

SOUTHBOROUGH

ITS CHALYBEATE SPRINGS,
CLIMATE AND ATTRACTIONS

HEALTH RESORT.

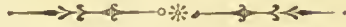
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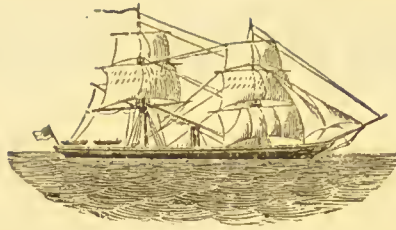
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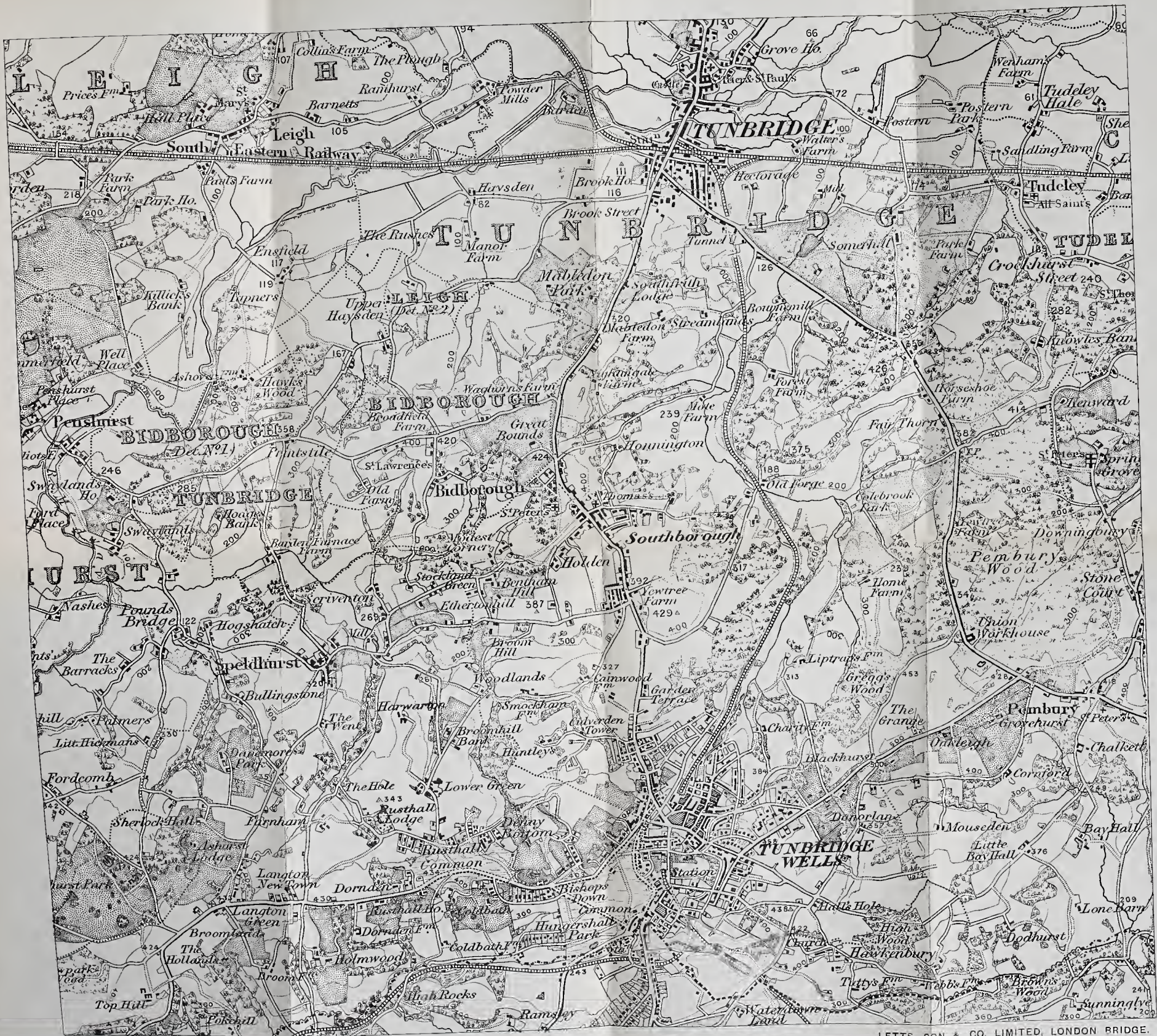
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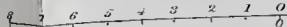
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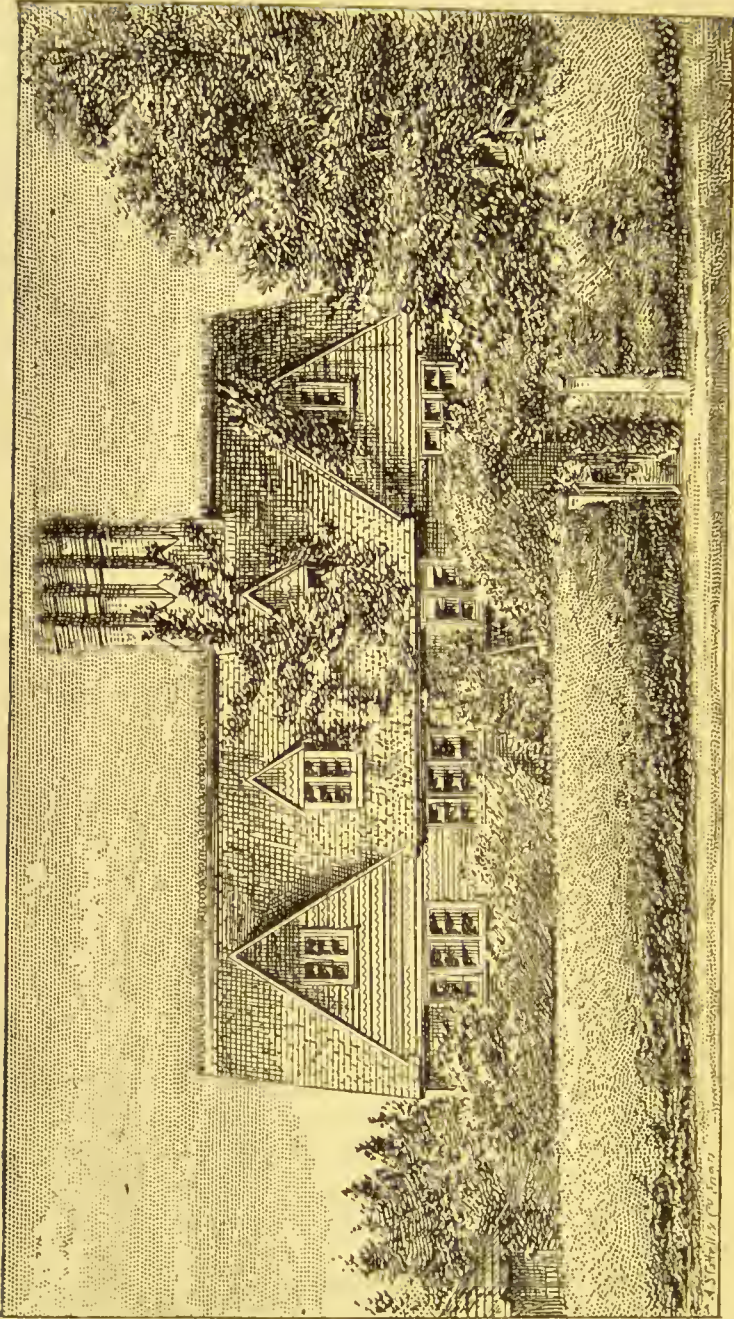






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PUDENEY'S FARM.—THE CHALYBEATE SPRINGS.

# SOUTHBOROUGH

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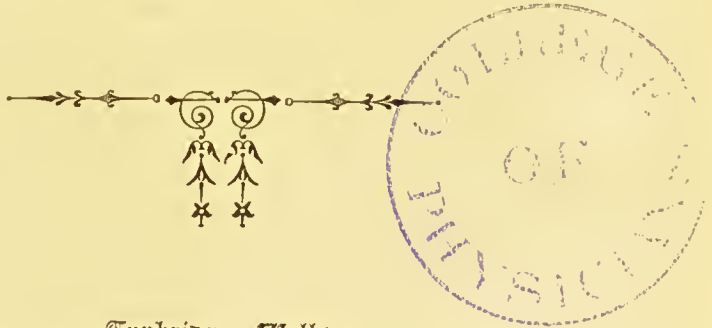
CHALYBEATE SPRINGS,  
CLIMATE, AND ATTRACTIONS

AS A

## HEALTH RESORT.

BY E. PAGET THURSTAN, M.D., B.A., M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

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## ILLUSTRATIONS.

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DUDENEY'S FARM.—THE CHALYBEATE SPRINGS.

THE CRICKET GROUND.

THE LAWN TENNIS CLUB GROUNDS.

A DELL, SOUTHBOROUGH COMMON.

WOODLAND SCENERY, SOUTHBOROUGH COMMON.

MODEST CORNER, SOUTHBOROUGH COMMON.

ERIDGE CASTLE.

HEVER CASTLE.

PENSHURST PLACE.



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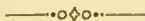
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## P R E F A C E .



*Many tongued rumour has been busy defaming Southborough. Some of what has been said has doubtless been true in the past. The opening of the Waterworks in June, 1885, removed the last of the old reproaches. The very beauty and attractiveness of Southborough has added to the keenness with which she has been attacked. It is hoped that the facts brought forward in the subsequent pages will remove many wrong impressions, and prevent misstatements being made in the future that have been made in the past.*

*The Author is painfully aware that imperfections and deficiencies abound in this little book. If the critics are fierce, it is hoped that the gentle reader will be more merciful, and recollect the difficulties under which it has been composed. A Medical Man's time is so occupied, that leisure for writing has usually to be stolen from the hours that rightfully belong to recreation or even sleep.*

*Many of the beautiful woodcuts in the Illustrated Edition, and the woodcut that constitutes the cover, have been taken from photographs that have kindly been supplied me by Mr. John Turnbull, of Ferrier Villas, Holden Park Road, Southborough. I have to express my thanks to him for this courtesy.*

*I also owe my thanks to Mr. Harmer, the Surveyor to the Local Board, for the pains he has taken to obtain for me much information that I needed.*

*I must further thank Mr. William Marriot, F.R. Met. Soc., for his valuable Meteorological notes.*

*I had hoped to have had photo-prints instead of woodcuts from photographs. Photographs were taken specially for me and sent to the Birmingham Firm, who alone execute this work. Unfortunately, at the last moment, it was discovered that only negatives prepared in a peculiar manner were available, and, as it was impossible to obtain negatives of the kind, except by a delay of weeks, I was reluctantly obliged to abandon the idea altogether. The woodcuts have been prepared with exceptional care, and, I hope, will prove acceptable.*

*Southborough,*

*July, 1885.*





## CHAPTER I.

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### Chalybeate Southborough.



O little is it known that Southborough has Chalybeate Springs that a short while ago a medical man in Tunbridge Wells actually suggested in a local paper that their waters ought to be bottled for the benefit of patients at Southborough.

As a matter of fact, throughout Sussex, wherever the geological formation known as the "Hastings Sand," on which both Southborough and Tunbridge Wells are situated, occurs, there are to be found springs impregnated with iron, side by side with other springs curiously enough, in which there is not a trace of iron.

The analysis of the two waters, shown below, will satisfy enquirers that there is practically no difference between the Southborough water and the far-famed

Tunbridge Wells Spring ; indeed, it is quite possible that both are outcrops of the same subterranean streams.

The iron is dissolved in the water by the help of carbonic acid gas. Very soon after the water rises to the surface, the gas is given off and the iron is set free, and settles as a sort of ruddy mud with a beautiful play of iridescent colours over it. The water, therefore, cannot be bottled and drunk at a distance with any advantage—unless indeed it were charged with carbonic acid and bottled like soda-water—nor is it any advantage to bathe in the waters for the same reason.

The following was the analysis of the Tunbridge Wells and Southborough waters, made by Dr. Thomas Stevenson in 1872, published in a little pamphlet by A. Charlton, Esq., M.R.C.S. :—

| Description of Ingredient. | Grs. per Gallon. |             |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------|
|                            | Southborough.    | Tun. Wells. |
| Sulphate of Soda.....      | 2.501            | 2.703       |
| "    Potash.....           | 0,667            | 1.273       |
| "    Lime .....            | 1.952            | None        |
| Chloride of Sodium ..      | None.            | 1.390       |
| "    Calcium ...           | 1.082            | 1.577       |
| "    Magnesium             | 0.149            | None        |
| Carbonate of Iron .....    | 3.173            | 4.236       |
| "    Lime .....            | 1.095            | 1.727       |
| "    Magnesia...           | 0.148            | 1.177       |
| Silica .....               | 0.448            | 0.350       |
| Total Solid Ingredients    | 11.215           | 14.433      |

The Southborough water is thus shown to differ from the Tunbridge Wells water in containing rather less iron (and hence is a milder chalybeate), and much less of chlorides; also less alkaline salts; the proportions of lime and magnesia respectively are nearly the same in both.

A further analysis was made of the Southborough Chalybeate waters by M. Adams, Esq., F.R.C.S., Maidstone, Public Analyst for the County of Kent, in June, 1885; which makes the total solid matter 11.4 as compared with 11.25 in 1872, and the quantity of iron 3.361 grains as compared with 3.173 grains. This seems to indicate that the spring is gradually growing stronger—a fact that has been noticed in connection with the Tunbridge Wells spring,—indeed the amount of *oxide* of iron in the Tunbridge Wells spring at the height of its reputation was calculated at only one grain per gallon—far less than the Southborough water contains now; but possibly the art of analysis was not so perfect then as now. The Southborough water now contains 2.268 grains of Ferric Oxide against 2.131 grains in the Tunbridge Wells water in 1872 so that when we calculate the iron as “Oxide of Iron” the Southborough spring is more chalybeate than the Tunbridge Wells one; but when we calculate the iron in the form of “carbonate of iron,” in which it probably

appears in the living spring, Tunbridge Wells has a slight advantage. At all events this shows how trifling is the difference between the two waters.

The temperature of the Tunbridge Wells spring has been noted to remain at between 50° and 52° all the year round as a rule. This seems to be the case at Southborough.

None of these waters contain a very large amount of iron ; perhaps this was why people began to doubt their efficacy. Be the explanation what it may, a couple of centuries ago there was a far firmer faith in natural waters than there is now. Scepticism went too far, and we are witnessing a re-action in favour of the old faiths. Bath is once more thronged, and the other mineral springs still find their devotees.

I make no doubt that much of the benefit credited to natural waters was due to the surroundings—the variety, the company, the regimen ; but still there must surely be some advantage in taking a mineral naturally prepared over an artificial reproduction of it ? For jaded, over-worked city dwellers, for young ladies after a season of heated ball rooms and late hours, for those delicate folks who show their delicacy by the paleness of their cheeks and their general languor, the exhilarating air of South-

borough would be no mean adjunct to the tonic that Nature has provided here.

