SUBURBAN RELIQUES

OF

OLD LONDON

1898

T. R. WAY & H. B. WHEATLEY

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SUBURBAN RELIQUES OF OLD LONDON

NORTH OF THE THAMES

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RELIQUES OF OLD LONDON SUBURBS

NORTH OF THE THAMES

DRAWN IN LITHOGRAPHY BY

T. R. WAY

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTIONS BY

H. B. WHEATLEY, F.S.A.

LONDON: GEORGE BELL AND SONS: MDCCCXCVIII

PREFACE

THE kindly reception accorded to my two previous volumes of "Reliques" has encouraged me to continue the series, and attempt to record a few of the more important of the old houses in London suburbs. Whilst searching for subjects in not only the well-defined suburbs of to-day, but in those parts of our present city which at the beginning of this century were distinctly suburban, I soon found that, owing to the amount of material at my disposal, it would be impossible for me to include them all in one volume. I have, therefore, thought it advisable to divide the field, and in this present volume to confine myself to the north side of the river Thames. In a future volume, I shall record buildings on the river banks and in the Surrey and Kentish suburbs.

The great danger of many of the fine houses now left just outside the present city is in their large gardens, which are an immense attraction to the small property builder. Their surroundings soon render them uncongenial to the class of people for whom they were built,

and they are either at once pulled down or converted into private asylums or schools. A typical example of this state of affairs is to be seen in the Great House at Leyton, which at present stands in grounds of some five acres in extent, but just outside are rows of houses whose rentals average £30 or £40. The house itself has already passed through the school and asylum stages, and now the boards are up, offering the land for building purposes.

I have to thank many friends who have kindly interested themselves in my work. To Mr. Gleeson White, who guided me over the western district, and to Mr. H. E. Morgan and Mr. A. T. Way for similar services in the northern and eastern suburbs, and to Dr. Whistler for his assistance in the note on Rossetti's house, I am more particularly indebted.

In every case the drawings have been made directly from the buildings themselves.

T. R. WAY.

P.S.—Whilst this volume has been passing through the press, I have to lament the loss of a most kind friend, through the sudden death of Mr. Gleeson White. It was principally due to his advice and arrangement that these lithographs were issued in their present form, with the collaboration of Mr. Wheatley.

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INTRODUCTION

HAVING produced two volumes of Reliques of Old London, Mr. Way now brings forward a selection of interesting bits from the Northern, Eastern, and Western Suburbs. As in London itself the old houses have almost disappeared, so in the suburbs the fine old buildings that the gentry of the past inhabited with some pretension and state have many of them fallen to a low estate, and are fast disappearing, to be replaced by streets of commonplace houses or piles of high flats.

Before proceeding to describe more fully the houses which are illustrated in this volume, it may be well to make a few general remarks upon the suburbs of London, and before doing this it seems almost necessary to ask the preliminary question—What is a suburb ?

The suburbs of one age lose their rurality and become part of the town in the next. With a County of London of 75,000 acres, and a Greater London of 445,423 acres, it is somewhat difficult to say what a suburb really is.

Mr. Way has, however, overcome this difficulty, and chosen a series of pictures from localities which all will agree were in the suburbs when the houses delineated were built, even if now they are swallowed up by the ever-onward growth of London.

In the early days of London, when the walls enclosed a good deal of unbuilt-on ground, there was little or no growth of suburban buildings, and the first suburbs grew up about the roads outside the different gates. Whitechapel and Mile End extended eastward from Aldgate; Shoreditch and Spitalfields northward from Bishopsgate; Moorfields were built on outside Moorgate; the village of St. Giles's (with it Fore Street) grew up outside Cripplegate; Smithfield and Clerkenwell were built on outside Aldersgate, and Holborn extended westward from Newgate, as Fleet Street and the Strand did from Ludgate. Then Fleet Street, Holborn, and Whitechapel, as well as other districts, were added to the City, and bars were erected to mark the extent of the new Liberties. What a charmingly countrified sound there is about the title of Tower hamlets! The present actual appearance, however, of Wapping, Limehouse, Bethnal Green, and the other members of the group is quite sufficient to dispel any pleasant associations that may arise in our mind as associated with the countrified title of hamlet. When that curious character, William Kemp, the famous Elizabethan clown, started on his morrice dance to Norwich he considered Whitechapel as a suburb. This is what he wrote as to his start on this eccentric journey:

"Being past White Chappell, and having left faire London with all that north-east suburb before named, multitudes of Londoners left not me: but eyther to keepe a custome which many holde, that Mile-end is no walke without a recreation at Stratford Bow with creame and cakes,

or else for love they beare toward me, or perhappes to make them selves merry, if I should chance (as many thought) to give over my morrice within a mile of Mile-end. However, many a thousand brought me to Bow, where I rested a while from dancing, but had small rest with those that would have urg'd me to drinking." [1]

In those Elizabethan days, just beyond the suburbs which grew up around the gates, there was a district that may be described as thorough country, and it is well to bear this in mind when we consider the descriptions of country sights and scenes that occur in Shakespeare's plays. It is usually supposed by critics that in these references Shakespeare was influenced by the surroundings of his house at Stratford-on-Avon, but flowers grew in the houses of the citizens within the walls, and in the neighbourhood of the Theatre and the Curtain at Shoreditch country scenes were almost as common as they were in Warwickshire. The very same remark may be made in the case of Samuel Pepys nearly a century later, for he could wander from his house in Crutched Friars into the fields before breakfast, and his wife and maid would rise very early in a spring morning, and gather the May-dew which was supposed to be specially good for the complexion. The Diarist's description of his trips to Mile End give us much the same idea of the district as we gather from the words of William Kemp.

On May 12, 1667, Pepys gives a picture of Kingsland

[1] Kemp's "Nine Daies Wonder." London, 1600, sig. a 3 *verso*.

which is vastly different from the present appearance of that place:

"My wife and I away to Islington, it being a fine day, and thence to Sir J. Whitmore's house [at Hoxton], where we 'light and walked over the fields to Kingsland and back again; a walk I think I have not taken these twenty years, but puts me in mind of my boy's time, when I boarded at Kingsland, and went to shoot with my bow and arrows in these fields."

When the restrictions, necessary to a walled city that had its gates closed each night at a stated time, were in full force the disorderly characters were pleased to unite the liberty of living outside the walls with the privilege of seeking a place of safety within the city whenever this was desirable. Hence the word "suburbs" obtained a bad name; and this was particularly the case in the Elizabethan period, when we find in the works of the Dramatists a constant reference to the evil repute of the suburbs. Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Massinger, Beaumont and Fletcher, and their contemporaries are full of allusions to this phase of the manners of the time. When Shakespeare, in "Measure for Measure," says that "all houses in the suburbs of Vienna must be pluck'd down," we have only to understand that London was in the poet's mind when he wrote the name Vienna.

Chettle, in his "Kind Harts Dreame," 1592, wrote: "The suburbs of the citie are in many places no other but dark dennes for adulterers, theeves, murderers, and every mischief worker; daily experience before the magistrates

confirmes this for truth." He adds, however, "I would the hart of the citie were whole."

The gardens and banqueting houses which some of the citizens established in the suburbs were not always very respectable resorts, and these, therefore, went to increase the amount of obloquy that gathered round the name of the suburbs. The hot-tempered reformer, Stubbs, found in these garden houses a good subject for his severe censures. He wrote in his "Anatomie of Abuses": "In the fields and suburbes of the cities, they have gardens either palled or walled round about very high, with their harbers and bowers fit for the purpose. And least they might be espied in these open places, they have their banquetting houses with galleries, turrets and what not, therein sumptuously erected; wherein they may (and doubtless do) many of them play the filthy persons," etc.

The frequenters of these suburbs gave the authorities a good deal of trouble, especially when the sovereign happened to be making a progress through them. This is well illustrated by a remarkable letter which William Fleetwood, the Recorder of London, wrote to Lord Burghley upon the apprehending of a number of rogues and masterless men at Islington, who endangered the progress of Queen Elizabeth in January, 1581-2. Fleetwood's description of his proceedings is as follows:

"My singular good Lord uppon Thursday at even, her Majestie in her Cooche near Islyngton, taking of the aer, her Highnes was environed with a number of Rooges. One M[r] Stone a footeman cam in all hast to my Lord

Maior, and after to me, and told us of the cause. I dyd the same night send Warrants owt into the sayd quarters and into Westminster and the Duchie; and in the mornyng I went a brood my selff, and I tooke that daye lxxiiij roogs, whereof some were blynd and yet great usurers, and very riche; and the same daye towards night I sent for Mr Harrys and Mr Smithe and the governors of Bridwell, and tooke all the names of the roogs and sent theym frome the Sessions Hall unto Bridwell, where they remayned that night."

Fleetwood acted on the authority of the Lords of the Council in these proceedings, but his actions appear to have been very summary, for there is no description in the letter of any particular offences which these rogues had committed. Subsequently Fleetwood dined with the Dean of Westminster, with whom he conferred touching Westminster and the Duchy of Lancaster, "and then I tooke orders for Southwarke, Lambeth and Newyngton, from whence I receyved a shooll of xl rooggs, men and women, and above. I bestowed theym in Bridwell."

He had an interview with the Master of the Savoy, who said he was sworn to lodge "claudicantes, egrotantes, et peregrinantes;" so Fleetwood, after he had swept St. Paul's of the rogues resorting there, sent the constables of the Duchy to the Hospital, and they brought to Bridewell "vj tall fellowes that were draymen unto bruers, and were neither 'claudicantes, egrotantes' nor 'peregrinantes.'" He adds that "the constables if they might have had theyr owen wills wold have brought as many moo."

Of all these rogues the majority were given "substanciall

payment," while "the rest wee desmyssed with a promise of a double paye if we mett with theym agayne." It appears that none of these rogues belonged to London, Westminster, nor Southwark, nor more than twelve to Middlesex and Surrey. The remainder came from Wales, Shropshire, Cheshire, Somerset, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, and Essex. Fleetwood adds that "the chieff nurserie of all these evell people is the Savoye and the brick kilnes nere Islyngton. As for the brick kylnes we will take suche order that they shall be reformed. And I trust by your Lordship's help the Savoye shall be amended; for suerlie, as by experiens I fynd it, the same place, as it is used, not converted to a good use or purpose."[1]

Respectable people in course of time took to residing in the suburbs, and thus raised their character. Accordingly we find so staid and virtuous a man as Milton associated with the garden houses of the suburbs. He was born in the City, but in his later life he did not live within the City walls by choice. When he returned from his continental tour he lived in St. Bride's Churchyard. Then he took a garden house in Aldersgate Street, situated at the end of an entry, that he might avoid the noise and disturbance of the street. It was while he was living here that his first wife, Mary Powell, obtained his forgiveness by presenting herself suddenly to him at a friend's house in Aldersgate Street. In 1644 Milton removed to a house in the Barbican,

[1] This letter is printed in Ellis's "Original Letters," First Series, vol. ii., p. 283. There are other letters by Fleetwood on the rogueries of London in Ellis's work.

where he only remained a short time. He took in 1647 a small house in Holborn, "opening backwards into Lincoln's Inn Fields." While Latin Secretary to Cromwell he was lodged at "one Thompson's next door to the Bull Head tavern at Charing Cross opening into Spring Gardens," and then, when his official rooms were ready, in Scotland Yard. Afterwards he took a "pretty garden house in Petty France, Westminster," in which he lived for eight years. This house, which looked into St. James's Park, was pulled down in 1877. Its gardens now form part of the lawn of Queen Anne Mansions. Jeremy Bentham bought the house and added the garden to his own house in Queen Square Place. He also placed a stone tablet on the front with this inscription, "Sacred to Milton, Prince of Poets." William Hazlitt rented the house from 1812 to 1819.

