two small medallions, rather later in style—the one a Virgin and lilypot, with the legend in Latin, 'Behold, the handmaid of the Lord;' the other the evangelistic symbol of St. John. The porch is old, Late Perpendicular, and the churchyard gate is clearly one that is described as existing at Cumnor with the motto, 'The word of the Lord is the gateway of life.' There is an immensely wide box-hedge near this gateway. A second gateway near leads to the kitchen garden, and has an early date, 1372, in Roman figures cut in a slab, which has a debased edging to it, probably a forgery committed at Cumnor, and transported hither. In the church is also a monument to Edward Purcell, usher to Charles I., and son of the great musician.

The **Abbey** is late Elizabethan in character outside, with probably a few window-frames brought from Rycote. Interiorly there is no attempt to carry out the Elizabethan design, modern ideas of the last and present century having been followed, often of very good character, the rooms being more comfortable than splendid. There is not a vestige of a mansion older than the present, existing even in the remotest offices, unless it may be a gargoyle or two in the south front. This front is very charming from without, as it has two of the most glorious magnolias ever grown, and a beautiful lawn with flower-beds of resplendent colours; from within, as it looks over a fruitful meadow, dotted here and there with fine forest trees, and onward to a more uneven land thickly besprinkled with giant oaks and elms till a hill of five or six hundred feet shuts in the view at about half a mile's distance with a fringe of forest land, formed by broken ridges of the upland.

The pictures are mainly those of ancestors of the family: a James Steward, Duke of Richmond, by Vandyke, is most beautiful. A Willoughby Bertie, fourth Earl of Abingdon, is incomplete, except the head, and is a most

able illustration of Gainsborough's masterly method of handling. Another picture that claims attention is that of the Countess Charlotte, who died in 1679, painted by Dance; and there is also a splendid family group, of about George III.'s time, by Rigaud, an able and delightful grouping. A Prince Henry, eldest son of James I., though a small picture, must be mentioned as most brilliant; and if a good likeness, the prince must have had wonderfully intelligent features.

The drawing-rooms will soon be resplendent with gems of pictures from the Townley collection; and every portion of the house will in a few months be decked with hundreds of pictures, now taken down and stored away till the redecoration of the house is complete. There are three beautiful bits of glass in the drawing-room, a portcullis badge, a Tudor rose, and another surrounded by ornaments, equal or superior to anything of the date. They probably came from Cumnor; but there are no panels or cornice-work in wood throughout the mansion: one chair alone reminding one of what would probably be the decoration of the old hall. In the church, south wall (outside), are three Late Decorated windows, two of which are drawn in a print of Cumnor, *anno* 1806, and the third is of kindred workmanship. As the church has diagonally-placed buttresses, the earlier building may have been not earlier than 1480. We must accept the tradition of the old manor being a moated edifice: there is little to show now that it was so. Among the many beautiful trees near the house, a beech, with deeply indented leaves, should be noted, as it is of great size and most beautiful shape.

Wytham Woods, stretching over towards Ensham, are intersected by drives and rides of a beautiful nature, through grass-lanes and woods. The estate is truly a fine possession, worthy of a 'fine old English gentleman' like Lord Abingdon. At the west extremity of the property is an open space, covered with cistus, thyme, and other wild flowers, from which may be obtained an enchanting view of the western valley of the Thames, with Ensham and Cassington in the distance, ever and anon lightened by the progress of 'Stephenson's wondrous babe'—the locomotive, speeding on its way to Witney.

The **village** of Wytham is one of those 'model' properties, worthy of such a lord of the manor. It is famed for its strawberries, a justly-esteemed fruit of the Englishman. The gardens of several cottagers here are open in the strawberry season to those who enjoy this delicious fruit. The virtue of this fruit, among other healthy qualities attributed to it, is its curative property in cases of gout. The utility of the fruit in that disease is pointed out by Linnæus. That celebrated naturalist was subject to attacks of the malady, and about June, 1750, had a very violent one. He had been ill for a fortnight, not being able to get any rest or take any food, when some strawberries were brought to him, of which he ate some, and then slept for several hours. On waking he took some more, and on the following day, after a good night's

sleep, he was able to leave his bed. The following year, while at Drottningholm, he had a fresh attack. He immediately had recourse to strawberries, and the following day was able to present himself at court. The gout reappeared

INN AT WYTHAM.

the third year, but less violently than before, and was immediately cured by the same remedy, as were also a fourth and fifth attack in the two following years. Linnæus gradually got completely relieved from the disease by eating plenti-

fully of strawberries every summer, and passed nearly twenty years without feeling the slightest symptom of his old enemy.