Having thus discussed the mineral constituents of the waters for the guidance of medical men, into whose hands this book may fall, I will merely add, for the benefit of the general reader, that iron is beneficial as a tonic, and in many diseases. It is never prudent to take mineral waters without the advice of a medical man; consequently in a popular work like the present, it is not necessary to enter into any details of a professional nature. Speaking broadly, we may say that for any case for which the Tunbridge Wells water has been ordered, the Southborough water will be equally suitable, and *vice versa*.

There are two Chalybeate Springs in the parish. One is in the Park belonging to A. Pott, Esq., at the bottom of the Common; visitors are permitted to go to the spring, which is in a pretty dell worth seeing; the other is on the farm occupied by Mr. Dudeney, in London Road (see frontispiece), where the water can be obtained at a penny a glass, or arrangements can be made for supplying it fresh daily to private houses.

The usual dose is one or two tumblers full, the quantity being gradually increased. There is a time-honoured method of drinking these waters. The whole

amount is drunk in the morning. The first dose is taken before breakfast, at say eight a.m., then perhaps a second dose at ten a.m., and a third dose at mid-day. The quantity and frequency vary of course according to the amount of iron prescribed; this will vary in each case, and must be left to the discretion of the medical attendant. The course sometimes has to be persevered in for a couple of months to effect a cure. The general effect is that of a gentle stimulant to the circulatory and excretory systems.

The air of the district is said by some to be stimulating and exhilarating from the presence of iron, but as the quantity of iron in the air is so minute as to defy analysis (if any is present at all), I expect these effects, when felt, are due to change of residence from some low-lying, or perhaps treeless place, to one which is a good height above the sea, and abounds in foliage, continually inhaling carbonic acid and exhaling life-giving oxygen. The height above the sea is the principal cause probably. Many people are not aware that every hundred feet we rise above the level of the sea, the pressure of the atmosphere sensibly diminishes. Southborough being 500 feet above the sea, there is sufficient difference to be plainly appreciated by delicate persons. The first effect is a feeling of ease and



capacity for walking, which astonishes strangers. The heart released from a portion of its labours by the reduction of pressure, often overacts for a while, and produces slight breathlessness and sleeplessness at night. In a short while equilibrium is restored, and probably a slight increase in the capacity of the chest takes place, and the breathing becomes permanently easier than before. This, however, has nothing to do with the presence of iron in the air or water ; it is simply the mechanical effect of living in an elevated spot.

The legend as to the origin of these ferruginous waters is too amusing to be passed over.

Most people have heard that St. Dunstan fought the devil at Mayfield, and it is well known that his Satanic Majesty came off second best. St. Dunstan having seized Satan by the nose with his tongs, one story says the devil fled to Tunbridge Wells, and there dipped his nose in the cool stream ; while another version has it that St. Dunstan, finding his tongs somewhat heated by contact with the enemy's nose, dipped them into the water there to cool them. In either case the result was to impart a delicate flavour of "hot irons."

When the repute of these Chalybeate Springs was first established, early in the seventeenth century, the site of the present town of Tunbridge Wells was a barren waste.

The visitors lodged in Tonbridge, five or six miles away. When Queen Henrietta Maria visited the place a few years later, its fame rose rapidly, and houses were built at Southborough and Rusthall. As the political and religious excitement which culminated in the great Civil War, increased, this district, like all others, was divided into two camps. Southborough became the headquarters of the Royalists, and Rusthall of the Roundheads.

After the restoration of the monarchy, a bowling green and coffee house were added to the attractions of Southborough, but despite its efforts the fickle jade Fortune, deserted it. Southborough decayed and Tunbridge Wells sprang, Phoenix-like, out of its ruins. So literally is this true that some of the very houses in Southborough were pulled down and rebuilt in Tunbridge Wells; which is not extraordinary when we hear that houses in that town were actually wheeled on sledges to more favoured spots, accompanied by bands of music and shouting crowds.\*

To show how absolutely non-existent Tunbridge Wells was as a town at the time of the restoration, a petition to the House of Lords of the date of 1660, is quoted in Pelton's Guide to Tunbridge Wells, which began as follows:—

\* The same thing is occurring at the present time in Victoria, Vancouver's Island, British Columbia.

*“Petition of Inhabitants of Bidborough, Southborne (Southborough?) and Rusthall, in Kent, and other places thereabouts. The Wells, called Tunbridge Wells, have been much frequented for fifty years and upwards by many of the nobility, gentry, and others, who have found much benefit by drinking the waters, and the petitioners, etc., etc.”*

From which it is evident that there was no town at the Wells then.

I will conclude this chapter on the chalybeate waters by quoting from the first sermon preached in Tunbridge Wells, for which I am also indebted to Pelton's Guide to Tunbridge Wells.

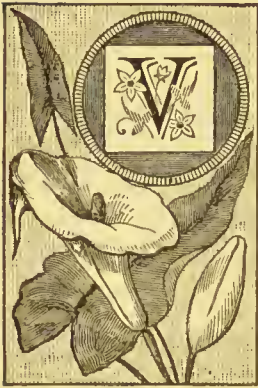
“In very truth this place is but a great hospital, and the splendid buildings which rise so fast at Southborough, Rusthall, and about Mount Ephraim, are but so many apartments in this great infirmary, and the guests that fill them are but so many impotent Lazars under the vest of Dives. Every glass we drink for cure is a tacit confession of our hidden infirmities and inward distempers. Thou Lord art our physician we are Thy patients; these wells are Thy shop, these waters are Thy medicines.”



## CHAPTER II.

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### Sanitary Southborough.



VISITORS may be attracted by the healing powers of Chalybeate Springs, but people who intend to take up their residence permanently in a place, are more anxious to know what the climate is, what is the health of the people already living there, and what efforts the ruling powers have made to supplement the forces of nature in rendering the place healthy.

It will be the object of this chapter to answer these questions in reference to Southborough; which, like Tunbridge Wells, is becoming yearly more of a residential place and less of a seasonal resort.

There are certain natural advantages, without which it is difficult to make a place healthy, or at all events *pre-eminently* healthy.

These natural advantages Southborough possesses in a high degree.

The first of these is geological formation. Drawing a line from London to Hastings, we pass through London clay, then Lower Tertiary, then chalk, then clay again, and finally, shortly before we arrive at Tonbridge, we come to the Hastings beds, or "Hastings Sands" as they are frequently called. This last formation extends the whole way north and south from Tonbridge to Hastings. Though it contains clay beds in places, it is mainly composed of sand, which is probably the best geological formation to select as the site of a town. In and around Southborough, except in the bottoms of some of the valleys, almost the whole formation consists of sandstone. There are thin layers of clay here and there, but even these are more or less mixed with gravel and sand, so that even the layers of clay are hardly anywhere impervious to water, and this is the great desideratum. There is no possibility of a water-logged sub-soil. It has been ascertained beyond doubt, that an important factor in the production of consumption is just this saturation of the sub-soil, which is so likely to occur in clay soils.

Dr. Buchanan, in the exhaustive enquiry into the death-rate from lung diseases in districts of Kent, Sussex, and Surrey, conducted in 1866-67, found "with special

reference to the wetness or dryness of soil, that the districts arranged in the order of the prevalence of consumption in them are also to a very great extent arranged in the order of the dryness or wetness of their soils."

Arranging them in the order of prevalence of consumption and lung diseases, he found that the lowest in point of frequency, Sheppey, had 281 per 1000, and Hastings, excluding visitors, 299.\* I have taken the statistics for Southborough for the five years, from 1880 to 1884 inclusive. I find the mean number of deaths in those years, from consumption and chest diseases, *e.g.*, bronchitis, pleurisy, and inflammation of the lungs, was only 258 as against 281 in the best of the 58 districts reported on by Dr. Buchanan in 1868, and 299 in Hastings, the best known resort for consumption in England.

Probably the death-rate from consumption has improved in most districts since that enquiry was made, but with all allowance, the fact remains that Southborough is one of the very best places in England for consumption and chest diseases, judging by statistics,

\* Hastings had 598 deaths out of every 1000, credited to consumption and chest diseases, but considering the number of consumptive invalids who resort there, Dr. Buchanan thought it fair to halve that amount.

despite the fact that it is resorted to by people because they have already contracted these diseases elsewhere.

There is not only the permeability of the subsoil but the amount of slope to be considered as this also has a bearing on the dryness of soil. The ground slopes away from Southborough in every direction so that storm waters are quickly carried away.

Then comes the question of height above the level of the sea. In the treatment of consumption, for instance, patients used to be sent to low-lying sheltered spots, but in many cases nowadays this is reversed and people suffering from this dreaded scourge, are ordered mountain air. Davos, with a temperature frequently below zero\* can boast of many cures; its elevation above the sea being one of its chief recommendations. Of course Southborough is only about as many hundred feet above the sea as Davos is thousands; still, its four or five hundred feet of altitude is in the eyes of many a recommendation. There are several people living in Southborough who formerly suffered from actual or threatened consumption, who have enjoyed very fair health here for years. Though colder in the winter than

\* As a further confirmation of the opinion that it is damp rather than cold that conduces to consumption, I will add that in North West Canada where the temperature sometimes sinks to 40° below zero, patients are often cured of this disease.

the well-known "undercliff" resorts for consumptive patients, such as Hastings, Bournemouth and Torquay, the climate is dry and sunny. The eastern counties from Norfolk to Kent have more sunshine than any other parts of England, while the southern county has an advantage in point of warmth over Norfolk and Suffolk.

The principal storms of wind and rain come to us across the Atlantic, and follow one of two well-known tracks; either crossing Scotland or the north of England to expend themselves on the coast of Norway: or sweeping over the southwest of England to the Bay of Biscay. The wedge of eastern England between the Thames and the Channel lies between the two tracks and often escapes the storms of both. In a rainy country like ours it is a decided advantage to live in a comparatively sunny spot, sunshine being as necessary to human health, as to the perfect growth of vegetable life.

There are no observers of the Royal Meteorological Society in Southborough, but there are stations at Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells, that is a couple of miles north and about the same distance south. During the year 1884 there were 139 days on which rain fell at Tonbridge. There were only six places in the Royal Meteorological Society's list that had fewer wet days, and of these six, only two, Southend and Throcking, had a



smaller rainfall ; the amount measured at Tonbridge being 21.40 inches, against 16.56 at Southend, and 18.39 at Throcking. To show what England can do in the way of rain, Seathwaite, in the same year, 1884, had 230 wet days, and 134.10 inches of rainfall, whilst Londonderry had actually 246 rainy days out of 365 ! How the "Derry Boys" would revel in sunny Southborough.

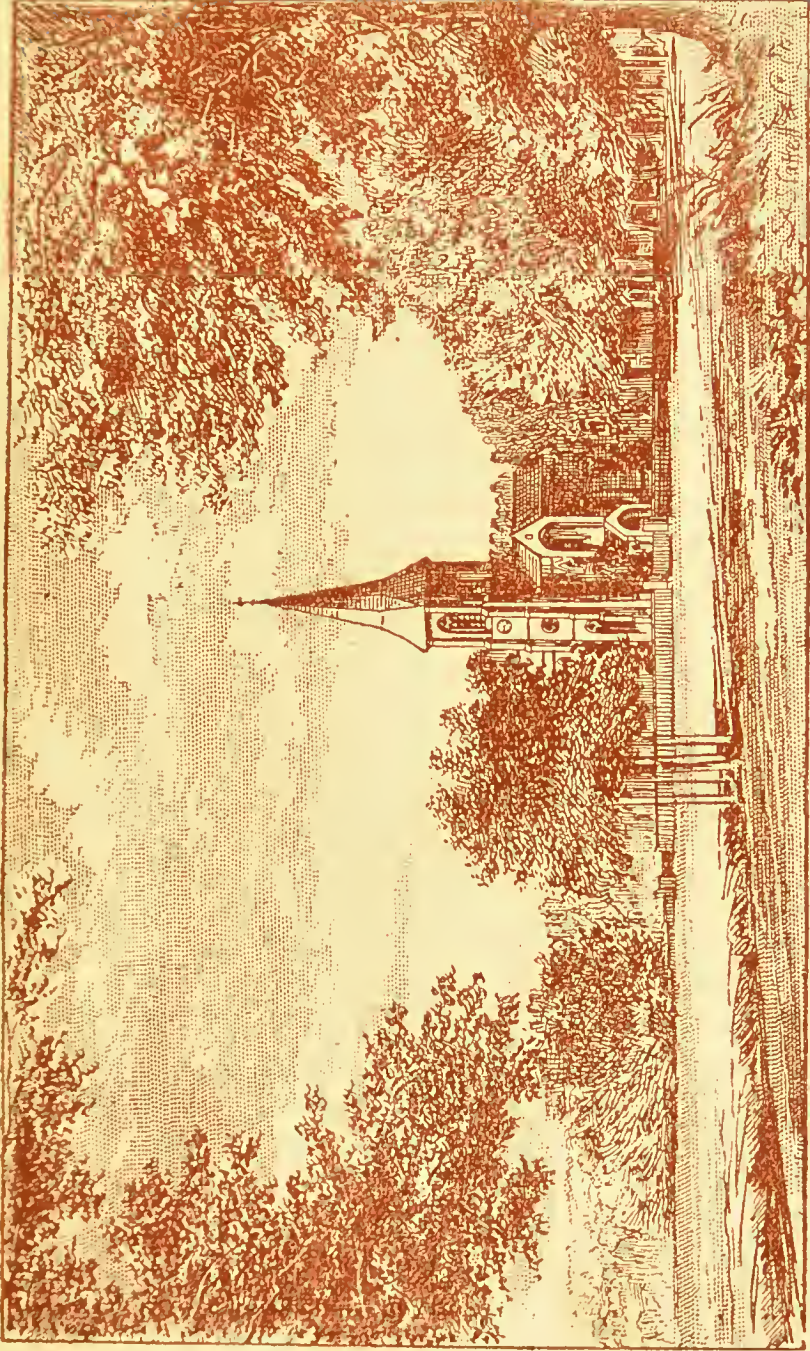
As regards the actual amount of sunshine, I cannot ascertain that any statistics have been kept, but in the mean amount of cloud at 9 a.m., only two of the six towns with fewer rainy days had also a less amount of cloud, viz., Cromer and Worthing. In my opinion the number of dry days and the small amount of rainfall have a good deal of influence in making the climate of Southborough so favourable for consumptives.

So much for dryness ; now for temperatures. There are places where the minimum temperature does not fall so low in the winter, but most of these are low lying spots, well known for their sheltered position, and resorted to by consumptive patients on this very account ; others are west country places that pay a penalty for their warmth, in the shape of extra rainfall. The thermometer fell as low as 24.7° at Tunbridge Wells, and 25.2° at Tonbridge.