After the Restoration, Milton is said to have taken refuge at a friend's house in Bartholomew Close. Then he rented a house in Holborn near Red Lion Fields (now Red Lion Square), and afterwards went to Jewin Street, Aldersgate. His last residence was in Artillery Walk, Bunhill Fields, where he died in 1674. Many attempts have been made to fix the exact site of Milton's house. It was on the west side of the present Bunhill Row, not far from Chiswell Street. Although blind, he still loved to be among flowers, and one of his visitors describes him as sitting at his door in warm sunny weather to enjoy the fresh air. The successive movements of few of our great men can be recorded with the completeness that is possible in the case of one of the greatest of Londoners.

The evil associations of the suburbs had faded away in the seventeenth century, and now the word "suburban" has only to bear a slight suspicion of contempt as indicating a certain amount of pretentiousness which is just the reverse of its old meaning of want of respectability.

The large growth of the town, which has swallowed up nearly all the suburbs, is chiefly the work of the present century, and many parts of London which are now thickly inhabited were rural places before 1850.

Hoxton, the distinctive character of which is now lost in the map of London, was in Ben Jonson's time a country place cut off from the City by Moorfields. Knowell's house, described in "Every Man in his Humour," was at Hogsden, which was then, according to Stow, a large street with houses on both sides. Master Stephen describes his uncle's property as "Middlesex land," and he himself is called a country gull, in opposition to Master Matthew, the town gull. Jonson had reason to remember Hoxton, for it was in the fields close by that he fought and killed Gabriel Spenser.

These rural characteristics continued to modern times. The late Mr. Hyde Clarke (who died in 1895 at the age of eighty) told the writer of this that he had an uncle who lived at Hoxton, and that when a boy (say about 1825) he often went to spend Saturday to Monday at his uncle's country house. On these occasions he proceeded as far as Finsbury Square, where a party was gathered together, who waited till they could be conducted across the open space by the patrol provided to protect them against the dangerous characters in the neighbourhood.

If we look over the list of places described in Lysons's valuable work on the "Environs of London" (1811), we find about one-third of the total number of those in Surrey are now included in the London of to-day, while about one-half of those in Middlesex are now an integral part of the town. Lysons includes among his environs such places as Chelsea, Hackney, Islington, Kensington, Limehouse, Marybone, Paddington, Pancras, Stepney, etc. This proves how great a change has taken place since the publication of his book.

In the last century highwaymen and footpads frequented the suburbs, and roads which are now filled with tramcars and omnibuses were then dark and dangerous.

The notorious James Dalton was taken prisoner at the "Bull's Head," Tottenham Court Road, for stopping the coach of Dr. Mead in Leather Lane, Holborn, in December, 1729, and robbing him. This man committed about fifty robberies in and around London, and gave evidence against Jonathan Wild and Blueskin, but at last he got his deserts, and was hanged at Tyburn on May 12, 1730.

The "Rose of Normandy," tavern, gaming-house, and bowling-green, was a very old place of entertainment joined to the better known Marylebone Gardens. Long's bowling-green at the "Rose" is mentioned in the "London Gazette" for January 11, 1691, as half a mile distant from London; and in 1746 robberies were so frequent and thieves so desperate that the proprietor of the gardens was obliged to have a guard of soldiers to protect the company to and from London. Provision of the same kind had to be made

by other proprietors, as those of Belsize House, and many other suburban pleasure gardens.

Knightsbridge, as one of the chief entrances to London, was well supplied with inns. These places were many of them favourite resorts by day, but at night they were frequented by highwaymen, and an old MS. annotator of Norden's "Speculum Britanniæ" suggests that "no good man walk there too late unless he can make his party good."

The site of the Great Northern Station at King's Cross was formerly a lonely spot. Near the "Red Lion," Battle Bridge, John Everett of St. Pancras, the highwayman, stopped Mrs. Manly's chariot, for which crime he was hanged at Tyburn on February 29, 1730, Robert Beech, the landlord, bearing evidence against him. Kentish Town was tolerably well supplied with inns, but they did not add to the safety of travellers. Those who now pass these houses in a yellow omnibus or tramcar will find it difficult to realize the state of things represented by the following particulars: Opposite the "Bull and Gate," Squire Greenwood was robbed by W. Yates, H. Morris, and B. Fink, who, after frightening the village, got off safely, but they were afterwards taken and hanged at Tyburn in May, 1736. The "Bull and Last" was kept by John Young, who was hanged at Kennington, for the robbery of Thomas Swinton, in May, 1730.

The "Dun Cow" at Holloway was built in 1604, and on an old view of the house which the writer saw some years ago, was the following MS. note relating to one of the

notorious frequenters of the place: "In this house last year the 20th of October I met a person whom I took for an honest man; his conversation was agreeable, and he was good-looking. Since many times I have thought of my fortunate escape, for he was no other than the notorious Turpin. A little after he left me he stopped Lady Dolin's chariot, and robbed her of £12 and her watch and rings. This is the last public inn in Holloway. I find Turpin is staying near Hackney. 8 May, 1731."

The Ordinary of Newgate in 1720 describes a highwayman who stopped the Earl of Harborough during broad daylight in Piccadilly. One of the chairmen pulled out a pole of the chair and knocked down one of the assailants, "while the Earl came out, drew his sword, and put the rest to flight; but not before they had raised their wounded companion, whom they took off with them." Nearly thirty years after this outrage, in a principal thoroughfare of the town, Horace Walpole was stopped in Hyde Park by highwaymen, one being the notorious McLean. Walpole describes the incident himself in his "Short Notes": "One night in the beginning of November, 1749, as I was returning from Holland House by moonlight about ten at night, I was attacked by two highwaymen [McLean and Plunket] in Hyde Park, and the pistol of one of them [McLean] going off accidentally razed the skin under my eye, left some marks of shot on my face, and stunned me. The ball went through the top of the chariot, and if I had sat an inch nearer to the left side must have gone through my head."

Writing to Sir Horace Mann in the week after the occurrence, Walpole says, " Pray don't be frightened ; the danger, great as it was, was over before I had any notion of it, and the event did not deserve mentioning. The relation [in the newspapers] is so near the truth that I need not repeat it, and indeed the frequent repetition has been much worse than the robbery."[1]

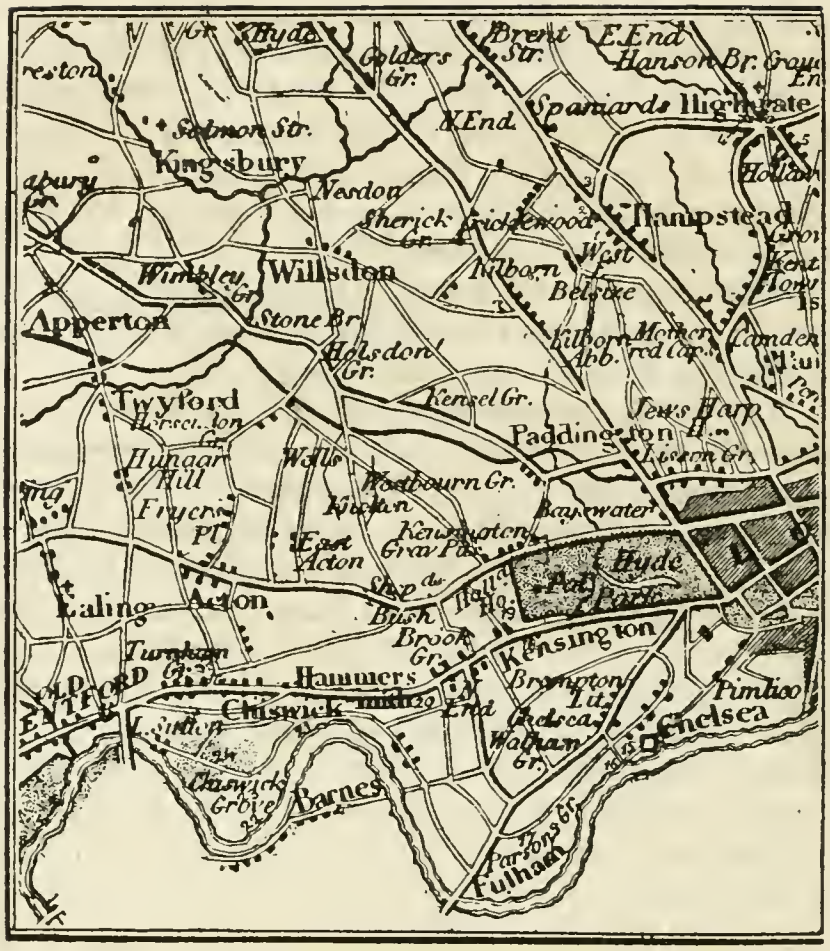
When it became too dangerous to stop travellers in these parts the highwaymen retreated further afield, to such places as Finchley Common and Hounslow Heath.

It was the former custom to measure the milestones in the northern suburbs from Hicks's Hall, which was the popular name of the old Sessions House at Clerkenwell. Thus Islington Green was described as one mile from Hicks's Hall.

In the southern suburbs the miles were counted from the Standard, Cornhill. There was a water standard at the east end of Cornhill as early as the second year of Henry V.'s reign. At Camden Town there was a milestone giving the information that it marked two miles from St. Giles's Pound, which was situated at the junction of Tottenham Court Road, Oxford Street, and High Street, St. Giles's.

Even now we have diversities in the fixing of final points of measurement—Charing Cross and the Post Office being the favourite points. In the preface to the " Population Returns of 1831 " there is a plan of a circle of eight miles, which shows the environs of that day such as Marylebone, Paddington, Chelsea, St. Pancras, Bermondsey, Camberwell, Brixton, etc.

[1] " Letters," ed. Cunningham, vol. ii., p. 185.



MAP OF THE ENVIRONS OF LONDON.

In order to give the reader some idea of the appearance of the suburbs north of the Thames at the beginning of the nineteenth century, the above map of what were then environs has been enlarged from an old guide book of 1815.

This is not very different (although on a larger scale)

(Taken from "The Original Picture of London," and dated 1815.)

from the eight-mile circle of 1831 referred to on page 13. Here Hoxton, Hackney and Clapton, Paddington, Belsize, Kilburn, Camden Town, etc., are shown as situated in the country. Some few of the places in Middlesex shown in this plan, such as Kingsbury, are still in the country.