The extent of the parish is 1670 acres, and the population in 1881 was 198.

YARNTON

Has a station on the Oxford, Wolverhampton, and Worcester line, about three and a half miles; perhaps by this it is accessible in winter time—by the meadows, as described under Cassington (but following the more northerly track in the first meadow, on issuing from under the railway bridge), it decidedly is not. Should the canal and meadow route be available, the church is visible in the second meadow, and the pathway leads by steps up the railway and down again. This pathway has the advantage of bringing the visitor direct to the church and manor-house. There is quite enough in the spelling of the name to warrant the derivation of Yaring—or Earding—village, the old English clan-names in -ing being now an acknowledged fact; but there is also a word eardung, meaning habitation, given as its probable origin, the second vowel never occurring in the name; but that is regarded by some scholars as of trifling importance. It is strange that near Birmingham is a Hall, called indiscriminately Yarnton and Erdington. A few years back the sheep on Yarnton commons were marked E for Erdington.

About 1005 Aylmer, Earl of Cornwall, exchanged some of his property for ten domains at Erdintune, in order to confer them on Eynsham Abbey.

There is an entry in *Doomsday* that may refer to this village: "Milo Crispin holds of the king Gadintone. There are 600 acres, four plows. Now in the domain 240 acres; and four tenants by service and four villeins with two cottars have 240 acres. There is a mill of 11s. [annual value] and ten acres of meadow. In the time of the Confessor, afterwards and now, worth £4. Wigot held it."

In 1091 Reningius, first bishop of Lincoln, incorporated Stow Monastery with Ensham, making over Yarnton to Stow; but in 1092 the place again became part of the Ensham possessions. Somehow or other Henry II. secured the manor and gave it to Bernard of St. Walery, a friend of his; a crusader, too, with Richard, who fell at Acre.

In 1190 Thomas of St. Walery succeeded, but the monks of Ensham claimed it, and in 1206 the case came before a jury, the abbey losing the case. In 1224 the Earl of Dreux had the manor by marrying Annora St. Wallery. In 1227 he lost it, being proved (?) to be an adherent of the king's foreign enemies. In 1229 the king, Henry III., gave it to the wealthy Richard, Earl of Cornwall. His son Edmund succeeded; and when in following out his father's will he founded the Cistercian Monastery at Rewley or North Oseney, nearly where the North-Western Station now is, and adjoining to the Swing Bridge there, he bestowed upon it the manor of Yarnton.

In 1320 the Abbat of Rewley bought for his house the lay feod of Northousney and Erdington.

The undoubted rights of Eynsham lay in abeyance till 1285 (a hundred and thirty years), when Rewley and Ensham, having contested the matter before the justices in circuit, at last came to a mutual understanding upon the point. Rewley was to retain the land, but to pay the great tithes to Ensham, and the smaller ones to the vicar.

About 1330 we have a trifling incident mentioned regarding the village, which makes it appear that a little animosity still remained, and seems to indicate that Yarnton stood to the one side of the Charwell in the same relationship as Beckley did on the other. Thomas, the son of William, the head of Erdington, and two men from Eynsham, names unknown, who collected the tithes in the autumn for the abbat in Erdington, took Raderus Pogeys of Bekebrok and carried him to Erdington, into the liberty of the Earl of Cornwall, imprisoned him, and afterwards let him out on bail until a certain day; and that day arriving, they took him again and imprisoned him till he paid a fine of one merc, and they did this where they had no rights. So the possession remained till the year 1538, when Henry VIII. was owner by the Dissolution. Two years afterwards his physician, Dr. Owen, of Merton College, received it for professional services; and it may be that the filling of Henry's empty purse was also regarded as part of the king's indebtedness. In 1544 it was bought by the Durrants. In 1584 the Spencer family commenced holding it, and continued till 1714. Sir Thomas Spencer left four daughters in 1684 as joint heirs of the property, three of whom combined to sell their rights, after their mother's death, to Sir Robert Dashwood; and that portion of the estate still remains in his family. The other daughter's share went to the Swete family. The four daughters are figured in the church. It seems probable that a good share of the old portion of the church was executed at the time when the celebrated Bishop of Lincoln, Grosseteste (about 1240), made the Abbey of Eynsham convert their chapelry here into a vicarage. No bishop did more than he to restore churches and discipline, and to make monasteries fulfil the conditions on which benefactors had left them their possessions.