The lowest point of the year was higher than this at Weston - super - Mare, Ilfracombe, Bude, Falmouth, Torquay, Teignmouth, Weymouth, Portsmouth, Ventnor, Worthing, Hastings, Ramsgate, Margate, Southend, and in London. In all these except Falmouth and Ilfracombe, the minimum was within 4° or so of the Tonbridge minimum. The maximum in Tonbridge was 90.2°, and in Tunbridge Wells 87.4°. As the station at Tunbridge Wells is about at the same level as Southborough, I expect the Tunbridge Wells temperatures are the most like those of Southborough. None of the places mentioned above have as high a maximum temperature except Portsmouth with 87.8°. The annual range then is greater by about 6° here than at the other health resorts mentioned, but I do not think there is the same stress laid on range of temperature that there used to be.

These statistics may seem dry to the general reader, but to the physician recommending a place of residence they will be invaluable.

The large number of trees in the neighbourhood implies a good deal of decaying vegetable matter in the autumn. This might affect persons who had lived in malarious countries, during the month of November ; otherwise the dryness of climate and subsoil render it a suitable place for rheumatism, and diseases produced in damp spots as also for the effects of tropical intermittents.



THE CRICKET GROUND



So much for the climate, now for the evidence of figures as to the health of the inhabitants. Some of the following statistics relative to the health of the place have been kindly supplied me by Dr. Butterfield, the Medical Officer of Health for this portion of Kent; others have been obtained from reports by the late Dr. Baylis, formerly Medical Officer of Health :—

| Death Rate per 1,000 Population of Southborough, compared with the rate in the other rural and small towns of England and with the rate in all England. |       |       |       |       |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                                                                                                                                         | 1880. | 1881. | 1882. | 1883. | 1884. |
| All England .....                                                                                                                                       | 20.5  | 18.9  | 19.6  |       |       |
| Rural and Small Towns of England, generally .....                                                                                                       | 18.5  | 16.8  | 17.3  |       |       |
| Southborough.....                                                                                                                                       | 17.70 | 17.01 | 16.3  | 16.9  | 16.0  |

The mean death rate for the quinquennium is 16.78.

The number of deaths from “Zymotic Diseases”—in plain English, “Preventible Diseases,”—has been rather high. The causes of these diseases have now been removed.\* The death rate in 1884 shows the improvement, and 1885 promises to show a still greater improvement; which it ought to, considering that prior to 1885 very many cottages and even some gentlemen’s houses had no pure water supply. It is one of the

\* Dr. Butterfield says, in his official report for 1883, that he has been over the district and had the satisfaction of noting that the conditions complained of had been efficiently remedied.

strongest evidences of the natural healthiness of Southborough, that, despite the drawback of want of good water and means of flushing the sewers in the past, the death rate has been better than the average of rural and small town districts in England, and much better than the general average of all England. It is also noteworthy that throughout those years there was not a death from smallpox or scarlatina, and it is the pride of the district that in previous epidemics cholera has been unknown here.

As further proving the healthiness of Southborough I append the following figures relative to the longevity of its inhabitants, whereby it will be seen that an unusual proportion of its inhabitants exceed 60 years of age. Arranging the various urban districts of the West Kent Sanitary District to which Southborough belongs, in the order of percentage of those dying over 60 years of age to the total deaths, I get the following result :—

|                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Percentage of Deaths of Persons<br>over 60 years of age to the total deaths<br>in the Urban Sanitary Districts of<br>West Kent during 1880 and 1881. | Tenterden ..... 47.9<br>Southborough... 34.4<br>Tonbridge..... 33.5<br>Bromley ..... 26.0<br>Sevenoaks..... 24.4<br>Beckenham ..... 16.6 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Here nearly half the persons who died in Tenterden district during 1880-1881 exceeded 60 years of age, which

is an extraordinary proportion, but Southborough is second with nearly  $34\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Taking the five years 1880-4 we get almost exactly the same result.

I have been much surprised at the evidence brought to light by my researches among the dry figures of health reports in favour of Southborough as a resort for consumptive patients. I do not think the medical profession, generally, are aware of the pre-eminent place Southborough occupies in this respect.

Having thus given a brief sketch of the geology, climate, and health statistics, of Southborough, it remains to consider what has been done by the inhabitants to supplement nature, which has certainly been lavish in her gifts.

The sanitary history of Southborough may be said to date from fourteen years ago. A Local Board of Health was then formed; and, it is certainly not too much to say that in those fourteen years the Local Board has converted Southborough from an insanitary village into a sanitary town.

The main roads and the roads bordered by gentlemen's houses are all exceptionally well made. The material used is obtained at Ightham; it is harder than but much like the Kentish rag, is softer than granite, but makes a smoother surface. Granite wears well, but is apt to be

so "knubbly" that it is sometimes painful to drive over. This stone gives rather a sandy dust, but the London-road, the main business road, is now watered.

The footpaths are made of brick, with a bordering of pebbles set in cement. This is the case in Tunbridge Wells also. Except in this district of Kent, I do not know any large town with these brick pavements. In my opinion they are superior to anything else of which I have had experience.

They impart a warmth of colouring to the roads which is gratifying to the artistic eye. They are free from glare, and are cooler to the feet and less tiring to walk upon than either asphalte or flag stones. They have the drawback that a brick here and there is apt to sink a little, and so allow a pool of water to form in rainy weather. This can of course be obviated by careful attention on the part of the surveyor. A great deal of the comfort of the inhabitants—more than they have any idea of—depends on the surveyor, and fortunately Southborough has an efficient one!

The roads are lighted by gas lamps. Whether the electric light will ever be able to compete in price in small places against gas, remains to be proved; at all events, for the present, gas reigns supreme in Southborough, in the public streets, though for private



purposes oil is preferred by many, as being cheaper, and giving a nicer light.

The next step in advance that was made by the Local Board of Health was to create a comprehensive drainage system. In the opinion of some, the water question should have been dealt with first, or at all events simultaneously. But ratepayers were not so well educated in sanitary matters ten years ago as they are now, and public opinion in the place was not ripe for the water question.

The disposal of sewage is one of the problems of the nineteenth century, and perhaps a problem still unsolved. However that may be, the difficulty has been manfully grappled with by the powers that be. Drains of defective construction or made of brick or other porous material have been removed, and glazed pipes of the most approved modern type have been substituted. Cesspools have one by one been made away with. Defects in house fittings are carefully searched for, if suspected, and remedied. The whole town is now drained into a well-ventilated sewer, which is carried to a sewage farm in a valley a mile beyond the bottom of the Common. Water to flush the pipes was alone lacking, and this want too has at last been supplied, and this brings me to the question of water supply.

There remained one last essential,—the coping stone to the edifice of hygienic reform so to speak. That was a public supply of good water. As Southborough grew bigger, so the danger of contamination to the springs that rose near houses became greater and greater. The supply in many cases was scanty, and failed just at the time of greatest need. The want of water drove many people away from Southborough, who at first were charmed with their new abode. The knowledge that there was none, or only water of doubtful quality, deterred others from coming to reside in the place. Of course this was turned to advantage by those whose interests lay elsewhere. To show what stress should be laid on this point, I cannot refrain from quoting from a speech made by the Rev. W. Hay Chapman, vicar of St. Peter's, at a public luncheon on the occasion of the opening of the Waterworks, June 3rd, 1885, as reported in the *Kent & Sussex Courier*.

He said "That some time ago, when Major Tulloch (Inspector for the Local Government Board, Whitehall), came down to investigate this great question of water supply, he was very much struck at what he said. Major Tulloch observed that on one occasion Sir William Gull (the well-known physician), stood on Southborough Common and said 'It is impossible in any part

of the world to breathe purer air.' Major Tulloch added 'And when you get a thorough supply of good water there will be no better place in England to live in' (cheers). In fact, Major Tulloch went so far as to say he should like to live there himself. These were the expressions of the most celebrated leading men of the day, bearing testimony to Southborough being a fine health resort."

It is therefore a cause of congratulation that this last difficulty has been overcome most satisfactorily.

Various plans were mooted. One idea was to bring the water from Tunbridge Wells. Another was to bring it from the Sevenoaks hills. There the quantity was abundant, and its freedom from sewage contamination was not disputed, but it came from chalky strata, and was too hard to be a pleasant drinking water, or to be really useful for cooking and washing. In our own "Hastings Sand" beds there is much better water, but it is hard to find. The Hastings Sands have been formed at the bottom of a lake probably, and upheaved since by volcanic action. "Faults" and fissures are frequent, and little local layers of retentive clay. You cannot always be certain where you will find water and where you will not. However, the difficulties have been overcome. A spring of exceptional purity has been found. A pumping station has been made, and a reservoir erected on the

highest ground in the village, whence the water flows by gravitation to the houses.

The water has been analysed by Dr. E. Frankland, one of the greatest living authorities on water questions. His report, which is highly gratifying, is as follows :—" It is of excellent quality for drinking, and being also very soft, is well adapted for washing and steam purposes."

Equally favourable reports have been made by Dr. Muter, the analyst to most of the Metropolitan Water Companies, and Dr. Adams, the county analyst. It should be stated, seeing that there are chalybeate springs in the neighbourhood, that there is not any iron in this water. Iron in the water is valuable for medicinal purposes, but is not advisable for ordinary daily use. There is no fear of lead poisoning by the use of leaden pipes for the conduction of this water, which is also a point of moment.

On the whole, therefore, Southborough may fearlessly compare its public water supply with that of any town in England, but any one intending to take a house in Southborough should make it a *sine qua non* that water is laid on (if it is not already), from the water works. However favourable an analysis may have been made of water from a well at a house, it must always be remembered that in any place where houses are close

together, the springs are liable to be contaminated at any moment. They may be right to-day and all wrong to-morrow. This is especially the case in a place like this, where the subsoil is so freely permeable that any contamination is likely to be carried to a considerable distance.

The water used for the public supply arises in a park, away from houses, and not likely to be built over. This water, therefore, runs little or no risk of being contaminated.

These remarks will enable any intending resident to form a judgment as to the climate and sanitary conditions of Southborough, and will also serve, it is hoped, as a source of useful information to physicians and surgeons when consulted as to residence here.





### CHAPTER III.

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## Social Southborough.



It is no easy matter to describe the social condition of a place. There are so many grades in society and so many different views as to what constitutes a "nice place" that it is difficult to convey a clear idea. When Beau Brummel reigned supreme at Tunbridge Wells, he insisted on visitors living in public. The lodging houses were only meant for eating and sleeping in. This public life exists nowhere in England now ; but for the sake of would-be residents, I will wave my magic wand and decree, Beau Brummel-like, that in these pages the private pleasures of Southborough shall be performed in public.

Kent can boast of more fine seats and historical houses than most counties. Its beauty, its salubrity, and

its nearness to London, probably explain this. There are a great many parks and mansions around Southborough; some of these are sufficiently celebrated to claim a place in the chapter which I have entitled "Picturesque Southborough." For the rest, their owners belong to county society; their world extends far beyond their immediate neighbourhood. If any place of the kind was in the market no one contemplating purchase or even tenancy, would enquire what sort of society there was in Southborough itself.

It is, however, a question which is sure to be asked by people who are comfortably off, but cannot go to the length of a mansion with extensive grounds and a retinue of servants. Speaking broadly, the better classes in Southborough are composed of retired military and naval men, clergymen with private means, gentlemen of moderate private fortune; and the usual sprinkling of professional men, clergy, medical men and schoolmasters, to be found in small towns; and one or two gentlemen who have taken up farms in the neighbourhood.

There are nice houses to be obtained at rentals ranging from £50 to £150 a year. Ground is becoming so valuable in Southborough that it is difficult to find a house with large gardens at a lower rental than £100. Some of the old houses have charming grounds, and

many, old and new, have delightful views ; but a large number of modern houses have been built with only a small amount of garden ground. This, however, is compensated for to a great extent by the beautiful common, which fortunately can never be built over, and is within easy access of all the better houses. This common is one of the prettiest in England, thanks to the number of grand old oaks and beeches that have weathered a thousand storms. Some of these are shown in the illustration on page 16. The soil is so sandy that even in damp weather it is tolerably dry under these trees. The advantage of this common for families with children is inestimable, and it is often remarked that the little ones of Southborough almost all look the picture of health.

There is a town band, which plays on the Common, in the cool of the summer evenings. This band can also be hired for garden parties, etc.

On a portion of the Common is a level space reserved as a public cricket ground. Kent and Sussex may claim to be the cradle of cricket, and time was when Kent could play all England.\* Thanks probably to its public ground, most of the rising generation of Southborough are adepts at the bat and ball, indeed the little town can hold its own with its

\*The word "bat" so familiar to cricketers, is still used in Kent and East Sussex dialects to mean a piece of wood or stick, which shows both the derivation and birthplace of the word.



mother Tonbridge, and its big sister Tunbridge Wells. A prettier sight can hardly be imagined than a match on this ground. Grand views in the distance, a fringe of noble trees, and the players on the green lawn in the foreground, make up quite an effective piece; labelled "A Kentish Cricket Match" it may yet find a place in the Royal Academy.

There is a Lawn Tennis and Archery Club, which boasts of a capital ground of three acres. The grounds are hardly at all overlooked, are pretty, have shady spots with comfortable seats, and a nice pavilion, and form a pleasant haunt, even for those that do not play. There are six lawn tennis courts, an archery ground, a croquet lawn, a bowling green and space for quoits. On Saturdays there is a field day, when many visitors come, and afternoon tea is enjoyed on the lawn or in the pavilion. The club occasionally gives very pleasant garden parties. Private lawn tennis parties are also frequent throughout the summer. See illustration, page 32.

Amongst the other social amusements is a Glee Club. The ladies and gentlemen composing the club meet at one another's houses once a week during certain portions of the year. After an hour or an hour and a half's practice, an afternoon tea concludes the meeting very pleasantly.

Twice a year the club gives a concert for some charitable purpose.

In this chapter as in others I include such Tunbridge Wells advantages as are available for Southborough folk.

For high-class music or for theatrical amusements it is necessary to go to Tunbridge Wells, but access is so easy and the omnibus service so frequent that this is not at all a formidable undertaking. In the season, *i.e.*, July, August and September, Tunbridge Wells, thanks to its many visitors and to the unusual number of wealthy citizens, commands a higher class of public entertainment than falls to the lot of most provincial towns of its size. Tunbridge Wells is also the centre for the county society of the surrounding district and is often chosen for county, hunt, and fancy dress balls. On Wednesdays the South Eastern Railway Company run what is locally known as the "theatre" train, which by returning from Charing Cross at 11 p.m., enables people to stay to late entertainments in London.