NORTH-WESTERN SUBURBS

HAMPSTEAD and Highgate are now joined to the town, but the hills on their south sides have saved them from losing those distinctive characteristics which make them the pride of the Londoner as unquestionably the most beautiful suburbs of London.

For centuries Hampstead and Highgate stood apart on sister hills, but gradually the town encroached nearer and nearer to them. Highgate was approached from the east earlier than Hampstead. The road to Hampstead from the south-west existed at an early period, but it was for long very sparsely inhabited.

In the last century Tottenham Court Road was a country road to the manor of Tothill, Totenhall, or Tottenham Court, with a farm on the east side, and at times a fair was held in its roadway. The manor house stood at the north-west corner of the present road, and is now represented by the public house known as the "Adam and Eve," in the Hampstead Road. It was in front of the tea gardens attached to this place of entertainment that Hogarth laid the scene of his famous picture, "The March to Finchley," which so greatly offended George II.

In the middle of the century the "Mother Red Cap" and the Chalk Farm Tavern were wayside inns surrounded by fields, and it is only within the present century that much building has taken place to the north of the New Road (now the Marylebone and Euston Roads).

The public house in Albany Street, with the odd sign of the "Queen's Head and Artichoke," at the time that Mrs. Smith (the mother of J. T. Smith, the antiquary, author of "A Book for a

Rainy Day," etc.), took her morning walks from Rathbone Place, was a little old tavern in a meadow, entered from the New Road by a turnstile. The sign was a weather-beaten portrait of Queen Elizabeth, and the report was that the house had been kept originally by one of her Majesty's gardeners.

How greatly these north-western suburbs have grown within the last thirty years or so is seen by the constant flow of yellow omnibuses and tramcars that pass to all parts north of Camden Town. Formerly the "Mother Red Cap" was the terminus, and in the open space in front of it the omnibuses waited their turns of departure. Now the routes have been extended in various directions, and the front of the tavern has been rebuilt in order to take in this open space.

In 1729 "Galloway Races" were advertised to be run at Belsize House for a £10 plate, and a few years later a handbill issued by the proprietor informed the public that "twelve stout fellows completely armed to patrole between Belsize and London" had been engaged. When Belsize House became still more popular, it was necessary to raise the patrol from "twelve stout fellows" to thirty.

When Hampstead was a village quite unconnected with London, except by the ordinary high road, it was a favourite place of residence for many men of the greatest distinction, such as the Chathams, the Mansfields, and the Erskines. One cannot but admire the courage of the men who were willing to encounter the dangers of the unprotected roads in their outward and homeward journeys.

There are still among us those who when young travelled to and fro by the Hampstead stage.

Highgate was earlier in complete communication with London than Hampstead, and in 1363 we hear of a grant from Edward III. to William Phelippe to the right of toll on the highway between Highgate and Smithfield, which he had greatly improved. At this time it was doubtless more convenient to reach Hampstead by way of Highgate than by the more out-of-the-way western road.

Highgate Hill is associated in popular belief with the adventure of Dick Whittington, when he heard the bells ring out the words—

> "Turn again, Whittington,
> Thrice Lord Mayor of London-town;"

but, in spite of the Whittington Stone, there is no early authority for associating Whittington with Highgate. It is palpably absurd to suppose that Whittington could have heard Bow Bells at that great distance, and from the earliest known chapbook version of his history it appears that the original hill where he is supposed to have stopped when leaving the city was Bone-hill, now known as Bunhill.

This is a good instance of how history grows out of vague tradition, for not only is there a brand-new Whittington's Stone, but also the Whittington's Almshouses in the Archway Road, to give life to a theory which has no kind of foundation in fact.

PLATE I

CHURCH ROW, HAMPSTEAD

HAMPSTEAD is a place of great antiquity, having been built upon at an early period owing to the outcrop of Bagshot sands on the hill, which made it a habitable spot in the midst of a wild of London clay. Apart, however, from its charms of scenery, which are of no period, its great interest to the lover of old-fashioned things is its strong eighteenth-century character.

All around Hampstead are relics of the time when Londoners visited the village for change of air, and to enjoy the fashionable frivolities of the Well Walk in the morning and of the Assembly Room in the evening. The houses where the visitors lodged are still standing, but their former glory is departed. All these reminiscences of the past seem to be concentrated in Church Row. It is not that so very many distinguished men and women lived here, but that it was the chief promenade of Hampstead, where most of the inhabitants were in the habit of meeting at some time in the day.

It is these associations that have endeared the place to Londoners, and the least imaginative cannot walk in this open space without conjuring up before his mind's eye the picture of those who congregated there when it was at the height of its vogue. The whole appearance of the place is completely in harmony with these memories. It is not, therefore, to be wondered at that its threatened destruction has been deplored by all. Some houses might be rebuilt with judgment, and the general effect might remain much the same, but the erection of a series of high flats which dwarfed the houses near would entirely spoil the old-world appearance. Unfortunately the work of destruction has already commenced, and

the houses at the beginning of the row on the right-hand side looking towards the church have been pulled down.

The old church, as pictured in Park's "History of Hampstead," is a much more interesting building than the present one, but in spite of the general ugliness of its exterior, the latter (which was erected in 1747) harmonizes well with the avenue that leads up to it.

Mr. J. J. Park, the historian of Hampstead, who died in 1833, lived in Church Row.

Mrs. Barbauld, the popular writer of children's books in conjunction with her brother, Dr. John Aikin, was a lifelong resident of Hampstead. Her husband, the Rev. Rochmount Barbauld, was minister of the Unitarian Chapel on Rosslyn Hill, who resided in Church Row, and had pupils there. Mrs. Barbauld lived in No. 9 (now No. 2) for a time after her husband's death, but subsequently she went to Rosslyn Hill.

Her niece, Lucy Aikin, went to live next door (then No. 8, Church Row) with her mother after the death of Dr. Aikin.

Other inhabitants were Miss Meteyard, the authoress, and Miss Gillies, the artist. The well-known painter, J. R. Herbert, R.A., lived in Church Row before he removed to Elm Bank. The late Mr. Edward Walford, the author of "Old and New London" and "Greater London," also lived here for a considerable time.

Plate

PLATE II

FENTON HOUSE, HAMPSTEAD

THIS charming old house with its high-pitched roof is situated in the Grove nearly opposite to Old Grove House and New Grove House. In the latter house the late Mr. Du Maurier resided for many years.

On the front of the house, over the doorway, was formerly a clock face, which has been covered over, although its outline is still to be seen. In the last century, the house was called after this—"The Clock House."

At the back of the house there was a pond which was named after the house, Clock House pond, and continued to be so called until comparatively recent times.

On the authority of an old inhabitant it may be stated that the pond was also known as Crockett's pond, and this gentleman suggests that Crockett was probably the same man who gave his name to Crockett's Court in the High Street, nearly opposite Flask Walk, which he well remembers. The pond was filled up by Mr. Wills (of Bristol), and a house and stabling were built on the site in 1876.

At the beginning of the present century the Clock House was inhabited by a Mr. Fenton, after whom it has since been named. After Mr. Fenton, Mr. Hart Davis was the next resident, and he was followed by Mr. Thomas Turner, the first Chairman of the Hampstead Vestry.

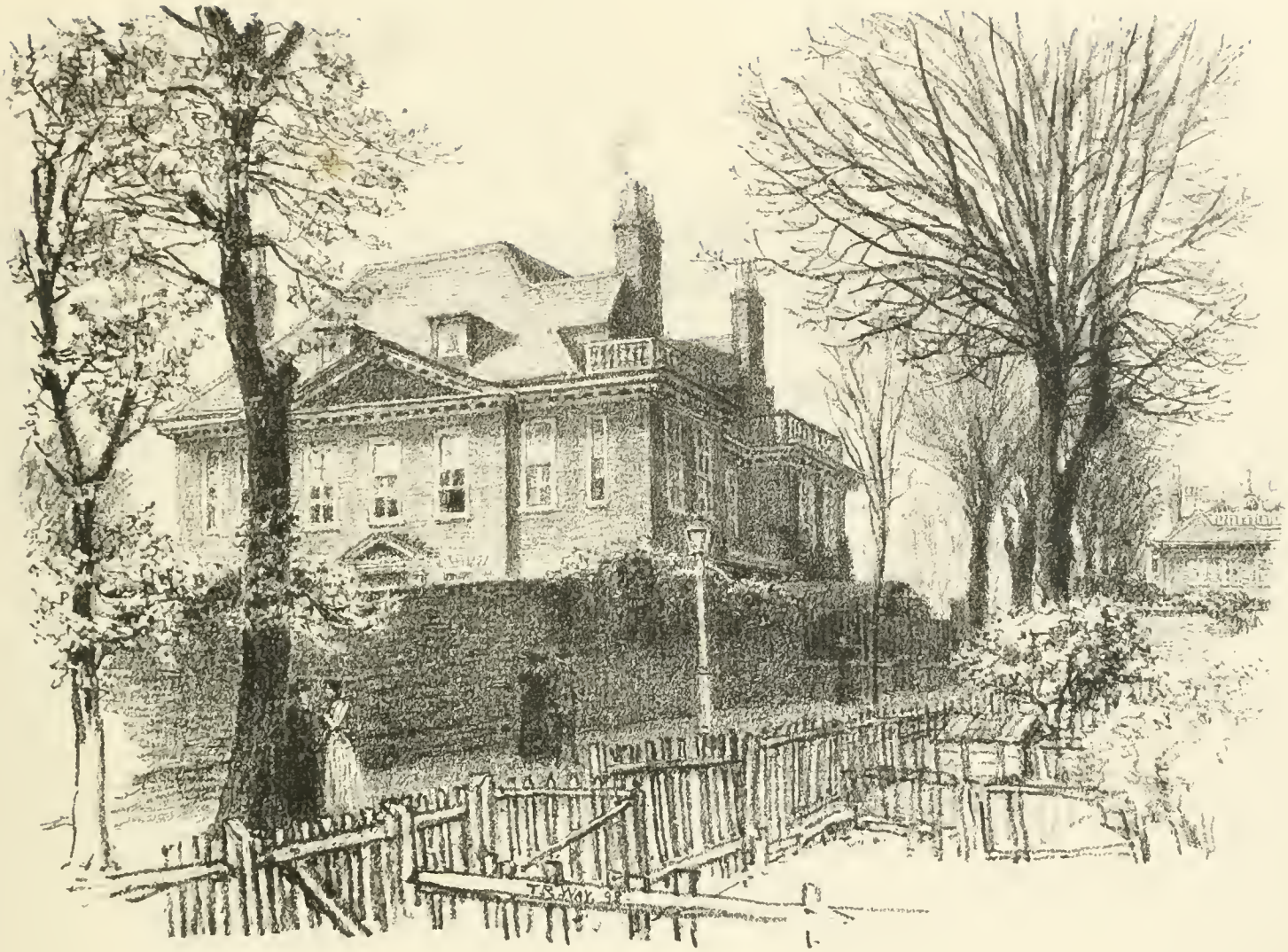


Plate 2

PLATE III

JACK STRAW'S CASTLE, HAMPSTEAD

JACK STRAW'S CASTLE (Castle Hotel), situated on the summit of Hampstead Heath (443 feet above the sea level), has been a favourite place of resort for many years, but it does not date back far into the last century. The house was built at the beginning of the eighteenth century, but it was occupied as a private residence for many years.