The **Church** is dedicated to St. Bartholomew, and was originally a long Early English building, best illustrated by the churches at Headington and Cowley, before restoration. The type is fast disappearing, as aisles are being added and extensions made. In it were inserted two older windows at least from some preceding chapel, and to it was added a south aisle in the early thirteenth century. Of this period there is left us the chancel arch, but much changed. It has now three engaged shafts on the west jambs, the centre one banded; but on the east side there is nothing left. In 1611 the first Sir Thomas Spencer so changed the rest of the church, that it has become difficult to judge of the remaining portions of the fabric. He built or altered a large chapel at

the south side of the chancel, built a tower and south porch. Succeeding Spencers gave the most characteristic screens and decorated the chapel. The font is supposed to have come from St. Michael's, Oxford. It is octagonal, a row of roses along the bottom of the bowl portion, and panels above—a nice piece of work, but rather hacked about. Near the tower is an altar-tomb to the memory of Alderman Fletcher, who died 1826, on the slab of which is a very good brass and the inscription:

"Yarnton, my childhood's home,
do thou receive
this parting gift.
My dust to thee I give."

One word of the above deserves notice, 'parting;' for he was a real benefactor to the parish, and contributed many examples of stained glass to the church and a beautiful alabaster reredos. Most of the windows were demol-

THE CHURCH AND VICARAGE, YARNTON.

ished by the Puritans, who were thick in this neighbourhood during the twenty days' siege of Woodstock, in 1646. Two monks with deep purple dresses, a Thomas of Canterbury, incomplete, and a Saint Nicolas, are all that remain of the glass that belongs to the church; the rest is all Mr. Fletcher's gift. The full catalogue of it will not suit our pages, yet we venture to notice seven examples of quarries (or diamonds), having birds on them with mottoes, as they are very scarce in the neighbourhood of Oxford. All seven are in the north side of the nave. Four are grouped together in the easternmost window, and their mottoes or legends are—

I. "Make the(e) powre to pray well."
II. "Be styll or ellis saye well."
III. "And make god thy frende,
IV. "At thy last ende."

In the other window is a beautiful St. Christopher, and the three quarries in it are: 1. A hen with a very fashionable headdress of the middle of the fifteenth century, and a deep gauze veil pendent down her neck, with the motto, "Greete richlyngg greete," "Wail, rich one, wail," or perhaps, "Great richling wail." 2. An owl ringing a bell, with the legend, "We must pray for the fox." And the third contains a bird of the tit species holding a flat bowl in its claw and girded as a cellarer, with belt and key—motto, "Who blameth this ale?" They are unfitted for a church, but should be preserved as illustrating the use of the Saxon character for *th*, which people often mistake for a *y*. A Virgin Mary in the west window of the nave should be noticed even if the visit is hurried, and also a head of very dark flesh tone in the Spencer chapel with the legend, "Mother of God, have pity on me!" as being the earliest thirteenth-century work in the series.

The genealogist and heraldist will find much to study in this chapel, the Christian and the ecclesiologist much to condemn. The student of Jacobeian design can spend a full week here and in the manor house most profitably.

Mr. Fletcher's other great gift was a series of figures in alabaster, which were dug up from their hiding-place near St. Edmund Hall, and purchased by him for this purpose. The subjects are, "The Offerings of the Wise Men," "The Betrayal with a Kiss," "The Bearing of the Cross," and "The Dead Saviour in His Mother's Lap." The peculiar costume will make it an easy matter to settle the date of their execution.