There is a well managed book club in Southborough. Each member can recommend any book he wishes for. Two books are supplied at a time. These are changed and fresh ones delivered at the members' houses once a fortnight, without any trouble to the subscribers. At the end of each year, those books which

have been the round of the club, are sold at a sort of private auction which is often a source of much merriment. Each member can bid to half the extent of his subscription, for any book he wishes to retain, free of expense. There is also a semi-public library—that is to say, anyone can take out a book by paying one penny per week per volume or by a small annual subscription. This library is over the Coffee Tavern which stands in the centre of the village. It has only been established a few years, and does not contain many works compared with the public libraries of larger towns, but the selection of books is, however, unusually good. Many interesting and valuable works have been given to it—a great many books from the book club referred to above, find their way annually to the shelves of this library; while the small funds at the disposal of the managing committee are also judiciously expended. In connection with the library is a reading room, where for a penny fee you may remain as long as you please, and read such papers as are provided—three dailies, the local papers, the illustrated papers, and *Punch*.

There are also magazine clubs in capital working order; the members for a few pence a month get the reading of all the best magazines of the day, and can afterwards keep the particular magazine for which they have a special

fancy. The literary interests of Southborough are thus well cared for. In addition, of course, are the attractive lectures by the ablest men of the day, such as Proctor and others that are given in Tunbridge Wells. The nearness to London and easy access thereto, enable those who wish it, to belong to literary and scientific societies in London and attend their meetings.

At the back of the Coffee Tavern and Library and connected to them by a covered way, is the Parochial Hall. This was formerly a public room belonging to a little company. As a commercial speculation it proved unsuccessful; by the aid of a generous subscription list the Hall was acquired by the parochial authorities. It is therefore mainly used for parochial purposes, but it can be hired privately and also for some kinds of public entertainment. A very successful art-loan collection was exhibited there in 1884, when a number of most rare and valuable pictures and *objets d'art* were brought together. The glee club concerts are usually held there. In the ante-room are held ambulance lectures, meetings of the Tennis Club and such like. Entertainments of many kinds are, however, inadmissible in a Parochial Hall, and the want of a public room for entertainments is sometimes felt, but doubtless, as the town grows bigger and able to support one, the want will be supplied.



THE LAWN TENNIS CLUB GROUNDS



There is no gentlemen's club at Southborough, but there are good ones both at Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge to both of which Southborough gentlemen belong.

Open-air swimming baths have been mooted, but are not yet a *fait accompli*. There are good swimming baths at Tunbridge Wells. The open-air baths are large and comfortable,—in fact, the baths are an old reservoir which used to be part of the town supply. These baths are fortunately on the side of the town nearest Southborough and by the opening of a new bridge over the railway have been brought within easy access. There are also warm baths in Calverley Road. The swimming bath is over 80 long feet and the water is maintained at 65°. There are also Turkish baths in the same establishment, and likewise at the hydropathic establishment, Tunbridge Wells. At the "Spa," as it is called, can also be obtained douche "needle," chemical and other baths, including a German bath, the materials for which are imported direct from Kreutznach, and the mode of administration is also the same. The bath-houses are in direct connection with the main building and the corridors and rooms are heated with hot water so that no change of temperature is experienced in passing from one to another.

There is also a swimming club on the Medway at Tonbridge.

Boating is only possible on the Medway at Tonbridge. The river above the town towards Penshurst is exceedingly pretty. I do not know a pleasanter way of spending a summer's afternoon than to ride outside the omnibus from Southborough to Tonbridge, starting in the cool, at half-past four with lovely views before, a pretty road the whole way, the song of the nightingale and thrush regaling your ears; the scent of the "Marshal Niel" wafted to your nostrils from every passing cottage, glorious masses of colour from rhododendrons, lilacs, laburnums, pink and white may, pink and white chestnuts, and the prospect before you of a row on the placid river, with hay fields and fine old trees beside you, nightingales in every bush, and the Southborough hill in the hazy distance.

There is a boating club at Tonbridge to which the subscription is very moderate. The club has a boathouse. Members can use the club boats for picnic purposes, and bring their lady friends. Many a charming picnic is organised in the piping days of summer by the younger and more energetic inhabitants of Southborough. The ladies take their turn at the oar, while the gentlemen profess to teach them, and probably as a matter of fact,



hinder them. In due time, however, there never being any hurry in such cases, some suitable spot is reached, where the boats are drawn to the bank, a fire is lighted, the kettle boiled, tea made, and the *row-whelled* appetite is appeased. The river has no currents, and is not very deep, so that it is as safe as can be.

For lovers of fishing the Medway offers attractions. There is an Angling Club there, which is open to dwellers at Tunbridge Wells and Southborough. Certain parts of the river are watched and protected during the close time. The principal fish are roach, jack, chubb, bream, dace, and gudgeon. Trout fishing can be got in the upper parts of the Medway, and in some of its tributary streams.

Water picnics are by no means the only picnics indulged in. The walks and drives in the neighbourhood are too inviting, and the places of interest too good an excuse to be neglected. Omnibuses and brakes are chartered; a merry party formed; commissariat arrangements perfected; and hey for Penshurst Place or some of the other famous spots which the unfailing courtesy and kindness of their owners place at the service of the public.

Riding parties are also sometimes formed, and the various commons within easy reach render a gallop or two certain of attainment. Volunteering does not seem

to be popular in Southborough. There is no special Southborough company, the one or two volunteers that exist belong to the Tonbridge company. The Tunbridge Wells volunteers occasionally muster on Southborough Common to the delight of the "unwashed." The Tonbridge rifle ranges are within easy distance.

For hunting men Southborough is well placed. The West Kent Foxhounds meet in the neighbourhood three times a week. The Burstow Foxhounds often meet at places between Edenbridge and Sevenoaks, which are 10 to 12 miles distant, as do the Surrey Staghounds. There is another pack of staghounds within comfortable reach, the Mid-Kent pack, which hunts the country from Tonbridge to Maidstone. For those who are content to follow the chase on foot, there is a pack of Harriers kept at "Foxbush," near Hildenborough.

There is capital shooting to be got if you rent it, but not of course otherwise, unless you may be invited to an occasional day at the pheasants, or a turn over the stubble in the enthusiastic days of September. While the gentlemen are shooting or hunting, the ladies have working parties and afternoon teas. The results of the working parties are displayed at giant bazaars in Tunbridge Wells, where the totals realised make a poor man's mouth water!

A day's shopping in London is always an attraction to the feminine mind, and is easily attainable for dwellers in Southborough. There is some sight that it is imperative to see, or some call that it is imperative to pay, or there is the universal provider or some other wonderful caterer, who is to the ladies as the magnet to the needle, or the famous dressmaker to be consulted, and the result is a day's outing, "a love of a bonnet," and a big bill for some one to pay.

I will conclude with a word for the visitors. The season in Southborough is much the same as at Tunbridge Wells; July, August, and September. During these months the price of lodgings is considerably raised. In favourable seasons lodgings are hardly obtainable. Furnished houses can be obtained at prices ranging from 3 to 10 guineas a week.

The Common is the centre of attraction. The amusements to which visitors can look forward are pretty much the same as those I have mentioned as enjoyed by residents.

Cricket and lawn tennis are the principal amusements, but Southborough makes admirable head quarters for walking tours, reading parties, and so on, because of the number of beautiful spots all round for walks, rides, drives, boating parties, and picnics.



## CHAPTER IV.

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### Municipal Southborough.



E now come to the consideration of the management of Southborough, the constitution of its authorities, and such like details.

The beginning of Southborough was due to the fame of the chalybeate springs at the spot where Tunbridge Wells now stands. A little village sprang up, but it lived during the summer and died in the winter. Then as Tunbridge Wells grew Southborough decayed. Rip van Winkle like, it slumbered for many years; Rip van Winkle like, it awoke again. A few houses rose once more; it was still a mere hamlet in an outlying part of Tonbridge parish, without a church, without boundaries, without any separate government.



A DELL, SOUTHBOROUGH COMMON



In 1831 the population was only 830. It has therefore increased in half-a-century to four-and-a-half times its former dimensions. A like increase during the next half-century will make it a town of 18,000 inhabitants.

In 1835 an Act of Parliament was passed, which virtually created Tunbridge Wells into a separate district, and in 1846 the powers were extended. Southborough was included under some of the powers then taken, but never formally became part of Tunbridge Wells. Gradually Southborough grew, a church, St. Peter's was built. The place still grew, and another church, St. Thomas's was erected, and Southborough was divided into parishes apportioned between the two churches. Finally it was constituted a separate district, with a Local Board of its own. Its growth during the last half century has been considerable. Traces of its growth can still be seen in the overlapping of jurisdictions that exist. It has its own Local Board for paving, lighting, and drainage, and now for water supply, though it was only in 1883 that it ceased to be part of the Tunbridge Wells Water-Works area. It is in Tunbridge Union District for poor law purposes. It is in the Tunbridge Wells Postal District. Its police are county police, instead of being under the authority of the Local Board. For health questions it has amalga-

mated with other parts of West Kent to form a wide district, extending along the South-Eastern Line from Chislehurst to Cranbrook. This method of combining enables a district to offer a good salary and secure a Medical Officer of Health of high reputation, whilst each little section separately would find it hard to get an equally able man. Tunbridge Wells has held aloof from this combination, and has a separate Medical Officer of Health of its own.

Southborough is in Tunbridge Wells County Court District; but for police cases belongs, as I said before, to Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells forming a separate division of the County Bench.

All this overlapping of jurisdictions sounds bewildering, but practically does not cause much confusion. Indeed the same thing occurs in a great many places. London itself has different shapes and sizes, according as you take Postal London, Parliamentary London, Police London, or Registrar-General's London.

We will take these points in more detail. To begin with the Local Board District. This is bounded on the north by Tonbridge—the actual boundary mark can be seen on the London road at the top of Quarry Hill—on



the south by Tunbridge Wells—a boundary board being raised in the London road where the Brightbridge Lane joins it. On the west it is bounded by Speldhurst and Bidborough. On the east the Powder Mill Lane separates it from Tunbridge Wells, and the Railway Line from Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge. This Powder Mill Lane (so-called because it used to lead to a powder mill; but there is none there now) leads to a hamlet known as High Brooms, which is evolving out of Southborough and Tunbridge Wells in the same way that its parents evolved out of Tonbridge. It consists entirely of cottages, occupied by men working at the High Brooms Brick Works or at the Tunbridge Wells Gas Works, which are close by. The owners of these houses have failed to do their duty in the way of providing the necessaries of modern civilization. The district has been partly in Tunbridge Wells and partly in Southborough, and so, more through the defects in the law of the land than through any fault in the governing bodies, it has become a discredit to both towns. Quite recently it has been decided that Tunbridge Wells should hand over the small portion of High Brooms that was in its district to Southborough, and within a year it is hoped High Brooms will have the blessings of a supply of pure water, a proper system of drainage, hard roads,

footpaths, and public gas lamps. It must be borne in mind that the neglect of sanitary measures has necessarily added to the sickness and raised the death-rate in this hamlet. Now, though it is nowhere near any of the houses of Southborough proper, it is still within the Local Board District, and its statistics have been included in the district total, to the injury, of course, of the rest of the place.

The Local Board consists of nine members who retire by rotation three at a time, each member thus serving three years. They are elected by the ratepayers, who have votes in proportion to the amount of rates they pay. The Board levies a General District Rate, which at present is 1s. 6d. in the £. This is a trifle higher than usual, owing to the expense incurred over the Water Works. As the number of renters of water increases, less and less of this burden will fall on the General Rate. This rate includes the cost of draining, lighting, and paving. The Local Board meet at Fern Terrace on the last Wednesday of every month. Communications for the Board should be addressed to the Clerk of the Board, Fern Terrace. The Poor Rate, and a small Burial Rate are payable at Tonbridge. This Burial Rate was the subject of a law suit, which ended in a compromise. This was one of the legacies of confusion caused by the breaking up of

Tonbridge into three separate towns; for since the erection of St. Peter's Church, with a churchyard of its own, funerals have rarely gone to the Tonbridge Cemetery, and it seemed hard that Southborough people should pay to maintain that in which they had no interest. In a few years' time this rate will be paid direct to the Southborough Local Board.

Parliamentarily viewed, Southborough is in the new Tonbridge District of Kent, as is Tunbridge Wells. There are both Liberal and Conservative Associations here. It is now a polling centre.

Though Southborough belongs postally to Tunbridge Wells, it has Post Offices and Telegraph Offices of its own, so that no confusion is likely to arise. There are other Southboroughs in England, so that it is necessary to add Tunbridge Wells to the postal direction.

In the matter of registration of births and deaths Southborough belongs to Tunbridge Wells, but the Registrar has an office at Southborough, and attends every Tuesday at 3 p.m. The Registrar of Births and Deaths is also the Relieving Officer. Any person interested in the poor, and wishing to guide them in obtaining parochial relief, must direct them to Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells, on other days than Tuesdays.

Southborough nominates one member of the Tunbridge Board of Guardians. The Board of Guardians meet at the Union House, which is at Pembury, on alternate Fridays. The Clerk to the Board, F. W. Stone, Esq., has his office at Church Road, Tunbridge Wells.

The County Court is held at the Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells, twice a month. The office of the Registrar, F. W. Stone, Esq., is as above, Church Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Though Southborough belongs to a district in health matters, anything requiring the attention of the Medical Officer of Health can be arranged through the Clerk of the Local Board, Fern Terrace, Southborough. Mr. Harmer, the Surveyor, is also Inspector of Nuisances, and lives at Fern Terrace.

Ecclesiastically Southborough is in the Diocese of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and in the Rural Deanery of South Malling. Canon Hoare is the present Rural Dean.

Other details seem to belong rather to the chapter on Business Southborough than to the present one.





WOODLAND SCENERY

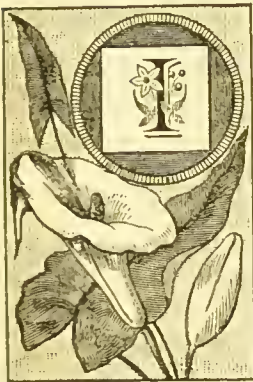




## CHAPTER V.

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### Business Southborough.



IN THIS Chapter I shall endeavour to give all such details of business matters as are likely to interest anyone desiring to live here. The preceding chapter might perhaps have been blended with this one; but the facts of the former chapter will not interest all readers, while what I have now to say, will probably influence people considerably in their decision to come or not to come.