Little is recorded of the early history of the house, but we know that when the Middlesex parliamentary elections were held at Hampstead, before they were transferred to Brentford, the Castle Tavern was the chief rendezvous for candidates and voters.

It has been suggested that Jack Straw's Castle was a place of resort when a racecourse was established behind the house, but we learn that before the middle of the eighteenth century the races run here had fallen in public favour, and had been suppressed on account of the evils attendant on these meetings. Now at that time there is no doubt that the house was occupied as a private residence.

It is a far cry from the fourteenth century to the nineteenth, and, in spite of romancers, there are no very good reasons for connecting Wat Tyler's right-hand man either with Hampstead in general or with this house in particular. Therefore it is as difficult to decide on the origin of the name as it is to find any information respecting its early history.

Washington Irving was one of the first to draw attention to the charms of Jack Straw's Castle in his "Tales of a Traveller" (first published in 1824).

Mr. Edward Walford quoted in his "Old and New London," from the "Cabinet of Curiosities," published by Limbird in 1822, the following lines on the repair of the tavern :

> "With best of food—of beer and wines,
> Here may you pass a merry day ;
> So shall mine host, while Phœbus shines,
> Instead of straw make good his hay."

Dickens was a constant frequenter of the house, and on one occasion, when asking his biographer, John Forster, to accompany him for a brisk walk over Hampstead Heath, he wrote, "I know a good house there where we can have a red-hot chop for dinner, and a glass of good wine."

Everyone who knows Hampstead knows how splendid is the situation of Jack Straw's Castle, and the views from the windows, back and front, cannot well be forgotten by those who have once seen them.

Plate 3

PLATE IV

THE GROVE, HIGHGATE

THE Grove is still one of the most charming positions in Highgate, and it will ever be remembered for its associations with the poet Coleridge.

The site was originally occupied by Dorchester House, the mansion of the Marquis of Dorchester, the loyal adherent of Charles I. During the Commonwealth it fell into decay, and was bought by a woollen-draper in Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, who started a scheme for establishing a hospital for the education and maintenance of about forty fatherless boys and girls, to be supported by the voluntary subscriptions of ladies, and to be called the Ladies' Hospital or Charity School. Blake was an interesting man, and he published in furtherance of his scheme one of the most curious little books ever printed, which was entitled, "Silver Drops, or Serious Things." Blake lost his fortune; the ladies did not do what was expected of them, and the whole undertaking came to naught.

Six houses in the Grove, and two at the side on West Hill, appear to have been built as early as 1685, and one of the earliest inhabitants was Sir Francis Pemberton, after whom the place was first named Pemberton Row. It was also styled Quality Walk before the modern name of the Grove was given to it.

The Grove has always been well let, but the residence of Samuel Taylor Coleridge at No. 3 (in the drawing the third from the right), the house of Mr. James Gillman, the surgeon, has quite eclipsed the associations of other men with this row of red-brick houses, and the mention of the Grove suggests Coleridge, as that of Coleridge does the Grove.

During the eighteen years that Coleridge lived under the roof of Mr. Gillman, tenderly cared for by that worthy man and his amiable wife, Highgate became a shrine of genius, to which all the intellect of the country instinctively turned.

The memoirs of the time are full of allusions to the magic power of exposition exercised by this marvellous man, but the most touching of all is the record of the tender friendship between Coleridge and Charles Lamb. Lamb was a constant visitor at the Gillmans, and after Coleridge's death he wrote: "He was my fifty-year-old friend without a dissension. Never saw I his likeness, nor probably the world can see it again."

The grandson of Coleridge's Gillman (Mr. Alexander W. Gillman) has published a most interesting book on "The Gillmans of Highgate," in which there is much fresh matter respecting Coleridge.

Plate 4

PLATE V

CROMWELL HOUSE, HIGHGATE

THIS fine old house appears to have been built at the beginning of the seventeenth century by Richard Sprignell, who was created a baronet in 1641, and it is probable that an old stone, once the boundary of the garden, inscribed "A.D. 1614," really fixes the exact date of the building. The Sprignell family were long connected with Highgate, and names of members of it are found in the registers after they had ceased to reside at this house.

It is not known how the house came into the possession of Oliver Cromwell, but he is supposed to have presented it to his eldest daughter, Bridget, on her marriage, January 15, 1646-47, with Henry Ireton. As General Ireton was soon after appointed Lieutenant-General and Governor-General of Ireland under the title of Lord Deputy, and died at Limerick on November 26, 1651, he could not have resided long at this house, although its internal decoration bears evidence of his military tastes. The handsome staircase is ornamented with carved figures of soldiers of the army of the Commonwealth, and the balustrades are filled with devices emblematical of a soldier's occupation.

A fire on January 3, 1865, destroyed the upper floors and the ceiling of the drawing-room, on which the arms of Ireton were displayed. Ireton was an acting Governor of the Highgate Grammar School, and his signature appears three times in the records. This is good evidence of his residence, and there can be little doubt but that this building should be called Ireton House rather than Cromwell House. Curiously enough, a similar misnaming of a house in Nottinghamshire is recorded.

The Iretons were a Derbyshire family, and held property at Little Ireton, from which village they took their name. German Ireton, the father of Henry and John, was living at Attenborough, Notts, when his two sons were born. Henry was the future general, and John became Lord Mayor of London and was knighted by Cromwell.

A house now used as a farmhouse is either the original dwelling of German Ireton modernized, or a later building on its site. It is known among the villagers as Cromwell House, although there is no evidence of Cromwell having had anything whatever to do with it.

After General Ireton's death Major-General Harrison lived at the Highgate house, and he was visited here by Ludlow after he had fallen into disgrace with the Protector.

The turret covered with cement and crowned with a dome is a modern addition, and replaces the old platform on the roof.

Early in the present century Cromwell House was occupied as a boy's school. It is now the Convalescent Home in connection with that valuble institution, the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street.

Plate 5

PLATE VI

LAUDERDALE HOUSE, HIGHGATE

LAUDERDALE HOUSE, which, after many vicissitudes, is now the refreshment house of Waterlow Park, is said to have been built about 1607, but little or nothing is known of its early history. During the Commonwealth period Sir John Ireton, brother of General Ireton, seems to have obtained possession of the house out of the hands of the Lauderdale family. After the Restoration the second Earl and first Duke of Lauderdale got it back into his own possession, and on the 28th of July, 1666, Samuel Pepys came up with Lord Brouncker to Highgate in a coach and six to visit him.

There is little to interest us in the occupancy of Lauderdale, who was one of the worst of the courtiers at a bad court. There is a tradition connected with Lauderdale House that it was here that Nell Gwyn induced Charles II. to acknowledge her son, who was afterwards Duke of St. Albans. There are two forms of the story: one is that Nell called her son "bastard," and when the king remonstrated with her, she said that he had no other name; whereat Charles created him Earl of Burford. The other version is that Nell held her son out of one of the windows, and threatened to let him fall unless the king gave him a title. Taken by surprise, Charles cried out, "Save the Earl of Burford!" There is no record of Nell Gwyn's occupancy of this house, but it has been suggested that the king borrowed it for her from Lauderdale when the latter was in Scotland.

Of modern residents, Richard Bethell, afterwards Lord Westbury and Lord Chancellor, was the most distinguished. A later inhabitant was Mr. James Yates, F.R.S., who paid particular

attention to the grounds, and was in the habit of giving garden parties which were well attended by the scientific and literary men of his day.

The property came into the possession of Sir Sydney Waterlow, who, after the death of Mr. Yates, devoted it to the use of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, of which he was treasurer, as a convalescent home.

When Waterlow Park was formed by the munificence of Sir Sydney, Lauderdale House was carefully and securely restored, and devoted to the sale of refreshments for the frequenters of the park.

Plate 6

PLATE VII

HIGHGATE ARCHWAY

THE extreme steepness of Highgate Hill has always been a terror to the coachman and a cause of great distress to his horse, and various attempts were made in the last century to ease this severe gradient. It was not, however, until the beginning of the present century that, in order to make some improvement in the roadway for the coaches travelling the great Northern Road, the Archway Road was projected.

It is worthy of note that the use of the word in this case was not intended at first to express such an archway as that subsequently erected, but to denote the arch of a tunnel.

In 1809 a scheme was projected by Robert Vazie for diverting the road and forming a subterraneous arch or tunnel, 24 ft. wide, 18 ft. high, and 375 yds. long, through the body of the hill. Some alterations in the plan were subsequently made under the advice of the great engineer John Rennie, who recommended a reduction in the length of the tunnel and the substitution of open cuttings in certain places. A private act was obtained in May, 1810, 50 Geo. III., c. 88, incorporating the projectors of the scheme as "The Highgate Archway Company," and authorizing the directors to raise £40,000 by shares of £50 each, with an additional sum of £20,000 if necessary. The directors were empowered "to levy perpetual tolls, not exceeding sixpence for every horse or other beast drawing a carriage; not exceeding threepence for every horse or mule not drawing a carriage; not exceeding twopence for every donkey, and not exceeding one penny for every foot passenger."

The seal of the Company represented a cart drawn by twelve

horses going up a steep hill, and a cart drawn by six horses on the level preparing to pass through the tunnel. The inscription was "Highgate Archway Company, 1810. Sicut talpa sub terram vivimus." The work was commenced, and the tunnel constructed to the length of about 130 yards, when the whole fell in with a tremendous crash. The causes of the failure were the treacherousness of the London clay through which the tunnel was carried, and the insufficiency of the brick lining.

The tunnel was now abandoned, and in accordance with the plans and recommendations of the architect, John Nash, an open road in the line of the intended tunnel was formed. A further act was obtained in 1812, enabling the Company to raise more capital to the extent of £70,000.

The road was formally opened on August 21st, 1813, but it was exposed to the frequent and sudden influx of water, and all attempts to form a firm roadway failed. In 1829 the works were placed temporarily under the management of the Holyhead Road Commissioners, when by an extensive system of drainage and by laying the road metal in a thick bed of Roman cement, Telford, with his assistant, Macneil, brought the road into an excellent state.

The foundation stone of the Highgate Archway was laid on October 21st, 1812. It was built of brick, faced with stone, and surmounted by three semi-arches supporting a bridge, along which the roadway of Hornsey Lane is continued.

The extension of the system of the North London Tramways has necessitated a new archway, and the present one will be superseded by a bridge of brick and stone designed by the surveyor to the Hornsey Local Board. The new erection will allow of a road 50 ft. wide instead of 16 ft. as at present.