The church was a dependency of Ensham Abbey when that institution was in its prime; and in the churchyard is the shaft of an Early English cross, with figures of saints, at the foot of which the Abbat of Ensham performed service, when he was making pastoral visitation. It is somewhat like the one at Eynsham, except perhaps the figures; but the upper section of the shaft is absent here, and neither of them has the cross-arms or capping-piece, of whatever type it was.

The register of Yarnton Church dates from 1568. The value of the living is £290 per annum. Hearne, the antiquary, was passionately fond of straying and musing in Yarnton churchyard. There he could be seen jotting down the curious entries into his manuscript diaries, preserved as written even now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

The **Manor-house** near demands more than a cursory notice. It has been much shortened at its southern end, but the tradition that five farmhouses have been built of its material must be false. The largest room in the house—to the rear—and having two of its sides moderately complete, has evidently been curtailed in its dimensions at the south end. Of course such a house has a haunted chamber; but Gulliver, the inhabitant, will not appear to unbelievers. On the first floor (north end) is a most elaborate mantelpiece with caryatids and arms; these latter give us the date 1603 as that of the erection of the house. There is one remnant of the furniture that should be noted,

and the coat-of-arms in the great hall is a very spirited piece of carving. Exteriorly, at the north-west angle, is left a little specimen of the ornamental stonework which served as a kind of parapet to the lower part of the house. The stone walls to the garden terraces, and buildings to the south, are those which have been cleared away for building other residences. The splendid masonry of the house and tower of the church should be noticed by the visitor.

In days of yore, when England was chiefly forest, and inhabitants were but few, beasts that are now unknown, except from remains found deep in the earth, abounded in many parts of the island. The elephant, the wild ox and boar, wolf, goat, &c., roamed in the forests surrounding Oxford. The late Professor Phillips, of the Oxford Museum, distinctly avers, in a published essay, that at one time, and no very remote period, "whole herds of elephants existed in the forests around the city." Buried in the earth at Yarnton, between the church and the railway, have been found in profusion teeth and tusks of the elephant, perfect, so there can be no doubt of the correctness of the Professor's statement. Tradition relates that it was in this locality that King Memphric, sovereign of the ancient Britons, perished before the birth of Christ, being attacked by wolves whilst engaged in the pleasures of the chase. If further evidence were wanting of the statement, the visitor can search the annals of geologists, and he will find that, not only at Yarnton, but even in Oxford itself, remains of the elephant have been found. And more than this, in the Oxford Museum are the bones of one of those gigantic mammoth animals that existed in the antediluvian period, found in the quarry of Gibraltar, near Kirtlington, three miles from Yarnton. Professor Phillips, in the *Oxford Essays*, published in 1855, says, "At Yarnton the gravel-bed has been opened very extensively to ballast the neighbouring railway (the Great Western), and has been found richer than is usual in mammalian remains. At the bottom of the excavation, 16 or 18 feet deep, is the ordinary bed of Oxford clay. On this rests a moist, partially coherent ferruginous mass, full of quartzose pebbles, drifted from the far-off Silurian hills of Bromsgrove; fragments of shelly oolite from the country a little to the north; pieces of septaria, such as lie in the subjacent clay; and chips of chalk and flint from some other situation. It is not necessary to suppose that all these materials were brought by one agitation of water to their resting-place at Yarnton. On the contrary, it seems more probable that here in the broad valley, the wide gravel-bed has been collected by secondary actions of water sweeping down, from higher situations, the fragments which had been scattered by previous currents of the ocean." And then follows the testimony as to elephantine remains being found in great abundance. It will be well to observe that the locality will especially delight the geologist, who can indeed search and find treasures. That great master of this charming science, Dean Buckland, was oft to be found at Yarnton with his pupils, dilating on the geologic formations,

and many a parlour-lecture has been delivered in the vicarage of the neighbouring village of Islip, of which the dean held the living for some period, and where his remains now rest. The situation of the village is very low, so much so that in the winter time or periods of flood it is almost impossible to reach either Yarnton or Cassington without a boat, an inland lake preventing. There was a park in the village formerly, above 200 acres in extent, if the name is now correctly applied to a range of fields west and north-west of the house; but it was destroyed above two centuries back, and Hearne says it "is now imployed for woade, which thrives here mightily."

The area of the parish is stated to be 1613 acres, and the population in 1881 was 279.

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