I will begin with its accessibility, both to the neighbouring towns and to London. Southborough is about two miles from the South-Eastern Railway Station at Tunbridge Wells, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  from Tonbridge Junction. It has sometimes been urged as an objection to Southborough that there is no railway station in the place. I

think I can show that this is little or no objection. I have lived both in Tunbridge Wells and Southborough, so I speak from experience. When in Tunbridge Wells my house was about half-a-mile from the South-Eastern Railway Station. If I wished to travel with luggage, I either had a fly, which charged me two shillings, or I had to order an omnibus, which charged me precisely what the omnibus charges from Southborough. I gained, therefore, nothing in money, and only about ten minutes or quarter of an hour in time. Indeed, even that I do not always lose now, for this reason: Southborough is almost as near Tonbridge as Tunbridge Wells. There is an omnibus from Southborough to Tonbridge at nine o'clock, which gives 20 minutes more for breakfast than the Tunbridge Wells 'bus, and catches the 9.37 fast train to London. This train cannot be caught from Tunbridge Wells; or if caught it is only done by leaving at 9.28, and changing at Tonbridge, with the drawback, not only of changing, but of passing through two tunnels, and of paying a slightly higher fare, so that Southborough is conveniently situated for the Tunbridge Wells expresses and also commands the Tonbridge Junction trains. If a station were made at Southborough, the express trains would not stop there, and owing to the situation of the town on the crest of a hill, there must



always be a journey to and from the railway station. Of course for those who want to go daily to London by the very early trains before half-past eight, Southborough is not a suitable place unless they keep a carriage.

Then as to the places that are easily accessible when the stations are reached. From Tunbridge Wells there are expresses which run to Hastings and to Eastbourne without stopping, though, strangely enough, there are none to Brighton. This latter town can, however, be reached in a trifle over an hour and a quarter.

From Tonbridge Folkestone can be reached in less than an hour and a quarter, and Dover in less than an hour and a half. Other attractive or important places can be reached without much difficulty, such as Canterbury, Maidstone, Deal, Walmer, Ramsgate, Margate, and Broadstairs. These places are all on the South-Eastern Railway, which is the railway that commands Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge. I must warn people accustomed to the crack Northern lines that what we call expresses would be slow trains on the lines with which they are familiar. Even the special trains with no third class, do not average thirty-five miles an hour. There is some talk of an amalgamation between the three Southern lines; but I do not think that would benefit anybody, as there is very little to choose between

the three lines. It is well known that it is the men of Danish descent in England who are specially distinguished for their capacity for organisation, and it seems to me that if our Southern railways went North for directors there would soon be little need to talk of amalgamation.

As regards access to Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge, there are twelve omnibuses a day each way to the former town, and three a day each way to the latter. The fare is a modest sixpence all the way, or fourpence for a portion of the journey to Tunbridge Wells. The omnibuses will call at your house for luggage, which is a great convenience when you are going a journey. The following is the time-table of the omnibuses:—

| Tunbridge Wells Omnibus. |                                   |                            | Tonbridge Omnibus. |                    |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| FROM<br>SOUTHBORO'       | FROM TUNBRIDGE WELLS.             |                            | FROM<br>SOUTHBORO' | FROM<br>TONBRIDGE. |
|                          | From<br>L.B. & S.C.R.<br>Station. | From<br>S.E.R.<br>Station. |                    |                    |
| 8 40                     | ..                                | ..                         | .. 0               | ..                 |
| 9 50                     | ..                                | 9 15                       | ..                 | ..                 |
| 10 20                    | 10 30                             | 10 40                      | ..                 | 10 20              |
| 11 45                    | 11 35                             | 11 45                      | ..                 | ..                 |
| 1 30                     | 12 20                             | 12 30                      | 12 30              | ..                 |
| 2 0                      | 2 10                              | 2 15                       | ..                 | 2 15               |
| 2 50                     | 2 45                              | 3 0                        | ..                 | ..                 |
| 3 40                     | 3 30                              | 3 40                       | ..                 | ..                 |
| 4 20                     | 4 20                              | 4 30                       | ..                 | ..                 |
| 5 45                     | 5 0                               | 5 5                        | 5 30               | ..                 |
| 6 0                      | 6 30                              | 6 40                       | ..                 | ..                 |
| 8 0                      | 7 15                              | 7 25                       | ..                 | 7 0                |
| ..                       | ..                                | 8 45                       | ..                 | ..                 |

So much for the means of getting into and out of Southborough; now for its conveniences.

Messrs. Beeching and Co., of the Old Bank, Tunbridge Wells, Hastings, and Tonbridge, have a branch at Southborough. The London and County Bank has a branch at Tunbridge Wells, as has also the Lewes Bank of Messrs. Molyneux and Co., but these have no branch at Southborough.

Though Southborough is a small place, there are some capital shops. Of all those that supply the actual necessities of life there are good representatives. One or two of the bakers' shops have a good enough reputation to find a good many customers in Tunbridge Wells. Of butchers there are several, one or two of whom do a large trade, as do also many of the grocers. There are also two good chemists, several drapers, and one at least, if not more, of almost every other trade. Mr. Mansell is the principal house agent. Messrs. Stidolph Bros. and Mr. Henry King have also houses on their lists. Any of them would be pleased to answer enquiries about houses.

There are a few manufactures, but they are not large or important. Southborough is an old resort of cricket-ball manufacturers. There are also the gas works, which supply the district with gas. A carriage factory, a

linen manufactory, a brewery, a steam flour mill, and a tannery almost exhaust the list. In High Brooms is one of the most perfectly equipped establishments for making bricks by machinery in England. It employs 200 hands.

There are two post and telegraph offices. There is a morning, mid-day, and evening delivery. A post goes out for London and provinces at 9 a.m., at 2.50, and 7.30 p.m., and a local post for Tunbridge Wells at 5 p.m. Here, again, Southborough gains by its central position, for the 2.50 mail is taken direct to Tonbridge; it is only at the General Post Office in Tunbridge Wells that letters can be posted as late as this for this mail.

There are two parcel post deliveries daily, and two out—one at 10 minutes to 9 a.m. and one at 20 minutes past 7 in the evening.

The telegraph station is open from eight to eight daily, and on Sunday morning from 8 to 10. If telegrams require to be sent at other hours, the message must be taken to Tunbridge Wells. The head office at the Wells is open till 10 every night, and on Sundays from 7 to 10 in the morning, while at the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Station you get an hour longer still—until eleven. This railway office is again opened at 2 until 10 p.m., while the head office,

which is nearer Southborough, is open again in the evening from 5 to 6 p.m.

Carriages can be hired either direct from the proprietors or in the summer from the stand on the London Road, beside the Common.

There are three classes of Hackney Carriages :—

FIRST CLASS. A full-sized carriage drawn by one horse or a pair of horses or ponies, capable of carrying five besides the driver. *Fare.* By distance—not exceeding one mile (including the distance from the stand or place where the carriage is called to the place where the fare is taken up) One Shilling and each additional half-mile or less Sixpence; by Time, not exceeding one hour, Two-and-Sixpence, and every additional half-hour, One-and-Threepence.

SECOND CLASS. The carriages in this class are drawn by one horse and capable of carrying four passengers. *Fare* by distance, Tenpence for the first mile, and Fivepence for each half-mile after; by time, Two Shillings for the first hour or less, and One Shilling for each hour after.

THIRD CLASS. The carriage to be a small one, drawn by a pony, mule, or ass, and carrying two passengers. *Fare* by distance, Eightpence the first mile, and Fourpence each half-mile after; by time, One Shilling-and-Sixpence

for the first hour, and Ninepence each half-hour after. In the case of bath-chairs drawn by pony, mule or ass, Eightpence a mile, and 4d. each half-mile is charged, and One Shilling an hour, and Sixpence each subsequent hour ; chairs drawn by hand being charged similarly by time.

There are carriers of all sorts. A van goes to London by road once a week. The agents of the parcels companies work to and from the Tunbridge Wells Stations daily. The omnibuses take parcels for Twopence each to either Tunbridge Wells or Tonbridge. The South-Eastern Railway take parcels at reasonable rates.

There are three churches at Southborough. St. Peter's is the oldest. It has lately been restored and modernised at the cost of Mr. Deacon, of Mabledon. It is most picturesquely placed on the summit of the hill on ground taken from the Common. Its spire is a conspicuous object for miles round. The view from the churchyard is very pretty. Connected with St. Peters is Christ Church at the Tunbridge Wells end of the town. At present Christ Church is a Mission Church, still intimately connected with its parent church, but all the land round is laid out for building, and in time the church will be raised probably to the dignity of independence. The present building is only the chancel and transepts of the future church, which is intended ultimately to be the



MODEST CORNER





largest church in Southborough. St. Thomas's Church is in Pennington Road. It is a small church with fittings for 350. It is a very pretty building, but perhaps on too small a scale. The north aisle has been raised, but the south aisle is too low to please a sanitarian. The services in all the churches on Sundays are at 11 and 6.30. There is a week-day service in each church on Wednesdays, with morning prayers on Saints' Days and other days during such seasons as Lent and Advent.

There are two Chapels, a Wesleyan and a Baptist, but there is no Roman Catholic place of worship. The Wesleyan Chapel is in London Road, facing Pennington Road. The Sunday services are at 11 and 6.30, and there is a service on Wednesday evening at 7.

There are several schools in Southborough, private schools for boys preparatory to public schools, and for young ladies; and also middle-class schools for both boys and girls.

There is an endowed school where the pick of the scholars from the National Schools can get a higher education. There is no School-board here, and consequently no board-rate, the schools being supported by voluntary contributions.

The Grammar School at Tonbridge affords a great opportunity for parents living at Southborough to give

their sons a high-class education, at a very moderate cost. Tonbridge School is one of the wealthiest public schools in England, and has rich scholarships and exhibitions to help boys to the Universities.\* The school will probably occupy a higher position in the future than it has done in the past. The school is about three miles from Southborough. Some of the boys who go there, walk, some ride on bicycles and tricycles. The omnibus is a little late for school hours. The fees for day boys from the neighbourhood are £18 a year.

There is a High-School for girls at Tunbridge Wells, which is fast rising in popular esteem. The 8.40 'bus enables young ladies get there in good time. Special arrangements can be made with the omnibus proprietor, where there are regular daily journeys to be made in cases like these.

A Second Grade School is about to be erected at a cost of £30,000 in Tunbridge Wells. The Charity Commissioners made it a point that this School should be placed where it would be as convenient for Southborough as for Tunbridge Wells. For £8 in the case of juniors, and £12 a year for seniors,

\* There are exhibitions of £90, £80, £70, and £60 respectively, awarded annually, tenable for 4 years at any University or other approved place of higher education.

boys will be able to learn not only reading, writing, and arithmetic, history, geography, and English, but also latin, foreign languages, natural sciences, book keeping, drawing, and music.

The educational advantages will then be quite exceptional.

There is no hospital at Southborough, but there is a good hospital at Tunbridge Wells, which contains 30 beds, and is being enlarged.

A word as to the charities will close the present chapter. There are soup kitchens, blanket clubs, working clubs, benefit societies, a coffee tavern with bagatelle table, and other kindred things, so that Southborough cannot be reproached with not looking after its poor, indeed Southborough may claim that its ministers of all denominations are exceptionally hard working, and there are several gentlemen blessed with private means and leisure hours who ably assist them in their good works.



# LIST OF SOUTHBOROUGH TRADESMEN.

*Full Particulars will be found in Advertisement Pages.*

## BAKERS AND CONFECTIONERS.

Mules. | Pyman, J.  
Smith, J.

## BOOTMAKER.

Taylor, C. H.

## BUILDER, &c.

Jarvis and Son. | Gallard and Son.  
Wallis.

## BUTCHERS.

Corke. | Dudeney, W. G.  
Wickens, E.

## BREWER.

Phipps.

## CHEMISTS.

Dunkley and Rogers. | Farmer, A. C.

## CARRIERS.

Goble, H. | Martin, J.

## COFFEE TAVERN.

Harmer.

## DAIRYMAN.

Dudeney, G.

## DRAPERS.

Mansell, G. P. | Newman, Bros.  
Tyler, G. | Stidolph.

## FANCY REPOSITORY.

Mansell, J. | Tyler.

## FLY PROPRIETORS AND LIVERY STABLES.

Osborne, G. | Tutchener.

## FRUITERER AND GREENGROCER.

Carpenter, W. T.

## GROCERS.

Awcock, J. | Fielder.  
Davis. | Judge.  
King, J.

## HOUSE AGENTS.

King, J. | Mansell, G. P.  
Stidolph.

## IRONMONGER.

Lambert.

## OMNIBUS PROPRIETORS.

Osborne. | Spittles, G.

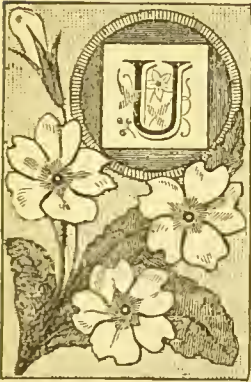
## SADDLE AND HARNESS MAKER.

Cuthbert.



## CHAPTER VI.

### Picturesque Southborough.

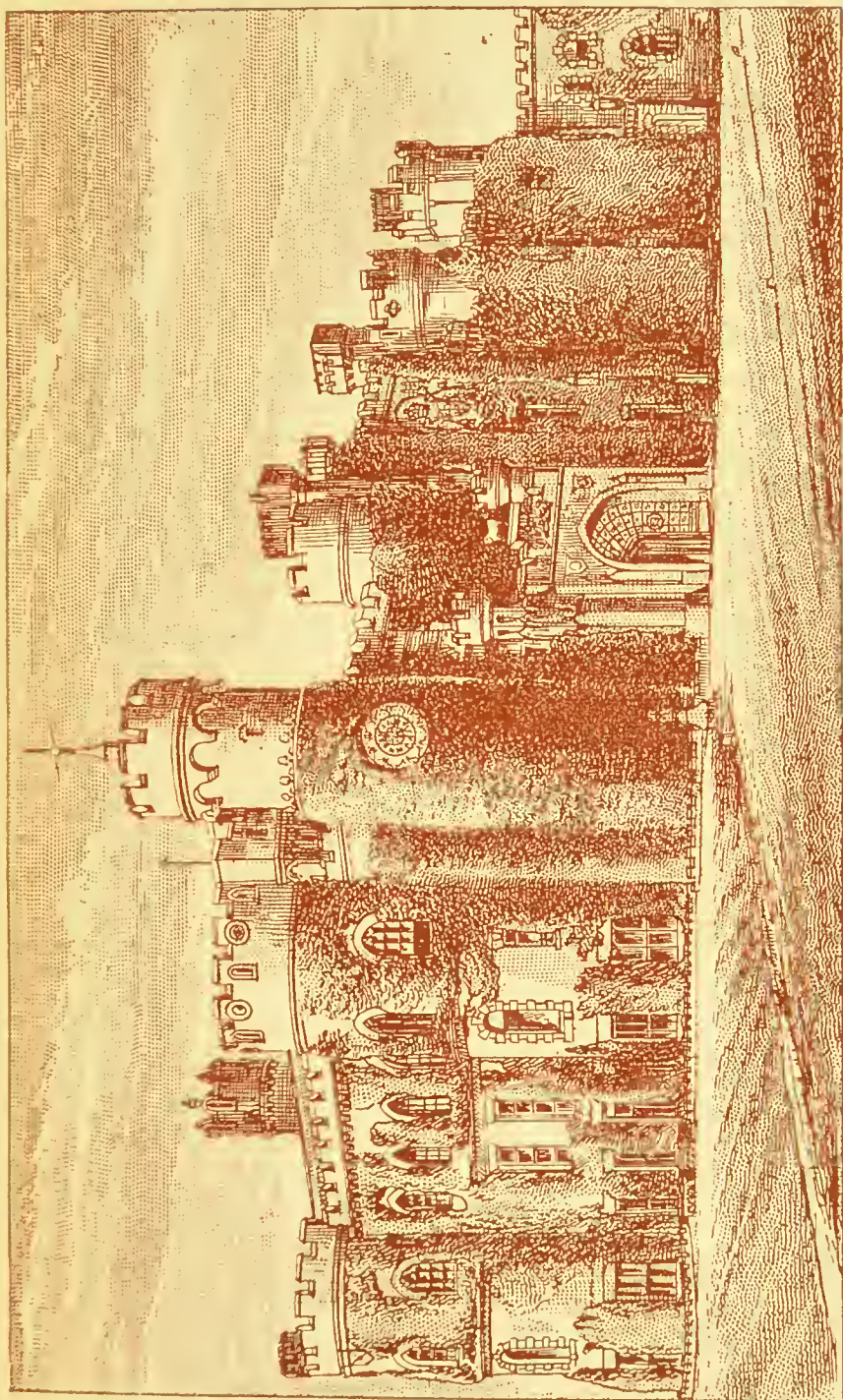


UNDER this heading I propose saying a few words not merely about the beauties of the immediate neighbourhood, but I shall also speak briefly of the various attractive spots that are within walking or driving reach of Southborough.