The fall of the tunnel in 1812 was made the subject of a play, entitled "The Highgate Tunnel, or the Secret Arch," produced at one of the London theatres, and it is said that the experience gained from this failure was of service to Stephenson in constructing his early railway tunnels through the London clay.

THE NORTHERN AND EASTERN SUBURBS

THE Londoner of the Middle Ages who looked out to the North from the battlements at Cripplegate or Moorgate or Aldersgate, saw several small villages dotted about in the open country before him.

Nearest to him was Clerkenwell, which took its name from the holy well where the clerks of London used to repair for the performance of plays on scriptural subjects. The village grew up about the Priory of St. John of Jerusalem, the site of which is still marked by St. John's Gate.

Farther north was Islington, which continued to be a true village even as late as the last century, when Londoners were in the habit of visiting the place for change of air. The poet Cowley wrote in his poem on "Solitude" of what was even to him "Monster London"—

> "Let but thy wicked men from out thee go,
> And all the fools that crowd thee so,
> Even thou, who dost thy millions boast,
> A village less than Islington will grow,
> A solitude almost."

Later Addison wrote and fathered on Dryden a couplet in which the far-offness of Islington is insisted on—

> "Not only London echoes with thy fame,
> But also Islington has heard the same."

Even in the first half of the present century Islington was still a pleasant rural resort, and in the census of 1801 the number of

inhabitants in the district including Holloway, Highbury, Canonbury, Barnsbury, Kingsland, Ball's Pond, etc., scarcely exceeded ten thousand.

A little nearer to the walls, but farther to the east, was to be seen Hoxton, a manor mentioned in Domesday.

The cause of this northern expansion of London is due to the geological formation of the district. The great expanse of London clay is covered by gravel over the area of central London. This formation also runs up to the north of the City, and made it possible to build there in early times; whereas in the North-Western districts the clay comes to the surface, and it was therefore impossible for a general settlement to take place until the Water Companies came into existence, and then building operations commenced, because the inhabitants of the new houses could be supplied with water.

Up to the beginning of the present century there were few buildings in the North-West between central London and Hampstead and Highgate, where there was a local outcrop of Bagshot sand.

The growth of the Eastern has been more continuous than that of the Northern suburbs.

The road from Aldgate to Whitechapel and Mile End was long the principal outlet from the City, and it naturally grew to be thickly inhabited, more particularly as it is level ground and there are no impediments in the way of hills.

Bow, however, long continued to be a rural suburb, but now the huge district of West Ham has been joined to London, and a walk eastward shows us an uninterrupted succession of houses and streets as crowded as is the heart of the town.

It is somewhat startling, in illustration of the difficulty of dealing with "monster London," to find that West Ham, which joins Bow, is outside the County of London, while Hampstead and part of Highgate, which still retain many of their rural characteristics, are included in it.

PLATE VIII

CANONBURY TOWER, ISLINGTON

THIS interesting relic is the only remaining portion of the old manor house given to the Prior and Canons of St. Bartholomew in Smithfield by Ralph de Berners. The date of gift is not known, but the place is mentioned among the possessions of the Priory in 1253.

The manor house was rebuilt by Prior Bolton in Henry VIII.'s reign, and he marked it with his rebus—a bolt in a tun.

On the dissolution of the religious houses the place was granted by Henry VIII. to Thomas, Lord Cromwell, but it reverted to the King on Cromwell's attainder. Edward VI. exchanged it with Dudley, Earl of Warwick and Duke of Northumberland, and when it again reverted to the Crown, Mary gave it to Thomas, Lord Wentworth. Wentworth sold it in 1570 to Sir John Spencer, whose daughter, Elizabeth, married William, Lord Compton, afterwards Earl of Northampton. It has been said that the present tower was built by Spencer, who came to reside at the manor in 1599.

A quaint old story tells about this marriage, that Sir John, one of the richest of London's merchants, not only objected to the match, but entirely refused his consent. Lord Compton, however, outwitted him by disguising himself as a baker, and, after delivering the loaves in a large basket, carried off his bride in the same receptacle. Sir John meeting and not recognizing him, rewarded him with sixpence for being so early! However, when he learned the truth, he was so angry that he disinherited his daughter. Queen Elizabeth after an interval invited Sir John to stand sponsor with her for a baby, and he even promised to adopt it, and found it to be his own grandson.

Lord Compton was afterwards created Earl of Northampton, and inherited through his wife Canonbury Tower and other great estates at Islington.

Several distinguished persons have resided at the manor house at different times. Lord Keeper Egerton was here in 1605, Bacon in 1616, when Attorney-General, and Lord Keeper Coventry in 1625.

In later times Canonbury Tower appears to have been let to persons who wished to obtain change of air in a retired position away from the town. Samuel Humphreys died here January 11, 1737, and Ephraim Chambers, the encyclopædist, on May 15, 1740.

John Newbery, the publisher, rented the place for a time, and Christopher Smart, the poet, was here under Newbery's protection. Oliver Goldsmith was also a lodger when the place was in the possession of Newbery. A more important person in worldly position who occasionally resided at Canonbury was the famous Speaker Onslow. In the "London Chronicle" for May 12, 1761, there is an announcement that the Right Hon. Arthur Onslow, late Speaker, had gone to Canonbury House for a few days, for the benefit of the air.

The Priory of St. Bartholomew's was supplied with water from Canonbury, and there was an absurd tradition that a subterranean communication existed between Canonbury and Smithfield.

During this century much very fine woodwork has been removed from Canonbury Tower to decorate some of the rooms at Compton Wynyates, the Marquis of Northampton's country mansion.

Plate 8

PLATE IX

BRITISH ASYLUM FOR DEAF AND DUMB FEMALES, LOWER CLAPTON

HACKNEY was of old one of the most important suburbs of London, and was also a stronghold of the Nonconformists. It was full of handsome old mansions of the well-to-do merchants of a past age, but time has not dealt kindly with the place, and though it has increased in population most of its more prosperous residents have left it, and in many instances the larger houses have been neglected or pulled down.

Clapton (both Upper and Lower) grew out of the prosperity of Hackney, and one of the most famous of the inhabitants of this suburb was John Howard, the philanthropist.

The house shown in this picture is a fine specimen of domestic architecture, well proportioned and in excellent taste, with a handsome iron entrance gate. It is situated on the west side of Clapton, opposite to and between Pond Lane and the Orphan Asylum. There are no special points of interest about the various persons who have inhabited this old mansion. These were men of substance, but they have not connected their names in any particular way with the history of Clapton or of the county. One of them is said to have made a fortune out of the sale of a certain description of domestic crockery, from which certain frivolous persons attached a popular name to the house.

The position of the house is marked on Starling's map of Hackney, 1731, with a field behind backing upon Back Lane. As the house was probably built about 1700, it must in 1731 have been a fairly recent addition to the suburb. It contains a handsome carved staircase.

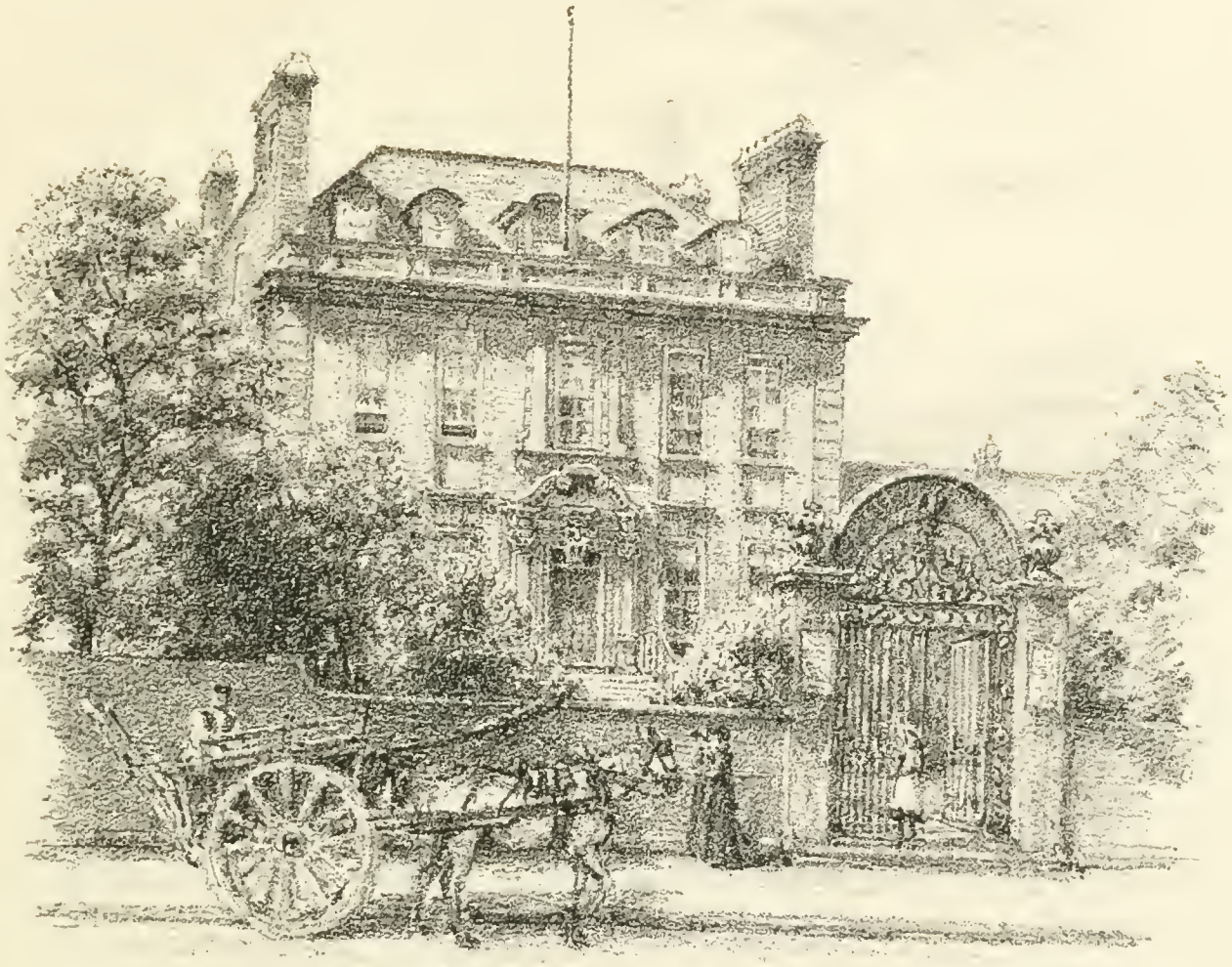


Plate 9

PLATE X

THE GREAT HOUSE, LEYTON

THIS is one of the handsomest houses in the neighbourhood of London, and it must have been the work of some architect of repute. It is said to have been built for Sir Fraser Tench. It is now, however, of too grandiose a character for its surroundings, and as it is for sale it cannot be long before it disappears and is replaced by rows of small houses. The back of this mansion is also architectural in design, although it is not so elegant as the front shown in the drawing. The marble-paved entrance hall and centre staircase are very fine and palatial, the latter indeed being one of the most beautiful specimens of its period in existence, and the paintings on the ceilings are said to be the work of Sir James Thornhill.