One of the features of the scenery of the neighbourhood is its variety. This depends on two or three points in combination. First, Southborough is on the last prominence, jutting out into the lowlands beyond, of the range of hills that stretches across Sussex, and just oversteps the border of Kent at this spot. In the second place it is almost at the junction of two geological formations, the Hastings Sands and the Wealden Clay, while across the valley rise hills which belong to yet a third geological formation, the Lower Green Sand, and

beyond them again are chalk hills. Experienced geologists tell us that each geological formation has a definitely shaped surface, and a characteristic vegetation on it. It is therefore no matter of surprise that the scenery around is unusually varied in shape and outline, and in the amount and nature of the foliage. The number of botanical varieties to be met with in the neighbourhood is also for the same reason exceptionally large, a fact which adds interest to many a walk for the lovers of botanic lore.

I will begin at home, where everything should begin. The Common I have adverted to more than once. Most people imagine an open breezy treeless Down when a Common is spoken of. A portion of Southborough Common is open grassland, but more than half is well wooded, and contains here exquisite little fairy dells, there stately colonnades of trees, and isolated monarchs of the forest of unknown age, indeed the Common when viewed from Rusthall Common, near Tunbridge Wells, seems one mass of foliage, above which rises the spire of St. Peter's Church as a landmark. The Common is singular in another respect I think. Though hardly a hundred acres in extent it is curious how many varieties of foliage there are. At the top of the Common almost all the trees are oaks, some a thousand years old, others



ERIDGE CASTLE





merc chickens of two or three hundred years old. Lower down are some splendid beeches, and lower still almost all the trees are birches. On one part of the Common is bracken fern, on another purple heather, on a third golden gorse. In the woodcuts representing Views on Southborough Common will be seen two of these varieties of scene, while in the view of the cricket ground the trees are mostly oaks.

There are several beautiful walks, which can be accomplished by ladies in an hour or hour and a half,

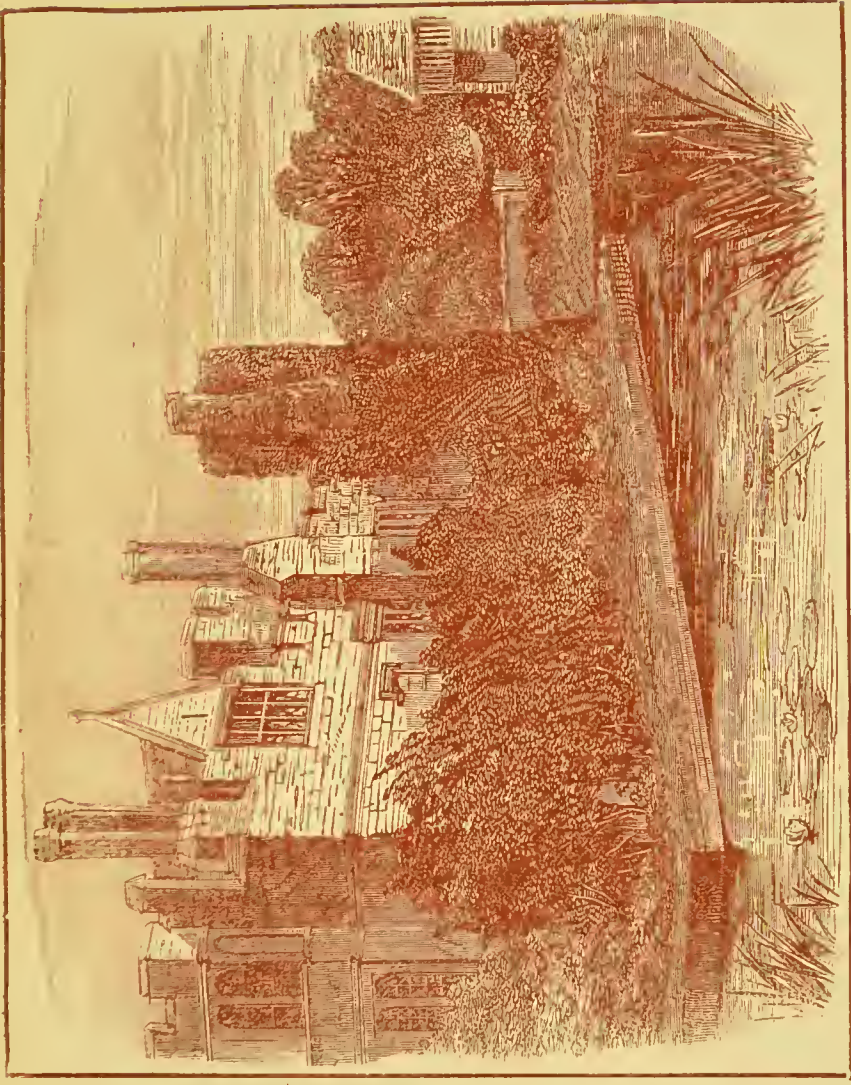
One of the favourite ones is across the top of the Common and through a field path overshadowed by the beautiful beeches of Boundcs Park, to Bidborough Church, an old building of William Rufus' time. The distance is a little over a mile, and there are two or three different ways for returning, each equally pretty.

Another beautiful walk of about two miles is down the Common, across Mr Pott's Park by a well made foot-path, into a lane leading to Speldhurst, here you turn to the right, and a couple of hundred yards brings you into another road which runs along the edge of a steep hill, while you look across the valley at another line of hills on which Bidborough is placed. Turn to the right, and a short but steep walk brings you again to the foot of the

hill to the Waterworks pumping station, and the Common once more.

Another short and pretty walk is obtained by going down Pennington Road. A little way beyond Vicarage Road is a stile on the left which leads through a "shaw," or little wood, into a rough path which brings you out in Vauxhall Lane. By turning to the left a short walk brings you out on the crest of the hill on the Tonbridge Road above the Common.

A fourth short and pretty walk is obtained by going down Pennington Road to its extremity. It ends apparently in a farm yard, but there is a path which winds round a stable and is not easy to find. It then goes through fields and copses to the Powder Mill Lane. If you choose to extend your walk you may cross this lane and go on by field paths for a mile or two further to the high road from Pembury to Tonbridge. If however you want only a short walk turn to the right when you get to the lane, and at the end of quarter of a mile look out for a path on your right, which will lead you through Broake's Wood. This is sometimes known as the "Swiss Walk," from some fancied resemblance of the views to Alpine scenery. After emerging from the wood and passing through a field, you may either turn sharply to your right and go back by a field path to the farm at



HEVER CASTLE.



the foot of Pennington Road, whence you started, or you may keep straight on and come out in the London Road at the Tunbridge Wells end of Southborough, whence you may go home by the main road, or by a slight detour go up Holden Park Road turn to the right and go on until you come to the Common. All these are "constitutionals" of two or three miles extent. For walkers who can do eight or ten miles there are almost innumerable walks. Before I leave the subject of short walks I would mention that there are two or three spots from which particularly fine views can be obtained. One is from the Common at the back of the Church, and another spot that deserves notice is the top of the Waterworks reservoir. The engineer who constructed it deserves the thanks of the community for having created a mound exactly at the place where a mound gives a most extended view. If the Local Board would erect a circular iron staircase with a platform at the top, about fifty feet high, and charge a penny admission, I really think they would realise quite a little income for the ratepayers. Another point worth visiting is the Bidborough road a hundred yards from its commencement in the Tonbridge road, indeed the whole road from this point to Penshurst Place is as lovely a walk as even fair Kent can produce.

Having described the daily walks that are to be had in an hour or two's stroll I will now give a brief description of the various places of interest within reach that can be included in a day's trip.

I think the first place should be claimed by Tunbridge Wells. It is curious considering how young a town Tunbridge Wells is, what a singularly quaint, old-world sort of flavour it has. There is a definite character belonging to the place, in marked contrast to the modern sea-side watering places, which all alike consist of a line of stuccoed houses facing a broad drive open on the further side to the sea breeze. I think Thackeray in his *Virginians* struck this keynote. At all events anyone who has read that work (and I strongly recommend even those who have read it already to read it again if they are about to visit this neighbourhood), will pay an early visit to the Pantiles or Parade, as its nineteenth century name is, and as they linger under the lime trees they will people the place once more with the phantoms of the past. Beau Brummel will be there, Master of the Ceremonies. The great Dr. Johnson, Colley Cibber, Mr Garrick, Lord Harcourt, Mr Pitt, the Duchess of Norfolk, and many other famous personages will be there, and indeed Harry Warrington and his whist loving aunt, seem, thanks to Thackeray's genius just as real personages as any of them.

The Tunbridge Wells Common is a delightful spot, not well wooded like the Southborough Common, but breezy and bright, and unlike anything but itself. The waterworn masses of sandstone, groved and scored into fantastic shapes, are worth looking at. Along the top runs a road which leads to Rusthall Common, which to my mind is even more attractive still. Here again are strange fantastic rocks, one of which has become celebrated from its resemblance to a huge toad, perpetually agog at the loveliness of the panorama spread before it, gazing at the Southborough hill clothed with trees and the peeping spire of St. Peter's Church, and mid-way between, the observatory tower of Sir David Salomons's handsome home, Broomhill. For dwellers at Southborough the pleasantest way home is through Lower Green. Turning to the right just before you get to Rusthall village you pass through an oak wood and then through pine trees, and then along a valley with peaceful meadows dotted with elms, until you come to a brook, where you again turn to the right and go up hill towards Bentham Hill, and so home by the Common.

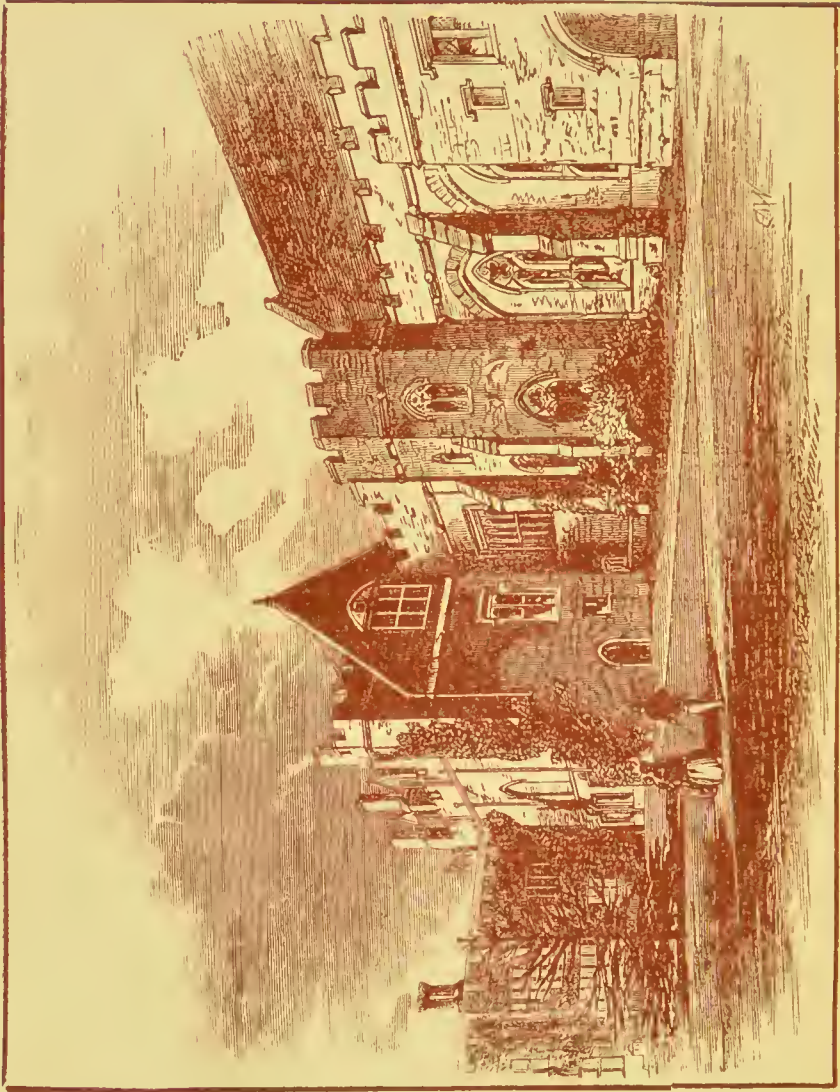
As you go from Tunbridge Wells Common to Rusthall Common you pass the Spa which is worth a little digression, as it is one of the most successful institutions of its kind in England. It can accommodate one hundred and fifty visi-

tors. Considering its comforts and conveniences its charges are moderate. The grounds are its special attraction. They are 64 acres in extent and very pretty, with fine old oaks and beeches that must have been planted many a long century ago. Three big chestnut trees are pointed out to visitors as the spot where the Queen used to sit and sketch, when the century was young and Her Majesty only a princess. No modern institution could rival the Tunbridge Wells Spa in the matter of grounds, for were such a place to be laid out to-morrow at least a hundred years would have to elapse before they were at all equal to the product of centuries here. The Spa too has a chalybeate spring. It is similar in constitution to the Tunbridge Wells and Southborough springs, that is to say the iron is in the form of carbonate held in solution by carbonic acid gas. According to the analysis of Dr. Liepmann it is somewhat stronger than either of the other two springs, containing 4.548 grs. to the gallon. The hygienic arrangements of the Spa are well looked after, and there are many sources of amusement provided indoors and out, so that so far as splendid air, beautiful surroundings, tonic waters, and pleasant recreations can restore health, so far is this a true sanatorium.

From Tunbridge Wells the High Rocks can be reached by car, or for that matter by walking, for they







PENSHURST PLACE.

are only a mile and a half beyond that town. They are not "high" in the strictest sense, but being perpendicular in places and rendered picturesque by trees growing out of clefts, they are worth a visit.

Amongst somewhat distant places beyond Tunbridge Wells that are worth the attention of a visitor are Eridge Castle, Bayham Abbey, and Crowborough Beacon.

Eridge Castle is the seat of the Marquess of Abergavenny. Though the manor has long belonged to the Nevill family, the Castle was only built in the present century. It is a very imposing building in the midst of a park of two thousand acres. There is a public path through the park, which is a most beautiful walk. There are several herds of deer, both red and fallow, here. The Eridge Rocks are even prettier than the High Rocks, and are available for the public on Thursdays.

Bayham Abbey is a ruin, about six miles east of Tunbridge Wells. For a picnic or driving party the pleasantest way from Southborough would be down the Vauxhall Lane to the Pembury Road, and through Lamberhurst, which is considered one of the prettiest spots in England; but this would imply at least a thirteen mile drive each way. At Bayham is a pollard ash tree, which is believed to be the largest in England.

To visit Crowborough Beacon a railway journey would be necessary for all but first-class walkers. The Beacon is over 800 feet above the sea. From Crowborough, Beachy Head and the sea near Eastbourne can be seen on a clear day.

Brambletye House could also be visited by rail, being near Forest Row Station. It must once have been such a splendid mansion that it is a mystery how it came to be allowed to fall into ruins. A novel has been written in which imagination has solved this mystery.

Hever Castle is a spot worth visiting. It has a very imposing appearance, having mullioned windows, a central keep, battlements, portcullis, moats, and all the paraphernalia of an ancient castle though it is now occupied as a farm house. The interior is only shewn on Wednesdays. The interest lies in its connection with the luckless Anne Boleyn, who was here courted by King Harry the Bluebeard. Probably the pleasantest way of seeing this place (for a good walker occupying Southborough as a head quarters) is to take train from Tonbridge to Edenbridge, and walk back to Southborough via Hever, Chiddingstone, and Penshurst. The scenery between Hever and Chiddingstone is very pretty. Chiddingstone takes its name from a huge piece of sandstone raised on other stones, which serve as rough steps.

It is said that from this vantage ground priestly rebukes were delivered, that in fact it was a "chiding stone." There are similar stones in other parts of Kent and Sussex, of unknown antiquity and a perpetual puzzle to antiquarians. Some say the "chiding" stone was used as a spot where shrewish wives were taught gentler ways by being placed on high and pelted with rotten eggs, a mode of education not now adopted in the village I believe. Passing through delightful lanes with over arching beeches, beside hop gardens, we come to Penshurst. This is within an easy walk of Southborough, so that it may be left for a separate occasion if desired. It can be visited on Mondays and Saturdays as well as Wednesdays.

At Penshurst there is much that is interesting. The Park is very pretty, but it is the house that is the attraction. Associations innumerable linger round it and add to the interest roused by the collection of paintings, tapestries, furniture, china, etc. There is a very fine specimen of an old baronial hall here. Penshurst Place makes a famous excuse for a picnic, "When all the world is gay, lad, and every lass a queen."

The road home from Penshurst is in my opinion the gem of all the glorious walks in the neighbourhood. It runs for a long way along the ridge of a hill, which gives

you views on both sides simultaneously. On one side you look down on the Weald of Kent, the Garden of England as it has been called, with the Medway winding through it, the Sevenoaks hills beyond, the spire of Leigh\* Church at your feet almost apparently, and Mabledon Park in front. On the other side are the wooded hills of Bidborough, Speldhurst, and Boundes Park. Mabledon, the seat of John Deacon, Esq., is one of the most picturesquely placed houses in Kent. The grounds are lovely, and the views from them equally so. Boundes Park, at present occupied by W. J. Blackburne-Maze, Esq., is also a very handsome house with beautiful grounds. It is said Queen Elizabeth slept here. This is said of so many country houses that her late Majesty must have been a wonderful sleeper.

Sevenoaks is about nine miles from Southborough and makes a pretty walk or drive. Knole House and Park are the great attraction of Sevenoaks.

An equally pretty walk and about the same distance, is to the Moated Grange at Ightham, which is the most perfect specimen extant of an old English moated manor house. It is open to the public every week-day. For riding or driving parties a good plan is to go to Sevenoaks; lunch there; go on to Ightham in the afternoon, and

\* Pronounced Lie.

home by Shipbourne; you thus avoid having to go and return by the same road. On the road to Tonbridge you notice on your right across the railway valley, a castellated house standing prominently on a hill. This is Somerhill, the seat of Sir Julian Goldsmid.

In the autumn, when the hop-pickers are at work, it is worth while to drive on from Somerhill to Yalding, which is in the centre of the best hop district of Kent.

The River Medway, from Yalding to Maidstone is very pretty, and quite worth a day's pic-nic.

Tonbridge is an old town, but cannot claim to be very interesting. The College Chapel is worth seeing. There is a fine specimen of a Norman castle there but it is not open to the public.

Those who are acquainted with this district will, I fear, find fault with me for omitting many places of interest, and for the brief, bald description I have accorded to others. I do not pretend to be able to do justice to the subject; I merely aim at whetting the appetite of strangers, so that they may go and find out all these beauties for themselves, and rave about them to their friends, until they, too, are induced to come here and see for themselves the wondrous things that they have been told about.

Kind reader, my task is done—Farewell.





**JAMES MARTIN,**  
CONTRACTOR, CARRIER, RAILWAY,  
SHIPPING, AND FORWARDING AGENT.

Furniture, Musical Instruments, Glass, China, Wines,  
and Merchandise, Removed and Warehoused.

*Agent for SUTTON & Co's Cheap Parcels Delivery to all parts of the World.*

Goods Conveyed to and from all Railway Stations Daily.

21, LONDON ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH.

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ESTABLISHED 1791.

**M. S. STRANGE AND SON,**

**SILK MERCERS,**

LADIES' & CHILDREN'S OUTFITTERS

HOSIERS, GLOVERS, ETC.,

28 & 25, PARADE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

MILLINERY & MANTLE SHOW ROOMS.

UNDERTAKERS.

FUNERALS COMPLETELY FURNISHED.

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**FAMILY MOURNING.**

---

LADIES' AND JUVENILE DRESS MAKERS.

---

SOLE AGENTS FOR

PULLAR & SONS, DYERS, PERTH

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**C. H. WALLIS,**

**BUILDER & CONTRACTOR,**

12, Bedford Road, Southborough.

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ESTIMATES GIVEN.

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Every Description of House Repairs executed on the most reasonable  
Terms.

All kinds of Distemping properly & cleanly Executed.

*Sanitary matters personally attended to on the Shortest Notice.*

# GROCERIES

AND ALL

COLONIAL PRODUCE

OF THE BEST QUALITIES.



WINES AND SPIRITS

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,

*Embracing a very Large Stock and mostly  
HOME BOTTLING.*



BURTON AND MAIDSTONE ALES.



VAN TO SOUTHBOROUGH TWICE  
WEEKLY.



E. DURRANT

ROYAL PARADE,

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

# HENRY GOBLE, Parcels & Luggage Carrier,

SOUTHBOROUGH & TUNBRIDGE WELLS,  
S.E. and S.C.R. STATIONS THREE TIMES DAILY.

ALL ORDERS PUNCTUALLY ATTENDED TO PERSONALLY.

ESTABLISHED A QUARTER OF A CENTURY.

## Southboro' Grocery & Provision Emporium.

Having carefully tested the quality of the splendid Water supplied by the Southborough Water Company and as a result of careful and experienced Blending, I beg to offer Visitors, and the Public generally, a supply of TEA, of much better value than can be elsewhere procured, and admirably suited to the special character of the Water.

*Prices:—1/4, 1/8, 2/- & 2/6.*

**THE TEA UNEQUALLED IS THE CHALLENGE TEA AT  
2/- per Pound.**

*Prime Provisions of the choicest quality Fresh  
twice a week.*

*Note the Address:—*

PHILIP DAVIES,  
GROCERY AND PROVISION EMPORIUM,  
102, LONDON ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH.

SOUTHBOROUGH & TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

## G. SPITTLES' OMNIBUS

RUNS AS FOLLOWS:—

Leaving Imperial Hotel, Southborough:

|      |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| a.m. | a.m. | a.m.  | p.m. | p.m. | p.m. | p.m. | p.m. |
| 8.40 | 9.50 | 11.45 | 1.30 | 2.50 | 4.20 | 6.0  | 8.0  |

L.B. & S.C. Station, Tunbridge Wells:

|       |       |      |      |      |      |
|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| a.m.  | p.m.  | p.m. | p.m. | p.m. | p.m. |
| 10.30 | 12.20 | 2.10 | 3.30 | 5.0  | 7.15 |

S.E.R. Station, Tunbridge Wells:

|      |       |       |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| a.m. | a.m.  | p.m.  | p.m. | p.m. | p.m. | p.m. | p.m. |
| 9.15 | 10.40 | 12.30 | 2.15 | 3.40 | 5.5  | 7.25 | 8.45 |

J. SMITH,  
BREAD & BISCUIT BAKER,  
CORN DEALER, &C.,  
HOLDEN PARK ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH.  
GENUINE HOME-MADE BREAD.

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GALLARD & SON,  
Builders, Carpenters, Plumbers,  
House Decorators,  
◁GAS AND HOT WATER FITTERS.▷  
*Jobbing Work of every Description promptly  
Executed.*

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CONSERVATORIES AND HOT HOUSES  
ERECTED ON IMPROVED PRINCIPLES.  
Special attention to Sanitary Matters.

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ESTIMATES GIVEN.

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*Offices and Workshops:--*  
14, PENNINGTON ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH.

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J. CRATES,  
24, GROSVENOR ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

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◁BUILDER▷  
Hot & Cold Water Engineer & Practical Plumber.  
The most Modern System of Sanitary Arrangements carried  
out under Personal Superintendence.  
ESTIMATES GIVEN FOR GENERAL REPAIRS.

→ C. H. TAYLOR ←

39, London Road, Southborough.

ANATOMICAL AND FASHIONABLE  
Boot Maker.

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LEPPERD'S

PURE

INDIAN & CEYLON  
TEAS

*Are 2s, 2s 6d, & 3s per lb.*

23, MOUNT PLEASANT, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

Parcels of 3lbs. and upwards Free by Bus to Southborough  
Customers.

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W. LAMBERT,

Furnishing & General Ironmonger,

OIL AND COLOURMAN.

MANUFACTURER OF TIN, ZINC AND WIRE WORK.

STOVE PIPES, ETC.

KITCHEN UTENSILS REPAIRED AND RE-TINNED.

Repairs of all Descriptions executed at the Shortest Notice, combined  
with Moderate Charges.

PLEASE NOTE THE ADDRESS:—

SHEFFIELD PLACE, LONDON ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH.

W. T. CARPENTER,  
Fruiterer & Greengrocer

DEALER IN

HAY & STRAW,  
COAL, COKE & WOOD

7, Pennington Road,  
SOUTHBOROUGH.

*Confectionery, Ginger Beer, Lemonade,  
Soda Water.*

ALL KINDS OF GARDEN SEEDS.

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FOR SADDLERY, HARNESS, AND STABLE  
REQUISITES GO TO

CUTHBERT'S  
SADDLERY STORES  
SOUTHBOROUGH.

PORTMANTEAUX & TRAVELLING  
REQUISITES  
MADE TO ORDER AND REPAIRED.

“THE COURIER”

PRINTING and  
PUBLISHING Co.

EXECUTE EVERY DESCRIPTION OF

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AT LONDON PRICES.

Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells.

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THE GROCERY AND DRAPERY SUPPLY  
STORES,  
112, 122 & 124, London Rd., Southborough

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FOR  
Teas, Groceries & Provisions  
OF THE FINEST QUALITY,  
ALSO  
TIN AND IRON WARE,  
CHINA, GLASS AND EARTHENWARE,  
112, LONDON ROAD.

Drapery, Millinery, Outfits, Hats,  
Boots and Shoes,  
122 and 124, LONDON ROAD.

J. AWCOCK, *Proprietor.*

**JOHN FIELDER,**  
**FAMILY GROCER,**  
Tea Dealer, & Cheesemonger,  
PARADE, (NEXT TO THE POST OFFICE),  
**SOUTHBOROUGH.**