The parish of Leyton, including the hamlet of Leytonstone in the confines of Epping Forest, extends from Walthamstow on the north to Stratford on the south. As some Roman remains have been found in the neighbourhood, a claim was set up for it by Camden as the Roman station Durolitum, but this opinion is not confirmed by later writers, who suppose the Latin name to represent Romford.

The manor of Leyton belonged to the Abbey of Stratford Langthorne from about the year 1200 to the dissolution of the religious houses. In 1545 it was granted to Lord Chancellor Wriothesley, who sold it immediately, and it has since been often transferred and a good deal subdivided.

The manor and rectory were bought in 1649 jointly by Captain George Swanley, Bernard Ostler, and Robert Allot. David Gansel bought Ostler's third portion, and became lord of the manor and

patron of the vicarage, which descended to his son, Major-General William Gansel.

Mr. Gansel sold the manor house with paddock and some land to John Strange, Solicitor-General, 1736, and Recorder of London, 1739. Strange was knighted in 1740, and was subsequently appointed Master of the Rolls. He improved the house by sundry additions.

The famous John Strype, the ecclesiastical historian and continuator of Stow's "Survey of London," was vicar of Leyton for many years.

Plate

PLATE XI

THE ANGEL INN, WEST HAM

THE parish of West Ham is very extensive, and includes four wards, viz., Church Street, Stratford Langthorne, Plaistow, and Upton. It was populous in the time of Morant, the historian of Essex (1768), and he describes the place as "the residence of several considerable merchants, dealers and industrious artists."

It is greatly changed since then, and although a few interesting houses still remain, the place has lost whatever attractions it may once have possessed. West Ham is now a borough, and has become the home of manufactures which have been driven away from London itself.

This view shows the village street of West Ham with the church tower in the distance. The church is dedicated to All Saints, and was given to the Abbey of Stratford Langthorne by Gilbert de Montfichet, son of the founder. It is a large building, and although it has been badly repaired at times, it contains some interesting features. In the restoration of 1866 a transition Norman clerestory was discovered. The church contains several interesting monuments.

A little nearer to the front of the picture is the curious old village inn, the "Angel," and on the opposite side of the street are shown some solidly-built and handsome houses.

In the foreground of the picture, where the spectator may be supposed to stand, there was, some thirty years ago, an old-fashioned house where Thomas Carpenter, the author of the once-famous Spelling Book, lived in the forties. At the back of the house was a large garden, from which there was an uninterrupted view of the house in Upton Lane where Mrs. Elizabeth Fry lived

for many years. Ham House and park, where Samuel Gurney lived, was purchased for £25,000 and vested in the Corporation of London for the use of the public. Of this amount the Gurney family contributed £10,000 and the Corporation the same amount. The remaining £5,000 was collected from the inhabitants of West Ham.

West Ham Park was formally opened for public use by the Lord Mayor on the 20th of July, 1874.

Plate 11

PLATE XII

HIGH STREET, BOW

THE village of Stratford-le-Bow is described in the "Beauties of England and Wales" (1816) as situated two miles from London. The name originated early in the twelfth century, when Queen Matilda caused the Roman road from Colchester to be diverted from Old Ford to this place, and built an arched bridge here. The designation "atte bowe" was added to the name Stratford on account of the form of the bridge. Further east is another Stratford, which for distinction's sake was styled Stratford Langthorne. Now "Stratford atte bowe" has come to be called Bow, and the other Stratford has lost its distinguishing title of Langthorne. Leland describes what happened in the following passage:

"Matilda, wife of Henry I., having herself been well washed in the water, caused two bridges to be builded in a place one mile distant from the Old Ford, of the which one was situated over Lee at the head of the town of Stratford now called Bowe, because the bridge was arched like unto a bowe, a rare piece of work, for before that time the like had never been seen in England. The other over the little brooke, commonly called Chanelse Bridge."

The church was built as a chapel of ease to Stepney early in the fourteenth century, and was founded by Edward IV. on a piece of ground that was "part of the king's highway." It is this which gives the old church such a picturesque effect, standing as it does in the middle of the road, and every lover of the antiquities of London must be pleased that the efforts to save this old landmark from destruction have been successful.

The church was consecrated as the parish church of Bow on the

26th of March, 1719. Of late years it has been allowed to fall into a rather dilapidated state, but it is now being restored.

This view gives an excellent idea of the old church, with the road and interesting old houses on the north side looking London-wards.

Plate 12

PLATE XIII

GROVE HALL LUNATIC ASYLUM, BOW

THE visitor to this interesting old house has a surprise in store for him. He passes out of the Bow Road into Fairfield Road, and, after walking by some small suburban houses, he comes to a high wall on the right-hand side of the road. He rings the bell and is admitted at the gate. He then sees a large lawn and garden with shady trees, and in the far distance the imposing outline of Grove Hall.

When he comes up to the front, he finds a handsome specimen of a late seventeenth-century house, whose wings have been added in the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries.

On entering the house he comes into a hall which fills the whole depth of the building, and he finds that the original front was that which is seen in the drawing and looks upon the river Lea. This front is certainly superior to the other in architectural effect.

Within there is a fine old wooden staircase, but this has been placed at the side of the house, and is not made a feature of the interior.

There is much good oak carving and handsome mantelpieces in the different rooms, but the oak has been thickly painted over and grained in imitation of oak. The oak panelling has also been spoiled by having wall-paper pasted over it.

This is a fine specimen of a merchant's mansion, when Bow was a highly appreciated residential neighbourhood.

Plate 13

PLATE XIV

HOME FOR AGED JEWS, STEPNEY GREEN

STEPNEY was originally the mother-parish of the whole of what is now called "East London," and included Stratford-le-Bow, Whitechapel, Shadwell, Mile End, Poplar, Blackwall, Spitalfields, Ratcliff, Limehouse, and Bethnal Green, some of which places with others now form the Tower Hamlets.

The manor was originally held by the Bishops of London, who had a residence here called Bishop's Hall, but this was alienated by Bishop Ridley, and now the Bishops of London have no residence either in the City of London or in the East End.

In Domesday the manor is styled Stibenhede. The name has also been written as Stevenhethe, Stebenhethe and Stebenhythe, and probably means St. Stephen's haven.

This place suffered very severely from the great Plague in 1665, and Lord Clarendon, referring to the difficulty of obtaining seamen in the following year, wrote, "Stepney and the places adjacent, which were their common habitations, were almost depopulated."

There is a Synagogue and Jews' burial-ground at Stepney, and this fine old house at 37 and 39, Stepney Green, with its wrought-iron gate and railing, is occupied as a Home for aged Jews.

Plate 14

THE WESTERN SUBURBS

THE Western Suburbs of London are those which are specially rich in associations of a literary and historical character.

The town naturally grew along the course of the river, partly because the gravel followed this course, and partly because the river itself was the great silent highway which joined the villages on its banks with the City. It was thus easy and convenient for the Londoner to reach Chelsea and Fulham, and Hammersmith and Chiswick, by boat.

When London was confined to the City proper, the citizens were naturally more inclined to settle in the suburbs in the north and in the east, which were situated nearer to their doors.

The great western road along the Strand of the river was at first occupied by the mansions of bishops and great nobles who wished to take advantage of the river, and to be between the City on the one side, and the Parliament house and the King's palace at Westminster on the other. When the West End had grown to a considerable size, those who wished to go further afield for pure air, sought the seclusion of the pretty villages by the river-side.

Chelsea is mentioned in Domesday, and a John de Chelse is entered in the City books in 1283. Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who fought at Crecy and Poitiers, lived at Chelsea, and his will was dated from here in 1369, and William, Marquis of Berkeley, who died in 1491, left his house at Chelsea to John Whiting and his heirs. The most famous resident of Chelsea was Sir Thomas More, whose house was on the site of what is now Beaufort Row.

The manor was alienated in 1536 to Henry VIII., from whom it passed to Katharine Parr as part of her marriage jointure. It subsequently passed through many hands till it was bought by Sir Hans Sloane from William, Lord Cheyne, in 1712. Charles, second Lord Cadogan, married Sir Hans Sloane's daughter, and thus obtained the manor, which has remained in his family to the present time.

Fulham is also mentioned in Domesday, and the manor house has been occupied by the Bishops of London. The entrance to this is by an arched gateway which leads into the great quadrangle. It was built in the reign of Henry VII. by Bishop Fitzjames, whose arms are on the wall and over the gateway.

Kensington is registered in Domesday, but it did not become a popular place of residence till the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Hammersmith began to be a summer retreat for the nobility and wealthy citizens in the seventeenth century. The most pleasant part of Hammersmith is the Mall, and from this we pass on to Chiswick Mall, which, although much altered, retains still many of its old characteristics. Several of the fine houses have been pulled down. One of these was Chiswick Hall (formerly College House), which was a country residence of the masters of Westminster School and a retreat for the scholars in visitations of plague and sickness. It was situated a little to the east of the "Red Lion." Dr. Busby resided here with some of his scholars in 1657, "on account of the hot and sickly season of the year;" and again in 1665, when the plague made a desert of London and its vicinity, the great schoolmaster and his scholars fled from Westminster to Chiswick. The house was occupied in the present century by Mr. Charles Whittingham, who established here the Chiswick Press.

Of all the western suburbs Chiswick has kept its rural character longest, and even now there still remains much to connect it with the past.

PLATE XV

No. 4, CHEYNE WALK, CHELSEA

THIS terrace of houses by the river-side, with its red-brick buildings and row of trees in front, is a veritable relic of the Queen Anne period. It has always been a favourite resort of artists, and the story of Turner's sojourn during the last days of his life at the small house (No. 119) is too well known to be repeated here.

Cheyne Walk (as also Cheyne Row, the residence of Carlyle for nearly fifty years) is named after Charles, Lord Cheyne, lord of the manor of Chelsea, who died in 1698. The name is always pronounced as a dissyllable, and in some old writings is spelt—Cheyney.

The original embankment of the river was completed about the end of the seventeenth century, and Faulkner, the historian of Chelsea and other western suburbs, says that the manorial records show how the keeping of it in repair and good order was a constant subject of vexatious dispute between the lord of the manor and the tenants. The present Chelsea embankment, which has done so much to improve Chelsea, was opened in 1874. The ornamental gardens were formed on the space gained from the muddy foreshore of the river.

The old house shown in the picture was the residence of the great painter, Daniel Maclise, R.A., and here he died on April 15th, 1870. After him the well-known Oriental scholar and numismatist, W. S. W. Vaux, Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society, lived here for a time. Mr. Vaux subsequently resided at the Society's house in Albemarle Street, and No. 4 was taken by Mr. John Walter Cross, who married the great novelist, "George

Eliot," on May 6th, 1880, but Mrs. Cross's residence in this house was short, for on December 22nd of the same year she died here, and was buried in Highgate Cemetery.