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Agent for Bass's Bottled Ales and Guinness's Stout.
~~~~~

**BEAUFOY'S BRITISH WINES.**

FAMILIES WAITED UPON FOR ORDERS.

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**Mr. G. HARDWICK**

Begs to Announce that he has taken over the Business of  
MR. CROWHURST, of

**CASTLE \* STREET,**  
**PENNINGTON ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH.**

.....  
HIS  
**SOUTHBOROUGH OMNIBUS**  
WILL RUN AS USUAL.

*Stylish Pony Carriage to be hired, in which people can drive themselves.*

**Tandans and Pony Carriages on Hire for Balls, Parties or Tribes**

**PRIVATE OMNIBUSES FOR HIRE FOR PIC-NIC PARTIES.**



**H. PINK'S**  
**CARPET AND**  
**Furnishing Warehouse**  
 BASINGHALL,  
 GROSVENOR ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

**H. PINK** respectfully invites an inspection of his  
**NEW DESIGNS OF CARPETS,**

CONSISTING OF

TAPESTRY - - from 2s. Od. to 3s. Od. per yard.  
 BRUSSELS - - from 2s. 10d. to 4s. 3d. per yard.

BEDDING AND CHAMBER FURNITURE OF EVERY  
 DESCRIPTION.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1803.

**W. WAGHORN,**  
**Job Master & Fly Proprietor,**  
 15, MOUNT EPHRAIM & GREAT GARDEN MEWS,  
 TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

CARRIAGES FOR PARTIES TO DRIVE THEMSELVES.  
 SUPERIOR WEDDING CARRIAGES.

**FASHIONABLE BRAKES FOR PICNIC PARTIES.**

First-class new Private and Livery Stables and good "Loose Boxes";  
 also good accommodation for Coachmen.

**COACH BUILDER AND SHOEING SMITH.**

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|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>FUNERAL CARRIAGES</b><br>of every Description. |
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New and Second-hand Carriages Bought, Sold, or Exchanged,  
 or Sold on Commission.

*Orders and Telegrams should be addressed 15, Mount Ephraim, where they will  
 meet with prompt attention.*

# B. BIANCHI,

Practical Watch & Clock Maker, Jeweller & Silversmith  
12, GROSVENOR ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

(OPPOSITE THE INFIRMARY.)

Repairs of every description both in English and Foreign Watches, Clocks,  
Jewellery, &c., executed on the Premises at the shortest notice by skilful  
Workmen and at Moderate Charges.

First Class Certificate of Merit awarded to B. B. for skilful workmanship at  
the Tunbridge Wells Industrial Exhibition of 1864.

CLOCKS WOUND AND ATTENDED BY THE YEAR.

Best Price given for Old Gold, Silver, & Precious Stones or taken in Exchange.

## THE LONDON ROAD Grocery & Provision Stores

◇ C. JUDGE ◇

172, LONDON ROAD,  
SOUTHBOROUGH.

First Class Grocery and Provisions  
only at Lowest Prices.

SOUTHBOROUGH & TUNBRIDGE WELLS OMNIBUS.

G. OSBORNE,  
FLY AND OMNIBUS PROPRIETOR

135, LONDON ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH,

Will Run his Pair-Horse Omnibus as under:—

|                                                            |       |      |      |      |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------|------|------|
| Leaving the Hand and Sceptre Family Hotel<br>Southborough  | 10-20 | 2-0  | 3-40 | 5-45 |
| Returning from L.B. and S.C. Station, Tun-<br>bridge Wells | 11-35 | 2-45 | 4-20 | 6-30 |
| Returning from the S.E. Station, Tunbridge<br>Wells        | 11-45 | 3-0  | 4-30 | 6-40 |

LANDAUS AND PONY CARRIAGES FOR HIRE.

Parcels Delivered.

Established 1863.

JOSEPH OSBORN CAPELL,  
UPHOLSTERER, &c.,

74, Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells

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Large Stock of New and Second Hand Furniture,  
Brussels, Tapestry, Kidder, and other Carpets,  
Linoleum, Floor Cloths, &c., &c., at Exceedingly  
Moderate Prices.

*Drawing-room, Dining-room, Library and Bedroom Suites.*

---

N.B.—Experienced Workmen for Fixing, Repairing, Polishing, and all kinds  
of Upholstery, and Cabinet Work.

*Ladies' Needle-work Mounted, and Mattresses, &c., Re-made.*

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GOODS LET ON HIRE.

CATALOGUES CAN BE HAD ON APPLICATION.

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ISARD & HUMPHREY  
TALLOW CHANDLERS, MELTERS,  
OIL, COLOR & GENERAL  
WAREHOUSEMEN,  
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

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Wax and Sperm Candles, Composites and Night Lights;  
Colza, Lard, Linseed, Sperm, and Crystal Oils, &c.;

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HOUSEHOLD BRUSHES, BROOMS AND MATS OF EVERY  
DESCRIPTION.

ALL KINDS OF WOODEN WARE.

*Paints of all Colors Mixed Ready for Use.*

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VARNISHES, WHITE LEAD, PATENT DRYERS, PUTTY, PAINT  
BRUSHES, &c.

❖ F. O. CORKE, ❖

FAMILY

BUTCHER,



134, LONDON ROAD,  
SOUTHBOROUGH.

~~~~~  
PRIME PICKLED TONGUES, SOUTHDOWN MUTTON, &c
~~~~~

Families waited upon daily for Orders.

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ALFRED T. COLE,

(Late W. CATT.)

Furnishing and General Ironmonger,

GAS FITTER, BELL-HANGER, ETC.

30, CALVERLEY ROAD,  
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

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Experienced Workmen sent to all Parts.

FLAVELL'S PRIZE MEDAL KITCHENERS.

BEST FRENCH COLZA OIL.

SOLE AGENT FOR THE ALEXANDRA OIL.

STIGGALL BROS.

Family Grocers

Tea Dealers, Provision Merchants,

AND HOUSE AGENTS.

BROADWAY, SOUTHBOROUGH.

AGENTS FOR FREMLINS ALES. WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS

General Drapery. Carpets. Boots and Shoes.

*Huntley & Palmer's Celebrated Biscuits; Crosse & Blackwell's
Jams, Jellies and Marmalades; Prime York Hams and Wiltshire
Bacon; Fresh Butter from the Best Dairies.*

F. MULES,

The Southborough Bakery,

*Begs to notify to the Inhabitants of
Southborough & Tunbridge Wells
that*

HE NOW SUPPLIES BREAD

MADE BY THE NEW PROCESS

AS MADE AT

THE HEALTH EXHIBITION

*F. M. is so confident of the superior advantages he has to
offer by this System that he cordially solicits a Trial.*

SOUTHBORO' BREWERY.
PHIPPS'S
Genuine Mild, Bitter, Stock Ales & Porter.

BREWED FROM MALT AND HOPS ONLY.

SUPPLIED IN 4½, 9, AND 18 GALLON CASKS.

SOUTHBOROUGH WAITED UPON DAILY.

The Water that is used in Brewing these Beers is obtained from the same Valleys that supply Southborough with its Pure Water.

WILLIAM HARMER,
Architect & Surveyor,

3, FERN TERRACE,

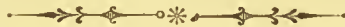
SOUTHBOROUGH.

*Plans, Specifications and Estimates accurately
Prepared.*

GEORGE TUICHENER,

BROADWAY,

LONDON ROAD, SOUTHBORO'.



PONY CARRIAGES Open and Closed by the Day or Hour.

New Laid Eggs and Chickens always on Sale.

ESTABLISHED 1860.

JARVIS & SON,

HOUSE DECORATORS, PLUMBERS,

GAS & HOT WATER FITTERS, &c.,

3, Speldhurst Road, Southborough.

Agent for Bostel's "Brighton-Excelsior" Water Closets.

Estimates given for General Repairs.

Sanitary Work a Spécialité

ESTABLISHED 35 YEARS.

G. HALL,
Fishmonger, & Poulterer,

LICENSED DEALER IN GAME,
40, PARADE, SOUTHBOROUGH.

*Families waited upon daily. Fresh Fish daily.
All orders punctually attended to.*

Thomas  Humphrey,

HOUSE, LAND & ESTATE AGENT,

AUCTIONEER AND VALUER,

Offices:—79, HIGH STREET,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.



Agent to the Liverpool, London and
Globe Fire Insurance Company.

65, London Road, Southborough.

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WILLIAM BROWN,  
➤ FURNITURE + BROKER ◀

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All kinds of Furniture Bought, Sold or Exchanged.

Furniture Bought on Commission.

Sales Attended.

SOUTHBORO' COFFEE TAVERN.

—•••—
Beds by the Night or by the Week: One night 9d.; Two nights 1/6; Three nights 2/-; Seven nights 3/- All Spring Mattresses.

BOARD AND ATTENDANCE IF DESIRED.

Ham 1/8 per lb. Roast or Corned Beef or Roast Mutton 1/4 per lb.

Pastry of the Best Quality Fresh every Day.

A. HARMER, PROPRIETOR.

THE SOUTHBOROUGH & TUNBRIDGE WELLS

CARRIAGE WORKS

AND

Shoeing Forge

9, London Road, Southborough.

Carriages of Every Description Built to Order.
All Repairs executed by Experienced Workmen under Personal Supervision.

OILING BY CONTRACT OR OTHERWISE.

HORSES SHOD BY CAREFUL & COMPETENT MEN.

FENCING AND IRON WORK IN GENERAL.

G. F. SMITH, Proprietor.

W. EDWARDS

English and Foreign Fruiterer

Ginger Beer. Lemonade, and Soda Water. Wood, Coal and Coke. Garden Seeds, &c.

Families Waited on for Orders.

Modern Photography.



Mr. H. P. ROBINSON,

The Great Hall Studio,

TUNBRIDGE WELLS,

HAS the pleasure to call attention to the great improvements that have been recently made in the Art of Photography. Besides giving greater facilities for producing better work in good hands, the new processes also enable the photographer to supply Portraits at lower prices.

While Mr. ROBINSON'S charges are scarcely more than half those made by many London photographers, and not higher than those of the ordinary country photographer, there is an *Unique Guarantee* that the quality of the work will maintain the pre-eminence it has always enjoyed, and that the Portraits in each class will be the best of their kind. Mr. ROBINSON has the distinction of being by far the *largest taker of Medals* and other Prizes in the world; with such a reputation to sustain he could not afford to produce bad or inferior Portraits.

Mr. ROBINSON cannot help feeling that the large number of his Medals would almost suggest that they are plentiful and easily to be obtained, but it is far otherwise. To win a Medal at an Important Exhibition is a distinction that has been achieved by only a very small percentage of the photographers of the world, and the next largest prize winner to Mr. ROBINSON has a comparatively small collection. Mr. ROBINSON has had the honour of having awarded to him

SEVENTY-THREE MEDALS,

In nearly every case the highest possible award at Exhibitions in England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, India, Australia, and America, including

THE GREAT GOLD MEDAL

Of the Paris International Exhibition of 1878, which was competed for by the photographers of all nations.

The Studio is on the ground floor; is warm in winter, cool in summer. A special entrance is provided for invalids in carriages and Bath chairs. The quick process used renders the sitting much more pleasant than when the old methods are employed.

"Mr. Robinson is still our highest authority on picture-making."

PHOTOGRAPHIC NEWS, October, 1883.

"For fertility of invention, quickness of resource, and all those qualities which go to make a photograph a work of fine art, Mr. ROBINSON has never been equalled. His position is Unique. Many years ago his startling picture, 'Fading Away' made him suddenly famous, and ever since he has not failed to hold his position as principal exhibitor at all our exhibitions, and to take all the prizes that came in his way."—PHOTOGRAPHIC NEWS.

J. PYMAN,

(Late T. Paige),

Fancy Bread and Biscuit Baker,

Cook and Confectioner,

1, PARADE, SOUTHBOROUGH

Begs to inform the Public that the CELEBRATED and

GENUINE FARM HOUSE BREAD

can only be obtained at this Establishment. This Bread is strongly recommended by the Faculty as being thoroughly Pure and Unadulterated. To those of weak digestion it will be found an immense boon.

Vans Wait on Families in Tunbridge Wells & Neighbourhood Daily.

ALL ORDERS RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION.

Wedding, Birthday, and Dessert Cakes Elaborately Ornamented.

SOUPS, ICES, CREAMS & JELLIES, FRENCH COTTAGE & BROWN BREAD.

Portable Boilers to Let on Hire.

CENTRAL DRAPERY ESTABLISHMENT,
86, LONDON ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH.

GEORGE TYLER,

Family Draper, Haberdasher,

HOSIER, MILLINER, &c.,

Respectfully invites Inspection of his Well-assorted and General Stock of Good and Cheap

BLANKETS, CALICOES, DRESSES, FLANNELS,
FLOWERS, LACES, LINENS, SHEETINGS, &c., &c.

Which for Price and Quality will be found Cheaper than the London STORE at Cash Prices.

Family Mourning.

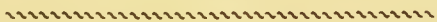
Funerals Furnished.

N.B.— Dress-making in all its Branches by Experienced Hands

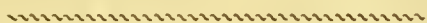
“THE CHALYBEATE SPRINGS,”

STÆMPS FARM,

57, LONDON ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH.



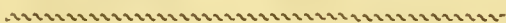
MR. DUDENEY begs to invite all persons dealing at the Farm, either with him or his Son, to drink of the Waters Free at the House—a nominal charge only being made when delivered at Private Residences.



GEORGE DUDENEY,

↗ Dairyman and Fruit Grower. ↖

Families supplied with NEW MILK, CREAM, BUTTER, and EGGS Daily; also, FRESH-GATHERED FRUIT from the Gardens.



SAME ADDRESS—

WM. GEO. DUDENEY,

FAMILY BUTCHER.

Prime Beef, with Southdown Mutton only,

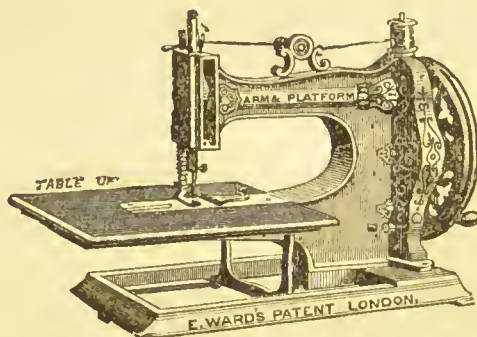
At CASH PRICES, subject to the Fluctuations of the Meat Market.

NEWMAN BROTHERS,
5, PARADE, SOUTHBOROUGH.

DRAPERS,
HOSIERS, & OUTFITTERS.

AGENTS FOR
Cooper and Son's Celebrated Boots.

SEWING
MACHINES.



ALL KINDS
REPAIRED.

T. ASHBY WOOD,

Offers Surplus Stock of Sewing Machines at Special Rates for Cash:

	Usual Price.	Special Offer.
The "Weir," Chain Stitch - - -	55s.	25s.
The "Express" Chain Stitch - - -	30s.	25s.
The "Gresham" Lock Stitch - - -	84s.	50s.
The "Arm and Platform," as Illustrated	84s.	42s.
The "Blake" Chain Stitch - - -	25s.	10s.
The "Wanzer" Pleator - - -	30s.	15s.

Needles for the above only 1s. per Dozen.

29, MOUNT PLEASANT, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

G. P. MANSELL,

Draper, Milliner, and Fancy Repository,

BOOKSELLER, STATIONER,

AND NEWSAGENT,

➤ 34, 35, & 37, THE PARADE, ◀

SOUTHBOROUGH.

GENUINE Testimonials from Persons who have proved
the

“504 TONIC”

One of the Greatest Wonders of the Day.

~~~~~  
SOLD IN BOTTLES, 1/9, 2/9, & 4/6. FREE PER POST, 2/-, 3/3, & 5/-

ADDRESS:— **A. C. FARMER,** CHEMIST,  
108, LONDON ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH,  
NEAR TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

---

FORGE STREET, SOUTHBOROUGH.

DEAR SIR,—I am thankful to inform you that my daughter who had been suffering from St. Vitus's Dance, and had lost the entire use of her legs and arms for many months, has quite recovered since she has taken your “504 TONIC,” and now enjoys the best of health.

I remain, yours gratefully,

CATHERINE BUTTON

---

SPILSBY, LINCOLNSHIRE.

DEAR SIR,—For many years I have suffered greatly from Nervous Debility, and could obtain no relief from the many remedies I tried. I was advised to take your “504 TONIC” as a last resource, and I can hardly express my gratitude to you, for the benefit I have derived from it. I can now no longer be termed an invalid, but am able to enjoy life, which I certainly have not been able to do for the last 15 years. Again thanking you,

Believe me, yours very gratefully,

EMMA RAINEY.

# A. C. FARMER

FAMILY & DISPENSING

## Chemist

*(25 Years' experience in some of the best London Houses)*

108, London Road, Southborough.

---

PROPRIETOR of the "504" TONIC,  
The Cure for Tic, Neuralgia, St. Vitus's Dance, Weakness,  
Nervous Depression, &c.

*See Advertisement inside this Cover.*

---

G. P. MANSELL,  
House & Estate Agent  
AND  
GENERAL DRAPER.

Furnishing Undertaker.

Funerals carefully conducted under our own  
Superintendence.

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VALUATIONS FOR PROBATE  
34, 35, 37, Parade, Southboro