The Rev. A. G. L'Estrange, in his "Village of Palaces," records a peculiarity in this house. There is a shoot or opening from the top of the house to the basement, and Mr. Vaux surmised that it was intended for throwing down stolen goods in case of surprise, as such shoots have been found in houses where highwaymen and other thieves have resided.

Plate 15

PLATE XVI

QUEEN'S HOUSE, No. 16, CHEYNE WALK

THIS very fine house was previously called Tudor House, there being a legend that it had been lived in by the Princess Elizabeth Tudor, but this can hardly have been founded on fact. Henry VIII. built a large mansion which stood on Cheyne Walk, and extended from Winchester House on the west to Don Saltero's Coffee House on the east; the latter building is said to have been No. 18, so that it is quite possible that Tudor House may have been built on part of the gardens of the king's mansion, and, also that the very fine mulberry tree which stood in its garden may have been the same which Elizabeth is said to have planted. In the king's building Queen Anne of Cleves died, and it has been suggested that the present name is due to this incident. The present building is probably not much older than the reign of Charles II., and his queen, Catherine of Braganza, is said to have resided in it. It has also been understood to be the house which Thackeray describes as the residence of the old Countess of Chelsea in "Esmond."

But it was during its occupation by Dante Gabriel Rossetti from 1862 that Queen's House reached the great point in its history. Few houses in London have had gathered together within their walls such a group of artistic talent as this one. Mr. George Meredith, Mr. Algernon Charles Swinburne, Mr. W. M. Rossetti, and Mr. Frederick Sandys lived in it for a time with Rossetti. Himself a king amongst men, a pioneer and leader in painting and poetry, he gathered a most brilliant company round his table, men who excelled in many walks of life, and the meetings, although not to be described exactly as Bohemian, were marked by

the most genial conviviality. At the back of the house was a great garden (now much curtailed), overlooked by his studio, which gave suggestions for the charming vistas seen in mirrors in the background of his pictures. In this garden was at times erected a great tent, sometimes used as a dining chamber, sometimes as a place to adjourn to after dinner to spend the summer evenings. At other times, one has a picture of Rossetti curled up on a great sofa in the splendid drawing-room overlooking the river, whilst G. A. Sala spun yarns, and gathered round would be Ford Madox Brown, William Morris, Burne-Jones, and Mr. Whistler; Mr. Philip Webb and Jekyll the architects; J. E. Boehm, then prince of sculptors; Mr. Stillman, and Mr. Val Prinsep, and his father-in-law, F. R. Leyland, merchant-prince and patron of them all; whilst over them presided a brilliant and sympathetic mind drawing the best from each.

Such is an inadequate account of the picture Dr. Whistler has described to me of his frequent personal experiences of the life in Queen's House before Rossetti's health broke down.

After his death in 1882 the house was tenanted for some years by the Rev. H. R. Haweis, who put the small flying Mercury on the top.

T. R. W.

Plate 16

PLATE XVII

BELFIELD HOUSE, PARSON'S GREEN

PARSON'S GREEN takes its name from the rectory house of the parish of Fulham, which once stood on the west side of the green, and was pulled down about the year 1740. Formerly a fair was held annually on August 17th in the open space. This, Faulkner tells us, was held from time immemorial.

One of the most distinguished residents on Parson's Green was Sir Thomas Bodley, the founder of the Bodleian Library ; another was that erratic genius, the great Earl of Peterborough, who lived at Peterborough House, the most important mansion on the green.

But a greater than these two great men is believed to have lived in the house represented in this picture—and that was Francis Bacon. Lysons wrote: "When the great Lord Chancellor Bacon fell into disgrace, and was restrained from coming within the verge of the court, he procured a licence, dated September 13th, 1621, to retire for six weeks to the house of his friend, Lord Chief Justice Vaughan, at Parson's Green." Faulkner, commenting upon this, wrote: "This could not be the Sir John Vaughan who was Lord Chief Justice in 1661. We know of no other who was Lord Chief Justice. In the parish books the person to whose house Lord Bacon retired is called 'The Lord Vaughan,' who probably resided in the house now (1813) occupied by Mr. Maxwell as a boarding school, and called Albion House, a spacious mansion built in that style of architecture which prevailed at the commencement of the reign of James I."

Belfield House was formerly known as Albion House, and it is an excellent specimen of a good seventeenth-century mansion. It has been put into a state of good repair by the present proprietor,

Mr. Theodore Roussell, who has disinterred from countless coats of paint a splendid oak staircase and much delightful carved woodwork through the house.

Local tradition reports that Belfield House was inhabited by Mrs. Fitzherbert and also by Mrs. Jordan, but there is probably some mistake here, for Mrs. Fitzherbert is known to have lived in the first house on the east side of Parson's Green, which was built by Sir Francis Child, Lord Mayor of London in 1699, and was known as East End House.

Samuel Richardson lived at Parson's Green when he removed from North End in 1755, and here he died on July 4th, 1761. His house was formerly the residence of Sir Edward Saunders, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench in 1682.

Plate 17

PLATE XVIII

Nos. 11 and 12, KENSINGTON SQUARE

KENSINGTON was a suburb which early became a favourite among men of taste. In the Domesday Survey the manor of Kensington is described as having been in the possession of one Edwin. Soon afterwards it belonged to Albericus de Ver, who held it under the Bishop of Coutances. In course of time the De Veres managed to turn their property into freehold. One of the De Veres being under obligations to the Abbot of Abingdon, obtained permission of his father and the next heir to cut off a part of the manor as a gift to the Abbots of Abingdon. All this is recorded in such names as Earl's Court and St. Mary Abbots.

Sir Walter Cope purchased the manor of St. Mary Abbots, and was one of the earliest residents of importance in Kensington. It was, however, William III. who brought the place into fashion when he purchased Nottingham House in 1689. Kensington Square (first called King's Square), however, was commenced before this time, and the south side was called King's Parade. Mr. Loftie says that there is an old tradition how King Street and James Street were named after James II., and Charles Street after Charles Harmston, the son of the carpenter who built it, and not after Charles II.

Thomas Young, who gave his name to Young Street, built a large part of the square. (He died in 1713.)

In George II.'s reign Kensington Square was at the height of its popularity, and it was then difficult to obtain houses or apartments. It is said that an ambassador, a bishop, and a physician were found at one time in the same house. It was here that Colonel Esmond entertained the Old Pretender. Thackeray's presence, in

fact, pervades the whole place. The whole aspect of the houses tells us of a time which the great novelist had made entirely his own. In Young Street, Thackeray lived from 1847 to 1853. His house, No. 13 (now 16), with its bow windows, looks into the square, and seems almost a part of it. Here he wrote " Vanity Fair," " Pendennis," " Esmond," and portions of the " The Newcomes."

The square is full of old-world houses, but the two in the picture, which are situated in the south-west corner, are of special interest. The left-hand one has a handsome canopy over the door, and probably the right-hand house had a similar one, which was taken away in the early part of this century, when a debased taste prevailed.

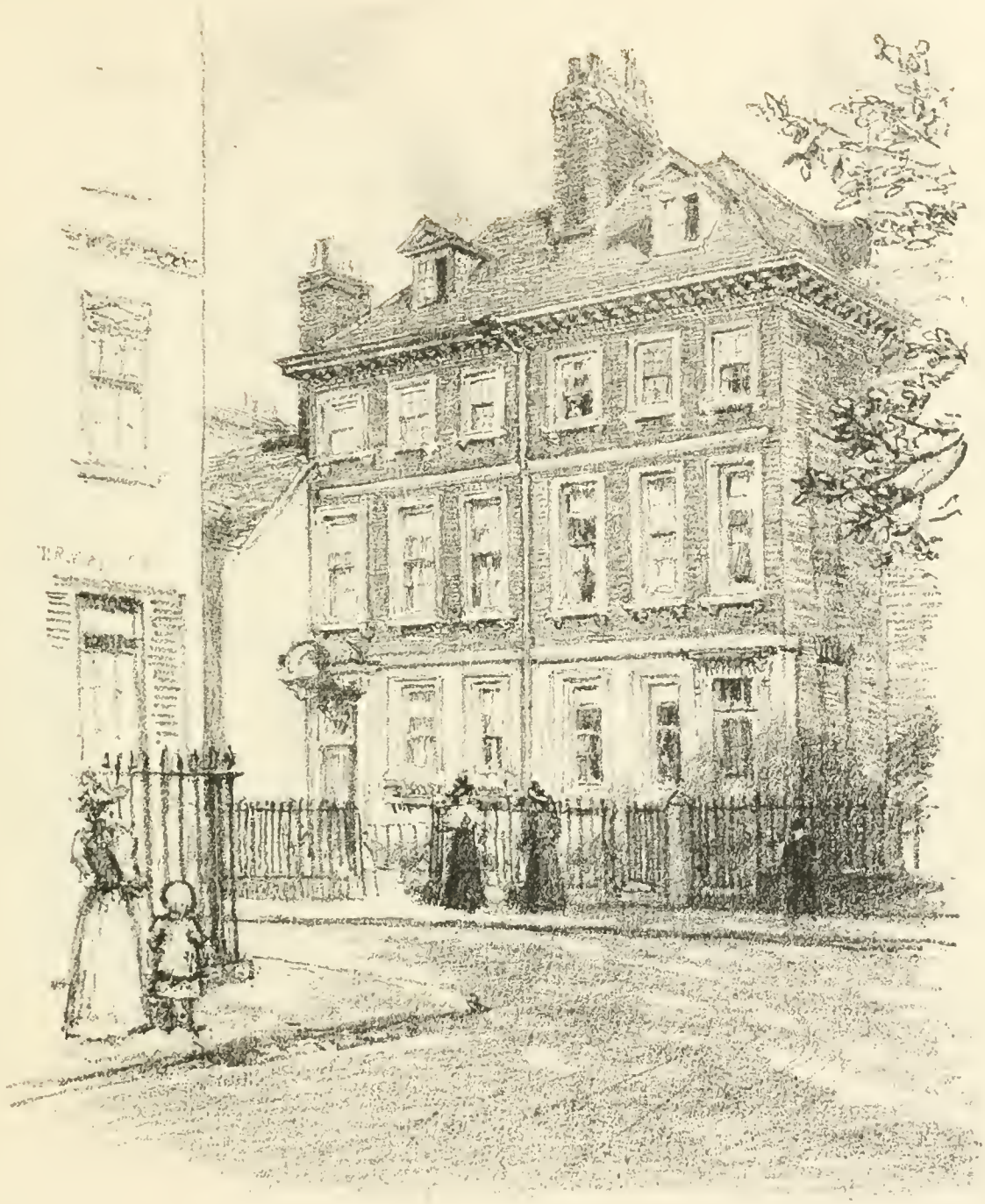


Plate 18

PLATE XIX

HOLLAND HOUSE, KENSINGTON

HOLLAND HOUSE is by far the most interesting old mansion in the immediate neighbourhood of London, not only because it is a charming specimen of a style of building of which very few examples remain to us, but also on account of the endless series of historical and literary associations connected with it. Macaulay wrote that its "turrets and gardens are associated with so much that is interesting and noble," and that it "was the favourite resort of wits and beauties, of painters and poets, of scholars, philosophers, and statesmen." He prophesied that its site would be covered by streets, and he lived almost within the shadow of the house. We may, therefore, be grateful that it still stands, and we may fervently hope that it may stand for many years.

The house was built in 1607 by Sir Walter Cope, Gentleman of the Bedchamber to James I., and one of the Chamberlains of the Exchequer. It is said to be the work of John Thorpe, the famous architect, of whom so little is known, and it was known originally as Cope Castle.

Cope's daughter, Isabel, married Henry Rich, created Baron Kensington and Earl of Holland, who came into possession of the house and named it after his title. He built the wings and arcades in 1622-24, and in 1649 he was beheaded.

During the Civil Wars the Parliament men got hold of the place, but Lady Holland managed to obtain possession of her house again, and she set to work at once to build a new wall. An inscription on a stone to this effect—"This side done by y^e^ La. Holland A.D. 1654"—was discovered in the year 1806 and was placed on

the wall of the arcade. Plays were acted here in the later years of the Commonwealth, and Cavaliers and others were invited to see them.

The widow of Edward Rich, third Earl of Holland and sixth Earl of Warwick, married Addison in 1716, and for three years the essayist was a resident at Holland House. His enemies said that the tedium of his walks in the long library were relieved by reason of a glass of brandy and water being provided for him at each end of the room.

William Edwardes (after whom Edwardes Square was named), who was created Lord Kensington in 1776, sold the house to the statesman Henry Fox, who took the title of Holland from the name of his mansion.

In his day, and more particularly in that of his grandson, Henry Richard, Lord Holland, Holland House was the resort of one of the most brilliant circles that has ever been gathered together in one house. From 1799 to 1840 Holland House was at the height of its brilliancy. In the latter year the third Lord Holland died, and just before his death he wrote those lines which were inscribed upon his statue:

> "Nephew of Fox, and friend of Grey,
> Sufficient for my fame,
> If those who knew me best shall say
> I tarnished neither name."

It has been said that there was hardly a distinguished man in politics, science, or literature, who had not been a guest at Holland House. The names of Macaulay and Sydney Smith, Luttrell and Moore, Lord Brougham and Sir James Mackintosh, Talleyrand and Madame de Stael will occur to everyone as those of the most constant visitors to the house of the genial lord and the caustic and clever lady who scattered "Kensington nettles" around her.

Lady Holland, widow of Henry Edward, fourth and last lord, who died at Naples in 1859, sold the reversion of the property to the Earl of Ilchester, who now owns it, and by whose kind permission the drawing for the frontispiece to this volume was made.

PLATE XX

THE RED COW, HAMMERSMITH

THIS was a wayside inn that recalled to us the charms of a former day, when the Hammersmith Road was a pleasant suburban thoroughfare. Now that it has become a thronged highway, it is futile to regret that a relic of a day when there was some poetry in life should be replaced by a building respecting which the less that is said the better.

Mr. Way has brought the old inn before us as it appeared yesterday, for he has introduced into his picture a young lady on a bicycle. To-day, the Hammersmith Road is a great hunting-ground for the cyclist, who has added a new terror to life for the middle-aged and the old.

Tradition reports that the "Red Cow" is the oldest licensed house in the neighbourhood of London, but for the truth of this tradition it is not perhaps safe to vouch.

It is also said to have been the first stage in the coaching journeys westwards, the place where the smart teams which had started out from London were replaced by the less showy teams which did the greater part of the work.

Plate 20

PLATE XXI

KELMSCOTT HOUSE AND "THE DOVES," UPPER MALL, HAMMERSMITH

THE roadway along the river front at Hammersmith has been known for some centuries as the Upper and Lower Malls. Many fine mansions have stood there in the past, and not a few still remain.

The very charming view of the river and delightful air seem always to have been an attraction. The two Malls are divided by a small but navigable stream, which at one time ran for a considerable distance inland, and a group of very mean cottages known as "Little Wapping," occupied in the past by fishermen.

"The Doves" public-house stands at about the west end of this dividing group; it is shown on the right of the drawing. There are some historical interests attaching to it besides its present boating associations. Faulkner, in his "History of Hammersmith," says, "In a room in the Dove Coffee House, situated facing the water-side between the two Malls, Thomson wrote part of his 'Winter.' He was in the habit of frequenting this house during the winter, when the Thames was frozen and the surrounding country covered with snow." Just beyond "The Doves" was a little cottage used by the Duke of Sussex as a "smoking-box."

On the Upper Mall, very near to the site of Kelmscott House, stood what seems to have been from the old description a very fine mansion, in which Queen Catherine, dowager of Charles II., lived for some years. During her residence the frontage of the Mall was carried out into the river in the form of a bastion, and planted with elms, doubtless the trees still standing, which are magnificent specimens. Later on, during the reign of Queen Anne,

Dr. Radcliffe bought the Queen's house—a very famous man in his day both for his wit and his prescriptions.

'Kelmscott House is a Georgian building with a very plain front, relieved by a handsome doorway. The back has rather more architectural features, with a very large bay overlooking an immense garden. In 1816 Sir Francis Ronalds, the distinguished electrician, came to live there, and made many experiments in telegraphy; indeed, he constructed what was doubtless the first electric telegraph, some eight miles in length, supported on poles in the garden, through which he sent messages very much on the same principles as those now in use. He was knighted in 1870, "in acknowledgment of his remarkable labours in telegraphic investigation," at the age of eighty-two!

Dr. George Macdonald is said to have also lived here.

William Morris, who took it some time towards the end of the seventies, has, however, given the greatest interest to it. It was he who gave it the name of Kelmscott House, after his country home, Kelmscott Manor, near Lechlade. Here this indefatigable worker and mighty genius perfected his lifework, and must have rejoiced to see the amazing growth of his influence, the extraordinary power which the principles he had taught so long were showing. The results of the revolution in arts of every kind which he led is even now not easy to realize, for his influence over men was very great, and where he has shown the way an army of younger men are carrying on the tradition. In a beautiful old house close adjoining and opposite "The Doves," he established the Kelmscott Press, and taught how books should be decorated by printing a most superb series of volumes. A great poet, a great artist, and an incomparable decorator, he died at Kelmscott House, October 3rd, 1896, one of the leading spirits of the century.

T. R. W.

Plate 21

PLATE XXII

WALPOLE HOUSE, CHISWICK MALL

HAMMERSMITH and Chiswick Malls form together one of the most beautiful of walks along the banks of the river. The walk is well supplied with handsome trees, and in its prime was well inhabited. A few years ago it fell on evil times, and some of the houses decayed and others were taken down. Lately, however, there has been a revival, and the place is now rated at its true value.

This picture shows Walpole House, which is situated opposite to Chiswick Eyot. The building is very handsome and very quaint, and the fine old doorway is worthy of special notice.

Walpole House takes its name from several members of the great family of Walpole who originally lived in it, but it was not at any time the residence of Horace Walpole, as might be supposed by the name of Strawberry Hill attached to the next house.

Some of the Walpoles were buried in Chiswick Church, and have had monuments erected to their memory there.

Like so many of these houses, it has been occupied as a school, and it has had a distinguished resident in Daniel O'Connell, who lived here while he was reading for the bar.

Mr. Edward Walford supposes that Barbara, Duchess of Cleveland, who died on October 9th, 1709, and was buried in the chancel of Chiswick Church, lived at Walpole House.

Plate 22

PLATE XXIII

BURLINGTON ARMS, CHISWICK

THIS view of the village street of Chiswick shows the picturesque old lath-and-plaster building occupied by the Burlington Arms. In connection with the name, it will be remembered that the original Chiswick House belonging to the Earl of Somerset was purchased by the Earl of Burlington at the end of the seventeenth century, and was rebuilt (1730-36) by the architect earl, who was pelted with epigrams on the contrast between its inconvenient interior and elegant exterior.

In the distance is seen the "Lamb" tap.

Although Chiswick has been greatly altered of late years, it still retains some flavour of its rural character, and there are several "bits" of interest to be seen, such as Chiswick Square, which is a very quaint place.

On the west side of Chiswick Lane is a row of five red-brick houses, now called Mawson's Row (formerly Mawson's Buildings), which is interesting in itself, but has the added interest of having been for a short time the residence of the poet Pope. Pope's father died here in 1717, and was buried in Chiswick churchyard. In the British Museum are portions of the original drafts of the translation of the "Iliad," written on the backs of letters addressed "To Mr. Pope, at his house in y^{e} New Buildings, Chiswick."

Plate 23

PLATE XXIV

HOGARTH'S HOUSE, CHISWICK

THE connection of Hogarth with Chiswick continued for several years, and when he died on October 25th, 1764, his body was buried in Chiswick churchyard, where the marble tomb erected in 1771 is a prominent object. On the tomb is inscribed Garrick's well-known lines, which were reduced from five stanzas under the advice of Dr. Johnson:

"Farewell, great painter of mankind!
Who reach'd the noblest point of art;
Whose pictured morals charm the eye,
And through the eye correct the heart?

"If genius fire thee, reader, stay;
If nature touch thee, drop a tear;
If neither move thee, turn away,
For Hogarth's honoured dust lies here."

The first four lines are infinitely superior to the last four. Johnson was very severe in his criticism on Garrick's original verses, but he specially praised "pictured morals" as a beautiful expression. The revised version follows Johnson's form, for the doctor wrote: "Suppose you worked upon something like this:

"'The hand of art here torpid lies
That traced the essential form of grace;
Here death has closed the curious eyes
That saw the manners in the face.

"'If genius warm thee, reader, stay;
If merit touch thee, shed a tear;
Be vice and dulness far away!
Great Hogarth's honoured dust is here.'"

This old-fashioned red-brick house in Hogarth Lane was used as a summer residence by Hogarth from the year 1748. It is said that it was previously the residence of his father-in-law, Sir James Thornhill.

The principal room on the first floor has a projecting bow window of three lights, which the late Mr. Tom Taylor believed was added by Hogarth. His painting-room, however, was over the stable at the end of the garden.

Hogarth had many pets, and tablets to the memory of his birds and dogs were let into the garden wall, but they have now disappeared. Of his habits at Chiswick Tom Taylor wrote in his little book on "Leicester Square" (1874): "Besides his favourite amusement of riding, he used to occupy himself in painting and superintending the engravers whom he often had down from London, and to his Chiswick cottage he now came after his bitter bout with Wilkes and Churchill, bringing some plates for retouching. He was cheerful but weak, and must have felt the end was not far off, when in February, 1764, he put the last touches to his 'Bathos.'"

On October 25th he travelled from Chiswick to Leicester-fields, and arrived there in a very weak condition. In the same night he died, after two hours' struggle. His widow continued to live in the Chiswick house till her death in 1789.

The house with its large garden and high wall still remains, and is in the occupation of a gardener, but it is hemmed in by small houses, and is very different in appearance from what it must have been when Hogarth inhabited it.

A later resident was the Rev. H. F. Cary, the translator of Dante.

Plate 24

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